

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2617

Title: Food Waste Reduction Road Map research report

Executive summary:

The GLA wishes to commission a consultant to prepare a research report outlining potential pathways and actions that could be taken to help achieve Mayoral targets to reduce food waste by 20 per cent per person by 2025; and by 50 per cent per person by 2030, as laid out in the London Environment Strategy (LES). The scope of the research will include reviewing of current progress towards these targets.

The research will provide a greater understanding of the current volume of food waste generated across London; enable comparison against baseline data to identify the scale of intervention required to achieve the LES targets; and analyse the impact that the current programme of food waste reduction initiatives has had in reaching LES targets. The research will analyse the data captured to identify and assess further impactful interventions that could form part of a strategy to deliver these targets; and make recommendations for key partner organisations to work with, in both the public and private sectors, to ensure successful delivery.

This decision form asks for approval of expenditure of up to £45,000.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Environment and Energy approves:

- Expenditure of up to £45,000 on consultancy services to deliver a Food Waste Reduction Road Map research report, outlining possible actions and interventions to take to help achieve the Mayor's London Environment Strategy targets to reduce food waste by 20 per cent per person by 2025, and 50 per cent per person by 2030.

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT

I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities. It has my approval.

Name: Catherine Barber

Position: Assistant Director for
Environment and Energy

Signature:



Date:

09/01/2023

PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. An estimated 32 per cent of all food produced in the world is lost or wasted from farm to fork.¹ This huge level of inefficiency has economic, social and environmental impacts. Globally, it means that more than 1bn tonnes of food are lost or wasted each year, while one in nine people are undernourished. In addition, food loss and waste are responsible for an estimated 8 per cent of annual greenhouse gas emissions. If it were a country, food loss and waste would be the third largest emitter after China and the United States.
- 1.2. Approximately 6,347,000 tonnes of food are produced to supply London's food system each year.² This comes from two key sources: imports from outside the city; and production and cultivation within the boundaries of London. Currently 99 per cent of London's food is imported, with local production and farming accounting for less than 1 per cent of the capital's food supply.³
- 1.3. In total, 1,456,000 tonnes of food are lost or wasted in London each year, with 64 per cent (931,000 tonnes) coming from households. The majority of London's food loss and waste is incinerated (57 per cent), while approximately 24 per cent is more productively managed through anaerobic digestion and composting. Approximately 8 per cent of food waste goes to landfill, which contributes to the greenhouse gas emissions associated with food loss and waste.⁴
- 1.4. Around 300,000⁵ tonnes of food waste are generated from London's hospitality sector. Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimates that the equivalent of one in six meals served is thrown away, 75 per cent of which is avoidable and could have been eaten.⁶
- 1.5. The food we throw away costs the average family £470 per year.⁷ This is at the same time as high levels of food insecurity in the UK, when 13m people are considered to be at risk of poverty. According to Sustain's report, 'Beyond the Food Bank 2019', almost 2m Londoners (of whom an estimated 400,000 are under the age of 16) struggle to afford or access a sufficient diet. The largest provider of food banks, the Trussell Trust, gave out food parcels to more than 165,000 people in London in 2018-19, up from 30,000 in 2017-18.⁸ There are many other emergency food providers in London, so the total extent of Londoners' need is far greater than that.
- 1.6. The cost to London boroughs of reprocessing/disposing of food waste is estimated at around £50m per annum. It costs consumers £1.4bn per year to purchase the food and drink thrown away in London. Food waste is costly to the environment. The food waste that London threw away in 2020 generated the equivalent of 2m tonnes of CO₂e, much of which could have been avoided.⁹

¹ ReLondon, [London's food footprint: An analysis of material flows, consumption-based emissions, and levers for climate action](#), November 2021

² ReLondon, [London's food footprint: An analysis of material flows, consumption-based emissions, and levers for climate action](#), November 2021

³ ReLondon, [London's food footprint: An analysis of material flows, consumption-based emissions, and levers for climate action](#), November 2021

⁴ ReLondon, [London's food footprint: An analysis of material flows, consumption-based emissions, and levers for climate action](#), November 2021

⁵ Bloomberg food waste data analysis (GLA internal document)

⁶ WRAP, [Overview of waste in the hospitality and food service sector](#), November 2013

⁷ WRAP, [Food surplus and waste in the UK – key facts](#), updated October 2021

⁸ Sustain, [Beyond the Food Bank: London Food Poverty Profile 2019](#), October 2019

⁹ GLA, [London Environment Strategy](#), May 2018

- 1.7. WRAP estimates that waste disposal costs the hospitality and food-service sector £10,000 per outlet.¹⁰ Using GLA data, we estimate the total cost to the food service sector in London to be £278m (£276m for small and medium-sized enterprises).
- 1.8. London's consumption-based emissions embedded within the food and drink products consumed in the city are three-and-a-half times greater than the territorial emissions occurring within the city boundaries. This equates to over 15ktCOeq per annum.¹¹
- 1.9. ReLondon recently conducted a material flow analysis of food in London. The findings showed a series of hotspots and areas of opportunity across the food-supply chain to reduce food loss and waste, and consumption-based emissions (an action plan is soon to be developed for this report). The report shows that 6,347,000 tonnes of food are produced to supply London's food system each year; and that 99 per cent of this is produced outside of London. Even before it reaches the city, 836,000 tonnes of imported food are lost, representing the second-largest volume of food that is either lost or wasted across the supply chain. Additionally, most of the consumption-based emissions (78 per cent) from London's food is produced outside the city, demonstrating the role London plays in helping to tackle the climate-change impact of our food system.
- 1.10. The GLA developed nine recovery missions; each focuses on key outcomes, cross-cutting principles and engagement. The Food Waste Reduction Road Map will help contribute towards some of the objectives set out in specific missions (Green New Deal; Robust Safety Net; and Healthy Place, Healthy Weight) by: helping to reduce carbon emission linked to waste; supporting families suffering from food poverty; and encouraging healthy, sustainable diet choices.
- 1.11. The Mayor has set targets to recycle 65 per cent of municipal waste, and to reduce food loss and waste by 50 per cent, by 2030. The Mayor is also a Champion of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 12.3: "By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses."
- 1.12. The Mayor's London Environment Strategy (LES) requires that all London boroughs provide food waste collection services to all households where practical and/or cost-effective. The new Environment Act 2021 will also require local authorities to provide food waste services.
- 1.13. One World Living has recently published its Climate Action Plan, which focuses on actions that London boroughs should implement to respond to the climate emergency. This includes a number of actions related to minimising food waste; maximising recycling and edible food redistribution; and encouraging healthy, sustainable diets as a way to reduce carbon emissions. A pan-London food campaign is listed as one of the interventions within the action plan.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The Food Waste Reduction Road Map research report will include: a study to assess the current level of food waste being generated within London; a comparison with the baseline conducted in 2018 to map progress towards mayoral targets; an analysis of the impact of previous and existing interventions to reduce food waste; and a critique of the efficacy of proposed actions to reduce food waste. It will also identify new, impactful interventions which could be implemented to help reach mayoral targets to support the development of the road map. This research will support policy decisions on implementation of actions and interventions to help achieve the LES targets to reduce food waste per person by 20 per cent by 2025, and by 50 per cent by 2030. It will also contribute towards specific recovery missions (Green New Deal; Robust Safety Net; and Healthy Place, Healthy Weight) by considering how the identified actions can also help to reduce carbon emissions linked to

¹⁰ WRAP, [Overview of waste in the hospitality and food service sector](#), November 2013

¹¹ ReLondon, [London's food footprint: An analysis of material flows, consumption-based emissions, and levers for climate action](#), November 2021

waste; support families suffering from food poverty; and encourage healthy, sustainable diet choices. Additionally, it will contribute to achieving the Mayor's targets and objectives to reduce waste, and to transition to a low-carbon circular economy in London.

2.2. The following outcomes are expected as a result of commissioning the Food Waste Reduction Road Map research report:

- a baseline study quantifying the volume of food waste generated within London
- a comparative analysis of the volume of food waste in 2022 versus the baseline data used to produce the LES
- an analysis of the impact that previous and existing interventions have had on food waste within the capital to date
- an outline of potential activities which could be taken to help meet mayoral targets
- identification of key stakeholders which could be engaged to maximise the impact of the work.

Budget

2.3. This ADD is requesting £45,000 to commission a consultant to deliver the report. The contract will be awarded in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code. The cost breakdown is as follows:*

2022-23	£
Consultancy fees	
Food waste study	5,000
Research analysis of interventions	5,000
Stakeholder engagement	5,000
Road-map production	10,000
Management, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and guidance	
Project management	15,000
Wrap-up, evaluation and reporting	5,000
Total	45,000

*This cost breakdown has been drafted following discussions with Environment Unit colleagues who have overseen similar pieces of work, and then adjusted to reflect the planned scope of the project.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, in considering whether to grant this approval "due regard" must be had to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not. Protected characteristics include age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation (and marriage or civil partnership status for the purpose of the duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination only).
- 3.2. This duty has been taken into account. The Mayor wishes to support the development of a Food Waste Reduction Road Map in order to contribute to the waste and circular economy objectives of his LES (and London recovery missions), which have been the subject of public consultation. No other equalities issues have been identified regarding the nature of the proposals.

4. Other considerations

Key risks and issues

- 4.1. There are no potential or perceived conflicts of interest with any person involved in the drafting or clearance of this form.
- 4.2. Key risks, and mitigating measures, are outlined in the table below.

Risk	Measures to reduce risk
Insufficient data sources being available in order to carry out the baselining exercise.	There is a great deal of existing information on the volume of waste available currently, which includes ReLondon's report London's Food Footprint; WRAP's Courtauld Commitment 2025 Annual Report 2020; and the report prepared by Bloomberg Associates London Food Waste, Categorisation and Mapping 2019 for the GLA, which can be used to support the production of the research report. Initial conversations have been held with WRAP, which regularly conducts research of this nature, to obtain in-principle agreement to support the production of the report.
Not enough time remains before the end of this financial year (31 March 2023) to commission and deliver the research report.	A scoping exercise has been carried out, engaging with those responsible for similar reports, to ascertain reasonable delivery timescales. TFL procurement has been engaged with, to outline the procurement process and timeline. Two potential procurement timelines have been outlined an open tender and a single-source procurement process, both of which will facilitate procurement to be completed prior to the end of December. The single-source procurement process will facilitate an expedited procurement process, which will enable work to be commissioned ahead of the end of the calendar year, allowing production of the report to begin sooner.

Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.3. The LES contains strategies aimed at: promoting waste reduction, in particular food; reducing the climate-change impact of the food system and waste management; and supporting the transition to a low-carbon circular economy.
- 4.4. This project supports the objectives of the Mayor's Green New Deal, tackling emissions and food waste through reduction of the latter. The cross-cutting benefits extend to: supporting those impacted by societal inequalities within London; supporting healthy diets; and reducing the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.
- 4.5. The service will also support the Mayor's commitments to work with London's food sector to: reduce waste; enable the transition to a circular economy; and promote healthy, sustainable diets that are good for the planet.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. The estimated cost of commissioning this report is £45,000 and aims to outline actions to reduce food waste in the capital.
- 5.2. This expenditure can be funded from the 2022-23 Waste Programme budget held within the Energy and Environment Unit.

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 – Deferral

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

Part 2 – Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under the FoIA should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form – NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to
confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Tom Harris has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 9 January 2023.

✓

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature:



Date:

09/01/2023