

The Draft Updated West London Waste Plan (WLWP)

Frequently asked questions

This document explains what the West London Waste Plan does, and provides summary information on the current consultation and some of the key issues addressed by the Draft Updated West London Waste Plan (WLWP), presented as answers to the frequently asked questions set out below:

About the Plan

- What is the West London Waste Plan?
- What types of waste are you talking about?
- Is it the same plan for all of the authorities?
- Why do we need a waste plan?
- How has the plan been prepared?
- What happened to the previous plan and why does the waste plan need updating?
- Why is the plan being prepared jointly across seven authorities?
- What the plan does and doesn't cover?
- What are the objectives of the plan?
- What policies does the plan propose?

What it means for residents and businesses

- As a resident, what does the plan mean?
- How will it affect my household bin collections?
- Does this mean new waste sites will be built in West London?
- How will this impact commercial or business waste?

Key Issues

- Why is the waste plan such a technical document?

- How will the plan help the environment and help to mitigate or adapt to climate change?
- What is apportionment all about?
- How can we be certain about future waste needs and what we need to plan for?

Commenting on the Plan

- What is the current consultation about?
- Who can comment?
- How do I respond?
- Where can I find out more information?
- What happens next?
- How will the plan be finalised?

About the Draft Updated West London Waste Plan

What is the West London Waste Plan?

The Draft Updated West London Waste Plan, often abbreviated to WLWP, is a jointly prepared plan developed by the London boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames (the West London boroughs), and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) for the parts of Brent and Ealing that it covers. This has been developed under the West London boroughs and OPDC role as local planning authorities for their areas.

The plan sets out how the authorities will manage waste related development across West London over the next 15 years. The plan identifies sites safeguarded for waste management use and sets out policies for determining waste planning applications. It should be used by any landowners or developers bringing forward proposals for waste and related development.

When adopted, it will replace the existing WLWP, which was adopted in 2015, known as the WLWP 2015.

What types of waste are you talking about?

The waste streams considered in the plan include:

- Local Authority Collected Waste (Household and similar waste).
- Commercial and industrial waste.
- Construction and demolition waste.
- Excavation waste.
- Hazardous waste.

Is it the same plan for all of the authorities?

Yes, there is just one joint plan. Whilst each of the local planning authorities involved has its own local priorities, the plan enables the West London boroughs and OPDC to work collectively to meet borough waste capacity targets (also referred to as apportionment targets) set out by the London Plan and manage projected waste arisings strategically across West London. The collaborative approach ensures that we can plan effectively for the waste infrastructure needed to support sustainable growth whilst also safeguarding local interests.

How has the plan been prepared?

The plan has been informed by a suite of supporting documents forming the evidence base. These documents contain research and data that have helped to shape the plan's policies and strategic approach, making sure the plan is based on facts and local needs. Expert consultants have helped the authorities produce these documents. The supporting documents also assess the potential impacts of the plan, particularly to ensure it contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

Why do we need a waste plan?

The WLWP is needed to:

- **Meet National and Regional (London) legislation and targets**
 - To move waste up the [waste hierarchy](#), prioritising waste prevention, reuse and recycling over disposal methods like landfill or incineration to reduce environmental impacts and promote sustainability.
- **Promote the Circular Economy principles** – The plan supports the shift away from a traditional 'take-make-dispose' model towards a system where resources are kept in circulation for as long as possible by reusing, repairing, recycling and recovering materials instead of disposing of them into landfill or by incineration.
- **Ensure there is sufficient capacity to manage our waste locally** – Instead of relying on facilities elsewhere in the country or abroad, the plan safeguards most of the existing sites managing waste across West London so they can continue to operate and be improved to meet current and future needs for recycling, composting, energy recovery and other waste management facilities. This helps to reduce transport emissions and allows West London to be more self-sufficient.
- **Ensures there is a strategic plan for the future management of waste** – The WLWP looks ahead across the next 15 years to make sure we have the right infrastructure in place to deal with current and likely future waste management requirements.
- **Protects communities and the local environment** – The WLWP sits alongside the planning authorities' Local Plan development management policies and ensures that waste facilities are located in appropriate places and designed to the highest environmental standards to minimise impacts such as noise, traffic, odour and pollution.

What happened to the previous waste plan and why does it need updating?

It is a statutory requirement to produce a waste plan, and authorities are expected to keep plans up-to-date. The WLWP 2015 sets out a planning strategy for waste up until 2031. Since the adoption of that plan there have been changes in national, London and local policy, the amount and type of waste management infrastructure, and the forecast amounts of waste requiring management in West London, and therefore a review is necessary to ensure it remains up to date.

If adopted, the updated WLWP will replace the WLWP 2015 and will consider any changes that have occurred since 2015, including:

- Any changes to operational waste sites in West London
- Current planning and waste management policy, including the London Plan
- Changes in waste management needs and technologies
- Changes in patterns of waste production and movement across West London

Why is the plan being prepared jointly across seven authorities?

Working together helps to ensure that there are enough suitable sites to manage all types of waste efficiently, while meeting the London-wide environmental and planning requirements (including the London Plan apportionment of waste management requirements to each borough). This joint approach also promotes consistency, reduces costs, shares resources, and supports more sustainable waste management across West London.

What the plan does and doesn't cover?

It is a planning document and therefore, if adopted, the Updated WLWP would form part of the development plan for the seven authorities involved, and would need to be read in conjunction with relevant Local Plans and the London Plan.

The plan safeguards most existing waste sites from other types of development to ensure that there is appropriate provision to meet current and future waste needs. It proposes that 6 existing sites are no longer safeguarded for waste uses as there is a surplus of waste management capacity and re-development of these sites would help achievement of wider regeneration objectives.

The plan also provides the framework for assessing waste development planning proposals that come forward, such as for new waste management development within West London, the loss or alteration of existing waste sites within West London and also where proposals come forward that could affect how waste is managed (for example redeveloping existing waste facilities for other non-waste uses or changes to how facilities operate).

Bin Collections

The plan **does not** control or manage the operations of local waste services such as the frequency of bin collections, disposal contracts or waste service management. These sit within the responsibilities of each councils' corporate Waste and Street Cleansing teams. In addition, the plan cannot specify who or which business or service provider occupies a waste site or make a waste operator leave their site. It also does not cover waste management within non-waste development such as waste management requirements for residential or commercial buildings.

What are the objectives of the plan?

The plan sets out five objectives which provide the guiding principles and context for the policies:

1. Make best use of existing waste infrastructure to manage waste efficiently
2. Encourage facilities that contribute to achievement of circular economy to come forward
3. De-carbonise waste transport & processing
4. Deliver high quality waste facilities (and protect and enhance the environment and communities)
5. Ensure sufficient capacity of the right type in the right place so that unavoidable residual waste is managed safely and effectively

What policies does the plan propose?

The plan includes six policies, which reflect the vision and strategic objectives and provide the framework for consideration of planning applications for waste management or which may affect safeguarded existing waste management sites:

- **Policy WLWP1** Safeguarding and Optimising the Waste Site Network
 - Safeguard sites with planning consent or with a lawful waste use plus wharves & rail depots (listed in Appendix 2)
 - Support intensification and movement up the waste hierarchy
 - Release certain sites in specific circumstances
- **Policy WLWP 2** – Provision of Additional Waste Management Capacity
 - Supported where criteria are met (need, hierarchy, circular economy, location on previously-developed land, industrial land,

accessibility, and where amenity and the environment are protected)

- Material exchanges on major development sites
- **Policy WLWP 3 – Residual Waste Management and Energy Recovery**
 - Where need is demonstrated and there are no other options, proximity to sources of waste, no conflict with recycling
 - Energy recovery to make use of heat or decentralised energy
- **Policy WLWP 4 – Ensuring High Quality and Resilient Waste Facilities**
 - Sustainable design - minimising amenity and environmental impacts, resilient to climate change, minimising greenhouse gases, recovery of residual waste.
- **Policy WLWP 5 – Recovery and Disposal of Waste to Land**
 - Deposit of waste must be for beneficial purposes, using minimum amount necessary, where it is not practical to recycle
 - Disposal will be resisted unless overriding need demonstrated.
- **Policy WLWP 6 – Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency**
 - Support transition to low carbon
 - Materials managed as high up the waste hierarchy as possible
 - Circular economy principles

What it means for residents and businesses

As a resident, what does the plan mean?

The plan ensures that we can manage waste properly now and in the future. The plan identifies and protects existing waste sites from other types of development, and (once adopted) must be used to assess planning applications relating to development of waste management facilities.

The plan is a technical document that is mainly aimed at developers and waste site operators rather than residents. However, it still benefits everyone by ensuring that waste is handled safely, sustainably, and locally, helping to reduce the reliance on landfill, cut transport impacts, and protect the environment for local communities. If interested parties comment on future planning applications for waste and related development, comments can be raised using the policies in the plan, including those relating to local impacts.

[Will it affect my household bin collections?](#)

This plan does not affect your day-to-day waste and recycling collections. Your regular bin days, collection times and what you can put in each bin will stay the same unless the Council communicates any local service changes separately.

[Does this mean new waste sites will be built in West London?](#)

The plan identifies the potential capacity and types of waste facilities that may be needed across West London. At this stage, no new waste sites are proposed in West London as existing facilities provide sufficient waste management capacity to meet current and forecast needs. However, the plan provides for enhancement of existing sites, and includes policies against which any proposals for new facilities can be considered, should applications be submitted.

If any proposals come forward in the future, they will go through the full formal planning process and associated consultation process. Any planning application will be judged against the policies in the development plan (including the Updated WLWP) and on its own merits, and there is no guarantee that a planning application will be granted permission just because the land has been previously identified as suitable.

How will this impact commercial or business waste?

The plan covers waste generated by businesses and construction projects. The plan ensures that there are sufficient sites and infrastructure, and appropriate policies in place, to manage all types of waste responsibly and sustainably across the seven authorities. However, it doesn't affect any commercial waste collections, which waste producers have to ensure is managed.

Key Issues

Why is the waste plan such a technical document?

We need a plan that sets out how and where waste is to be managed. It's primarily used as a planning document, and the national planning policy framework, alongside the national planning policy for waste, sets out the parameters for what it must contain. We recognise there are a number of technical terms which can be difficult to understand.

If you need more help understanding any of the documents please get in touch and we will get back to you.

How will the plan help the environment and help to mitigate or adapt to climate change?

The plan supports the shift towards:

- Reducing waste at source
- Increasing recycling and reuse
- Making the most efficient and effective use of existing waste sites and facilities
- Cutting carbon emissions from waste transport and disposal
- Encouraging a circular economy, where materials are kept for longer
- Moving waste up the waste hierarchy (diverting waste away from the landfill)

These approaches will help to cut pollution and also help to adapt to and reduce the effects of climate change.

What is apportionment all about?

The London Plan seeks to ensure as much of London's waste is managed within London as practicable, working towards managing the equivalent of all of London's waste arising in London (net self sufficiency). The London Plan sets out the waste apportionment targets (tonnages per year) to be managed by each London borough for household, commercial and industrial waste.

The West London boroughs have pooled their targets, so the plan seeks to meet the total need. The apportionments for West London are significantly higher than the area's projected arisings which demonstrates how West London is expected to make a significant contribution to achieving net self-sufficiency in London.

How can we be certain about future waste needs and what we need to plan for?

The technical evidence base documents supporting the Draft Updated WLWP have been informed by wider strategies and research. Since the WLWP 2015, London has managed to increase how much of its waste can be dealt with within London as a whole, through the development of a range of facilities. We know there have been and will continue to be changes, for example through new waste management technologies. The Government has introduced Simpler Recycling legislation which aims to make recycling easier for every home and business, but that can mean that more space is needed to sort and process materials. The [London Plan](#) is also being reviewed and could require an evolving approach to waste policy. The Draft Updated WLWP and supporting documents are based on the snapshot of future needs at this point in time, which suggests there is some headroom (management capacity is greater than the amount of waste to be managed) within the West London plan area.

This latest position on waste management capacity is in the Capacity Assessment Report (December 2025). Therefore, it uses slightly different values for capacity than those set out in the Regulation 18 draft updated WLWP (October/November 2025). We will take into account feedback from the Regulation 18 consultation and any updated information that the west London LPAs become aware of as we update these documents during the plan preparation process.

Commenting on the Plan

What is the current consultation about?

We are now consulting on the Regulation 18 stage of the plan making process. This is the first stage of public consultation, where we are seeking views on the Draft Updated WLWP which includes a proposed vision, objectives and policies. You can also make comments on the evidence base supporting the Draft Updated WLWP. The consultation phase for Regulation 18 will commence on 11th December and will run for 8 weeks until 5th February 2026.

Who can comment?

Anyone is welcome to comment. We expect to hear from stakeholders including statutory bodies, other public agencies, industry representatives, landowners, developers and waste operators as well as the waste planning authorities relevant to the plan area. We are also keen to hear from residents, businesses and those working or studying in the plan area along with community and interest groups.

How do I respond?

Ealing Council is hosting the consultation on behalf of all the West London waste planning authorities. This is a joint consultation, with the same documents and ways to respond across all of the authorities. The details are signposted on each authority's website, as the responses will be

handled jointly. You only need to respond once, as all of the responses will be collated together.

You can respond on Ealing Council's consultation webpage: [West London Waste Planning](https://haveyoursay.ealing.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/wlwp-consultation), website (<https://haveyoursay.ealing.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/wlwp-consultation>) or hard copies of the documentation and response forms are available to view in selected local libraries .

You may also email wlwasteplan@ealing.gov.uk with your response form attached or request more information.

We cannot accept anonymous comments or anything marked as private or confidential. Comments will be attributed to individuals and organisations, but personal details such as addresses and email addresses will be kept confidential and removed when details of responses are published.

Where can I find out more information?

You can read more about the Draft Updated WLWP and the consultation timetable on Ealing Council's online consultation portal (<https://haveyoursay.ealing.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/wlwp-consultation>)

What happens next?

This draft WLWP is still a work in progress. Any comments received during the consultation phase will be analysed and will inform the next version of the plan. The feedback gathered at this stage will help shape a revised draft of the plan that will be prepared for further consultation (referred to as Regulation 19), before it is submitted to Government for an independent Examination by the Planning Inspectorate. Only if it is found sound and legally compliant can it be adopted by all of the authorities.

This website will be updated as the WLWP progresses. To be kept up to date via email or letter on waste planning policy consultations, please opt-

in to receive future notifications directly by sending your details to WLWastePlan@ealing.gov.uk.