

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Draft North London Joint Waste Strategy 2025-2040	
REPORT OF Managing Director, North London Waste Authority	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	DATE 11 th November 2024
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>The draft North London Joint Waste Strategy (the Strategy) is a statutory requirement and is a joint strategy between Barnet Council, Camden Council, Enfield Council, Hackney Council, Haringey Council, Islington Council, the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) and Waltham Forest Council. The Strategy will guide our work for the next fifteen years and through the aims and activities as set out in the document, will help north London move towards a low waste, sustainable future.</p> <p>NLWA is facilitating a public consultation on the Strategy, seeking views from residents, business and local communities to ensure a fully rounded and robust final Strategy is developed which draws on a wide range of views and expertise. The consultation will be over a 12-week period and will close on 19 January 2025. Adoption of the Strategy is expected in 2025.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer:</p> <p>Martin Capstick, 1B Berol House 25 Ashley Road, Tottenham Hale, London N17 9LI, 07966 435539 Martin.Capstick@NLWA.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>That the Committee agrees:</p>	

1. To note the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy in Appendix 1 and the consultation survey in Appendix 3.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zati Capstick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Z'.

Date: 24.10.24

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report asks the Committee to note the draft Strategy at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The Strategy is a statutory document which will guide the work of the NLWA and its constituent boroughs over the next fifteen years and through the aims and activities as set out in the document, it will help north London move towards a low waste, sustainable future.
- 1.3 The draft Strategy has been prepared by the NLWA but in collaboration with and feeding in comments from officers from each borough. The NLWA have developed the draft document through an extensive development process including borough officer and member engagement. As part of this the NLWA undertook initial consultation through a 12-week public listening exercise with the public which informed the development of the Strategy's aims, objectives and priorities (further detail can be found in section 5.1 of this report).
- 1.4 North London Waste Authority are now going to undertake a public formal consultation on the draft Strategy on behalf of the Authority and the constituent boroughs. This formal consultation will seek feedback on the draft Strategy. The public consultation is open until 19 January 2025. This consultation is the second phase of community engagement on the strategy following the 2023 listening exercise. Residents will now be asked for their views on how NLWA and the constituent boroughs intend to deliver the aims and objectives of the strategy.
- 1.5 Following the public consultation exercise, North London Waste Authority will produce a revised version of ("final draft") of the Strategy, conscientiously taking into account the responses to the public consultation. Each of the individual boroughs (including Camden) will then be asked to take a decision under their own governance arrangements as to whether or not to approve the revised final draft in 2025. Assuming Camden give this subsequent approval, this would commit the Borough to the content of the Strategy. Once approved locally by each of the individual boroughs, North London Waste Authority will be asked to adopt the Strategy as NLWA policy (programmed for the NLWA meeting in late 2025).
- 1.6 The purpose of this report is to note the content and process. It is also an opportunity for the Committee to give comments on how Camden intend to deliver the aims and objectives of the strategy.

2. Background

- 2.1 The draft North London Joint Waste Strategy (the Strategy) is a joint strategy between Barnet Council, Camden Council, Enfield Council, Hackney Council, Haringey Council, Islington Council, NLWA and Waltham Forest Council. A number of assessments have been produced to support the development of the strategy. This includes a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which reviews relevant national and local plans and programmes and establishes the baseline and therefore sets out how the strategy will comply with existing environmental policy frameworks. It also includes projections of potential waste to be managed, an options appraisal report and an Equalities Assessment. Finally it

also includes the results of a listening exercise - the listening exercise was a key initial stage in developing the strategy because it enabled residents to outline their priorities and meant that the development of the strategy was informed from the outset by engagement with citizens. That citizen engagement has been a key feature of the work on this issue and will continue to be during the formal consultation.

- 2.2 The strategy is ambitious, reflecting the importance for the environment and society of preserving resources and reducing environmental impacts, especially climate impacts from waste generation and treatment. The Strategy, however, also has to reflect the international, national and local governance arrangements within which it operates. There is a hierarchy of influence when it comes to effective waste management. Within the UK, central government can do most to deliver a sustainable economy for example through regulation, taxation and sending long term signals which drive national behaviour. Next, manufacturers and retailers can change their goods and services to be more environmentally responsible, avoid unnecessary impacts and be more suitable for reuse and repair. Local government and residents can provide services and initiatives within the parameters provided by these groups and manage the by-products of society's decisions on consumption. In that context, the Strategy looks at service reforms, waste minimisation and behaviour change (amongst other proposals) to improve how will we manage waste over the strategy period. However, unless and until major changes occur at national level, they will significantly affect what is achievable at the local level.
- 2.3 North London Waste Authority is facilitating a public consultation on the Strategy, seeking views from residents, business and local communities to ensure a fully rounded and robust final Strategy is developed which draws on a wide range of views and expertise.
- 2.4 The strategy consultation seeks feedback on the draft strategy and a public consultation is open until 19 January 2025. Have your say at [Community Forum - North London Waste - Commonplace](#).

2.5 Strategy Vision

- 2.5.1 The strategy vision is 'To 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-focused services and policies that meet the challenges of the Climate Emergency.
- 2.5.1 The strategy joint aims, objectives and a set of priorities were all derived from the vision. Together, these form the overarching policy framework over the course of this Strategy. These strategy aims were supported during the listening exercise which gives confidence that they reflect residents' aspirations for council activities during the strategy period.

2.6 Strategy Aims, Objectives and Priorities

2.6.1 The strategy aims are:

- A1.** To promote waste prevention and reduction.
- A2.** To promote sustainable resources and waste management policies in north London and create a more circular economy.
- A3.** To minimise the overall environmental impacts of resource and waste management, especially the effects on climate change.
- A4.** To engage residents, community groups and local businesses in the development and implementation of resources and waste management.
- A5.** To provide resident-focused, cost-effective, best value services.

2.6.2 These are underpinned by a series of further objectives which will support the overall aims. The strategy objectives are:

- O1.** To explore innovative waste management policies which contribute to meeting the challenges of the climate emergency. This will help to achieve environmental goals including improving air quality and achieving net-zero targets.
- O2.** To work across the boroughs and with the north London community to minimise the amount of residual wastes arising.
- O3.** To work across the boroughs and with the north London community to increase uptake of reuse and repair.
- O4.** To work across the boroughs and with the north London community to maximise recycling.
- O5.** To divert resources and waste from landfill and support more sustainable initiatives for disposing of waste.
- O6.** To deliver the infrastructure needed to manage north London's waste, and work with the local community to maximise the benefits of our facilities.
- O7.** To increase accessibility of services and information for all members of the community.
- O8.** To maximise all opportunities for social value benefits from waste and resource management, including employment, skills and wellbeing.

2.6.3 The approach to delivering these 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 above.

2.6.4 The first priority is to support a reduction in waste by promoting prevention, repair and reuse. Activities on waste prevention, repair and reuse will aim to promote a circular economy, keeping materials in use and out of the waste stream for as long as possible. This will most significantly reduce the impact on the environment. The proposed strategy includes these actions:

- Campaign for government to target businesses and ensure they are responsible for the costs of the waste they produce, while supporting the repair and reuse sector to help move us towards a more circular economy.
- Provide prevention, reuse and repair opportunities to enable the move to a circular economy.

- Engage and inform residents through our behaviour change campaigns to bring about strong and sustained participation in waste minimisation, reuse and recycling systems.
- Expand our work with schools to promote waste prevention to the next generation.
- Strengthen partnerships with public sector authorities, environmental groups, campaigners, and grassroots organisations to help us design, develop and deliver waste prevention initiatives in our communities.
- Report data on total waste per person and residual waste per person to monitor our overall progress on waste reduction.

2.6.5 Targets: reduce avoidable food waste by 50% and reduce recyclable material in residual waste by 50%. Double the % of material reused at our Reuse and Recycling Centres.

2.6.6 It is proposed that overall progress on waste reduction will be monitored using two headline metrics: total waste per person, and residual waste per person. These reflect the national waste priority promoted by Government in the Environment Act 2021. The reporting will focus on household waste given that this is the primary responsibility of public authorities to manage and where local authorities can target most interventions. Targets for these overall performance indicators will be considered in future as the effects of our prevention activity, and the government's upcoming waste reforms, become better understood.

2.6.7 If waste cannot be prevented in the first place, or items are unable to be reused or repaired, the next best option is to improve and maximise recycling. This has the benefits of diverting material away from rubbish bins and avoiding the use of virgin material to make new products. The proposed strategy includes these actions:

- Ask government to encourage the use of recycled materials and support local authorities with more local powers, resources and appropriate targets.
- Maintain clear, effective and efficient collection methods to enhance levels of recycling and ensure that as full a range of recyclables as possible are collected from residents.
- Collect food waste from every household and undertake a programme of communications and resident engagement so the service acts as a driver for behaviour change and is taken up by the community.
- Innovate and expand the range of materials collected by exploring new initiatives to increase our recycling services.
- Secure a new contract for recycling processing and take this opportunity to ensure the services meet environmental ambitions and deliver social benefits.
- Provide the infrastructure north London needs to manage the waste produced in the area, reducing transport emissions and maintaining local responsibility and oversight.
- Aim for our recycling to be processed where it will be treated with the highest environmental standards, and within the UK wherever possible.
- Work with residents to ensure there is clear information on what can and cannot be recycled and use outreach with community groups to help raise awareness of recycling initiatives.

- Build more partnerships with local businesses to support more circular business models and encourage use of our local services.

2.6.8 Through these changes and the further plans set out within this Strategy, there is an aspiration to achieve a 50% household waste recycling rate by 2030, in line with the Mayor's Environment Strategy and our previous Joint Waste Strategy. While modelling undertaken for this Strategy indicates that this will be challenging to achieve, it is proposed that the stretching target is maintained in order to continue driving improvements to local recycling services.

2.6.9 In terms of measuring performance, it is important to note that reporting on the proportion of waste recycled does not account for the total quantity of waste being produced and disposed of, which is the key environmental issue to tackle. This is why it is proposed to prioritise monitoring progress through the waste per capita and reduction metrics mentioned in section 2.6.6 of this paper (above) and set out in chapter 6 of the strategy, in the expectation that there will be increasing focus in government and the waste sector on these metrics in future.

2.6.10 However, the draft Strategy maintains the aspiration to recycle as much waste as possible where it cannot be entirely prevented. So local authorities will also continue to work towards improving the recycling rate and contributing to the Mayor of London's targets for 50% of London's household waste to be reused, recycled or composted by 2030. The previous Joint Waste Strategy also set a target of 50% household recycling. Across London, waste authorities have not yet met this ambitious target so that will remain the long-term aspiration we are working towards through this Strategy.

2.7.11 Progress will need to be supported by ambitious government policy as service changes alone cannot drive such major transformation. It remains uncertain exactly what will be achieved in the context of the upcoming waste reforms, we will therefore continually monitor and review key targets to ensure they remain relevant as the policy landscape evolves.

2.7.12 Target: 50% of household waste to be reused, recycled or composted and 100% of recycling to be processed within the UK.

2.7.13 The strategy confirms that any waste which cannot be prevented, reused or recycled should be managed in the most effective and environmentally friendly way. The strategy prioritises reducing the environmental impact of disposal, where there is no option to prevent or reuse waste. The proposed strategy includes these actions:

- Ask government to legislate to reduce plastic and other fossil-based content in the waste stream and ensure product designers and manufacturers are responsible for the emissions of their products.
- Improve facilities to manage all of north London's waste using the latest and best technology to control pollutants and limit our environmental impacts.
- Use north London's waste as a resource for society by generating energy and heat for the local area, reducing demand on fossil fuels.

- Investigate the use of carbon capture and storage technologies to further reduce the carbon impact of our facilities.
- Continue our progress to decarbonise our vehicles and look to electric or alternative fuels for our fleets as a means of reducing our overall carbon impact.
- Actively monitor new technologies for sorting and treating waste with a view to improving our infrastructure and decarbonising the waste stream.
- Produce new analysis examining the carbon impact of the waste produced in north London.

2.7.14 Target: zero landfill for the waste collected by local authorities in north London.

2.7.15 The draft strategy also commits to producing new analysis examining the carbon impact of the waste we manage. We will also seek to influence government and others in the sector to adopt similar reporting and support the development of carbon-based metrics. This would help to ensure that national data and targets capture the true environmental impacts of the waste we manage.

2.7.16 It is a key priority to deliver collaborative, community-focused services which provide value for money and maximise social value. The proposed strategy includes these actions:

- Campaign for adequate funding from government for waste services and policy that recognises the local requirements of north London.
- Ensure all residents have access to the services they need to reduce their waste, recycle more and dispose of items responsibly where necessary.
- Work collaboratively alongside partners to deliver the best possible services and influence government policy in pursuit of our vision of sustainable waste management and a circular economy.
- Look to maximise social value from all of our activity including by providing apprenticeship and training opportunities, educational activities, community grants, volunteering time and paying the London Living Wage.
- Provide good quality green jobs and training in the north London area and help build awareness of these opportunities in waste management and related sectors.
- Adopt sustainable procurement policies and use our influence to help reduce waste, drive environmental benefits and progress towards a circular economy.
- Develop and implement best-in-class asset management practices to maximise the life of our assets and safeguard their functions and value for the community.

3. Risks and challenges

3.1 The seven North London Waste boroughs are largely characterised by:

- Some of the country's most densely populated areas
- A highly diverse and mixed population
- A more transient population than the UK average
- Areas with high levels of deprivation, alongside more affluent areas

- A large proportion of homes in flats and shared housing
- Fewer properties with gardens than in more rural areas

3.2 These elements contribute to some challenges delivering waste and recycling services in such highly populated, urban areas. The makeup of the area heavily determines what can be achieved with regard to waste reduction and recycling and highlights the need to work within the local context, always ensuring a good understanding of local issues and delivering the environmental ambitions in collaboration with the community.

3.3 The ability to achieve the environmental ambitions for north London are also heavily influenced by government policy. Progress towards a low waste society, in north London and elsewhere, depends on having a strong legislative framework to guide behaviour. We also need consistent and aligned policymaking across government, real support for local waste management operations, and timely delivery of key commitments.

4. Timetable

4.1 The Strategy will be updated following the 12-week public consultation exercise. In 2025, North London Waste Authority members will be provided with an update at the Authority meeting, followed by boroughs approving it through their governance structures. Once the Strategy is approved locally, North London Waste Authority members will be asked to adopt the Strategy at the North London Authority meeting.

5. Consultation

5.1 North London Waste Authority and the constituent boroughs are keen to ensure the new Strategy reflects the needs of north London's communities. The strategy has been written in collaboration with officers from each borough and is the result of an extensive development process including:

- Workshops with members, officers, and other key stakeholders to set the vision and aims of the strategy.
- Further engagement with local interest groups for detailed discussions of proposed content of the strategy.
- A series of technical analyses including projections of possible future waste arisings, an appraisal of collection options, and a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- Discussions with members and senior leadership in each borough, and at NLWA's Members Recycling Working Group.
- Close working with lead officers in each borough to develop and finalise drafting.
- A listening exercise also ran for 12 weeks during 2023 and heard from residents and community groups across all seven boroughs and resulted in over 2,000 respondents via online survey, pop-up events and focus groups.

5.2 Respondents prioritised:

- Reducing carbon emissions and using environmentally friendly methods of disposal.
- Recycling more items and reducing the amount of waste produced was a priority for many.
- Supporting repair and re-use was a popular option.
- Most respondents favoured legislative options from government, including banning products that cannot be easily recycled or ensuring that more products are recyclable as well as making manufacturers responsible for the costs of disposal.
- A large majority of respondents also wanted manufacturers to design items to last or that are able to be repaired.
- Respondents wanted their council and the NLWA to provide accessible and easy-to-use facilities for recycling, to be able to recycle more things and for councils and NLWA to influence manufacturers and retailers to ensure that products and packaging can be recycled.

5.3 North London Waste Authority and the constituent boroughs are now seeking feedback on the draft Strategy and a public consultation is open until 19 January 2025. This consultation is the second phase of community engagement on the strategy following the 2023 listening exercise which informed the development of the Strategy's aims, objectives and priorities. Residents will now be asked for their views on how NLWA and the constituent boroughs intend to deliver the aims and objectives of the strategy. Through a combination of quantitative and qualitative questions, the consultation will provide feedback on the proposed actions and approach that NLWA and the boroughs will take to deliver our priorities for waste management in north London.

5.4 The consultation will run for 12 weeks, hosted online at [Community Forum - North London Waste - Commonplace](#). Paper versions of the consultation will be available on request and at libraries across the north London boroughs. NLWA and the boroughs will support the consultation with robust communications plans including advertisement on social media and with local press.

5.5 To ensure that we hear from a broad cross-section of the population, a programme of outreach and in-person engagement will take place across all seven boroughs to supplement the online survey. The outreach programme will engage with a broadly representative selection of the community of north London with a priority on hearing from traditionally under-represented groups and quieter voices.

6. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

6.1 The Executive Director Corporate Services has been consulted and has no additional comments to add.

7. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

7.1 Legal comments have been incorporated.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1 The Strategy will guide our work for the next fifteen years and through the aims and activities as set out in the document, it will help north London move towards a low waste, sustainable future.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft North London Joint Waste Strategy 2025-2040

Appendix 2: Summary Guide to draft Joint Waste Strategy (JWS)

Appendix 3: Public Consultation Survey

Appendix 4: JWS Waste Projections

Appendix 5: JWS Options Appraisal Report

Appendix 6: JWS Listening exercise final report

Appendix 7: JWS Environmental Report

Appendix 8: Equalities Assessment

REPORT ENDS