

November 2019

Equalities Impact Assessment – Lambeth Waste Strategy update

This Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) is based on changes to the strategy since the initial Waste Strategy of 2011.

Q1a What is changing?

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 Council's 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.

The main changes outlined in the update are identified as follows:

- Reduction in waste
 - Working towards the elimination of single use plastics
 - Increase in drinking fountains across the borough
- Increase in re-use, particularly of furniture
- Increase in household recycling
 - Possibly including kerbside collections of textiles and small electrical items
 - Reviewing and possibly increasing on the go litter bins
 - Increasing recycling on estates possibly including food waste
 - Increasing participation across the borough including food waste
- Street cleansing and tackling litter and fly tipping
 - Adopting a robust approach to tackling littering and fly tipping through education and engagement with enforcement activity as a last resort
 - Customer Service
 - Develop a digital platform for resident to access service information
 - Provide live information on the completion of services
 - Request & report service issues on a 24/7 basis
- Waste collection method
 - The method of waste collection will change for a small number of residents (up to 10%)- where the bin will be collected from and returned to the property rather than the resident placing the bin outside the property for collection.
- 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 fossil fuel-free from 2030
- Ultra-low 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 by April 2021

However, it should be noted that there were much more extensive changes in the original waste strategy document (2011) and the previous EQIA can be found [here](#)¹.

The most significant strategic changes in terms of impact are likely to be:

- Initiatives to Increase recycling, particularly on estates
- Increased digital access to services
- The improved environmental approach to the fleet
- Ambition to phase out Glyphosate
- Bin collection and return to property for a small number of properties

Q2a What do we know about the people who will be impacted by this change?

All residents of the borough will be impacted by these changes.

A public engagement exercise was carried out on the draft strategy and 1332 responses were received. The conversation report is to be found at Appendix C of the main report. The Waste Strategy contains an analysis of the views expressed during the engagement in terms of people with protected characteristics at A.4.0.

In terms of the key changes outlined above, there are some impacts on particular groups which are outlined in the sections below. Housing estates are a focus for the strategy and it can be said that housing estates may have a higher concentration of protected groups including people who are socio-economically disadvantaged.

Feedback was also received on changes made as a result of the previous waste strategy, particularly the waste collection arrangements where bins are placed outside properties on collection day. This can affect people with illness or a disability because of the increased difficulties of walking along the pavement. The same is also true of people with very young children using prams or buggies to transport them.

¹ <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/rr-lambeth-waste-strategy-equalities-impact-assessment.pdf>

Recycling

We know that the following groups are less likely to recycle from the last Lambeth Resident's Survey carried out in 2016:

	Unweighted Bases	Weighted Bases	Doorstep recycling facilities	Estate recycling facilities	Estate plus doorstep
Total	1042	1042	28%	10%	38%
Age 18-24	136	133	12%	9%	21%
White – non British	144	143	22%	4%	26%
Black African	100	114	14%	12%	26%
Economically Inactive	298	245	14%	11%	25%
Children in Household	247	262	19%	10%	29%
Live in socially rented accommodation	372	364	13%	13%	26%
Living on estate	332	327	5%	21%	26%
People with a disability and a disability combined with illness	85	68	15%	6%	21%
English not first language	180	189	11%	6%	17%
Non- Christian religion	113	123	15%	8%	23%

Digital access to services

We also know from the resident's survey that older people are less likely to access online services.

Vehicle emissions

In terms of vehicle emissions – this affects the whole borough but older or younger people and those with existing illnesses may be most affected.

Ambition to phase out Glyphosate

As with vehicle emissions, the application of this weed killer could affect everyone in the borough – young people may be affected if used on grassy areas as well as the staff who are applying it.

Bin collection and return to property for a small number of properties

This should have the effect of clearing particularly narrow pavements for the use of people with disabilities and parents with buggies. Care will have to be taken not to cause access problems for the same groups when the bins are stored or replaced within the boundary of the property. When discussed at the Lambeth Disability Reference Group meeting this was an aspect of particular concern

Q2b How will they be impacted by the change?

Recycling

The groups mentioned in the table above may be affected by the initiatives to increase recycling as currently there may be barriers making it harder for them to recycle. Potential barriers are listed below:

- Lack of interest
- Peer pressure
- Lack of knowledge/accessible information
- Language barrier
- Cultural barriers
- Lack of time
- Difficulties with access to recycling

Due to lack of evidence it's impossible to say which barrier might apply to which group but these are areas that will have to be investigated to see if there are any solutions that can help.

There is a particular issue of access on estates where recycling is carried out in communal areas.

Digital access to services

There should not be too much of an impact for older people with the development of the online platforms as the information will also be available by phone via the call centre. For other residents this should make accessing services and information better.

Vehicle emissions

The improved vehicle emissions will be better for the health of residents, particularly those with existing health conditions or of an older or younger age due to the reduction in harmful substances in the atmosphere.

Ambition to phase out Glyphosate

There are concerns that Glyphosate may be dangerous to human health so ceasing its use should have a positive impact on the health of people in the borough.

Bin collection and return to property for a small number of properties

This should have the effect of clearing particularly narrow pavements for the use of people with disabilities and parents with buggies. Care will have to be taken not to cause access problems for the same groups but overall this is a positive initiative

Q3a How do you plan to promote and deliver any positive impacts of the proposal?

The positive impacts will be promoted via the launch of the new strategy and there will also be an action plan developed by December as well as the GLA led Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) which needs to be compiled in the same timescale.

Most of these issues will also be addressed in the council's procurement of a new Recycling, Waste and Cleansing service, to be implemented in April 2021

The digital elements will be promoted via the council's website and social media.

Q3b How do you plan to address and mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal?

Recycling is the main area where there may be challenges for particular groups with protected characteristics. These will be addressed through service improvements following best practice based on robust research on how to reach people and optimise recycling. Improved communication will be a major part of this.

In the case of improving recycling on estates, the placement of bins and design of bins and bin stores is to be reviewed to facilitate access and a trial on twin streaming – i.e. collecting different recyclates separately is also taking place which, if successful, may also make recycling easier for people. Communication about recycling on estates will also be improved.

To mitigate any issues with language barriers – signage is pictorially based and on request information can be translated into different languages.

Some of the themes will also be developed through the council's procurement activity for the new Recycling Waste and Cleansing Contract as well as the action plans mentioned in the previous section.

Q4. How will you review/evaluate your proposal, mitigating actions and/or benefits? Who will be responsible for this?

The changes will be evaluated via key performance indicators relating to waste and cleansing performance as well as via the action plans and review of performance targets mentioned in the Waste Strategy.

The Environmental Services Team will be responsible for this.