

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

EXECUTIVE
8th December, 2003

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

FOR ACTION

NAME OF WARD: ALL

Report Title : WASTE & RECYCLING – OVERVIEW TASK GROUP

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report outlines the officer assessment of the recommendations of the Overview Task Group that examined Waste Management & Recycling in Brent.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Executive notes the officer response to the Task Group's recommendations.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 A number of the recommendations are only able to be implemented with additional resources. A number of these are the subject of bids put forward to be considered as part of the Council's revenue budget process for 2004/05, whilst some others are earmarked for potential bids for any external funding opportunities.

4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no immediate staffing implications as a result of this report.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 All the recommendations of the Task Group are aimed at environmental benefits through sustainable waste management.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Under section 30 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) the West London Waste Authority is the Waste Disposal Authority for Brent. Brent participates in this authority along with other London Boroughs and Brent is the Waste Collection Authority under the Act.
- 6.2 This means Brent has responsibility under the EPA for collection of household waste and commercial waste and it may collect industrial waste if authorised by the Waste Disposal Authority.
- 6.3 Waste collected by Brent has to be disposed of at such places as the Waste Disposal Authority directs.
- 6.4 Contracting out of the Recycling Bank Facility may fall within the European Procurement Directive depending on what responsibilities the contractor has. In any event the contract would need to comply with the Council's Standing Orders.
- 6.5 Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides that a local planning authority may enter into an agreement with any person interested in land in their area for the purpose of restricting or regulating the development or use of the land, either permanently or during such period as may be prescribed by the agreement and that such agreement may contain such incidental and consequential provisions (including financial ones) as appear to the local planning authority to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the agreement.
- 6.6 Under section 93 of the EPA the Council can issue litter control notices with a view to preventing accumulation of litter. The notices are served on occupiers of premises which are connected with street litter problems.

7.0 DETAILS

- 7.1 The Overview Task Group – Waste & Recycling reported its findings to the Overview Committee on 22nd October, 2003. The Task Group undertook a range of activities and heard from “expert witnesses” on some of the topics considered, providing a valuable contribution to the debate about waste related issues on a broad front. The Task Group met on thirteen occasions between August 2002 and July 2003.
- 7.2 The full list of twenty two recommendations, together with a response on each from the Director of Environment follows:
 - 7.2.1 **Recommendation:** Actively promote the consideration of alternative methods of disposal within the current West London Waste Authority decision making structures.

Response: Brent Officers do promote the consideration of alternative methods of waste disposal. However, the responsibility for waste disposal rests with a statutory waste disposal authority (West London Waste Authority [WLWA]) and is not directly under Brent's control. A number of suggestions have been made, though these have very high price tags. One alternative method of 'disposal' is composting, and Members will be aware that the Borough is introducing an organic waste collection service to parts of the Borough early in 2004.

- 7.2.2 **Recommendation:** Become proactively involved in the development of West London Waste Authority's Waste Strategy.

Response: Brent is represented at Member level through the Lead Member (Environment & Planning) and at officer level through the Environment Department's Waste Management & Recycling Manager.

- 7.2.3 **Recommendation:** A new civic amenity site to be developed at the Twyford site taking into consideration the factors identified by the Overview Task Group.

Response: Proposals for the Twyford site are being developed, and there will be planning and licensing issues to address. Additional Council funding will be required if the site is to be utilised in this way, and a bid for £250,000 has been made as part of the Council's revenue budget process for 2004/05.

- 7.2.4 **Recommendation:** Contract out management of the Borough's Recycling Banks to an external organisation.

Response: This recommendation may incur additional unbudgeted costs of around £20,000, for which a revenue growth bid has been made. This would become clearer after a procurement process that might mean a variation to an existing contract or a separate quotation exercise. Officers will consider this recommendation in more detail before proposing a way forward.

- 7.2.5 **Recommendation:** Include signage in the Recycling Banks contract specification.

Response: This will incur additional costs, indicatively between £500 and £1,000 per site for around 130 sites. A revenue budget growth bid for £110,000 has been made for this item.

- 7.2.6 **Recommendation:** Develop a collection scheme to service high rise buildings.

Response: Current funding only provides for around 40% of these properties to be serviced, and the collection service is being phased in, starting 25th October, 2003. Further funding (£150,000) for the other 60% of these properties has been bid for as part of the Council's revenue budget process for 2004/05.

- 7.2.7 **Recommendation:** Undertake a promotional campaign to raise awareness of the 'green box' scheme along the lines of good practice identified elsewhere

Response: Promotional campaigns have been ongoing, and further campaigns will be planned within existing resources.

7.2.8 **Recommendation**: Ensure any promotional activities are appropriate to the demographic composition of Brent.

Response: This will be considered as part of the Borough Communications Strategy.

7.2.9 **Recommendation**: Develop a new brand for Brent to raise awareness of recycling and waste minimisation.

Response: Officers will review what real difference this is likely to make. However, current staff and financial resources are being targeted at introducing new services and increasing participation in existing services.

7.2.10 **Recommendation**: Develop a programme of promotional and educational activities to engage the community in recycling and to raise awareness.

Response: Work with ten schools in the Borough has been underway since April 2003. A bid for £25,000 to fund a schools programme has been made as part of the Council's revenue budget for 2004/05.

7.2.11 **Recommendation**: Consider working in partnership with the National Rethink Rubbish Campaign and neighbouring authorities to develop a local campaign for Brent.

Response: Brent officers are currently working with the Greater London Authority, the Association of London Government, London ReMade, and the National Rethink Rubbish campaign as well as neighbouring Boroughs through the WLWA Recycling officers Group.

7.2.12 **Recommendation**: Seek partnership agreements with major retailers to start up retailer take-back schemes where members of the public can return packaging waste to the business with whom they dealt.

Response: This is not considered as a short-term priority alongside other demands and really needs to be driven nationally or regionally. Packaging Regulations are supported by officers, but as yet these have not seen an impact.

7.2.13 **Recommendation**: Seek external funding to deliver the programme of promotional and educational activities.

Response: Officers will explore any external funding opportunities that arise, e.g. through any further funding available from the London Recycling Fund.

7.2.14 **Recommendation**: Rewrite Brent's Design Guide for New Development (SPG17) to instruct developers about the need to supply proper recycling facilities in new developments.

Response: This will be considered when SPG17 is reviewed.

7.2.15 **Recommendation**: Rewrite Brent's Sustainable Design, Construction and Pollution Control Guidance (SPG19) to incorporate the principals of the Demolition Protocol.

Response: This SPG19 has now been reviewed and the Demolition Protocol principals were added. This Guidance was approved by Executive on 12th November 2003.

7.2.16 **Recommendation:** Consider the use of Section 106 contributions to fund recycling facilities in new developments.

Response: This will be considered by officers, as and when opportunities arise.

7.2.17 **Recommendation:** Ensure Brent's regeneration developments are designed and planned using the principles of sustainable waste management.

Response: This will be considered by officers, as and when opportunities arise.

7.2.18 **Recommendation:** Ensure refurbishment schemes in Brent are designed and planned using the principles of sustainable waste management.

Response: This will be considered by officers, as and when opportunities arise.

7.2.19 **Recommendation:** Conduct a waste audit of Brent Council and encourage other large public and private bodies to do the same. Set targets to minimise the amount of Brent Council's waste going to landfill.

Response: This will be considered next year (2004/05), subject to the success of a £15,000 growth bid..

7.2.20 **Recommendation:** Encourage, support and work in partnership with social businesses in Brent undertaking waste minimisation activities.

Response: Work has commenced in association with charity shops.

7.2.21 **Recommendation:** Encourage more recycling from the trade waste stream by directing companies to secure waste collection arrangements with companies that offer recycling facilities alongside other methods of disposal.

Response: This work will be considered for next year (2004/05), subject to the funding of an officer.

7.2.22 **Recommendation:** Engage local traders to reduce the amount of litter around their premises.

Response: This work will be considered for next year (2004/05), subject to the success of a revenue budget growth bid to fund an additional officer. Some limited activity has been undertaken in Wembley following changes in legislation that now allow local authorities to require evidence from traders that they have proper arrangements for the collection and/or disposal of their business waste. The additional staff resources are essential if this work is to be extended across the Borough where incorrect placement of trade waste is also evident.

8.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Report of the Overview Task Group – Waste Management & Recycling in Brent
- Report to Overview Committee – 22nd October, 2003

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Keith Balmer, StreetCare Unit, Brent House, 349-357 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6BZ, Telephone: 020 8937 5066.

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