

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE: JOINT WASTE STRATEGY

REPORT OF: MANAGING DIRECTOR

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE: 19 JUNE 2025

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

To seek Member approval for the new north London Joint Waste Strategy, and to delegate authority to the NLWA Managing Director to make any minor changes to the Strategy that are required as part of the adoption process for the seven constituents Boroughs, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Authority is recommended to:

- A. Approve the new north London Joint Waste Strategy (attached); and
- B. Delegate authority to the NLWA Managing Director to make minor changes to the Strategy as required by constituent boroughs as part of the adoption process, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs.

SIGNED:  Managing Director

DATE: 09 June 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The North London Joint Waste Strategy (the Strategy) has been produced to guide the work of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) and the seven north London boroughs (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest) for the next fifteen years.
- 1.2. The document is a statutory requirement and will help north London move towards a low waste, sustainable future. The draft Strategy has been prepared over the past three years by NLWA and with the seven boroughs through an extensive development process including regular engagement with interest groups, officers and Members.
- 1.3. It is a joint Strategy, developed and equally owned by all eight authorities. It will be a requirement for all parties to deliver the Strategy. The Strategy is attached and links to the supporting appendices can be found below.
- 1.4. All eight authorities will be asking their decision-makers to consider approving the Strategy through their governance processes between June and September 2025, provisionally set out below:
 - 1.4.1. 17 June - Barnet
 - 1.4.2. June/July - Waltham Forest (tbc)
 - 1.4.3. 15 July - Haringey
 - 1.4.4. 16 July - Camden
 - 1.4.5. 25 September - Islington
 - 1.4.6. 21 July - Hackney
 - 1.4.7. 10 September - Enfield (tbc)
- 1.5. The purpose of this report is to ask Members to approve the Strategy. Delegated authority is also requested for the NLWA Managing Director following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs, to make minor changes following the June Authority meeting. This would mean that if small changes are proposed during approval processes in the constituent boroughs, they can be incorporated.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. NLWA is the statutory waste disposal authority for the seven north London waste collection authorities; Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington & Waltham Forest. It is governed by 14 Members with two councillors from each of the seven boroughs. The north London Joint Waste Strategy is the Joint Waste Strategy for NLWA and the seven north London boroughs.
- 2.2. The most recent north London Joint Waste Strategy (JWS) covered the period 2004 to 2020 and was largely concerned with finding a solution for waste disposal infrastructure in north London, which has since been agreed upon.
- 2.3. It is a requirement under section 32 of the Waste and Emissions Act 2003 for waste authorities in a two-tier area to have a joint strategy for the management of waste, the Act requires that the Strategy includes management arrangements for all municipal waste and that the constituent local authorities consult on the strategy

appropriately. The Strategy must also have regard for guidance given by the government.

- 2.4. In addition, waste authorities in Greater London must, when formulating policy, act in general conformity with the Mayor of London's municipal waste management strategy (currently the London Environment Strategy).
- 2.5. There are also significant legislative changes coming, and some are currently being implemented. It is important that the Authority and the constituent boroughs have an up-to-date strategy which will consider and set out how all eight partners will respond to these changes.
- 2.6. The Strategy sets out aspirations for all levels of waste management, in accordance with the waste hierarchy. It sets out how NLWA and the constituent boroughs will help to minimise waste, increase recycling, reuse and repair, protect the environment, and move towards a circular economy. It will inform how these partners manage waste in the future, and work together to deliver essential waste management and disposal services in the best interests of north London's residents. Through the aims and activities set out in the document, the partners will help north London move towards a low waste, sustainable future.

3. SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGY

- 3.1. The Strategy vision sets out how NLWA and the constituent boroughs will manage north Londoners' waste according to the waste hierarchy, prioritising waste reduction then maximising reuse, repair, recycling (and the most climate-friendly means of disposal possible) where reduction is not feasible. This includes providing environmentally-friendly, best-value, resident-focussed services and policies that meet the challenges of the Climate Emergency.
- 3.2. Joint aims, objectives and a set of priorities were all derived from the vision outlined above. Together, these form the overarching policy framework which will guide work over the course of this Strategy. The aims and objectives can be found in the attached copy of the Strategy.
- 3.3. The approach to delivering the aims and objectives is set out in chapters six to ten of the Strategy. The actions and activities that will be undertaken are grouped into four thematic priorities which summarise the aims and objectives.
 - 3.3.1. **Priority 1:** supporting the reduction in waste, by promoting prevention, repair and reuse.
 - 3.3.2. **Priority 2:** improving and maximising recycling
 - 3.3.3. **Priority 3:** reducing the environmental impact of disposal, where there is no option to prevent or reuse waste.
 - 3.3.4. **Priority 4:** delivering collaborative, community-focused services which provide value for money and maximise social value.
- 3.4. NLWA and the constituent boroughs are only a small part of a wider system that also includes government, businesses and residents. Action is needed from all of these

groups if partners are going to jointly meet the challenges that waste services will face in the next fifteen years and achieve their environmental goals.

- 3.5. Ambitious environmental goals for north London have been proposed in the Strategy and progress will be measured and reported using the metrics described in the chapters as key performance indicators. Where targets have been set, it is aimed to meet these by the end of the Strategy period (2040) and progress will be reported through annual reports (within the NLWA Annual Report) presented to the Authority and published on the NLWA website. Progress will also be measured in delivery reports linked to the Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) reporting process. A summary of these reporting metrics is shown in the table below:

Indicator	Metric	Targets
Avoidable food waste	% of residual	50% reduction
Recyclable material in residual waste	% of residual	50% reduction
Total household waste per capita	Kg / person	
Residual household waste per capita	Kg / person	
Reused material	% of RRC waste reused	Double % of material reused
Recycling rate	% of household waste by weight which is recycled, reused or composted.	50%
Processing destinations	% within UK	100%
Carbon impact of waste streams	To be developed	
Operational emissions		
Use of landfill	% of waste sent to landfill	0%

4. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. Throughout the Strategy development process, NLWA and the north London boroughs have put every effort into learning from others and ensured that underserved and overlooked communities are given a strong voice in the process with their evidence informing the Strategy.
- 4.2. The draft has been prepared over the past three years in collaboration with the seven boroughs through an extensive development process including regular engagement with both officers, Members and the public.
- 4.3. There was an initial 12-week public listening exercise in the summer of 2023 (which informed the development of the Strategy's aims, objectives and priorities). This involved a series of pop-up events, focus groups, and an online questionnaire, and over 2,100 residents were engaged in this process.
- 4.4. While not a formal consultation, the key objective was to encourage as many residents as possible, as well as stakeholders already connected with NLWA and constituent boroughs, to engage and provide feedback on the Strategy's emerging vision and priorities. This set the scene for the development of the Strategy.
- 4.5. Following on from this, a formal public consultation on the draft Strategy was undertaken by the Authority and the constituent boroughs between November 2024 and January 2025. Residents were asked for their views on the aims and objectives of the Strategy.
- 4.6. Over the course of the 12-week consultation period, over 3,000 residents were engaged including:
 - 4.6.1. 1,037 respondents to a representative in-person outreach exercise
 - 4.6.2. 465 respondents to an online survey with paper copies available in libraries
 - 4.6.3. Responses were also received from community groups, and the Greater London Authority
 - 4.6.4. In November 2024, NLWA officers attended four borough scrutiny committees (at Hackney, Camden, Islington and Waltham Forest), and feedback was received on the draft Strategy.
- 4.7. There was a good level of diversity amongst residents who responded, in ethnicity, age, gender and in terms of whether individuals had a kerbside or communal collection service. In respect of ethnicity, the consultation respondents reflected the demographics across north London in the 2021 census, ensuring that all sections of the community were engaged in the development of the Strategy. The outreach engagement exercise was designed specifically to ensure we reached those sections of the community overlooked or underserved.
- 4.8. A significant number of respondents stated they had not been consulted about local services before, which demonstrates efforts to hear voices that have traditionally

been underrepresented. The findings were consequently very robust and reflected diverse views across north London's communities.

- 4.9. Significantly, the overall trends in responses suggested that respondents had a very positive perception of the vision, aims and priorities. 84% of respondents to the targeted outreach supported the Strategy vision, and 85% supported the five aims of the Strategy, most respondents thought that all actions were high priority, across all four priority areas. Residents demonstrated they were committed to improving north London's sustainability, and that they had clear ambitions for how to make it happen. A summary of the feedback and how these were reflected in the JWS are set out below, more details can be found in appendix 6.
- 4.10. Following this public consultation exercise, a revised version of the Strategy has been developed, taking into account the responses from different stakeholder outlined above. Consequently, the direction of waste management policies will be fully informed by input from north London communities.

Examples of Changes Following the Public Consultation

- 4.11. Strategy vision - feedback indicated that a simple vision statement would be beneficial to summarise the ambition of the Strategy. Following this feedback, the draft includes a proposed summarised, overarching vision statement: 'Towards a low waste north London, reducing the impact of waste arisings to meet the challenges of the Climate Emergency'.
- 4.12. Education and Engagement – the consultation showed that residents believed that education and campaigns to instil good waste management habits were important factors, in addition to what was already being carried out at local authority level. Chapter six of the draft strategy already demonstrated the commitment to this area; however, changes have been made to strengthen this.
- 4.13. Recycling – the consultation showed that residents wanted improved recycling by making it easier through labelling, providing information on what happens to recycling, and better accessibility to recycling facilities (particularly communal). Chapters 5-7 of the Strategy already outlined the partners' commitment to this area, but changes have been made to make this clearer and additional commitments have been made.
- 4.14. Waste reduction target - several groups asked that there should be a clear timeframe and trajectory for achieving stated targets. The narrative around waste reduction has been reviewed throughout the strategy and a new paragraph has been added in section 6.9.
- 4.15. Delivering the Strategy - as in the previous theme, several groups asked that there should be a timeframe and trajectory for achieving stated targets, but some also wanted to know how progress would be reported. A plan on reporting on the delivery of the Strategy has been added in sections 6.9, 9.9, and 10.1 to address this.
- 4.16. Resident Engagement – most respondents wanted proactive engagement with a wide range of residents to be embedded through the delivery of the strategy, with a particular focus on overlooked and under-served residents and groups, to ensure actions meet their needs, experiences and aspirations. Details of next steps for this have been added in sections 5.2, 6.1, 6.5 and 10.3.

5. NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1. It is a requirement under section 32 of the Waste and Emissions Act 2003 for waste authorities in a two-tier area to have a joint strategy for the management of waste. As such, all eight authorities will be asking their decision-makers to approve the Strategy through their governance processes between June and September 2025.
- 5.2. The report recommendation is to approve the Joint Waste Strategy and to delegate authority to the NLWA Managing Director to make any minor changes to the Strategy following consultation with the NLWA Chair and Vice-Chairs. Approving the Strategy will provide clear direction on a wide range of strategic decisions that will be required going forward over the next fifteen years.
- 5.3. The content of the Strategy may be subject to minor additions and amendments until the approval process has concluded and all partners have taken a decision on the adoption of the Strategy.
- 5.4. An update will be made at an autumn/winter 2025 NLWA Authority meeting regarding the outcome of these decisions, and if applicable, it will be noted that the Strategy has completed the approval processes and is now formal policy.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. While preparing the Strategy, the impacts that proposed approach and activities could have on the environment have been assessed in a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 6.2. Feedback from the SEA process informed the drafting of specific content and proposals. The actions and mitigations proposed in the SEA were incorporated into the Strategy to ensure we achieve a sustainable and environmentally beneficial approach for waste management in north London.
- 6.3. The SEA was subject to consultation as per regulatory requirements and the report is linked below.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. NLWA and the constituent boroughs must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). All partners have a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. Local authorities must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 7.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed on 15 April 2025 and the full Equalities Impact Assessment with its findings are linked below.

8. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 8.1. Section 32 of the Waste and Emissions Act 2003 introduced a requirement for waste authorities in a two-tier area to produce a joint waste strategy. The Act requires that the Strategy includes management arrangements for all municipal waste and that the constituent boroughs consult the Strategy appropriately. The Strategy must also have regard for guidance given by the Government. In addition, the waste authorities for a two-tier area in Greater London must, when formulating policy, have regard to the Mayor of London's municipal waste management strategy (currently the London Environment Strategy). There are also significant legislative changes coming in the near future, specifically Simpler Recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility and a Deposit Return Scheme. It is important that the Authority and the constituent boroughs have an up-to-date strategy which will consider and set out how all eight partners will respond to these changes.

9. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

- 9.1. A financial assessment has been undertaken as part of the waste growth projection analysis (linked below). Over the lifetime of the Strategy, there may be a financial impact related to the processing of the tonnage. Additionally, there may be uncertainties regarding the long-term financial sustainability of the Strategy, especially if external factors such as changes in government funding or economic conditions impact local authority finances.

List of documents used:

The main strategy document is attached as an appendix to this report. The Strategy's supporting documents are linked below, or can be found on the NLWA website here:

<https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/ourauthority/our-strategies>

1. North London Joint Waste Strategy 2025-2040 (attached)
2. [Appendix 1 – Waste Growth Projections](#)¹
3. [Appendix 2 – Options Appraisal Report](#)²
4. [Appendix 3 – JWS Listening Exercise Final Report](#)³
5. [Appendix 4 – Environmental Report \(SEA\)](#)⁴
6. [Appendix 5 – Equalities Impact Assessment](#)⁵
7. [Appendix 6 – Final Public Consultation Report](#)⁶

¹ https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-05/appendix_1_-_jws_waste_projections.pdf

² https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-05/appendix_2_-_jws_options_appraisal_report.pdf

³ https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-05/appendix_2_-_jws_options_appraisal_report.pdf

⁴ <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/dunca35j6dndovb6ctw/Appendix-4-Environmental-Report.pdf?rlkey=nxa108th10jiaknfmq3ui7yvd&e=1&st=xwmafb7c&dl=0>

⁵ https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-05/appendix_5_-_equalities_impact_assessment_1.pdf

⁶ https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-05/appendix_6_-_consultation_report.pdf

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APPENDIX A NORTH LONDON JOINT WASTE STRATEGY 2025-2040