

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE: JOINT WASTE STRATEGY

REPORT OF: HEAD OF STRATEGY AND SERVICES

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING


DATE: 5 OCTOBER 2023

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report provides a summary of progress towards a new North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS). It sets out the intended focus and scope of this document, and an overview of ongoing workstreams.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Authority is recommended to note the updates provided in the report.

SIGNED:  Head of Strategy and Services

DATE: 25 September 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Authority is leading, with the support of the seven constituent Boroughs, the process for the development of a new North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS). This is a joint strategy for the London boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest and the NLWA.
- 1.2. The strategy will guide the development of waste management, including how Government and businesses, as well as local authorities, can contribute to a more circular economy in north London. As indicated in previous papers to this meeting successful delivery of sustainable outcomes cannot be achieved solely by local authorities acting alone. It will also shape waste services and how communication, education and outreach activities are provided to a diverse and changing population.
- 1.3. The production of a NLJWS was delayed to incorporate what were expected to be major waste reforms set out in the Resources and Waste Strategy (2018). Continuing delays and a lack of clarity on what the legislation will include has meant NLWA can no longer wait.
- 1.4. The decision to appoint consultants to support the strategy development work was taken at the NLWA Authority meeting in October 2022. In March 2023, after a thorough procurement process, NLWA appointed environmental consultant Frith Resources Management (FRM). FRM have engaged the London Communications Agency (LCA) to manage the public engagement work.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW STRATEGY

- 2.1. The strategy will have an extensive scope, covering a broad range of issues over the period 2024 to 2040. It will set out a strategic approach for reducing, reusing and recovering a greater proportion of the Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) generated in the NLWA area. This will enable a strong narrative for service operations and policy direction.
- 2.2. To help achieve this, forecasting will be undertaken to understand how waste generation in north London will change over the period of the strategy and beyond, covering both household and commercial waste streams.
- 2.3. Detailed modelling is being produced for a variety of collection scenarios. The modelling will enable an appraisal of the costs, benefits and environmental impacts of the different scenarios.
- 2.4. Two public engagement processes will determine local priorities for the NLJWS, informing the targets and ambitions proposed. This will enable the Authority and constituent boroughs to better understand the needs of communities within north London and their views on waste and the environment.

- 2.5. If necessary, a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) screening report will be produced for review by statutory consultees (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England).

3. PUBLIC LISTENING EXERCISE

- 3.1. The early development process for the strategy has included a listening exercise to gather residents' views. This was done prior to preparation of the strategy itself so that community views could be taken into account to inform all work. The listening exercise asked for views on the importance of the proposed key priorities and for what local authorities, manufacturers, businesses, central Government and residents could do to help achieve these priorities.
- 3.2. The listening exercise is being delivered in three parts:
 - 3.2.1 In July, pop-up events took place across the seven boroughs, engaging over 350 residents. There was a good level of engagement and feedback, and we received 111 feedback forms.
 - 3.2.2 A survey was made live on Commonplace on 6 July and closed on 15 September 2023. All feedback has been securely and consistently captured and easy to feed into the draft strategy as it evolves. The survey has achieved around 1,700 responses with 10,741 total visits to the site.
 - 3.2.3 Officers are also in the process of holding four focus groups, two in person and two online. These seek to gain a more in-depth understanding from residents on key issues.
- 3.3. The listening exercise will end on 27 September 2023. Officers will share the findings of the final report with boroughs through various meetings and forums.
- 3.4. In 2024, the Authority will commence formal consultation on a draft strategy document. It will be important to clearly put this in the context of how it has responded to what communities have told us and how this has been used to inform the draft strategy. This will help encourage those who took part in the listening exercise to continue to contribute and motivate those who are less engaged to take part.

4. WASTE COLLECTIONS OPTIONS MODELLING

- 4.1. As part of the strategy development work, analysis and modelling is being carried out to assess the potential waste volumes in a range of scenarios. This will include taking account of external factors such as developments in population, changes in demographics and households, public commitment to behaviour change, developments in technology and economic instruments. In addition, it will consider potential nationally mandated changes to waste collections and possible local

developments. This will also assist in responding to future Government consultations by strengthening our understanding of the benefits and costs of more separate collections.

- 4.2. The appraisal criteria for the modelling includes both quantitative and qualitative elements, such as, impacts on street scene, recycling performance, cost, operational flexibility and alignment with national policy and deliverability (i.e. resources required to roll out new service, lead in time for vehicles etc.).
- 4.3. The modelling work is intended to provide information both at a north London-wide level and also at borough levels. In the dense urban context, which makes up much of north London, and with new dwellings increasingly in the form of flats, it has proved challenging in the past to model effectively the results of potential changes. Officers will therefore be reviewing the results carefully with FRM when they are available.

5. STRATEGY SIGN-OFF PROCESS

- 5.1. The strategy will ultimately involve being approved by all seven boroughs and NLWA. Each borough's internal engagement process to inform a decision will reflect the requirements and practices of that specific authority. Officers are liaising with opposite numbers in boroughs to ensure that democratic processes are appropriately supported.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. This report does not give rise to any equalities implications. Equalities implications will be taken into account in considering actions arising from the strategy.

7. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

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

8. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

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

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