

## NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

**REPORT TITLE:** NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

**REPORT OF:** MANAGING DIRECTOR

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:** AUTHORITY MEETING

**DATE:** 19 JUNE 2025

### SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report provides a summary of the Annual Report, which sets out the main activities and outcomes achieved by the Authority between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. Points to note include:

- A. The new Resource Recovery Facility on the Edmonton EcoPark, which has the capacity to handle over 300,000 tonnes per year, started full operation.
- B. The new Edmonton EcoPark Reuse and Recycling Centre opened to the public.
- C. EcoPark House, the new education and community centre, welcomed its first visitors.
- D. NLWA rolled out a new outreach programme for primary schools which engaged over 2,600 pupils and staff.
- E. In 2024/25 over 183,500 tonnes of materials were recycled, including organic waste streams.
- F. NLWA-managed reuse and recycling centres (RRC) captured 48,874 tonnes of material, an increase of 7,326 tonnes compared to 2023/24. 74% of all RRC material was recycled, reused or composted.

### RECOMMENDATION:

The Authority is recommended to approve the Annual Report attached in Appendix A to this report.

**SIGNED:** .....  ..... Managing Director  
**DATE:** 09 June 2025

## **1. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE**

- 1.1. The Authority manages waste in line with the waste hierarchy to protect the environment and preserve resources for future generations. It works with the constituent boroughs to deliver public-facing behaviour change programmes to encourage waste prevention and recycling.
- 1.2. Regarding NWLA's household waste and recycling services, the total organic waste managed (including reuse and recycling centre (RRC) garden waste) was 60,472 tonnes. This included 22,900 tonnes of food waste, 5,698 tonnes of BioK (garden and food waste combined), 25,983 tonnes of garden waste, and 5,891 tonnes of RRC garden waste. The increase in food waste and decrease in BioK reflects changes in borough collection services. Total dry mixed recycling (DMR) processed was 123,021 tonnes, a decrease of 1,393 tonnes compared to 2023/24. The recycling rate for 2024/25 was 28.2%.
- 1.3. All residual waste delivered by boroughs continued to be sent to energy recovery, maintaining a 0% landfill rate. Thanks to the Authority's long-standing commitment to recycle as many materials in the UK as possible, it processed 100% of metals, plastics, and glass in the UK, while mixed paper and cardboard were processed 100% in Europe and the UK (93% and 7% respectively).
- 1.4. The reuse and recycling centres saw increased activity in 2024/25. NLWA-managed RRCs captured 48,874 tonnes of material, an increase of 7,326 tonnes compared to 2023/24. 74% of all RRC material was recycled, reused or composted. With specialist recycling services being an important focus, even more difficult-to-recycle materials were captured during the year:
  - 1.4.1. The number of mattresses collected for recycling across RRCs and waste transfer stations increased by 7% compared to 2023/24, with an average of 8,512 mattresses collected monthly. In total, 102,149 mattresses were collected in 2024/25, up from 95,483 in 2023/24.
  - 1.4.2. The hard plastics recycling service expanded to four RRCs, capturing almost 170 tonnes for recycling in 2024/25, an increase from 107.54 tonnes in 2023/24.
  - 1.4.3. The carpet recycling service extended to two more recycling centres and captured 213 tonnes of material in 2024/25, a significant increase from 26.85 tonnes in the previous year.
  - 1.4.4. The amount of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) collected for recycling increased by 56% in 24/25 compared to the previous year. Tonnages rose from 6.87 tonnes in 2023/24 to 10.74 tonnes in 2024/25.
  - 1.4.5. The DIY reuse service also saw an increase in the volume of materials diverted for reuse, from 91.79 tonnes to 104.22 tonnes.

- 1.4.6. A dedicated disposable vape recycling service was launched across RRCs capturing 830kg of material in its first year.

## **2. COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

- 2.1. In 2024/25, NLWA had a strong focus on education, outreach, and communications. A number of high-profile behaviour change projects and campaigns were delivered as part of the Waste Prevention Plan.
- 2.2. One key initiative was the North London Community Fund, which supports grassroots waste prevention activity. In 2024/25, £122,567 was awarded to 14 small and medium projects. For the first time, a larger strategic fund was launched, awarding £100,000 to organisations for two-year waste prevention projects.
- 2.3. NLWA's dedication to educating north Londoners around the environmental impacts of waste has led to much progress in this area. The Authority rolled out a new outreach programme for primary schools which engaged over 2,600 pupils and staff. Other campaigns which drove positive waste related behaviours included:
  - 2.3.1. Reduce, Reuse, Your Cycle to encourage reusable period product take-up
  - 2.3.2. The nappy voucher scheme to support families to switch to reusable nappies
  - 2.3.3. Bring it – a campaign to tackle the single-use plastic problem and encourage people to switch to reuseable cups, bottles, bags and containers.
  - 2.3.4. The pan-London food waste prevention campaign Eat Like a Londoner.

## **3. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT**

- 3.1. In 2024/25, significant progress on the North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP) – London's largest investment in waste and recycling facilities - was made. The new Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), which was designed to manage bulky waste and other material and maximise recycling from them, went into full operation in April 2024. The RRF facilitates the bulking of recycling and organic waste for onward transport, extracts recyclables from residual waste, and prepares bulky waste for energy recovery. In its first year of full operation, around 170,000 tonnes were processed through the facility. The RRF is also equipped with a large solar panel array on its roof allowing the facility to substitute power from the national grid with a sustainable energy source.
- 3.2. A new public RRC was opened at the Edmonton EcoPark in July 2024. This state-of-the-art facility allows residents to bring their recycling directly to the EcoPark 12

hours a day, seven days a week and accepts more than 25 types of waste for recycling or reuse. Many of the features have been selected to enhance the safety of residents in the building. In its first nine months, the centre welcomed over 16,000 visitors and processed approximately 1,700 tonnes of materials.

- 3.3. EcoPark House, the new education and community centre and home of the Edmonton Sea Cadets, welcomed its first visitors in December. Up to the end of March 2024, around 500 school children and community members visited the building, ahead of the formal opening planned for June 2025.
- 3.4. In 2024/25 progress was made on the Energy Recovery Facility site, with the first phase of the construction programme nearing completion. However, there were challenges and delays. Significant concerns were raised with ACCIONA, the principal contractor responsible for constructing the facility. Actions have been taken with ACCIONA to review the robustness of the programme and plans for appointing sub-contractors, in order to give increased confidence of the programme of future work on the facility.
- 3.5. The Project continues to deliver a range of high-quality social value initiatives such as apprenticeships and local work opportunities. The Authority's contribution in this area was recognised when NLWA won the Municipal Journal (MJ) Achievement Award for Innovation in Delivering Sustainability and Social Value. This award acknowledges the project's commitment to creating opportunities for local communities, including employment, training, and procurement with local businesses.
- 3.6. NLHPP continues to demonstrate a strong health and safety culture, with no reportable injuries over the past 12 months. Efforts were also made in promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion, including supporting the Women's Network and addressing the inclusion of under-represented groups in the construction workforce.

#### **4. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1. The unaudited 2024/25 outturn indicates that NLWA's total expenditure for the year was £89.882m excluding charges to boroughs. As the levy is fixed at the start of the year, this resulted in the Authority having a balance brought forward of £7.933m as at 31 March 2025.

#### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. The Authority's equality objectives were reviewed in 2021/22 in compliance with the Equalities Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017/353. The report lists the activities or actions that have contributed towards meeting the equality objectives during the past year.

**6. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

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

**7. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER**

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

**List of documents used:**

No documents required to be listed.

**Contact officer:**

Martin Capstick  
Managing Director  
North London Waste Authority  
Unit 1b Berol House  
25 Ashley Road  
London N17 9LJ

**APPENDIX A: NLWA ANNUAL REPORT**