



Board paper title		Paper 26/05/2021 - 4
LWARB Programmes Update		
Report by	Wayne Hubbard	
Job Title	Chief Executive Officer	
Date of decision	Board Meeting 26 May 2021	

Summary
This paper presents updates on the LWARB programmes.

Recommendations
To note the updates presented.

Risk Management	
Risk	Action to mitigate risk
N/A – no decisions being made.	

Implications
Legal N/A – no decisions being made.
Financial N/A – no decisions being made.
Equalities N/A – no decisions being made.

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PART A – Non-confidential items

Why the paper is being presented

The programme update provides details of business plan activity across the ReLondon programme teams.

Business Transformation and Sector Support

A number of regional projects are underway.

Routemap 2.0

In order to reflect the need to build and contribute towards a green recovery, we have decided to re-focus the scope of the Routemap 2.0. For the coming year, the focus will be to develop the data and evidence required to inform the GLA and the boroughs about the most impactful actions that can reduce consumption-based emissions in London across the five focus areas. The project will thus focus on delivering the policy mapping, and developing material flow analysis, including identifying opportunities to reduce consumption-based emissions, and recommending key areas of interventions.

Policy Mapping: Following a review of the whole routemap project, and in consultation with London Councils and the GLA, the policy mapping report will produce insights on cities CE policies. The report will provide an overview of the key policy mapped against each of the ten Ellen MacArthur Foundation circular economy policy levers. The report will also look at local good practice, highlighting the work of the boroughs.

Material Flow Analysis: The approach and scope of the material flow analysis for food has been agreed, following the evaluation of existing work and an assessment of the quality/availability of data. The consultants (Circle Economy) have started conducting the analysis to create material flows and identify where the most impactful interventions can be undertaken to reduce CO2 and waste. A first stakeholder workshop has been held to support data collection, with a second currently being organised to ensure sufficient scrutiny of the materials flow analysis model methodology from data experts. A report will be published in August 2021.

A new business case for Phase 2 (material flows for ReLondon's other focus areas) has been developed and signed-off. Work has started with Circle Economy to develop a funding strategy and identify potential funding partners to fund £150k-£250k missing in the budget to deliver all five material flows.

CIRCuit Programme

Progress on the demonstrations has continued, including exploring how to create a relocatable affordable office building in Southwark. We have also agreed a demonstration with LB Enfield in which we will support them prototyping a demountable connection. Work on these will continue over the next few months along with starting



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two demonstrations with LB Newham on a relocatable office building and regeneration without demolition.

Our consortium partners, Tampere University (Finland), have published a report on how to identify buildings for life-cycle extension via the mapping of transformable neighborhoods and buildings. ReLondon finalised a report which outlines the possibilities and limitations of incorporating circular objectives into urban planning approaches. Dissemination of the key findings of this report will be via two webinars in collaboration with C40 Cities as part of CEweek. The research has also already informed the advice we have been able to give to City of London and Islington in relation to their circular economy strategies.

We have made good progress in our research into the recycling and reuse supply chain, having completed interviews with 17 organisations from the supply side of the market; demolition contractors, reclamation or recycling operations. We will complement this with workshops to be held during CEweek which will focus more on the demand side of the market; architects, engineers and developers.

We have been developing a business case template to be used by decision makers in the city administration to provide evidence that circular construction projects are a good investment for both the funding partner and the community. This will be submitted at the end of May.

Dissemination activities have continued, with Andrea Charlson presenting at the Architect's Journal conference in March and a hackathon currently taking place exploring what can be done with contaminated waste. We have been compiling two deliverables which report on the status of dissemination activities and which will be submitted at the end of May.

Circular Fashion Fast Forward

We have completed our work with the Laudes Foundation (formerly called the C&A Foundation) on the development of circular business models for the fashion industry. Communication outputs have been produced, published on the ReLondon website and shared through a press release: a circular fashion guide for businesses and two case studies videos. Our partner QSA partners have also launched a training platform on their website to disseminate the learnings of this project to many other textiles businesses. ReLondon will use these outputs to help build capacity in fashion businesses to understand the potential benefits of circular business models as well as a tool to help businesses investigate potential circular business models in their own business. This project will conclude in the summer, the team is now preparing the project audit and project report required as part of the funding conditions.



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Textiles 2030

We intend to work with WRAP and take part of the recently launched Textiles 2030 initiative whose aim is to accelerate the whole fashion and textiles industry's move towards circularity. Discussions have been engaged with WRAP to define ReLondon's role to bring a local perspective to the initiative and demonstrate local circular models for textiles. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

EMF strategic Partnership

The GLA and ReLondon have worked on various strategic projects with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation since 2015 and in recognition, London, together with New York and Sao Paulo, have been designated Strategic Partner cities. The GLA, ReLondon and EMF are in the final stages of negotiation on the partnership agreement. In parallel EMF has conducted a round of stakeholder interviews to help frame the partnership work programme. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

The Food Flagship Initiative (FFI) is one of the activities to be delivered under the strategic partnership. On 11th May ReLondon and EMF hosted an interactive online workshop, "A Circular Economy for Food in London, with 90 attendees from every part of the food supply chain. The aim was to convene and promote interested organisations to London's Food Flagship Initiative (FFI), identify opportunities for food actors to collaborate and demonstrate and inform future Food Flagship Initiative activities. ReLondon launched a call for demonstrator projects which was positively received, and 10 organizations have already expressed interest to apply.

Business Transformation

The objective is to support SMEs in building viable circular economy businesses and develop a viable circular economy business ecosystem with the ability to support London citizens, businesses, and boroughs.

ReLondon's Business Transformation team continues to support the transition of business practices to circular ones as well as the growth and scale up of innovative circular SMEs through its ERDF funded advisory programme. To date, the team has 242 registered SMEs (an additional 3 are in due diligence) made up of 56% start-ups (0-2 years), and 66% are already circular businesses that are trying to scale. The spread of SMEs across ReLondon's target sectors is as follows:

- Built Environment – 20.7%
- Food – 32.6%
- Textiles – 19.0%
- Plastics – 16.5%
- Electrical – 4.1%
- Other – 6.6%

The team has also contributed to the launch of 45 new circular products/services and contributed to the creation of 52 jobs.



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Despite the pandemic, the team has continued to deliver support and transitioned the delivery of all of its services to a virtual format. The virtual outreach of the programme is steadily increasing (including 1,600 followers on Twitter, an increase of 2% from last quarter).

The team delivered advisory support to businesses with specific support streams being rolled out. More specifically:

- Circular Business Masterclass – 25/02/2021: 7 SMEs attended a Circular Business Masterclass and underwent a circularity diagnostic to identify opportunities for transitioning to circular business models with the support of the ReLondon Business Transformation team and in collaboration with Bexley for Business.
- The validation stream, validating 2 new SMEs including My Bumpers and Thrift+.
- Circular Pilots support continued throughout the quarter with the team working on two take-back schemes in the furniture and food retail industry.
- Access to Finance: We have transitioned our 'Meet the Investor' event activities to a newsletter-based brokerage service, reaching out to our network of 45+ investors providing information on the investment proposition of the SMEs in our network who are currently fundraising. In October, 21 SMEs were included in the communication, resulting in 5 direct introductions. In March, another investor newsletter was sent including 16 SMEs and resulting in 22 introductions.
- Access to Finance: In addition to our investment brokerage activities, the team in collaboration with Social Finance has secured some additional funding from the Big Society Capital towards the feasibility study of creating a dedicated circular economy outcomes-based fund for circular businesses. The feasibility study will highlight the opportunities and challenges for setting up such a mechanism, that if successful it could provide public stakeholders and SMEs with the initial start-up capital needed to kick off circular projects across the city.
- The team has launched in March 2021 the [Circular Economy Jobs portal](#) for circular SMEs and till date has featured more than 30 circular employment opportunities.

The team has also successfully completed the first round of emergency grants under the Green New Deal funding from the Mayor of London. 21 circular SMEs have received £200,000 of funding to cover operational expenses and revenue setbacks caused by the prolonged lockdown periods of the past year. A total number of potentially 168 jobs could be safeguarded through this grants round. In addition, there has been progress in setting up the bespoke Build Back Better advice support and the match-making platform with delivery and design activities expected to kick-off in May and June respectively.

Activities that are in the pipeline for the next quarter this year include:

- Meet the Borough with City of London and Westminster (May-Sept 2021)
- Circular Innovation: a tale of two cities during CE week (June 2021)



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- Launch of the second round of grants for circular pilot projects open to all London based SMEs (June 2021)
- Design of a circular business guide featuring 50+ circular London based innovations.
- Kick-off of the Build Back Better advise service for London based SMEs (May 2021)
- Publish the 1st insights paper as part of the knowledge sharing ambitions of the team for this year.

Outcome Fund

ReLondon was awarded on March 31st a grant by Big Society Capital for a feasibility study in partnership with Social Finance to test the concept of a circular economy outcomes fund in London. This outcomes fund is an innovative financing mechanism to help local authorities procure services from circular economy start-ups in London and would be a pioneering approach to financing the circular economy. The fund has the potential to complement ReLondon's existing initiatives to support providers in the circular economy space and support ReLondon to meet its ambitious waste and CO2e reduction objectives. The feasibility phase is currently running until the end of June and, if the results are promising, will be followed by a design phase to build the fund operating model, design the payment mechanism and secure outcome funders and investors.

Commercialisation strategy development

A task and finish commercial strategy group has been set up with two of the board members (Joe Murphy and Chantelle Nicholson) and the senior members of ReLondon. The objective of this group is to help further develop and validate our commercial strategy, including agreeing on the main commercial propositions to develop and on a resource management plan considering ReLondon's wider strategic objectives and business plan. Three meetings have been planned before the end of June, the first one happening on May 25th.

Local Authority Support

A number of regional demonstration projects are underway as well as direct service support:

Existing purpose-built flats

Following an application to Ecosurety's¹ Exploration Fund in early 2020, LWARB was awarded £146,000 of funding in late 2020. The funding (alongside ReLondon match) is being used to deliver phase two of the flats recycling project. Working in partnership with LB Lambeth, new dry recycling services (in line with the previously tested flats recycling package) and three additional materials (textiles, food and small electricals) are being

¹ a leading producer responsibility compliance scheme.



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rolled out to four estates. These additional materials have been chosen as they represent a significant proportion of the waste that is currently not recyclable in many estates and in addition are some of the most common contaminants in the dry recycling. The impact will be measured through both quantitative and qualitative evaluation. The pre-commencement waste composition analysis was delivered between 30 April – 08 May 2021. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting. Rolling out of the improvements and interventions will start in end of June and will be live until February 2022. Further details of the funding including a short video can be accessed at: <https://www.ecosurety.com/impact/exploration-fund/>.

New build flats

Officers are working with LB Tower Hamlets to develop supplementary planning guidance (SPG) for reuse, recycling and waste in new build residential developments (including purpose-built flats). A draft SPG has been developed. The public consultation ended on 29 March 2021. Consultation responses are being considered before the final SPG can be published. The next phase of work will be to develop a template SPG (from LB Tower Hamlets final version) for other London authorities who are seeing significant increase in new build flats.

Waste Composition Analysis protocol

An accurate London waste composition has always been difficult to establish, even with many waste authorities conducting waste composition analyses. This is particularly true for flats waste data, where the ReLondon study (of 16 estates – 12 as part of flats phase 1, and 4 further estates referenced above) represents the best national waste composition data for waste from flats. Officers in consultation with the waste composition analysis service providers have developed a protocol for local authorities to standardise how waste composition analyses are conducted. The protocol provides guidance and a downloadable specification for London local authorities. Officers are working with a number of London waste authorities looking to conduct waste composition analyses this year who will test the protocol before it can be finalised.

Circular Economy Directory

We have developed the tender specification and invited bids to design and build a circular economy match maker directory to connect businesses and citizens with circular products and services (many linked with the Business Transformation and Better Futures programmes detailed on page 5 above). We are undertaking a market analysis on the current provision and a needs analysis informing the Directory's design including how it would complement local authority procurement activities. The Directory will also be linked to the circular economy procurement toolkit that is being piloted by Bromley council.

Training Academy

Since the last update, we have planned the circular economy training webinar for senior local authority colleagues (Members, chief executives, and directors) to be launched on



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the local government day of London CE week. Going forward, this will continue to be free for attendees and will act as a platform to promote the masterclass and other ReLondon available support.

The team is currently developing the half day masterclass, aimed at heads of service and AD level. This will be tested with both Hounslow and RBKC colleagues as agreed. After the testing phase, we will be able to go to market. We are finalising the package of support offered as part of the course e.g., a follow up session to review the authority's plans, or a meet the borough type event. This will be included in the pricing model.

Plastics project

Over the last six months the team has been conducting research to map activity taking place across London to tackle single-use plastics (pre-pandemic), to assess how activities have been impacted by the COVID-19 response and consider whether there are learnings from other cities. A research report "*Reducing single-use plastic consumption: a review of action and opportunities for London*" will be published imminently. The report sets out the findings of our research and outlines a series of 'action opportunities' which could help to support and strengthen existing activity, and in doing so, accelerate efforts to reduce consumption of single-use plastic in London. The action opportunities will form the foundation for ReLondon plastics focus area activity for 2021-22. One of the key findings is that London would benefit from efforts to coordinate and align action underway by different stakeholders to reduce single-use plastic consumption. The first activity we have embarked on as a follow up, is supporting a Masters student at Imperial College London with their research thesis. Building on the findings from our research report, they will evaluate what constitutes an effective low-plastic scheme and provide recommendations on what a city-wide scheme could look like. Activity will take place over the next few months, completing in September.

Reduction and Recycling Plans (RRP)

12 local authorities identified commercial food waste services as being a priority within their RRP, to either introduce a service, or expand and improve their existing service. These 12 boroughs were engaged to understand exactly what service areas they need support with. Following this, ReLondon has developed a series of four virtual sessions that are open to all London boroughs to attend. The sessions consist of presentations from local authority experts who have experience of running commercial food waste services. To date sessions have been held on modelling and operations. The remaining two sessions, which will be held in June and July, will be on marketing and business engagement. These workshops follow on from similar sessions held on flats recycling, reducing contamination and COVID response good practice.

As part of the ongoing RRP support, officers (from ReLondon and GLA) have commenced annual borough catch up meetings. These meetings are an opportunity to review progress against the authorities RRP priorities. In addition to the 1-2-1 meetings, ReLondon and the GLA have planned a borough RRP review workshop for 24th May.



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As part of the planning for the next round of RRP, the workshop will be an opportunity for boroughs to feedback on the RRP development and monitoring procedures.

Commercial Recycling

In 2020 Resource London supported Positively Putney business improvement district (BID) to launch a first-of-its-kind waste consolidation scheme – 'Putney Pedals'. Putney Pedals collects recycling and waste from local businesses by e-cargo bike and cycles it to an off-street consolidation point, ready for a weekly bulk collection. Unfortunately, a week after the launch in October 2020, London faced further COVID-19 restrictions followed by a new lockdown. As large numbers of Putney businesses were closed, it was not viable to run the Putney Pedals service. During this time the BID engaged local businesses, ready for their re-opening, and the scheme re-launched on April 12th 2021. Once the scheme is well established there is potential for expansion to other neighbouring BID areas.

London Councils consumption-based emissions action plan

This work is being led by the LB Harrow as part of London Council's programme of works on climate change. The action plan development is guided by a steering group attended by ReLondon CEO, Wayne Hubbard. Over the past six months 6 months, officers have been supporting London Councils and LB Harrow to undertake focused workshops to identify potential opportunity levers/areas for inclusion in the action plan. ReLondon is also working to ensure that the analytical work being undertaken as part of the materials flow analysis project (detailed above) can support the analysis which London Councils is identifying as part of the action needed within their consumption-based emissions action plan.

Government Consultation

ReLondon is currently preparing responses to four Defra consultation (detailed below). The three significant consultations of consistency in recycling collections, introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) and extended producer responsibility (EPR) could result in a major shake up the UK's recycling system. ReLondon's responses are being developed in consultation with the GLA, London Councils and London officer networks (LEDNet and ALCO) and through liaising with national waste network chairs (ADEPT, LARAC and NAWDO). ReLondon will submit officer responses, following review by the ReLondon chair.

- [Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme](#) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Opened 24 Mar 2021 – Closes 4 Jun 2021
Following on from the 2019 consultation, this second consultation explores what the continued appetite is for a DRS in a 'post-Covid' context. The consultation also informs how a future scheme could be designed alongside other changes proposed in the below consultations. With that in mind, Defra has reassessed the timeline, with late 2024 now set as the earliest date for implementation of a DRS.



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- **[Extended Producer Responsibility](#)** (EPR) for Packaging
Opened 24 Mar 2021 – Closes 4 Jun 2021
Following on from the 2019 consultation, this second consultation focuses on specific policy proposals for its introduction, including the scope of full net costs, producer obligations, scheme governance, regulation of the scheme, and packaging waste recycling targets.
- **[Consistency in Household and Business Recycling](#)** in England:
Opened 7 May 2021 – Closes 4 Jul 2021
Following on from the 2019 consultation, this consultation details specific policy proposals for increasing consistency in recycling collected from households, businesses and other organisations. The delayed consultation was released on Friday, 7 May with only an eight-week consultation period.
- **[Waste Prevention Programme for England](#)**
Opened 18 Mar 2021 – Closes 10 Jun 2021
The draft programme sets out priorities for action to manage resources and waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy (prevention, reuse, repair and remanufacture of products).

Ultra-Low Waste Neighbourhood (ULWN)

This project has been developed as part of ReLondon's involvement in the green recovery. The concept is to deliver a place-based project centred on a high street and its residential hinterland to create an 'ultra-low waste neighbourhood' with a business economy of reduction, repair, reuse, and recycling to underpin the circular economy. Working with the local community, business community and the local authority it seeks to deliver the double dividend combating climate change, while creating greater community cohesion and boosting the local economy through skills and job creation, and volunteering opportunities. To deliver this project at scale additional funding would be required. ReLondon is currently exploring the following opportunities.

- National Lottery Climate Action fund
An opportunity to secure funding was identified through the National Lottery Climate Action Fund (CAF). The CAF is supporting communities across the UK to take action on climate change. It provides two levels of awards: full awards up to £1.5million for 3-5 year projects, or development funding up to £150k for over 12 months. Working through LEDNet ReLondon approached all boroughs to establish if any authorities and their local communities were interesting in working with ReLondon to develop a bid. The critical element was that applications to the CAF had to be community centred and community led. Following interest from, and consultation with a number of boroughs, ReLondon selected the London Borough of Hounslow to work with. The selection came down to the progress LB Hounslow have made in the development of their borough-wide climate emergency action plan and the level of engagement and involved residents and



communities they have had in the action plans development. Working with LB Hounslow the community of Heston was identified. A bid lead by ReLondon in partnership with the Heston Action Group and LB Hounslow was submitted to the CAF on 8th April. This is a multi-stage application, we should hear in early June if we've been selected to move to the next stage. If the bid is successful in progressing it will involve the development of a fully costed business case.

- Green New Deal.

To deliver a green recovery, the London Recovery Board, jointly chaired by the Mayor and London Councils have established nine recovery missions.

1. High streets for all	2. Strong Communities	3. Green New Deal
4. Health food, healthy weight	5. Good work for Londoners	6. Digital access for all
7. Young People	8. Mental Health & Wellbeing	9. A robust safety net

The guiding principles of addressing social, economic and health inequalities, delivering a cleaner, greener London, and ensuring Londoners are at the heart of recovery cut across the nine missions.

Future Neighbourhoods Fund

As part of the Mayor's contribution to the Green New Deal Mission this year, the Mayor has announced the [Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme](#). Worth a total of £7.5 million over two phases, the Future Neighbourhood programme is an invitation to London boroughs, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other local partnerships to contribute to a green recovery.

This programme will fund between two and four Future Neighbourhoods to develop visionary strategies to 2030 and implement pioneering projects. The Future Neighbourhood prospectus sets out a vision for a Future Neighbourhood as one that "...embraces a green recovery and commits to a decade of action to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies, whilst addressing London's health and social inequalities". A core principle of this vision is the embedding and adoption of circular economy principles in all aspects of the Future Neighbourhood strategy and in the delivery of FNF project(s).

The programme is now asking for expressions of interest for Future Neighbourhoods. £3 million has been allocated to support the selected Neighbourhoods in Phase 1 (2021/22-2022/23) which will include developing a Future Neighbourhood Strategy and Delivery Plan and targeted projects tackling environmental challenges, including the climate emergency, whilst creating jobs, developing skills and supporting a just transition to a low carbon circular economy. Launched in March 2021, application deadline: 5pm, Monday 17 May 2021. ReLondon reached out to all boroughs to establish which authorities were



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intending to submit expressions of interest, and is providing letters of support to partner with a number of authorities should they be successful.

In this relationship ReLondon would act as the circular economy knowledge and convening partner. We would use our expertise and sector relationships to leverage circular economy opportunities across the five key future neighbourhood sectoral themes, not just the 'zero waste, circular economy' theme, to ensure circular economy principles are at the core of the Future Neighbourhoods strategy. We would also contribute to the delivery of demonstrator projects in the community, specifically ULWN projects.

ReLondon is also in discussions with various London BIDs about how it might support specific 'High Street for all' applications based on the ULWN principle.

Communications and behaviour change

London Recycles

A new London-wide campaign to replace 'One bin is rubbish' is in preparation currently, and an invitation to tender has been drafted. Consultation is underway with London boroughs to ensure the new campaign, focused on tackling motivation, meets their needs; and the GLA Environment team will be consulted on its design. The aim is to have the campaign, targeted again at 18-34 year olds as a priority audience, ready to launch in November of this year, and it will run until March 2023 when ReLondon's internal behaviour change campaign funding runs out.

Love Not Landfill

Officers continue to explore commercial partnerships and other funding approaches to help ReLondon sustain the campaign and deliver impactful activities. Our fleet of textile banks is currently being refurbished and relocated with a new collections partner, who will support the team in finding new, high footfall locations for them as well as providing opportunities for promotional events to encourage their use. A series of events with partners including Westfield, Graduate Fashion Foundation and Nuw are in planning stage and monthly online events are now taking place on Instagram to grow the campaign's reach and impact with young fashion fans.

Food Wave

The first three major Food Wave deliverables have now been procured and briefed, and detailed planning is underway for (i) cookery workshops, (ii) a film-making project by and for young people, and (iii) a social media campaign which is being co-created with design students from a number of London universities. Detailed project planning has clarified the requirement for a fixed term (max. 18-month) part-time project manager and external recruitment will take place over the coming three months



COVID-19 Response

The team is continuing to deliver COVID19 related projects that focus on recovery. Defra has also confirmed that they will release waste dataflow quarter one 2020-21 data in July 2021. This will provide the first comprehensive data set with which one can analyse the impact of the lockdown restrictions and begin to forecast longer term trends.

COVID-19 Adaption for commercial waste services

In April ReLondon published an updated version of its [COVID-19 commercial waste adaptation](#) report. The report helps boroughs understand the longer-term impact of COVID-19 on commercial waste tonnages; and commercial waste composition. The report summarises what was anticipated regarding differential impacts on different types and sizes of businesses, and to use this information to estimate how each borough may be affected and give insight into business types that may be more resilient to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19.

COVID19 response – Business

In addition, the Business Transformation team has started delivering the Mayor's Green New Deal programme targeted at London-based circular SMEs currently facing difficulties due to the pandemic. The first round of round of emergency grants have been delivered and two tenders were issued to find delivering partners for both the Build Back Better advice support and the match-making platform. More details can be found in the Business Transformation section on pages 4-5.