

## CABINET 18 NOVEMBER 2019

**Report title:** Lambeth Waste Strategy update

**Wards:** All

**Portfolio:** Deputy Leader (Environment and Clean Air): Councillor Claire Holland

**Report Authorised by:** Bayo Dosunmu: Strategic Director for Residents Services

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### Report summary

The Lambeth Waste Strategy covers the period 2011 – 2031 and provides the strategic framework for delivering recycling and waste services in Lambeth. The strategy has been reviewed and updated so that it:

- responds to the Councils recognition of the climate emergency and our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030;
- reflects current environmental ambitions;
- complies with local and national guidance and legislation;
- puts in place achievable targets that support the environmental objectives of the council;
- continues to meet the needs of residents and visitors to the borough through the use of advanced customer access and of digital services
- takes into account the views of Lambeth's residents and businesses that can in turn be fed into the new recycling, waste collection and street cleansing contract; and,
- provides a framework for continuous improvement.

A number of new targets and initiatives were developed in the updated draft Waste Strategy which was then published as part of an engagement exercise with key stakeholders, including residents, businesses, officers and members as well as the Mayor's office.

The review is designed to set out our targets and ambitions for 2031 and will be reviewed again by 2021/22. This will be an important time as many of the legislative changes outlined in the National Resource and Waste Strategy which will be at final proposal stages and the new waste contract will have bedded in. Annual reviews will be ongoing from this point to account for impacts of legislative changes and advancements in technological and digital solutions.

Following approval and adoption of the revised strategy an action plan will be developed by the end of 2019. This will be developed alongside our Reduction and Recycling Plan, which is a requirement of the

Mayor's London Environment Strategy. Lambeth's Reduction and Recycling Plan needs to be completed and submitted to the Mayor's office by 20 December 2019.

## **Finance summary**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Recommendations**

1. To approve the Waste Strategy Update.

## 1. CONTEXT

1.1 Since 2011 there have been three phases of service changes designed to reduce waste and increase recycling which were based on the consultation undertaken in 2010. The Lambeth framework for waste disposal naturally encourages increases in recycling from a financial perspective as it also saves around £30,000 for every 1% of recyclable waste that is diverted from the residual waste stream.

1.2 The following table sets out the key initiatives introduced since 2011 that have supported our ambitions to implement sustainable waste management practices:

Activity/initiative	Year introduced
Reduced residual bin size to 140 litre standard to restrict residual waste capacity	October 2013
Introduced subscription based garden waste collections	April 2011
Introduced food waste collections for kerbside properties	October 2013
Introduced wheeled bins for dry mixed recycling	March 2017
Embedded a Communications, Education and Outreach team within the current contract	September 2016

1.3 The changes resulted in increased recycling from around 27% in 2011 to 32% in 2018/19 and the minimisation of waste from 450kg for residual waste per household in 2011 to 399.14kg per household in 2018/19.

1.4 A key driver for the review of the 2011/31 waste strategy has been to ensure the new waste and street cleaning contract is aligned with the strategy and is able to achieve the aspirations set out in the Waste Strategy.

1.5 The following strategies, policies and manifesto commitments were taken into account in the new strategy:

- A new national Resources and Waste Strategy for England (published in 2018 and currently undergoing consultation);
- The Mayor's London Environment Strategy (published 2018);
- Commitment by the council to maintain weekly bin collection of recycling food and residual waste;
- To maintain and enhance the services offered at Vale Street Re-use and Recycling Centre;
- The council's commitment to phase out single use plastics;
- The council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030; and,
- London and National government requires increased overall recycling targets (including commercial waste) of:
  - 50% by 2025; and,
  - 65% by 2030.

1.6 The Council commissioned waste specialist consultancy, Eunomia Research and Consulting to support the review and update of the Strategy and officers have continued to work closely with the GLA to ensure that the strategy meets the requirements of the Mayor's London Environment Strategy.

- 1.7 We are working with Corporate Services and the Planning department to ensure the strategy aligns with the Borough and Local Plan.
- 1.8 As part of the development of the Waste Strategy update the council carried out an extensive engagement exercise, the details of which are included at Appendix B,

## 2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 The updated Waste Strategy is enclosed at Appendix A.
- 2.2 The strategic objectives of the Waste Strategy have been refined to reflect the feedback received through the engagement exercise as far as practicably possible and are set out below:
  - To encourage behavioural change within the community to move the management of municipal waste higher up the waste hierarchy;
  - To meet legislative requirements and statutory obligations now and as policy evolves in the future and achieve general conformity with Regional Waste Policy;
  - To manage waste in a way that protects human health and the environment;
  - Deliver services that offer excellent customer service, achieving continuous improvement in service quality and customer satisfaction;
  - Procure and manage waste and recycling services that maximise local economic, environmental and social benefits and meet legislative requirements whilst minimising costs;
  - To maintain and improve civic pride through the services delivered; and,
  - To lead by example and embed principles of the waste hierarchy throughout the Council.
- 2.3 The draft Waste Strategy update contained a number of initiatives and associated targets to support the strategic objectives:
- 2.4 **Reduce:**  
**The council will reduce residual waste from 397kg per household in 2017/18 to less than 375kg by 2025 and less than 350kg by 2030 (current target 388kg per household per year).**

The Council will commit to working towards ending the use of **Single Use Plastics** by:

- Maintaining and expanding a network of drinking water fountains across Lambeth to reduce use of single use plastic bottles in the borough;
- Work towards eliminating the use of single use plastics purchased by the Council and our providers; and,
- Work towards eliminating the use of single use plastics at local events e.g. by supporting reusable drinks containers or deposit return systems.

The Council will help residents to **reduce waste** by:

- Increasing home composting by promoting and selling at least 350 compost bins per year;
- Promoting the reduction of food waste through suitable communications and education initiatives, linking with national campaigns where possible;
- Continuing to reduce the use of disposable nappies through a voucher scheme to encourage 200 parents each year to use re-usable (washable) nappies;
- Actively manage side waste by applying the Excess Waste Policy.

## 2.5 Repair & Re-use:

The Council will divert at least **30 tonnes of furniture per year to reuse** by 2025:

- Reviewing and potentially expanding the range of materials accepted for re-use at the Vale Street Reuse & Recycling Centre;
- Working more closely with current furniture re-use partners to maximise the positive social value aspects of furniture re-use; and,
- Seeking to increase re-use and repair at Rework Re-use Workshop at Smugglers Way.

The Council will support the community to repair, re-use, swap and share by:

- Actively promoting and supporting local community groups that engage in repair, re-use, sharing and swapping activities and/or events.

## 2.6 Household Recycling:

The council will **increase household recycling rates** from the current level of 32% to at least 37% by 2025 as set out in the Waste & Resource Action Programme (WRAP) by:

- Leading by example and targeting high levels of recycling in council buildings;
- Identifying and using the most appropriate ways to communicate extensively with residents about waste and recycling services;
- Maintaining the weekly collection of the six core materials as set out in the Mayor's London Environment Strategy (paper, card, cans, glass plastic mixed ridged plastics) plus foil lined containers currently accepted at the Material Recovery Facility;
- Where practicable increase the materials collected at the kerbside and communal areas such as WEEE and Textiles;
- Following a number of trials initiated to encourage additional food waste participation through a range of behavioural insights, roll out the successful interventions to households currently in receipt of the service
- Adopt further behavioural insight methodologies to test the efficacy of expanding the food waste collection services to include large developments and estates;
- Enforcing the councils' excess waste policy which states that all waste must be contained within the household waste bin which is properly presented in for collection;
- Maintaining a network of bring banks to collect materials not covered by household collections (such as textiles, books or CDs), by:
  - Supporting third sector partners to maintain manage and service sites; and,
  - Continually reviewing bring bank provision as not all residents can easily make use of the wide range of materials collected at the Vale Street Reuse and Recycling Centre and / or Smugglers Way;
- Reviewing and increasing the number of 'on the go' recycling bins where appropriate;
- Where practicable separate street litter for recycling;
- Working with the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing team on waste management issues affecting these properties; and,
- Increase recycling on Estates by considering the following ways to improve recycling services:
  - 'Twin stream' recycling – for example collecting paper, card, glass and cans in one container and plastic etc. in a second container;
  - reviewing the placement of recycling bins to improve recycling; and,
  - Introducing food waste collections on estates (where practical).

2.7 **Street cleansing and tackling litter and fly tipping** are priority actions. The Council will:

- Adopting a robust approach to tackling littering and fly tipping through education and engagement with enforcement activity as a last resort; and,
- Continue to work with and support community groups and street champions in litter clean-ups to promote civic pride and bring people together.
- Review and improve our use of social media channels and digital communications opportunities

2.8 **Commercial waste**

- Target: Local authority collected commercial waste recycling – 60%;
- Promote Lambeth's **commercial recycling service** to increase recycling (which counts towards achieving the boroughs' overall local authority collected waste (LACW) recycling target);
- Review the council's approach to fees and charges to encourage and promote commercial waste recycling and the responsible disposal of waste; and
- Carry out enforcement action to restrict commercial waste put into household waste and recycling streams.

2.9 **Customer Service**

**In order to deliver effective outcomes and achieve our ambitions, we must take a customer focused approach, recognising the role they play in service delivery.**

- Develop a digital platform for residents and businesses to access service information and make service requests;
- Provide live information on the completion of services;
- Request & report service issues on a 24/7 basis; and,
- Seek feedback on customer satisfaction and use the feedback to continually improve the service.
- Improve the council's service offer through insights from customer complaints and service requests.

Where Council services are not available to customers, particularly with respect to items difficult to recycle, treat or dispose, the Council will seek to develop a digital platform and web-based information service sign posting alternative opportunities for the responsible disposal for such materials, for example, cooking oil, sheet glass, mirrors, coffee grounds, etc.

2.10 **Managing waste in a way that protects human health and the environment;**

- All new cars to be ultra-low emission capable from 2021
- All vans (less than 3.5 tonnes) being ultra-low emission capable from 2025
- All heavy vehicles (greater than 3.5 tonnes) being ultra-low emission from 2030
- Zero emission fleet by 2050
- Explore alternative methods of weed control that negate the use for herbicides and other chemicals that may be damaging to health and wellbeing with the intent of phasing out the use of Glyphosate from April 2021;

## 2.11 Summary of targets

	<b>Target in 2011 waste strategy</b>	<b>Current performance</b>	<b>Target in 2019 update</b>
Residual waste per household	450kg by 2014/15	399.14kg per household (18/19)	Less than 375kg by 2025 and less than 350kg by 2030
Reusable nappies	150 Vouchers redeemed	151 (18/19)	200 Vouchers redeemed yearly
Home composting bins	Sell 250 per year from council partner website	111 (18/19)	Sell 350 per year by 2025
Re-use furniture	N/A	c. 11 tonnes	Divert 30 tonnes to reuse
Household recycling rate	50% by 2020	32% (18/19)	37% by 2025
LA collected commercial waste for recycling	N/A	9%	60% by 2025

## 3. FINANCE

- 3.1 There were no specific financial issues related to the waste strategy itself although some of the suggested initiatives could incur costs or savings at a later date. It is estimated that each 1% increase in recycling saves the council approximately £30,000.
- 3.2 Some of the costs will be absorbed into the recycling, waste collection and cleansing contract.
- 3.3 Other costs may arise as a result of implementing an action plan and appropriate financing will be requested then.

## 4. LEGAL AND DEMOCRACY

- 4.1 There were no legal issues arising from this report.
- 4.2 This proposed key decision was entered in the Forward Plan on 2 September 2019 and the necessary 28 clear days' notice has been given. In addition, the Council's Constitution requires the report to be published on the website for five clear days before the proposed decision is approved by the Cabinet Member. Any representations received during this period must be considered by the decision-maker before the decision is taken. A further period of five clear days - the call-in period – must then elapse before the decision is enacted. If the decision is called-in during this period, it cannot be enacted until the call-in has been considered and resolved.

## 5. CONSULTATION AND CO-PRODUCTION

- 5.1 Engagement on the strategy took place between 14 May and 10 June 2019. To ensure all groups had the opportunity to input, a number of workshops were undertaken which included:
- Lambeth Disability Reference Group;

- Lambeth Forum Network;
- The Business Improvement Districts;
- Lambeth Labour Group Councillors; and,
- Lambeth Environmental Forum.

In addition, there were a series of internal meetings with key council departments and teams (e.g. Housing and Events) and with relevant officers of the Greater London Authority (GLA).

In addition to the meetings, feedback routes and communications channels open to these groups, residents and businesses in the borough were:

- Direct emails to target groups (e.g., All TRAs);
- Promoted in Lambeth Talk;
- Frequent council Tweets during the engagement period; and,
- The dedicated webpage on the Lambeth Council website which linked to:
  - a summary document;
  - the draft strategy;
  - An online survey (Survey Monkey); and,
  - Email address for direct emails to Waste Strategy Inbox.

The conversation held with various stakeholders, businesses and residents of the borough was detailed and comprehensive. Over 8,100 emails were issued and there were over 1,000 click throughs to the dedicated Waste Conversation webpage. The accompanying social media campaign was seen over 19,000 times, which led to nearly 400 separate engagements in the Waste Conversation.

The engagement demonstrated a high degree of awareness of the issues and challenges we face with respect to the impact of waste management on the environment and how our approach can support address the issues of climate change. This is reflected in the overwhelming response to the online survey. This survey was completed by 1332 people and feedback from the engagement was generally very positive as set out in appendix B.

## **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 The main risk associated with this strategy is failing to meet the new targets but the targets have been set based on external modelling, the new waste and street cleansing specification and current work to increase recycling and reduce waste.

## **7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.2 The Waste Strategy incorporates commentary on the equalities implications of the strategy based on public engagement. The final equalities impact assessment is enclosed at Appendix C.

## **8. COMMUNITY SAFETY**

- 8.1 Not applicable.

## **9. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental**

- 9.1 The waste strategy responds to national, regional and local ambitions to mitigate the impacts of waste management on the environment. It reflects the Council's declaration of a 'climate emergency'



and makes a significant contribution to supporting the council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

- 9.2 The ambition to reduce the amount of waste produced will reduce the need to collect, transport and treat waste. Increasing levels of reuse and repair will ensure materials used to create products will have enhanced value and be retained within the economy for longer periods of time, supporting more circular economy principles. Recycling of materials will also ensure their value is retained for longer periods and will reduce the requirements for the use of raw materials, many of which require higher levels of energy to be produced than secondary materials used as recycle.

#### **Staffing and accommodation**

- 9.3 There are no direct staffing or accommodation implication resulting from the Waste Strategy update.

### **10. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 10.1 The Strategy is to be considered and recommended for approval by the Council at the Cabinet meeting on 16 November 2019.
- 10.2 The action plan will be developed by the end of the year. This will be developed at the same time as the Reduction and Recycling plan required by the GLA to support the Mayor's strategy and reduction and recycling targets which need to be in place by 31 December 2019.
- 10.3 The Waste, recycling and cleansing contract which was tendered in September 2019 will also carry some of the requirements of the Waste Strategy with the new contract coming into force in April 2021.
- 10.4 The strategy will be reviewed again in 2021/22

<b>AUDIT TRAIL</b>				
<b>Consultation</b>				
<b>Name/Position</b>	<b>Lambeth directorate / department or partner</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Comments in paragraph:</b>
Councillor Claire Holland	Deputy Leader of the Council (Environment and Clean Air)	05.09.19	09.09.19	Throughout
Bayo Dosumnu, Strategic Director	Residents Services	16.08.19	16.08.19	Throughout
Hamant Bharadia, Acting Director (Finance and Property)	Finance and Investment	12/08/19	15.08.19	None
Michael O'Hora, Legal Services	Legal and Governance	13/08/19	15.08.19	None
Wayne Chandai, Democratic Services	Legal and Governance	13/08/19	13/08/19	Section 4
Raj Mistry	Residents Services	05.09.19	13/09/19	Throughout
Doug Perry, Assistant Director	Residents Services	08/08/19	09/08/19	Throughout

<b>REPORT HISTORY</b>	
<b>Original discussion with Cabinet Member</b>	18.04.19
<b>Report deadline</b>	16.08.19
<b>Date final report sent</b>	16.08.19
<b>Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?</b>	No
<b>Key decision report</b>	Yes
<b>Date first appeared on forward plan</b>	27/08/2019
<b>Key decision reasons</b>	1. Will amend Community Plan Outcomes Framework or Budget and Policy Framework
<b>Background information</b>	<p><a href="#">The Mayor's Environment Strategy</a>  <a href="#">The Lambeth Labour Party Manifesto 2018</a>  <a href="#">Resources and Waste Strategy for England</a></p> <p><b>Previous Waste Strategy documents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Phase 1 2011</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Phase 2 2012</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Phase 3 2016</a></li> </ul>
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A –Waste Strategy update Appendix B – Waste Strategy Engagement Report Appendix C – Equalities Impact Assessment