



## Mayor and Cabinet

### **Response to recommendations on the Waste strategy by the Sustainable Development Select Committee arising from the Committee's meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1.

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and the Public Realm

### **Outline and recommendations**

The Sustainable Development Select Committee met on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to consider its response to the draft Waste Strategy 2021-2031. This report presents the views of the Committee to Mayor and Cabinet and offers considered advice from officers.

It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet note the Committee's recommendations and take account of Officer responses when it consider the forthcoming Waste Strategy.

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. This report presents the Sustainable Development Select Committee's response to the consultation of the draft Waste Strategy 2021-2031. The committee met on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet note the Committee's recommendations and take account of Officer responses when it considers the forthcoming Waste Strategy.

## **3. Policy Context**

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-2022 identifies seven priorities, one of which is to ensure we contribute to making Lewisham greener so everyone can enjoy our green

spaces and benefit 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.

- 3.2 Lewisham Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019. As a result, the Council must take appropriate action to achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 in all aspects of its work, including waste management.
- 3.3 The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy, published in 2018, builds on its 25-year Environment Plan commitments. The Strategy contains five strategic ambitions that frame the Council's Waste Strategy:
- to eliminate food waste to landfill;
  - to double resource productivity;
  - to ensure all plastic packaging placed on the market is recyclable, reusable or compostable;
  - to eliminate avoidable waste;
  - to eliminate avoidable plastic waste.
- 3.4 The Mayor of London published his London Environment Strategy (LES) in May 2018 and set objectives, targets and policies for the effective management of London's municipal waste, which accelerates the transition to a circular economy. The objectives, targets and minimum service levels relevant to Lewisham's waste strategy include:
- Objective 7.1 - drive resource efficiency to reduce food waste and single-use packaging
  - Objective 7.2 – maximise recycling rates
  - Objective 7.3 - reduce the environmental impact of waste (greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants)
  - Objective 7.4 - maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage the waste it produces.

London-wide targets:

- To cut food waste and associated packaging waste by 50% per person by 2030
- To achieve a 65% 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
- To manage net 100% of all waste it produces by 2026

## 4. Select Committee Recommendations

- 4.1. The Sustainable Development Select Committee discussed the draft Waste Strategy 2021-2031 at its meeting on the 30th June 2021. The item's focus was the Council's overall objective for the sustainable management of waste and how the Strategy contributes to the Council's priority to make Lewisham greener by taking better care of our local environment and the planet.

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4.2. The Waste Strategy identifies six policy themes that are needed to deliver the national and regional policy framework above, meet legal requirements, and deliver the Council's objectives, namely:

- 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

4.3. The table captures the Committee's recommendations and officer's response for Mayor and Cabinet to consider:

Theme	Recommendations of the Committee	Officer's Response
<p>1. Collection of waste – flats above shops.</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that – where residents live above shops or on high streets and are required to leave their refuse for collection on the pavement – consideration should be given to demarcating these collection areas to avoid confusion and the perception of the levels of illegal dumping.</p>	<p>Flats above shops already receive 'time banded' collections to ensure their rubbish is promptly collected in a way that minimises the amount of time waste is left on the pavement for long periods. Collections from flats above shops take place in areas that have a high proportion of flatted dwellings.</p> <p>Officers continually review opportunities to improve communication and signage in areas receiving timed collections, provide relevant information to residents about collection times, and have enforcement policies where collections times are not adhered to.</p> <p>Officers will consider opportunities to trial demarcation of collection areas in light of the Waste Strategy that is nearing the end of a public consultation process. Given the propensity for a minority of residents to fly-tip bagged household waste on the public highway, officers are concerned that this approach will lead to semi-formalised fly-tipping points. Furthermore, a number of pavements in the borough are narrow, which may lead to the potential for waste to obstruct the</p>

Theme	Recommendations of the Committee	Officer's Response
		<p>public highway.</p> <p>It is proposed that the recommendation is considered in light of the Council's Waste Strategy, once adopted.</p>
<p>2. Approach to fly-tipping</p>	<p>The Committee recommends work to develop a rounded Council-wide approach to illegal dumping. This should include options for utilising the full force of the Council's powers – including measures such as anti-social behaviour orders on businesses, section 215 notices and any powers available for enforcement against landlords in the private rented sector.</p>	<p>The Council is actively working with its Parking Enforcement Contractor, NSL Ltd, to bring additional staff to its existing environmental enforcement team.</p> <p>Fly-tipping costs the Council £1m per year, and so a key aim of the Enviro-Crime Enforcement Team is to tackle and reduce fly-tipping.</p> <p>In addition, the team supports the Cleaner Lewisham programme and promotes civic pride to make the borough a greener and cleaner place for residents, businesses and visitors. The team also works with businesses to ensure their waste is appropriately disposed.</p> <p>It is proposed that following the adoption of the Council's Waste Strategy, a rounded policy-led approach to tackling illegal dumping is developed and applied.</p>
<p>3. Communications</p>	<p>The Committee believes a clear communications campaign is needed on the Council's preferred mobile and online applications and reporting routes.</p>	<p>The draft Waste Strategy highlights residents', businesses', and visitors' role in waste reduction and recycling. As a result, the Council must employ a range of measures to achieve these aims, and a comprehensive multi-platform communication campaign will be needed. Officers are focused on delivering services within the financial envelope determined by the council and will endeavour to identify funding for waste communications within existing budgets.</p> <p>It is proposed that a waste marketing</p>

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Theme	Recommendations of the Committee	Officer's Response
		and communications plan is developed to mobilise the Council's Waste Strategy following adoption.
4. Reporting incidents and complaints	The Committee recommends that the methods residents and businesses can report environmental issues digitally –to aggregate comments and reports into a single place – are reviewed	<p>Officers are reviewing the use and implementation of the Cleaner Lewisham app, which uses the Love Clean Streets platform. The review will ensure sufficient capacity in place to service the app and integrate it with existing Council software. Officers will also review the variety of channels that the public can use to report issues to the Council. To ensure the Council can operate as effectively and efficiently as possible, one method is favoured.</p> <p>A relaunch of the app is anticipated in the spring of 2022 once the review has been completed and functionality improved.</p>
5. Reuse	The Committee recommends that an assertive strategy to find operators for new second-hand, reuse and resale markets in the borough is needed. In addition, the Committee believes consideration should be given to the options for licensing commercial resellers to access the Council's reuse and recycling centre.	<p>The Council is aware that more needs to be done on waste reduction, which includes the reuse of materials.</p> <p>To this end, the draft Waste Strategy contains objectives to create a sharing and reuse network in partnership with local enterprises and businesses.</p>
6. Campaigns	The Committee recognises and welcomes the Cleaner Lewisham campaign –recommends that Mayor and Cabinet should consider the options for a new 'Lewisham in Bloom' campaign and build incentives for residents and businesses to take pride in local areas. Members also believe that this should include options for community participation – and may involve the production of new artwork or local events – and resident involvement in clean-up activities, such as the running	<p>The first phase of the Cleaner Lewisham campaign has been a success, with over 150 bags of waste collected during community clear up campaigns.</p> <p>The campaign has shown itself to be a promising platform to build on, and the suggestion of a 'Lewisham in Bloom' campaign will be explored to incentivise and encourage people to take pride in their local neighbourhood.</p>

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Theme	Recommendations of the Committee	Officer's Response
	of 'community skip' days.	<p>Officers are conscious that running campaigns concurrently can dilute core messaging and resources and considers that the Cleaner Lewisham campaign, launched in June 2021, is distinct and broad enough to encourage public participation and local pride.</p> <p>Officers note that Lewisham is the London Borough of Culture in 2022 and that this should be a focus for artwork and local events.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Cleaner Lewisham campaign remains a focus for the Council and includes waste messaging following the adoption of the Waste Strategy. Furthermore, any campaigns relating to waste and recycling should be considered against (a) the Council's waste and recycling objectives to reduce waste and promote recycling, (b) the likely cost of such campaigns noting the Council's Medium Term Financial Objectives and (c) the long term behavioural impact of such campaigns.</p>
7. The financial impact of waste	The Committee asks that in future reports on the Waste Strategy, it receive clear financial and budgetary information and future projections and targets for the delivery of the Strategy.	Officers note that clear financial and budgetary information needs to accompany the Strategy. The Council has established efficiencies in its Medium-Term Financial Plan that are to be achieved by adopting an ambitious, policy-led strategy that stimulates service transformation.

## 5. Recommendations

- 5.1. It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet note the Committee's recommendations and take account of Officer responses when it considers the forthcoming Waste Strategy.

## 6. Financial implications

- 6.1. 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

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include the relevant financial impact.

## 7. Legal implications

- 7.1. The Council's Constitution sets out the procedures relating to the mayor's reports from a scrutiny committee. The Constitution sets a timescale of two months (not including recess) for a formal reply from receipt of such reports.

## 8. Equalities implications

- 8.1. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

## 9. Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1. Moving waste up the waste hierarchy by ensuring more waste is reused 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.

## 10. Crime and disorder implications

- 10.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## 11. Health and wellbeing implications

- 11.1. No direct health and wellbeing implications arise from this report.

## 12. Background papers

- 12.1. The draft Waste Strategy 2021-2031.

## 13. Glossary

Term	Definition
LACW	Local Authority Collected Waste
LES	London Environment Strategy

## 14. Report author and contact

- 14.1. Nathan Vear, Interim Head of Street Environmental Services,  
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## 15. Comments for and on behalf of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources

- 15.1. Shola Ojo, Principle Accountant, [shola.ojo@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:shola.ojo@lewisham.gov.uk), 0208 312 7778

## 16. Comments for and on behalf of the Director of Law, Governance and HR

- 16.1. Stephanie Fleck, Principal Lawyer, [stephanie.fleck@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.fleck@lewisham.gov.uk), 0208 314 9968

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