



## London Borough of Enfield

<b>Report Title</b>	Enfield Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023 - 2025
<b>Report to</b>	Cllr Rick Jewell – Cabinet Member for Environment
<b>Date of Report</b>	13 November 2023
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Rick Jewell – Cabinet Member for Environment
<b>Executive Director / Director</b>	Simon Pollock – Interim Executive Director of Environment & Communities Doug Wilkinson – Director for Environment and Street Scene
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<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All
<b>Key Decision Number</b>	KD5542
<b>Classification</b>	Part I Public
<b>Reason for exemption</b>	Not applicable

### Purpose of Report

1. This report seeks approval for the London Borough of Enfield's Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023- 2025 (RRP) as set out in Appendix A.
2. In May 2018, the Mayor of London published the London Environment Strategy (LES). As part of the LES, the Mayor required each London authority to produce a Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) that includes current and projected activities which will achieve the objectives and targets around waste management set out in the LES. The RRP also includes a carbon tracker which tracks the carbon impact of waste activities.
3. The revised RRP for 2023-2025, replaces the previous plan for 2018 – 2022.
4. The Greater London Authority (GLA) has approved the RRP, subject to conditions which are set out in this report.

## Recommendations

### That the Cabinet Member for environment;

- I. Approves Enfield's Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023 - 2025 (RRP), attached as Appendix A, and which is in line with the London Mayor's London Environment Strategy (LES).
- II. Notes that the "2023 RRP" may require updating to comply with national policy reforms, and once timelines and funding are confirmed at a national level. Updates to the RRP will be undertaken by the Strategic Waste and Recycling Manager in consultation with the Director for Environment and Street Scene and Cabinet Member for Environment.
- III. Notes that the RRP has two parts of activities: (i) those that can be delivered within the existing resources/budget and (ii) those that are currently not budgeted and will require funding for implementation/delivery.
- IV. Delegates authority to the Director for Environment and Street Scene in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to:
  - a. agree specific timelines for activity implementation of the individual actions and projects set out in the 2023-2025 RRP.
  - b. review funding opportunities for activities within the RRP taking into account the availability of resources and government funding (e.g., Waste reforms new burdens funding with new legislative requirements)

## Background and Options

5. In May 2018, the Mayor of London published the London Environment Strategy (LES). As part of the LES, the Mayor required each London authority to produce a Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP); the plan included current and planned activities to achieve the objectives and targets around waste management; alongside a carbon tracker which tracks the carbon impact of our waste activities.
6. The LES sets out objectives, targets and policies for the effective management of London's waste and to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.
7. The objectives set out in the LES include objectives to reduce the production of waste, focusing on food waste and single use packaging, maximise recycling rates and reduce the environmental impact of waste activities. Additionally, there is an ambition to maximise local waste sites and ensure London has enough infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces.
8. These objectives are translated into ambitious and challenging London-wide targets and include; to reduce 'avoidable' food waste by 50 percent by 2030, to achieve a 65 percent municipal<sup>1</sup> waste recycling rate by 2030,

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<sup>1</sup> Municipal Waste is household waste or business waste that is similar in composition irrespective of who collects or disposes of it. This includes waste from shops, offices, charities, schools and government buildings.

to achieve a 50 percent recycling rate for local authority collected waste<sup>2</sup> by 2025, to send zero biodegradable or recycling waste to landfill by 2026 and for London to manage 100 percent of all the waste it produces by 2026.

9. The Mayor of London has requested that London Authorities replace their original plan with a new two-year plan, for the years 2023 to 2025. The updated LB Enfield's RRP is attached as Appendix A. The RRP is a dynamic working document; therefore, annual review will take place internally by the Strategic Waste and Recycling Manager and to be approved by the Director for Environment and Street Scene and Cabinet Member for Environment.
10. The Greater London Authority (GLA) has already reviewed and approved LB Enfield's draft RRP subject to some conditions as set out below:
  - action 2.2 (ii) of the RRP to address the increased contamination of recycling in kerbside properties, including continuation of a bespoke, intensive communications campaign. Improving recycling at communal properties through further roll-out of the Flats Recycling Package at additional sites
  - action 2.1 (ii) ensuring 100 percent of sack properties including Flats Above Shops have access to recycling facilities by 2025 (rather than an opt-in service)
  - action 2.5 (ii) continuing the trial of commercial recycling, with the aim of offering recycling services to 2,300 commercial waste contract with Enfield Council by 2025
  - action 2.8. The Emissions Performance Standard (EPS) RRP dashboard metrics are kept under review and updated by April 2024 at the latest to reflect further data analysis work undertaken i.e., beyond just the contamination work used in the calculation of the metrics currently included.
11. We will continue to work to deliver the conditions that are required by the GLA but that it should be noted that these conditions are subject to funding being identified.
12. It is also important to note that significant national policy changes to waste and recycling is expected from government with possible funding i.e., New Burdens Funding to support local authorities to make the required changes.
13. In November 2021, the Environment Act became law. Its priority areas are air quality; water; biodiversity; and resource efficiency and waste reduction. Regarding waste and recycling the Act will help transition to a more circular economy, incentivising people to recycle more, reduce waste, encourage businesses to create sustainable packaging and making recycling easier. These changes will be driven by new legally binding environmental targets.

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<sup>2</sup> Local Authority Collected Waste refers to all waste in the possession or control of waste authorities. This includes waste collected from households and businesses.

14. The Environment Act 2021 contains three key new policies and therefore allows government to deliver consistent recycling collections across England, including ensuring councils:
  - operate a separate food waste collection service and collect a minimum range of dry recycling materials (Consistency Collections) from all households which includes all flats.
  - Expand the use of charges on single use plastics, following the successful introduction of the carrier bag charge and introduce a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) on plastic and metal drink containers; and
  - introduce a new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme to make producers responsible for the full net costs of managing their products when they are ready to be thrown away.
15. DRS will provide a mechanism for people to be reimbursed if they take a plastic or metal bottle back to a DRS point and is due to be implemented in late 2025. This is likely to remove a portion of this recycling material from household collection points and may impact on local authority recycling rates.
16. EPR will mean producers will make products easier to recycle and provide funding to local authorities to support the cost of recycling these products. This funding to local authorities was expected to be announced in 2024, however a recent government announcement has delayed this until October 2025.
17. To enable councils to make the changes required by the Environment Act 2021, it has been indicated by government that full funding will be provided by government through new burdens funding and income generated through the EPR Scheme. Available from government and income from EPR. A final response to the consistency consultation and statutory guidance was expected in 2021, However, again a recent government announcement has delayed this until October 2025.
18. These three key policy changes are expected to have a significant impact on the amount, type, and the cost of recycling collected from households.
19. LB Enfield currently collects food recycling from all kerbside properties, and it collects the minimum range of dry recycling material set out in the Act. However, recycling is more limited at flats with not all flats receiving food waste collections.
20. The RRP refers to improving recycling at flats subject to funding. Work in this area will continue however any substantial changes will not be possible until government provides clarity on what those requirements are and how the changes will be funded.
21. The work referred to around contamination at kerbside has to date been successful with a significant reduction in the amount of recycling contaminated.

## **Preferred Option and Reasons for Preferred Option**

22. Approval of the RRP will enable a formal confirmation from the London Deputy Mayor that LB Enfield is in General Conformity with the Mayor's London Environment Strategy.
23. Failure to produce a RRP may lead to the Mayor of London using his powers to direct a Waste Authority in London, where he considers that it is necessary for the purposes of the implementation of the municipal waste elements of the Environment Strategy.

## **Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies**

### *Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods*

24. This RRP will contribute to our Corporate Plan outcomes to create and sustain thriving, affordable neighbourhoods by ensuring services are maintained at a level that can meet evidenced need in the borough whilst contributing to the LES targets. The ability to maintain a high standard of waste and recycling collections to households and preserve the public realm will help to continue and enhance the position of LB Enfield as a place to invest and as a great place to live. The RRP references the reconfiguration of services which should assist with longer term transformational goals and strategic outcomes for the borough adding value to housing, regeneration, and inward investment opportunities.

### *Sustain strong and healthy communities*

25. The RRP can contribute positively to our strategic goals for making LB Enfield a healthier and greener place by providing services that can allow people to take greater responsibility for how they manage their waste and encourage recycling, composting and assist with meeting our ambitions for a clean green environment as stated in our Corporate Plan. The Plan also suggests a positive impact on public health, job creation and meet the obligation of the LES which strives for a more sustainable future.

### *Build our local economy to create a thriving place*

26. The RRP will allow us to work ever more closely with our local business customers to help underpin a strong, ongoing response that can help deliver a strong and competitive local economy and vibrant town centres that benefit all residents. The RRP with emerging national policy will influence our emerging town centre plans and help create context for our new Local Plan. The RRP should also help us approach the delivery of other aspects of environmental works with greater confidence as we know a fundamental tenet of how we manage the environment has been secured. This should benefit our ambitions as expressed in our Corporate Plan and our ambition to preserve heritage, maintain the quality of our

parks and green space and contribute to the delivery of an Enfield that is a place to enjoy from childhood to old age.

### **Financial Implications**

27. LB Enfield's RRP details how the Authority intends to meet the objectives of the LES, , and policies for the effective management of Enfield's waste in line with the London Environment Strategy (LES). The financial implications will be dependent on, and may be restricted by budgets, government funding and external grants that become available over the duration of the plan. The RRP in appendix A sets out the activities that will be delivered within existing available budgets and those activities that will require funding via government new burdens funding, government grants or other sources of funding (s106, CIL if appropriate).

### **Legal Implications**

28. Section 355 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 requires the Council to:

- Act in general conformity with the provisions of the London Environment Strategy dealing with municipal waste management, save to the extent that compliance does not impose excessive additional costs on the authority.
- Act in accordance with any guidance from the Secretary of State for determining what is to be regarded as acting in general conformity or imposing excessive additional costs.

29. Section 356 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 states that the Mayor of London can direct the Council to take actions if he considers it necessary for the purposes of the implementation of the London Environment Strategy. The Council must comply with any such direction.

### **Equalities Implications**

30. There are no material equalities implications resulting from the recommendation of this report. Equality implications will be addressed in the delivery of any proposed actions as listed in the RRP and further consultation will be undertaken if required. Specific works and services will be developed through any service changes. Equality impact assessments will be undertaken to ensure that due consideration is given to protected characteristics.

### **Environmental and Climate Change Implications**

31. The RRP focuses on reducing waste and improving recycling which will positively contribute to environmental and climate change benefits. There is a national requirement to increase the range of dry recycling materials

collected and a national requirement to introduce a separate food recycling collection service from households with funding to support this. Enfield aims to continue the work on improving recycling in communal situations, exploring how more recycling can be extracted from many other services as well as continue to prioritise waste minimisation and circular economy projects. External funding from government will support this. Both these changes will positively contribute to the environment.

32. Actions identified in the RRP will actively reduce emissions from the collection of refuse and recycling through better disposal routes. For example, food waste that ends up in landfill releases methane gas and this can be significantly reduced through increased participation in the food recycling service. Enfield has a commitment to replace 60% of the Council fleet with electric vehicles and Waste Services have four electric refuse collection vehicles already in service and all small vans are now electric. Further, the North London Waste Authority are currently carrying out a review looking at alternative fuels for the vehicles that London Energy Limited use to transport refuse and recycling to processors.
33. Our vision at the LB of Enfield is that by 2040 people who live or work in Enfield will have reduced the amount of waste they produce; no waste will end up in landfill and waste will be used as a resource.

### **Public Health Implications**

34. The overall RRP and its individual elements will have positive impact on public health if implemented safely and effectively. One sustainable benefit would be a reduction in pollution. Another would be that the reduction of waste will contribute to combatting climate change, itself cited by The Lancet to be the greatest threat to global health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
35. Local management of waste can create jobs locally which could be a positive wider determinant of health. Reducing avoidable food waste will have health benefits directly from a more equitable distribution of food and indirectly from a potential reduction in portion size and increased consumption of fresh vegetables to avoid food waste. There could also be increased supply of household compost and organic animal food. However, it is vital to educate the residents how to reduce food waste without choosing unhealthy alternatives that make smaller size of waste such as take-away meals and long-lasting manufactured food.

### **Other Implications**

#### **Procurement Implications**

36. That any commissioning to meet this report is done within the Councils Contract Procedure Rules.

37. That any contracts let or running are effectively managed within the Contract Management Framework to ensure Value for Money and delivery of council outcomes.

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**Appendices**

Appendix A – Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023 - 2025 (RRP)

**Background Papers:**

None

**Departmental reference number, if relevant:**