

## Implications of the Mayors Strategy

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The strategy may change following the consultation period.

These comments are based on an assessment of the key policies and proposals. There may be other implications not identified here.

### 1.1 Targets

- The Mayor aims to exceed the government's targets on recycling, composting and recovery. The Mayor proposes increasing the recycling targets for London to 50% by 2010 and 60% by 2015.
- The Mayor aims to limit waste growth to 2.5%/year with a waste minimisation programme for London

Implications:

- These will be difficult to achieve even for high performing LAs and almost impossible for Southwark without high levels of capital investment and a serious public information campaign.
- Southwark is already achieving the waste growth targets.

### 1.2 Contracts

- The Mayor proposes that waste authorities use model conditions in drawing up new contracts that maximise opportunities for recycling and reviews every three years for waste collection contracts and every five years for disposal contracts.
- The Mayor proposes that when new waste contracts are developed that they minimise the environmental impact of collection and transportation of wastes and recyclables - the proximity principle.

Implications:

- The separation of waste collection and disposal contracts and the frequency of review does not accord with the unitary contract Southwark proposes.
- To meet the Mayor's requirements contracts will also need to specify the targets and proposed actions and contain penalties for non-performance.
- Southwark may have limited options for considering proximity principles for managing waste. Indeed, the best options for recycling may involve transporting waste over considerable distances.

### 1.3 Reuse

- The Mayor clearly identifies reuse as a target - focusing on furniture and nappy washing schemes but also identifying CA site waste: wood, household items (probably white goods), building materials (brick/doors), furniture.

Implications:

- These are all areas that Southwark needs to consider.

### 1.4 Recycling facilities

- The Mayor proposes that kerbside collection of at least three materials be provided for all street level properties and that alternative arrangements are provided on estates.
- The Mayor proposes that there should be a bring site for every 500 households, in particular where kerbside is not feasible
- all CA sites adapted as reuse and recycling centres by the end of 2003/4
- free access to reuse and recycling centres to residents of neighbouring boroughs.

Implications:

- The current bring site coverage is one site per 1600+ households it is probably adequate if kerbside is fully developed but needs considerable improvement.
- The kerbside coverage needs expanding - the challenge will be to provide facilities on estates.
- CA site developments are key to Southwark's waste management strategy
- Southwark does not limit access to CA sites according to residency but may wish to do so once the existing site has been redeveloped.

### 1.5 Home composting

- The Mayor proposes that all householders with gardens should be encouraged to compost.
- The Mayor is proposing that LAs set up central composting facilities
- Parks and markets waste composting should also be undertaken.
- Each LA will have to submit a composting feasibility study to the Mayor, along with their recycling plans, by October 2003 to be implemented by 2004

Implications:

- None for home composting.
- Centralised composting is expensive and requires a considerable area of land.
- Composting of parks and markets waste will need to be considered by Southwark.

## 1.6 Incineration

The Mayor advises that incineration ‘crowds out’ recycling and advises against energy recovery before other options (recovery, recycling, composting, minimisation) have been considered.

The strategy proposes that there is no new incinerator for London and local authorities should not take on long-term contracts with ‘tying in’ to incineration.

There should be no incineration without energy recovery.

There must be pre-treatment to remove as much recyclable material as possible before the residue is incinerated and only waste with no value is burned.

Implications:

- 20% of London’s waste goes to Edmonton and SELCHP. In the absence of long-term options for landfill (and a tightening of requirements), these outlets will be needed for disposing of residual waste
- recycling is the only pre-treatment that Southwark undertakes
- Southwark does not directly recover value from waste.

## 1.7 Waste disposal

- The Mayor proposes a direct link between the amounts of waste collected and the costs of disposal.
- The Mayor proposes a single WDA for London and a regional sustainability levy for negative waste management.
- The Mayor proposes that tradable permits for municipal biodegradable waste are allocated to London as a block and distributed by the Mayor to WDAs.

Implications:

- This default levy will not affect Southwark directly as it is a unitary authority but it shows that the Mayor is clearly identifying penalties for low-performing authorities.
- The regional sustainability levy might be difficult to impose.
- A single WDA would remove much of the Council’s flexibility in the decision-making on disposal.
- Tradable permits controlled by the Mayor would remove a potential income source and would penalise low-performing authorities.

## 1.8 Supporting new markets and procurement

- All LAs should have ‘Buy recycled’ policy for procurement as this will stimulate the markets for recycling.

Implications:

- Southwark should adopt this proposal.

#### 1.9 Other

- HHW collections: - these should be considered by Southwark (eg Chemsafe at CA site).
- Financial incentives for recycling: this is being piloted and the results awaited.
- Achievement of Capital Standard for street cleansing, reducing environmental crime (flytipping).

#### Implications:

- Southwark should considering joining the National HHW Forum as this provides guidance on the management of HHW and the implications of new legislation
- With low levels of recycling and a need to expand facilities, financial incentives are not yet an option for Southwark.
- The Council needs to assess options to reduce flytipping.