

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Port Health and Environmental Services	24 September 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Reduction and Recycling Plan	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Carolyn Dwyer, Director of Built Environment	<b>For decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jim Graham, Assistant Director, Cleansing	

### Summary

The Mayor of London has published the London Environment Strategy (LES) which sets out the vision for London in 2050, within which waste is a main focus. The LES has identified minimum recycling service requirements by 2020 which the City of London (CoL) is already achieving. In addition to minimum service requirements, targets have been set for London to cut food and packaging waste, achieve a 50% recycling rate for Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW), send no biodegradable and recyclable waste to landfill and for London to manage all of its own waste by 2026.

The CoL is required to devise a Reduce and Recycling Plan (RRP) which sets out actions and local realistic but stretching targets until 2022 to help drive performance towards achieving the London-wide goals set out in the LES.

The RRP has been reviewed by the Greater London Authority (GLA) to ensure conformity with helping to contribute to the LES objectives. The CoL is already achieving minimum service requirements and has a Zero Waste to Landfill policy in place meaning we are compliant with some of the LES targets. In accordance with the RRP process, a draft RRP was submitted to the GLA and recommendations have been accounted for. The RRP states that the CoL aspires to achieve a 32% recycling rate by 2022, and 35% by 2025, benchmarked against a recycling rate of 29% in 2018.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the Reduction and Recycling Plan

### Main Report

#### Background

1. In May 2018, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, published the London Environment Strategy (LES) which sets a vision of London in 2050. The LES covers many environmental aspects such as mitigating climate change,

improving air quality, transitioning to a circular economy and improving waste management in London.

2. The LES sets waste objectives, targets and minimum service levels for London which includes objectives to;
  - Drive resource efficiency to reduce waste focussing on food waste and single use plastic packaging
  - Maximise recycling rates
  - Reduce environmental impact of waste activities which have an impact on greenhouse gases and air pollution
  - Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all waste produced in our region
3. Some of the key London-wide targets are to;
  - Cut food waste and packaging waste by 50% per person by 2030
  - Achieve a 50% recycling rate for Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW)
  - Send no biodegradable and recyclable waste to landfill by 2026
  - London to manage 100% of all waste produced by 2026
4. The LES also sets out minimum household waste service provisions each Local Authority and the City of London (here-on-in referred to as Local Authority) should provide to its residents by 2020. This includes providing all properties receiving a “kerbside” recycling service with a separate food waste collection service. Additionally, all properties should receive a collection of a minimum of six main materials for recycling.
5. The Mayor of London has not set local targets for each Local Authority to reach the targets as set out in paragraph 3. However, each Local Authority is required to develop a Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) and set its own local realistic but stretching targets which contribute to achieving the overarching London wide-targets set out in the LES.
6. The RRP which is required to be developed should enable the London-wide objectives, policies and proposals to be translated into action into the City of London. The Mayor of London has identified that the RRP should include a myriad of actions including reviewing policies, service arrangements and implementing behaviour change activities.
7. The development of London Local Authorities RRP’s has been set out in three phases; the City of London is in phase 2 as we are already providing the minimum recycling service levels. The first RRP period is from 2018 – 2022. There will be a second RRP period from 2022 – 2026 which will be the subject of a future report to your committee.

## **Current Position**

8. The City of London already complies with some, but not all of the London wide targets; we provide the minimum household waste service provisions of providing all properties with a recycling service for the six main materials. In addition to this, we also provide a separate food waste service to properties where we are able to do so (noting that we do not provide a “traditional” kerbside collection to properties but provide this service where space allows in communal bin stores). Due to the nature of housing stock in the Square Mile, it is envisaged that it will not be practicable nor possible to increase the number of existing flatted properties receiving food waste recycling services however the provision of this service is kept under review on a case by case basis.
9. Similarly, the CoL already has a Zero Waste to Landfill Policy in place meaning no recyclable or biodegradable waste is sent to landfill.
10. Due to the nature of the new Waste, Street Cleansing and Ancillary Services contract with Veolia Environmental Services (here-on-in, “the Waste Contract”), the CoL is already compliant with the requirements to comply with ULEZ regulations to improve air quality.
11. Commercial waste currently does not count towards the CoL LACW – this is because the CoL sold the commercial portfolio as part of the new Waste Contract and therefore has no “control” over the waste. However the Greater London Authority (GLA) have specifically requested that actions taken to engage with businesses within the Square Mile are considered as part of the RRP.

## **Proposals**

12. In accordance with guidance provided by the GLA and Resource London, Officers have created an RRP for the City of London which is set out into the following four different categories; drive resource efficiency to cut waste (minimising waste), maximising recycling rates, reducing environmental impact and maximising local waste sites. The aim of the RRP is to ensure conformity with helping to achieve the LES targets which aren’t already being achieved in the Square Mile.
13. As part of the RRP process, Officers have set local stretching targets, benchmarked against performance in 2018 – the year in which the first tranche of London boroughs were required to commence their RRP’s. The CoL’s targets include;
  - Recycling rate; 32% by 2022 and 35% by 2025 (29% recycling rate in 2018)
  - Total annual household waste per head; 428kg by 2022 and 424kg by 2025 (482kg in 2018)
14. Some of the actions, tasks and projects which could potentially help the CoL achieve our future targets include;
  - Review communication literature and adopt “best practice” messaging for new leaflets

- Running food waste awareness campaigns such as TRiFOCAL's "Small Change Big Difference" Campaign in October 2019
- Investigate potential to trial a "roaming" Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in the Square Mile
- Trial recycling messages on general waste litter bins on CoL streets
- Review potential to shutting chutes, where feasible, to increase recycling

15. In accordance with the GLA guidance and process for collating the CoL RRP, the CoL's RRP has been reviewed by the GLA who have provided feedback to confirm that the actions identified conform with the Mayor of London's vision as set out in the LES.. The CoL RRP can be found in Appendix 1.

16. The sign off process for the CoL's RRP is as follows; Committee approval is required at this September PHES Committee, followed by sign off by the Deputy Mayor of London, Shirley Rodrigues by end of September 2019.

17. The Mayor of London's preference is that all RRP's should be publicly available to enable collaborative working between Local Authorities. The purpose of this is to highlight how Local Authorities are working together to achieve the common goals and targets as set out in the LES.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

18. The development of the RRP supports the Corporate Strategic Plan to shape outstanding environments. It also aligns with Outcome 2 of the Responsible Business Strategy (Planet is Healthier), Objective 8 of the DBE Business Plan and all nine Objectives of the City's own Waste Strategy 2013 - 2020. Additionally, the RRP also aligns with the CoL's recently approved policy to minimise plastic and unnecessary waste.

19. Actions identified in the RRP would also help support the Air Quality, Climate Change and Transport policies.

20. The next version of the City's Waste Strategy, due in 2020/2021, will incorporate the actions of the RRP and be the subject of a future report to your committee.

### **Financial Implications**

21. The actions identified in the RRP cover a four year period to 2022, which includes actions that have already occurred. At present, budgets haven't been allocated to cover the lifespan of the RRP. This means that actions may need to change to account for budgetary constraints or funding may need to be sourced to cover actions as required. Significant changes to the RRP may need to be communicated to the GLA to ensure ongoing conformity with the LES.

22. At the time of writing, the CoL new Waste Contract has been in operation for approximately six months. Some of the actions directly relate to our partnership

working with Veolia. Some of the timescales for the actions identified may change pending the Review Meeting due in Q3 2019.

## **Conclusion**

23. The Mayor of London has published the LES which sets out the vision for London in 2050, within which waste is a main focus. The LES has identified minimum recycling service requirements by 2020 which the CoL is already achieving. In addition to minimum service requirements, targets have been set for London to cut food and packaging waste, achieve a 50% recycling rate for LACW, send no biodegradable and recyclable waste to landfill and for London to manage all of its own waste by 2026.
24. Each Local Authority is required to devise a RRP which sets out actions and local realistic targets until 2022 to help drive performance towards achieving the goals set out in the LES. The CoL RRP aspires to achieve a 32% recycling rate by 2022 and 35% by 2025.
25. The RRP has been reviewed by the GLA to ensure conformity towards London's common goals. A new RRP will be required in 2022 to set out the actions for 2022 – 2026 and this will be the subject of a future report in due course.
26. In accordance with the GLA sign off process, the CoL RRP needs to be approved by the "Portfolio Holder" i.e. your Committee and also the Deputy Mayor of London, Shirley Rodrigues to ensure conformity with the LES objectives.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – The City of London Reduction and Recycling Plan

### **Jim Graham**

Assistant Director, Cleansing

T: 020 7332 4972

E: [jim.graham@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:jim.graham@cityoflondon.gov.uk)