

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 13th November 2019 Item 5 – Context and plans to increase household recycling rates in Hackney	Item No 5
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Outline

London Environment Strategy

The Mayor of London's Environment Strategy requires London authorities to submit Reduction & Recycling Plans (RRPs), setting out how they will contribute to a range of London-wide objectives, policies and proposals it sets out. Initial plans needed to be submitted in July.

The Strategy includes London wide targets on household recycling rates, which are informed by modelling on the maximum contribution each London authority could make. These are based on each borough meeting a defined standard of recycling services (Hackney already largely meets this), and introducing residual (non-recyclable) waste restrictions.

Hackney Reduction & Recycling Plan

Hackney's RRP was agreed by Cabinet in June. It set a local target to meet a 32% recycling rate by 2022/23, an increase from the 27.4% level achieved in 2017/18.

In order to achieve this, it set out the intention to consider a move from weekly unrestricted residual waste collections, to fortnightly collections with volume restrictions applied, for suitable properties.

This was alongside measures to improve recycling on estates through both the upcoming phase of the Estates Recycling Programme and the programme of work tied to the manifesto commitment to further improve recycling on estates.

Previous Scrutiny of Hackney RRP

A group of back bench Councillors (the Waste and Recycling Budget Scrutiny Task Group) scrutinised the RRP as it was developed, in advance of its submission to Cabinet. This gave particular focus to the elements mentioned above which were expected to play the greatest role in increasing recycling rates and (therefore) bringing some mitigation to otherwise escalating waste disposal costs faced by the Council. The Task Group produced a set of findings and recommendations in May, which were intended to help contribute to the finalisation of the RRP.

Developments further to Cabinet's agreement of RRP – consultation on fortnightly collections

Following the work of the Task Group, the agreement of the RRP by Cabinet, and further development of proposals, at the end of September the Council launched a 3 month consultation on plans to move to a fortnightly restricted residual waste collection for street-level properties.

This item

This item is intended for the Commission to gain insight into the rationale for considering fortnightly, residual waste collections for eligible properties, of the work to further drive up rates of recycling on estates, and of scrutiny work already carried out into the developing plans. It is intended to help the Commission decide the content of any response it will make to the fortnightly collection consultation underway, and any future items which it will seek to reschedule related to the Council's aims to further increase household recycling rates.

Item structure

A. Presentation from Waste and Recycling Budget Scrutiny Task Group

The Task Group's report and recommendations are available on pages 5 - 35. The Chair of the Task Group will be in attendance to speak on this.

B. Presentation from lead Cabinet Member and Officers

Following this, the Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm and Officers will present on the plans being consulted upon currently, and on wider work to improve recycling rates. A paper in support of this is available on pages 37 – 51, accompanied by appendices on pages 53 – 93.

C. Discussion

Guests Expected:

- Cllr Polly Billington, Chair, Waste and Recycling Budget Scrutiny Task Group
- Cllr Jon Burke, Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm
- Aled Richards, Director, Public Realm
- Sam Kirk, Environmental Services Strategy Manager, Public Realm

Action

The Commission is asked to review the papers enclosed in advance of the meeting. They are invited to hear opening comments from guests and to then ask questions.