



## Sustainable Develop Select Committee

### Report title: Draft Waste Strategy

**Date:** 15 June 2021

**Key decision:** Yes/No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Wendy Nicholas, Strategic Waste & Environment Manager

### Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to update the Sustainable Select Committee on the new waste strategy and outline the initial proposals for sustainable waste management options for Lewisham over the next 10 years.

Sustainable Development Select Committee is asked:

a) To consider the contents of the draft waste strategy – Appendix A

b) Advise Mayor and Cabinet of any matters it wishes to be taken into account, or comments made, with regard to the content of the draft waste strategy, prior to the proposed public consultation

### Timeline of engagement and decision-making

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| • Waste participation & composition survey   | May 21            |
| • Finalised Communication plan   | Jun-21            |
| • Report to Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee   | Jun-21            |
| • Report To M&C on draft waste strategy and approval to consult with the public                  | Jul 21            |
| • Launch Public Resource & Waste Strategy consultations and engage with residents and businesses | July 21- Sept 21  |
| • Waste Management Policy Development with Members   | July – October 21 |
| • Collate feedback from consultation and events  | Oct-21 to Nov-21  |
| • Equality Impact Assessment following consultation  | Oct-21 to Nov-21  |
| • Report back to Mayor and Cabinet with findings   | Dec-21            |
| • Adoption/Rollout of Waste Strategy and Delivery Plan   | Jan-22 onwards    |

## 1. Summary

This paper presents Lewisham's Draft Waste Strategy 2021-31. It details the council's six priorities and sets the future direction for sustainable waste management.

## 2. Recommendations

Sustainable Development Select Committee is asked:

- a) To consider the contents of the draft waste strategy – Appendix A
- b) Advise Mayor and Cabinet of any matters it wishes to be taken into account, or comments made, with regard to the content of the draft waste strategy, prior to the proposed public consultation

## 3. Policy Context

3.1. The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy published in 2018 builds on the commitments detailed in the 25 Year Environment Plan. The Strategy contains five strategic ambitions:

- to work towards eliminating food waste to landfill;
- to double resource productivity;
- to work towards ensuring all plastic packaging placed on the market is recyclable, reusable or compostable;
- to eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds;
- to eliminate avoidable plastic waste.

3.2 Also in May 2018, the Mayor of London published his London Environment Strategy (LES). 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 objectives, targets and minimum service levels for London are:

- Objective 7.1 - Drive resource efficiency to significantly reduce waste focusing on food waste and single use packaging
- Objective 7.2 – Maximize recycling rates
- Objective 7.3 - Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities (greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants)
- Objective 7.4 - Maximize local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces.

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

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- 3.3 Strategy Proposal 7.2.1.a (LES) sets a minimum level of service for household waste recycling that waste authorities should deliver by 2023, being that all properties with kerbside recycling collections are 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 The London Environment Strategy sets out the Mayor of London's expectation for local authorities to develop Reduction and Recycling Plans (RRPs). Lewisham's RRP was approved at Mayor & Cabinet December 2019 and by the Mayor of London January 2020. The RRP includes local reduction and recycling targets that contribute to the Mayor's London wide targets.
- 3.5 The Council's corporate strategy 2018-2022 details seven priorities, one of which is to ensure that we contribute towards making Lewisham greener so that everyone can enjoy our green spaces, and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment. Efficiently dealing with recyclable waste will help the council to deliver this outcome.
- 3.6 In February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a climate emergency. It is important that the Council takes action to achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. This requires looking at all aspects of the Councils work, including waste management.

## 4. Background

- 4.1 To help meet its targets the council has invested in improving the recycling service and provides a weekly collection to all properties of, as detailed in the London Environment Strategy, the six main dry materials, glass, cans, paper, card, plastic bottles and mixed rigid plastics (pots, tubs and trays).
- 4.2 Kerbside properties receive a fortnightly collection of their residual waste, as in 2017, the service implemented the food waste collection service. The new service saw an increase in our recycling performance of 11%. Moving Lewisham up the recycling league table by 20 spaces in 2019/2020.
- 4.3 Lewisham's Reduction & Recycling (RRP) 3 year plan consists of four key objectives, as detailed below:
- Objective 1 – Drive resource efficiency to significantly reduce waste focusing on food waste and single use packaging.
  - Objective 2 – Maximise recycling rates.
  - Objective 3 – Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities (greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants)
  - Objective 4 – Maximise local waste sites and ensure Lewisham has sufficient infrastructure to manage all waste it produces.
- 4.4 As part of Lewisham's RRP, a number of actions and targets were included, one being the continued rollout of the food waste collection service to the remaining properties within the borough. This will be incorporated in to the waste strategy.
- 4.5 There are however, a number of challenges in sustainable waste management that affect London including Lewisham, which include:

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- Pressure from the Government to meet stretching waste targets;
- The costs of waste management are rising and to a certain extent are dictated by external commercial waste operators/operations;
- The problems of disposing of waste in London are a concern given the lack of available land for waste/recycling operations, there is limited availability in proximity to Lewisham and this has an influence on efficient disposal routes and associated costs.
- The rate of recycling is affected by the nature of the current and future housing stock within the borough. It is generally accepted that recycling is more difficult for residents in flats; there is a high proportion of flats in the borough. Further, it is expected that development within the borough over the coming years will include a large number of flats. Those factors mean that achieving recycling levels comparable with outer London boroughs, which tend to have a lower proportion of flats, will remain challenging.
- Rising public expectations towards sustainable waste management, changing behaviour to reduce waste in the first place, having limited influence on supply side factors of consumption and packaging design that create waste, as well as residents not using some of the services provided;
- Service planning and delivery is made more difficult because of the ambiguous definitions and classifications of different waste types – this can also be confusing for residents with regard to what can be recycled or not;
- For a number of reasons large amounts of contamination (nappies, food, rubbish etc.) placed by residents in the dry recycling bin renders the recycling unusable and this has meant that recycling tonnages have reduced considerably and the cost of disposing of the recycle as waste has also increased costs.

## 5. Overview

- 5.1. The previous waste strategy expired 2010/11 and since that time the legislative framework surrounding waste management has changed considerably with the EU, the UK Government and the Mayor of London driving the agenda towards a more sustainable and circular economy. This has resulted in challenging targets being set at both regional and national levels.
- 5.2. The overall objective for the waste strategy is to manage waste sustainably and to contribute to the Councils priorities, one being to successfully make Lewisham greener, which involves taking better care of our local environment and the planet.
- 5.3. The strategy sets out 6 aspirational key policies and service changes that are needed to support the delivery of the improvements as well as behavior change and incentives that are required. The key policies are set out below:

### **1) Leading the way forward**

We want the Council and partners to be ambitious, show leadership and to innovate in the way waste is managed in Council facilities and estates and in developments to come.

### **2) Shaping services to follow the Waste Hierarchy**

We want the Council and partners to adapt their services to consumers' needs following the 'Waste Hierarchy'

### **3) Working together for an improved local environment**

We want the Council to collaborate with residents and stakeholders to achieve the best results together.

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#### **4) Using waste as a resource following the circular economy principles**

We want the Council and partners to manage our waste as a material resource to enhance our sustainability and the circular economy.

#### **5) Reducing carbon emissions, decreasing energy waste and improving air quality**

We want the Council and partners to reduce net carbon emissions coming from waste and contribute to local air quality improvement.

#### **6) Adding social value.**

We want the Council and partners to contribute economic, social, and environmental benefits to the local community by supporting local supply chains, employment and social cohesion.

A copy of the draft Waste Strategy is attached in appendix A of this report.

- 5.4. Following engagement with the Sustainable Development Select Committee, the strategy will be presented at Mayor & Cabinet in July 2021, the report will seek approval to commence public consultation from July 2021 for a 12 week period.
- 5.6. The aim of the consultation is to present the key ideas and proposed changes set out in the strategy and obtain feedback from as many stakeholders as possible.
- 5.7. A more detailed report will be provided to SDSC in November following the evaluation of the consultation.
- 5.8. An increased focus on improving engagement and communication with residents, businesses and visitors is vital to encourage positive behavior change. The need to work closely with registered social and private landlords, managing agents and housing associations is key to encourage responsible management of waste produced.

## **6. Communication**

- 6.1. A comprehensive communication strategy is in place with available resources for communication, community engagement and monitoring activities. Listed below are some of the communication methods that will be used to promote the waste strategy and consultation:
  - The consultation will be promoted in Lewisham Life and distributed to all residents, whilst the consultation is open.
  - Posters will be displayed around the borough on JC Decaux boards, from July 2021
  - Posters will also be displayed at areas such as libraries, park entrances and Laurence House from July 2021. (COVID Restriction dependant)
  - Social media activities – The consultation portal will be promoted online. Specific measures to promote the waste strategy proposals may include infographics, videos (interviews and ‘explainer’ short films of less than a minute) and quotapix themed around specific messages.
  - Enewsletters will be sent to over 35,000 residents at different times during the implementation process.
  - Partner briefing and engagement strategy – Provision of concise updates to our partners, such as resident associations and to local councilor’s, with the aim that these update are passed through the partner networks
  - From July, a telephone holding message will be used across services via the Call centre to direct residents to the consultation portal – TBC

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Attached to this report is the FAQ's that will be available on the website to answers any questions that may arise. (Appendix C)

- 6.2 The consultation will take the form of a survey that can be completed electronically and physically. Officers intend to visit a variety of groups throughout the borough to gather the views and feedback of as many stakeholders as possible.

Questions in the survey will be based around the 6 key policies:

- 1) Leading the way forward
- 2) Shaping services to follow the Waste Hierarchy
- 3) Working together for an improved local environment
- 4) Using waste as a resource following the circular economy principles
- 5) Reducing carbon emissions, decreasing energy waste and improving air quality
- 6) Adding social value.

## **7. Financial implications**

- 7.1. There are no direct financial implications associated with considering this report. Any proposals or projects arising from this paper will be detailed in future reports and will include the relevant financial implications.

## **8. Legal implications**

- 8.1. There are no direct Legal implications associated with this report.

## **9. Equalities implications**

- 9.1. An Equalities Analysis has been carried out in relation to the Waste Management Strategy to identify any evidence or views that suggest that different equality or other protected groups could be adversely and/or disproportionately impacted by the proposal.
- 9.2. The majority of the proposals will make a positive impact on the Borough, which will be beneficial for all, regardless of their background.
- 9.3. The Assessment is attached to this report at Appendix B

## **10. Climate change and environmental implications**

- 10.1. Moving waste up the waste hierarchy by ensuring more waste is re-used or recycled rather than sent for incineration or landfill contributes to the Council's efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change by reducing the carbon footprint of the council waste management service.

## **11. Crime and disorder implications**

- 11.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications associated with this report.

## **12. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 12.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications associated with this report.

## **13. Background papers**

## **14. Glossary**

- 14.1. No specialist language is used in this report.

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14.2. [Link to Oxford English Dictionary here.](#)

Term	Definition
RRP	Recycling & Reduction Plan
LES	London Environment Strategy

## 15. Report author(s) and contact

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## 16. Appendices

- 16.1. Appendix A – Draft Waste Strategy
- 16.2. Appendix B – Equalities Analysis
- 16.3. Appendix C – Questions & Answers

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