

Projects Update

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Authority's efficiency and joint working projects.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1) *The Authority is asked to note the information within this report.*

1. Introduction - The waste programme has six key themes, initiated by Officers and delivered in conjunction with the constituent Boroughs to develop collaborative working in West London. A Project Board is established for governance of the programme through the Borough Partnership and the Environment Directors Board.

2. Resources and Waste Strategy (Collections and Processing) - The Resources and Waste Strategy phase one consultations have closed and the summary of the responses has been published. The majority of responses are in favour of the general approach taken by the Government and broadly aligned with the WLWA response.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – There is strong support for the implementation of an EPR scheme with full net cost recovery on all obligated items covered in the packaging definition. This includes the collection and processing costs of obligated household packaging and some commercial and industrial packaging. There is strong support for the costs of EPR to be linked to the design of packaging to encourage improved designs for both reuse and recycling as well as the initial reduction in raw material use. There was majority support for payments to local authorities to be linked to a minimum performance/collection standard in order to qualify for the EPR payments.

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – There is strong support for the introduction of a DRS with the majority supporting an 'all in approach' covering all containers regardless of size for consistency of application across the packaging market. This will be modelled by officers including potential loss of revenue to Local Authorities.

Consistency – There is strong support for greater consistency in the collection methodologies across local authorities, particularly establishing a core set of materials: Glass, Paper and Card, Plastic bottles, Pots tubs and trays and steel or aluminium cans. There is also support for materials to be collected separated at the kerbside and support for a minimum weekly food waste collection separate to other streams and a free garden waste service, however the free garden waste service is currently opposed by Local Authorities on cost grounds. There is concern raised widely regarding consistency of collection between housing types such as flats and properties with communal collections.

3. Resources and Waste Sector Deal (Data, Sites, Processing and Collections)

A Sector Deal is a collaborative model of working established by the Government's Industrial Strategy, which enables any sector to come together to negotiate a deal with the government to boost efficiency and productivity.

The Resources and Waste Sector Deal Consultation has been drafted by the Resources Council comprising of representatives from Materials and Design, Producers, End users of materials, Recycling, waste and logistics service providers, Energy and recovery and Policy / Regulators.

The Deal focuses on the road map to deliver a resource sector to replace the current waste industry. The key themes identified in the transition largely mirrors the WLWA project themes.

- Data and Design (data backed business cases for investment in the sector)
- Infrastructure (whole system capacity and support services)
- Places (sites – long term investment in regional and national transformation to deliver circular economy)
- People (develop existing people and bringing in new talent to accelerate sector innovation)

The key offer is to deliver a joined-up resource and waste approach across all areas from national, regional and local infrastructure and system design. The sector is seeking to decarbonise and establish a sustainable circular economy for resource within the UK where possible.

In return the Sector is asking the Government for supporting the development and funding of new innovative technologies and testing hubs for demonstrator plants required to manage new materials and convert end-of-life materials to new raw materials for use in the UK. The Government will also be asked to maintain conditions required for additional private investment through stable regulation, policy and fiscal drivers.

4. Project Areas

Data –The next phase of the Data Project is to ensure we can measure the impacts of legislative change such as the Resources and Waste Strategy as well as general waste market variance over the medium and long term. WLWA is working with Officers from Richmond on moving the Waste Data Flow reporting for the Borough to WLWA.

Waste Minimisation – Further details are provided in the Waste Minimisation Update.

Collections – The savings model is being updated following the consistency, deposit return scheme and extended producer responsibility consultations to understand the potential impacts and inform our response to secondary consultations.

Procurements – Further details are provided in the contracts update.

HRRCs – Officers are currently working with four Boroughs across five sites that have been identified as participating in the initial harmonisation project within the next c.18months with sites expected to join as follows; Ealing (two sites, Jul 20), Richmond (12months after approval) and Hounslow (tbc).

Recycling - Following the Resources and Waste Strategy consultations, new plastics recycling plants are being created by the private sector and there is some uncertainty in the municipal dry recycling market. Officers have initiated further soft market testing to investigate and test the long-term approach needed to deliver the Boroughs' objectives.

5. Risk - Further consultations and a timetable for expected legislation is expected, related to the Resources and Waste Strategy, which must be considered during the development of all projects.

6. Financial Implications - There are no financial issues arising from this report.

7. Staffing Implications – None

8. Health and Safety Implications - None

9. Legal Implications - None

10. Joint Waste Management Strategy Implications

The Projects mentioned in this report meet the Authority's Joint Waste Management Strategy policies listed below:

Policy 7: The West London Waste Authority and constituent Boroughs will seek to provide waste management services that offer good value, that provide customer satisfaction and that meet and exceed legislative requirements.

Policy 8: The West London Waste Authority and constituent Boroughs will work together to achieve the aims of this strategy and are committed to share equitably the costs and rewards of achieving its aims.

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