

Response to Scrutiny Working Group Report on Improving Recycling

Recommendation	Response / Comments	Date	Update – October 2008
<p>R1 The review commends the work being undertaken with the private sector to reduce the amount of waste entering the municipal waste stream. Increasing recycling of market waste must be a priority, including food waste.</p>	<p>Waste recycling of the same materials covered by the household co-mingled re-cycling service has been available since April 2007 to all trade waste customers. The Veolia sales-force promote recycling on every visit. Trade recycling costs the same as residual waste but there is an advantage to smaller customers as there is no minimum quantity for a recycling sacks contract.</p> <p>Commence full co-mingled recycling collection pilot Whitechapel Market</p> <p>Evaluate pilot and produce roll out strategy for other markets</p> <p>Evaluate food waste collection in markets post tender of food waste lot in integrated re-cycling procurement</p>	<p>Oct 2007</p> <p>Jan 2008</p> <p>April 2008</p>	<p>Due to the delay in the tender process for the new recycling contract the implementation of these actions has been delayed also. Progress to date:</p> <p>Whitechapel Market is now a 100% recycling market with both co-mingled dry recycling and organic (food) waste recycling collections in place. The launch event was held on 5th August which received extensive media coverage.</p> <p>Waste Management and Market Services are currently developing a programme to facilitate the roll out of the Whitechapel pilot to all other markets.</p>
<p>R2 The Group welcomes the planned work to increase</p>	<p>Engage temporary outreach staff to implement the programme of bringing recycling to</p>	<p>August 2007</p>	

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<p>recycling within hospitals, and other institutions, and suggests that the Tower Hamlets Partnership is a good channel to deliver these changes through. All efforts should be made to ensure that the necessary funding is secured for the expansion of the service to take place. The Group would also suggest that all Council buildings, including the Idea Stores and leisure centres are doing their best to minimise waste.</p>	hospitals, charities and other institutions eligible for free of charge recycling.	Completed	
	Engage Tower Hamlets Partnership to assist with the programme.	Completed	
	Negotiate and provide service to Mild May, Mile End and the Dental Hospitals	Completed	
	Contact and offer service to 35 new organisations a month	On-going	
	Complete roll out of co-mingled recycling service to remaining administrative buildings and Idea Stores	Dec 2007	
	Install co-mingled recycling in all Leisure Centres York Hall, Mile End Leisure Centre, Mile End Stadium, St George's Pool, Tiller Leisure Centre, Whitechapel, John Orwell.	August 2007 Completed	
	Langdon Park	Dec 2007	
Implement waste minimisation plan developed by London Remade Anchorage House and Mulberry Place	Oct 2007		

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<p>R3 Whilst the group understands the importance of recycling plastic in order to achieve targets, there is concern about the pollution of China with these recycled plastics and the wider issue of excessive packaging. The review group would therefore support the Local Government Association's calls for tougher laws and serious fines for excessive packaging. At a local level, the group would like to raise the awareness of this issue locally, including the merits of buying products in alternative containers and recycling their plastic bags. It is suggested that this should be pursued through the Tower Hamlets Partnership.</p>	<p>Include requirement in the specification for the new integrated re-cycling contract requiring contractors bidding for the Materials Re-cycling Facility (MRF) element of the contract to make efforts to use domestic markets wherever possible.</p>	<p>Sep 2007</p>	<p>Whilst every effort was made on the tender of the new recycling contract to achieve local markets for the reprocessing of the dry recycle, it has had to be accepted that for some materials there is not sufficient reprocessing capacity in this country to deal with the quantity of materials now being collected.</p> <p>The ban on throw out shopping bags has not yet been implemented in London however, many supermarket chains are now withdrawing these in favour of "bags for life".</p>
	<p>Incorporate criteria in tender evaluation</p>	<p>Sep 2007</p>	
	<p>Support London Councils proposals for a ban or levy on 'throw out' shopping bags for inclusion in the proposed 10th London Local Authorities Bill</p>	<p>Oct 2007</p>	
	<p>Respond to consultation</p>	<p>Nov 2007</p>	
	<p>Bill deposited</p> <p>Tesco, Waitrose, ASDA, Sainsbury and Sommerfield have all signed up to Governments Voluntary Code of Practice on Carrier Bags in Feb 07 and are running a variety of schemes in the borough.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	
<p>Include packaging and e.g. 'Bag for Life' schemes as an issue in campaigns and activities</p>			

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<p>R4 A key concern for the review is the current state of the bring sites. More work needs to be done to make sure that these sites are well managed and are a more attractive part of the local landscape. Improvements would need to include making the sites more attractive, that they are emptied more frequently and that they are in the best location. Improvements should also be made to the signage of the bring sites.</p>	<p>Complete upgrade of all 54 on street bring sites to co-mingled 1280 litre containers. Ensure recycling message is displayed clearly on bins.</p> <p>Increase street cleaning around sites</p> <p>Increase frequency all sites are emptied to twice weekly</p> <p>Facilitate new public recycling point at Virginia Quay (opposite Budgens) via Section 106 agreement with Barratt Homes</p> <p>Install new textile recycling banks in partnership with SCOPE at Kelsey Street/Chester Street, Old Bethnal Green Road/Canrobert Street and Cephas</p> <p>Assess all additional sites and pass information to SCOPE</p>	<p>Sept 2007 Complete</p> <p>Sept 2007 Complete</p> <p>Oct 2007</p> <p>Nov 2007</p> <p>Aug 2007 Complete</p> <p>Dec 2007</p>	<p>Whilst many actions in relation to the bring bank improvement programme have taken place there are some items still outstanding.</p> <p>Cleaning around sites has improved and collections are now twice weekly.</p> <p>A mini recycling site is now in place for Virginia Quay.</p>

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	<p>Install new media recycling banks in partnership with SCOPE at Northumberland Wharf, ASDA on the Isle of Dogs, Sainsbury's Whitechapel and Tesco's Bromley by Bow</p> <p>Commuter re-cycling scheme at Bethnal Green and Tower Hill Tube stations</p>	<p>June 2007 Complete</p> <p>Oct 2007</p>	<p>The commuter recycling scheme is being rolled out across the borough and includes facilities in Parks as well as at Transport hubs</p>
<p>R5 Whilst the review commends the service offered at Northumberland Wharf reuse and recycle centre, it also notes that it is only accessible by car, which excludes the majority of Tower Hamlets residents. The group would therefore like to see the introduction of smaller collection points across the borough to compliment some of the services offered at Northumberland Wharf.</p>	<p>Despite feasibility studies there is no site in Tower Hamlets which has been identified as suitable for licensing for the transfer of waste. The implications of a "mini-tip" anywhere other than Northumberland Wharf are: traffic movements, both domestic and lorries, potential noise, dust dirt and odours and cost. Include options for additional facilities in strategic review of waste disposal options</p> <p>Review arrangements for collection and disposal of bulky waste</p>	<p>Jan 2008</p> <p>Jan 2008</p>	<p>The Council is currently reviewing the Municipal Waste Strategy which will encompass a review of all services. A draft report on the strategy is expected in December 2008</p> <p>Whilst the collection arrangements for bulk waste remain the same, the Council's contractor Veolia are now separating additional bulk waste for</p>

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			recycling. Tonnages have doubled since this new activity was introduced in July 2008
<p>R6 An area of grave concern for the group is the lack of appropriate recycling facilities and access to facilities in new housing developments. The group understands that planning is able to penalise developers via a breach of condition notice. It therefore recommends that there should be a more joined up approach, between the recycling team and planning to monitor new developments and enforce action. The working group expresses concern that the Council does not have the resources to check new housing developments for breach of contract (including for recycling facilities) and sign them off as compliant, especially with the large number of developments</p>	<p>Review and implement process for joint working and enforcement.</p> <p>Conditions are attached to planning permissions requiring the provision and approval of appropriate waste and recycling facilities prior to the occupation or completion of the development. At both the pre-application and formal application stages Waste Management officers give guidance on the plans for waste and recycling facilities proposed This includes access for collection vehicles, capacity of containers and maintenance of the bins and stores.</p> <p>Once either a certificate of occupation or a final completion certificate arrives at the Council a Waste Management officer visits the premises to ensure that</p>	<p>August 2007 Complete</p>	

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<p>under construction. Additional resources need to be considered to make sure that enforcement is given greater priority. This is vital in safeguarding the quality of the borough's environment.</p>	<p>accessible bins for recycling and residual rubbish are in place, of adequate capacity and kept clean and tidy. If facilities are found to be in breach of the planning conditions the Recycling Officer immediately refers the case to a Planning Officer for appropriate enforcement action.</p>		
<p>R7 This review recognises the decision for the new contract to cease door to door collections in high rise accommodation, based on the increased value for money of the near entry approach, and suggests the following provisos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i a wide range of consultation is undertaken to ensure that the majority of high rise residents are supportive of adopting the near entry approach. ii If the consultation is positive and the near entry approach is adopted that effective communication is undertaken to 	<p>Detailed inventory and assessment of recycling facilities high rise stock including assessment of compliance with London Fire Brigade guidance in respect of Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order in October 2006 (funded by ROTATE and conducted by SNU and London Remade)</p> <p>One third of stock (c.700 blocks)</p> <p>Complete Phase 1 consultation and conversion</p> <p>Complete Phase 2 inventory, consultation and conversion</p>	<p>Sep 2007 Complete</p> <p>March 2008</p> <p>March 2009</p>	<p>The conversion of door step collections to communal collections is still ongoing in line with the requirements of the London Fire Brigade.</p> <p>To date more than 1/3 of the high rise properties in the borough have been converted with the remaining properties due to be completed by March 2009.</p> <p>This conversion process is undertaken with</p>

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<p>explain why it has been introduced and the benefits of the changes</p> <p>iii That this change must not make it harder for people living in high rise accommodation to recycle, with particular emphasis on how the recycling is moved from the home to the communal facility.</p>			<p>consultation with the management companies, landlords and residents</p>
<p>R8 The review group would expect the new contractor to use the results of recent waste analysis to help develop a service based on the recycling needs particular to Tower Hamlets. The Review would therefore welcome the re-investigation of the option to introduce food waste recycling. Whilst the group is aware that the majority of London Authorities providing this service only do so for street level properties, the review would welcome an innovative approach as to how food waste</p>	<p>Include separate food waste 'lot' for street based properties in tender for integrated recycling contract to assess affordability Evaluate potential for high rise food waste service with recycling contractor</p>	<p>Sept 2007 Oct 2008</p>	<p>Food waste collections for all street properties commenced on 1st September 2008. The new service has also included a pilot for 7,000 high rise properties.</p> <p>A further roll out to high rise properties is dependent on further funding being secured.</p>

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recycling could be rolled out to all properties.			
<p>R9 The review would encourage the contract proposal to make reference to the recent national policy guidance on recycling and regional London-wide changes that might be introduced. Based on the evidence of this review, the group would welcome any changes that would stream line the approach to recycling and develop a more co-ordinated approach to waste minimisation across the capital, including the proposed London Single Waste Authority.</p>	<p>Although there have been proposals for a single waste authority by the GLA this has not progressed. The government is considering legislation to allow waste authorities to enter into voluntary consortia and this will be considered as part of the strategic review of waste disposal options. In the meantime officers will continue to work closely with other London boroughs to share best practise and resources wherever possible.</p>	ongoing	<p>With the change of Mayor of London it is unlikely that in the foreseeable future there will be a single waste authority for London.</p> <p>Tower Hamlets is currently reviewing and revising the Waste Strategy which will evaluate the opportunities to join together with other waste authorities. As above a draft report is anticipated in December 2008</p>
<p>R10 The group would support increasing publicity around recycling, particularly around what happens to the recycling when it is picked up. The group commends the new pamphlet explaining recycling in a range of community languages but would propose that other</p>	<p>Tender for comprehensive “door stepping” awareness raising campaign of all properties in the borough, canvassers to include Sylheti and Somali speakers. (WRAP funded) Contractor appointed</p> <p>Phase 1 Door stepping 21,234 low rise properties completed</p>	<p>May 2007- Completed</p> <p>Aug 2007 Completed</p>	

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<p>methods of communication are also utilised using a range of media. The Recycling team should have a presence at the boroughs wide range of festivals and community events to provide information and recycling facilities to residents. A regular page or column in East End Life, highlighting some of the more innovative approaches to recycling should also be considered. An estate recycling road show may be another option.</p>	<p>Revisit non contact properties completed Re run participation survey (baseline March 2007) and evaluate</p>	<p>Sep 2007</p>	
	<p>Phase 2 High Rise properties completed Evaluation</p>	<p>Oct 2007</p>	
	<p>Recycling facilities to be available at all major events in the Borough. (9 major festivals serviced in summer period)</p>	<p>Feb 2008</p>	<p>Recycling facilities are now in place for all major events in the borough</p>
	<p>Continuing programme of publicity including East End Life, EID and Christmas campaigns</p>	<p>Mach 2008</p>	<p>A major recycling communications campaign is due to launch on 7th</p>
	<p>Muslim Women’s Environmental Collective established in partnership with the LSP programme includes:</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>October, to follow up on the new recycling services that the Council has implemented (food and garden waste collections)</p>
	<p>Befriending scheme targeting 80 families and monitoring behaviour change regarding recycling and sustainable living.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>The Council will be implementing a Recycling Champions scheme, after the launch. The recycling champions will help with the dissemination of information to residents.</p>
<p>Community outreach activities involving community radio and an address to 400 women on the purpose of the collective and sustainable living.</p>	<p>Jan 2008</p>		

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	<p>The Waste Education Project has a series of films and publications encouraging recycling and waste minimisation widely available.</p> <p>Waste Education pack distributed to all schools</p> <p>All major RSLs include recycling booklet in new tenant packs</p>	<p>Oct 2007</p> <p>Sept Completed</p> <p>On-going</p>	<p>A new schools recycling programme is being launched September 2008 which will concentrate on food waste recycling</p>
<p>R11 Schemes such as the community composting should be rolled out to all residents living in high rise accommodation, as well as schools. The Council should look at further ways to incentives residents to recycle.</p>	<p>Roll out community composting : Scheme is very labour intensive and not suitable for all high-rise blocks. It requires enthusiastic co-ordinators living at each block where a scheme is introduced. Schemes have already been implemented at: Mullet Gardens, Evelyn House, Cinnabar Wharf and Spelman Street, (Spitalfields HA)</p> <p>Matilda House</p> <p>Jubilee Crescent</p> <p>Develop financial incentive scheme for consideration by Members. (Subject to outcome of central government</p>	<p>June 2007 Completed</p> <p>Sept 2007 Completed</p>	<p>Despite the fact that the Council has implemented the food waste collection service, Tower Hamlets is continuing to promote home and community composting as the two services are complementary as cooked food waste is often not suitable for community or home composting but is collected as part of the food waste recycling service.</p>

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	consultation and necessary legislation).		