

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE: SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT OF: HEAD OF STRATEGY AND SERVICES

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING

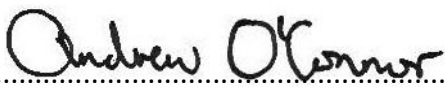
DATE: 3 DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report informs Members about the latest operational activities and associated issues dealt with by the Strategy and Services team of the Authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. The Authority is recommended to note performance on service delivery in the current year.
- B. The Authority is recommended to agree the extension to the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) contract with European Recycling Platform which comes at no cost for a further 24 months for the core service.
- C. The Authority notes that Officers will consult on the additional services as described in section 6 of the report.

SIGNED:  Head of Strategy and Services

DATE: 24 November 2020

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. This report provides Members with an update of the main operational matters that have arisen since the Authority meeting in September 2020, as well as the latest available validated tonnage information from municipal waste collected by the seven London boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest. The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) has a statutory responsibility for providing municipal waste disposal services for the seven constituent borough councils and powers to arrange for the reuse, recycling and composting of municipal waste and to operate Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs).

2. PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

2.1. When comparing the first seven months of 2019 to the first seven months of 2020, there has been an increase in the overall tonnage of Kerbside Residual waste from March onward, except for July. The largest increases were seen in April and June, 9% and 8% respectively. This was an expected result of the impact of COVID-19 since the pandemic meant that people were producing a higher proportion of their waste at home. Data for July currently shows lower tonnage in 2020 than in 2019 and is 7% lower than in June 2020.

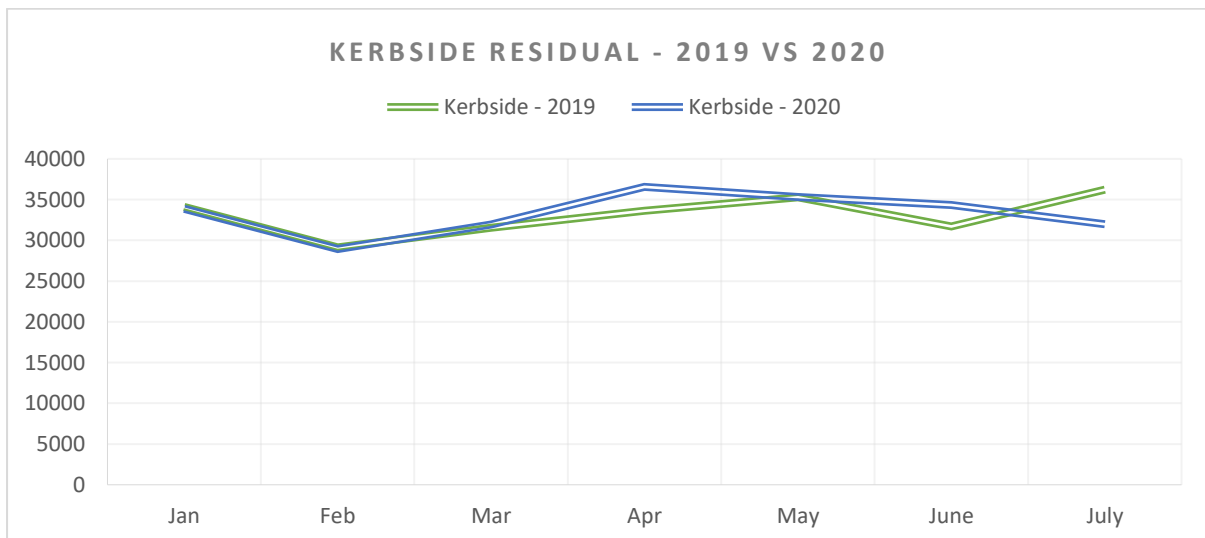


Figure 1: Comparison Kerbside Residual waste jan-July 2019 against Jan-July 2020

2.2. There was a fall in the tonnage of 'Other Residual' waste comprising mainly of Bulky Waste, Street Cleaning, Horticultural Waste (Parks Grounds Waste) and chargeable waste. This decrease was expected since councils made the decision to focus on the core service of kerbside collections which reduced resource dedicated to 'Other Residual' services. As the first lockdown measures were eased in May, there was a sharp increase in 'Other Residual' waste which exceeded 2019 levels significantly in comparison to previous months. This was also to be expected as more people made the most of outdoor activities.

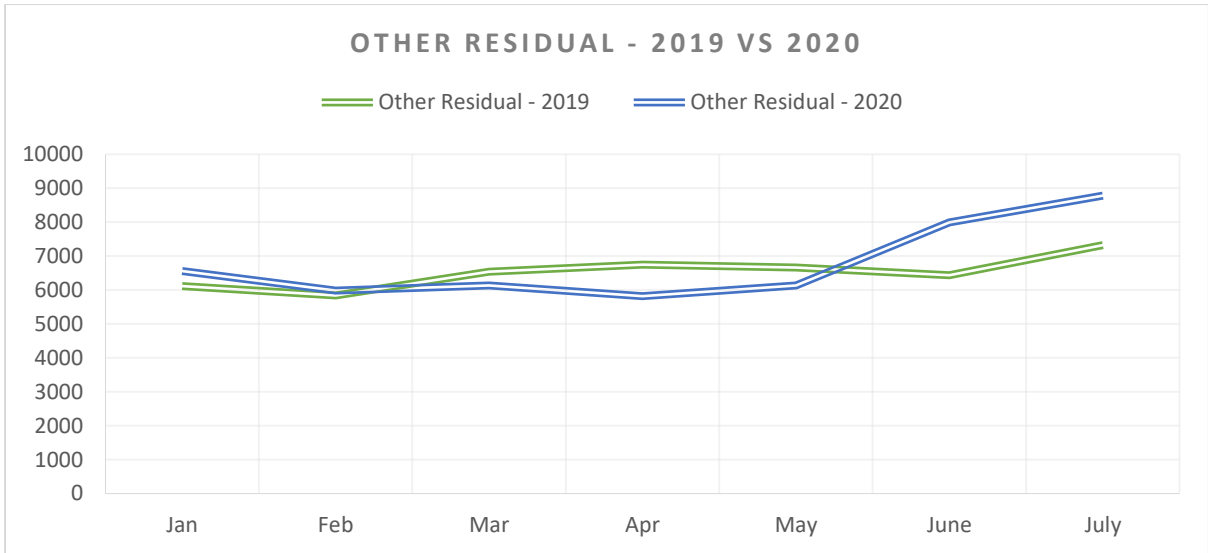


Figure 2: Comparison of "other" Residual waste Jan-July against Jan-July 2020

2.3. Out of all 'Other Residual' waste types, only fly tipping saw an increase between 2019 and 2020 of 34%. Nationally fly tipping increased between 2018 and 2019 by 8%, figures for 2020 have not yet been released by the Office of National Statistics. The most significant decrease in tonnage was within the horticultural waste category which was 38% less in 2020 than the same period in 2019. Chargeable Waste and Street Cleaning tonnages both saw a decrease of 11%.

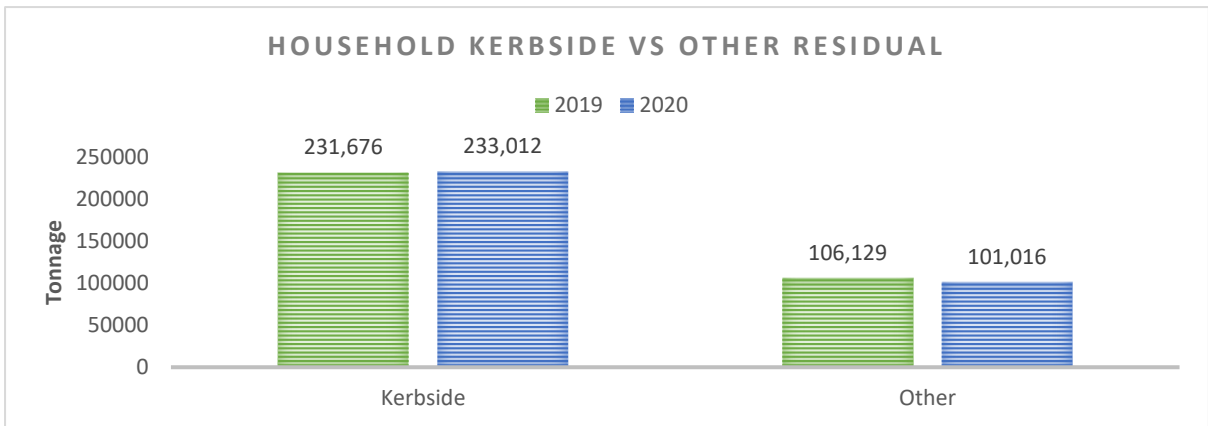


Figure 3: Comparison of Household Kerbside waste versus other residual Jan-July 2019 and Jan-July 2020

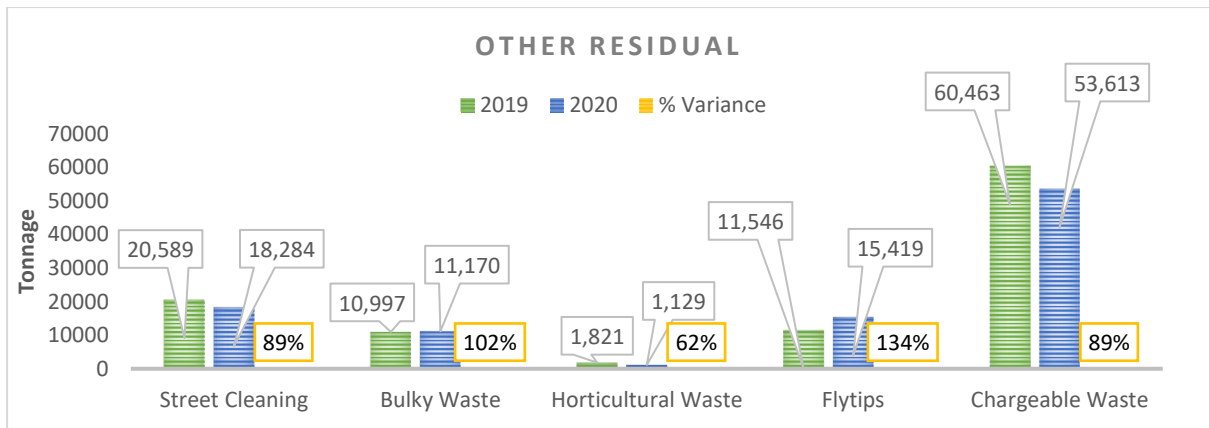


Figure 4: Comparison of "other" residual waste 2019 against 2020

2.4. With an increase in the amount of time residents are at home due to COVID-19 there has been a corresponding increase in Biodegradable Kitchen Waste as well as Food Waste, by 9% and 21% respectively. However, conversely there has been a decrease in Green Waste by 24%; this decrease is largely due to LB Barnet reducing kerbside collections as a result of a service interruption due to subsidence works at their Oakleigh Road depot combined with the introduction of chargeable garden waste from May. Several boroughs reduced Green Waste collection from parks since staff were redeployed to essential waste collection services. Mixed Dry Recycling increased by 5%.

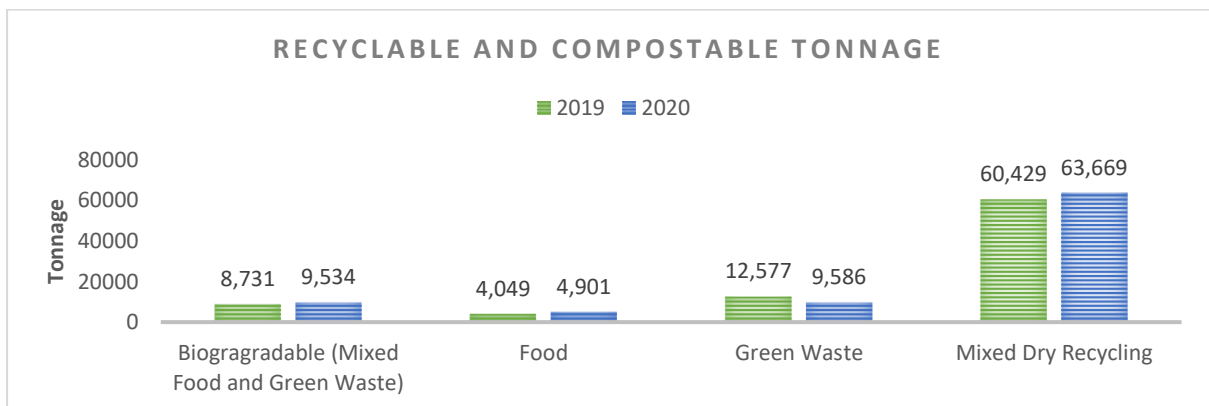


Figure 5: Comparison of Recyclable and Compostable tonnages 2019 against 2020

3. REUSE AND RECYCLING CENTRES (RRCS) & REUSE SHOP

Second Lockdown Implications

- 3.1. The second lockdown came into effect on the 5 November and should last approximately one month.
- 3.2. Following the government announcement, initial correspondence between the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), waste disposal

authorities and borough colleagues suggested that this lockdown should have minimal impact on waste services including the continuation of waste treatment, processing and disposal as well as public access to RRCs.

- 3.3. During the week commencing the 2 November initial dialogue commenced with LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) and Bywaters to ensure continuation of the RRC service through the second lockdown.
- 3.4. To ensure the safety of LEL operatives and the public during the lockdown, LEL executives presented operational RRC changes that would be re-introduced in this period. These changes included:
 - 3.4.1. Reducing the number of booking slots available at all RRCs based on current service demands. **Appendix 3** shows a detailed effect on booking slots available at each RRC.
 - 3.4.2. Only operate alternate parking spaces at the sites to increase social distancing.
 - 3.4.3. Closure of the Kings Road re-use shop as a non-essential service.
 - 3.4.4. Request (but not require) visitors wear masks when attending the sites but in particular Hornsey st which is internal.
- 3.5. The sites continue to stay open for their normal operating hours, accepting all waste streams and borough deliveries.
- 3.6. There were no changes introduced at Gateway Road RRC (operated by Bywaters) and the service continues as normal.

4. MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF) SERVICES

- 4.1. The 'Services Update' report in September advised that a discrepancy in tonnages had been recorded for Mixed Dry Recyclates at Hornsey Street. Officers and LEL are close to finalising the figures involved and will report back in February 2021. Both parties are now in discussion in how to prevent this from happening again and putting in the correct procedures going forward.

5. COMMODITY PRICES

- 5.1. Commodity prices for the most recent 12 months are presented in Figure 6.
- 5.2. Fibre prices, including cardboard and paper, were at a low point coming into this period compared to previous years but have seen a gradual increase since March, with an initial spike during April and May.

- 5.3. Steel cans saw a drop in the middle of the period but have now recovered and are on the increase. Aluminium prices have seen some fluctuation through the 12 months but are broadly now in line with the prices at the same time last year.
- 5.4. Plastic prices remained stable for the first six months but have seen gradual decline since the on-set of the pandemic. Glass prices were also stable between February and August but have since declined to zero.

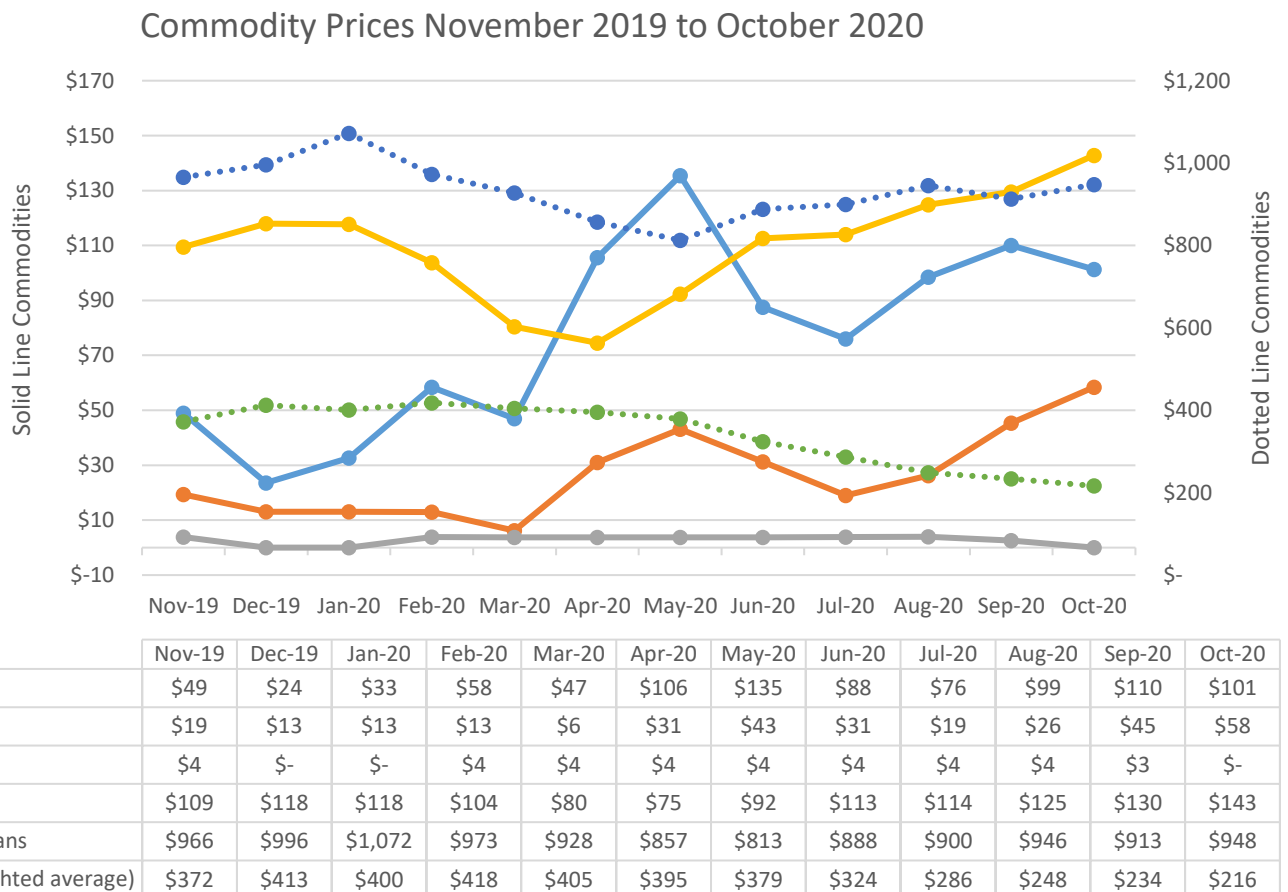


Figure 6 – Recyclate commodity prices November 2019 to October 2020

6. WEEE CONTRACT UPDATE

- 6.1. The Authority currently has a contract with European Recycling Platform (ERP) for the provision of Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) services in the Authority area. The contract commenced on 1 January 2019 and expires on 31 December 2020.
- 6.2. The current contract provides the following services:

- 6.2.1. WEEE material is collected from NLWA designated collection facilities (i.e. Reuse and Recycling Centres, certain bulky waste stores on estates and borough depots) the core service
- 6.2.2. Small WEEE materials are collected from 37 bring banks where the public can deposit items with dimensions of up to approximately 50cmx50cm as an additional service.
- 6.2.3. The bring banks are now over 10 years old and in a state of disrepair and will require remediation if not complete replacements and therefore a budget will be required for this service moving forward if retained.
- 6.2.4. A request kerbside collection service for larger WEEE items for NLWA residents. Up to 20 appointments are offered Monday to Friday across the north London area as an additional service.
- 6.3. All the services provided are free as costs are met by producers except for the kerbside service which is £80,000 per year.
- 6.4. During this time of uncertainty, the Authority is exercising the right under clause 2.1 of the Schedule 5 Conditions of Contract to extend the Contract Period by two years from 1 January 2021. Therefore, the Expiry Date of the Contract will be 31 December 2022.
- 6.5. As part of this contract extension there will be a review of the additional services which are the WEEE banks and the kerbside collection service for large domestic appliances. These will be discussed at Member Recycling Working Group (MRWG) on 3 December 2020 with recommendations to be taken to the Authority meeting on 11 February 2021.
- 6.6. Further to the “Services Update” report in September 2020, the issue with fridges has now been resolved to all parties’ satisfaction.

7. WEMBLEY TRANSFER STATION

- 7.1. Officers are on course to sign the Lease for the Wembley Transfer Facility on the 28th November. LEL and officers are meeting weekly to deliver a mobilisation plan for the site and agree final transition costs. A separate paper is provided to update Members

8. LONDON ENERGY LTD DATA PROVISION

- 8.1. The first quarter WasteDataFlow figures have now been provided to the Boroughs and the Authority has uploaded the data to the national database. There are still teething issues with LEL regarding the implementation of their new software which officers are working to resolve.

9. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

9.1. The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of the report and comments have been incorporated.

10. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

10.1. The finance Adviser has been consulted during the preparation of this report and comments have been incorporated.

List of documents used:

WasteDataFlow - national web-based waste data reporting system

Available at <http://www.wastedataflow.org/>

Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England, HM Government, 18 December 2018,

Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england>

Letsrecycle Website: -Trade website

Available at: www.letsrecycle.com

Contact officer:

Andrew O'Connor Head of Strategy and Services

Unit 1b Berol House

25 Ashley Road

London N17 9LJ

020 8489 5732

Andrew.oconnor@nlwa.gov.

Appendix 1 – Table showing the change in available booking slots at LEL RRCs during the second lockdown (05/11/2020 – 02/12/2020).

Summers Lane			South Access			Western Road			Gateway Road		
Number of Bookings Available			Number of Bookings Available			Number of Bookings Available			Number of Bookings Available		
Slot	Prior to Lockdown	During Lockdown	Slot	Prior to Lockdown	During Lockdown	Slot	Prior to Lockdown	During Lockdown	Slot	Prior to Lockdown	During Lockdown
09:00 - 10:00	120	90	09:00 - 10:00	90	55	09:00 - 10:00	60	40	08:30 – 09:30	40	40
10:00 - 11:00	120	90	10:00 - 11:00	90	55	10:00 - 11:00	60	40	09:30 – 10:30	40	40
11:00 - 12:00	120	90	11:00 - 12:00	90	55	11:00 - 12:00	60	40	10:30 – 11:30	40	40
12:00 - 13:00	120	90	12:00 - 13:00	90	55	12:00 - 13:00	60	40	11:30 – 12:30	40	40
13:00 - 14:00	120	90	13:00 - 14:00	90	55	13:00 - 14:00	60	40	12:30 – 13:30	40	40
14:00 -15:00	120	90	14:00 -15:00	90	55	14:00 -15:00	60	40	13:30 – 14:30	40	40
15:00 - 16:00	60	45	15:00 - 16:00	45	30	15:00 - 16:00	30	20	14:30 – 15:30	40	40
	780	585		585	360		390	260	15:30 – 16:30	40	40
										320	320
Kings Road			Regis Road			Hornsey Street					
Number of Bookings Available			Number of Bookings Available			Number of Bookings Available					
Slot	Prior to Lockdown	During Lockdown	Slot	Prior to Lockdown	During Lockdown	Slot	Prior to Lockdown	During Lockdown			
09:00 - 10:00	36	25	09:00 - 10:00	60	40	09:00 - 10:00	72	45			
10:00 - 11:00	36	25	10:00 - 11:00	60	40	10:00 - 11:00	72	45			
11:00 - 12:00	36	25	11:00 - 12:00	60	40	11:00 - 12:00	72	45			
12:00 - 13:00	36	25	12:00 - 13:00	60	40	12:00 - 13:00	72	45			
13:00 - 14:00	36	25	13:00 - 14:00	60	40	13:00 - 14:00	72	45			
14:00 -15:00	36	25	14:00 -15:00	60	40	14:00 -15:00	72	45			
15:00 - 16:00	18	10	15:00 - 16:00	30	20	15:00 - 16:00	36	25			
	234	160		390	260		468	295			