

**Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Development**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides details of the development of a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for the Authority and the Boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames for the years 2020-2035.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Authority is asked to note the contents of the report

- 1. Background** – The Authority and Boroughs committed in 2005 to a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) which included waste prevention, reuse, recycling, infrastructure and contracts. The action plans were reviewed and updated in September 2017 and approved by the Authority. The remaining key aims were to support boroughs to deliver a 50% recycling target and to ensure availability of appropriate waste treatment and recycling infrastructure to meet future needs. The Authority developed a new Business Plan which was approved in March 2017 and committed to develop a new JMWMS from 2020-2035 in partnership with the constituent Boroughs.
- 2. WLWA Business Plan** – The Authority's Business Plan activities which will inform the new JMWMS 2020-2035 have been developed into six project areas which will be reported regularly to Authority meetings in a project report. The projects will be updated and refined as we learn more about forthcoming waste legislation.
- 3. Resources and Waste Strategy** – On 18 December 2018, Defra published the Resources and Waste Strategy, the first policy alteration in England since 2011. Three consultations are expected to follow before the end of January on: a deposit return scheme, extended producer responsibility for packaging and collection consistency and metrics. Officers had a number of opportunities to influence the strategy at Defra consultations and the document is largely as expected as a result of those discussions with producers, industry and local government waste professionals. Officers also worked jointly with many local government colleagues belonging to e.g. the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO) and the Local Government Association to ensure a collective voice was represented throughout the process. The strategy at a glance, along with summaries kindly provided by LEDNET and SUEZ are provided in Appendix 1.
- 4. Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)** – This scheme has the ability to significantly reduce total waste and is very well aligned with our strategy and purpose. We expect the consultation to focus on either "On the go" or an "All In" deposit return scheme. WLWA Officers recommend lobbying tactically for "All in" because any exemption of specific packaging materials allows scope for manipulation of targets. Irrespective of the type of DRS chosen there is a risk that unrecovered deposits are not used to contribute to the cost of disposal of unrecovered packaging and therefore it is important that the DRS must not be decoupled from a wider extended producer responsibility scheme.

**5. Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** – This scheme is expected to bring full net cost recovery of collection and recycling back to Local Authorities and consultation is expected on the mechanism for controlling and monitoring the money and targets. It is not clear whether the money will flow from producers to waste collection authorities or waste disposal authorities. In our case as a joint waste disposal authority (JWDA) our governance and funding is linked to the constituent Boroughs and this should not be contentious. Key points to note are:

- A.** The type and quantity of recycling materials put onto the market is likely to adapt faster than we have seen to date because producers will be paying. It is important we collectively know the detail of our various costs and regularly monitor our data.
- B.** This is a recycling measure, not a waste reduction measure. There is no incentive to improve reuse of packaging material.
- C.** The growth in biodegradable packaging is a concern because of its ability to contaminate food waste, green waste and recycling waste streams. There will be a separate consultation on biodegradable packaging.
- D.** We should resist any additional layering of administrative bodies, which will introduce cost and complexity. Similarly, if eg the GLA or LWARB was to administer money on behalf of London it will replicate the problems the Counties and Shires have faced to date where decision making and funding / costs is not linked.

**6. Consistency and metrics** – The strategy sets out to define a core set of materials to be collected as part of household collection services, which uses EPR money to collect the materials back that producers are contributing to. It is also expected to include a requirement for separate food waste and free garden waste collections. In West London we are ahead of the strategy in our preparations for more collaborative work which will assist us to command this financial support. The biggest challenge we will need to prepare for is the increasing densification of our area and our ability to capture high quality, high quantity recycling from flats, particularly high-rise flats.

**7. Financial Implications** – These will be incorporated in the annual process of long-term financial planning and budget setting. Individual projects will incorporate full financial evaluations.

**8. Legal Implications** – Evaluated as part of annual business planning and normal project process

**9. Impact on Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy** – This work will develop a new strategy from 2020.

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