

**Report for:** Cabinet, 15 July 2025

**Item number:** 16

**Title:** North London Joint Waste Strategy 2025 – 2040 (NLJWS)

**Report authorised by :** Barry Francis – Director of Environment and Resident Experience

**Lead Officer:** Beth Waltzer, Head of Recycling, Waste and Enforcement  
Tom Hemming, NLWA and Waste Strategy Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision: Key Decision**

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 The North London Joint Waste Strategy (JWS or Strategy) is a joint eight-authority strategy that will guide the work of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) and the seven north London constituent boroughs for the next fifteen years, moving north London towards a low waste 'circular economy' which prioritises waste prevention and resource efficiency. It is a statutory requirement for the authorities to have such a strategy in place.
- 1.2 It has been prepared over the past three years in collaboration with the public, through an initial listening exercise followed by full public consultation on the draft strategy, with statutory authorities, and with members and officers across the eight authorities.
- 1.3 In summary, the vision for the Strategy is:  
To manage north Londoners' waste according to the waste hierarchy, prioritising waste reduction then maximising reuse, repair, recycling (and the most climate-friendly means of disposal possible) where reduction is not feasible. This includes providing environmentally-friendly, best-value, resident-focussed services and policies that meet the challenges of the Climate Emergency.
- 1.4 All eight authorities will be asking their decision-makers to consider approving the JWS through their governance processes between June and September 2025.
- 1.5 The purpose of this report is to consider approval of the Joint Waste Strategy and delegate approval to any minor changes.

## **2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

- 2.1 I am proud to present this comprehensive Joint Waste Strategy that places circularity at the heart of our approach to managing resources in north London.
- 2.2 This Strategy demonstrates our commitment to transforming how we think about waste - moving from a linear 'take-make-dispose' model to a truly circular economy where materials are kept in use for as long as possible. We are already making significant progress: through our Community Fund supporting grassroots repair initiatives, our expanding network of specialist recycling services, our ReUse Shop at King's Road, and our pioneering education programmes at the new EcoPark House. These initiatives show what can be achieved when we treat waste as a valuable resource rather than something to be disposed of.
- 2.3 Our ambitions go further still. We aim to double the amount of material reused through our Reuse and Recycling Centres, reduce avoidable food waste and recyclable materials in residual waste by 50%, and achieve zero waste to landfill by 2040. These are stretching targets that reflect the urgency of the climate emergency.
- 2.4 Crucially, central government is finally delivering programmes that will support these goals. The introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return Schemes, and Simpler Recycling requirements represents a fundamental shift - placing responsibility where it belongs, with those who produce waste, whilst providing the framework we need to create a net zero waste society.
- 2.5 Reducing waste is not merely about managing what we throw away - it is essential to tackling climate change. The consumption emissions embedded in the products we buy and discard represent a significant part of our carbon footprint. Every tonne of waste prevented, every item repaired rather than replaced, every material kept in circulation contributes directly to reducing these emissions and protecting our environment for future generations.
- 2.6 This massive piece of work represents years of dedication from NLWA officers working collaboratively with borough officers across north London. Most importantly, it reflects the input of thousands of north London residents who engaged with us through listening exercises and consultations, sharing their priorities and helping shape a strategy that truly serves our communities. Their message was clear: they want to waste less, recycle more, and be part of building a sustainable future for north London.

### **3. Recommendations**

#### **3.1 Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 3.1.1 Approve the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy;

- 3.1.2 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience to agree minor changes to the strategy as appropriate.

#### **4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 It is a requirement under section 32 of the Waste and Emissions Act 2003 for waste authorities for a two-tier<sup>1</sup> area to have a joint strategy for the management of municipal waste (household waste and business waste collected by the local authority, and waste which is similar in nature and composition to household waste, as required by the Landfill Directive).
- 4.2 The most recent JWS covered the period 2004 to 2020. That strategy largely focused on finding a solution for residual waste disposal infrastructure in north London, which has since been agreed upon through a comprehensive options appraisal and formal planning process, and facilities are now under development.
- 4.3 The development of this strategy over the past 3 years has been timed in relation to both the above process and because of significant legislative changes that have been in development by Government over the last 5 years and which are coming into practice now and in the coming 2 years.
- 4.4 It is therefore the right time to put an up-to-date strategy in place that has been able to take into account these changes.
- 4.5 In all, the strategy is necessary to provide the framework within which the eight authorities will make decisions on and deliver essential services over the coming 15 years, facilitating the most cost-effective and environmentally advantageous management of waste.
- 4.6 It should also be noted that the strategy does not define or restrict how borough collection services will operate in the future, in response to local circumstances, which will be decisions for individual authorities to make, having regard to the objectives of the Strategy. The council is currently undertaking its own process across street cleansing as well waste collection through the procurement of services for April 2027 onwards.

#### **5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1 Not proceeding with a joint strategy for the management of waste. However, this would mean non compliance under section 32 of the Waste and Emissions Act 2003 for waste authorities for a two-tier area to have a joint strategy for the management of waste.

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<sup>1</sup> Where separate authorities have legal duties for the collection and disposal of waste such as in north London.

## **6. Background information**

- 6.1 The North London Joint Waste Strategy is the Joint Waste Strategy (JWS) for the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) and the seven north London waste collection authorities; Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington & Waltham Forest. NLWA is the statutory waste disposal authority for the seven north London boroughs. It is governed by 14 members with two councillors from each of the seven boroughs.
- 6.2 As outlined above, it is a legal requirement for waste authorities for a two-tier area to have a joint strategy for the management of waste. Legislation requires that the constituent boroughs consult on the strategy appropriately and have regard for guidance given by the government. In addition, waste authorities in Greater London must, when formulating policy, act in general conformity with the Mayor of London's municipal waste management strategy (currently the London Environment Strategy).
- 6.3 There are also significant legislative changes coming into effect in the near future, namely extended producer responsibility for packaging (EPR), a national deposit return scheme, and Simpler Recycling which will standardise collection systems to a great degree across the country. It is important that the Authority and the constituent boroughs have an up-to-date strategy which will consider and set out how all eight partners will respond to these changes.
- 6.4 The JWS will form the basis of how NLWA and the constituent boroughs manage waste in the future, and work together to deliver essential waste management and disposal services in the best interests of north London's residents. It sets out the eight authorities' aspirations in regard to minimising waste, increasing recycling, reuse and repair, protecting the environment, and moving towards a circular economy, covering all stages of waste management, including collection, transfer, treatment and disposal, in accordance with the waste hierarchy.
- 6.5 Vision, Aims & Objectives**
- The JWS vision is to manage north Londoners' waste according to the waste hierarchy, prioritising waste reduction then maximising reuse, repair, recycling and finally the most climate-friendly means of disposal possible where reduction is not feasible. This includes providing environmentally-friendly, best-value, resident-focussed services and policies that meet the challenges of the Climate Emergency.
- 6.6 Joint aims, objectives and a set of priorities were all derived from the vision outlined above. Together, these form the overarching policy framework which will guide our work over the course of this Strategy. The aims and objectives can be found in section 1.4 of the attached JWS (appendix 1).
- 6.7 The approach to delivering the aims and objectives is set out in chapters six to ten of the JWS. The actions and activities we will undertake as part of these aims are grouped into four thematic priorities which are summarised below.

**Priority 1:** supporting the reduction in waste, by promoting prevention, repair and reuse.

Our approach will focus on:

- enabling communities to deliver change on the ground
- providing prevention, reuse and repair opportunities
- engaging and informing residents,
- encouraging behaviour change
- developing and delivering an ambitious education programme
- working in partnership with local organisations and others in the sector

**Priority 2:** improving and maximising recycling

Our approach will focus on:

- Maximising material collected for recycling, including hard-to-recycle materials and food waste
- Providing the infrastructure we need to effectively manage north London's recycling
- Processing recycling effectively, including as much as possible within the UK
- Engaging and informing residents
- Working with businesses

**Priority 3:** reducing the environmental impact of disposal, where there is no option to prevent or reuse waste.

Our approach will focus on:

- Managing waste disposal in state of the art new facilities which minimise impacts on air quality and the environment
- Mitigating climate impacts by using waste to produce energy and heat
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions including through decarbonisation of vehicles and potential use of Carbon Capture and Storage technology
- Avoiding landfill
- Actively monitoring developments in technology and infrastructure which can be applied in north London

**Priority 4:** delivering collaborative, community-focused services which provide value for money and maximise social value.

Our approach will focus on:

- Ensuring we provide suitable and cost-effective reuse and recycling services which meet the needs of north London's residents
- Working collaboratively with partners and other stakeholders
- Delivering social value and benefits for the local community
- Providing local people with opportunities to train and develop green skills
- Committing to sustainable procurement practices
- Managing our assets effectively to ensure value for money

## 6.8 Monitoring

NLWA and the constituent boroughs collect and manage north London's waste. This is only a small part of a wider waste management system that is predicated on government policy, the manufacturing and retail sectors, and our residents, businesses and other organisations that generate waste, including their behaviours and use of services. Action has to come from across this spectrum if we are going to jointly meet the challenges that waste services will face in the next fifteen years and achieve our environmental goals.

- 6.9 The strategy has ambitious environmental goals for north London and will measure and report its progress using the metrics described in the strategy as key performance indicators. Where targets have been set, we aim to meet these by the end of the Strategy period (2040).NLWA will report on progress through its annual reports and published on the NLWA website.
- 6.10 We will also measure our progress in delivery reports linked to the reporting process for the boroughs' Reduction and Recycling Plans (RRPs), produced in line with the London Environment Strategy. Haringey's RRP was most recently reviewed and approved by Cabinet in September 2023 and is the main strategic waste document at the borough level. It sets out how we will deliver on our own 'Destination 50%' vision, to recycle 50% of household waste by 2030. The development of the JWS is in alignment with the boroughs' RRP.

A summary of the JWS's reporting metrics is shown in the table below:

Priority	Indicator	Metric	Targets
P1	Avoidable food waste	% of residual	50% reduction
P1	Recyclable material in residual waste	% of residual	50% reduction
P1	Total household waste per capita	Kg / person	No target
P1	Residual household waste per capita	Kg / person	No target
P1	Reused material	% of RRC waste reused	Double % of material reused
P2	Recycling rate	% of household waste by weight which is recycled, reused or composted.	50%
P2	Processing destinations	% within UK	100%
P3	Carbon impact of waste streams	To be developed	

P3	Operational emissions		
P3	Use of landfill	% of waste sent to landfill	0%
P4	We will monitor the activities outlined above through performance indicators to be developed within each individual workstream. These will be detailed in delivery plans and monitoring reports published on a regular basis throughout the Strategy period. Delivery plans will be produced in line with the RRP reporting process and the strategy's annual report will be set out within the NLWA annual report which will track actions and commitments.		

The Government has set a target for the reduction of overall residual waste<sup>2</sup> of 50% by 2042 (based on 2019) levels. There isn't currently a target for household waste or local authority collected waste, but we will aspire to work with the Government to help meet that their overall residual waste reduction target

### 6.11 Consultation and public engagement

In line with the principles of the Haringey Deal, the strategy development has prioritised seeking the input and views of our local communities. An initial consultation in the form of a 12-week public listening exercise took place in the summer of 2023 which informed the development of the JWS's aims, objectives and priorities. This involved a series of pop-up events, focus groups, and an online questionnaire, and over 2,100 residents were engaged in this process.

6.12 Following on from this, a formal public consultation on the draft strategy was undertaken on behalf of the eight authorities between October 2024 and January 2025. Residents were asked for their views on how NLWA and the constituent boroughs intend to deliver the aims and objectives of the strategy. The targeted outreach approach adopted is detailed in section 3 of the Consultation report (appendix 6 to the Strategy). This included individual conversations in the community, small group conversations and an online survey.

6.13 Over the course of the 12-week consultation period, we received over 1,500 responses including:

- 1,037 via a representative in-person outreach exercise.
- 470 via an online survey with paper copies available in libraries.
- 15% of respondents from Haringey.

6.14 Responses were received from residents across the seven boroughs, community and local environmental groups, and the Greater London Authority, as well as from selected borough scrutiny committees in November 2024 and following this, a revised draft of the strategy has been produced incorporating the responses

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<sup>2</sup> This target refers to the total mass of residual waste, which includes business, construction and local authority collected waste but excludes major mineral wastes. [The Environmental Targets \(Residual Waste\) \(England\) Regulations 2023](#)

6.15 Significantly, the overall trends in responses suggested that respondents have a very positive perception of the vision, aims and priorities. 84% of respondents to the targeted outreach supported the strategy vision, and 85% supported the five aims of the strategy, most respondents thought that all actions were high priority, across all four priority areas. Residents demonstrated they were committed to improving north London's sustainability, and that they had clear ambitions for how to make it happen. A summary of the feedback and how these were reflected in the JWS are set out below.

- Strategy vision - feedback from local environmental campaign groups said that the JWS vision was too long and overly complex, and that the strategy needed a simple vision statement to summarise the ambition of the strategy. Following this feedback, NLWA have included a summarised, overarching vision statement: 'Towards a low waste north London, reducing the impact of waste arisings to meet the challenges of the Climate Emergency'. This change can be found in section 1.3 of the updated JWS.
- Education and Engagement – residents believed that education in schools, campaigns to influence families and instil good waste management habits were important factors. Along with working with communities and providing feedback to encourage active participation with waste reduction, repair, reuse and recycling. Chapter six of the draft strategy (aspiring to reduce waste by promoting prevention, repair and reuse) already demonstrated our commitment to this area, however minor changes have been made to say we will reflect the additional findings of the consultation.
- Recycling - improve recycling by wider range of recyclables, make it easier through labelling, understanding what happens to recycling, better accessibility and communal recycling, consistency and more outlets to recycle small waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), textiles, batteries, bulky waste etc. Section 6.4 of the JWS already included this and says "We have said we will work with partners to make textiles recycling easier for residents". Changes have been made to chapter 7 to make this clearer. and additional commitment made to regularly publish the recycling destinations table to show what happens to north London's recycling.
- Waste reduction target - several groups asked that there is a clear timeframe and trajectory for achieving stated targets. The narrative around waste reduction has been reviewed throughout the strategy and a new paragraph has been added in section 6.9 (monitoring our progress).
- Delivering the strategy - as in the previous theme, several groups asked that there is a clear timeframe and trajectory for achieving stated targets, but some also wanted to know how progress would be



reported. Details have been added in sections 6.8, 6.9, 9.9, and 10.1 to address this.

- Resident Engagement - That we ensure proactive engagement with a wide range of residents is embedded through the delivery of the strategy, with a particular focus on seldom heard residents and groups, to ensure actions meet their needs, experiences and aspirations. Details have been added in sections 5.2, 6.1, 6.4, and 10.3.

## **6.16 Impact Assessments**

While preparing the JWS, we have assessed the impacts that our proposed approach and activities could have on the environment through a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment, and on people with protected characteristics through an Equalities Impact Assessment. Through our Options Appraisal, we have also analysed financial implications of the strategy. Details are contained in the sections below.

## **7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026 High level Strategic outcomes?**

- 7.1 The joint waste strategy directly contributes to the 'Responding to the climate emergency' theme of the current Corporate Delivery Plan. In particular it addresses and complements the Plan's Outcome Area: A cleaner, low waste Haringey, which contains activities to increase the level of reuse through working with the community and increase recycling, through delivery of our Reduction and Recycling Plan.
- 7.2 The strategy will also help to deliver other Outcome Areas:
- A greener Haringey
  - A zero carbon and climate resilient Haringey
  - Better air quality in Haringey
- 7.3 The emphasis on consultation through the development of the strategy is in line with the key focus of the Haringey Deal in terms of working in partnership with communities to address residents' priorities.

## **8. Carbon and Climate Change**

- 8.1 The strategy is clear on the importance of waste management in addressing climate change and the role it will play in achieving the Government's 'net zero' by 2050 target.
- 8.2 The waste management sector is estimated to have contributed around 4% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK in 2021<sup>3</sup>. But the emissions of waste disposal are only part of the picture. The carbon released when waste is disposed of is embedded in products or materials when they are designed and produced. The extraction of resources, the manufacturing process,

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<sup>3</sup> Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. Final UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics: 1990 to 2021

transportation and consumption all have an environmental impact. The ongoing process of making new products and throwing them away therefore drives wider greenhouse gas emissions.

- 8.3 To reduce these impacts, we want items produced and used to be designed sustainably and have as long a life as possible in a circular economy. This would cut down our consumption of virgin materials and avoid the carbon emissions associated with waste disposal. This is why reducing waste helps tackle the climate emergency, and is the first priority of this Strategy, and why we strongly advocate for government action on the supply chain.
- 8.4 The actions and commitments set out in this Strategy will aim to reduce our impact on the environment and help respond to the climate emergency. This will include reducing the waste we send to landfill to zero, therefore avoiding one of the most harmful sources of emissions (landfill is a significant source of methane emissions). We will also use our new facilities to harness energy and heat from our waste, reducing the area's reliance on fossil fuels. Our facilities will use the best available technology to minimise our impact on the environment, and we are committed to improving our facilities and exploring the viability of new technologies like carbon capture and storage to help minimise our environmental footprint.
- 8.5 We also commit to producing new analyses examining the carbon impact of the waste we manage. Together with up-to-date composition analysis, this will demonstrate the true environmental impacts of the waste being produced in north London. Using this analysis, NLWA and the boroughs will prioritise our activities for the greatest environmental benefits, for example by targeting prevention activity at the materials which cause the most harm when disposed of. As recommended in our Strategic Environmental Assessment, carbon analysis will form part of our regular reporting in future, providing holistic insights on the impacts of consumption and waste production in the area and ensuring our services contribute effectively towards net zero carbon targets and the response to the climate emergency.
- 8.6 We will also seek to influence government and others in the sector to adopt similar reporting and support the development of carbon-based metrics. This would help to ensure that national data and targets capture the true environmental impacts of waste.

## **9. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (Procurement), Legal and Governance, Equalities)**

### **9.1 Finance**

- 9.1.1 The recommendation of the report is to approve the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy attached to the report. In agreeing this recommendation Cabinet will not be incurring any new expenditure nor agreeing to expend resources.

- 9.1.2 Should implementation of the joint strategy impact on its constituent boroughs, these effects will be modelled at that time and agreement sought through the established governance arrangements such as the Member Finance Working Group and the cross-borough Directors of Finance Group.

## **9.2 Procurement**

- 9.2.1 There is no direct expenditure or procurement activity associated with the strategy adoption outside of the existing contracts and arrangements that deliver our services.

## **9.3 Director of Legal & Governance**

- 9.3.1 The Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 9.3.2 Section 32 of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 places a statutory duty on two-tier area waste authorities to produce a joint waste management strategy and to keep the strategy under review. The Act requires that the strategy includes management arrangements for all municipal waste and that the constituent boroughs consult on the strategy appropriately. The strategy must also have regard for government guidance. In addition, the waste authorities for a two-tier area in Greater London must, when formulating policy, have regard to the Mayor of London's municipal waste management strategy (currently the London Environment Strategy).
- 9.3.4 The Director of Legal sees no legal reasons preventing the adoption of this strategy.

## **9.4 Equality**

- 9.4.1 The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 9.4.2 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 9.4.3 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

- 9.4.4 The report recommends approving the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy. An initial Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken (see chapter 10.2.2 of the strategy (Appendix 1) and appendix 5 to the strategy) to investigate the implications of the strategy on specific groups of people. The purpose of an EqIA is to ensure that policies and strategies do not discriminate against target groups with protected characteristics, and where possible contribute to improving the lives of local communities. Completing an EqIA is a systematic process that is designed to consider the needs of each target group and assess the impact that a policy or strategy may have on them.
- 9.4.5 An EqIA assessment was conducted taking into account the available evidence, including consultation responses. The assessment finds that the NLJWS will not cause any potentially significant differential impacts and confirms that the NLWA and constituent Boroughs already have actions and measures in place to mitigate identified impacts to acceptable levels. This includes physical support for bulky waste movements and assisted collections, review of clinical waste collections, considering information accessibility, suitable training of RRC staff and opportunities to buy pre-used household goods. The NLWA will work to improve RRC infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, which supports people without a car to access wider services.
- 9.4.6 It is acknowledged that ongoing monitoring is necessary to ensure that any unexpected differential impacts are controlled when the JWS is implemented. The NLWA boroughs will continue their engagement with communities over the lifetime of the strategy to monitor its impacts and identify if any improvements or changes are required.

## **10. Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Draft North London Joint Waste Strategy

## **11. Background papers**

Additional documents for the Draft North London Joint Waste Strategy, available at the following link:

[Our Strategies | NLWA](#)

- [Waste Projections](#)
- [Options Appraisal Report](#)
- [Listening Exercise](#)
- [Environmental Report](#)
- [Equalities Assessment](#)
- [Consultation Report](#)

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