

## EAST LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

7 FEBRUARY 2011

### CONTRACT MANAGER'S REPORT

<b>REUSE &amp; RECYCLING CENTRES - CONTROLS</b>	<b>FOR APPROVAL</b>
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#### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To propose changes to the existing Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) Protocol to ensure that controls are in place to effectively and properly manage wastes delivered to the RRCs. The main driver of this is to push tonnages down and therefore reduce the cost of waste disposal to the Authority.

#### **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Waste processed through the four Reuse and Recycling Centres amounts to around 20% of ELWA contract waste. RRC waste should only be originating from households in the ELWA region, yet it is suspected that a proportion of it is either coming from outside of the region or is trade waste being illegally tipped, avoiding the obligation to pay landfill tax. Furthermore, Schedule 2 waste (eg rubble, soil, ceramics) which is eligible for a charge under the Environmental Protection Act (1990) is currently allowed to be tipped free of charge.
- 2.2 At the recent informal workshop controls at RRC sites were considered in detail. Members asked Officers to recommend more stringent measures to ensure only ELWA household waste is tipped free of charge at the four RRCs and to consider an appropriate charge for Schedule 2 waste.
- 2.3 Points to note are :
- (a) These measures restrict the type of waste allowed onto the site rather than the type of vehicle or the frequency at which it visits. Only vehicles from outside the boroughs will be assessed by vehicle type.
  - (b) The appropriate charge for Schedule 2 waste would be in line with the existing trade waste rate that Shanks charge (£160 per tonne). This incorporates a minimum charge of £40 which will be assessed.
  - (c) There are two options for directing those unable to provide proof of address in the ELWA boroughs:
    - (i) Refuse entry.
    - (ii) Allow to pay to tip, charging a flat rate of £10 for domestic vehicles and the current rate Shanks charge for trade waste for all other vehicles.
  - (d) Further enhancement to the system would be the introduction of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system which would provide an effective means of logging all vehicle movements and flagging up suspicious

use of the site as well as acting as a potent deterrent to any continuing illegal practices. Officers consider this a necessary improvement but further study is required.

- (e) Until such time as ANPR were to be introduced, any vehicles considered suspect will be subject to investigation as to whether their load is household waste. If found to be otherwise, appropriate action will be taken.
- (f) All changes will be heavily promoted and introduced softly to allow for maximum awareness before being fully implemented.

### **3 Revised Protocol**

3.1 Officers have produced a revised Protocol in two phases (Appendix A) which will:

- (a) Restrict free tipping of household waste to residents only, allowing non-residents to pay to tip (Phase 1).
- (b) Examine the waste types, differentiating between household and trade waste (Phase 1) and ultimately Schedule 2 waste (Phase 2).
- (c) Allow ELWA to make a charge for Schedule 2 waste (Phase 2).

### **4 Public Launch**

- 4.1 Prior to the implementation of this protocol it will be necessary to inform the public in each Constituent Borough of the forthcoming changes. This will be managed in a number of ways including leaflets, signage and newspaper advertisements.
- 4.2 Boroughs may also wish to consider using their own communication outlets such as council newspapers to promote the changes.

### **5 Fly-tipping**

- 5.1 Officers have considered the potential impact on fly-tipping rates as a result of the tighter RRC controls. From information which is freely available there is little evidence to suggest that there is a resultant impact where such controls have been introduced. However, Borough Officers may wish to increase the monitoring and enforcement activities at such time as the controls are introduced.

### **6 Monitoring**

- 6.1 The new site restrictions will be subject to random testing by ELWA and borough officers to ensure their integrity.

### **7 Financial implications**

- 7.1 These measures would have limited financial implications to the Authority relating to the communications campaign and a potential legal amendment to the Contract. Savings are likely to be made in the reduction of tonnage processed.

## **8 Conclusion**

- 8.1 A few simple alterations to the current protocol would likely result in a significant change in the way waste types are managed at the sites with savings to be realised as a result.
- 8.2 A staggered implementation of the full range of measures will allow for a fuller assessment of their effectiveness and feasibility.
- 8.3 Further measures, such as ANPR, may be deemed necessary in the future and will be assessed for suitability.

## **9 Recommendations**

- 9.1 Members are recommended to:
- (a) approve the introduction of Phase 1 of the revised Protocol, and
  - (b) note that Officers are to conduct further research into the feasibility of Phase 2 of the Protocol.

Dave Hawes  
**CONTRACT MANAGER**

<b>Appendices</b>		
A	January 2010	Proposed RRC Waste Protocol
<b>Background Papers</b>		
None		