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|  | <h2>Environment Committee</h2> <h3>12 May 2016</h3> |
| Title | Recycling and Waste Strategy 2016 to 2030 |
| Report of | Commissioning Director - Environment |
| Wards | All |
| Status | Public |
| Urgent | No |
| Key | Yes |
| Enclosures | Appendix 1 – Summary strategy document Appendix 2 – Municipal Recycling and Waste Strategy 2016 – 2030 Appendix 3 – Recycling and Waste Detailed Action Plan |
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Summary

The Council recognises that the recycling and waste services in Barnet have a major role to play in its continued drive to provide a more sustainable future for the built and natural environment of the Borough.

The Recycling and Waste Strategy 2016 – 2030 has been developed to provide future vision for services which reflects the changing nature of the Borough, with increased population, housing and commercial infrastructure. The strategy will also provide a strategic and policy framework to assist in the delivery of the Environment Committee's Commissioning Plan 2015/16 to 2019/20. It supports the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2020 targets, which includes the aim of being a Leader in London for recycling, with over 50% of waste collected will be reused, recycled or composted in 2020.

In addition, the strategy provides a longer term view of recycling and waste collection services, and will assist in the Borough's strategic development of future assets, both in Borough and as part of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA)

The strategy has been developed from a series of evidence based assumptions. A public consultation on the draft strategy and the assumptions that underpin the strategy took place between 18 January 2016 and 13 March 2016. The results of the consultation have been reflected in updates to the final waste strategy and the development of its accompanying Action Plan.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Environment Committee approves the adoption of the Recycling and Waste Strategy 2016 – 2030 and its action plan**
- 2. That the Environment Committee request the Commissioning Directors for Environment and Growth & Development ensure that planning guidance and policy is updated to ensure that all new developments in Barnet are designed to enable their new residents to recycle 70% of their waste, both through recycling collection facilities outside the flat and suitable storage for recycling and waste inside the flats**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Council is taking steps to address the demands of a developing Borough and the impacts on its built and natural environments through developing a number of strategies, frameworks and policies. These include strategies for recycling and waste, parks and open spaces, enforcement against environmental crime as well as a new cleansing framework. These will ensure that we are well placed to respond to these challenges now, and are prepared to be able to manage the issues in the future.
- 1.2 Waste strategies exist at national, regional (London) and sub-regional (North London) level but Barnet Council does not currently have its own municipal Recycling and Waste Strategy. It is considered to be an appropriate time to be planning ahead for the recycling and waste services as Barnet's recycling rate in 2014/15 was 37.95% and there is a 50% recycling target in 2020. It is envisaged that future targets will be even more challenging whilst local authority budgets are planned to reduce over the medium term. Barnet is anticipating significant household growth so demand on services will continue to rise and this strategy will help to deliver the Environment Committee's Commissioning Plan 2015/16 to 2019/20 which includes the targets in 2019/20 of:
 - 50% of household waste to be sent for reuse, recycling and composting
 - 502 kilograms of household residual waste per household.

Municipal Recycling and Waste Strategy

- 1.3 Municipal waste is controlled and affected by many different influences. It was felt that the most logical way of developing the waste strategy was to construct a series of assumptions under the headings of: legislation and targets, residents, local facilities and technology, market dynamics, economic and financial outlook, local demographics and the built environment, and these would be the foundation on which to develop the waste strategy.
- 1.4 A final set of assumptions has been produced and evidence has been collated and is available to view on the Open Barnet data portal <https://open.barnet.gov.uk/publisher/municipal-waste---recycling-strategy> .The list of Final Assumptions can be seen within the strategy Appendix 2.

- 1.5 Two assumptions have been updated between draft status and this committee report i) "North London Waste Authority costs will be paid for through a menu pricing arrangement by 2021" has been updated to "North London Waste Authority costs will continue to be paid for through a menu pricing arrangement" ii) "Waste production is linked to the economy. When disposable income grows waste production increases. Therefore there is likely to be growth in household waste as the economy grows". Has been updated to "There are conflicting views on whether waste production is linked to the economy. As such when disposable income grows waste production may or may not increase. Therefore we will need to closely monitor waste per household figures as Barnet experiences a growth in households"
- 1.6 The Strategy and its summary can be seen in Appendix 1 and 2. The overarching goal of the strategy is to recycle 50% of Municipal waste by 2020. There are four aims which support this:
- Provide services that help our rapidly growing community to manage its environmental impact
 - Manage the rising cost of waste collection and disposal by designing services that promote recycling and reuse and are integrated, intuitive and efficient.
 - Encourage all Barnet's residents, businesses and visitors to take responsibility for the waste that they produce, using enforcement where necessary
 - Embrace new technologies and ways of working that help us deliver services that respond better to the needs of our community.

Consultation

- 1.7 On 11 January 2016 Environment Committee approved the draft Recycling and Waste Strategy for consultation. The consultation took place between 18 January 2016 and 13 March 2016. A summary of the consultation results can be seen below and the full report can be found on the open data portal. Responses to the draft strategy, through the formal consultation process, using an on-line questionnaire, and paper based questionnaire available upon request. A number of written responses to the questionnaire were also received.
- 1.8 There were 73 responses to the consultation questionnaire. All responses were through online questionnaire, no paper questionnaires were returned. The majority of on-line questionnaire responses were received from residents. Over 74% of respondents identified themselves as Barnet Residents, while a further 2% identified themselves as representing a voluntary/community organisation.
- 1.9 Those who responded to the general consultation closely match Barnet's population profile in terms of gender. In terms of age, however, respondents in their mid-20s to mid-40s are slightly over represented, as are those over 65. Those under 25 are significantly under represented, and those between 24 and 65 are slightly under represented. There is also a significant over representation of white respondents, and a significant under representation of Asian respondents and a slight under representation of Black respondents. Disabled respondents are also slightly under represented.

1.10 The consultation focused questions in three key areas

- The aims and objectives in the Recycling and Waste Strategy
- The assumptions on which the Recycling and Waste Strategy are built
- How services could be delivered in the future

1.11 **The consultation showed:** In response to the aims of strategy the consultation process confirmed that respondents agreed with the four key aims of the strategy, as can be seen in the table below:

| The extent to which respondents agreed or disagreed with each of the strategy aims? | Agree | | Disagree | |
|---|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| | % | Number | % | Number |
| Provide recycling and waste services that help our rapidly growing community to manage its environmental impact | 90% | 66 | 3% | 2 |
| Manage the rising cost of waste collection and disposal by designing services that promote recycling and reuse and are integrated, intuitive and efficient | 89% | 64 | 3% | 2 |
| Encourage all Barnet's residents, businesses and visitors to take responsibility for recycling the waste that they produce, using enforcement where necessary | 79% | 57 | 7% | 5 |
| Embrace new technologies and ways of working that help us deliver services that respond better to the needs of our community. | 86% | 62 | 1% | 1 |

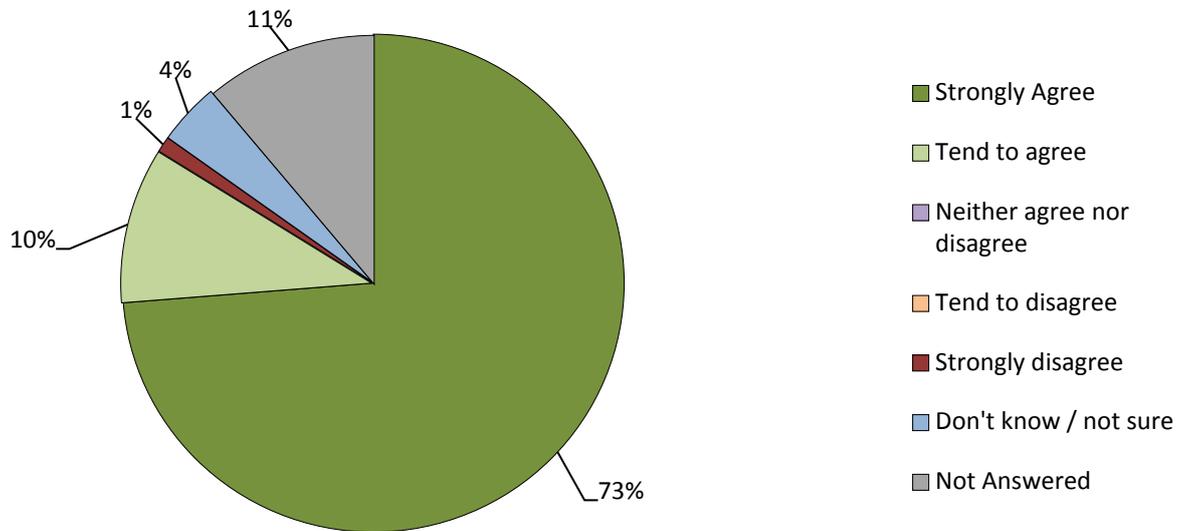
We will: keep the aims of the draft strategy and embed them within the action plan and development of recycling and waste services

1.12 **The consultation showed:** There was strong support for the principles of the waste hierarchy, with support for each of the aims with between 73% and 84% of respondents strongly agreeing or tended to agree. The most supported part, with 84% of respondents strongly agreeing or tended to agree was "Recycling and composting". This may be due to it being the area where residents can most easily see an impact of their actions.

We will: ensure that the principles of the waste hierarchy are embedded within the action plan and development of recycling and waste services

1.13 **The consultation showed:** Respondents strongly agreed that businesses should have and use recycling facilities, as shown in the graph below.

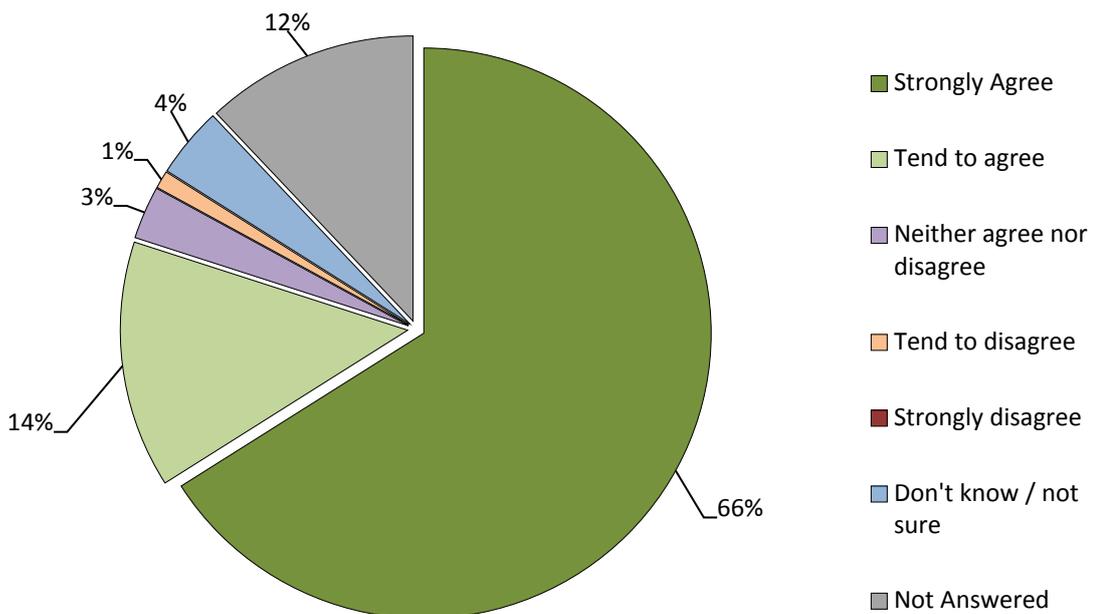
The extent to which respondents agreed or disagreed with the statement that the businesses of Barnet should be given the facilities to recycle and be expected to recycle as much of their waste as possible



We will: Implement a new recycling scheme for commercial waste, and ensure that all of our business customers recycle.

1.14 **The consultation showed:** Respondents strongly agreed that new developments in Barnet should be designed to enable their new residents to recycle 70% of their waste, both through recycling facilities outside the flat and suitable storage for recycling and waste inside the flats.

The extent to which respondents agreed or disagreed with the statement that Council should ensure through the planning process that new developments can recycle 70% of their waste



We will: Work to implement planning guidance and policy in Barnet that ensures that all new developments in Barnet are designed to enable their new residents to recycle 70% of their waste. This will be through, both through recycling collection facilities outside the flat and suitable storage for recycling and waste inside the flats. We will engage with developers to understand how bring about such design and were improved Council guidance can help.

- 1.15 **The consultation showed:** In relation to specific assumptions on waste growth 49% believed that that as the economy becomes stronger people are more likely to have more waste. Likewise 49% did not agree that households with fewer people in them, i.e. couples or a single person produce more waste per person. When combined with the comments it seems that a number of their views may be due to a belief that waste production cannot be generalised in this way, or based on their own experiences.

We will: ensure that waste growth statistics are monitored to understand where waste minimisation methods can be targeted.

- 1.16 **The consultation showed:** In relation to ways which would help to increase recycling respondents gave feedback on a number of different ideas. The most supported idea with 75% agreeing was “Increased communications to residents about recycling and waste”. All but one idea had a higher level of agreement than disagreement from respondents.

| To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of statement? | Agree | | Disagree | |
|--|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| | % | Number | % | Number |
| Having a smaller black bin | 39% | 29 | 22% | 16 |
| Having the current black bin collected less often but having recycling and food still collected weekly | 41% | 30 | 32% | 23 |
| Increased communications to residents about recycling and waste | 75% | 55 | 3% | 2 |
| Having a larger or extra recycling bins | 49% | 36 | 16% | 12 |
| Black bins which have recycling or food waste in them, not being emptied. | 27% | 20 | 41% | 30 |

We will: embed increased communication into the strategy action plan, to increase behavioural change. We will also further explore other options for increasing recycling through alternative collection methods, utilising feedback from the consultation.

- 1.17 The strategy has been updated to reflect the responses to the consultation; the responses have also been used in the formation of the action plan for the strategy. Especially in regard to the emphasis put on communication, recycling in flats and the importance of high quality services by residents.
- 1.18 From the consultation it was interesting to note a number of trends in responses, such as:

- Residents really value communications on recycling and waste – not just when the bins are collected but also what happens next and what impact it makes
- Residents are in favour of recycling more
- Residents were more in favour of reducing the frequency of the black bin collection rather than reducing its size
- The support for collecting the black bins less often was higher than the resistance, however, comments showed some very strong views for and against

Key Challenges in Delivering Strategy

1.19 Delivering the new recycling and waste strategy will not be simple or straight forward. There are many challenges facing Barnet and balancing which we have to be looked at. Between 2016 and 2020 we will need to resolve, in light of the strategy aims, the continuing financial pressure and the views expressed during the consultations:

- What services are free at point of use and what it may be fairer to charge users
- The knowledge and motivation which residents have over recycling, and how we communicate effectively on these issues
- How frequent our scheduled services to drive the strategy and balance costs
- What collections are essential to residents and what are nice to have
- How we balance the need of those in medium and high-rise accommodation verses those in more traditional housing

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **Recommendation 1** - It is recommended that Environment Committee approves the adoption of the Municipal Recycling and Waste Strategy 2016 – 2030 and its action plan. This will enable the recycling and waste service to have a clear focus on what it needs to accomplish, and ensure other services can support the aims of the strategy.

2.2 **Recommendation 2** - It is recommended that Environment Committee request the Commissioning Directors for Environment and Growth & Development ensure that planning guidance and policy is updated to ensure that all new developments in Barnet are designed to enable their new residents to recycle 70% of their waste, both through recycling collection facilities outside the flat and suitable storage for recycling and waste inside the flat. This will ensure that future development in Barnet is sustainable and supports the aims of the strategy.

The 70% target is in excess of the 50% recycling target by 2020 as the strategy holds the assumption that this may need to be higher in future years. Experience has taught us that retro fitting solutions in these sorts of developments is difficult and expensive. As such designing solutions in from the outset for our future aspiration is a more desirable option.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The council could have developed a four year waste strategy from 2016 to 2020. This was considered but not recommended as it is felt that a longer term approach needs to be taken with the services, particularly as Barnet has significant household growth projections. The strategy is therefore for fourteen years, from 2016 to 2030.
- 3.2 The development of a household only waste strategy was also considered but is not recommended as it is felt that a holistic approach should be taken with all the waste services that the council provides. In the long term it is predicted that targets will be based on all council waste services (municipal waste), and financial savings will need to be delivered through a “whole system” approach. A municipal waste strategy has therefore been developed to include all the services that generate waste that the council is responsible for such as waste and recycling collected from households, litter bins, street sweepings, fly tips and commercial waste collected by the council.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 If the Committee is so minded to adopt the Recycling and Waste Strategy then the document will be published on the Barnet website, and the action plan items will be developed for implementation.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 is based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:
- Of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
 - Where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
 - Where responsibility is shared, fairly
 - Where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.
- 5.1.2 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 includes the following aims:
- We will be a Leader in London for recycling
 - Over 50% of waste collected will be reused, recycled or composted in 2020.
- 5.1.3 There are no implications relating to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its stated priorities, or the future health and wellbeing needs of the local population as identified in Barnet’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 **Finance and Value for Money** – The 2015/16 expenditure budgets for the current services that deal with municipal recycling and waste is £12.564 million, with a further £10.736 million projected to be spent on waste treatment

and disposal in 2015/16 through the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) levy. The NLWA levy costs are projected to increase significantly in future years for all member boroughs.

- 5.2.2 At the meeting of the Environment Committee on 10 November 2015 the following savings were agreed and referred to December 2015 Policy and Resources Committee for approval. They are all or in part linked to the municipal Recycling and Waste Strategy.

| Description | Savings year (£000s) | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
| Transfer of Summers Lane CARC to NLWA | 80 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Alternative Delivery Models for all of Street Scene | 0 | 250 | 450 | 0 |
| Street Cleansing | 0 | 600 | 0 | 0 |
| Street Scene - Income generation from non-statutory services | 50 | 200 | 300 | 1000 |
| Demand management via enforcement and education | 0 | 25 | 25 | 0 |
| Street Scene - improve service efficiencies to reduce growth demand | 360 | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| North London Waste Authority | 1,900 | 500 | 100 | 100 |
| Revised waste offer to increase recycling | 31 | 50 | 200 | 200 |

- 5.2.3 The final strategy and accompanying Action Plan include initiatives to address the agreed savings. One of the aims of the strategy is to “manage the rising cost of waste collection and disposal and budget reductions by designing services that are integrated, intuitive and efficient”.

- 5.2.4 **Procurement, Staffing, and Property** – at this stage in the development of the strategy there are no implications.

- 5.2.5 **IT** – One of the aims of the strategy is to “embrace new technology and ways of working that help us deliver services that respond better to the needs of our community”. The action plan includes these aspirations and individual projects will need to take into account new and existing information technology and how this can be used to improve participation in the recycling services.

- 5.2.6 **Sustainability** – two of the aims of the strategy are clearly linked to sustainability, which are; “provide services that help our rapidly growing community to manage its environmental impact” and “encourage all Barnet’s residents, businesses and visitors to take responsibility for the waste that they produce”. The overall vision of the strategy is to protect our wider environment by reducing waste and increasing reuse and recycling, and we want everyone to play their part.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders. In taking forward the action plan due regard will be paid to the Social Value Act.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 There is no statutory duty for the council to produce a waste strategy. Section 32 of the Waste and Emissions Act 2003 has a requirement for the North London Waste Authority and its constituent councils to produce a joint waste strategy. This joint waste strategy was produced and agreed in February 2009.
- 5.4.2 The Council's Constitution (Clause 15A, Responsibility for Functions, Annex A) sets out the terms of reference of the Environment Committee. This includes
- Commissioning refuse and recycling, waste minimisation and street cleaning,
 - Approve any non-statutory plan or strategy within the remit of the Committee that is not reserved to Full Council or Policy and Resources Committee.
 - Approve fees and charges for those areas under the remit of the Committee
- 5.4.3 This matter is not reserved to Full Council or to the Policy and Resources Committee as the Constitution specifically allocates matters of this type to the Environment Committee.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 The management of risk is undertaken on a continual basis and reported as part of the Council Quarterly Performance regime and considered as part of the Performance and Contract Management Committee quarterly monitoring report.
- 5.5.2 The fourteen year strategy is based on a series of assumptions which have been tested and are supported by evidence that will be publicly available as part of the consultation. There is a risk with this method that the assumptions and accompanying data will be scrutinised and challenged. However it is felt that this evidence based approach will generate a sound basis on which to make decisions for the future.
- 5.5.3 The strategy is built upon a series of assumptions. There is a risk that a current substantial assumption has been overlooked, this has been mitigated by a range of internal staff and external experts being involved in the development and evidence gathering for the assumptions, so this risk is

considered to be low. There is a risk that an assumption materialises during the life of the strategy that has a significant impact on the strategy or the implementation of the strategy. This risk will be reduced by carrying out regular reviews of the strategy and accompanying Action Plan.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 sets the Strategic Equalities Objective, which is: that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer. Changes to policies and services are analysed in order to assess the potential equalities impacts and risks and identify any mitigating action possible before final decisions are made.

5.6.2 The strategy has been reviewed against the protected characteristics under the 2010 Equality Act namely age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships religion and belief, sexual orientation and transgender. At this time the high level nature of the strategy and the use of a wide range of assumptions including those on population and demographic changes mean that no specific impacts can be identified. Appropriate equality impact assessments will be produced for the projects/work streams noted in the action plan, as they are initiated

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 On 11 January 2016 Environment Committee approved the draft Recycling and Waste Strategy for consultation. The consultation took place between 18 January 2016 and 13 March 2016. A high level overview can be found in section 1.6 above and the summary of the results of the consultation can be seen on Open Barnet

5.7.2

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 The strategy is based on a series of assumptions which have been tested and are supported by evidence that is publicly available on Open Barnet.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 [Environment Committee 11 January 2016 Papers](#)

6.2 [Open Barnet – Strategy Assumption Documents](#)