A Cleaner Greener Greenwich

Key Messages

Street Services
• The Royal Borough is in the initial stages of creating a reduction and recycling plan in line with the Mayor of London’s Environment Strategy. This Strategy stipulates a London-wide recycling rate of 50% by 2025, and an expectation that the Royal Borough of Greenwich will contribute to this.

• The Government’s “Resources and Waste Strategy” will be published by the end of this year, it is anticipated this will contain further guidance/consultation on a number of issues including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Deposit Return Schemes, Incinerator Tax and reporting metrics, as well as an additional emphasis on the plastics issue.

• Limited quantity of the Authority’s waste, may be affected by a ‘no deal’ Brexit. Contingency plans are being investigated with the Contractor.

• The ULEZ/LEZ changes have been adopted and will affect the emissions standards required of the borough’s van and HGV fleet in 2020 and 2021. Procurements are being developed to ensure the vehicles are compliant ahead of the deadline.

Parks and Open Spaces
• The Royal Borough adopted a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan in 2017 and the relevant actions are currently being delivered.

• The Royal Borough supports the development of and works with Park Friends Groups to help care for the Borough’s parks and open spaces. These groups also have access to some external funding that can help support improvements to our parks and open spaces.

• The Green Flag Award scheme is the international standard recognised by Government for good quality and well managed parks and open spaces and the Royal Borough has had a commitment to secure and retain 12 Green Flag Awards each year. There is a new corporate objective to try and secure additional Green Flag Awards in the future

• The Royal Borough’s PEOS manages and maintains the trees in Borough’s parks, open spaces and woodlands and maintains the trees on the Boroughs highways and housing estates. The Mayor of London has a policy to support additional tree planting and increase the area of tree canopy in London. In addition there is an objective within the Royal Borough’s Corporate Plan to plant 2020 new trees by 2020.
Key Service Updates

Street Services

- The annual pavement washing programme that operates between April and October was successfully delivered this year throughout the 3 town centres as well as Plumstead High Street and Wilton Road, Abbey Wood.

- A 3 month trial of 9 double solar bins for general & recyclable “on the go” waste has been extended for a further 6 months to enable the service to evaluate the performance and usage of the bins.

- A joint cleansing exercise with Bexley Council took place in Wilton Road on 26 September 2018 to share resources and equipment to clean the public realm and also provided an opportunity to engage with local businesses.

- As of September 2018 the electric refuse collection vehicle (eRCV) has successfully collected over 42 tonnes of mixed dry recycling. Despite early teething issues the project is progressing well. Further comprehensive data analysis will now begin as the vehicle is trialled on full shifts of house to house recycling collections, residual waste collections and communal recycling collections.

- Street Services are responsible for keeping the public realm clean. In certain areas in the borough we recognise that standard weekly cleansing is not sufficient and we have adapted our services where there is a need. Working in partnership with colleagues in other departments we are key contributors to the ‘Love’ brand, and have developed task forces in areas which have a high number of HMOs. These task forces take a proactive approach with regards to the disposal of fly tipping and education of Landlords.

- We hold Community clean ups, with key stake holders in the community (businesses residents and environmental champions) to make the local environment a safer greener place, and creating civic pride.

- In October 2018, a Waste and Streets Advisor won LARAC’s annual award for ‘Outstanding Contribution towards Recycling’.

- The eRCV is being trialled on a variety of domestic collections and its performance compared with the latest diesel alternative.

Parks and Open Spaces

- Work has commenced on development of an Allotments Action Plan to help identify priorities for improvement. Consultation took place with allotment site representatives in September 2018 and will support the development of the Action Plan.

- Initial work on development of the Allotments Action Plan has identified the need to update and modernise the allotments tenancy agreement. There is also an uneven spread of supply and demand of allotments across the Borough with lack of supply in the Greenwich and Charlton areas leading to waiting lists. A small number of allotment plots are currently under offer or are being processed to provide offers.

- Feedback from the 2018/19 Green Flag judges has identified the need for some investment to retain the 12 Green Flags in 2019/20.
The Royal Borough’s Parks, Estates and Open Spaces (PEOS) Service has met its target of securing 12 Green Flag Awards for 2018/19. There is a corporate objective to try and secure additional Green Flag Awards in the future and consideration is being given to identify an additional site for the 2019/20 Awards. It should also be noted that PEOS supports the Friends of Plumstead Common and the Twinkle Park Trust with Community Green Flag Award applications and those groups secured 4 Community Green Flag Awards in 2018/19.

The Royal Borough’s PEOS Service has applied for and supported Park Friends Groups with funding applications to the Mayor of London’s Greener City Fund for tree planting initiatives. A number of bids have been successful with 2 bids since the new corporate objective to plant 2020 trees by 2020. PEOS will plant trees on behalf of Highways and Housing during the 2018/19 planting season (between November and March). It is projected that approximately 600 trees will be planted during that period.

Air Quality

The service submitted the required Air Quality Annual Status Report for 2017 to the GLA on time. Retaining Cleaner Air Borough Status is partially dependent upon the GLA deeming the progress with the air quality actions sufficient as reported. (No feedback has yet been received from the GLA in this regard.) The GLA is currently revising the criteria that boroughs must meet to achieve and retain Cleaner Air Borough Status. Further details on the new revised criteria are expected in 2019.

Data for the 2017 reporting year showed that annual air pollution levels (NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) had decreased slightly compared to previous years.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is exceeding EU limits for the gas Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in parts of the borough. The main areas of concern are along major roads, principally the A2, the A20 and the Blackwall Tunnel Southern Approach. These roads are under the control of Transport for London.

One of the permanent monitoring stations (BX3 – located in Thamesmead) has been temporarily decommissioned. This follows further consideration of the suitability of its location, which was outside of the Royal Borough’s boundary. An alternative site was considered but later discounted due to a lack of suitable positions within the site. Alternative locations are now being considered with an estimated timescale for the reinstatement of the station being in the first quarter of 2019. This will ensure 11 air quality monitoring stations are maintained within RBG.

As part of the relocating process we are looking to expand the BX3 monitoring station’s capacity from just PM<sub>2.5</sub> to also capture data on NO2 and PM<sub>10</sub>.

* Particulate matter or PM, is a mixture of solids and liquid droplets floating in the air. Particles less than or equal to 10 micrometers in diameter are so small that they can get into the lungs, potentially causing serious health problems.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Previous Value</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Comparator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Realm</td>
<td>Number of trees planted (needs to include Parks and Housing)</td>
<td>403 (2017/18)</td>
<td>470 (2016/17)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Net number of street trees in the Borough</td>
<td>12,660 (2017/18)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Number of fly-tips reported (by the public)</td>
<td>737 (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>1208 (Q4 17/18)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total number of fly-tips removed</td>
<td>4,614 (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>5,892 (Q4 17/18)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total tonnage of fly-tips removed</td>
<td>243.03 (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>310.7 (Q4 17/18)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allotments % vacant</td>
<td>5% (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>5% (Q4 17/18)</td>
<td>95% occupancy</td>
<td>Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) has a target of 66.67% at A or B standard</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allotments number vacant</td>
<td>28/810 (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>24/810 (Q4 17/18)</td>
<td>95% occupancy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parks cleanliness score (APSE land audit measurement)</td>
<td>95% (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>97% (Q4 17/18)</td>
<td>85% at A and B standard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Green Flag awards</td>
<td>12 (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>12 (Q4 17/18)</td>
<td>a) 12 for 2018/19; b) 13 for 2019/20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of residential road cleansing schedules completed</td>
<td>95% (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>95% (Q4 17/18)</td>
<td>99% (higher is better)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>Percentage household recycling rate (Rolling year)</td>
<td>34.7% (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>34.6% (Q4 17/18)</td>
<td>35% (higher is better)</td>
<td>33% - (London recycling rate 16-17)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Contamination of recycling</td>
<td>9.75% (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>13.6% (Q4 17/18)</td>
<td>10% (lower is better)</td>
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<td>Air Quality</td>
<td>Fleet % ULEZ Compliant</td>
<td>15.4% (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>16.9% (Q4 17/18)</td>
<td>36% (higher is better)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Proportion of sites where air pollution levels remained within the Government’s Air Quality Strategy Objective</td>
<td>8 (Q1 18/19)</td>
<td>New PI</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Analysis

Greenwich’s Recycling Rate

- Over the past 15 years, recycling rates in the UK have increased dramatically but, in England, have stagnated in the past 6 years and have remained at around 44-45%.

- Recycling rates in the devolved nations have continued to increase as a result of policy decisions and enforceable targets being placed on authorities. In 2016/17, Wales recycled 63.8% of their Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW).

- In 2016/17, London recycled 33.0% of its LACW. Although this is lower than all other regions in England, London is affected by its relative proportion of flats and limitations on how waste services can be delivered in urbanised environments.

- Demographic factors such as deprivation and population density are inversely correlated to the recycling rate.

- Population density is a good proxy for the relative proportion of flats in a local authority area and for a reduction in the amount of garden waste available for collection (i.e. more urban boroughs will have smaller gardens).

- Obtaining a good quantity and quality of recycling from flats is problematic, with flats on average recycling half as much as a kerbside property. Successful examples of schemes from large cities with high number of flats worldwide are only observed where there is an overall waste authority that ensures city-wide consistency.

- This is not the current situation in London with a wide variety of collection schemes in operation in London. The situation is unlikely to change in the medium term as authorities are bound into long-term disposal contracts.

- Scheme-specific factors that affect the recycling rate are weekly residual collection capacity (inversely correlated), weekly recycling capacity (positively correlated) and number of recycling waste streams collected (positively correlated).

- The following analysis shows where Greenwich’s recycling performance lies in relation to other London authorities, using the latest available data from 2016/17.
The graphs above show that Greenwich is performing better than average, given its relative levels of population density, social deprivation and within the weekly collection frequency class (i.e. above the line of best fit).
The graph above shows that Greenwich’s recycling rate has steadily decreased since 2011. This can be attributed to the regeneration in the borough resulting in a large increase in the number of flats. Maintaining the recycling rate at c.35% since 2015 can be seen as positive in a borough where the number of flats has steadily increased.

### Effect of Collection Frequency on Recycling Rate

- **Fortnightly**
- **Weekly**
- **Weekly+**

### Effect of Household Increase on RBG Recycling Rate
In Greenwich, the main policy decision that could materially affect the recycling rate is through scheme change and reducing the weekly residual capacity from 240 plus litres, by limiting side waste accepted at the kerbside and collecting from smaller 140 litre containers weekly or 240 litre containers fortnightly. It is predicted that collecting residual waste fortnightly could lead to a c. 8% increase in the borough recycling rate. Voided disposal costs and change in resource requirements (dependent on final collection scheme) can lead to substantial financial savings.