

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE:** CONSULTATIONS AND POLICY UPDATE

**REPORT OF:** MANAGING DIRECTOR

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:** AUTHORITY MEETING

**DATE:** 24 JUNE 2021

**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

This report provides the regular update on consultations and policy issues that have the potential to impact on Authority operations or activities. The report confirms submission of responses to three government consultations in June 2021 and an update for a further consultation response to be submitted in July 2021. Delegation was approved for the Managing Director in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs to submit these responses at the 22 April 2021 Authority meeting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Authority is recommended to:

- A. Note the submission of the following Authority responses:
  - i. to the Consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging - England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales;
  - ii. to the second Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
  - iii. to the Consultation on a Waste Prevention Programme for England Towards a resource efficient economy.
- B. Delegate authority to the Managing Director in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs to submit the final Authority response to the Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England, which has a deadline of 4 July 2021.

**SIGNED:** .....  ..... **Managing Director**

**DATE:** 14 June 2021

## **1. PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT**

1.1. The Consultations and Policy Update is a regular report which provides an update for Members on consultations and policy issues that are relevant to the Authority such that the proposals have the potential to affect the Authority's operations and/or costs. The report additionally seeks approval for responses where appropriate.

1.2. The report is organised as follows:

1.2.1. Consultations to which responses have been submitted since the last Authority meeting.

1.2.2. Current and upcoming consultations for consideration

## **2. CONSULTATION RESPONSES SUBMITTED SINCE THE APRIL AUTHORITY MEETING**

2.1. At the April 2021 Authority meeting it was agreed that responses should be finalised by the Managing Director in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs to the following consultations

2.1.1. Consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging - England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales;

2.1.2. Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

2.1.3. Consultation on a Waste Prevention Programme for England Towards a resource efficient economy.

2.2. In developing the final Authority responses to these consultations, officers sought views from members of the Member Recycling Working Group (MRWG), and also participated in discussions with individual local authorities, local authority representative groups, private sector processors and the network of waste disposal authorities.

The responses are available on the Authority's corporate website at <http://www.nlwa.gov.uk/consultations/our-responses/>

2.3. In addition to submitting responses to these consultations, the Authority also issued a press notice at <https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/news> highlighting the need to take forward measures on extended producer responsibility and a deposit return scheme without further delays.

### **3. CONSULTATION ON CONSISTENCY IN HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS RECYCLING IN ENGLAND.**

- 3.1. On 7 May 2021 Government released its consultation on consistency of waste collections in England. This consultation runs for 8 weeks with a deadline of 4 July 2021.
- 3.2. This consultation is concerned with having consistent recycling collections on the basis that this would improve the quantity and quality of municipal waste recycled in England and achieve a national recycling rate of 65% by 2035. It directly impacts on local authority waste services and is looking at proposals for all waste collection authorities to:
  - 3.2.1. collect the same core set of dry recyclable materials from households.
  - 3.2.2. have separate weekly food waste collections from households.
  - 3.2.3. have separate minimum fortnightly collection of green waste (possibly free).
- 3.3. Defra expect all local authorities to be able to collect the core materials from October 2023 to align with the date that they anticipate EPR for packaging will commence. The exception is for plastic films, where they have proposed this should be phased in with a defined 'end date' of the financial year 2026/27.
- 3.4. Defra have indicated that they propose to use powers in the Environment Bill currently before Parliament (subject to the Bill receiving Royal Assent), to require all Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) in England to arrange for the collection of food waste separately, and at least once a week for recycling or composting. They seek views on the timelines for the requirements to be implemented, considerations regarding collection with garden waste, provision of caddy liners and collection of biodegradable and compostable packaging materials.
- 3.5. The Environment Bill also contains proposed requirements for all Waste Collection Authorities in England to arrange for the separate collection of garden waste for recycling or composting. Due to the mixed views from the first consultation Defra now seeks views on the costs and benefits of the updated proposal on garden waste collections.
- 3.6. Serious consideration needs to be given to the assumptions and impact assessment analysis underpinning Defra's proposals and the implications for service operations in north London.
- 3.7. As with the consultations referenced in paragraph 2.1, in preparing a response to this consultation, officers propose to participate in discussions with individual local authorities, local authority representative groups, private sector processors and the

network of waste disposal authorities. It is recommended that the Authority delegate to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs, responsibility for responding to this consultation.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. The impact of implementing the government consultations listed in paragraph 2.2 is unknown at this stage. However, if any equalities implications for north London are identified at the next stage of consultation, these will be set out in future reports to Members.

#### **5. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

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

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER**

- 6.1. The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments have been incorporated.

#### **List of documents used:**

Consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging - England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales; Defra, March 2021. Available at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/extended-producer-responsibility/extended-producer-responsibility-for-packaging/>

Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Defra, March 2021. Available at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/consultation-on-introducing-a-drs/>

Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England, Defra', May 2021. Available at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/consistency-in-household-and-business-recycling/>

Consultation on the Waste Prevention Programme for England: Towards a Resource-Efficient Economy, Defra, March 2021. Available at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021/>

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