

<b>Sustainable Development Select Committee</b>		
<b>Title</b>	Waste and recycling service update – information item	
<b>Contributor</b>	Strategic Waste & Environment Manager	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1 (open)	30 January 2019

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper updates the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the food and fortnightly collection service and provides an overview on the waste and recycling service undertaken by the Council. It further updates the committee on Lewisham's performance.

## 2. Recommendations

- To note the contents of the report.
- To discuss the item and provide views on the content.

## 3. Background –Waste & Recycling Services

- 3.1 Waste & recycling is governed by a number of legislative requirements at an EU and National level, including the revised Waste Framework Directive, the Government's Waste Review and the Waste Strategy for England.
- 3.2 In May 2018 the Mayor of London published his London Environment Strategy. The Strategy sets out objectives, targets and policies for the effective management of London's municipal waste and to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. The Strategy's waste targets and minimum service levels for London are:

### London-wide targets:

To cut food waste and associated packaging waste by 50 per cent per person by 2030

To achieve a 65 per cent municipal waste recycling rate by 2030, including a 50% recycling rate for local authority collected waste (LACW) by 2025

To send zero biodegradable or recyclable waste to landfill by 2026

London to manage net 100 per cent of all the waste it produces by 2026

### Minimum level of household waste recycling service

Strategy Proposal 7.2.1.a sets a minimum level of service for household waste recycling that waste authorities should deliver by 2020:

All properties with kerbside recycling collections to receive a separate weekly food waste collection service and all properties to receive a collection of, at a minimum, the six main dry materials, glass, cans, paper, card, plastic bottles and mixed rigid plastics (pots, tubs and trays).

- 3.4 Lewisham’s approach to waste and resource management contributes towards delivering the Council’s corporate priorities, especially in respect of a ‘clean, green and liveable’ borough and ‘inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity’.
- 3.5 Increasing the participation and effectiveness of the recycling collection services is considered an essential element of the Council’s approach to managing waste and recycling.
- 3.6 Mayor and Cabinet approved a range of service options in 2016. These options included a subscription garden waste service and a food waste collection service. Food waste collections were introduced to 80,000 properties in the London Borough of Lewisham during October 2017. This did not include properties on red routes, estates, flats above shops, or flats. Houses with food bins had their refuse collections changed from weekly to fortnightly. Houses excluded from the food collection service remained on weekly refuse collections

**4. Food & Fortnightly Waste Services Update**

- 4.1 The food and fortnightly residual service has now been in place for just over 12 months and the level of resident satisfaction has improved considerably. Inevitably, there were issues when the collection service was implemented. The main issues experienced were:

<b><u>Issue</u></b>	<b><u>Resolution</u></b>
Food Bin delivery	During the roll-out of the new food waste collections, there was an increase in complaints from residents who had not received their food bins. This was rectified when the issue arose, and all eligible properties now have food bins.
Resident confusion over collection dates	With the transition to the new service, there were notable comments from residents that they were confused when their waste was set to be collected. This was resolved over time, as it was a routine change that residents needed to get used to. Residents were provided with calendars that detailed collection days for each waste service and also advised to use the tool on the website to check their collection date,
Crews adjusting to new rounds	Missed collections increased due to crews having their rounds adjusted to increase efficiency. This gradually decreased and missed collections have now settled to a minimal amount. This issue was resolved through regular crew briefings and crew training.

- 4.2 The service was monitored and complaints/requests were analysed over the first 6 months. A small percentage of residents complained that they were experiencing on going issues with foxes opening the food bins. Due to this, the Strategic Waste Team

explored alternative containers and ordered a number of new food bins with new locking lids, these bins are now being provided to those residents that experience issues with foxes.

- 4.3 Collection day calendars for 2019/20 have been delivered to residents with a food waste service.

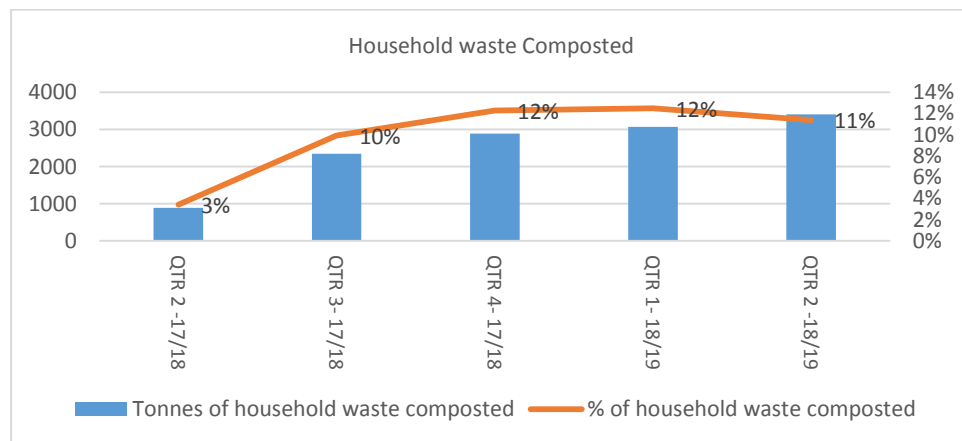
## 5. Organic Waste Disposal Contract

- 5.1 As the current disposal arrangement with Veolia Southwark, was for an interim period only, and due to finish January 2019. The tender of this contract was advertised in the Official Journal of the EU & the London Tenders Portal during November 2018. A single stage open procurement process was used, due to limited facilities available within a close proximity to LB Lewisham that provide IVC (In vessel composting) or a location for tipping and transportation to a facility that provides IVC.
- 5.2 The evaluation of tenders has now been completed and the Award report for the new contract will go to M&C January 2019. The new contract will be for a period of 3+2 years and commence 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## 6. Performance Data,

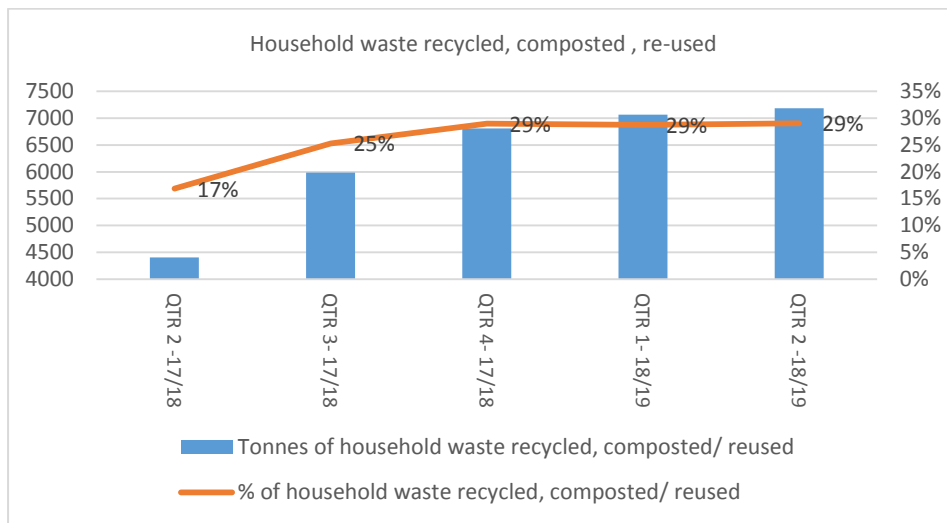
Comparative data below shows how the performance has improved in all disposal routes since the introduction of food and the fortnightly collection service.

### 6.1 Household waste composted:



Household waste collected and sent for composting during (qtr.2) July – Sept 2018 showed an increase of 282%, when compared to the same period in 2017.

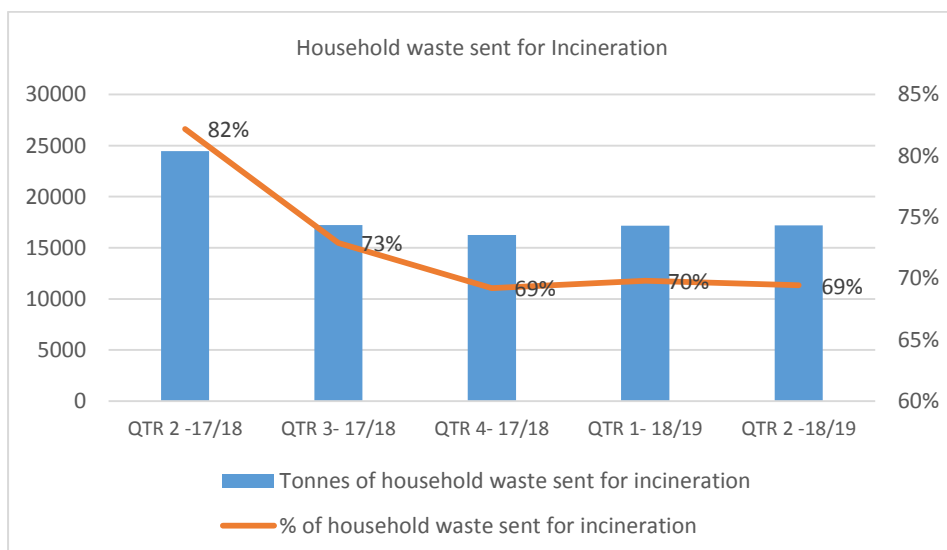
## 6.2 Household waste recycled, composted or re-used:



Household waste collected and sent for recycling, composting, re-use during (qtr.2) July –Sept 2018 showed an increase of 63% when compared to the same period 2017.

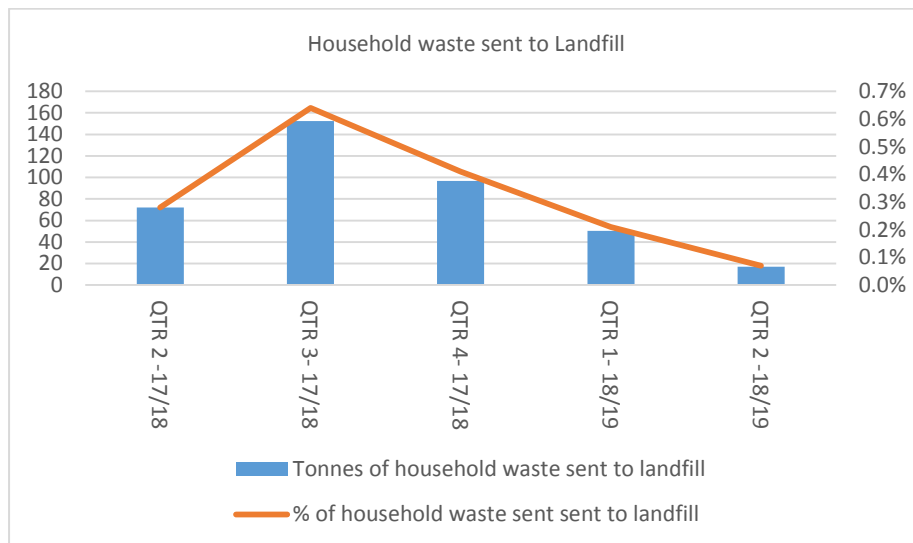
The % of household waste that was sent for recycling, composting or re-use is currently at 29% (YTD), an increase, compared to the 17% previously achieved during 2016/17

## 6.3 Household waste incinerated:



Household waste collected and sent for incineration during (qtr.2) July –Sept 2018 showed a reduction of 30% when compared to the same period 2017.

## 6.4 Household waste sent to Landfill:



Household waste collected and sent to landfill during (qtr.2) July –Sept 2018 showed a reduction of 76% when compared to the same period 2017. Only 17.5 tonnes disposed of via landfill during July –Sept 2018 compared to 72 tonnes for the same period in 2017.

## 6.5 Missed collections complaints:

The number of complaints received since the start of the Food collection service has reduced considerably. During the Oct – Dec '17 period, a total of 6431 missed collections complaints were recorded online. This reduced by 68% during July – Sept 18. The complaints analysed include all waste collections services.

## 7. Key Actions 2019/20

Due to the objectives, targets and policies in place it is important that we encourage, educate, and assist residents to recycle as much of their waste as possible.

- 7.1 Local Authorities are expected to develop a Reduction & Recycling Plan (RRP) setting out how we will reduce waste and increase recycling performance, making an effective contribution to the Mayor of London waste targets. Lewisham is required to submit the RRP to the Mayor for approval by December 2020.
- 7.2 To feed into the RRP, a borough wide consultation will be carried out commencing on the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb and will run for 7 weeks gaining views from residents on what barriers are in place that prevent waste being disposed of correctly. Feedback from the consultation will help direct Lewisham strategy.
- 7.3 In line with the London Mayor's Strategy, (proposal 7.2.1) we are required, by 2020, to provide all properties with kerbside recycling collections to receive a separate weekly food waste collection service.

During 2019 the next phase of the food service roll out will commence. Stage 2 will be rolled out to kerbside properties that are on red routes followed by properties with wheelie bins on estates.

7.4 Objective 7.2 of the Waste Strategy is to maximise recycling rates, and the London Wide target is set at 50% for Local Authority collected waste (LACW) is to be recycled by 2025. To work towards these targets Officers are working with Managing agents to trial different projects on estates to help reduce contamination

#### 7.4.1 **Recent initiatives**

Estates/ Flats are an area of concern, as recycling rates are low and contamination rates are high. The Strategic Waste and Environment Team recently worked in partnership with Pinnacle PSG on a project to reduce the level of contamination on an estate in Brockley. By taking an educational approach, the team worked with residents in order to improve the quality of the recycling being produced. The work carried out resulted in a 7.37% reduction in the contamination rate.

#### **8. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications relating to this report.

#### **9. Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications relating to this report.

#### **10. Equalities Implications**

There are no equalities implications relating to this report.

#### **11. Environmental Implications**

Environmental considerations have been taken into account in this report.

#### **12. Crime and Disorder Implications.**

There are no crime and disorder implications relating to this report.

#### **13. Conclusion**

This paper provides the Committee with an update on the waste & recycling services. This report seeks to capture the views of the Committee on the waste & recycling service.

#### **14. Further Information**

For further information please contact Wendy Nicholas, Strategic Waste & Environment Manager at [wendy.nicholas@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.nicholas@lewisham.gov.uk) or 020 8314 2194