



**Executive**  
23rd August 2006

**Report from the Director of  
Environment and Culture**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for  
West London Waste Authority**

Forward Plan Ref: E&C-06/07-006

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the process of agreeing a joint municipal waste strategy (JMWS) for the West London Waste Authority (WLWA).

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That approval be given to the adoption of the West London Waste Authority area Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy with the amendments shown at Appendix C2 and C3

**3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 In two tier waste authority areas, the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 s.32 (WET Act) places a statutory duty on waste collection and disposal authorities to produce a joint municipal waste strategy (JMWS) for their area. On 14 February 2005, a report was presented to Executive detailing the production of a Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (JMWS) for the West London Waste Authority (WLWA) area. The seven authorities involved (including Brent) have been working closely together on the JMWS assisted by the appointed specialist consultants, Environmental Resources Management Ltd (ERM).

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- 3.2 Last Autumn a draft JMWS was agreed by WLWA and put out to consultation. Some delay in reporting back arose whilst views were obtained from the Mayor of London who has a statutory power of direction over the JMWS. Some amendments (that do not affect the main thrust of the strategy) are proposed in this report to accommodate points made by the Mayor's Office. The other responses to the consultation are also reported. At its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006, WLWA adopted the JWMS as amended. Constituent boroughs are now recommended to adopt the JWMS.
- 3.3 The draft JMWS has been produced in accordance with statutory guidance that inescapably makes the full document very substantial because of the range of issues that have to be addressed. The draft JMWS is in two volumes: Volume 1 is the main strategy document; Volume 2 provides a number of detailed supporting technical reports. Both volumes are available on [www.westlondonwaste.gov.uk](http://www.westlondonwaste.gov.uk). Printed copies of the full draft strategy are available for Members. However, attached at Appendix A is the Introduction section of Volume 1 that gives some insight into the issues and explains the main thrust of the strategy and, in particular, contains the 'Objectives' and 'Policies'.
- 3.4 A key stage in the development process was a joint seminar held in August last year where the draft JMWS was received by WLWA's Members and boroughs' lead Members/portfolio holders and senior officers. The joint seminar proposed that the draft JMWS be put forward for a final round of public consultation. There had already been a considerable amount of consultation and community engagement as part of the strategy development process.
- 3.5 It was agreed that Brent and the other boroughs should undertake the consultation within their respective areas whilst WLWA should undertake consultation on behalf of the area as a whole with public authorities and other relevant most significant consultee, the Mayor of London. The Mayor's views are of particular significance because of the power he is given by the Greater London Authority Act 1999 s.356 to direct the seven authorities on the way they discharge their waste functions, which would include the function of producing a JMWS.
- 3.6 The Mayor's Office had indicated its wish to be consulted in two stages. First, they would express initial views on the draft JMWS that was put out for public consultation. Second, they would formally receive the JMWS for consideration once the seven authorities had jointly agreed the final version of the Strategy.
- 3.7 The joint seminar's proposals were agreed by WLWA's meeting last October. The consultation periods in all seven authorities had concluded by January. At that time the hope was that the collated responses received by all seven authorities would be reported to WLWA's meeting in April for consideration, with a view to the

Authority moving the draft JMWS forward for final adoption by all seven authorities.

- 3.8 However, the key response – that of the Mayor – was still awaited and the Mayor’s Office had requested a meeting with WLWA officers. It was thought essential to know if there were any significant points of difference that needed to be resolved as there would be little point in adopting a JMWS if it did not reasonably fit with the Mayor’s expectations.
- 3.9 A meeting on 13 April 2006 between WLWA officers accompanied by ERM and the Mayor’s Policy Director – Environment identified a number of matters in the draft JMWS where the Mayor’s Office sought clarification and/or amplification. The matters raised included the desirability in Volume 1 of the draft JMWS to make it clearer that any future procurement will be technology neutral; to show that the residual waste options appraisal had resulted in gasification being a very close runner-up as a disposal treatment method to Mechanical Biological Treatment and Energy from Waste; and to include a reference to waste transport systems. In Volume 2 the focus was on the Technical Report 3 ‘Assessment of Options for Residual Waste Management’ where the principle change sought was the inclusion of a sensitivity analysis on compliance with policy in the Mayor’s strategy to supplement the original analysis on compliance with national waste policy.
- 3.10 The view of WLWA officers was that the matters raised could be accommodated within the draft JMWS without its import changing in any way and, indeed, some clarifications would be an improvement. Accordingly, it was agreed that the Mayor’s Office would be sent amendments for consideration. In a subsequent letter of 26 May (at Appendix B) the Mayor’s Office raised some further minor matters that seemed not to require amendment to the JMWS.
- 3.11 With ERM’s assistance, the requisite amendments were made to the draft JMWS and, after consultation with constituent borough officers, sent to the Mayor’s Office under cover of the Director’s 7 June letter (at Appendix C1) that also responded to the further matters in the 26 May letter from the Mayor’s Office. The proposed amendments to Volume 1 of the JMWS are shown at Appendix C2 and to Volume 2 at Appendix C3. It is hoped that the Mayor’s Office will shortly notify its satisfaction with the proposed amendments
- 3.12 Other responses to the consultation are summarized at Appendix D. The responses have been collated and grouped into relevant subject areas and, where appropriate, a comment in response has been made in relation to each. Not unexpectedly, many of the contributions focus on individual borough activities in the collection of waste that go somewhat beyond the remit of the JMWS – though they are nonetheless useful and have been given consideration by Brent and the other boroughs concerned. Representations made regarding

technical work undertaken in development of the strategy have been considered and appropriate amendments made.

- 3.13 Members are asked to note the consultation responses and other matters in this report and to agree to adopt the JMWS with the amendments shown at Appendix C2 and C3

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The adoption of the JMWS is closely concerned with the removal of the Direction [made in November 2004 by the Mayor of London. The effect of the Direction is to prevent WLWA from procuring any new waste treatment services until the JMWS has been produced. The pressures of landfill allowances and the landfill tax escalator are making it of increasing urgency that the Mayor is persuaded to remove the Direction. Any further delay could have significant financial consequences for WLWA and the six constituent boroughs.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Under section 32 of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003, waste authorities in a two tier area must put in place a joint strategy for the management of waste from households and similar waste. They must then keep this policy under review. Brent is within a two tier area as it is the waste collection authority and WLWA acts as the waste disposal authority.

#### **6.0 Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 None

#### **7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

- 7.1 None

#### **8.0 Environmental Implications**

- 8.1 Adopting a Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for the collection and disposal of the Borough's domestic waste will not only secure a sustainable disposal route for this waste, but also help the Council deliver its wider environmental objectives.
- 8.2 Sustainable management of waste reduces the Borough's Climate Change contribution, and helps close the materials loop. Landfill waste releases CO<sub>2</sub> and methane, both powerful "greenhouse gases". Adopting sustainable waste treatment processes other than landfill, such as composting and anaerobic digestion, reduces gas emissions and saves raw materials thus avoiding all accompanying environmental

impacts.

- 8.3 The adoption of a Joint Municipal Waste Strategy will, perhaps most importantly, help reduce the amount of household waste being sent to landfill.

### **Background Papers**

*WLWA Draft JWMS Vol 1*

*WLWA Draft JWMS Vol 2*

*Report to the West London Waste Authority, 28 June 2006 "Joint Municipal Waste Strategy"*

### **Contact Officers**

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Chris Whyte, Streetcare Service Unit, Brent House, 020 8937 5342

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