



## Mayor & Cabinet

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### 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 Mayor & Cabinet on the new waste strategy and outline the initial proposals for sustainable waste management options for Lewisham over the next 10 years and to seek approval to commence public consultation.

It is recommended that the commencement of the public consultation is approved and that the proposals outlined for the next 10 years of Lewisham's waste strategy are considered.

### 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 21-October 21 |
| • Collate feedback from consultation and events  | Oct-21-Nov-21      |
| • Equality Impact Assessment following consultation  | Oct-21-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

- 2.1. It is recommended that the commencement of the 12 week public consultation is approved and that proposals outlined for the next 10 years of Lewisham's Waste Strategy are considered.

## 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 – Maximise recycling rates
- Objective 7.3 - Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities (greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants)
- Objective 7.4 - Maximise 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

- 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).

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- 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 in December 2019 and by the Mayor of London in January 2020. The RRP includes local reduction and recycling targets that contribute to the London 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 Council's 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:
- 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.

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- 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. Furthermore, 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 recyclables as waste has also increased costs.

## 5. Overview

- 5.1. The previous Waste Strategy expired in 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 Council's 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 behaviour 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.

### **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**

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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. The public consultation is due to commence July and will run for a period of 12 weeks. The aim of the consultation is to present the key ideas set out in the draft strategy and obtain feedback from as broader range of local stakeholders as possible. An online communication strategy and particularly the use of social media, will be implemented throughout the consultation period to advertise and put out messages related to the draft strategy.
- 5.5. Officers will attend Mayor & Cabinet in December 2021 with a more detailed report on the findings from the consultation and the proposed final strategy.
- 5.6. 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 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
  - 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

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- 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. This report presents the Council's draft Waste strategy for consideration and is seeking approval to undertake a public consultation exercise. The costs associated with the preparation of the draft strategy and undertaking the public consultation detailed above are estimated at £200k. It is anticipated that these costs will be contained within the Directorate's overall budget.

## 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.
- 14.2. [Link to Oxford English Dictionary here.](#)
- 14.3. See Section 7 – "Glossary" in the guidance for more information.

Term	Definition
RRP	Recycling & Reduction Plan

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Term	Definition
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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