

**North London Waste Authority  
Members' Recycling Working Group (MRWG)  
25 June 2020  
MS Teams Meeting**

**Present**

Cllr S Chandwani (Cllr SC)  
Cllr R Champion (Cllr RC)  
Cllr P Zinkin (Cllr PZ)  
Cllr J Burke (Cllr JB) **(MRWG Chair)**

**Apologies**

Cllr A Harrison (Cllr AH)  
Cllr C Loakes (Cllr CL)  
Cllr C Bond (Cllr CB)

**Borough officers present**

XXX - XXX  
XXX - XXX  
XXX - XXX

**NLWA officers present**

Martin Capstick (MCK) - Managing Director  
Andrew O'Connor (AOC) - Head of Strategy & Services  
Barbara Herridge (BH) - External Relations Manager  
XXX - XXX  
XXX - XXX  
XXX - XXX

		<b>Action</b>
1.	<p><b>Introductions/Apologies</b></p> <p>Cllr Harrison, Cllr Loakes and Cllr Bond were not in attendance.</p> <p>The Chair led the introductions and as it was an MS Teams virtual meeting he invited everyone in attendance to confirm they could hear the meeting and had no connectivity issues. Everyone was happy with their connection.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Notes of last meeting held on 13 February 2020</b></p> <p>The minutes were agreed with no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Recycling Destinations (standing item)</b></p> <p><u>Update on recycling destinations for materials streams</u></p> <p>AOC advised the meeting that the paper that had been circulated summarised events since the new contract with Biffa had started at the end of 2019. He further stated that the table in 3.2 was a baseline table of the seven categories of waste that were four categories exclusive to the UK and five in Europe.</p>	

	<p>AOC advised that officers were working hard with Biffa on outlets for cardboard but they were struggling with existing plant. AOC advised that UK mill capacity was limited and had been further impacted by COVID 19 which disrupted the supply chain. Biffa had been looking overseas more and more as a result. The UK needed to invest in new facilities. NLWA is actively working on the issue with the contractor.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> Officers were challenged to report back on how to move more processing to the UK and Europe and what the costs associated with doing so would be, i.e. moving more of the tonnage into the left hand column of Table 1. The existing position should be reported on as a baseline against which future progress could be assessed.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> Officers were also requested to report back and elaborate on the difference in prices and the impact to the Authority of using overseas cardboard mills including transport versus UK mills. <b>AOC</b> to draft response.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Reducing contamination of recycling</b></p> <p>Data report on contamination in recycling and progress update (previously circulated report sections 4 – 6)</p> <p>X asked for an update on separately recycling Tetrapak drinks cartons and AOC advised that they can be recycled but they often get stuck and invariably end up in mixed paper recycling which is not ideal. There are specialist mills in the north east of England for this material.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> <b>AOC</b> to update on the current position for next meeting.</p> <p>AOC further advised that there were long standing issues with the transfer stations’ recording of contamination at the point of transfer and more work needs to be done on what has happened.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> X queried the contamination impacts table and AOC said he would liaise with him outside of this meeting. X also requested a report on the difficult issue of contamination and would like to see a piece of work to understand what interventions work and what doesn’t to reduce contamination and given the explicit nature of the problem. The report should include known methods and cost effectiveness of each, including if there are effective methods to reduce contamination being undertaken at a borough level. It was agreed to fold the responses into a future agenda item for MRWG.</p>	
5.	<p><b>WEEE kerbside collection service</b></p> <p>It was previously agreed that officers would come forward with a proposal for the kerbside WEEE recycling service following discussion in January.</p>	

	<p>A paper had been previously circulated prior to the meeting. AOC noted that there is currently a 2 – 3 week waiting list for a collection in some boroughs.</p> <p>X stated that at a cost to the Authority of £XX per year to provide the door-to-door collection service he queried whether we could make better use of the money across Boroughs?</p> <p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p>Officers were requested to draft an assured options paper on what the alternatives are, and put options to Members at a future MRWG meeting. <b>AOC.</b></p>	
6.	<p><b>Residual Waste Reduction Plan (standing item)</b></p> <p>MC recorded that XX (XXX) had moved on from the Authority, with appreciation, after eight years leading the waste prevention programme. Following her departure the Waste Prevention Team had picked up all topics.</p> <p><u>a) Verbal update on progress against the plan and impact of COVID-19.</u></p> <p>BH noted that at the February Authority meeting Members approved a 2-year residual waste reduction plan which sets out the Authority’s ambitions to reduce the amount residual waste for disposal. The Plan includes waste prevention activities to reduce the amount of waste collected and communications and outreach activities to support borough initiatives to increase recycling, specifically through the reduction of recycling contamination. Whilst the paper being presented to the Authority meeting on waste prevention provides details of the impact of COVID-19 on the programme and the changes resulting; the paper previously circulated for MRWG sets out officer proposals for amending the activity going forwards. Borough officers have commented on this paper and their comments incorporated.</p> <p><u>b) Consideration of proposed second six-month programme including</u></p> <p>A paper setting out the revised programme of waste prevention work for NLWA residents had been circulated prior to the meeting. BH provided a summary of the key changes to the programme as a result of COVID-19 which are outlined in the paper.</p> <p>BH added that since the paper was written a meeting has taken place with London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) officers to see if NLWA and LWARB could work together on waste prevention. Potential opportunities include online clothes swaps through their London-wide ‘Love Not Landfill’ campaign; food waste prevention – specifically promoting food sharing apps; Repair Week (12 – 17 October) and single use plastics waste reduction communications (LWARB starting an online campaign on 13 July).</p> <p>There are some risks to introducing the proposed changes to the programme of work, which are set out in the paper. The biggest of which is the risk of engaging with significantly fewer people this year. It is much more difficult to get the same level of attendance online compared to attending an established summer festival and talking to residents face-to-face.</p>	

	<p>X commented that shouldn't we encourage on-line conferencing as an alternative to a physical events and possibly obtain a bigger audience at events thinking that Covid restrictions could be turned into an opportunity rather than a problem. It has good aspects to it i.e. speakers don't need to travel as one example. X stated that it would be a good opportunity to educate people in behaviour change, for example tidy-up Tottenham if NLWA was able to deliver more virtual events. Webinars and virtual conferencing and using different platforms could be the way forward with some creative thought behind it.</p> <p><b>ACTIONS</b> Officers report back on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What fits all Boroughs in terms of digital/virtual activities from NLWA.</li> <li>• BH to put together thoughts on on-line conferencing</li> <li>• Set up meetings with Borough communications teams on delivering the most effective communications strategies to maximise attendance at online events. X advised that she would like to be invited to any Borough communications meetings if she can. X requested that XX also attend on behalf of Hackney.</li> </ul> <p><u>c) Review of waste education work</u></p> <p>MC introduced the paper that had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. As there was little time for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• X requested that XX work with the Authority officers and liaise outside of this meeting – looking at what Hackney is doing going forwards on waste education.</li> <li>• X requested that it was addressed at the next MRWG meeting.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>A.O.B.</b> There was no other business</p>	
8.	<p><b>Date of next meeting –</b> Before the Authority Meeting on 24 September 2020 – MS Teams meeting tbc. Timing to be decided whether to allow 1 hour or ½ hour to include Party Group meetings prior to the Authority.</p>	