WE ARE SHAPING.

OUR WASTE AND UTILITIES.

Introduction

Waste and utilities are essential pieces of infrastructure for creating a healthy environment and connecting new development to vital services. Waste and recycling policies guide the management of waste in new developments and the operation of waste management facilities. Local Plan policy can help ensure that waste is managed in a sustainable manner, reducing the amount of waste generated and minimising the environmental and amenity impacts of processing waste. Alongside the Local Plan, the East London Joint Waste Plan ensures we safeguard enough waste management sites to manage waste in east London (Newham, Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham and Havering). We are also commissioning evidence to update the Joint Waste Plan.

It is also important we secure sufficient utilities infrastructure to meet the needs of new developments. This infrastructure includes energy, water supply, wastewater handling, telecoms and digital connectivity. Improvements to utilities infrastructure are primarily planned by major utilities providers (particularly for waste water and power), who are seeking to deliver capacity upgrades to support growth and meet future demands in London. These upgrades are mainly planned in the Royal Docks and Beckton.

The current Local Plan policies that relate to this topic are:

- INF3: Waste and Recycling
- INF4: Utilities Infrastructure

What does our current policy seek to achieve?

INF3 Waste and Recycling

- Requires that the management of waste and development of waste facilities follows the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, and energy recovery before disposal).
- Prioritises rail and water-based transport of waste and aims to deal with waste as close to the source as possible, minimising the impacts of waste management and waste facilities.
- Compliance with the provisions of the East London Waste Plan and the London Plan.

INF4 Utilities Infrastructure

- Supports projects which increase utility provision to meet growing demand principally via projects identified in Newham's Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- Minimise infrastructures' land take as well as other spatial and environmental impacts (noise, smell, visual intrusion).
- Supports the expansion of decentralised energy networks as well as the use of innovative technologies to reduce fossil fuel use and emissions by exploiting sustainable or waste energy sources (for example, air, ground, waste, and water heat pumps).

What you've told us

- Residents strongly support reuse and recycling of waste, and have a positive view of recycling facilities.
- Waste bags in the street and litter are seen as the main contributors to unclean streets.
- Previous Citizens' Assemblies show support for waste and recycling projects, particularly those aimed at reducing fly tipping, litter and waste in front gardens and improving recycling rates.
- Young people highlighted that broadband is too slow particularly in North Woolwich & West Silvertown.
- Broadband & WiFi was the third highest (of 11) priority for improvements in the Royal Docks. Waste and recycling services was ninth.
- People noted they avoid areas around Beckton due to environmental impacts smells from the Sewage Treatment Works, reinforcing the importance of mitigating environmental impacts of utilities as a component of creating successful places.
- Digital exclusion exists in Newham, particularly with most vulnerable communities and low-cost and accessible good quality broadband should be a key component of Newham's digital future.

Sources:

- Citizens' Assemblies
- Newham Survey 2018 and 2019
- Royal Docks and OAPF: Engagement Report
- Digital Inclusion Workshop 2021

What does the data tell us?

- Our current policies have successfully protected waste capacity and sites in the right locations.
- Newham's recycling rates have remain some of the lowest in the UK.
- Waste collected per head in Newham is below the national average at 341kg per head (18/19).
- Monitoring of planning applications demonstrate that developments are safeguarding connections to the District Heat Network, but not connecting at construction stage primarily due to the distance to the existing network.
- London Plan evidence notes that in 2015, a large portion of Newham's drains & sewers (combined waste and surface drainage) are already over capacity (at 101-123%). This pressure is expected to continue up to 2050.
- In 2017, access to digital services remained a challenge with 8% of residents having no access to the internet

Sources:

- Planning applications data 2019
- LA Local Authority Waste Annual Results
- GLA, Housing-led population projections
- Statista, Local authority collected household waste per capita in England 2010-2019
- Thames Water, Wastewater drainage capacity (2015)
- Newham Household Survey 2019.

What are we required to consider and plan for?

National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

- Minimising waste and pollution is an important component of achieving sustainable development.
- Strategic policies are expected to set out a strategy and make sufficient provision for telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater and energy infrastructure (including heat networks, which are seen as key in meeting climate change targets).
- Plans should be shaped by early and effective engagement with infrastructure and service providers.

Resources and Waste Strategy (2018)

- Sets the Government's strategic ambition to work towards:
  - eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030; and
  - eliminating avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.

National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)

- Sets out expectation to deliver sustainable development and resource efficiency through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy.
- Requires waste to be dealt with as close to source as possible.
- Waste planning authorities should identify sites and/or areas for new or enhanced waste management facilities in appropriate locations where there is evidenced need.

The London Plan (2021)

- Supports the use of industrial land for utilities infrastructure.
- Seeks early engagement with energy providers to establish future energy requirements including areas of significant growth, such as Opportunity Areas. Plans need to identify the need for, and suitable sites for, energy infrastructure requirements.
- Plans should promote improvements to water supply to contribute to security of supply.
- Boroughs should support investment in waste water treatment infrastructure to accommodate growth and climate change impacts, including intensification of existing facilities.
- Plans should support the delivery of full-fibre or equivalent digital infrastructure, with a focus on gaps in connectivity and barriers to digital access. In securing digital connectivity, consideration need to be given to affordability, security, resilience and ensuring adequate power supplies.
- Waste Planning Authorities are expected to promote a more circular economy and meet the following targets.
  - zero biodegradable or recyclable waste to be sent to landfill by 2026
  - 65% of municipal waste to be recycled by 2030
  - 95% reuse/recycling/recovery to be achieved from construction and demolition waste
  - 95% excavation waste to be used for beneficial uses
  - 100% of London's waste to be managed within London by 2026

- Development plans should provide capacity to manage the apportioned tonnages of household, commercial and industrial waste: in Newham, 244,000 tonnes by 2021 and 260,000 tonnes by 2041.
- Development plans should plan for identified waste needs and identify how waste will be reduced in line with 'Circular Economy' principles.
- Safeguards existing waste sites. Waste plans should be adopted before considering the loss of waste sites. The proposed loss of an existing waste site will only be supported where appropriate compensatory capacity is made within London.

What new trends and objectives do we want to address?

- **The new London Plan and emerging national guidance place emphasis on achieving a 'Circular economy':** This concept reflects efforts to retain materials in use at their highest value for as long as possible. Materials are then re-used or recycled, leaving a minimum of residual waste. The benefits of such an approach can save resources, increase economic efficiency and help to lower carbon emissions. Newham's Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out Newham's intention to promote circular economy initiatives, including encouraging work with local reuse and repair organisations. Local circular waste opportunities can have multiple benefits, including supporting community wealth building principles and reducing long distance journeys to obtain materials.

- **More efficient use of resources can also help to foster social integration in the borough:** This has been demonstrated in the example of the Newham Food alliance, who have utilised surplus food to support food security, rather than letting this resource go to waste. Estimates suggest these actions have saved 3.8 tonnes of C02 for every tonne of food used.

- **Delivering waste reduction and an increase in reuse and recycling are an integral part tackling the climate emergency and central to Newham's ambition to become London's greenest local economy.** Planned improvements to recycling collections, new waste guidance and the preparation of a new East London Joint Resources and Waste Strategy should help to optimise recycling and composting rates in future years. Central Government has recently consulted on proposals to increase consistency in recycling, setting out a list of materials that all local authorities and waste firms would be expected to collect. We will continue to monitor these proposals to consider how the design of waste management facilities and new developments may need to shift to accommodate these changes.

- **Future proof our infrastructure network:** Sufficient utilities capacity is essential to supporting successful and sustainable growth. This is particularly important in the context of climate change and as more development comes forward. Well design and located utilities infrastructure with sufficient capacity will be critical to tackling key issues facing Newham e.g. regular heavy rainfall, reducing carbon emissions. Areas of significant growth, for example, the Royal Docks will require the right infrastructure in the right locations such as electricity capacity to serve new development, including through the delivery of new sub-stations. This has to be aligned with growth needs.

- **Changing work patterns and population growth will increasingly rely more on high quality mobile networks and digital connectivity:** It is envisaged that the demand for digital infrastructure will continue to increase over the plan period. Reflecting our inclusive economy principles, we want to consider how this can be as affordable and universally available as possible. The provision of 'digital as essential infrastructure' has significant social and economic benefits in which policy must be flexible to respond to emerging technologies and trends to deliver this.

Sources:

- Newham, Social Integration Strategy
- Newham Climate Emergency Action Plan
- DEFRA Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England
- Newham Corporate Delivery Plan
- Arcadis Royal Docks Digital Connectivity Report

What evidence will we use?

Joint Waste Plan for the East London Boroughs (and evidence base)

- The Joint Waste Plan is part of the Development Plan. It ensures boroughs safeguard sufficient waste sites to manage their London Plan waste apportionment targets. The current Joint Waste Plan was written before Newham's adopted Local Plan, and, therefore, may be hindering the delivery of more up-to-date strategic objectives, including the delivery of further housing sites and climate objectives.

- The East London boroughs (Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Newham) have procured a joint evidence base to inform the Waste Plan. The evidence base, which is currently being prepared, will provide an indication of the scope of any review, including the need for further safeguarding or potential for site release.

Utilities evidence base

- Emerging evidence by the Royal Docks Team exploring low carbon heat networks in the Royal Docks.

- Emerging infrastructure evidence as part of the Opportunity Area Planning Framework will set out the infrastructure requirements to support growth in the Royal Docks and Beckton including utilities.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- Identifies what infrastructure is required in what locations to support growth and deliver the Plan's objectives.

- It pulls together best-available information from a range of sources including TfL, the NHS, other external bodies and other Council departments.

Proposed policy changes:

1. **Update the policy and existing safeguarded waste sites to meet the new London Plan target.** This will be informed through the updated Joint East London Waste Plan and associated evidence base. There is also scope within the policy text or justification to elaborate on design and management practices to secure Best Available Techniques (best practice) at new or existing waste management sites.

2. **We will promote the circular economy in policy changes to support sustainable waste management in design and construction of new developments:** We propose to amend the policy to require Circular Economy Statements as per the London Plan and emphasise the need to optimise local circular economy opportunities (for example, sourcing materials locally, working with local reuse and repair organisations). If evidence suggests additional infrastructure commitments are needed, we will explore ways the policy can support this.

3. **We want the design of new buildings to make it as easy as possible to recycle and reuse and keep different types of waste separate.** Waste management should be considered at the outset of a development's design, reducing the need for future retrofitting in order to meet future changes in waste policy and collections. The policy will support innovative ways of encouraging waste reduction, reuse and recycling, including improving the safety and functionality of waste disposal locations and exploring ideas such as dedicated 'freecycle' rooms where residents can leave possessions they no longer need for others to use. The policy will also signpost relevant and emerging guidance for architects and developers.

4. **Establish the future role of utilities in supporting a low carbon future of the Royal Docks, including the future of the District Heat Network.** Revisit the role and future of the Heat Networks to better secure and deliver low carbon development. Explore other approaches and new cost effective technologies as requirements of new development to support sustainable and low carbon future

5. **Prioritise delivery of energy capacity in areas of high growth:** The Local Plan will need to consider how to address the power capacity issues in the Royal Docks and setting out the expectations, through policy and /or site allocations, to ensure there is electricity capacity to support level of growth.

6. **Prioritise the delivery of high speed broadband and other associated digital infrastructure, as part of inclusive growth for Newham.** We will consider how planning policy can best support the delivery of inclusive digital infrastructure, working with network providers to ensure homes and business premises are sufficiently supported by digital infrastructure at the earliest stage and to avoid disruption to occupiers or retrofitting.

You tell us

- **Do you agree with the proposed changes?**
- **Are there other changes we should consider?**
- **Is there anything missing?**
- **Are there ways your home could be better designed to help you recycle or reuse more?**
- **How can planning support the delivery of inclusive digital infrastructure?**
- **How can we plan for a utilities network which contributes to addressing the climate emergency?**
- **Are there further mitigation measures in design terms to ensure utilities doesn't result in unacceptable impacts such as noise or smells?**