



Cabinet

Title	Reduction & Recycling Plan
Date of meeting	5 September 2023
Report of	Councillor Alan Schneiderman, Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change
Wards	All
Status	Public
Key	Key
Urgent	No
Appendices	Appendix A – Reduction & Recycling Plan
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Summary

All London Boroughs are required to develop a Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) covering the period April 2023 to March 2025. The Environment & Climate Change Committee approved the initial draft RRP for submission to the GLA on 6 September 2022 to meet the Greater London Authority's deadline of September 2022. The council has since engaged with GLA officers and the Deputy Mayor of London to reach agreement on the content of the RRP, and this now requires formal agreement by the council before final submission to the GLA.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the Council's Reduction & Recycling Plan for submission to the Greater London Authority.
2. That the Cabinet delegates authority to the Street Scene Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change to implement the actions detailed within the RRP once the plan is formally approved by the GLA.
3. That the Cabinet delegates authority to the Street Scene Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change to provide any updates to the GLA as required in relation to the RRP.

1. Reasons for the Recommendations

- All London Boroughs are required to develop a Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) covering the period April 2023 to March 2025. The RRP's must demonstrate how boroughs intend to work towards the objectives of the Mayor's London Environment Strategy (LES). The Mayor has included waste management within the LES, a link to which can be found in the background information for this paper.
- The Environment & Climate Change Committee approved the initial draft RRP for submission to the GLA on 6 September 2022 to meet the Greater London Authority's deadline of 30 September 2022. The council has since engaged with GLA officers and the Deputy Mayor of London to reach agreement on the content of the RRP, and this now requires formal agreement by the council before final submission to the GLA.
- Barnet's Draft RRP can be seen in Appendix A and follows the GLA template. It is split into five sections :
 - Dashboard
 - Waste Reduction – including working with the North London Waste Authority on campaigns to reduce consumption
 - Maximising Recycling – including promotion of commercial waste recycling, and a flats behaviour change trial
 - Reducing Environmental Impact – including work on vehicle fleets
 - Maximising Local Waste Sites – including promotion of the Reuse & Recycling Centre and range of materials accepted.
- The RRP also aligns with and supports the council's environmental and sustainability commitments, which include:
 - Guaranteed weekly bin collections.
 - Renewed focus on helping people reduce, reuse, and recycle waste.
 - Encouraging an increase in composting.
 - Bringing back the Council's separate food waste collection service.
 - Working to stop single use plastic in Barnet both by the Council and by encouraging businesses and residents to use alternatives.

- The RRP makes clear linkages to the council’s development of a Sustainability Strategy and its commitment to achieve net zero carbon in Barnet by 2042 or earlier, and for the Council by 2030 or earlier.

2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended

- 2.1 The Council could choose not to submit a RRP as requested by the Mayor of London’s Environment Strategy, and this could result the Mayor of London exercising his power to direct the waste authority where he considers their waste activities to be detrimental to implementation of the municipal waste aspects of the strategy. Therefore, not submitting an RRP is not recommended.

3. Post Decision Implementation

- 3.1 A number of activities within the council’s RRP are already underway. Subject to approval by the Cabinet, these and further activities will be implemented, and reported to the GLA as required.
- 3.2 In discussions with the Deputy Mayor and GLA officers, the council has highlighted the indications from government that “new burdens” funding is to be made available to support the capital and revenue costs of operating new services that will be required under the Environment Act. The government published the Environment Act in 2021. However, the detailed regulations that will define the requirements for future waste collections, and details of new burdens funding are still awaited.
- 3.3 In response to the most recent version of the RRP submitted for the Deputy Mayor’s review, GLA officers have said that the Mayor recognises and welcomes the new administration’s reaffirmation of its commitment to the reintroduction of a food waste service as the earliest feasible opportunity once new burdens funding is made available, and its commitment to deliver a flats behaviour change project which will include a trial of food waste collections to 335 properties across four locations in the borough in the upcoming RRP period. The Mayor also welcomes the council’s work to increase the depot space available to enable a food waste vehicle fleet to be accommodated, including a £19M investment to secure additional space for its fleet at its Oakleigh Depot site, and recognises the good number and range of RRP commitments made within the new 2023 to 2025 period.
- 3.4 They note that while the council is not currently providing a weekly food waste service to all kerbside properties, Barnet’s RRP cannot be in general conformity with the Mayor’s London Environment Strategy, however they have confirmed its approval on the proviso that the council demonstrates active progress and continues to engage with GLA officers to regularly update them on progress. The council will action the above requirements and update the GLA on progress as required. It is anticipated that the GLA will request updates from all boroughs on an annual basis.

4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations

Corporate Plan

- 4.1 Our Plan for Barnet 2023 – 2026 sets out the aim to ensure Barnet puts caring for People, our Places and the Planet at the heart of everything we do. It includes the commitment that Barnet will seek to minimise the production of waste across the borough. We will enable all residents to have access to sustainable waste disposal choices, while educating businesses and individuals about best practice.

Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures

Sustainability

- 4.2 The RRP references the council's sustainability and NetZero ambitions, and activities within it will support the achievement of these.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.3 There are no implications.

Risk Management

- 4.4 There is a risk that the government does not publish detailed regulations on the requirements for future waste collections under the Environment Act in a timely way, and/or does not provide clarity and timescales on the availability of new burdens funding. This would delay planning and implementation of any required service changes. If this occurred this would likely affect all London boroughs, and the council would have discussions with the GLA and internally to consider next steps.

Insight

- 4.5 Officers have discussed the content of the RRP with officers in other neighbouring councils. GLA officers have provided positive feedback on the range of activities within the RRP.

Social Value

- 4.6 There are no social value implications.

5. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)

5.1 Finance and Value for Money:

A key risk/barrier to delivering the commitment to introduce a food waste collection service as illustrated in the RRP is the financial cost of establishing this service, as noted in section 4.4.

Any financial implications arising from the RRP requiring additional investment will be considered through the Council's financial regulations and any necessary approvals will be sought.

- 5.2 **Procurement:** At this time there are no implications, however a reintroduction of food waste collection and other potential changes will lead to an increase in vehicle and waste container procurements. It is expected that demand for these items will exceed supply and this may lead to longer than usual procurement timescales.
- 5.3 **Staffing:** At this time there are no implications, however a reintroduction of food waste collection may lead to an increase in staffing numbers required.
- 5.4 **IT:** At this time there are no implications.
- 5.5 **Property:** The reintroduction of food waste collections will require additional fleet vehicles, and therefore the availability of depot space and infrastructure is a key dependency.
- 5.6 **Sustainability:** Any activities that increase recycling and reduce waste will support the council's sustainability ambitions.

6. Legal Implications and Constitution References

- 6.1 Section 355(1)(a) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 requires each of the waste collection authorities in Greater London (of which, Barnet is one), in exercising any function under Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, to act “in general conformity” with the provisions of the London Environment Strategy (“the Strategy”) dealing with municipal waste management.
- 6.2 Under the Council’s Constitution, Part 2D, the terms of reference of Cabinet includes responsibility for the following functions:
- Recommending major new policies (and amendments to existing policies) to the Council for approval as part of the Council’s Policy Framework and implementing those approved by Council;
 - Approving policies that are not part of the policy framework;
- All key decisions - namely:
- an executive decision which is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area of two or more wards of the Borough.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 The council has consulted with GLA officers and the North London waste Authority on the content of the RRP, to ensure best practice and learning.
- 7.2 The council has established a Citizen’s Assembly to work with Barnet residents to create ideas and make recommendations towards becoming a more sustainable and net zero carbon borough by 2042. Activities within the RRP will support this work, and the RRP will be informed by the work of the Citizen’s Assembly.
- 7.3 As any service changes or developments come forward, consultations will be carried out where appropriate.

8. Equalities and Diversity

- 8.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision-making of the council.
- 8.2 Decision makers should have due regard to the public-sector equality duty in making their decisions. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The equalities impact will be revisited on each of the proposals as they are developed. Consideration of the duties should precede the decision. It is important that Council has regard to the statutory grounds in the light of all available material such as consultation responses. The public-sector equality duty is found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and is as follows below.
- A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 8.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
 - encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 8.4 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 8.5 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- Tackle prejudice, and
 - Promote understanding.
- 8.6 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:
- Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race,
 - Religion or belief
 - Sex
 - Sexual orientation
 - Marriage and Civil partnership
- 8.7 If deemed appropriate, a project may be subject to future individual portfolio or Cabinet decision once the budget envelope has been set by Council. The equality impacts will be updated for these decisions. Reserves may be used to avoid adverse equality impacts if appropriate.
- 8.8 The Equality Act 2010 and The Public Sector Equality Duty impose legal requirements on elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality impact considerations have been fully taken into account in developing the proposals which emerge from the finance and business planning process, together with any mitigating factors. To allow the Council to demonstrate that it has met the Public Sector Equalities Duty as outlined above, each year the Council undertake a planned and consistent approach to business planning. This assesses the equality impact of relevant budget proposals for the current year (affecting staff and/or service delivery) across services and identifies any mitigation to ease any negative impact on particular groups of residents. This process is refined as proposals develop and for the Council meeting it includes the assessment of any cumulative impact on any particular group.

- 8.9 All human resources implications of the budget savings proposals will be managed in accordance with the council's Managing Organisational Change policy that supports the council's Human Resources Strategy and meets statutory equalities duties and current employment legislation.
- 8.10 This is set out in the council's Equalities Policy together with our Strategic Equalities Objective - as set out in the Corporate Plan - that citizens will be treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to best value principles.
- 8.11 An Initial Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been completed, and this confirms that a full EQIA is not required at this time. As any service changes or developments come forward, Equalities Impact Assessments will be carried out where appropriate.

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 London Environment Strategy - [London Environment Strategy](#)
- 9.2 Environment & Climate Change Committee – 6 September 2022 - Reduction & Recycling Plan [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)