

Scrutiny Action Log 23-24

Name of Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Municipal Year: 2023-24

Reference	Action	Assigned to	Scrutiny Lead	Due Date	Response
19.06.2023	OSC requests the service to provide clarity on the £24 million being sent to GLA from the right to buy receipts and provide the committee with the source of this claim.	Karen Swift Rupert Brandon	OSC Chair	24.07.2023	In terms of financials, the council physically returned the below amount to DLUHC (MHCLG at the time): (includes 24 Million plus Interest) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018/19 - £2.2m • 2019/20 - £18.7m • 2020/21 - £5.5m
	OSC requests action being taken by LBTH to support businesses and traders in Roman Road Market	Simon Baxter Ellie Kershaw	OSC Chair	24.07.2023	We have a borough-wide training/grants programme, which isn't aimed specifically at Roman Road, but businesses and market traders located there are able to participate. <i>Any business or market trader located in one of our high streets, including Roman Road, can benefit from a support programme aimed at supporting high street businesses and market traders to establish new income streams and improve their performance. The programme is managed by the High Streets Team and involves businesses participating in a tailored training programme, a combination of 1-2-1 bespoke support and online training, followed by an opportunity to apply for a small grant upon completion of the training. The programme is currently in delivery, and to date 22 businesses have participated in the training</i>

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					<p><i>programme, of a target of 65. The target number of grants to be distributed is 55.</i></p> <p>In addition, we have a planned weeklong training course for new Market Traders in October. Once the traders are trained and ready to start with will launch a cohort of them at one of our Markets with Roman Road being one of those offered.</p>
24.07.2023	OSC requested a note on 25% recycling was stated a previous achievement but 2017 that figure was identified and considered not accurate. OSC recollects that there was 5% drop so wants clarification what went on and what led to this happening.	Simon Baxter Director of Public Realm	OSC Chair	16.08.2023	See appendix 1
	OSC requested a note on the details of financial support available for business traders and market traders in roman road and details on uptake	Ellie Kershaw Simon Baxter	OSC Chair	16.08.2023	<p>Of the 22 businesses who have participated in the business training and grant program to date, 6 are located in Roman Road East town centre.</p> <p>In addition, The High Streets Team ran a food hygiene training programme. Since May 2022, 1 business located in Roman Road East town centre has benefitted from the support.</p> <p><u>Eligibility Criteria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The business must be a registered UK business or sole trader with a high street business with a retail frontage (i.e., not an office-based or online business located within a high streets) within the borough's designated high street

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					<p>locations, or a council market trader trading at one of the borough's 10 street markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The business must have been trading for a minimum of 6 months.• The business must have less than 50 employees.• The business must not exceed Subsidy Control Allowance (formerly State Aid) threshold of £335,000 over 3-years.• The business cannot be in difficulty i.e., in administration, insolvent or subject to striking off notice.• The business cannot use the grant to support existing business as usual activity. E.g., buying stock• The business must commit to completing the tailored business support programme and take part in evaluation of the programme in advance of receiving the grant. <p><u>Award Criteria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants will be distributed in line with Mayoral manifesto and strategic plan 2022 – 2026 Priority 4 and it is planned the award criteria and appraisal of businesses addresses the following points (including but not limited to):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The distribution of grants will take a 'whole borough' approach and reflect the size and makeup of each high street location. The number of grants awarded in each high street location will reflect the total number of retail units, as well as the type of businesses
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				<p>to avoid a concentration of funding for one sector or in one high street.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The grant will enable the business to adapt their business model by developing an existing or establishing a new income stream. Examples of this may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To purchase or upgrade equipment. E.g., purchase a new coffee machine. ● To upskill and gain accreditation to authenticate the service offered. E.g., Barista training for staff. ● To deliver a new healthy or sustainable product line. ● The grant appraisal will account for the impact of Covid-19 on the businesses i.e., previous access to Government or Council support or the sectoral impact on the business. ● The grant's impact will be assessed over 6-12 months with a preference for measuring additionality i.e., new jobs created or saved, new healthy products, increase in income, business continuity and confidence. ● An EIA will be completed to assess the impact of the grants and ensure the number and type of beneficiaries reflect the borough profile. <p>A marketing campaign will be carried out to ensure there is awareness of the programme and businesses have equal opportunity to participate. The marketing campaign includes proactive recruitment to every business on the 9 key high</p>
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					streets, and all council market traders. The campaign will include a mix of online and in-person communication methods to ensure the beneficiaries are reflective of the borough's high streets and the impact of the funding is maximised. Underrepresented groups in our business community i.e female traders will be specifically targeted. Application will be via a simple online form and support to overcome language and accessibility barriers will be provided by the Council.
18.09.2023					
09.10.2023					
23.10.2023					
27.11.2023					
11.12.2023					

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08.01.2024					
29.01.2024					
05.02.2024					
19.02.2024					
25.03.2024					
22.04.2024					
20.05.2024					

Appendix 1

Background

This briefing provides an explanation of the drop (approx. 4%) in household recycling performance between 2016/17 (27.6%) and 2018/19 (23.2%).

Up until the end of September 2017 the council's waste disposal services were provided by Veolia. As part of the contract arrangement, some residual waste streams were delivered to a "dirty MRF" in Barking (run by McGraths) in order that recyclable material could be extracted and contribute to the overall recycling performance. Under the Veolia contract, the Council was provided with monthly reports that provided all of the relevant tonnage, compositional, recycling and energy recovery and end destination information in order that the WasteDataFlow reporting could be undertaken, and the Council's recycling performance calculated.

On 1st October 2017 a new waste disposal contract commenced with Cory Environmental, through which the same residual waste streams were delivered to the dirt MRF in Barking in order to continue recovering recyclable materials from the same residual waste streams as had been the case under the Veolia contract.

At the beginning of November 2017 Cory flagged up an issue in relation to the first monthly report that they were obliged to provide. Cory's report for the first month of the contract, October 2017, indicated that the amount of waste calculated as recovered for recycling from the residual waste streams amounted to approx. 10.3% (against the baseline figure of 16.2% at the end of the Veolia contract).

Information

As a result of this issue being flagged, a detailed analysis undertaken by Officers highlighted the causes for this drop were linked to changes in reported composition and tonnage of waste handled as part of the Waste Disposal Contract with Cory.

When combined with other issues experienced at that time, including poor recycling service delivery, lack of easy access to recycling facilities, increased property growth, increased waste growth and reduced levels of recycling participation there was a significant impact on recycling performance in 2017/18 and 2018/19. The key reasons for the change in recycling performance are set out below.

Key reasons for change

Impact of new waste disposal contract

The Cory waste treatment and disposal contract deals with residual waste and operation of Yabsley Street Re-Use and Recycling Centre (RRC). The majority of residual waste is transferred via river to the Belvedere Energy from Waste (Efw) plant in Bexley. However waste from street cleansing, fly tipping, bulky waste, market waste and contaminated recycling is taken to the McGraths "dirty" Material Recycling Facility (MRF) in Barking.

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Changes at the “Dirty” MRF	The McGraths “dirty” MRF recovers recycling from residual waste and whilst total residual waste inputs have remained constant, the level of reported recycling capture has reduced compared to when Veolia were using this facility.
Changes in Waste Composition	Detailed analysis and evaluation highlighted changes in the composition and reporting of recycling captured by the McGrath MRF. These changes, which had not previously been expected, have a significant impact on our reported performance.
More properties & waste but less recycling	The impact of increased housing growth, increased waste growth, limitations on current Veolia recycling contract performance, limitation to our recycling service offer and reduced levels of actual resident participation at the time all contributed to this drop in performance.
Change at Yabsley Street RRC	Tighter site controls introduced by Cory reduced the tonnage of non-household waste being accepted at this site from businesses. This led to a reduction in overall residual waste and recycling tonnage compared to when Veolia operated the site.
	<hr/> Impact on recycling performance <hr/>
23% household recycling rate in 2018/19	The recycling rate of approx. 23% in 2018/19 reflected the full year impact of the changes, including the previously unexpected impacts of changes to tonnage and composition of waste collected, processed and recycled as part of our new waste disposal contract. It set a revised baseline linked to delivery of service improvement and behaviour change initiatives starting in 2018/19
Less recovered via McGraths MRF	Whilst the overall tonnage of waste processed via the MRF has increased the tonnage of recycling recovered from street cleansing, fly tipping, market waste, bulky waste and contaminated recycling reduced from second half of 2017/18.
Change in waste composition to “Dirty” MRF inputs	Cory identified this change in early 2018, highlighting differences in composition of waste compared to previously reported data from Veolia. Following investigation and review action was taken to engage independent waste consultants to carry out composition analysis of inputs.
Results of composition analysis	Analysis of MRF inputs by Resource Futures highlighted reductions in the amount of recyclable content across all residual waste inputs from cleansing, fly tipping, market waste and contaminated recycling. This included significant reduction in the level of paper, card and cardboard in addition to an increase in food waste and non-recyclable waste.
Auditing and verification of results	Detailed analysis and auditing of waste data flow inputs was carried out to validate the changes in our 2017/18 performance. This led to a re-evaluation of expected performance in 2018/19 against the original forecast.

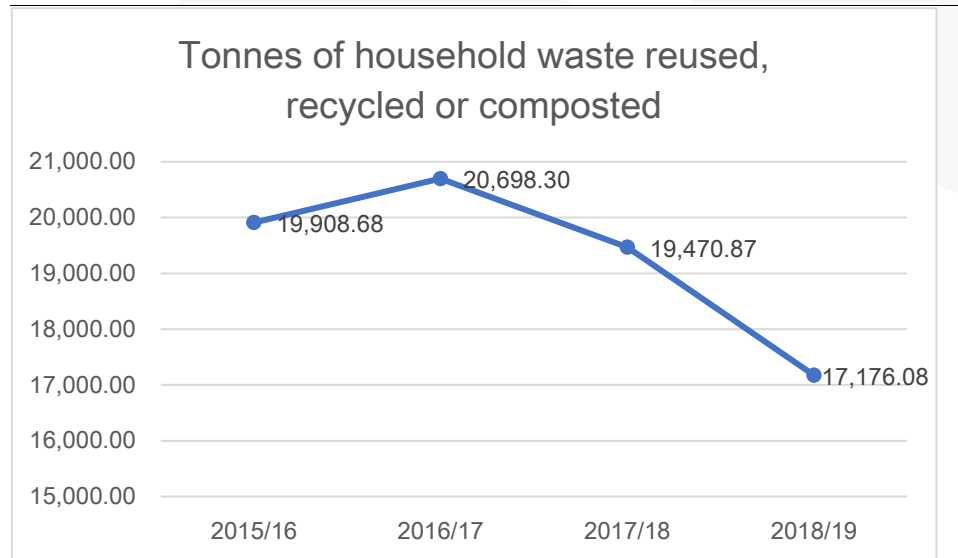
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Revised recycling rate reflects reality

Our revised recycling rate of approx. 23% household recycling in 2018/19 reflected the reality of the position at that time. With increasing housing growth, increased waste growth, limitations on current Veolia recycling contract performance, limitation to our potential recycling service offer, reduced levels of resident participation and increasing levels of contamination.

Total household recycling tonnage data from 2015/16 to 2018/19 shows impact on recycling performance

Recycling tonnage data



The table above shows the effect of the impacts described above on the annual tonnage figures of waste that was sent for reuse, recycling and composting.

Officers provided the Cabinet Member at the time with a Briefing Paper which set out the commentary given above.



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