

<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p>27 March 2019</p>	
<p>AN OVERVIEW OF RECYCLING & WASTE MINIMISATION</p>	
<p>Report of the Director for Environment, Leisure & Residents Services</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification: For review and comment</p> <p>Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Consultation:</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Director for Environment, Leisure & Residents Services</p>	
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. This paper provides an overview of waste minimisation and recycling in Hammersmith and Fulham, including:

- KPI's compared with other London boroughs.
- Setting out the challenges in Hammersmith and Fulham and comparing to other London boroughs.
- A brief introduction to what recycling rates are achievable, including if different collection models and services were to be introduced.
- The Waste Action Team's workplan designed to overcome these challenges.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. The Committee is requested to review and comment on the contents of the report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Hammersmith and Fulham record several waste minimisation and recycling key performance indicators:

- NI191, residual waste per household, 419.61 kg (17/18).
- Ni192, household recycling rate, 23.7% (17/18).
- Municipal recycling rate (including trade waste), 16.39% (17/18).

3.2 Historically, Ni192 has been the main target that councils are measured against and is the recycling rate usually referred to, by bodies and institutions, such as LWARB, when analysing council's performance.

3.3 Since 14/15 Hammersmith and Fulham have achieved the following increases in the household recycling rate (often in contrast to overall decreases at a national and London wide level):

	WM2 [NI 192] Household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
Final 2014/15 performance	20.7%
Final 2015/16 performance	22%
Final 2016/17 performance	23.20%
Final 2017/18 performance	23.70%

3.4 Hammersmith and Fulham currently has a household recycling rate of 23.7%. 17/18 data for other boroughs is not yet available but for 16/17 when ranked alongside other London Authorities, LBHF ranked 29th of 33 as shown in the table below.

Ranking	London Authority	% household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting 16/17 (Ex NI192)
1	Bexley LB	52.7%
2	Ealing LB	50.7%

Ranking	London Authority	% household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting 16/17 (Ex NI192)
18	Southwark LB	34.0%
19	Islington LB	31.6%

3	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	47.0%
4	Bromley LB	46.9%
5	Hillingdon LB	43.4%
6	Richmond upon Thames LB	42.4%
7	Harrow LB	39.7%
8	Croydon LB	38.6%
9	Barnet LB	37.4%
10	Havering LB	37.3%
11	Enfield LB	37.2%
12	Sutton LB	36.5%
13	Brent LB	36.4%
14	Haringey LB	35.7%
15	Merton LB	35.7%
16	Greenwich LB	34.9%
17	Waltham Forest LB	34.4%

20	Hounslow LB	30.1%
21	Lambeth LB	28.8%
22	City of London	28.5%
23	Tower Hamlets LB	27.6%
24	Hackney LB	27.0%
25	Redbridge LB	26.7%
26	Camden LB	26.6%
27	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	25.7%
28	Barking and Dagenham LB	25.3%
29	Hammersmith and Fulham LB	23.2%
30	Wandsworth LB	21.9%
31	Lewisham LB	17.7%
32	Westminster City Council	17.4%
33	Newham LB	14.1%

4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

4.1 Recycling rates and inner-city challenges

4.11 We have a relatively low recycling rate when compared to other boroughs. However, as the map in appendix A shows, this is the same for all inner-city London boroughs, as they face similar challenges. Those that impact these boroughs the most are:

- A high proportion of flats and maisonettes (73% in LBHF), of which a large proportion are high rise flats with rubbish chutes. Although these properties have communal recycling bins placed outside, this is a significant disincentive for residents, in that it is far easier to dispose of recycling using a rubbish chute in the general waste stream, than to walk outside and use a recycling bin.
- Highly densely populated (LBHF = 111 people per Hectare, 6th most densely populated in the country), which makes it difficult to collect waste and recycling. Not many properties receiving kerbside collections have space for wheelie bins. Bins help increase recycling because they protect the recyclate from bad weather, allow officers and crews to target contamination by tagging and not collecting bins, give residents a feeling of ownership over their waste

and recycling, avoid problems with residents not receiving a delivery of recycling bags, and make it easier to restrict collections (by providing larger bins).

- The lack of space also makes it very difficult for storing and collecting food waste, which counts as recycling. Not only that but if a food waste collection service is introduced then it would not yield anywhere near the same levels of tonnage, as outer city boroughs. This is mainly because of the proportion of large shared housing that would require shared food waste bins, which are known to yield very low tonnages. Partly because of the relative difficulty compared to disposing of waste using rubbish chutes and partly because the contamination threshold for food waste bins are very low before they must be treated as general waste.
- A small number of properties with gardens and garden waste collected separately counts as recycling. A garden waste collection service in LBHF would add only an estimated 0.63% to the household recycling rate (380 tonnes), whereas some boroughs are able to collect 10,000s of garden waste as recycling.
- A high proportion of residents that do not speak English making communicating waste and recycling messages difficult - in LBHF 13.7% of households have only one member who speaks English and 14.5% contain not one person who calls English their main language.
- A high proportion of rented properties, which equates to a highly transient population and makes communicating messages difficult.

4.2 What recycling rate can LBHF achieve?

- 4.21 The Mayor's Environment Strategy sets recycling targets of 50% LACW (local authority collected waste) by 2025 and London Municipal Recycling target of 65% by 2030. These are targets for London and not for each individual borough to achieve. This is important, as it is expected that the London boroughs that can achieve far higher recycling rates, for example by collecting 10'000s of garden waste tonnage, will exceed these targets, and offset those that fall under because they are at a disadvantage, such as Hammersmith and Fulham.
- 4.22 As the Mayor's Environment Strategy focuses on the municipal recycling rate, it makes sense to also consider this measure, when looking at what levels Hammersmith and Fulham can achieve.
- 4.23 One way to increase the municipal recycling rate would be to collect garden waste separately. A successful separate garden waste collection would boost the municipal recycling rate by an estimated 0.41% (0.63% for ni192). To give an idea of the beneficial position some Councils are in, one London borough in 16/17 collected 7153 tonnes of garden waste, which contributed 12% to their domestic recycling rate.

4.24 Another way to increase the municipal recycling rate would be to collect food waste separately and dispose of it as recycling. Modelling the implication this could have on recycling rates is complicated, but using estimates based on national guidance, and factoring in the performance of nearby boroughs and LBHF's property types, it's estimated that a borough wide food waste, would increase the domestic recycling rate by 5.64%. To add to that if we were to also roll out a food waste collection service to all businesses, we could achieve a municipal recycling rate increase of 9.23%.

4.25 The below table shows the estimated impact introducing garden and food waste collections will have on Hammersmith and Fulham's recycling rates.

	Kerbside Food waste	Flats food waste	Commercial food waste	Garden Waste	Total	New recycling rate (added to current levels)
Tonnes	2250	1125	3978	380	7633	N/a
Ni192 domestic recycling rate	3.76%	1.88%	N/a	0.63%	6.26%	29.96%
Municipal recycling rate	2.66%	1.32%	5.25%	0.41%	9.64%	26.03%

4.26 The other way to increase recycling rates is to continue encouraging and promoting waste minimisation and increasing recycling capture of the materials currently collected. In terms of what's achievable through this approach alone, consider that
 If Hammersmith and Fulham were able to collect 90% of the current recyclable materials, from 90% of residents, 90% of the time, it would achieve a 39% household recycling rate. The municipal recycling rate would be lower due to its different composition, roughly 32%. This would be an astonishing achievement for any council, especially for an inner-city London borough and is ultimately unrealistic.

4.27 With the current municipal recycling rate at 16.25%, halving the difference between a potential 32%, equals a 24% municipal recycling rate, and a 31.5% domestic recycling rate. These are more realistic but very ambitious targets. Looking again at appendix A, it will be clear that achieving a 31.5% domestic recycling rate for LBHF (while keeping the same collection system in place), would pull it far ahead of any other borough with similar characteristics.

4.28 Increasing recycling rates is the responsibility of the Waste Action Team. 70% -80% of officer time is spent on day to day responsibilities and 20-30% is spent on innovation and special projects. Appendix b provides an overview of the team's current projects and below is a brief list of officer's day to day responsibilities:

- Investigating and rectifying problems regarding missed recycling bin collections.
- Door knocking and educating residents about recycling and contamination.
- Delivering reusable bags and leaflets to estates.
- Attending community events and running activities to encourage waste minimisation and recycling.
- Monitoring bins for contamination and recycling tonnage. Arranging for bins to be swapped and refurbished.
- Monitoring Serco and going out with crews.
- Working with Housing, caretakers and residents to ensure estates have a sufficient number of recycling bins and they are in the best locations, are getting their collections on schedule, have recycling signs and posters displayed.
- Responding to customer complaints and enquiries.

5. Next steps and further considerations

5.1 As part of the Mayor's Environment Strategy, councils have been requested to write Recycling and Reduction Plans, which outline what level of recycling rates they can achieve and what actions they will take.

5.2 As part of this, Hammersmith and Fulham have requested support from Resource London who work with the mayor's office, to model different waste collection systems. The modelling will look at the environmental and financial costs/benefits of rolling out a borough-wide food waste collection and a borough-wide garden waste collection, as well as containerisation. The outcome will be presented to members who can decide regarding what to include in the new spec for the new waste contract.