

Haringey Council

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10 SEPTEMBER 2007

Report Title: **WASTE COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **N/A**

Report of: The Chair of the Review Panel

Wards(s) affected All

Report for: **non**

1. Purpose

1.1 For the Committee to consider and agree the Scoping document of the review.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Scrutiny Review of Waste Collection, Recycling & Disposal has been commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of its programme of works for 2007/2008.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agrees to the commissioning of a scrutiny review on Waste Collection, Recycling and Disposal.

3.2 That the scope and terms of reference of the review be approved.

Report Authorised by: The Chair of the Review Panel

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4. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

4.1 Scrutiny Review Work Programme – 2007/8



Haringey Council

5. Report

5.1 This is a high profile service that affects every resident in the borough. There are legislative pressures on the authority, including government targets for recycling and disposal of waste to landfill. There are potential financial penalties on the authority if Haringey fails to comply with legislative directives, in particular, under the Waste Emissions Trading Act 2003 where penalties of £150 per tonne of waste to landfill over agreed quota will apply.

5.2 Integrated Waste Management & Transport Contract

5.3 More complex contractual arrangement will be required for disposal of waste in the future as the current integrated waste management and transport contract is due to expire in December 2009. This will offer an opportunity for reviewing the service delivery model with a view to improving performance and value for money. The Waste Management Service will begin the process of creating a new integrated contract early in 2007.

5.4 The emphasis of waste management services changes from disposing of waste to recycling therefore it is vital that any savings achieved from falling levels of waste can be recognised and reinvested in recycling centres. This would be more effective if both services are delivered under an integrated contract so that the service provider can switch resources as a result of changing levels of waste and recycling. Consequently the integrated waste management and transport contract is likely to include the provision of recycling collection services. This will have a long-term impact on the delivery of this service.

5.5 Background

5.6 The National Context

Waste collection functions are highly visible front line services; being one of the few services that resident of the borough receives automatically, and remains high in the public priorities both locally and nationally.

5.7 The waste services are guided by an increasing legislative and policy framework at a European, national, regional and local level, designed to support the emphasis towards waste minimisation reuse and increasing the recycling and recovery levels.

5.8 Some of the key legislative drivers for change are:

5.9 EU Landfill Directives 1999

The EU landfill Directive requires that by 2010 the amount of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill must be reduced to 75% of the total produced in 1995. By 2013, the amount must be reduced to 50% and by 2020 to 45%. The amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill will be controlled by a tradable allowance system.

5.10 Waste & Emissions Trading Act 2003

This Act established the principle of landfill allowance trading (LATS). The landfill allowances dictate the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that can be disposed of to landfill. The allowances were allocated in February 2005; these allowances can be banked, borrowed, sold or bought. Failure to comply will result in fines of £150 per tonne.

5.11 Waste Strategy 2007

The Government has established through its Waste Strategy 2007 a series of national targets. Higher national targets than the 2000 strategy have been set for:

- *Recycling and composting of household waste* - at least 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020 and
- *Recovery of municipal waste* – 53% by 2010, 67% by 2015 and 75% by 2020

5.12 Mayor of London Municipal Waste Management Strategy

The Mayor has indicated that London will aim to exceed the recycling and composting Best Value Standards of waste authorities set by the Government including any changes as a result of a review of the recycling targets. The Mayor will therefore seek to promote a 50% target for recycling and composting of municipal waste by 2010 and 60% by 2015.

5.13 Legislative Requirements

Recycling performance is subject to statutory targets. In 2005/06 Haringey's statutory target was to recycle 18% of households' waste, which was exceeded with audited performance of 19.23% recycling for the year as a whole. Additional statutory recycling targets are expected to be set by Government when the Waste Strategy Review is published in 2007.

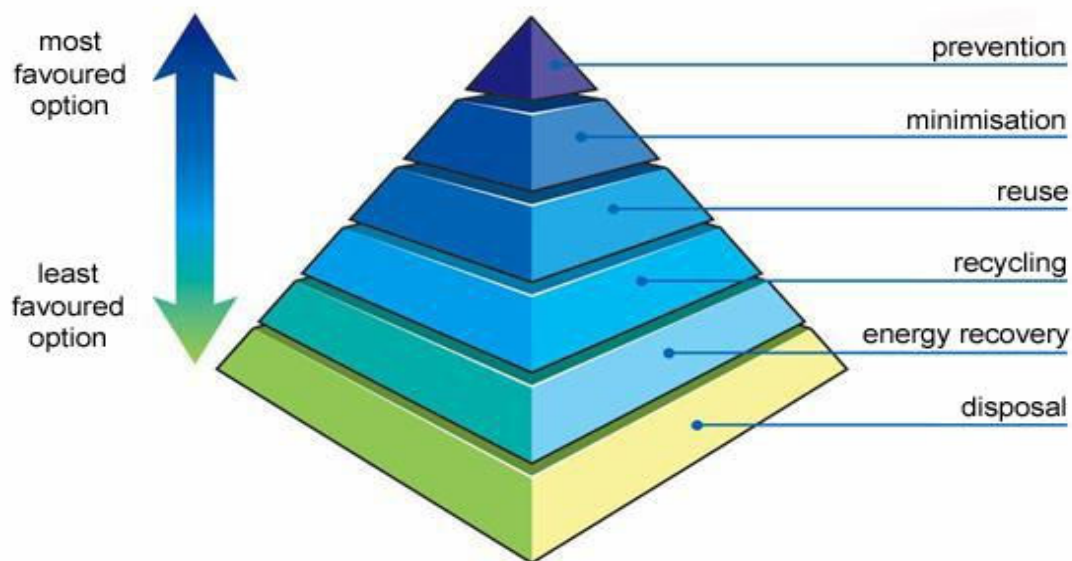
5.14 Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive

European legislation will have a profound affect on how electrical waste is treated and will prevent electrical items from being sent to landfill as these items must be recycled. This will affect all electrical household goods.

5.15 The Hierarchy of Waste

The options for dealing with waste are described in the 'waste hierarchy' – with those at the top of the list more desirable than those towards the bottom. A descending hierarchy of approaches has been identified to address the issues surrounding the sustainable management of waste in the future.

1. Prevention
2. Minimisation
3. Re-use
4. Recycling (including composting).
5. Recovering materials and energy from residual waste
6. Disposal to landfill as a last resort on a minimal level.



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Waste hierarchy

- 5.16 The main disposable methods currently employed are landfilling, recycling, composting and energy from waste plants. The government's aim is to create incentives that reflect the waste hierarchy and create opportunities for the reduction, reuse and recycling and recovery of energy from waste.
- 5.16 Despite the hierarchy, the majority of UK waste is still being disposed of through landfill. However, the Government will shortly be setting new national targets for the reduction of commercial and industrial waste going to landfill.
- 5.17 Whilst it is difficult to monitor reduction and reuse schemes, councils and waste management companies do collect figures indicating how much of collected waste is intended for recycling (or recovery) and how much for final disposal through landfill.
- 5.18 Local Authorities have been set targets to increase recycling to between 10-33% over the next years.

¹ Produced by Sligo CC

5.19 Through these and additional measures the hope is to increase the recycling of household waste to the targets set by the Government. It is important to note local targets are set for each local authority. The target for Haringey was 18% for 2005/06, Haringey achieved 19.23%.

- To recycle/compost at least 25% of household waste by 2005
- To recycle/compost at least 30% of household waste by 2010
- To recycle/compost at least 33% of household waste by 2015

Recovery targets for municipal waste are:

- To recover value from 40% of municipal waste by 2005
- To recover value from 45% of municipal waste by 2010
- To recover value from 67% of municipal waste by 2015

5.20 Haringey's current year household recycling target is 25% rising to a stretch Local Area Agreement target of 32% by 2010. The Council has approved significant additional investment the current financial plans to enable this target to be achieved.

5.21 Local and regional context

Included in the 2006 local government white paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities, there are plans to develop the performance standards for local authorities. Statutory performance standards for waste will continue. The government is currently developing local authority waste performance indicators which will focus on the amount of municipal waste produced, recycled and sent to landfill.

5.22 The Waste Strategy 2007 directs local authorities to commission or provide convenient recycling services for their residents and commercial customers and provide advice and information on how to reduce waste. They will also have to work with their communities to plan and invest in new collection and reprocessing facilities. It also means putting more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use and it means motivating individuals and businesses to appreciate the environmental and economic benefits from waste reduction.

5.23 Financial Penalties

Local authorities are considering financial penalties to improve participation in recycling services. Using financial penalties individual will face costs for non participation in a scheme, or additional costs for waste generation. For example charging schemes such as for green waste or bulky waste collections, or compulsory participation such as fines for non-recyclers.

5.24 Proposed Objectives:

- To make recommendations for improving the design of the new contract to determine the specification, the range, the provision and the collection methodologies, including benchmarking with other authorities to consider best practice, and to ensure that the new contract is fit for purpose and provides value for money.
- To explore new and transferable initiatives including the approach, cost and consultation/communication used by other authorities which are not currently used by Haringey and which may help to inform the delivery of services to meet local needs.
- To meet the objective of increasing the amount of household waste recycled and composted in Haringey to 35% by 2010, and to increase the amount of household waste recycled and composted in Haringey to 45% by 2015 of which 10% should be composted, taking account of any key issues arising relating to health and safety for the waste management and recycling service.
- To investigate the possibilities for increasing business participation in recycling, including through working in partnership and contractual arrangements with local businesses.
- To consider communication methods aimed at raising awareness and providing advice to residents on waste minimisation and recycling, and to ensure education about the environment is taking place for our young people.
- To consider ways in which to improve resident satisfaction of Haringey's waste, recycling and composting services, including by talking to residents and other authorities.

5.25 Panel Membership

The following members will form the Review Panel:

Cllr Emma Jones (Chair)
Cllr Bob Hare
Cllr Jayanti Patel
Cllr Sheila Rainger

5.27 External Advice

In order to help inform the deliberations of the Panel, efforts are currently being made to appoint an external adviser to the Panel. Such a person will not be a member of the Panel but will provide independent impartial advice. They will need to have extensive knowledge of issues concerned with local authority's corporate strategies as well as an awareness of current issues and best practice – the budget for this is limited.

5.28 Timescale

It is anticipated that the Review will be completed in December 2007.