

Examination of the East London Joint Waste Plan

London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Response to Main Matter 5

Matter 5: The soundness and general conformity of the Plan's policies

Issue (iv)

Q1: Are the Plan's monitoring arrangements set out in Appendix 1 clear as to how any agreements reached with other Boroughs (per paragraph 5.5 of the Plan) would be taken into account in assessments of available capacity over the Plan period?

1. No, the monitoring arrangements are not clear on this point. It is the London Borough of Tower Hamlet's (LBTH) view that the draft East London Joint Waste Plan's (ELJWP) monitoring framework should contain specific indicators that allow for the monitoring of sharing arrangements and the process by which such agreements are agreed.
2. As noted in our statement on Matter 2/Issue (iv)/Q1, LBTH was asked to demonstrate that it had met a series of criteria provided by the East London Joint Waste Planning Group (ELJWPG) to justify its request for capacity sharing. It is our view that if sharing arrangements are contingent on specific criteria being met, those criteria should be included in the plan rather than as an appendix to the Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance (submission document CD09), and that the monitoring framework should include indicators which are aligned to those criteria and any subsequent agreements. LBTH recommends the addition of a specific indicator, tied to Strategic Objective 6, which covers the total capacity which has been assigned to other authorities via such agreements, and includes a target of no loss of capacity which would result in those authorities facing a shortfall in their processing capacity. This should complement the existing indicator on p114 of Appendix 1 of the draft plan linked to the loss of safeguarded sites.
3. The monitoring framework should also recognise the fact that apportionments in the London Plan are likely to change over the period of the ELJWP. It should therefore include a mechanism which allows for any changes to assignments of surplus capacity to other authorities which result from London Plan updates to be captured and reflected in the monitoring process.
4. Without the inclusion of an indicator which specifically considers capacity sharing agreements, it is not possible to effectively monitor how the East London Waste Authority's overall capacity monitoring in accordance with paragraph 5.5 has taken any agreements with other authorities into account or how successfully it is safeguarding this capacity to ensure those agreements are being upheld.