

OSC – 29th July 2010 – Action no 43.2 – The Committee asked to be informed of the reasons why the household waste target for reuse, recycling and composting had been lowered.

The North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS), which the Council is a signatory of, contains recycling targets (NI 192) for North London as a whole of 35% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020. In 2006, in the course of negotiating Haringey's LAA, the Council was required by Government Office for London (GOL) to adopt extremely challenging targets that would set a pathway to reaching the 35% North London target for 2010. This resulted in 'stretch targets' of 28% for 2008/09 and 32% for 2009/10 (compared to an original target of 27% for 09/10).

However, by the end of 2008/9 it became apparent that various external factors outside the Council's influence, which had not existed when the stretch targets were set in 2006, were significantly impacting on the 'recycling rate' (NI 192). As a result of these factors Haringey had experienced a drop in NI 192 performance in 2008/09 to less than 23%, despite the achievement of its 25% recycling target in 2007/08, and the Council's recycling services collecting an additional 1,500 tonnes of recycling in 2008/09 than in the previous year. In response to this, in 2009/10 the Council put forward a case (available on request) to GOL's parent government department, CLG, to demonstrate the effect of the external factors on our performance. The case to CLG demonstrated that the combined impact of these factors had effectively deducted over 5% from the recycling rate and it proposed that the 2009/10 LAA stretch target of 32% be revised to take account of this.

This case was endorsed by GOL and Defra (as the sponsor department for NI 192). Following this, CLG provided formal notification in August 2010 that the target be classified as 'inoperable', due to the impact of the external factors referred to. As a result the 2009/10 32% stretch target was reduced to 26.4% reflective of the >5% impact, whilst the original 'pre-stretch' target of 27% was revised in the same proportion to 22%. Thus the revised stretch target still represented an equivalently ambitious increase in performance on the pre-stretch target, but now accounted for the effect of the external factors. The final 2009/10 rate achieved by Haringey was 26.1%, narrowly missing the revised stretch target, but significantly exceeding the revised non-stretch target of 22%.

In this context, it followed that the 2010/11 target would also need to be revised and not remain in the region of the previous year's 'inoperable' stretch target (ie. 3% higher at 35%). The approved 2010/11 NI 192 target set in the Frontline Services Business Plan was 27%. The provisional 2010/11 year-end rate is 28%.

Although the National Indicators came to an end at the end of March 2011, meaning local authorities now have no formal annual targets for recycling to report to Government from April 2011, the Council has maintained the recycling rate as a key performance indicator in its new waste contract. Under the contract the Council's partner, Veolia, have a target to reach a minimum of 42% recycling rate by 2020. This is linked to the payment mechanism meaning that non-achievement will result in a financial penalty being paid to the Council. Furthermore the Council is working closely with North London Waste Authority on its procurement of new long term waste treatment, recycling and composting facilities. NLWA's contract will have a key target to deliver a 50% recycling rate by 2020 across North London, from a combination of the constituent boroughs' collection services, the Reuse & Recycling Centres across the area, and the recovery of recyclables that are not collected separately by boroughs from NLWA's new facilities for treating residual waste.

will be undertaken in the course of the planning application, including the role of the Council in considering the application once it is submitted.