

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE:**

RECYCLING PROPOSALS

**REPORT OF:**

MANAGING DIRECTOR

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:**

AUTHORITY MEETING

**DATE:**

12 February 2015

**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

This report provides Members with a further update of actions following a Members' Recycling meeting on 24 November 2014. The report provides support for a budget allocation elsewhere on this agenda for further work to investigate the most effective opportunities for increasing recycling rates and realising efficiencies across north London.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Authority is recommended to:

1. Agree to assess the opportunities for recycling improvements, working in partnership with London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) and with borough support, with a further report to be brought back to a future meeting;
2. Note that a budget of up to £75,000 is provided in the draft 2015/16 budget elsewhere on this agenda to deliver this work.

**SIGNED:**



Managing Director

**DATE:** 3 February 2015

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Authority and seven constituent north London Boroughs have jointly agreed to a target of 50% recycling by 2020. With current recycling performance at 33% across the NLWA area in 2013/14 there is a considerable way to go to reach the agreed rate. The Members' Recycling Working Group provides additional focus on recycling and prevention and has been reviewing progress towards the achievement of the target.
- 1.2 At the September 2014 Authority meeting it was agreed that the Members' Recycling Working Group should be expanded from its previous membership of four to seven Members, i.e. to include one Member from every borough.
- 1.3 At the Members' Recycling Working Group which followed the September Authority meeting Members also agreed that a Members' Recycling meeting should be called to look at recycling in more depth and to see what more might be done to bring additional improvements.
- 1.4 The Members' Recycling meeting was held on 24 November 2014 with representation from each borough and the Authority. The meeting was facilitated by the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB).
- 1.5 This report provides an update on actions taken by officers following 24 November to discuss the best opportunities for increasing recycling rates in the area and maximise any additional benefits that might arise through partnership working. The report asks Members to note the proposed next steps following that meeting.

## **2. ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE MEMBERS' RECYCLING MEETING ON 24 NOVEMBER 2014**

- 2.1 At the meeting on 24 November NLWA officers were asked to consider the scale of the cost or recycling gain that might be achievable before commencing detailed work or significant spend to assess how best to bring about recycling improvements. However, there was agreement with NLWA facilitating some further work on recycling if demonstrable improvements could be shown. NLWA was advised that there is a need to make the case for change with a cost/benefit analysis before going any further. It was also noted that some further support would be required before taking binding decisions.
- 2.2 Subsequently NLWA officers and the Strategic Liaison and Support Officer for the seven north London boroughs had a meeting with LWARB officers and Local Partnerships to discuss next steps.
- 2.3 From April 2015 and beyond LWARB and Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) have agreed that in order to further their mutual interests in assisting waste authorities in London to achieve

improvements and greater efficiencies in the delivery of their reuse and recycling services and to divert more materials from disposal, they will enter into a jointly funded partnership to deliver a London waste authority support programme. The aim of the Programme is that by 2020, London will have more consistent and more efficient waste and recycling services that achieve the Mayor of London's target that London recycles 50 percent of local authority collected waste by 2020; and makes a significant contribution towards the UK achieving its 50 percent household waste recycling target in 2020. In order to achieve this aim, the programme will deploy a range of support. Authority officers expect that the north London authorities' priorities for future work could align well with the proposed activities of the new Programme and officers have had detailed conversations with LWARB officers over the level of support the programme could provide to NLWA. Through the new London waste authority support programme LWARB officers have committed to work with and support NLWA to explore options further.

- 2.4 Members are also recommended to note that a budget of up to £75,000 is provided in the draft 2015/16 budget elsewhere on this agenda to assist in delivering further work. However, no expenditure would be incurred until a further report has been considered by Members including details of possible benefits that might be gained as a result of the work to be carried out.

### **3. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 3.1 External communications with residents would be a key element of any proposals for recycling improvements. A separate Authority report elsewhere on this agenda details the Authority's proposals for commissioning an agency to assist with the development of a three-year joint recycling communications campaign, including borough engagement in the development of the same. It is proposed that the Members' Recycling Working Group continues to input to the development of and receive updates about this campaign alongside details of NLWA's waste prevention work. This external communications work may also be suitable to be supported through the new LWARB/WRAP London waste authority support programme.

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

- 4.1 The Authority has the statutory power to engage in this work as increasing recycling rates is incidental to minimising waste and providing a more efficient and cost effective waste disposal service for the Boroughs and is therefore permitted by s111 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 4.2 At present it is not clear whether this work will be delivered through a contract which will require procurement. If it is, the value of that

contract will need to be established, and the process determined in line with the Authority's Standing Orders.

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

- 5.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

### **Local Government Act 1972 - Access to Information**

**Documents used:** None

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**REPORT ENDS**