

<b>Mayor And Cabinet</b>			
<b>Report Title</b>	Lewisham's Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Waste Management Proposals - Matters referred by the Sustainable Development Select Committee		
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes	<b>Item No.</b>	6 (Addendum)
<b>Ward</b>	All		
<b>Contributors</b>	Sustainable Development Select Committee		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	<b>Date</b>	19 November 2008

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee arising from discussions of Lewisham's Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Waste Management Proposals. These comments and views are set out in section three below.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to:

- a) note the views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee as set out in section 3;
- b) place as great an emphasis on Waste Management within the budget as he is realistically able to do so;
- c) consider the role of community-based composting schemes within the wider waste management strategy;
- d) improve the collection of garden and food waste, and as a bare minimum adopt the proposal to introduce static sites for garden waste, on the proviso that the locations of the sites are carefully considered to ensure even distribution across the borough;
- e) take measures to ensure that estates recycling banks are emptied more frequently;
- f) consider whether there is a greater demand within the borough for recycling credits than a £15,000 budget implies;
- g) consider whether recycling waste chutes could be introduced in tower blocks, either by creating new ones or adapting existing chutes; and
- h) use compulsion only as a last resort, after extensive educational and awareness raising efforts have been exhausted.

### **3. Sustainable Development Select Committee Views**

- 3.1 On 18<sup>th</sup> November, the Sustainable Development Select Committee received a presentation detailing five core options for managing waste across the borough, which will assist in the delivery of the Council's waste priorities and targets. A copy of the report to Mayor and Cabinet dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008 was tabled at the meeting.

The following specific comments were made by the Select Committee:

- 3.2 The Committee welcomed the fact that the report had finally been tabled to Mayor & Cabinet.
- 3.3 Members also welcomed the emphasis on waste minimisation, and in particular the proposals to encourage more home composting and reduce the quantity of food within residual waste. Members did, however, note the difficulty that community-based composting schemes had found in securing funding, and urged the Mayor to consider the role such schemes can play in the Council's approach to waste management.
- 3.4 The Committee welcomed the proposals to provide 240 litre recycling wheelie bins to all kerbside properties, and roll out smaller 180 litre bins for residual waste (proposals numbers 1 & 2 in the Mayor and Cabinet report).
- 3.5 Members relayed comments from users of estates recycling banks that the banks were often full. The Committee suggested that the Council ensure that the bins are emptied more frequently to encourage residents to increase their recycling.
- 3.6 The Committee welcomed the proposals to enhance garden and food waste collection and suggested that as a bare minimum the proposal to introduce static sites for disposal of garden waste should be adopted, on the proviso that the locations are carefully considered to ensure an even spread across the borough.
- 3.7 The Committee questioned the relatively small budget (£15,000) proposed for recycling credits, and suggested that there may be a greater demand for credits than could be satisfied by this budget.
- 3.8 Members discussed the different approaches needed to promote recycling in tower blocks, and suggested that some existing waste chutes could be used for recycling, or new ones could be introduced for the same purpose.
- 3.9 The Committee expressed concern over proposals to introduce enforcement or compulsion around waste disposal and recycling, and suggested that a greater emphasis should be placed on education and raising awareness before enforcement is resorted to.
- 3.10 Some members of the Committee expressed concern that the extensive use of incineration would reduce the Council's incentive to increase recycling.

3.11 In general, the Committee agreed with many of the proposals and urged the Mayor to place as great an emphasis on waste management within the budget process as he is realistically able to.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 The financial implications of the proposals are set out in full in the Mayor and Cabinet report, 'Lewisham's Waste Management Strategy and Waste Management Proposals', 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 The Constitution provides for the Select Committees to report to the Mayor and Cabinet, and for the Executive to consider the report within one month of receiving it.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Lewisham's Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Waste Management Proposals, Mayor and Cabinet Report 19 November 2008.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Joel Hartfield (0208 3149941), or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business & Committee (0208 3149327).