

EAST LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

16 OCTOBER 2006

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

THE MAYOR'S POWERS, THE MAYOR'S STRATEGY AND THE LONDON PLAN	FOR INFORMATION
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update Members on a number of recent developments in respect of the London-wide arrangements for waste management

2. The Proposed Changes to the Powers of The Mayor of London

- 2.1 The government issued a policy statement in July 2006 "The GLA: the Government's Final Proposals for Additional Powers and Responsibilities for the Mayor and the Assembly".

- 2.2 The government are proposing new lead roles for the Mayor in housing and adult skills, a strengthened role over planning, and additional strategic powers in a wide range of policy areas including waste, culture and sport, health, climate change and energy.

- 2.3 The comments below relate only to planning and waste.

- 2.4 It is to be noted that the government has not supported a Single London Waste Authority proposed by the Mayor.

2.5. Additional Planning Powers

- 2.5.1 The Mayor will have new powers that could have a significant impact on Boroughs' planning role because:

- a) The Mayor can direct changes to Local Development Schemes (these are being prepared by London Boroughs over the next few years to replace the current Unitary Development Plans).
- b) The Mayor will provide a statement to the Inspectors whether Borough draft Development Plan Documents (these are the details with a Local Development Scheme) are in general conformity with the London Plan.
- c) The Mayor will decide the most strategically important planning applications to ensure, for example, delivery of the Mayor's Waste Strategy. The Mayor would also lead on related Section 106 matters.

2.5.2 Most of the changes will be implemented through a GLA Bill and amendments to secondary legislation.

2.6. Additional Powers over Waste Management

2.6.1 The government wishes to strengthen London's ability to manage waste sustainably, without changing structures. To do this:

- a) The Mayor will have more waste planning powers (described above)
- b) Waste Authorities in the future will have to deliver their functions in "general conformity" with the Mayor's Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

2.6.2 These proposals will be part of the GLA Bill.

2.6.3 In addition the Mayor will acquire more influence via the following three new bodies:-

- a) A London wide Waste and Recycling Forum;
- b) A new London Waste and Recycling Fund (administered by the Forum);
- c) A London Waste infrastructure Development Programme (lead by DEFRA with strong GLA involvement).

2.6.4 The fund will be financed by £19m p.a. currently being paid directly to the Boroughs as Waste Performance and Efficiency Grants (WPEG) and £6m p.a. from GLA. The 2007/08 arrangements for WPEG are not affected.

2.6.5 These proposals will be taken forward immediately

3 Proposed Changes to The Mayor's Municipal Waste Management Strategy

3.1. The Mayor published his current strategy in 2003. The GLA have announced the intention to review this strategy with a timetable to publish the approved revised strategy in the Autumn of 2007. This timetable would allow for the potential implications of the government's review of the National Waste Strategy to be taken into account by the Mayor. This Mayor's review will have greater reference to the broader climate change agenda.

3.2. Any significant implications for ELWA would need to be reflected in the subsequent Service Delivery Plans agreed with Shanks east London because the Mayor will be able to require "general conformity" with his revised strategy. (see 2.6.1 above).

4 Proposed Alterations to The London Plan

4.1. The Mayor has a duty to produce a Spatial Development Strategy for London – called the London Plan – and keep it under review. Boroughs' development plans must be in 'general conformity' with the London Plan.

- 4.2. The first London Plan was published by the Mayor in February 2004.
- 4.3. Alterations to the London Plan are considered by means of a process which involves an Examination in Public (EIP) by an independent Panel. The Panel submit a report to the Mayor for his consideration when he is deciding the final form of the Alterations.
- 4.4. The Mayor's first set of proposals, the "Draft Early Alterations", were proposed in October 2005 and these proposed changes were in respect of housing, waste and minerals.
- 4.5. The Mayor's proposals in respect of waste proved to be controversial, particularly in respect to the proposed sitings, in the East London Sub Region, of multiple waste facilities to deal with Central London's waste.
- 4.6. The attached correspondence indicates the level of concern raised in East London.
- 4.7. The EIP Panel has now produced its report on the Mayor's Draft Early Alterations to the London Plan with the following outcomes;
 - a) The panel strongly endorsed the Mayor's approach to such matters as self-sufficiency, proximity and wider environmental and climate change issues.
 - b) The Panel has asked the GLA to rework its waste forecasts and produce more transparent calculations. ELWA strongly argued for this.
 - c) The Panel has taken on board the East London objections to the tables and figures in the Draft Alterations which allocated such a large proportion of London's waste to be dealt with in East London. These tables have been recommended for deletion. ELWA strongly argued for this.
 - d) The Panel supported a multi-criteria basis for the apportionment of Central London's waste. The results of this work will not be available until the Draft Further Alterations due to be published in the Autumn.
- 4.8. The Panel's report therefore broadly reflects the concerns by the stakeholders in East London.
- 4.9. However the Mayor will now make new proposals in the "Draft Further Alterations to The London Plan" which will take into consideration further work currently being undertaken on the apportionment of Central London's waste.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1. Member are recommended;
 - a) Note the significant recent developments in the planning and management of London's waste. These are likely to influence future ELWA and Borough planning and waste strategies.

- b) Note that the issue of Central London's waste is not resolved. The Mayor's Draft Further Alterations to the London Plan may repeat a previous proposal that east London provides a disproportionate number of sites to manage Central London's waste.

Tony Jarvis
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Appendices

- A Letter to the Mayor of London from the four leaders 14 July 2006
- B Response to Councillor Fairbrass from the Mayor 19 September 2006