London Assembly

Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee Scrutiny of the Mayor's Draft Waste Strategy November 2001



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Greater London Authority November 2001

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Chair's foreword



This is the first London Municipal Waste Strategy since the abolition of the GLC in 1986 and there is a great opportunity here to transform the way we deal with waste.

We welcome much of what the Mayor is seeking to do in this Strategy, but we would ask him to go further and endorse a visionary recycling target of 60% of household waste for London.

There are opportunities for substantial development of new waste-related industries which could result in more jobs and local regeneration. We need to ensure that these are delivered. But I would question whether the Waste Strategy has been explicit enough in saying how the Strategy will be implemented.

The Mayor has cited participation and new technologies as key in dealing with London's rubbish. Yet he has not considered the valuable work of the not-for-profit sector. Community organisations play an integral part in waste and recycling and are a vital part of a Waste Strategy for London.

The Mayor must also demonstrate how he will work in partnership with the Boroughs to support them and enable them to meet the challenge of a 60% recycling rate. These are crucial steps that must be properly worked through otherwise the Strategy will be meaningless.

With my thanks to all those who have contributed to this report

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Samantha Heath Chair of the Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee

The Committee

The London Assembly agreed at its meeting on 9 May 2001 the following membership for its Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee in 2001/2002:

Samantha Heath (Chair)	Labour
Louise Bloom (Vice Chair)	Liberal Democrat
Victor Anderson*	Green
John Biggs*	Labour
Brian Coleman	Conservative
Roger Evans	Conservative
Lynne Featherstone	Liberal Democrat
Elizabeth Howlett	Conservative
Trevor Phillips	Labour

* The London Assembly agreed at its meeting on 7 November 2001 that Darren Johnson (Green) should replace Victor Anderson (Green) as a member of the Committee with immediate effect. At the same meeting John Biggs (Labour) resigned from the Committee.

The Committee's terms of reference are to scrutinise the Mayor's Air Quality, Biodiversity, Waste, Energy and Noise Strategies on behalf of the London Assembly.

Copies of the Mayor's Strategies for London can be downloaded from the GLA website: <u>http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/index.htm</u>

Should you have any questions about this Report or would like to know more about the work of the Committee, please contact:

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Executive summary

The Committee welcomes the key messages of the Mayor's Waste Strategy, particularly its focus on recycling and its opposition to any more incineration.

Our *Rewarding Recycling* report recommended that the Mayor's priorities should be to:

- Invest in the market for recycled goods;
- Divert large proportions of household waste from landfill and incineration to recycling and composting; and
- Obtain additional funds for waste management in London from central government.

The Strategy reflects these priorities and has much in it that we commend to Londoners. However the Committee has highlighted four key areas in which the Strategy is unduly negative, detracting from its otherwise positive tone.

The four areas, with a summary of our findings, are:

Implementation of the Strategy. Given that public participation is key to achieving higher levels of recycling and composting, the Strategy needs to give greater prominence to the role community groups will play in its implementation phase. As we set out in *Rewarding Recycling*, community groups are at the cutting edge of recycling initiatives and will figure strongly in engaging Londoners in the Mayor's Strategy. For the Strategy to succeed the Mayor will need to embark on an extensive campaign of publicity and persuasion. The resources required for this campaign will be similar to those which have been devoted to the issue of congestion charging.

Lessons from other cities and regions. The Strategy's comparison with other cities section provides a misleading analysis of what London can achieve. The Strategy needs to draw on the positive aspects of what has been achieved elsewhere and raise London's sights accordingly. The Mayor should want to lead the world in recycling and not to excuse our poor performance using waste statistics from other cities and regions.

The growth in waste and waste composition. The Strategy is contradictory in its consideration of waste growth. While on the one hand it makes a number of general statements assuming growth in waste, on the other it includes data which points to a more complex reality. We disagree with the Strategy's discussion of waste composition, a statement of the proportions of different types of materials which constitute waste. The data used in it are out of date and inappropriate for a recycling-led approach in London. This has the effect of undermining the Strategy's pro-recycling message.

The Mayor's policy on incineration. The Mayor sets out a policy of considering recycling and composting before incineration. We support this and think the Strategy should map out how this will be achieved in practice. Given that we have incineration now, we are keen that the Mayor should reassure Londoners about the health impact of incinerators by urging the two London plants at Edmonton and Lewisham to make their emissions data public. The Mayor should also work with the Environment Agency to ensure that their regulation of London's two incineration plants is sufficiently thorough.

1. The scrutiny process

- 1.1 This Report records the findings of the Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee's ('the Committee') scrutiny of the Mayor of London's ('the Mayor') Municipal Waste Management Strategy ('the Strategy').
- 1.2 The Committee met three times in autumn 2001 to discuss the Strategy:
 - On 19 September to focus on incineration
 - On 15 October to hear the views of community recycling groups
 - On 18 October to question the Mayor of London ('the Mayor') and his advisers
- 1.3 We received technical expertise from a consortium of three consultants representing the Safer Neighbourhoods Unit, Eunomia and SLR Consulting.
- 1.4 Our scrutiny has concentrated on four areas of the Strategy and the following four sections of this Report reflect that:
 - Implementation of the Strategy
 - Lessons from other cities and regions
 - The growth in waste and waste composition
 - The Mayor's policy on incineration.
- 1.5 The timetable for the Mayor's Municipal Waste Management Strategy is:
 - July 2001: London Assembly draft of the Strategy
 - November 2001: publication of the London Assembly scrutiny report
 - March 2002: public consultation draft of the Strategy
 - June 2002: end of the public consultation phase
 - November 2002: final draft of the Strategy.

2. Implementation of the Strategy

The implementation challenge

- 2.1 The Strategy aims to be 'waste minimisation and recycling led, cohesive and sustainable'.¹ It calculates that, if waste authorities achieve the targets set by central government's Best Value regime for local authorities, recycling in London will exceed the national waste strategy's target of 25% by 2005.² London waste authorities achieved a recycling and composting rate of 9% for household waste in 1999-2000.
- 2.2 To achieve the 25% target for household waste recycling, the Mayor gives details of 24 actions, principally:
 - Not considering energy recovery before the opportunities for waste minimisation, recycling and composting have been fully developed
 - Reducing and reusing waste by the further development of home composting, furniture reuse and reusable nappy schemes
 - Providing universal kerbside facilities for street level properties, other easily accessible multi-material household waste recycling collections for apartment and estate dwellers, improving bring sites and creating a new focus on recycling in civic amenity sites to create widespread convenient recycling opportunities
 - Extending composting collection schemes and composting in parks
 - Encouraging participation in recycling through financial incentives and London-wide information and education campaigns
 - Supporting the development of new markets for recyclables and initiating Buy Recycled procurement
 - Working with waste authorities to secure funding for recycling and minimisation from government and other sources
 - Improving waste contracts and waste planning
 - Establishing a London waste database.³
- 2.3 The Strategy does not set recycling targets for 2010 and 2015 but instead proposes to lobby central government for it to put in place targets of 50% by 2010 and 60% by 2015. These targets are is in line with a recent House of Commons report.⁴ The Committee believes that the Mayor is being unduly cautious in only proposing to lobby central government rather than taking the lead and setting the higher recycling rates as targets for London.

¹ Strategy, Paragraph 3.11 on page 51

² Strategy, Table 1 on Page 5

³ Strategy, Proposal 1 on page 81

⁴ Strategy, Policy 2 on page 80 and House of Commons, Select Committee on the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs, 2000/01 Session, *Delivering Sustainable Waste Management*, HC36

2.4 With ready markets in recycled goods and short transportation distances, London is an ideal area in which to aim for the more ambitious recycling targets of 50% and 60%. We urge the Mayor to be bolder in his Strategy and set a target recycling rate for London of 60% by 2015. As part of a bolder approach, we recommend that the target should apply to all municipal waste and should not be confined to household waste.

Recommendation 1

The Mayor should set a target for London to recycle 60% of its municipal waste by 2015

2.5 The Mayor is keen to establish a single waste disposal authority for London.⁵ The Committee recognises the benefits this would bring to co-ordinating the disposal of London's waste, but is also aware of the difficulties of transferring contracts from London's existing waste authorities to a new body. Of paramount importance is an improvement in London's recycling performance and we would not want the Mayor to sacrifice this aim in trying to establish a London-wide waste disposal authority. If the Mayor is successful in creating a new waste body for London, its focus should not be solely waste disposal, but also waste minimisation. This would be in keeping with the Strategy's emphasis on recycling and composting.

Recommendation 2

The Mayor should have a dual focus of waste minimisation and waste disposal in his plans for a new waste authority for London

Recommendation 3

The Mayor should undertake a separate consultation exercise with stakeholders about his plans for a single London waste disposal authority

2.6 We support green procurement as a means of driving forward the market for recycled goods. The GLA family of London authorities as well as many other public and private sector organisations have agreed to buy recycled goods wherever possible. Setting and monitoring standards for recycled goods are important in regulating the quality of these products.

Recommendation 4

The Mayor should work with appropriate partners to set and monitor standards for recycled goods

⁵ Strategy, Proposal 103 on page 175

- 2.7 The pressing issues for the Mayor to consider in raising London's recycling performance are:
 - How the public are to be encouraged to participate in recycling
 - The issue of a timetable for implementation
 - The costs and the additional infrastructure requirements which will be necessary to allow collection, processing, storage and transport of recyclable and compostable materials, to expand waste minimisation measures and to conduct educational and promotional campaigns
 - The role of the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy in encouraging developers and planners to provide recycling facilities in each neighbourhood.

Public participation

- 2.8 There are few references in the Strategy to the potential of the community sector. The Strategy's section on increasing participation concentrates on financial incentives.⁶ It would be helpful if the Strategy were to acknowledge the wide-ranging role of community and voluntary groups in delivering recycling, composting and waste minimisation.
- 2.9 *Rewarding Recycling* examined the role of the community sector in some detail and more recently the Committee welcomed London based community groups to an evening seminar on recycling.⁷
- 2.10 The community sector is key to driving up Londoners' participation rates in recycling and composting initiatives. It is currently active in:
 - Delivering kerbside recycling in several boroughs
 - Pioneering green waste collections
 - Developing local community information and promotion campaigns
 - Establishing and promoting recycling and composting schemes on estates
 - Researching and analysing waste related issues.
- 2.11 National bodies such as Waste Watch and the Women's Environmental Network have lent their expertise to the development of participation strategies and waste minimisation schemes. Non-profit groups such as Ealing Community Recycling, Islington Waste Saver, CRISP (Southwark) and others provide kerbside and composting schemes, and local community groups such as Brentford Recycling Action Group encourage local people to participate in recycling schemes.

⁶ Strategy, pages 107 and 108

⁷ *Rewarding Recycling*, Paragraph 3.4 on pages 36 and 37 and London Assembly, Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee, 15 October 2001

2.12 The London Community Recycling Network can link waste authorities in London with community bodies who can offer services ranging from recycling collection contracts to small-scale publicity campaigns.

Recommendation 5

The Mayor should place greater emphasis on the role London's community sector can play in delivering the recycling and minimisation-led Strategy

- 2.13 Although no dates are set, the Strategy contains ambitious proposals for educational and promotional initiatives including a campaign on waste minimisation and recycling and a requirement for waste management contracts to fund local education and promotion work.⁸
- 2.14 For it to succeed, the Mayor will need to make a recycling publicity campaign a priority in the way he has done for congestion charging. This will involve a considerable investment of time and resources, and planning will need to begin before the Strategy is finalised.

Recommendation 6

The Mayor should demonstrate his support for recycling by leading a campaign to publicise its importance

The timetable for implementation

- 2.15 The Strategy reviews current recycling collection arrangements in London. By 1999/2000, 1.4 million households were receiving some sort of kerbside recycling collection and nearly 120,000 households in multi-storey blocks had access to recycling collections. There were nearly 2,200 bring sites and 39 civic amenity sites. Although almost 50% of street level properties and 10% of apartments were served by kerbside or close to home facilities, the range of materials targeted and the frequency of collections varied enormously among authorities.⁹
- 2.16 The Strategy proposes that waste authorities make kerbside or other easily accessible recycling collections for at least three materials including paper available to all households by 1 April 2004.¹⁰ No more than 12 months after the implementation of their kerbside schemes, the Strategy requires waste authorities to introduce separate collections for kitchen and garden waste.¹¹
- 2.17 However the aim to collect at least three materials by April 2004 is too low to meet the 25% recycling target for 2005. A standard of six materials, with a

⁸ Strategy, Policy 38 on page 148 and Proposal 78 on page 148

⁹ Strategy, Table 6 on page 14

¹⁰ Strategy, Proposals 28 and 29 on page 105

¹¹ Strategy, Proposal 38 on page 111

target of collecting 170kg of dry recyclables per household per year by 2005, should be included in the Strategy.

- 2.18 In addition to a general exhortation to waste authorities to 'vigorously promote waste minimisation', the Strategy requires authorities to make home composting equipment available to all households with gardens by 2003/4.¹²
- 2.19 *Rewarding Recycling* sets out a series of options for recycling, composting and waste minimisation based on operations already underway in London boroughs.¹³ The Strategy anticipates the Mayor producing a best practice review of recycling schemes aimed at saving waste authorities 'the time and resources spent investigating options independently'.¹⁴ The best practice review should focus on participation rates and set targets for materials passing through the proposed re-use and recycling centres.
- 2.20 Given the limited period of time in which to meet the 25% recycling target, there is an urgent need for best practice guidelines. The Mayor should use the *Rewarding Recycling* list as a starting point for his best practice review.
- 2.21 By recycling trade waste at same or higher levels than household, London will meet its targets for 2005 and 2010, while also reducing the amount of residual waste for disposal. The charges levied for the collection of trade waste could act as an incentive for more recycling, were trade waste sent for recycling to attract a lower fee. The best practice review should include guidance on the recycling of trade waste.

Recommendation 7

The Mayor should issue his best practice review of recycling, composting and promotion to waste authorities by April 2002

- 2.22 Vital momentum will be lost if work does not start immediately. Waste authorities have much to implement in a short space of time:
 - Comprehensive convenient recycling collections of at least three elements of the dry waste stream by 1 April 2004
 - Garden and kitchen waste composting collection services to all by no later than 1 April 2005
 - Home composting equipment for all households with gardens
 - A complete recycling and composting infrastructure, including the conversion of civic amenity sites into recycling and reuse centres and the establishment of in-vessel composters, with all the financial commitments these steps entail.

¹² Strategy, Proposal 15 on page 96 and Proposal 25 on page 101

¹³ *Rewarding Recycling*, pages 26 and 27

¹⁴ Strategy, Proposal 33 on page 108

- 2.23 While the Strategy sets deadlines for the recycling infrastructure to be in place, no timetable is offered for the vital support services offered in the Strategy, notably:
 - The best practice guide to recycling, composting and promotion
 - The Mayor's sources of finance guidance
 - A new study of waste composition data in London.
- 2.24 These support services need to be available in time for waste authorities to procure the appropriate infrastructure, secure the necessary finance and design the promotional and educational campaigns to deliver the strategy. The Strategy will need to set very early completion dates for these activities. It is important that the timetable sets in place a review procedure to monitor progress in achieving the targets set.

Recommendation 8

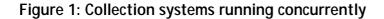
The Mayor should publish a full timetable for his recycling-led Strategy, with quantifiable targets for each of the implementation programme, so that London waste authorities are aware of the key milestones. The timetable will need to identify at what point the Strategy will be reviewed

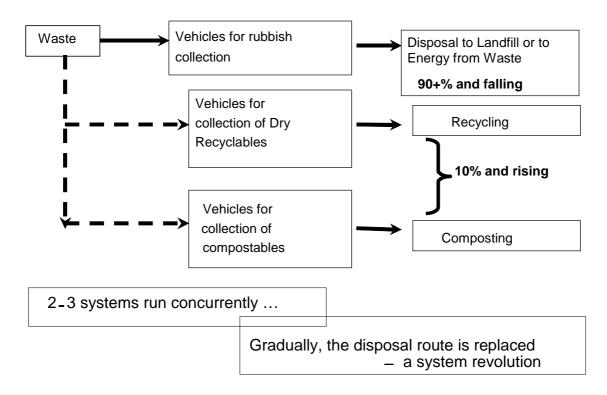
Implementation costs and infrastructure

- 2.25 It is important to recognise that the short-term and the long-term costs of diverting substantial quantities of municipal waste away from landfill will be quite different.
- 2.26 Conventional refuse collection still accounts for the greater part of municipal waste. Typically one vehicle collects mixed refuse on a weekly pass or collection round. These tend to be large compactor vehicles which cost in excess of £100,000 and have the advantage of being able to collect large quantities of material before any return to the depot is required.
- 2.27 Introducing collections for at least three streams of recyclable material through kerbside, or close to home, recycling as proposed in the Strategy will require expenditure on the following:
 - Additional staffing costs associated with new methods of waste collection and segregation
 - New containers for recyclable material (bags, buckets, boxes and bins) to go in the home or close to it, although some schemes merely require participants to use their own plastic shopping bags for dry recyclable materials
 - Additional collection rounds
 - New specialist recycling collection vehicles, although in some circumstances existing collection vehicles can be modified

- Dedicated areas to offload, weigh, store, secure and prepare segregated recyclable materials for transporting to end users. Depending on the extent and quality of segregation at the point of collection, sorting processes may also be required. Where distances are not too great, depots and Materials Reclamation Facilities can be shared by neighbouring authorities
- Regular communication with residents about recycling collection arrangements. Communication costs will need to cover not just the launch of new schemes but regular well designed information to brief new residents, to record recycling achievements, to advise of changes in arrangements and to identify problems of contamination and under performance. Provision will also need to be made for minority languages
- Further container, collection, storage and processing and communication costs will be incurred in introducing garden and kitchen waste collections.
- 2.28 Despite initial substantial increases in costs, savings will be made as the system evolves and as participation increases. It is difficult to predict the level of savings but some allowance should be made for this when considering transitional costs. For a period of time, collection systems will run concurrently at rates below their maximum efficiency. See Figure 1 opposite.
- 2.29 As the collection system evolves and moves towards a more settled pattern, there will be opportunities for reorganising services and reducing costs. Refuse collection rounds will then be consolidated as collections of dry recyclable materials become a higher proportion of the waste stream.
- 2.30 In the case of apartments and tower blocks with communal refuse containers, the successful introduction of convenient recycling collection facilities will allow less frequent collections, which on some estates can be as often as three times per week at present.
- 2.31 When collections of kitchen and garden waste (known as putrescible waste) are introduced, there will be opportunities to reduce the cost of general refuse collection as levels reduce. The waste remaining after recycling and composting is known as residual waste.
- 2.32 The relationship between the collection of putrescible and residual waste is an important one. Successful diversion of kitchen and garden waste from disposal to composting will create opportunities for less frequent collection of residual waste. This has been the experience in much of Austria, Catalonia (Spain), parts of Denmark, Flanders (Belgium), Germany and Italy.
- 2.33 Waste minimisation runs in parallel with recycling and composting in the Strategy. The Strategy envisages a system of municipal waste management geared around resource management and conservation. Policy 13 states starkly that 'the Mayor wishes to minimise the production of waste, and hence reduce the amount of waste produced per head of the population'.¹⁵

¹⁵ Strategy, page 96





Intermediate Phase

- 2.34 The successful implementation of such a system will mean that the collection cost per tonne measure, assessing local government efficiency, becomes increasingly meaningless. As waste is diverted away from disposal to recycling and composting, unit costs will increase. Better performance indicators are likely to be:
 - Residual waste per inhabitant
 - Residual waste per capita
 - The costs per annum of providing the total collection service to each inhabitant. This figure should be adjusted to reflect the costs of sorting and treating the separated fractions net of the avoided costs of residual waste treatment.
- 2.35 In the medium to long-term, systems should be continually revised as innovative collection and processing systems and more cost effective working practices are introduced. Secure and enhanced revenues from recyclable material will be a major benefit of stabilised markets. Other benefits include reduced residual waste costs and avoided waste disposal costs.
- 2.36 The implications of this discussion are that the most pressing need is for funds to carry waste authorities from low to high performance systems. The quicker

the transition is made in any given area, the smaller the additional costs incurred from running two collection systems, the old and the new, in parallel. Clear information will remain important in promoting new schemes to residents and developing a best practice guide for waste authorities.

- 2.37 The Strategy as it stands contains little information on costs. The costs of a waste minimisation and recycling led Strategy should be considered in the context of the need to make a transition from one system to another. The transitional costs will be substantial.
- 2.38 Such costs are difficult to estimate unless we assume that everything will be collected in the same way across London. Yet, as the Strategy accepts, 'there is no one way to collect recycling on the kerbside'.¹⁶ The approach to collection must be tailored to each location. Indeed London already has a wide variety of collection and processing systems. We can learn much by examining the operations of the best performers in the United Kingdom and by looking at experiences abroad.
- 2.39 Rather than seeking to make broad estimates of funding requirements, the Strategy should urge the waste authorities to come forward with costed plans for collecting waste materials.
- 2.40 Waste authorities will be greatly assisted if much more detailed information can be provided on funding sources than is currently offered in the Strategy in paragraph 4T.4 and if the Strategy can indicate firm timescales for the proposals contained in Policy 44 and Proposal 93.¹⁷

Recommendation 9

The Mayor should include more detail in the Strategy on implementation costs, clearly identifying key dates in the process and the costs attached to specific elements of implementation

Recommendation 10

The Mayor should issue guidance to waste authorities on sources of finance as soon as the Strategy is finalised in November 2002

The Spatial Development Strategy

2.41 The pre-draft of the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) is right to state that 'the main emphasis of the Waste Strategy will be on expanding the collection of household recyclables, composting and civic amenity sites'.¹⁸ It is important that the next draft of the SDS is explicit in informing London Boroughs of the level of recycling and composting facilities the Mayor expects

¹⁶ Strategy, Paragraphs 4D.2 to 4D.6 on page 103

¹⁷ Strategy, page 163

¹⁸ The Mayor of London, Towards the London Plan – initial proposals for the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy, May 2001, and Towards the London Plan, Paragraph 2.103 on page 57

in each locality. The Mayor pledged to the Committee that he would be as prescriptive as he could be in the SDS while adhering to the legal advice he receives.¹⁹

Recommendation 11

The Mayor should ensure that the Spatial Development Strategy specifies the level of recycling and composting facilities in each neighbourhood the Mayor expects London Boroughs to include in their Unitary Development Plans

¹⁹ London Assembly, Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee, 18 October 2001

3. Lessons from other cities and regions

The purpose of comparison

- 3.1 It is important that London adopts examples of good practice employed by other cities and regions. At the same time we should not feel inhibited by a lack of success elsewhere. London should aim to lead the field in recycling rather than follow it.
- 3.2 As it stands, the section of the Mayor's Strategy which claims to compare the recycling performance in London with other cities does not reflect the rest of Strategy's support for waste minimisation and recycling.²⁰ Instead it adopts a cautious and unduly negative tone.
- 3.3 London needs to take the best from each locality and apply it in the context of London. Just as we are seeking to develop and improve our performance, so are other municipalities. So to take a point in time and use waste statistics to inform our future plans and performance is not helpful. Our recycling performance depends on two critical factors:
 - The composition of waste in London how much of our waste can be recycled
 - Londoners' participation rates in recycling schemes engaging communities in increasing recycling rates.
- 3.4 The value in looking at other cities and regions stems from the good practices we can identify and the potential to improve our performance without placing limits on what can be achieved.
- 3.5 The Strategy's discussion on comparative performance is lacking in that it uses waste data to focus on negative aspects of the cities' performance. We would prefer it to make more of the positive, good practice messages we can take from cities such as Tokyo and New York.

Canberra

3.6 The Strategy states that Canberra 'not only has a tiny population in comparison with London, its whole structure and framework is different'.²¹ The question then arises of why it was selected. In fact, though the Mayor's Strategy does not make the point, Canberra is similar to the prosperous suburbs found in some of the outer London boroughs and acts as a good example for them. Canberra citizens segregate large quantities of dry recyclable waste using a split wheeled bin and take even larger quantities of garden waste to centralised composting sites. In this way more than 50% of household waste is diverted away from the landfill site.

²⁰ Strategy, Paragraph 2.115 on page 44

²¹ Strategy, Paragraph 2.119 on page 46

3.7 Furthermore, and a particularly clear example of the dynamic nature of recycling and minimisation initiatives, Canberra has an aggressive policy of minimising waste and increasing recycling with the aspiration of producing no waste by 2010. The Strategy does not refer to this either. In other words, Canberra has not stopped. It is moving towards ambitious goals.

Copenhagen

- 3.8 In the case of Copenhagen, the Strategy is unclear in its conclusion that 'materials recycling has been optimised'.²² There is no definition of the term optimised. Copenhagen diverted 21% of its household waste into recycling in 1998/9. However, since Bexley achieved 18% in the same year and Sutton achieved 27% in the following year, Copenhagen's recycling achievement hardly seems to merit mention.
- 3.9 At the same time, Copenhagen diverted 76.5% of its household waste into energy recovery through incineration, each tonne of which is subject to a €40 (£25) tax, reflecting a legislative requirement banning the landfill of municipal waste other than bulky items. This produces about £4m per annum in incineration tax revenues and leaves less than a quarter of the waste stream to be recycled or taken to landfill. Most of the remainder is indeed recycled but Copenhagen could divert more of its household waste, including some of its putrescible waste, into recycling if it were not required for energy generation. These circumstances are obscured in the Strategy.

Tokyo

- 3.10 Tokyo, a big city with declining waste, is relegated to the end of the city comparison section. It should be at the start. Besides its declining waste, Tokyo is of interest because its residents, living in narrow streets in an overcrowded environment, are required to segregate their waste into three separate containers for combustible, non-combustible and recyclable waste.
- 3.11 The example of Tokyo should also be used to reassess the Strategy's statement that 'as a general rule waste amounts are increasing' and that various socio-economic factors 'are likely to result in greater volumes of waste in the near future'.²³ Indeed the Strategy contradicts this view when it suggests, later in the same section, that 'the main lessons for London [of international comparisons] are that a continuous rise in the level of waste is not inevitable'.²⁴

New York

3.12 It is perhaps surprising that the Strategy makes no reference to the UK Government's study of international recycling published in late April 2001.²⁵

²² Strategy, Paragraph 2.119 on page 46

²³ Strategy, pages 46 and 47

²⁴ Strategy, page 48

²⁵ DETR, *Research Study on International Recycling Experience*, April 2001

3.13 This study includes New York which has a similar population to London though double the density. New York provides some encouragement for recycling in a challenging environment. With three quarters of its households in apartments including a large social housing sector and focusing only on recycling dry materials, New York City still managed a recycling rate of 22% in 1999, when London achieved just 8%. New York is not resting on its laurels and is striving for higher diversion.²⁶

Lessons learnt

- 3.14 Successful diversion into recycling is likely to be as a result of a combination of drivers:
 - higher landfill taxes
 - incineration taxes
 - variable charging for refuse collection
 - further extensions to producer responsibility
 - grant aided market development
 - improved kerbside and drop-off recycling facilities through investment in collection infrastructure
 - identification and implementation of what works in composting
 - sustained public awareness and education campaigns properly and sustainably resourced.
- 3.15 The use of comparisons must emphasise the dynamic nature of recycling and waste minimisation. Every few years there will be new collection and processing techniques, new markets, lighter materials, new approaches to education and new minimisation initiatives for waste managers and recyclers. Recycling and waste minimisation do not stand still. Targets for higher diversion are continually set.
- 3.16 All these points must be part and parcel of the waste minimisation and recycling led Strategy, yet the comparison carried out fails to acknowledge this. Given the headline messages, its tone belongs to a different document.

Recommendation 12

The Mayor should stress that London wants to take the lead in recycling and composting rather than relying on other cities and regions to achieve a rate of 60% first

²⁶ DETR, Section A7 of *Research Study on International Recycling Experience*, April 2001

4. The growth in waste and waste composition

The issues of waste growth and composition

- 4.1 Accurate data on the amount of waste being produced (known as arisings) and waste composition is fundamental to the development of the municipal waste management Strategy for London. Waste forecasts of annual arisings for ten and twenty years ahead are being used now to determine important investment decisions on waste infrastructure across London.
- 4.2 In addition, the composition of municipal waste, including household waste, needs to be fully understood before identification of the most appropriate waste management methods can be made.
- 4.3 It is therefore essential for the Strategy to lead by example and provide clarity on these two issues which are fundamental to a waste minimisation and recycling led approach to waste.

The growth in waste

- 4.4 Table 1 below is a revision of Table 11 on page 21 of the Strategy, adjusted to reflect the latest DEFRA published statistics.²⁷ The table indicates that London's municipal solid waste the total amount of waste collected by London waste authorities has grown by 16% over the three-year period from 1996/1997 to 1999/2000.
- 4.5 This does not necessarily mean that year-on-year waste growth is an established pattern. It would be helpful for the Strategy to examine this question in more detail, taking into account the effect of any possible economic downturn.
- 4.6 A major complication in determining waste patterns is the imprecise nature of municipal waste. About 80% of municipal waste is classified as household waste. But as the strategy acknowledges 'what is not known is the proportion of household waste that is genuinely arising from households. It is suspected that some waste counted as household waste is actually from small business or commercial activities but taken to civic amenity sites, put in domestic collections or is collected as street cleansing arisings through fly-tipping or dumping'.²⁸

²⁷ Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR), *Municipal Waste Management Survey 1999/2000* DEFRA is the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the successor body to the DETR

²⁸ Strategy, Paragraph 2.44 on page 21

Table 1: Municipal waste arisings data for London

Arisings ('000s tonnes)

% change

					97/8	98/9	99/0
Regular household collection	2,310	2,280	2,290	2,400	(1)	-	5
Household recycling	190	220	250	350	16	14	40
Subtotal	2,500	2,500	2,540	2,750	-	2	8
Other household sources	140	200	270	250	43	35	(7)
Civic amenity sites	450	470	470	540	4	-	15
Non-household sources (excluding recycling)	720	820	820	850	14	-	4
Non-household recycling	10	20	20	30	100	-	50
Total	3,820	4,000	4,130	4,420	5	3	7
Subtotal as a % of Total	65	63	62	62			

96/7 97/8 98/9 99/0 96/7- 97/8- 98/9-

- 4.7 The Table shows that the subtotal of waste collected from householders through regular household collection and household recycling:
 - fell as a proportion of total waste from 65% in 1996/1997 to 62% in 1999/2000
 - grew by only 2% in the two years in the years 1996/1997, 1997/1998 and 1998/1999, but by 8% between 1998/1999 and 1999/2000.
- 4.8 The biggest growth in terms of tonnage of waste for disposal, that is nonrecycled waste, has been in the non-household sources category. This category consists mainly of collections from commercial premises or trade waste. Local authorities are obliged to collect from commercial premises if requested to do so and some even market their trade waste collection services. Commercial enterprises are free to choose between the contracts offered by their local authorities and those offered by waste contractors from the private sector.
- 4.9 Non-household municipal waste can vary according to the number of commercial collections made by the waste authority and may have nothing to do with whether individual businesses are generating more waste.

- 4.10 Since variable amounts of commercial waste can enter the municipal stream legitimately and illegitimately and as both household and non-household waste, the value of municipal waste data returns as the basis for establishing patterns in waste growth is questionable.
- 4.11 The proposals on waste data in the Strategy should be strengthened as follows:
 - A clearer distinction between waste from household and other sources should be made through improvements in recording the origins of waste collected
 - Policy 3 should be strengthened to require waste authorities to clearly state how data returns are derived (i.e. by measurement or estimate)
 - Waste authorities should be required to adopt improved enforcement measures to prevent contamination of the household and municipal waste with unpaid commercial waste, building on the clause in Proposal 1
 - The Mayor should work with DEFRA to tighten the definitions of municipal waste, strengthening producer responsibility and reducing the burden on collection authorities.²⁹

Recommendation 13

The Mayor should not assume waste growth until he has extensive and reliable data to support that assumption

Waste composition

- 4.12 Understanding the composition of waste is important in that it allows estimates to be made of the proportions available for recycling and composting.
- 4.13 The Strategy cites a number of London based waste compositional studies over the last 10 years yet chooses to use national household waste compositional data undertaken in 1993.³⁰ The Strategy's adoption of national data is justified on the basis of maintaining consistency although it is unclear why the issue of consistency is relevant in this case.³¹
- 4.14 GLA legal advice indicates that the Mayor is not bound to use national data over other data produced by, or on behalf of, waste collection authorities.³²

²⁹ Strategy, pages 81 and 83

³⁰ Strategy, Paragraphs 2.99 to 2.103 on pages 36 and 37

³¹ Strategy, Paragraph 2.101 on page 37

³² An extract from the GLA Legal Group's note on the powers of the Mayor: 'In formulating his policies and proposals relating to municipal waste the Mayor must have regard to the plans prepared by Waste Collection authorities in Greater London, the Strategy prepared by the Secretary of State and any guidance given to him by the Secretary of State for the purposes of the implementation of that Strategy. This does not mean the Mayor is bound to be consistent with or follow these plans or the guidance. What is essential is that he genuinely has regard to them or it and can demonstrate a sound basis for departure'.

- 4.15 The Strategy unjustifiably implies that these London based studies do not provide us with robust results. Indeed the Mayor supplied a supplementary note to the Committee aimed at reinforcing the Strategy's position that the LPAC (1998) and London Waste Action (1997) composition studies are inadequate.³³ While the Committee acknowledges that these two studies are not the final word on waste composition in London, it is confident that they are of more value than the national data quoted by the Strategy, which:
 - date back to 1993
 - are not London centred
 - aim to calculate the proportion of waste which can be incinerated and not the proportion which can be recycled.
- 4.16 Given the number of statements in the Strategy pointing to the inappropriateness of national data for London's purposes, this is especially surprising. This is made worse by the Strategy adopting an aspirational target for recycling and composting of 60% yet quoting national data which indicates that only 56% of municipal waste is recyclable.³⁴
- 4.17 A second supplementary note presented by the Mayor only serves to confuse the issue.³⁵ It takes as its recyclable composition rate a figure of 69% half way between the 56% indicated by 1993 national data and the 81% by LPAC in 1998. This is an arbitrary and unsatisfactory approach to take. We feel it would be more productive to make use of more recent studies. A rate of at least 75% is indicated not only by the LPAC and London Waste Action studies but work undertaken at:
 - LB Bexley
 - RB Kensington and Chelsea
 - Lancashire CC
 - Hampshire CC.
- 4.18 To obtain the recycling and composting target rate of 60% with a recyclable composition rate of 75% would require a participation rate of 80%. We feel that a participation rate of 80% is achievable in London.
- 4.19 The Strategy recognises the deficiencies in current waste compositional data and recommends the establishment of a waste database specific to London.³⁶ The Strategy recognises that the Mayor should establish a database for London's waste. All of London's waste authorities need to contribute to this work so that it is comprehensive and reliable.

³³ London Assembly, Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee, October 18 2001, the Mayor presented a supplementary note 'waste composition analysis studies'

³⁴ Strategy, Paragraph 2.106 on page 41 and Policy 2 on page 80, Paragraph 2.102 and Figures 9 and 10 on pages 37 and 38

³⁵ London Assembly, Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee, October 18 2001, the Mayor presented a supplementary note 'factors influencing recycling rates for household recycling collections'

³⁶ Strategy, Policies and Proposals 4A.7 to 4A.11 and Policies 3 and 4 on pages 82 to 84

4.20 Since waste composition data will be of value in determining the recycling infrastructure and in evaluating the performance of schemes, waste authorities in London should be encouraged to complete an analysis of waste composition as soon as possible.

Recommendation 14

The Mayor should involve all of London's waste authorities in a year long study looking at the composition of London's waste, running from January 2002 to December 2002 and informing future versions of the Strategy

Recommendation 15

The Mayor should use a composition rate of 75% as the basis for waste planning in the Strategy until the results of the study are available

5. The Mayor's policy on incineration

Regulation and public health

- 5.1 The Strategy has as one of its cornerstones 'a presumption against any increase in large-scale mass burn municipal waste incineration'.³⁷ To achieve this, the Mayor needs to develop a full implementation plan, establishing exactly how further incineration can be avoided.
- 5.2 The Committee feels strongly that that the two major drawbacks to incineration outweigh its benefits:
 - Incineration can act as a disincentive to recycling. The economics of operating incinerators may mean burning materials which could otherwise be recycled. For waste managers, policy makers and members of the public not living near a plant, incinerators can encourage an out of sight, out of mind attitude to waste which does not contribute to environmental sustainability
 - The health effects of incineration are unknown we would suggest that a cautious approach is adopted until it can be shown that incineration does not adversely affect public health.
- 5.3 The Mayor has said publicly that in his opinion 'incinerators are damaging to health and that there is long-term damage to Londoners' health from living by incinerators but my view is not scientifically proven ... in my heart I want to support recycling'.³⁸ However he went on to say that 'I cannot absolutely rule out incinerators to do so would leave me open to legal challenge'.³⁹
- 5.4 The Committee's hearing on Energy from Waste took evidence from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), the Institute of Wastes Management (IWM), Greenpeace and London Waste Ltd.⁴⁰
- 5.5 One of the hearing's themes was the role of regulation in giving confidence to the public. The CIEH give an unequivocal assessment: 'the resourcing of regulation is just as much of an issue as is the availability of technology to detect emissions. Trained personnel are required to oversee the regulatory regime. We get the regulators we are prepared to pay for'.⁴¹ The Strategy does not say how the Mayor intends to assess the quality of the Environment Agency's regulation and inspection regime.

³⁷ Proposal 13 on page 93

³⁸ London Assembly, Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee, 18 October 2001

³⁹ London Assembly, Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee, 18 October 2001

⁴⁰ London Assembly, Environmental Strategies Investigative Committee, 19 September 2001

⁴¹ London Assembly, CIEH evidence to the Committee , 19 September 2001

- 5.6 The Committee awaits with interest the publication of two reports:
 - Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority's study of the health impacts of the SELCHP incineration plant at Lewisham
 - The National Audit Office's review of the Environment Agency's regulation of waste disposal.
- 5.7 London Waste Ltd, owners of the Edmonton plant, told the Committee that it has breached safety levels 16 times in the last two years.⁴² We, in common with other public bodies, do not know the effect this had on Londoners' health. The Strategy also has concerns about this and proposes that London Waste Ltd should make its monitoring data publicly available.⁴³ In the Committee's view this should be in place by the time the Strategy is finalised in November 2002. It should also be extended to include the SELCHP plant at Lewisham, as it was omitted from the first draft of the Strategy.

Recommendation 16

The Mayor should develop a full implementation plan for the Strategy to show that his support for recycling and his opposition to further incineration are workable in practice

Recommendation 17

The Mayor should revise the Strategy to include a commitment to examine the Environment Agency's regulation and inspection regime. Londoners need to be reassured that sufficient measures are being taken to protect their health

Recommendation 18

The Mayor should urge the Edmonton and SELCHP incineration plants to make available their emissions monitoring data to Londoners via the world wide web as soon as the Strategy is finalised in November 2002

The treatment of residual waste

5.8 Policies 8 and 21 of the Strategy exhort waste authorities not to consider Energy from Waste solutions before the opportunities for the recycling and composting of all municipal waste have been fully investigated.⁴⁴ Proposal 13 adds that 'there will be a presumption against any increase in large scale mass burn' whilst research into and development of minimisation strategies and recycling systems are on going.⁴⁵ Proposal 14 on the same page sets out

⁴² London Assembly, London Waste Ltd evidence to the Committee, 19 September 2001

⁴³ Strategy, Proposal 42 on page 113

⁴⁴ Strategy, Policy 8 on page 89 and Policy 21 on page 112

⁴⁵ Strategy, Proposal 13 on page 93

minimum standards for 'proposed new contracts' for waste incineration. $^{\rm 46}$ We welcome this.

- 5.9 The Committee feels, however, that there is a potential weakening of the case for waste minimisation and recycling in the Strategy's discussion of the Best Practical Environmental Option (BPEO). The Strategy endorses the Government's view, recently given to the House of Commons' Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee, that 'the best practical environmental option in the vast majority of cases is recycling'. But then the same paragraph of the Strategy asserts that the BPEO for London 'will vary from place to place'.⁴⁷
- 5.10 We believe that it would be unfortunate if London waste authorities were tempted to assert that striving for the maximum diversion of recyclable and compostable fractions of their waste streams did not, in their case, represent the BPEO. It would also compromise the aspiration for a strong London-wide recycling message.
- 5.11 Therefore, we would find it helpful if the revised strategy were to recommend confining the application of BPEO to consideration of residual waste issues. Were the Strategy to be revised in this way, it would be consistent with the Strategy's requirement to develop recycling and composting first.

Recommendation 19

The Mayor should confine the Strategy's consideration of a best practical environmental option for waste disposal to residual waste

- 5.12 The Committee believes that the Strategy should consider a range of techniques for dealing with residual waste, including mechanical biological treatment.⁴⁸ An analysis of the options might highlight some interesting issues, though arriving at a clear and unequivocal statement of what is best is problematic.
- 5.13 Besides the finance, infrastructure and timetabling issues around setting in place recycling, composting and minimisation systems, the levels of residual waste will also be determined by:
 - The success of policies on public procurement of materials with a high recycled content
 - Initiatives on developing markets in recycled goods the Strategy proposes London-wide action to promote Buy Recycled concepts.⁴⁹
- 5.14 The Strategy anticipates investigating the treatment of residual wastes in 'smaller plants that recover energy from waste by pyrolysis, gasification or other processes'.⁵⁰ The Strategy may want to consider in more detail the serious

⁴⁶ Strategy, Proposal 14 on page 93

⁴⁷ Strategy, Paragraph 4A.20 on page 86

⁴⁸ Mechanical biological treatment is a non-thermal treatment, i.e. it does not use heat to treat the waste

⁴⁹ Strategy, Policy 40 and Proposal 80 on page 150

⁵⁰ Strategy, Paragraph 4F.16 on page 116

difficulties that have beset the operators of some of the Advanced Thermal Treatments in applying them to the mixed residues of household and municipal waste.

- 5.15 The Strategy will certainly want to investigate more fully the Thermoselect combined pyrolysis and gasification plant opened at Karlsruhe in 1999 which is cited in paragraph 4F.24.⁵¹ The plant was closed in 2000 because it could not meet emissions standards for heavy metals. A similar plant at Mergozzo in Italy is also under investigation.
- 5.16 The Strategy should also acknowledge that very few plants have been in continuous operation for more than a few years. The PKA plant in Aalen in Germany has been operational since 1999 and is admired by some. A key problem here as elsewhere has been the heterogeneity of wastes. Front-end sorting capabilities have been developed to try to deal with this problem.

Recommendation 20

The Mayor should develop the Strategy's approach to residual waste issues to focus on alternatives to thermal treatment

⁵¹ Strategy, pages 117 and 118

Annex A: The Committee's recommendations to the Mayor

The Mayor should:

The implementation challenge

- 1. Set a target for London to recycle 60% of its municipal waste by 2015 (paragraph 2.4)
- 2. Have a dual focus of waste minimisation and waste disposal in his plans for a new waste authority for London (paragraph 2.5)
- 3. Undertake a separate consultation exercise with stakeholders about his plans for a single London waste disposal authority (paragraph 2.5)
- 4. Work with appropriate partners to set and monitor standards for recycled goods (paragraph 2.6)

Public participation

- 5. Place greater emphasis on the role London's community sector can play in delivering the recycling and minimisation-led Strategy (paragraph 2.12)
- 6. Demonstrate his support for recycling by leading a campaign to publicise its importance (paragraph 2.14)

The timetable for implementation

- 7. Issue his best practice review of recycling, composting and promotion to waste authorities by April 2002 (paragraph 2.21)
- 8. Publish a full timetable for his recycling–led Strategy, with quantifiable targets for each of the implementation programme, so that London waste authorities are aware of the key milestones. The timetable will need to identify at what point the Strategy will be reviewed (paragraph 2.24)

Implementation costs and infrastructure

- 9. Include more detail in the Strategy on implementation costs, clearly identifying key dates in the process and the costs attached to specific elements of implementation (paragraph 2.40)
- 10. Issue guidance to waste authorities on sources of finance as soon as the Strategy is finalised in November 2002 (paragraph 2.40)

The Spatial Development Strategy

11. Ensure that the Spatial Development Strategy specifies the level of recycling and composting facilities in each neighbourhood the Mayor expects London Boroughs to include in their Unitary Development Plans (paragraph 2.41)

Lessons learnt

12. Stress that London wants to take the lead in recycling and composting rather than relying on other cities and regions to achieve a rate of 60% first (paragraph 3.16)

The growth in waste

13. Not assume waste growth until he has extensive and reliable data to support that assumption (paragraph 4.11)

Waste composition

- 14. Involve all of London's waste authorities in a year long study looking at the composition of London's waste, running from January 2002 to December 2002 and informing future versions of the Strategy (paragraph 4.20)
- 15. Use a composition rate of 75% as the basis for waste planning in the Strategy until the results of the study are available (paragraph 4.20)

Regulation and public health

- 16. Develop a full implementation plan for the Strategy to show that his support for recycling and his opposition to further incineration are workable in practice (paragraph 5.7)
- 17. Revise the Strategy to include a commitment to examine the Environment Agency's regulation and inspection regime. Londoners need to be reassured that sufficient measures are being taken to protect their health (paragraph 5.7)
- 18. Urge the Edmonton and SELCHP incineration plants to make available their emissions monitoring data to Londoners via the world wide web as soon as the Strategy is finalised in November 2002 (paragraph 5.7)

The treatment of residual waste

- 19. Confine the Strategy's consideration of a best practical environmental option for waste disposal to residual waste (paragraph 5.11)
- 20. Develop the Strategy's approach to residual waste issues to focus on alternatives to thermal treatment (paragraph 5.16)

Annex B: Expert witnesses

The following expert witnesses appeared before the Committee:

19 September 2001

Tim Everett	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Mark Strutt	Greenpeace
Jane Price	Institute of Wastes Management
Dave Sargeant	London Waste Ltd
Steve McEnroe	London Waste Ltd

15 October 2001

Ben Metz Charlotte Walker Donnachadh McCarthy Emma Walker Fazlur Rahman Gwenda Mark Joanna Livingston John Livingston Jonathan Hodge Judy Bartlett Julian Edmonds Mark Davie Mary Flynn-O'Connor Mira Salami Miranda Dunn Robert Bobroff Steve Tomlins Susan Forson Worku Lakew	London Community Recycling Network Forest Recycling Group Southwark Environmental Forum Brentford Recycling Action Group LB Waltham Forest Kingston Agenda 21 BAD AIR: Bexley Against Incineration Risks Belvedere Town Forum Agenda 21 Architects Lambeth Environment Forum Ealing Local Agenda 21 Wandsworth Environment Forum Hammersmith and Fulham Agenda 21 Merton Going for Green Church End Agenda 21 Symphony Plastics Aylesbury Recycling Group Islington Agenda 21 Recycling Works Haringey Ltd
иогки Lakew	Recycling works Haringey Ltd

18 October 2001

Ken Livingstone John Duffy Katherine Higgins Mayor of London Mayor's Senior policy adviser Lead officer for waste, GLA Policy & Partnerships

Annex C: Written evidence

The following stakeholders provided written evidence to the Committee:

Association of London Government Biffa **BioRegional** Brentford Recycling Action Group Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Cory Environmental East London Waste Authority **Environment Agency Environmental Services Association** Greenpeace Institute of Wastes Management Kingston Agenda 21 Labour Group, London Borough of Barnet Labour Members, Western Riverside Waste Authority Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority London Borough of Bexley London Borough of Bromley London Borough of Ealing London Borough of Newham London Community Recycling Network London Waste Ltd Maggie Thurgood (consultant engaged by the Mayor) Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Western Riverside Waste Authority Westminster City Council

Copies of the written evidence that we have gathered during the course of this scrutiny can be inspected by the public during office hours. Please contact:

Tom Middleton Greater London Authority Romney House Marsham Street London SW1P 3PY tel. 020 7983 4206 fax 020 7983 4437 tom.middleton@london.gov.uk

Annex D: Orders and translations

To order a copy of the Report, please send a cheque for £10 payable to the Greater London Authority to Phil Garrood, Room A405, Romney House. If you wish to pay by credit card (Visa/Mastercard), please phone (020 7983 4323), fax (020 7983 4706), email phil.garrood@london.gov.uk or write to the above address, quoting your Card Number, Expiry Date and Name and Address as held by your credit card issuer.

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If you, or someone you know, needs a copy of this report in large print or Braille, or a copy of the summary and main findings in another language, then please call us on 020 7983 4100 or email assembly.translations@london.gov.uk

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ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਜਾਂ ਕੋਈ ਤੁਹਾਡਾ ਜਾਣ-ਪਛਾਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਇਸ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਦਾ ਅਗਜੈਕਟਿਵ ਖੁਲਾਸਾ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਝਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਨਕਲ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਬ੍ਰੇਅਲ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਫ਼ਤ ਪ੍ਰਪਤ ਕਰਨਾ ਚਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ 020 7983 4100 ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ assembly.translations@london.gov.uk ਤੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਈ-ਮੇਲ ਕਰੋ।

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Haddii adiga, ama qof aad taqaanid, uu doonaayo inuu ku helo koobi ah warbixinta oo kooban iyo talooyinka far waaweyn ama farta qofka indhaha la' loogu talagalay, ama luuqadooda, oo bilaash u ah, fadlan nagala soo xiriir telefoonkan 020 7983 4100 ama email-ka cinwaanku yahay assembly.translations@london.gov.uk

Annex E: Scrutiny principles

The powers of the London Assembly include power to investigate and report on decisions and actions of the Mayor, or on matters relating to the principal purposes of the Greater London Authority, and on any other matters which the Assembly considers to be of importance to Londoners. In the conduct of scrutiny and investigation the Assembly abides by a number of principles.

Scrutinies:

- aim to recommend action to achieve improvements;
- are conducted with objectivity and independence;
- examine all aspects of the Mayor's strategies;
- consult widely, having regard to issues of timeliness and cost;
- are conducted in a constructive and positive manner; and
- are conducted with an awareness of the need to spend taxpayers money wisely and well.

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