

PAPER NO. WRWA 25-02**WESTERN RIVERSIDE WASTE AUTHORITY**

MEETING	11 th February 2025
REPORT AUTHOR/ DATE	Interim Deputy General Manager (Trevor Pugh-Tel 020 8871 8882) 28 th January 2025
SUBJECT	Report by the Interim Deputy General Manager on finalising the WRWA Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and next steps to implement priority actions.
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STATUS	Open
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update on the consideration by key stakeholders of the revised draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy with a view to its finalisation.
2. It is recommended to accept the revised Strategy as a “working final” pending receipt of formal feedback from the Greater London Authority and any other outstanding feedback and to delegate authority to make any further necessary minor changes.
3. It is also proposed to progress the priority action areas identified in the Strategy, developing a costed Implementation Plan for the June Authority meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. The Authority is recommended to:
 - a) Note the considerations by the Constituent Councils and Greater London Authority to date of the revised draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy
 - b) Adopt the revised draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy as the “working final” version delegating responsibility to the Interim General Manager to make further minor changes in consultation with the Chair as a result of further comments from Constituent Councils and the Greater London Authority received after the Authority meeting.
 - c) Note the proposal to progress the priority action areas identified in the Strategy and develop a costed Implementation Plan to be presented to the June Authority meeting.
 - d) otherwise receive this report for information.

INTRODUCTION

5. The Authority together with the Constituent Councils (“CCs”) have prepared a new draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (“JMWMS”). The draft strategy was submitted for public consultation in September and October 2024.

6. At its meeting in December 2024 the Authority agreed to revise the JMWMS following public consultation and to re-circulate it to the CCs with a view to finalising it at the earliest possible Authority meeting in 2025.

CONSIDERATION BY THE CONSTITUENT COUNCILS.

7. The CCs have been closely involved in the development of the JMWMS from early 2023 leading to a draft for public consultation in July 2024.
8. The following table outlines consideration of the revised draft by the CCs following the public consultation exercise.

Borough	Consideration	Comments
LB Lambeth	Cabinet 27/1/25	Approved and adopted
RB Kensington and Chelsea	Joint Leadership Team tba	Recommended for approval by Scrutiny Cttee
LB Wandsworth	Leader’s meeting 20/1/25	Approved
LB Hammersmith & Fulham	Cabinet 13/1/25	Approved with delegated authority given to agree minor changes if necessary.

CONSIDERATION BY THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

9. The Greater London Authority (GLA) is required to assess whether Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategies produced by London local authorities are in “general conformity” with the Mayor’s London Environment Strategy.
10. The Authority has been in contact with the GLA since 19th April 2024 and has had a number of meetings and other engagement to take GLA officers through the vision, objectives, modelling approach including options, sensitivities and target setting.
11. The GLA provided positive informal feedback that the draft JMWMS is strong in identifying priorities and areas for action. They challenged the original draft recycling targets however, with concern that they are not higher.

12. The Authority has taken on board informal feedback from the GLA and provided all of the information the GLA have asked for and at the time of writing are waiting for a formal response.

NEXT STEPS & IMPLEMENTING PRIORITY ACTIONS

13. It is recommended that the revised JMWMS is adopted as a “working final” version subject to any further minor changes received after the Authority meeting being agreed by the Interim General Manager in consultation with the Chair and that the priority action areas identified in the Strategy be progressed.
14. The JMWMS contains four Action Plans to be further developed through the implementation of measurable initiatives, namely:
 - AP1. Transitioning to a Circular Economy
 - AP2. Achieving Net Zero
 - AP3. Collaborating and Communicating to amplify our impact
 - AP4. Delivering Best Value and preparing for the future
15. Collaboration and joint action between WRWA and the Constituent Councils will be needed to successfully realise the Action Plans and intended improvements to waste management.
16. Joint Officer working groups are being established to collate existing best practice and to progress these actions and it is proposed to develop a costed Implementation Plan of the key priorities to be presented to the June Authority meeting. The Implementation Plan will be coordinated by WRWA within existing budgets.
 - AP1. Transitioning to a Circular Economy**
17. Initiatives identified within the Action Plans are already being investigated. For example, the opportunity to set up and operate one or more ‘reuse hubs / shops’ located in the Western Riverside area. The intention is to provide more sites for repair and reuse where residents can ‘bring and buy’ a range of household goods and attend workshops, thereby delivering cost savings, educational and employment activities and social value benefits. Support from the CCs will be needed to develop hubs. This action could also involve supporting existing initiatives/hubs to amplify impact.
18. Officers have discussed increasing the range of recycling materials, through household collection services, with Cory, by expanding the materials processed at

the Materials Recovery Facility to include plastic film. Discussions are taking place with Technical Officers to design a trial to take place in Spring 2025.

19. Officers have identified an opportunity to expand the accessibility to HWRC services through the provision of mobile facilities and are discussing options in collaboration with the CCs and seeking support from the Authority's contractor, Cory.
20. Throughout 2024, the Authority has been consulting the CCs on their plans to expand food waste collections. A business case for the development of a food waste transfer station is in process.

AP2. Achieving Net Zero

21. The Authority took possession of a new electric crane at Smugglers Way in November 2024, replacing an aged diesel-run crane. Waste is already transported by barge run on HVO, reducing diesel emissions and road congestion.
22. At the Authority's meeting on 29th July 2024, approval was given to conduct a more extensive waste composition analysis. The intention being to undertake a larger sample size and gather more targeted data on the amount of fossil carbon in the waste stream, identifying actions to reduce emissions and reduce the Authority's exposure to the Emissions Trading Scheme from 2028.
23. Other priority actions in AP2 include quantifying the greenhouse gas emissions across the whole service in a clear, transparent and accountable way, identifying key areas of focus to reduce emissions through a Net Zero action plan.

AP3. Collaborating and Communicating to amplify our impact

24. During 2024, the Authority conducted a review of its Education Programme and has already begun implementing the revamped programme. This includes enhanced activities in schools to support waste management behaviour change within the whole school.
25. At the Authority's meeting on 2nd December 2024, approval was given to create a Communications Officer role. This post will be responsible for supporting the implementation of the initiatives contained in AP3.
26. Other priority actions in AP3 include the development of a collaboration and joint communications plan with the CCs.

AP4. Delivering Best Value and preparing for the future

27. The Authority is already well advanced with its Outline Business Case to develop options for its future procurement process for the successor arrangements to the Waste Management Services Agreement with Cory, due to expire in 2032.
28. At the Authority's meeting on 2nd October 2024, approval was given to prepare a business case for the redevelopment of Cringle Dock waste transfer station to ensure that services and infrastructure meet all future needs including regulatory changes and increases in population.
29. There is a commitment in this action plan to undertake annual progress monitoring against the Strategy priorities and a full review every 5 years. Progress against Action Plans will be reviewed every four months.

COMMENTS OF THE TREASURER

30. The expenditure on the consultation and development of the Strategy were met within the approved budgets of the Authority for 2024/25. The Implementation Plan will be co-ordinated by WRWA officers (within approved budgets for 2025/26) and details on any necessary further expenditure will be reported to the next meeting of the Board.
31. The successful implementation of the strategy could have a significant impact on reducing the total waste generated, improve the reuse of usable waste and increase the level of waste recycling. The financial benefits from these actions will be realised by the Constituent Boroughs through lower payments to WRWA for the disposal of waste (in real terms after taking into account annual inflation contractual uplifts).
32. Any investment and expenditure on the implementation of the plans with regard to the collection of waste will need to be assessed and evaluated by the Constituent Boroughs and included in their budgets.

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28th January 2025