

**Decision Maker:** **PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR SUSTAINABILITY, GREEN SERVICES AND OPEN SPACES**

**For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Environment & Community Services PDS Committee**

**Date:** **Thursday 16 March 2023**

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent                      Executive                      Non-Key

**Title:** **REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PLAN 2023-25**

**Contact Officer:** Catherine Cooke, Head of Environment Strategy, Technical Support & Commissioning  
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**Chief Officer:** Colin Brand, Director of Environment and Public Protection

**Ward:** (All Wards);

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1. Reason for decision/report and options

This report seeks approval for Bromley's Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) as set out in Appendix A.

In May 2018, the Mayor of London published the London Environment Strategy (LES). One of the requirements of the LES is for each London authority to produce a RRP to demonstrate how they are contributing to the specific waste management objectives and targets set in the LES and putting the Mayor's policies on waste into practice at the local level.

The first RRP covered the period 2018-2022 and were intended to cover four year periods. However, due to the impact Covid had on waste services and activities, and looking to the upcoming Government policy reforms on waste, this RRP focusses on the two year period from April 2023 to March 2025. This will allow authorities flexibility to react to any legislative changes.

Bromley continues to demonstrate general conformity with objectives and targets within the LES. It has a long tradition of providing a high performing waste management service and has consistently been one of the top performers in the London Recycling League Table. Bromley's RRP documents the actions that will be taken by the council to continue to deliver the council's corporate priorities for waste management with a focus on waste minimisation, recycling and carbon reduction.

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## **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 Members of the Committee are asked to note the 2023-25 Reduction and Recycling Plan set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The Portfolio Holder is recommended to approve Bromley's Reduction and Recycling Plan as set out in Appendix A.

## Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Waste collection services affect all residents including vulnerable adults and children. Consideration of any additional impacts on particular groups of residents is taken when making changes to the service. Therefore, the potential impacts on vulnerable adults and children and mitigation measures will be considered before implementing specific actions within the RRP.

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## Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
  2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
    - (1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
    - (2) For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
    - (3) For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
    - (4) For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
    - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost. None at this stage; subject to financial viability, business case assessment and affordability
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable: within existing budgets
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Waste Services
  4. Total current budget for this head: £21M
  5. Source of funding: Existing waste services revenue budget
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## Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement Section 355 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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## Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: None. There are no procurement implications at this stage
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## Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: N/A
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## Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: The RRP contains specific actions that contribute to the council's target to have net zero carbon emissions by 2027. They include the transition towards a more sustainable waste collection fleet and maintaining virtually zero waste to landfill.
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): The RRP covers activities and actions relating to the waste services that impact on all residents in the borough
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## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Mayor of London published the London Environment Strategy (LES) in May 2018. Within this strategy is the Mayor's waste management policy, which as a waste collection and disposal authority, Bromley is required to be in general conformance with under Section 355 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999.
- 3.2 The LES is a London-wide strategy and includes a requirement for all London Boroughs to produce a Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP), which demonstrates they will deliver the Mayor's waste management objectives including:
- Providing a minimum service level for household recycling collection services, which includes a weekly food waste collection, and collections of paper, card, plastic bottles, plastic containers, glass and cans
  - Contributing to the London targets of:
    - Sending no biodegradable or recyclable waste to landfill by 2026
    - Recycling 50% of local authority collected waste (LACW) by 2025
  - Drive resource efficiency to significantly reduce waste, focussing on food waste and single use packaging
  - Reducing waste and increasing materials reuse
  - Making best use of local waste sites
  - Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities
  - Supporting the phase out of fossil fuel waste transport and boost uptake of low or zero emission alternatives.
- 3.3 The LES recognises that some boroughs will need to achieve higher levels of recycling to compensate for those who, due to local circumstances will be unable to achieve these levels, for example, boroughs with high numbers of flats.
- 3.4 The Mayor of London has not provided any additional funding to assist boroughs in achieving the waste management requirements set within the LES and recognises that pressures on local authority budgets in many instances has reduced investment in waste and recycling collection services.
- 3.5 Local authorities are now looking ahead to the government's Resources and Waste Strategy (Environment Act 2021), which will see the most significant changes to waste collection and disposal systems for a generation. The GLA acknowledges that there is still considerable uncertainty over exactly which services local authorities will be required to provide, the timescales, and the funding they will receive to support their implementation.

#### *Bromley's RRP*

- 3.6 Bromley Council has a long tradition of providing high performing waste management services. Waste is managed as a resource, with a focus on minimisation and reuse through local behaviour change campaigns and the delivery of a comprehensive recycling service.
- 3.7 Bromley is achieving many of the waste management objectives set by the LES and with the fifth highest recycling rate (2020/21) in London is already contributing more than many boroughs to the London-wide recycling rate.
- 3.8 Bromley's waste strategy is encompassed in two council documents; Making Bromley Even Better, which outlines the guiding principles and corresponding aspirations for the council, and the Annual Environment and Community Services Portfolio Plan, which sets the council's environmental service aims and objectives and includes an aim to manage waste sustainably.

The RRP will complement these by documenting the actions that the council will take to minimise waste and maximise recycling from Bromley's households and businesses.

3.9 Bromley's Draft RRP for the period April 2023 to March 2025 is presented in Appendix A. The 'RRP Dashboard' presents Bromley's 2019/20 performance as a baseline, and performance targets for 2024/25 against the following set of metrics and targets, most of which are already reported locally through the council's Portfolio Plan:

- Total annual household waste collected per head
- Total annual household residual waste collected per household
- Total annual household avoidable food waste collected per head
- Household recycling rate
- Local authority collected waste recycling rate (includes commercial waste)
- Percentage of households that are offered the Mayor's minimum level of service for recycling
- Percentage of vehicles that are Ultra Low Emissions Zone compliant

3.10 The 'RRP Actions' sets out a series of actions that Bromley plans to deliver to meet the planned local targets under the following themes:

- Waste Reduction
- Maximising Recycling
- Reducing Environmental Impact
- Maximising Local Waste Sites

3.11 Key actions within the RRP that will be undertaken to enable the council to minimise waste, maximise recycling and reduce the council's impact on the environment over the next two years include:

- Maintaining virtually 'zero waste' (< 2%) to landfill
- Continuing to conduct waste minimisation campaigns and initiatives with a focus on food waste reduction, home supporting, plastic reduction and reuse and repair
- Developing and improving our waste services further through improved recycling within blocks of flats and on footway properties and reducing contamination
- Working towards a more sustainable waste fleet by exploring alternative fuel options
- Maximising the use of local waste sites by maintaining and investing in the council's two waste transfer stations and promoting recycling and reuse at the two reuse and recycling centres.

3.12 To enable the council to meet some of the aspirational LES targets, which focus not only on household waste but also on business waste that is collected and managed by the council, the RRP also includes several actions for consideration. These actions include:

- Reviewing options to restrict non-recyclable waste
- Exploration of a plastic free council
- Exploring options to increase dry recycling capacity and expanding the range of materials that can be accepted for recycling
- Expanding the commercial waste service offering

3.13 Further exploration of these actions will take place over the next two years to consider the extent to which they are able to contribute to the council's targets, their financial viability and the potential impacts to residents and businesses.

## **4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

4.1 Waste collection services affect all residents including vulnerable adults and children.

4.2 The consideration of any additional impacts on particular groups of residents is taken when making changes to the waste collection service. Therefore, the potential impacts on vulnerable adults and children and mitigation measures will be considered before implementing specific actions within the RRP. Mitigation measures may include the consideration of how to ensure that communication materials are accessible to all.

## **5. TRANSFORMATION/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Bromley's RRP seeks to complement the council's corporate environmental policies.

5.2 The adoption of the RRP will contribute to the "Making Bromley Even Better" ambitions for residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment and to provide efficient and effective services and value for money. RRP actions that focus on minimising waste will assist the council in reducing the cost of the waste management service.

5.3 The actions set out in the RRP will contribute to the Environment Portfolio Plan Priority to Minimise Waste and Increase Recycling.

5.4 The RRP is required to demonstrate Bromley's general conformance with the Mayor of London's waste management policy.

5.5 The Government's Resource and Waste Strategy for England 2018 could alter the way in which local authorities manage waste in the future. Within the strategy the Government set out their plans to implement an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme, Deposit Return Scheme and provision of consistent household and business recycling and waste services. The Government conducted two rounds of consultations, the responses of which will help inform final policy decisions on key aspects of the schemes, such as governance, recycling targets and implementation timelines. The Government has yet to release full details of the policy decisions or confirmed the extent of the changes to local government waste management services.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The existing Waste Services net budget for 2022/23 is £21m.

6.2 There are no direct additional costs of producing the Reduction and Recycling Plan. However, the Plan sets out proposed actions for future consideration that potentially would have financial implications.

6.3 As stated in 3.12, further exploration of these actions will take place in 2023/24. This will need to include detailed business cases to examine their financial viability and affordability given the continuing constraints on the council's resources.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct personnel implications. Actions and activities identified within the RRP will be conducted by the team as part of their existing roles.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 As detailed in the report, in May 2018 the Mayor of London published the London Environment Strategy (LES) and one of the requirements from this is that all London authorities have to produce a RRP.

8.2 The RRP is required to demonstrate that Bromley is in general conformance with the LES, its aims and objectives.

8.3 This report seeks approval of the RRP (in Appendix A) allowing the council to comply with and deliver its legal obligations

## **9. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None. There are no procurement implications at this stage.

## **10. PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None.

## **11. CARBON REDUCTION/SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no direct social value implications. Some of the activities will be carried out in partnership with our service provider.

11.2 The RRP contains specific actions that contribute to the council's target to have net zero carbon emissions by 2027. They include the transition towards a more sustainable waste collection fleet and maintaining virtually zero waste to landfill.

## **12 CUSTOMER IMPACT**

12.1 The actions in the RPP will positively impact customers. They look to improve and develop the waste collection service offerings and support residents and businesses in reducing their waste and increase recycling through workshops, partnership working and promotional campaigns.

## **13 WARD COUNCILLOR VIEWS**

13.1 None.

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| <b>Non-Applicable Headings:</b>                       | Not Applicable |
| Background Documents:<br>(Access via Contact Officer) | Not Applicable |