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| Committee(s): Port Health and Environmental Services – For decision | Dated: 30/05/2023 |
| Subject: Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023 - 2025 | Public |
| Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly? | 4,5, 11 |
| Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending? | N |
| If so, how much? | N/A |
| What is the source of Funding? | N/A |
| Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department? | N/A |
| Report of: Executive Director Environment | For Decision |
| Report author: Joe Kingston, Assistant Director Gardens and Cleansing | |

Summary

The City of London Corporation is required to produce a Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) for 2023 – 2025 setting out actions and targets which help drive our own recycling performance and contribute towards achieving the London-wide goals in the Mayor of London’s Environment Strategy (LES).

The City Corporation’s RRP has been reviewed by the Greater London Authority (GLA) to ensure conformity and was determined to be a comprehensive RRP that includes a good number and range of actions across the main themes of the London Environment Strategy.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023 - 2025

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 Mayor of London has not set local targets for each Local Authority. However, each Local Authority was required to develop a Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) for 2018 – 2022 which set its own local realistic but stretching targets which contributed to achieving the overarching London-wide targets.
 5. In accordance with GLA requirements, the City Corporation, like all London boroughs, created an RRP for 2018 – 2022 which was approved at this committee in September 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on all London Local Authorities ability to deliver some actions in RRP's as many of the communications campaigns involved events and face-to-face engagement.
 6. As a result of both the impact of the pandemic and potential legislative changes, the GLA have redefined RRP timescales and have asked all London boroughs, and the City Corporation, to create a new RRP for 2023-2025 (and not 2022 – 2026 as had previously been set out in the LES).
 7. The new 2023 – 2025 RRP, which is the subject of this report, contains several actions including reviewing policies, service arrangements, implementing behaviour change activities, and readiness for potential legislative changes required by the Resource and Waste Strategy.

Current Position

8. The City Corporation's 2023-2025 RRP is Appendix 1 of this report. It contains a dashboard with a set of performance targets and a list of 32 actions covering themes such as maximising recycling, waste reduction, and reducing environmental impacts.
9. Some of the actions, tasks and projects set out in the RRP include:
 - Encourage Circular Economy behaviours in residents by continuing with Give and Take Days, Tech Takebacks, repair workshops etc.
 - Trial bulky reuse collections to enable reuse of items.
 - Campaigns to divert recycling away from street bins.
 - Identify low performing properties and undertake targeted communications.
 - Increase participation in food recycling services and run food waste reduction campaigns.
 - Engage with businesses to promote requirements of Resource and Waste Strategy.
 - Review Circular Economy statements as part of the Planning Process to reduce carbon emissions/embedded carbon.

10. In accordance with the GLA guidance and process for collating RRP, the City Corporation's RRP has been reviewed by the GLA whose feedback stated the document was a "comprehensive RRP that includes a good number and range of actions across the main themes of the London Environment Strategy" and included a "good level of detail included within actions, with a particularly strong focus on waste reduction, engaging with businesses/commercial properties on waste reduction and recycling and circular economy initiatives" as well as "a number of actions which demonstrate innovation".
11. The City Corporation's RRP is compliant with the minimum household waste service provisions required by the GLA. This includes provision of recycling services to 100% of household properties and providing a separate food waste service to kerbside properties. As the City Corporation does not have any traditional "kerbside" properties a food waste service is provided where space allows. 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.
12. The City Corporation is also fully compliant with the ULEZ regulations to improve air quality by having an electric fleet of RCV operating on household rounds.
13. Although commercial waste does not contribute towards the City Corporation's Local Authority Collected Waste (because it is delivered via a commercial partnership with Veolia), the GLA requested the RRP contains actions to engage with businesses within the Square Mile as these will help contribute to achieving the Mayor of London's municipal waste recycling target of 65% by 2030.

Options

14. Option 1 - approve the City Corporation's RRP for 2023 – 2025 as agreed by the GLA and included in Appendix 1. **This is the recommended option.**
15. Option 2 – do not approve the City Corporation's RRP. This would require a re-drafting of the RRP, re-submission to the GLA and bringing the document back to a subsequent meeting of this committee. **This is not recommended.**

Proposals

16. Members are asked to approve the adoption of this RRP. This will provide a clear structure and framework for workstreams up to 2025 as well as compliance with the LES. Additionally, actions within the RRP support other key City Corporation strategies, including the Climate Action Strategy.

Key Data

17. Officers have identified stretching targets for the RRP which includes:
 - Recycling rate - 32% by 2024/25 (28.9% recycling rate in 2019/20 baseline year).
 - Total annual household waste per head - 399g by 204/25 (407kg in 2019/20 baseline year).

18. Officers have identified that some of the biggest gains to contribute to the 3% increase to the recycling rate that is required should come from diverting bulky waste to reuse, increasing participation in food recycling, and focussed/targeted communications to low performing properties.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

19. The RRP 2023-2025 supports actions 4, 5, and 11 of the Corporate Plan. It also supports the delivery of the Climate Action Strategy, Single Use Plastic Policy, Responsible Business Strategy, Air Quality Strategy, and the Local Plan. The Circular Economy Strategy, which is currently in development, will also align with actions contained within the RRP.

20. Financial implications – All of the current actions contained within the RRP are funded through the local risk budget.

21. Resource implications – none

22. Legal implications – none

23. Risk implications – none

24. Equalities implications – individual Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out for all relevant programmes and projects within the RRP as they are planned and performed.

25. Climate implications – the RRP supports the delivery of the Climate Action Strategy

26. Security implications - none

Conclusion

27. The City Corporation have produced a comprehensive RRP that includes a good number of actions across a range of key themes. It contains realistic but stretching targets which conform with the Mayor of London's Environment Strategy. Approval of the RRP will provide a clear framework to enable officers to progress with programmes and projects to increase recycling and minimise waste within the square mile.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – The City of London Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023 - 2025

Background Papers

Reduction and Recycling Plan (PHES Committee 24 September 2019)

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