



Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Executive	17.10.19	All

Delete as appropriate:		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2018-2022

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 In June 2019, the Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency. This commits Islington to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Reducing waste and recycling more is a key part of achieving this and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan sets out the Council's waste strategy through to 2022.
- 1.2 In performing their waste functions, waste authorities need to show how they are acting in general conformity with the municipal waste provisions of the London Environment Strategy. The Mayor of London expects London local authorities to have developed Waste Reduction and Recycling Plans (WRRP) to cover the period through to 2022, which should include local reduction and recycling targets that contribute to the Mayor's London-wide targets.
- 1.3 A public consultation on the draft WRRP was held between 24th May and 16th June 2019. This report summarises the consultation responses, significant revisions to the draft WRRP and recommends approval of the final plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the changes to the draft WRRP (at Appendix 1) following public consultation and as set out below.
- 2.2 To agree to adopt the Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2018-2022 as attached at Appendix 1.

- 2.3 To note the summary version of the WRRP provided in a spreadsheet format in order to monitor impact and performance, that has been submitted, as requested, to the Mayor of London for approval, pending formal approval by the Council (as attached at Appendix 2), and further therefore, to agree to approve this.

3. Background

- 3.1 In June 2019, the Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency, which commits Islington to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Reducing waste and recycling more is a key part of achieving this ambitious but essential target.
- 3.2 In May 2018 the Mayor of London published his London Environment Strategy (the 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.
- 3.3 In performing their waste functions, waste authorities need to show how they are acting in general conformity with the municipal waste provisions of this strategy. The Mayor expects London local authorities to have developed waste reduction and recycling plans to cover the period 2018 to 2022, which should include local reduction and recycling targets that contribute to the Mayor's London-wide targets.
- 3.4 To ensure our residents and businesses are supportive of our approach, the draft WRRP was subjected to a three-week public consultation ending on 16 June 2019.
- 3.5 In accordance with the timescales set by the Mayor of London, the revised draft WRRP was submitted to the GLA on 30.6.19. Officers at the GLA have formally responded on behalf of the Mayor of London with comments on the draft and further amendments have been made where necessary based on these comments.
- 3.6 The WRRP will form Islington's waste strategy through to 2022 and includes a detailed action plan. This revised WRRP is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.7 The GLA has required Boroughs to submit their WRRP in a specific excel spreadsheet format but the two versions are substantially similar. The GLA version of the WRRP is attached at Appendix 2.

4. Summary of consultation process and responses

- 4.1 The three-week consultation process was publicised widely through alert banners on the waste, recycling and housing pages on the Council's website, social media, direct emails to stakeholders, internally via Yammer and posters, and via engagement events at 222 Upper Street, the N4 Library and the Tollington Ward Partnership Community Fun Day.
- 4.2 The online survey website received around 700 page visits. 182 responses were received, of which 177 were via the online survey and five were received directly by email. Based on respondents' answers, their profiles and the type of properties they live in broadly reflect that for the whole of Islington.
- 4.3 For each aspect of the draft WRRP, the question was asked 'please indicate your level of support for this proposal'. On average, 92% of respondents 'strongly supported' or

'supported' the proposals. No element of the draft WRRP had less than 84% of respondents who either 'strongly supported' or 'supported' the proposal.

- 4.4 The comments included many helpful suggestions and ideas. Some of the most common or most relevant comments are set out below.
- 4.5 Respondents commented that a clearer link between recycling and climate change should be made. We have amended the draft WRRP to reflect the Council's declaration of an Environment and Climate Emergency and how increasing recycling and reducing waste supports this.
- 4.6 Some respondents felt our targets should be more challenging. We have retained the targets set in the draft WRRP and set out some of the challenges of achieving high recycling targets in a densely populated area. The recycling targets are based on the modelling commissioned by the GLA and are challenging but realistic.
- 4.7 Respondents felt there should be more detail of our proposed Circular Economy action plan. This has not yet been developed but we have added examples of what such a plan might include.
- 4.8 Respondents welcomed our commitment to extending food waste collections to remaining flats and we are continuing to support the reduction of food waste and increase in food waste recycling through communications campaigns and outreach work.
- 4.9 Respondents commented that we need to communicate more effectively, on a range of different issues, including what can and can't be recycled, details of our services, what happens to recycling and how to reduce plastic. We have emphasised that we consider this is a priority and are developing a plan to underpin improved communications, with particular emphasis on improving our website.
- 4.10 Respondents asked us to introduce more recycling points, both publicly and on estates. Generally, respondents supported our approach to improving communal recycling sites. We have strengthened this section of the revised WRRP.
- 4.11 Respondents asked us to do more to reduce plastic and food waste in schools. We have committed to exploring how we can do this more effectively.
- 4.12 Respondents urged us to take more action against excessive packaging in supermarkets. We have outlined the areas that are best tackled at a national level, rather than being able to be addressed locally. We have also highlighted our engagement in recent policy consultations relating to packaging and plastic waste.
- 4.13 Respondents supported our actions to provide water fountains and encouraged us to go further. We have emphasised our work on this, as well as the Refill App.
- 4.14 Respondents encouraged us to communicate and engage more with a wider range of community interests, community, faith and organisations. We agreed and this is reflected in the revised WRRP.
- 4.15 Among suggestions for reducing plastic was to take action to reduce the amount of plastic that is flushed down toilets. We have revised the WRRP to reflect this.

- 4.16 Formal comments have been received from the GLA. Broadly, they support the contents of the draft WRRP and welcome the wide range of Council services and initiatives. Their preference is for the collected food waste to be treated separately from garden waste at an anaerobic digestion facility. Food and garden waste is currently composted together. We consider our current arrangements to be the most efficient and convenient service arrangement. Nevertheless, our revised draft WRRP now includes a commitment to review the cost and environmental implications of keeping food and garden waste separately, with food waste being treated at an anaerobic digestion facility.
- 4.17 A full schedule of consultation feedback and our responses to it is available on request.

5. Implications

- 5.1 The report raises targets and commitments which may have financial implications if Islington commits to achieving them due to requirements to expand waste collection services. For example, expanding the current food waste collection service over a three year period will cost around £72k per annum. This includes initial project costs and takes into account the savings in disposals costs. In some instances, food waste collections can be more costly to collect from housing estates and these additional costs may be an allowable charge to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and therefore would not require growth funding from the General Fund (GF). This is detailed in the table below:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
One-off project costs (Bins, bags, signs etc)	£72k	£22k	
Service costs	£0k	£64k	£127k
Total costs	£72k	£88k	£127k
Funded by:			
HRA recharge or General Fund Growth	£72k	£72k	£72k
Reduction in Levy payment		£14k	£55k

Many of the communication and engagement actions will be more effectively delivered with a dedicated revenue fund to support the actions, the cost of which may be offset by disposal cost savings.

It is expected that remaining commitments highlighted throughout the report can be delivered without significant financial implications.

5.2 Legal Implications:

The Council may adopt a waste recycling plan which is calculated to facilitate the discharge of its obligations in respect of waste collection and recycling (section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Environmental Protection Act 1990).

In deciding whether to adopt the revised plan, the decision maker will need to have full and proper regard to the representations received in response to the public consultation as outlined in this report and to proposed revisions to the draft arising from the consultation responses.

4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030.

The WRRP aims to reduce waste arisings and increase recycling, with the following proposals expected to have a positive impact on reducing carbon emissions:

- Reduction in food waste arisings and increases in food waste recycling.
- Increasing overall levels of recycling.
- Moving our fleet towards zero tailpipe emissions and electric vehicles.
- Moving towards a more circular economy.
- Development of a more modern facility at the Edmonton EcoPark.

Following the public consultation, the plan has been amended to highlight how the plans for waste and recycling contribute to dealing with the climate emergency, as well as committing to looking at how we can reduce plastic and food waste in schools more effectively.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A Resident Impact Assessment was completed on 26 April 2019. No adverse impacts were identified. The trialling of accessible recycling bins on estates is likely to have a positive impact on eliminating discrimination and the advancement of equality of opportunity. It has been identified that wheel chair users sometimes find the use of communal recycling bins problematic because it is difficult to reach the apertures in the lids of the bin. Although the containers used are widely used by most Local Authorities, the proposal will involve trialling bespoke containers with a lower access point, benefiting anyone who cannot easily reach the lid aperture. The trial will be evaluated before deciding whether to extend the trial to other estates.

6. Reason for recommendations

- 6.1 This report presents the Council's revised Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2018-2022 for formal adoption and summarises the outcomes of the public consultation.

Appendices:

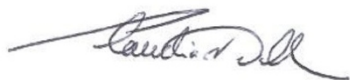
Appendix 1 – Revised Draft Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2018-2022

Appendix 2 – Revised Draft Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2018-2022 (GLA version)

Appendix 3 – Resident Impact Assessment

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



9 October 2019

Claudia Webbe,
Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Date

Report Author: Matthew Homer
Tel: 020 7527 5152
Email: matthew.homer@islington.gov.uk

Financial Implications Author: Steve Abbott
Tel: 020 7527 2369
Email: steve.abbott@islington.gov.uk

Legal Implications Author: David Daniels
Tel: 020 7527 3277
Email: david.daniels@islington.gov.uk