



East London Joint Waste Plan



Statement of Common Ground

Between

**BeFirst on behalf of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham,
the London Borough of Havering, the London Borough of Newham
and the London Borough of Redbridge ('the East London Boroughs')**

And

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Stage: East London Joint Waste Plan Regulation 19 Submission Plan

February 2026

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. It is a statutory requirement necessary for waste planning matters to be managed through a DPD (Development Plan Document). A 'Waste Local Plan' helps to set out how and where waste will be managed.
- 1.2. Policies in Waste Local Plans are used to determine planning applications affecting the management of waste. The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, the London Borough of Havering, the London Borough of Newham and the London Borough of Redbridge ('the East London Boroughs') are currently updating the East London Waste Plan (2012) by preparing a replacement East London Joint Waste Plan.
- 1.3. A statement of common ground is a written record of the progress made by plan-making authorities during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters. It documents the strategic matters where effective cooperation has led to cross-boundary challenges and opportunities being identified, whether there is agreement between bodies in how these should be addressed, and how the strategic matters have evolved throughout the plan-making process. It is also a way of demonstrating at examination that plans are deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working across local authority boundaries.
- 1.4. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) addresses key strategic matters between the signatories, BeFirst on behalf of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, the London Borough of Havering, the London Borough of Newham and the London Borough of Redbridge ('the East London Boroughs' or 'ELBs') and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LB Tower Hamlets) as relevant to:
 - the preparation of the East London Joint Waste Plan (ELJWP) Regulation 19 Submission Plan and its progression to public Examination
- 1.5. A separate SoCG has been prepared in the relation to the emerging Tower Hamlets Local Plan which includes waste planning policies. Both Plans are progressing at similar timescales.
- 1.6. Strategic matters relevant to other organisations will be addressed in other SoCGs, to streamline the process of reaching agreements with each party. Where key strategic issues overlap between different organisations with whom the ELBs have signed SoCGs, these interrelationships are summarised in the Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance Submission Version (2025).
- 1.7. The document is intended to be 'live', updated as circumstances change. Please see the Governance Arrangements section of the statement for more details.

2. Parties Involved

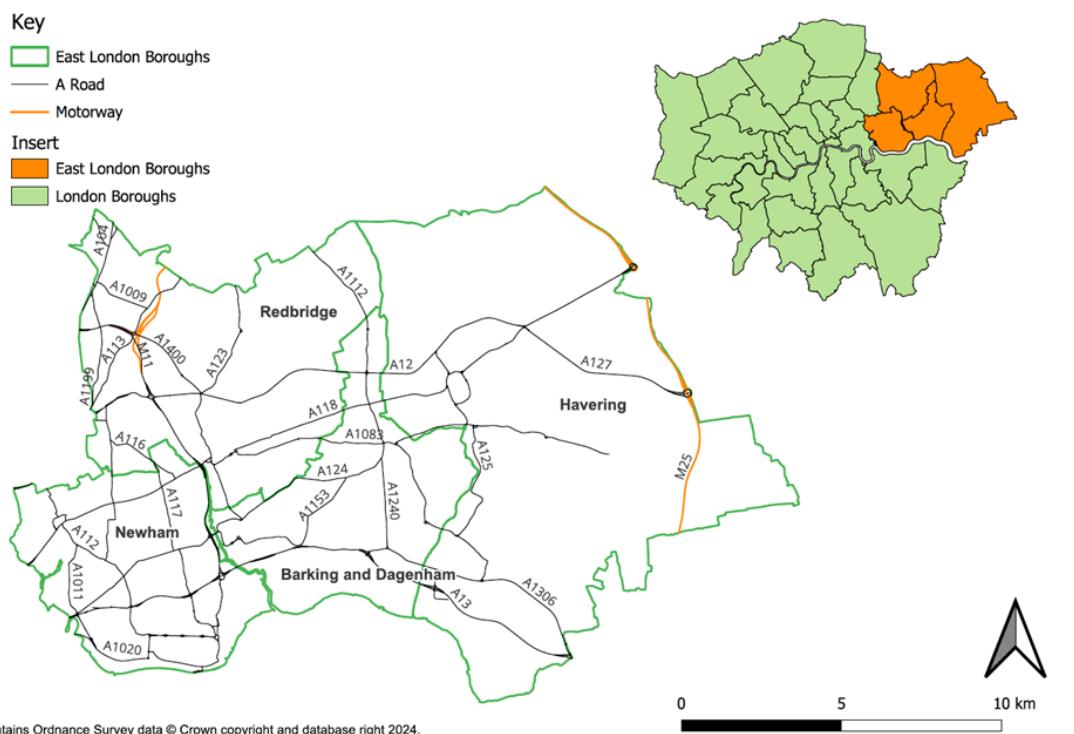
- 2.1. Barking and Dagenham Council, the Local Planning Authority for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, is an outer London Borough in East London. Barking and Dagenham covers an area of approximately 3,611 hectares and is bordered by the London Boroughs of Newham, Redbridge and Havering, and sits across the River Thames from the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the London Borough of Bexley.
- 2.2. Newham Council, the Local Planning Authority for the London Borough of Newham, is an inner London Borough in East London situated between three rivers: the Lea to the west, Thames to

the south and Roding to the east. London Borough of Newham is bordered by several other London Boroughs, including Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Waltham Forest, Redbridge, and Barking and Dagenham. Across the River Thames lies the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Newham's administrative boundaries also contained 65% of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) area, which acted as the planning authority for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and surrounding area until the return of planning powers to the boroughs the on 1st December 2024. Newham contains three Opportunity Areas: the Olympic Legacy (which also includes parts of the other Host Boroughs) Poplar Riverside (which crosses the boundary with LBTH) and Royal Docks and Beckton, which is also the home of London's only Enterprise Zone and Europe's largest regeneration area.

- 2.3. Redbridge Council, the Local Planning Authority for the London Borough of Redbridge, is an outer London borough in the northeast, extending approximately 22 sq. miles. The borough sits entirely within the M25, north of the river Thames, and the City of London is approximately seven miles to the west. Redbridge shares boundaries with four other London boroughs: Waltham Forest (to the west), Newham (to the south), Barking and Dagenham (to the south-east) and Havering (to the east). Redbridge also adjoins the County of Essex (to the north-west) and Epping Forest District (to the north). Ilford Metropolitan Town Centre is the borough's primary centre, which lies within the south of the borough, and is designated as an Opportunity Area in the 2021 London Plan. Ilford Town Centre is also located within the Crossrail corridor, which also includes the smaller centres of Seven Kings, Goodmayes, and Chadwell Heath. All four centres have Elizabeth Line railway stations.
- 2.4. Havering Council, the Local Planning Authority for the London Borough of Havering, is an outer London Borough situated in northeast London. Over 50% of Havering is Green Belt. It borders the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham, the Essex authorities of Epping Forest District Council, Thurrock and Brentwood Boroughs, and on the other side of the River Thames, the London Borough of Bexley. Romford is the borough's only metropolitan town centre and also one of two Opportunity Areas in the borough, alongside London Riverside.
- 2.5. Tower Hamlets Council, the Local Planning Authority for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, an inner London Borough situated in central London. Tower Hamlets borders five other London boroughs and the City of London: Hackney to the north, Newham to the east, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich to the south across the River Thames, and the City of London to the west. Tower Hamlets is a unitary waste planning authority, meaning that the borough is responsible, as far as possible, for meeting its waste apportionment on sites within its boundaries. Tower Hamlets is known for its diversity, multiculturalism and numerous historical and modern landmarks, including the Tower of London and Canary Wharf. Tower Hamlets is required to deliver London's highest housing target. The borough also has three opportunity areas: City Fringe, Poplar Riverside and Isle of Dogs and South Poplar. From 2011 to 2021, the population of Tower Hamlets increased by 22.1% from 254,100 to 310,300. This marks a significant proportional increase and represents the fastest population growth of any local authority in England. This population increase together with the overall size of the borough has Tower Hamlets being recorded as the most densely populated local authority area in England.

3. Strategic geography

3.1. The map below identifies the spatial representation of the key strategic matters addressed, alongside the administrative area/areas of the plan-making authority/authorities.



4. Background to the East London Joint Waste Plan (ELJWP) Process

4.1. The ELBs prepared the ELJWP Regulation 19 Submission Plan and published it for consultation between 19th May and 30th June 2025. This is the version of the plan that the ELBs consider to be 'legally compliant' and 'sound' and will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by the Planning Inspectorate in late 2025/early 2026. To inform the ELJWP Regulation 19 Submission Plan, the Draft ELJWP (July 2024) was consulted on under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 between 29th July and 16th September 2024.

4.2. A Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance (DtC Statement) was published as part of the ELJWP's Regulation 19 consultation, which amongst other matters, provides a summary of the ELBs' engagement with LBTH, as a duty to cooperate partner, as part of the preparation of the ELJWP. The table below presents an extract of the relevant key strategic matters identified as part of this process and the corresponding pages in the DtC Statement (2025).

Key Strategic Matter	Activity	Page of DtC Statement
Sharing East London's Surplus Capacity	Invitations sent to London Boroughs to request reliance on surplus capacity in East London for meeting unmet waste management requirements in their areas. Meetings with LBTH to discuss sharing capacity. Written correspondence concerning sharing capacity.	20-21

4.3. The national policy context forming the background to this SoCG is also detailed in the DtC Statement (2025), under '2: What is the Duty to Cooperate?'.

4.4. This SoCG reflects the remaining key strategic matters not agreed in LB Tower Hamlets' response to the Regulation 19 consultation.

4.5. As part of the duty to cooperate process, the ELBs and LB Tower Hamlets agree that:

- discussions around the sharing of capacity have taken place throughout the preparation of the ELJWP.
- there are outstanding strategic matters related to the approach to the sharing of surplus capacity with other boroughs and the release of safeguarded waste sites.

Given the outstanding strategic matters outlined in this Statement of Common Ground, LB Tower Hamlets intend to attend the Examination hearings for the ELJWP.

5. Key Strategic Matters

Approach to sharing waste capacity with other London boroughs

- 5.1. The ELBs have a significant surplus of waste management capacity, with between c.0.68 Mtpa (without Mechanical Biological Treatment) and c.1.2Mtpa of apportioned waste surplus and 0.98 Mtpa of C, D & E waste management capacity surplus predicted at 2041.
- 5.2. The London Plan at paragraph 9.8.6 states that boroughs with a surplus of waste sites should offer to share these sites with those boroughs facing a shortfall in capacity, before considering site release. As per the DtC Statement (2025), the ELBs contacted all London Boroughs inviting requests for surplus capacity in East London to meet unmet waste management requirements in their areas. LB Tower Hamlets is the only borough that directly requested a proportion of East London's capacity surplus. LB Tower Hamlets is requesting a transfer of 192,370 tonnes per annum (tpa) of Household, Industrial and Commercial (HIC) qualifying waste management capacity and 56,953tpa of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste management capacity. This includes the transfer of 26,353tpa of HIC waste capacity formerly managed at the Hepscott Road site located in LB Tower Hamlets, which was granted planning permission for a redevelopment and de-designation as a waste site in February 2018 by the London Legacy Development Corporation. The capacity from the Hepscott Road site was transferred to a site located at River Road in LB Barking and Dagenham.
- 5.3. The proposed criteria for assessing surplus capacity requests are not included in the Submission Version of the ELJWP. They have been included within Appendix 2 of the Duty to Cooperate Statement. The criteria set out the ELBs' approach to sharing surplus waste management capacity with other London boroughs. Paragraphs 4.11 and 4.12 sets out that capacity sharing agreements with any other London boroughs to meet unmet needs would be through Statements of Common Ground (or similar), which would cover a specified period which may be less than the Plan period.
- 5.4. To inform this process, and in the absence of guidance from the GLA for London as a whole as to how requests for capacity ought to be assessed, the ELBs formulated a methodology, and this is set out in Appendix 2 of the DtC Compliance Statement (Proposed criteria for assessing surplus capacity requests). This methodology is not included within the proposed plan policy. This methodology has primarily been informed through the London Plan policy SI 8 and SI 9 requirements
- 5.5. LB Tower Hamlets responded to the Regulation 19 consultation on the Submission Draft ELJWP. In the consultation response, LBTH raised a number of concerns summarised below:
 - LB Tower Hamlets identified a number of concerns relating to procedural aspects and legal compliance and with regards to the meeting the Duty to Cooperate. Further detail on this can be found within London Borough of Tower Hamlets representation.
 - LB Tower Hamlets noted that they do not consider the plan as proposed to meet the tests of soundness as set out within the NPPF. Further detail on this can be found within London Borough of Tower Hamlets representation.

- Given East London's large surplus of capacity, it must be considered practical for the ELBs to meet LBTH's unmet waste capacity needs, in accordance with:
 - Paragraph 22 of the NPPF, which expects strategic policies to look ahead and anticipate and respond to long term requirements; and
 - Paragraph 9.8.6 of the London Plan, which states that boroughs with a surplus of waste sites should offer to share these sites with those boroughs facing a shortfall in capacity before considering site release.
- As the ELJWPG must offer capacity to boroughs that have a need before proposing release of safeguarded sites, assistance that can be offered to other boroughs should be included within the plan. A statement of common ground is not an appropriate mechanism to agree the sharing of waste capacity given that the waste plan itself is proposing the release of safeguarded waste sites. The safeguarding of capacity to meet LBTH's needs should be clearly set out in section 4 of the ELJWP, in an additional clause in Policy JWP2, or in an additional policy that clearly establishes the ELBs' criteria used for determining whether to share capacity.
- The Integrated Impact Assessment fails to appropriately test an alternative scenario in which the ELJWP safeguards waste capacity specifically for neighbouring authorities facing a shortfall.
- The evidence base for the ELJWP does not recognise the existing waste flows from LBTH to the ELJWP area and vice versa.

LB Tower Hamlets is a unitary waste planning authority and as such, policies in the emerging Local Plan aim to fulfil its waste planning obligations. LBTH consulted on the Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) in Autumn/Winter 2024, with a further focused consultation in Summer 2025. The ELBs responded to both consultations. A separate Statement of Common Ground between the East London Boroughs and London Borough Tower Hamlets in relation to Tower Hamlets emerging draft plan, which includes policies relating to waste planning has also been prepared.

5.6. Record of agreements and/or disagreements:

ELBs position	LB Tower Hamlets position
The ELBs maintain that the approach to sharing capacity in the Submission Draft ELJWP is appropriate. The ELBs are of the view that this approach allows for flexibility in providing for capacity sharing agreements to be made at different points of the plan's lifecycle, while ensuring any boroughs intending to rely on east London's surplus capacity optimise sustainable management capacity within their boundaries, in compliance with the proximity principle.	LB Tower Hamlets are of the view that Paragraph 4.12 of the ELJWP does not meet the soundness requirements as noted in the NPPF Paragraph 36(c) which states: <i>(c) Effective – deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground;</i>
The ELBs consider that Paragraph 4.12 in the Waste Plan reflects the approach set out in the NPPF, paragraph 28:	Given this, LB Tower Hamlets does not consider that this approach is effective because the ELBs are seeking to defer this matter through a Statement of Common Ground rather than dealing with the matter through the Waste Plan.

<p><i>'In order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these.'</i></p>	<p>The specific amount of capacity to be shared must be agreed and set out within the ELJWP itself, rather than deferred to be agreed through statements of common ground after proposing the release of safeguarded sites.</p>
<p>The approach also follows NPPF Paragraph 36(c) as a means of effective delivery of the Plan over the plan period; the ELBs are seeking the most effective means of making progress in these areas rather than attempting to defer matters.</p>	
<p>The ELBs are of the view that before agreeing any sharing of surplus capacity, a robust evidence base needs to be presented that demonstrates that a borough cannot meet their own waste capacity needs. In the absence of a criteria at the strategic level, the ELBs produced an assessment criteria to aid in assessing requests for surplus capacity in a balanced way, protecting waste capacity for East London now and in the future.</p>	
<p>The ELBs do not currently consider that LB Tower Hamlets has adequately demonstrated a need for waste management capacity that cannot be met within its own area or in consultation with other LPAs with which waste flows are already established.</p>	
<p>The ELBs do not consider inclusion of a waste sharing agreement with LBTH in Policy JWP2, or an additional policy that establishes the ELBs approach to sharing capacity is necessary, required or a reasonable alternative that needs to be assessed in the IIA. The plan already includes provisions to assess requests to share capacity under paragraphs 4.11 and 4.12. SoCGs would include clear timeframes and mechanisms for capacity sharing and would be flexible to any changes to broader regional policy contexts likely to occur through the review of the London Plan. The ELBs also</p>	<p>LB Tower Hamlets consider that the assessment criteria need to be included in the plan itself, rather than supporting documentation, as to not do so would mean it will not be a material consideration. There would also need to be a clear indication of how these will be maintained, with defined scenarios in which it is acknowledged that it will be necessary to update such a SoCG.</p> <p>It is specified clearly in the London Plan that requests from other boroughs for waste capacity needs should be accommodated <i>prior</i> to identifying sites for release from safeguarding as supported by paragraph 9.8.6 of the London Plan (2021).</p>

<p>consider that the alternative suggested by LBTH in their Regulation 19 response would not require the alteration of any of the policy wording currently included in the plan.</p>	<p>LB Tower Hamlets maintain that the assessment of Policy JWP2 should include a reasonable alternative (Need Alternative 1) that would make provision for additional waste management capacity above the ELBs' London Plan apportionment.</p>																																
<p>The ELBs consider the evidence base for the Submission Draft ELJWP adopts a proportionate and justified approach to identifying strategically significant cross boundary waste movements. Using this methodology, no strategically significant flows from East London to LBTH have been identified. Notwithstanding this, the ELBs will continue to engage in Duty to Cooperate discussions with LBTH, noting its geographical proximity as a neighbouring borough and its request to share East London's surplus management capacity.</p>	<p>There are several safeguarded waste sites in LB Newham that already receive a significant proportion of their waste from Tower Hamlets. Given that these are existing, safeguarded waste sites that currently process a significant proportion of Tower Hamlets' waste, LB Tower Hamlets consider that these sites should be formally safeguarded in the ELJWP to contribute to meeting Tower Hamlets' waste requirements</p> <p>Whilst LB Tower Hamlets will continue engagement with the ELBs noting the geographical proximity as a neighbouring borough with LB Newham, there are existing established flows with the East London Waste Authorities as presented in the 2023 Waste Data Study and LBTH Waste Topic Paper. It demonstrates significant flows from the ELBs to the Northumberland Wharf Transfer Station and also significant flows from LB Tower Hamlets to the ELBs. Below is a table highlighting this:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="708 1102 1375 1349"> <thead> <tr> <th>WPA</th><th>2017</th><th>2018</th><th>2019</th><th>2020</th><th>2021</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>East London (Havering)</td><td>54,378</td><td>45,772</td><td>41,797</td><td>12,133</td><td>75,248</td></tr> <tr> <td>East London (Newham)</td><td>7,622</td><td>10,031</td><td>59,587</td><td>39,648</td><td>38,436</td></tr> <tr> <td>East London (Barking and Dagenham)</td><td>4,536</td><td>2,898</td><td>0</td><td>31,249</td><td>4,706</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="708 1394 1330 1619"> <thead> <tr> <th>Origin</th><th>Site and Waste Type</th><th>2020</th><th>2021</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>East London Waste Authority</td><td>Northumberland Wharf Transfer Station (HIC)</td><td>109,017</td><td>142,940</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 1, sets out the 'proximity principle' - the requirement for mixed municipal waste to be disposed of or recovered in one of the nearest appropriate installations. This directive further demonstrates the need for neighbouring boroughs to accommodate LBTH's request for assistance.</p>	WPA	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	East London (Havering)	54,378	45,772	41,797	12,133	75,248	East London (Newham)	7,622	10,031	59,587	39,648	38,436	East London (Barking and Dagenham)	4,536	2,898	0	31,249	4,706	Origin	Site and Waste Type	2020	2021	East London Waste Authority	Northumberland Wharf Transfer Station (HIC)	109,017	142,940
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<p>The ELBs welcome Tower Hamlets undertaking a further study to assess its existing SIL and LIL locations to understand whether there are any suitable sites that could accommodate capacity to meet any unmet waste management capacity need.</p> <p>The ELBs look forward to the conclusion of the Study and will comment further at the appropriate time. The ELBs will assess the robustness and conclusions of the study, alongside LBTH's demonstration of proportional DtC, to conclude whether the evidence presented meets the set criteria.</p>	<p>LB Tower Hamlets has agreed to undertake a detailed assessment of its existing SIL and LIL locations to understand whether there are any suitable sites that could accommodate capacity to meet any unmet waste management capacity needs. At the time of writing work on this evidence has already commenced, with completion due in February 2026.</p> <p>Whilst LB Tower Hamlets considers our evidence base to be proportionate, in the interest of effective and constructive joint working with the ELBs, LB Tower Hamlets is carrying out a further study to investigate whether SIL and LIL sites have the capacity to accommodate waste uses. A draft proposed brief to commission the work including the methodology for the assessment was shared with the ELBs. The ELBs have helped to inform the brief by providing comments relating to the study supporting the soundness of the Plan and have raised no concerns with the methodology of the brief.</p> <p>LB Tower Hamlets are confident that the study will help identify if sites are available in the borough and that this will be sufficient evidence to demonstrate whether there is any capacity for waste facilities on LBTH's industrial sites.</p>
	<p>LB Tower Hamlets has continued to undertake further Duty to Cooperate engagement with other London boroughs with whom established waste flows already exist, to understand those borough's ability to meet any unmet capacity needs.</p> <p>To date, the further engagement that has taken place includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with the SELJWPG are ongoing and a SoCG is being set out to reflect that there are identified flows of waste to LB Bexley, though much of which is waste transfers via the Northumberland Wharf Transfer Station to the Cory Riverside Recovery Station in Belvedere. • Requests for assistance with meeting the borough's waste apportionment were sent to all London boroughs in October 2024 and June 2025 • LB Tower Hamlets has requested Duty to Cooperate engagement with the West London Waste Planning Authorities in regard to the renewal of their Waste Plan.

The ELBs and LB Tower Hamlets agree to continue to work together to resolve these matters through Duty to Cooperate discussions.

Release of safeguarded waste sites

5.7. The capacity and waste stream of sites identified for release from safeguarding is set out in Table 1 entitled the Sites Identified for Release in the Reg 19 ELJWP Waste Topic Paper. In addition to the four sites identified in the Plan, Appendix 4 sites are additional existing waste sites which are considered to offer potential for redevelopment for non-waste uses in future. Noting each of the ELBs are at different stages of the plan-making process (through which industrial land boundary changes could be made), Appendix 4 earmarks those sites that the relevant borough may seek to release through the allocation of sites in emerging updated Local Plans. This approach seeks to reflect:

- i. paragraph 22 of the NPPF, which states that "Strategic policies should look ahead over a minimum 15-year period from adoption, to anticipate and respond to long-term requirements and opportunities."; and
- ii. the London Plan supporting paragraph 9.8.10, which states that "Plans or agreements safeguarding waste sites should take a flexible approach. They should be regularly reviewed and updated to take account of development that may lead to the integration of waste sites or appropriate relocation of lost waste sites."

5.8. This capacity will also need to be considered in discussions with other London boroughs around sharing capacity, noting the need to ensure the ELBs do not undermine future strategic planning aspirations alongside maintaining east London's waste management capacity surplus. The Plan fully acknowledges that Appendix 4 sites would only be released if a surplus of capacity to compensate for the site's loss exists at the time the site(s) is/are allocated for non-waste use at the Local Plan stage. LB Tower Hamlets has objected to this appendix and considers that the boroughs with surplus waste capacity should share this with boroughs facing a shortfall before identifying sites for release from safeguarding.

5.9. LB Tower Hamlets has also highlighted its objection to the Draft Submission Newham Local Plan, which states that the safeguarded waste site in Beckton Riverside can be released as part of the Local Plan. They consider this site should be set out in the ELJWP list of sites for release.

5.10. Beckton Riverside is identified as one of five allocations in Schedule 2 in the adopted ELJWP. These allocations are areas of land within which potentially available and suitable sites for waste management facilities can be located. The areas are safeguarded as allocations. The review of the Joint Waste Plan has shown a significant surplus of management capacity across East London. Therefore, the ELBs no longer consider it necessary or justified to continue to safeguard the allocated land within the ELJWP or the borough's Local Plan as additional capacity to meet the apportionments that is no longer required. It is also worth noting no waste facility has been proposed to be brought forward on the Beckton Riverside allocation in particular.

5.11. Record of agreements and/or disagreements:

ELBs position	LB Tower Hamlets position
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<p>The ELBs maintain their approach to earmarking sites with redevelopment potential in Appendix 4 is justified, noting the need to ensure the ELBs do not frustrate future strategic planning aspirations while maintaining east London's management capacity surplus. The Plan fully acknowledges that Appendix 4 sites would only be released if a surplus of capacity to compensate for a particular site's loss exists at the time the site(s) is/are allocated for non-waste use at the Local Plan stage.</p>	<p>As the ELB's have not yet agreed to accommodating LBTH's request for assistance, in principle LB Tower Hamlets does not consider the release of any sites to be sound as it is not 'positively prepared' to address London's waste needs. Paragraph 9.8.6 in the London Plan (2021) is clear that boroughs with surplus capacity should offer to share sites with boroughs facing a shortfall in capacity before considering site release. Whilst LB Tower Hamlets supports the ELJWP's acknowledgement that sites will only be released if compensatory capacity is found elsewhere, as there is outstanding shortfall capacity in LB Tower Hamlets, this would not meet the soundness requirements set out in the NPPF.</p>
<p>The ELBs maintain that they are not required to identify the Beckton Riverside site in the ELJWP site release list as it is an allocation of land, not an existing waste site.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>The ELBs consider the ELJWP is in general conformity with the principle of paragraph 9.8.6 of the London Plan. As per the DtC Statement of Compliance, the ELBs have contacted all London Boroughs with an offer to request reliance on surplus capacity in East London if they have demonstrable unmet waste management needs.</p> <p>The ELBs position is that LBTH have not adequately demonstrated an unmet need, and therefore the ELBs are not in a position to accept LBTH's requested waste capacity sharing. The ELBs continue to engage constructively on this matter, as laid out in more detail in table 5.11 of this SoCG.</p>	<p>LB Tower Hamlets has raised concerns about the Duty to Cooperate process with the ELBs, citing challenges that have been faced. It should be noted that the Duty exists up until the point of submission, and it is incumbent on the ELBs to demonstrate that they have engaged on a constructive, active and ongoing basis. LB Tower Hamlets has outstanding concerns as the request to accommodate LBTH's request has yet to be accepted, despite the policy basis as set out in London Plan. LBTH are of the view that LB Tower Hamlets has provided sufficient, detailed and proportionate evidence to justify the request to the ELBs and continue to provide and accommodate further evidence requests from the ELBs including a detailed waste site study.</p>
<p>The ELBs' position with regards to Tower Hamlets response to east London's methodology criteria are set out above under the subheading 'Approach to sharing capacity with other boroughs'.</p>	<p>LB Tower Hamlets notes there are notable divergences from London Plan policy within the proposed criteria. In short – the London Plan requires boroughs to 'optimise' rather than 'maximise' capacity within existing waste sites (as set out within the ELB's proposed criteria 1a).</p> <p>Criteria 1f proposed by the ELBs that requires</p>

	that 'all options have been explored' significant exceeds the London Plan policy requirements, which does not expect boroughs to explore sites outside of SIL/LSIS for waste uses.
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Procedural matters

5.17. LB Tower Hamlets submitted representations to the ELJWP Regulation 18 Consultation. LB Tower Hamlets has raised concern that no reference to these representations was included in the ELJWP Consultation Statement published at Regulation 19. LB Tower Hamlets has raised concern that this is a legal and procedural concern and raises concerns about the draft ELJWP meeting the soundness requirements as set out in the NPPF. LB Tower Hamlets is of the view that this would not meet the requirements set out in Regulation 22(c) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Regulation states that the Regulation 22 Statement includes:

- (i)which bodies and persons the local planning authority invited to make representations under regulation 18,
- (ii)how those bodies and persons were invited to make representations under regulation 18,
- (iii)a summary of the main issues raised by the representations made pursuant to regulation 18,**
- (iv)how any representations made pursuant to regulation 18 have been taken into account;**
- (v)if representations were made pursuant to regulation 20, the number of representations made and a summary of the main issues raised in those representations; and
- (vi)if no representations were made in regulation 20, that no such representations were made;

5.18. The ELBs have met regularly with LB Tower Hamlets throughout the Plan making process and have discussed comments made by LBTH on the Reg 18 ELJWP and also provided comments on the Tower Hamlets Local Plan clearly setting out and explaining the ELBs' position. The consultation record (ELJWP Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (Submission)) has been updated to record Tower Hamlets' comments at Regulation 18. The ELBs maintain the position that the Sustainability Appraisal's assessment of alternatives is considered proportionate and in line with requirements, and the consultation process (Regulation 18 and 19) was carried out properly.

5.19. Record of agreements and/or disagreements:

- LB Tower Hamlets maintain their position that the exclusion of comments in the consultation statement at ELJWP Regulation 19 stage does not comply with Regulation 22(c)
- The ELBs maintain their position that the ELJWP Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (Submission) meets all legal and procedural requirements

6. Governance agreements

6.1. This statement of common ground will be reviewed:

- i. Whenever agreement is reached on any outstanding matters. Or

- ii. At key milestones in progress towards addressing strategic matters. Or
- iii. At each subsequent key stage of the plan making process, as it progresses towards adoption.

6.2. The SoCG will be updated at the request of either party to reflect new evidence, revised higher order policy or other relevant factors.

6.3. Alongside the above, the parties involved will continue to engage on waste matters through the London Waste Planning Forum, which meets up to four times per year to discuss waste matters affecting London.

7. Signatories

7.1. We confirm that the information in this statement and referred to documents reflects the joint working to date undertaken between the ELB and LB Tower Hamlets towards addressing the identified strategic matters.

<p>Signed on behalf of London Borough of Barking and Dagenham:</p>  <p>Name: Marilyn Smith</p> <p>Date: 09/02/2026</p> <p>Position: Head of Planning and Assurance</p>	<p>Signed on behalf of London Borough of Tower Hamlets:</p>  <p>Name: Natalya Palit</p> <p>Date: 04/02/2026</p> <p>Position: Plan-making manager</p>
<p>Signed on behalf of London Borough of Havering:</p>  <p>Name: Kevin Waters</p> <p>Date: 06/02/2026</p> <p>Position: Assistant Director of Planning</p>	
<p>Signed on behalf of London Borough of Newham:</p>  <p>Name: Dana Edmund</p> <p>Date: 09/02/2026</p> <p>Position: Interim Planning Policy Manager</p>	

Signed on behalf of London Borough of Redbridge:



Name: Robert Lancaster

Date: 09/02/2026

Position: Director of Planning & Building Control