

# A CITY FOR ALL LONDONERS

Environment Workshop  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 9.30 – 13.00

## Waste– recycling and the circular economy Table 7 Session 1

**Facilitator in bold facilitator – comments in bold**

Respondents in regular text

*These notes are a summary of the conversation*

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Andrew Richmond	Greater London Authority
Terry Oliver	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Eloise Lobsey	London Borough of Islington
Max Sugarman	Institute for Civil Engineers
Alice Roberts	CPE London
Victoria Manning	North London Waste Plan and the London Waste Planning Forum
Kelly Eaton	London Borough of Brent
John Harte	City of London
Katherine McRory	Royal Borough of Greenwich

### **1. How can the mayor work more closely with the London borough and contractors to improve recycling rates?**

**65% recycling in London.**

Can we implement legislation to require people to recycle?

**This would need to be nationally. There used to be a London Local Authorities Bill managed by London Councils but not sure where this is now.**

Council still has legislation. You still have enforcement.

Don't they refuse to take the bin if you don't separate your recycling?

The mayor could support local councillors.

For a start- Pan London Collection systems.

Every street is different. Consistency of communication would be helpful. Harmonising recycling collections will cost money.

**Do we think consistency of service or communication is most important?**

Problem–Language, we can recycle here, but not there. Confuses people.

Most want to recycle but don't know how to.

**Plastic being one of them.**

We can't recycle foil.

My experience- I moved from flat to a house. Flat is a big problem. Plenty of bins but all rubbish is in black bag. Big issue. Retro fitting flats collections is required.

Flats are a big issue in London.

Expensive to keep on Educating

Give a big push to estates and flats.

They are offered a service but not doing it right. 90% of the problem is people not doing it.

Few second in a day to convince them.

Boroughs concerned about money. Try to focus on making savings. Mayor can help local laws.

**Changing the frequency of collection schemes, should the mayor play the role in how frequent bins are collected?**

We've got weekly recycling in place. There is a large struggle -, we understand what is to be recycled and what is to be a landfill. Nothing has value anymore. Mayor to give the message everything has a value and how we can recycle things.

**Value, Reparability?**

Economy- Underuse which we are paying for. Why we paying for tons when people are not paying attention?

We do not commit enough operatives. Enforcing requires communication.

Access to facilities.

Some recycling sites are under pressure for housing. Reuse, safeguarding.

How can we communicate with authorities-housing is hugely important, local plan has a lot of house building. Waste plan is sort of footnote. I just think it needs more pushing of the priorities.

For people it would be easier to chuck their waste in to the waste bin not recycling bin.

**Recycling rate- high value material what could we consider mayor can take a role in?**

Something the City of London is doing.

**I will check with Janet on that. How do we influence, how we can support the boroughs, how do we support business to access recycling?**

Can you concentrate on business recycling? Separate recycling bin bag?

### **How are materials being circulated?**

How they deconstruct it. Is there any way you can intervene in that?

### **How do you design a building for deconstruction?**

Recycle for CD and e-waste.

### **I agree. Maximise what we can do for them**

There is a confusion on when you Demolish or reuse.

Making it easier- planning permission to recycling. I know one case where a planning permission that has failed. There could be some flexibility.

At some point you need a profit.

### **2. How can we use policy to move to a circular economy?**

#### **3. What should the mayor do to ensure responsible procurement across the whole supply chain?**

#### **4. What needs to change to make recycling services more consistent and easy to understand across all of London?**

#### **5. What are the limitations for your organisation in transitioning to a circular economy?**

### **Electric could be a maximum ability. Which smart phone I'm going to be wanting. How can we use policy?**

So complicated. We found 27 barriers. Everything we try to do comes with complexity. Example: recycling-, building, issues of who gains credit, steals never being used before.

### **How would we look at strategic policy adding value?**

Work out what you can intervene in. I don't think we are there yet. Enable these business models to come up.

Renting something. I have small recycling electronic bins. That is really useful.

What they offered free did not work.

Businesses are more powerful at enforcement.

People can exchange things. Work to repair. For me circular economy- Supporting everybody for their computing to get working again.

There things waste authorities, local authority—they want just recycling

Translating recycling into carbon. It can be really useful

### **Zero Carbon city?**

Awareness is not there yet. But we are improving. Lot of issues on how to do it.

There was training on how to recycle. It links in to how you can repair things. Support the economy in that way.

Economy is market driven.

You could priorities getting space.

Organisation social enterprise. Example: Hotel left with little left over shampoo. Recovered the bottle for redistribution.

### **There needs to be clear ambition from the mayor. Still consumerism.**

Having enough space.

### **Touch question 1 more, is there anything else in order to stimulate the mind a bit.**

We get them to commit. There is nothing to draw that whole construction of what % for recycling and what % for-

### **When you are accessing services?**

Is there some other mechanism?

Check if you actually do? Anybody can say they are doing it but?

In terms of having central data base, it is easy to check, you have green procurement.

Just be careful with procurement. When there are layers—they do not have enough time for that. It is good thing but tricky to do.

Overall, there is a lot of complication. For mayor you should be thinking where we can save money.

Managing the waste.

Try to show the large scale on how.

Local authorities are not doing.

Having it planned for, you need special vehicle- for TFL.

### **London plan- Provision needs to be safeguarded.**

Boroughs can't do it.

You need to change the look of economy. We need to grow within the city. Give smaller business for better.

**Thank you very much.**

## **Waste– recycling and the circular economy Table 7 Session 2**

**Facilitator in bold facilitator – comments in bold**

Respondents in regular text

*These notes are a summary of the conversation*

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*Table 7, Session 2*

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Alistair Lambert - Brent Terrace Residents' Association  
Daniel Bickel - Edenborough Agency  
Rachel Lewis - Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames  
Wayne Hubbard - London Waste and Recycling Board  
Vassia Paloumbi - Bank of England  
Katharina Winbeck - London Councils  
Katherine Peton - London Borough of Enfield  
Jill Whitehead - London Borough of Sutton

(Participants introduce themselves).

We are not too bad. Better than Copenhagen, New York.

In Germany you are required to look back

Invest more in recycling design.

**6. How can the mayor work more closely with the London borough and contractors to improve recycling rates?**

**7. How can we use policy to move to a circular economy?**

**Keeping material circulating in highest value possible. You looking at goods being made remanufacture.**

**8. What should the mayor do to ensure responsible procurement across the whole supply chain?**

**9. What needs to change to make recycling services more consistent and easy to understand across all of London?**

**10. What are the limitations for your organisation in transitioning to a circular economy?**

**Answer to Question 1:**

How far they were ahead of us- e.g. Denmark, what we want to take as well from them.

**European, Catalonians, has different government structure.**

We can take from Manchester and Edenborough

**Let's have a look in Local authority and commercial**

Lack of consistency. There are so many different recycling vans. Collecting different rubbish.

There must be efficiency. Weekly to two weekly collections, joining that up must be good.

We respect 33 independent waste collections.

Everybody collects their aluminium in one place. Or something?

There is no planning for waste, make it become easier.

Blocks of flats- recycling significant is lower. It could be changed. How could you retake recycling method to flats?

Coffee cups you find in the household, YouTube video with Kate Middleton!

Food waste that makes the big difference.

**We are looking very close into food waste.**

We are picking up 10 household items. Trouble is you have to keep going with it.

Not everyone does food, some does not do glass. It is difficult to find.

You can go and find out what you can recycle. Authorities need to make money.

I'm still confused even though I have been in this industry for 7 years. I found out contractor does not recycle. They can't measure. I think everything can be recycled. But in commercial sense on recycle it does not make sense.

**Let's talk about harmonisation.**

How many would support for more harmonisation. (3 people put hand up out of 9)

It must make sense. Similar level of service. It would make messaging cheaper. So make individual messaging.

What's speed, what's the cost?

Those benefits should go to those who recycle in the first place as well.

### **One of it comes down to ease. Reduce capacity**

You would pay more if you bin all and less for those who recycle.

Get lots and lots of bins. Constantly you get less recycle. Find the best place to place the bin. Takes effort to bin when it is 10miles far away.

Information is important. Poorer area has less knowledge of recycle.

Reduce the collection. So densely populated.

### **Should Mayor take view on frequency of service?**

It costs ten million pounds for my area only.

Operating partnership is not easy, or for council office it is not easy. You can't go to boroughs and say we should work together. They have to work into it.

Money you save is you going to be spent for collecting rubbish.

We don't have the significance.

Bulky waste, green waste you have to pay now.

### **Direct charging?**

Charging people who are not recycling.

Landfill.

We are thinking of putting additional money into flats to recycle. Try to get money from the government.

People will do what is easy. Until you see what is going into the bin and know what they do with it will impact them. Idea of we are not collecting general waste but something that could be useful.

It is about bringing people with you. When we change our service and be more clear about business case. We need different staff and different ideas and so on-,

Looked at schools, children were telling their parents. Children were teaching their parents who were lost in place with recycling. You need to look at education.

Leadership from mayor there is a fundamental lack. Whole thing about collections, everybody is using their own way. Try to move all of this around is such a big challenge.

Bring experience from other European, lower council tax to local.

We can't do that we don't get enough money from the government. It is not practical.

It would be lower than otherwise be.

Thing we found were, teenagers were the worse recycler. These kids know that they need to be doing. The issue is the motivation. Use social media. Digital media use sneaky ideas.

Different boroughs have different context. What we do in Kingston will not work in Islington.

### **Focus more on output more than input.**

Everything you decide it has to be practiced

For me, we use to send milk bottles into Blue Peter and we would see what happens with what we have sent. But now we do not have this kind of education.

### **11. How can we use policy to move to a circular economy? Keeping material circulating in highest value possible. You looking at goods being made for remanufacture.**

Do we know we are getting better? we do not have the good statistic base.

We've got five business models. Business recycle, remanufacture, providing products in services. See how many more businesses do more of that.

Shops where people could come in and show that what they do-selling recycling items.

There are some examples of recycling shops.

### **There was a petrol station in Ireland and there were 3 washing machines.**

(Laughter)

(Overlapping)

I'm concerning how do we measure?

### **Business survey. How local we can go?**

Behaviour change. Be prepared to buy than need goods.

Business starts to recognise, long term relationship, than you sell stuff and relationship ends.

Bombarded with email for the products.

Standard fit to get access. We went to see the Library of things. Everybody own drill that they never use. If you can development idea in tools, market-

If I was to go and buy T-shirt, I would go online, but there needs to be some way to access where to get the items that has been recycled, there needs to be an indication of what shops does this. Then I would go and buy theirs. At least they could find companies that do it, and then you can go for it yourself.

Quite difficult to put it in to practical. That is what mayor should be working on.

Mayor to reduce certain way of reduce packaging. I went to takeaway shop and they gave me fifteen layers of packaging that I could not even recycle.

Snack packaging, all those business, interrupt that business,

Just encourage them.

### **How does the mayor promote that wider?**

Use good rating and put them in the right direction. Get more cash flow.

Packaging, procurement. Packaging is local issue. I'm not sure what GLA could do with that?

In Sweden, we collection cans and put it in this recycling bin and everybody does it.

We use to have that but it is gone. E.g. Coca cola cans. I don't know why we can't introduce that now.

It's finding the market.

I care ethical clothes but I cannot afford to buy them.

Investing in companies, big companies, Nike, or in education-UAL. What Mayor has to do is telling companies that we are going to work in this particular area and try to bring more interaction from them.

UK takes in these ideas but doesn't go further on development. Worrying.

The risk is we get worse when we leave EU.

### **How do we increase recycling rate? Communications came up on both. What is the message?**

Constant things.

Selective, select the right audience.

Communication experts.

Creative about how you do it?

Coca cola communication agencies? We need big communicator.

### **Education.**

They haven't grown up with recycling. You need to focus on population and not just one.

### **Harmonisation- domicile type level.**

Introduce new rearrangement. Improve financial supports.

**Easy and cost effective.**

**12. What should the mayor do to ensure responsible procurement across the whole supply chain?**

**13. What needs to change to make recycling services more consistent and easy to understand across all of London?**

**14. What are the limitations for your organisation in transitioning to a circular economy?**

**Thank you very much for your time.**