

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY	
REPORT TITLE: COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE	
REPORT OF: MANAGING DIRECTOR	
FOR SUBMISSION TO NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY	DATE: 26 September 2013
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report seeks approval from the Authority to agree to the extension of councillor absence for Councillor Dean Cohen and Councillor Mark Rusling, in relation to the six month non-attendance requirement of the NLWA's Standing Orders.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>Documents used in the preparation of this report: None excepting minutes of previous meetings</p> <p>Contact Officer: Alastair Round Committee services, NLWA Camden Town Hall Judd Street London WC1H 9JE Telephone: 020 7974 1914 alastair.round@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATION:</p> <p>(1)The Authority is RECOMMENDED to approve that Councillors Dean Cohen and Mark Rusling not be disqualified due to non-attendance at Authority meetings for a period of 6 consecutive months for the reasons as outlined in paragraph 1.3 and 1.4 of this report.</p> <p>(2)The Authority is RECOMMENDED to approve an extension to the attendance requirements for both Councillors until 14th February 2014</p>	

Signed by the Managing Director:

Date:

1. Introduction

1.1 Members are asked to note the Authority's Standing Order's requirements in respect of Non- attendance as outlined below:

1.2 A.3.3 Non-Attendance

(a) Members who do not attend any meeting of the Authority for a period of six months are disqualified from membership of the Authority, unless the reason for their non-attendance was approved by the Authority before the end of the six month period.

(b) Where the Deputy Clerk becomes aware that a Member has failed to attend a meeting of the Authority, its committees and/or its other subsidiary bodies for a period approaching six months, the Deputy Clerk will advise the member concerned and their constituent authority of their risk of disqualification.

(c) In the event of the Member concerned failing to attend a meeting of the Authority, the Authority will invite the constituent Council to appoint a replacement representative.

1.3 Councillor Cohen, representing London Borough of Barnet, was unable to attend the first meeting of the Authority since his appointment at the start of the municipal year. He is also unable to attend the meeting on 26 September 2013, as it clashes with the Jewish Holiday of Shemini Atzeret. This clash was noted by the Authority as being unavoidable when setting the dates for meetings in 2013/14 given other scheduling clashes in the latter half of September.

1.4 Councillor Rusling , representing London Borough of Waltham Forest, was unable to attend the first meeting of the Authority since his appointment at the start of the municipal year. He is also unable to attend the meeting on 26 September 2013 due to another commitment in his role as a Cabinet Member at Waltham Forest.

1.5 As the Councillors cannot attend the meeting of the Authority on 26 September 2013 for the unavoidable reasons noted above and given the next meeting is not until 12 December 2013, failure to grant an extension would result in their absences going beyond the six month period and lead to them being disqualified.

2. Conclusion

2.1 That the North London Waste Authority is RECOMMENDED to agree an extension of Councillor Cohen's and Councillor Rusling's absences until 14th February 2014, the day after the Authority's February meeting. This extension would mean that both Councillors have a further two Authority meetings to meet the attendance requirements.

3. Financial Adviser's Comments

3.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to add.

4. Legal Adviser's Comments

4.1 The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to add.

Report Ends