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1.0 Summary

This Strategy describes how Lambeth Council will manage recycling and waste in a way that serves residents and businesses and protects the environment.

KEY TARGETS

- Recycle 37% of household waste by 2025
- Reduce non-recyclable waste by 50kg per household per year by 2025
- Achieve 55% participation in the food waste service by 2030
- Recycle 45% of commercial waste by 2027
- Run a fully electrified vehicle fleet by 2030

CURRENT PERFORMANCE

- 2021/22 recycling rate was 34.5%
- Second best recycling rate in inner London
- Lowest total collected household waste per person in the country
- 30% food waste service participation
- 42 out of 117 vehicles are electric

The following page outlines how the council intends to work towards achieving the targets.

1.0 Summary

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Encourage behaviour change
- 2. Meet legislative requirements
- 3. Protect health and the environment
- 4. Offer excellent customer service
- 5. Practice responsible procurement
- 6. Maintain and improve civic pride
- 7. Lead by example

These objectives are supported by 21 policies and 40 initiatives, including:

Introduce fortnightly non-recyclable waste collections for kerbside households to encourage residents to make the most of the dry and organic waste recycling services.

Review the current 'on the go' recycling provision and, if required, define a plan for increasing coverage.

Maintain and improve efforts to tackle fly tipping and littering, including using dedicated enforcement staff and CCTV resource.

Actively promote and support local community groups that undertake or seek to undertake repair, reuse, sharing and swapping activities and/or events.

Promote food waste reduction initiatives and support national campaigns on food waste reduction.

Expand food waste services to all households by October 2025.

Develop and implement a strategy for greatly increasing the recycling of commercial waste, building a service which complements the existing service with flexibility to support local businesses in recycling their waste.

Work closely with charity partners collecting furniture from the kerbside in order to maximise the positive social value of furniture reuse.

2.0 Introduction

Lambeth's Municipal Waste Management Strategy covers the period 2011–2031 and provides a strategic framework for Lambeth's Waste Management Policy. This 2023 Strategy update covers the following areas:

- Context Places Lambeth's waste strategy within a wider national, regional and local picture
- Where are we today? Updates the baseline of waste management in Lambeth which has changed since the original strategy was published in 2011
- Where do we want to get to? The significant targets identified in this strategy that will move Lambeth towards more sustainable waste management, contribute to the council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030, and support London's Environment Strategy are:
 - Increase recycling rates for household waste by 5% from the current level of 32% by 2025
 - Reduce non-recyclable waste by an additional 50 kg per household by 2030, having already successfully reduced by 100 kg per household since 2010
 - Increase recycling rates for commercial waste collected by Lambeth to 45% by 2025
- How will we get there? Sets out the Objectives, Policies and Initiatives that will help the council achieve its targets.

This strategy covers:

- Rubbish and recyclable material collected from domestic properties
- Recyclables deposited at local recycling points
- Waste delivered to Lambeth's Reuse and Recycling Centre
- Commercial waste collected under contract to the council
- Waste from markets and parks
- Litter and street cleansing waste
- Waste from gully pots
- Bulky waste
- Healthcare waste

Lambeth is a Waste Collection Authority only, and therefore this Strategy does not cover waste disposal. However, it does include treatment of waste streams collected by Lambeth where they are not sent to Western Riverside Waste Authority (WRWA) for disposal.

Excluded from this strategy is any municipal waste not collected by Lambeth (although this is part of the Mayor of London's 65% municipal recycling rate target.

2.1.1 Resources and Waste Strategy for England (DEFRA)

This strategy update comes at an important but also uncertain time in terms of wider waste policy, with the *Resources and Waste Strategy for England* released in December 2018 and a number of proposals having recently been consulted on. The proposals with clear implications for Lambeth as a local authority are:

- Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: The government intends to introduce a DRS for drinks containers, whereby a small deposit is paid when buying canned or bottled drinks which is then refunded when the empty container is returned to a collection point. This will remove materials from the non-recyclable stream as well as from the recycling stream, ultimately saving disposal costs
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): The Government intends to reform the packaging producer responsibility system so that costs of collection and recycling are borne by those that produce packaging and place it on the market. Local authorities will be able to access financial support in collecting packaging waste
- Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England: The Government intends to bring in policies to achieve greater consistency in how domestic and commercial recycling collections are carried out in order to increase recycling rates. Proposals for household recycling include the collection of food waste from all properties, the collection of a core set of dry recycling materials from all properties and free collection of garden waste from properties with gardens. Proposals for business waste include legislating for separate collections of recyclable waste (including food waste), representing a potential opportunity for local authority commercial recycling services. Following the consultation, the Government confirmed it proposes to move ahead on the requirement for local authorities to collect a core set of materials (possibly to include soft plastics and foil) and to separate food waste

These changes will transform UK waste management. Passing the cost of collection and treatment of materials to the original producers of those materials will create the means and incentives to achieve far better recycling and general environmental performance. The Government intends to implement these changes so that no new costs fall to local government and the communities we serve. On this basis, Lambeth is generally supportive, and looks forward to playing its part.

At the time of writing this strategy update, it is still unclear how, and to what extent, the various proposals will be implemented. Within the published Resource and Waste Strategy document the key target for the Local Authority collected waste in England is a recycling rate of 65% municipal recycling by 2035.

2.1.2 London Environment Strategy

The Mayor's London Environment Strategy was published in May 2018. The strategy includes revisions based on feedback from a public consultation. The Mayor's objectives around waste management are to:

- Drive resource efficiency
- Maximise recycling rates
- Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities
- Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has the infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces

Key targets and commitments within the Environment Strategy with implications for this strategy include:

- To cut food waste and associated packaging waste by 50% per person by 2030
- To achieve a 65% municipal waste recycling rate by 2030, including a 50% recycling rate for local authority collected waste (LACW) by 2025
- To send zero biodegradable or recyclable waste to landfill by 2026
- London to manage net 100% of all the waste it produces by 2026

Since 2020, all London boroughs have been required to develop and provide to the GLA a reduction and recycling plan (RRP), which include local reduction and recycling targets that contribute to the Mayor's London-wide targets. This strategy update has been developed with a view to supporting the development of the RRP document, which includes how the borough will address its plans for making an effective contribution to the Mayor's Emissions Performance Standard (EPS) and the latest version of the Action Plan.

Lambeth welcomes support from the GLA and partners to implement this strategy and its supporting Action Plan, which comply with the requirements of the London Environment Strategy.

2.1.3 Lambeth's Local Plan

In alignment with the London Environment Strategy's commitment for London to manage net 100% of all the waste it produces by 2026, Lambeth's local plan includes safeguarding and maximising existing waste sites and identifying land suitable for new waste facilities to meet Lambeth's waste management needs over the next fifteen years. The National Planning Policy for Waste and the Planning Practice Guidance require waste planning authorities to plan for seven waste streams. These waste streams are:

- Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW)
- Commercial & Industrial waste (C&I)
- Construction, Demolition & Excavation (CD&E)
- Low Level Radioactive waste (LLRW)
- Agricultural waste
- Hazardous waste
- Waste water

The Local Plan, supported by the Waste Evidence Base, shows how Lambeth is planning for all seven waste streams. A capacity gap for LACW, C&I and CD&E waste has been identified and the Waste Evidence Base demonstrates that enough land in Lambeth's Key Industrial and Business Areas can come forward during the plan period to provide sufficient opportunities to meet this need.

2.1.4 Lambeth Borough Plan: 'Lambeth 2030 Our Future. Our Lambeth'

Lambeth's Borough Plan is a set of three ambitions and four commitments to make Lambeth the best place to live and work in London for people from any background by 2030. Waste and Streets are featured within the plan, acknowledged as a priority for residents under the ambition of Making Lambeth Neighbourhoods Fit For The Future. This ambition is about continuing to make Lambeth a clean, vibrant and climate-resilient borough.

The relevant goals under this ambition which the Lambeth Waste Strategy directly supports are:

- Increasing the re-use of materials
- Expanding food waste recycling and composting
- Increasing the number of materials that can be recycled and supporting all residents to better understand and access recycling options
- Reducing our usage of plastic and single use packaging
- Keeping our streets and open spaces free from litter, fly-tipping and toxic pollution

2.1.5 Lambeth's Carbon Neutrality Commitment

Lambeth is aware of the impacts that climate change is having on a global scale, caused primarily by human activities. Global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels, with atmospheric CO₂ levels above 400 parts per million (ppm), comfortably exceeding the stated 'safe' limit of 350 ppm. To reduce the chance of runaway global warming and limit the effects of climate breakdown, it is imperative that Lambeth's CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) reduces from current levels of 6.5 tonnes per person to less than two tonnes per person.

In response to this Lambeth has declared a 'climate emergency'. The borough is the first in London to commit to carbon neutrality by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions. The borough will work with partners across Lambeth and London to ensure the climate emergency is adequately reflected in the development and implementation of all borough-wide strategies and plans, including Transport and Local Plans.

To support Lambeth's Carbon Neutrality Commitment a <u>Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan</u> was published in July 2019 and the Waste Strategy has been updated to reflect commitments made within this plan.

2.1.6 Contribution of Waste Management to Carbon Commitments

This Waste Strategy Update drives towards carbon neutrality by introducing targets to increase recycling, reduce non-recyclable waste, and move collection vehicles away from fossil fuel sources. By increasing recycling and diverting materials away from the non-recyclable waste stream, Lambeth is already reducing carbon emissions. The waste hierarchy (below) underpins this strategy and aligns with carbon commitments. This strategy prioritises the higher tiers of the waste hierarchy, which achieve greater carbon savings and, for Lambeth, lower costs. These higher tiers, in addition to saving carbon, drive towards a circular economy in which resources are regenerated and any 'leakage' from the recirculation of resources into non-recyclable waste is minimised.

Prevention	Changing behaviour
Reuse	Reusing items and materials
Recycling	Recycling & composting materials
Recover	Recovering materials & energy
Disposal	Landfill

3.0 Where are we today?

Since the Waste Strategy was launched in 2011 there have been changes in how waste is managed:

- Compulsory recycling was introduced in 2011
- Food waste is collected weekly from kerbside properties
- The standard bin size for kerbside properties has reduced from 240-litre to 140-litre
- Dry recycling now includes the full range of core materials (paper, card, cartons, glass, cans, tins, plastic bottles, plastic pots, tubs and trays) for all households. For kerbside properties this is now collected predominantly from 240-litre wheeled bins (where accommodated)
- The garden waste collection service is now charged for and collected weekly from reusable sacks
- Bulky waste collection is now a chargeable service available to kerbside households. A
 partnership with the Emmaus charity will collect reusable bulky waste for free
- Food waste collections are being offered to flats in estates, in a roll-out due to be completed by the end of 2025
- From 1 October 2021, the waste and recycling, street cleansing and ancillary services contract has been held by Serco Environmental Services

In addition to the above changes:

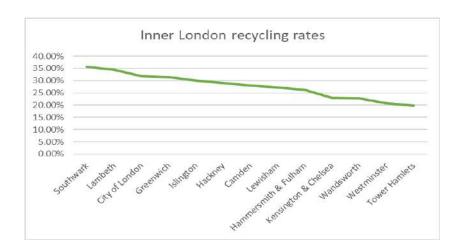
- A proposal to collect non-recyclable waste from kerbside properties on a fortnightly basis has been consulted on
- A Recycling and Waste Collections Policy Charter has been created
- A plan is being developed to trial food waste collections from flats above shops

3.1 Current performance

Despite the good progress made in rolling out new services and policies that encourage reduction, reuse and recycling of waste, there is more work to be done as Lambeth Council still disposed of 71, 302 tonnes of household waste in 2021/22, at a cost of £8m.

Lambeth's 2021/22 household recycling rate was 34.5%, compared a London average of 33% and a national average of 44.1%. Lambeth had the second highest recycling rate of the 13 inner-London boroughs (see graphic on the following page). Impressively, Lambeth's residents produced the lowest amount of total household waste in the country, at 225.9kg per person for the year.

3.0 Where are we today?



Lambeth's local authority collected waste (LACW) recycling rate for 2022/23, which includes commercial waste collected by Lambeth, is notably lower at 22.42% as the commercial waste service predominantly collects non-recyclable waste. The new London Environment Strategy sets recycling rate targets for LACW at 50% by 2025, and therefore growing the commercial recycling service has a renewed focus in this strategy update.

The current contractual arrangements for waste treatment and disposal financially incentivise Lambeth to move waste up the waste hierarchy. This waste strategy is underpinned by the principles of the waste hierarchy and the cost savings and carbon emission reductions gained from following it. Under contractual arrangements in place until 2032, any non-recyclable waste generated must be disposed of by WRWA through the Belvedere incinerator, and co-mingled dry recyclables must also be handled by WRWA through their Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). Both facilities are local, in support of the Mayor's ambition to manage all of London's waste within London by 2026. Lambeth will seek opportunities as a member of WRWA to improve standards and reduce carbon emissions associated with WRWA's operations.

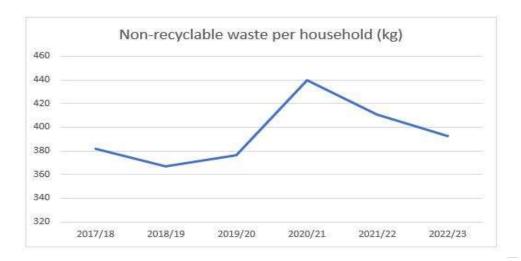


4.0 Targets

4.1 Reduction

The following measurable commitments around waste reduction have been maintained or updated as part of this strategy update:

Reduce non-recyclable waste from 393 kg per household in 2022/23 to less than 375 kg by 2025 and less than 350 kg by 2030. In recent years this metric has fluctuated, but overall has decreased by 100 kg per household since the Strategy was first drafted in 2011. The targets aim to reduce this to below 350 kg per household by 2030; this target will be reviewed against progress as the strategy is updated over its lifetime. Recent performance is illustrated in the chart below:



Increase home composting - Sell at least 350 compost bins per annum.

Lambeth works with getcomposting.com to offer compost bins and wormeries to residents, offering a subsidy on 220- and 330-litre composting bins and 'Can O Worms' wormeries. The table on the next page shows total sales of these items during the strategy period. Sales of these items have been below the target in recent years; this target will be retained for the strategy and we will look for new opportunities to better promote the compost bins.

Lambeth Council is also supporting a project being spearheaded by Incredible Edible Lambeth to introduce compost bins to a number of the borough's housing estates. These facilities enable estate residents to recycle their food waste 'on their doorstep' to create compost which can be used on community gardens within their estates.

4.0 Targets

Recent compost bin and wormery sales:

Year	Bins / Wormeries Sold
2012-2013	290
2013-2014	287
2014-2015	150
2015-2016	129
2016-2017	105
2017-2018	84
2018-2019	111
2019-2020	132
2020-2021	146
2021-2022	102
2022-2023	41
Average	129

Furniture reuse - Divert at least 30 tonnes per year to reuse, through either Groundwork at Smugglers Way or through Emmaus kerbside collections. In the last 12 months, based on the number of Lambeth residents using Smugglers Way, around 11 tonnes of furniture were diverted to reuse. A new partnership has been formed with Emmaus to offer free bulky waste collections for reusable items from July 2023. The British Heart Foundation also collects furniture for re-use and web users will be signposted to the different options.

Reduce use of disposable nappies – Encourage 200 households to take up washable nappies each year through the use of vouchers. Data from the last six months of 2017/18 shows 14 vouchers per month were issued, while this increased to 18 per month in 2018/19. With a redemption rate of 70%, the target levels of uptake have been reached in the most recent reporting year. This target and initiative will be continued.

4.0 Targets

4.2 Recycling targets

Waste from households recycled or composted: Contribute towards the Mayor of London's targets by recycling 37% of household waste by 2025. Based on the WRAP modelling undertaken in Appendix 2 of the London Environment Strategy, a 37% recycling rate target for 2025 for Lambeth is achievable by restricting non-recyclable waste and improving communications in addition to collecting the core dry materials and food waste from all properties. By 2025, the future of some of the wider changes to waste policy such as DRS and extended producer responsibility will be clearer, and Lambeth will be in a position to review and update recycling targets to 2030.

Percentage of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACW) reused, recycled or composted: Contribute towards the Mayor of London's target of 50% by 2025. By achieving a 37% household recycling rate (see above), improving the recycling rate of local authority collected commercial waste, and exploring ways of recycling more bulky and fly-tipped waste, Lambeth plans to achieve a 35% LACW recycling rate by 2025 based on current arisings and modelling indicating what is achievable. This will contribute to the London-wide and national targets and is recognised in the London Environment Strategy. Allied to this is an additional target to increase commercial recycling from its current level of 20% to 45% by 2027.



This section sets out the policies leading on from the strategic objectives and supporting initiatives, some of which are under way from the previous strategy and some of which are new from the strategy review.

Objective



To encourage behavioural change within the community to move the management of municipal waste higher up the waste hierarchy to minimise waste and reduce the environmental and financial costs of Lambeth's waste management.

Policy 1:

Lambeth's strategy will reflect the waste hierarchy, prioritising waste prevention and reuse, then maximising recycling and composting, developing and strengthening partnerships within the community and with its commercial partners to develop appropriate initiatives.

Initiative 1: Introduce fortnightly non-recyclable waste collections for kerbside households to encourage residents to make the most of the dry and organic waste recycling services.

Initiative 2: Education - Lambeth will use any opportunities available to educate residents on how to manage waste in alignment with the waste hierarchy.

Initiative 3: Lambeth will promote food waste reduction initiatives and support national campaigns on food waste reduction.

Initiative 4: Groundwork / Rework – Lambeth will increase donations of items for reuse and repair through the Rework Reuse Workshop.

Initiative 5: Lambeth will seek to work closely with charity partners collecting furniture from the kerbside in order to baseline and monitor the impact of the kerbside service and to maximise the positive social value of furniture reuse.

Initiative 6: Home Composting – Lambeth will promote the benefits and practice of home composting and, as part of this package, aim to sell at least 350 compost bins per annum.

- **Initiative 7:** Community Composting Lambeth will promote composting to schools and community groups such as estates, housing associations and faith groups.
- **Initiative 8:** Real Nappies Lambeth will continue to reduce the use of disposable nappies by encouraging 200 parents to take-up washable nappies each year through the use of vouchers.
- **Initiative 9:** Lambeth will actively promote and support local community groups that undertake or seek to undertake repair, reuse, sharing and swapping activities and/or events.
- **Initiative 10:** Maintain and expand network of drinking water fountains across Lambeth to reduce use of single use plastic bottles in the borough.
- **Initiative 11:** Lambeth will seek to encourage waste reduction and reuse at events in its parks and open spaces by setting appropriate conditions when drawing up tenancy agreements.
- **Initiative 12:** Lambeth will keep the approach it takes to enforcement under review to ensure that it is doing all that it can to reduce contamination, increase recycling and reduce cost.
- **Initiative 13:** Lambeth will target estates with the lowest recycling rates with additional communications and support.
- Initiative 14: Lambeth will expand food waste services to all households by October 2025.
- **Initiative 15:** In line with the waste hierarchy and Initiative 3 above, Lambeth will continue to promote the garden waste service to households with gardens that are not willing or able to compost, in order to reduce garden waste sent for energy recovery.

Policy 1.1

Lambeth will continually communicate with residents about the waste and recycling service it offers and about how to recycle

- **Initiative 16:** Promote the food waste service to residents via communication campaigns to increase participation, targeting at least 55% participation from a 30% baseline, and also increase yields.
- **Initiative 17:** Communication strategy for flats to increase participation in recycling services.

Initiative 18: Including waste service information in a welcome pack for new Lambeth residents.

Initiative 19: Update Waste Communications Plan.

Policy 1.2

Lambeth will maintain and review effective waste collection policies

Initiative 20: Lambeth will continue to keep under review the proper enforcement of the council's waste policies to ensure that the systems and services that the council provides are used properly.

Policy 1.3

Maintain a network of bring banks for collection of materials not covered by household collections

Initiative 21: Review with third sector partners the current bring bank network and work closely on any issues arisings from review.

Policy 1.4

Maintain a network of 'on-the-go' recycling bins

Initiative 22: Review the current 'on the go' recycling provision and, if required, define a plan for increasing coverage.

Policy 1.5

Maintain the Vale Street Reuse & Recycling Centre

Initiative 23: Frequently review the range of materials accepted for recycling at Vale Street Reuse and Recycling Centre.

Initiative 24: Review opportunities for preparing materials for reuse and increasing social value at Vale Street Reuse and Recycling Centre.

Initiative 25: Review and increase communications regarding these services.

Policy 2

Lambeth will offer all educational establishments access to a collection of commingled dry recyclables and separate food waste

Initiative 26: Continue to promote dry and food waste recycling to all educational establishments

Policy 3

Lambeth will continue to deliver a waste education and awareness programme to all schools in the borough. This programme will continue to include practical advice and support in terms of initiating and developing waste prevention and recycling schemes

Initiative 27: Define a work programme of education to run alongside the waste strategy.

Policy 4

Lambeth will offer a regular collection of co-mingled recyclables and organics, where suitable, to all non-domestic premises and organisations producing household waste in the borough

Policy 5

The Council will offer a service for the separate collection of recyclables from businesses, offering reduced rates that reflect the lower disposal costs for recyclables. The same material specification offered to households will be offered to businesses and waste streams will be co-collected to maximise efficiency and minimise the negative environmental impacts. If capacity exists, the recycling service will be offered to businesses without an existing Lambeth refuse contract.

Initiative 28: Continue to enforce where commercial waste is placed in the household stream.

Initiative 29: Develop and implement a strategy for greatly increasing the recycling of commercial waste, building a service which complements the existing service with flexibility to support local businesses in recycling their waste.

Objective

2

To meet legislative requirements and statutory obligations now and as policy evolves in the future, achieving general conformity with Regional Waste Policy.

Policy 6

Current and future policy development will have regard to national waste strategies and other relevant legislation, policy and guidance on best practice. Lambeth will develop supplementary policies on waste management issues as appropriate, in response to legislative changes, and will regularly review best practice policy and guidance from Government and statutory agencies and amend existing policy and practice or develop new policies as appropriate

Initiative 30: Lambeth will stay informed on policy developments coming out of national and regional legislation and react accordingly, including engaging in consultations.

Policy 7

Lambeth will provide a collection of recyclable materials, as required by national and regional legislation, to all domestic properties. This will be through the provision of either a kerbside service or easily accessible communal schemes

Policy 8

Current and future waste planning and strategic policy development and contract specifications will be in general conformity with the London Environment Strategy and the London Plan

Objective

3

To manage waste in a way that protects human health and the environment.

Policy 9

The Council will work with its contractors and partners to take all reasonable and affordable measures to minimise the environmental impact of transporting waste. It will use contract specifications to ensure that all vehicles collecting waste operate to high environmental standards and will review opportunities for introducing vehicles using alternative fuels on an ongoing basis

Initiative 31: Review waste and street cleansing vehicles for conversion to electric in alignment with the London Environment Strategy.

Objective



To deliver services that offer excellent customer service, achieving continuous improvement in service quality and customer satisfaction.

Policy 10

Lambeth will use its contract procurement processes to ensure residents are provided with services that provide a high level of customer satisfaction. The Council will actively seek feedback from stakeholders about perceived service delivery and will seek continuous improvement in service quality and customer satisfaction

Objective



To procure and manage waste and recycling services that maximise local economic, environmental and social benefits and meet legislative requirements while minimising costs.

Initiative 32: Continue to pay the London Living Wage to staff employed on the waste and street cleansing contract.

Policy 11

Lambeth will actively seek out opportunities for joint procurement with other boroughs should the opportunities arise

Objective



To maintain and improve civic pride through the services delivered.

Policy 12

Lambeth will actively manage fly tipping and prioritise street cleansing services throughout the public realm

Initiative 33: maintain and improve efforts to tackle fly tipping and littering, including using dedicated enforcement staff and CCTV resource.

Initiative 34: Lambeth will separate street litter for recycling and leaves for composting where feasible

Initiative 35: Cooperate and coordinate with BIDs on the approach to street cleansing.

Policy 13

Lambeth will support community groups in litter clean-up

Initiative 36: Continue to support Neighbourhood Champions.

Initiative 37: Continue to support the Freshview scheme.

Objective



To lead by example and embed the principles of the waste hierarchy throughout the council.

Policy 14

Lambeth will apply the new Responsible Procurement Policy, which includes principles on waste reduction

Policy 15

lead by example by targeting high levels of recycling in council buildings will apply the new Responsible Procurement Policy, which includes principles on waste reduction

Initiative 38: Monitor and report on recycling rates in council buildings.

Policy 16

Work across the council to deliver the objectives of the waste strategy

Initiative 39: Work with HMO licensing to improve waste management for HMOs.

Initiative 40: Continue to work with the planning team so waste management is considered in the design of new residential buildings.