

THE NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **WEDNESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2008** at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor George Allan – London Borough of Islington
Councillor Robert Belam – London Borough of Waltham Forest
Councillor John Boast – London Borough of Enfield
Councillor Melvin Cohen – London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Brian Coleman – London Borough of Barnet (Chairman)
Councillor Ray Dodds – London Borough of Haringey
Councillor Brian Haley – London Borough of Haringey
Councillor Chris Knight – London Borough of Camden
Councillor Alan Laing – London Borough of Hackney
Councillor Alexis Rowell – London Borough of Camden
Councillor Eric Sizer – London Borough of Waltham Forest
Councillor Vincent Stops – London Borough of Hackney
Councillor Lucy Watt – London Borough of Islington

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councillor Eleftherios Savva – London Borough of Enfield

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Savva.

2. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

4. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Members noted the standing declarations recorded in the agenda.

Councillor Stops declared that he was now an allotment holder in the London Borough of Hackney and had recently taken receipt of a large compost delivery. He asked that this be added to the standing declarations of interest.

In relation to Item 12, Councillor Rowell declared that he had given advice to Freecycle over the last six months but he did not consider this to be a prejudicial interest and would take part in consideration of the item.

There were no other declarations.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes of the extraordinary and ordinary meetings of the Authority held on 12th December 2007, having been confirmed as correct records, be signed by the Chairman.

6. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There was no such business.

7. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Members considered a report of the Deputy Clerk and a tabled response to Councillor Knight's question which is attached to these minutes as **APPENDIX A**.

Councillor Knight asked a supplementary question seeking further details on how much of the cost and time taken to produce bagged compost for sale resulted from the production of bags with printed information on them, as opposed to the plain bags used by some authorities. In response, the Chairman requested a brief report to a future meeting of the Authority on compost production and supply.

ACTION BY: **Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts**
TO NOTE: **Acting Deputy Clerk**

RESOLVED –

THAT the report and the tabled paper be noted.

8. JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts.

In discussion, Members indicated that they were in agreement with recommendations (i) and (ii). However, in relation to recommendation (iii), there was concern about whether authority should be delegated to officers in relation to land acquisition and, if it was, which Members should be consulted on any such decision. It was felt that more thought needed to be given to this issue before Members came to a view on it.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the progress on the strategic environmental assessment of the North London Joint Waste Strategy be noted; and
- (ii) THAT it be agreed to provide revenue support for a capital programme of £12m from 2008/09 for the acquisition of sites for new waste facilities.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts/Financial Adviser

9. REAL NAPPY SUBSIDY

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts.

Following a discussion, the recommendations were put to the vote and, with 9 in favour and 4 against, it was

RESOLVED –

THAT financial support for reusable 'real nappies' be reinstated from 1st April 2008, with administration payments and subsidies maintained at current levels.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

10. NORTH LONDON WASTE PREVENTION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts.

In response to questions, the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts remarked that the assistance to boroughs on enforcement would be in the form of training and shared resources which borough enforcement officers would be able to use. He added that the Authority regularly made representations to government in the form of consultation responses on a variety of issues and there was also some lobbying by

elected Members. In relation to the zero waste aspiration, the idea was to develop options that might assist in moving towards this target. He concluded by stating that the Authority's Waste Prevention Officer met with borough enforcement officers on a quarterly basis to co-ordinate work streams and to ensure that there was no unnecessary duplication of work.

In relation to the initiative listed on page 10/22 of the report to seek funding to run waste reduction campaigns across north London for 15 years, Councillor Haley commented that 15 years seemed rather a long time given that waste streams were changing all the time. The Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts remarked that this timescale could be shortened.

The Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts remarked that he would refine the wording of the target relating to 'no junk mail' stickers to clarify that it related to items such as take-away delivery leaflets and the like.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

After further discussion, it was

RESOLVED -

THAT the North London Waste Prevention Plan April 2008 – March 2010 be approved, subject to the amendment of the target 'Seek funding to run waste reduction campaigns across North London for 15 years' to reduce the timescale.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

11. NORTH LONDON RECYCLING FORUM

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts.

Following a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT it be noted that the North London Recycling Forum Steering Group has changed its name to "The Resource Forum";
- (ii) THAT the post-2007 proposal for the North London Recycling Forum that was prepared by the Forum's Steering Group for the September 2007 Authority meeting be noted;
- (iii) THAT financial support for the North London Recycling Forum be reinstated for the period 1st April 2008 to 31st December 2008 on the understanding that it will be used to deliver two North London Recycling Forum events during that period; and

- (iv) THAT the sum committed for that period be £9,877.50 in line with the request from the Forum for support to be adjusted for inflation.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

12. THIRD PARTY REUSE AND RECYCLING CREDIT REGISTRATIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts and to an addendum to the report which was tabled at the meeting and is attached to these minutes as **APPENDIX B**.

Councillor Rowell commented that he believed that profit making companies whose primary or sole purpose was recycling should be eligible to receive recycling credits and asked officers to examine the feasibility of such an approach.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Councillor Sizer proposed that no profit making organisation should be eligible to receive recycling credits. Councillor Stops seconded the proposal. On being put to the vote, with 5 in favour and 8 against, this proposal was lost.

Councillor Laing requested that officers investigate the feasibility and implications of the Authority refusing to pay recycling credits to organisations that were registered to receive them.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the change to the Authority's third party reuse and recycling credits policy outlined in paragraphs 3.3 and 7.5 of the report, in relation to reporting requirements and payments, be approved;
- (ii) THAT the recommendations in relation to the applications for registration for reuse and recycling credits for 2008/09, as set out in table 1 of the report, be approved with the exception of the recommendation in relation to Freecycle;
- (iii) THAT the third party reuse and recycling credits paid in Quarter 2 of 2007/08 be noted;
- (iv) THAT it be noted that the Authority's policy on paying third party reuse and recycling credits will be kept under review in relation to any unforeseen issues that may arise, with a specific review in September 2008;

- (v) THAT the registration of Freecycle for reuse credits for the financial year 2008/09 be approved, subject to further checks and agreement on an auditable system to monitor transfers and therefore tonnes reused; and
- (vi) THAT officers undertake further work on the points raised during the discussion as noted above.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

13. REVENUE BUDGET AND LEVY 2008/09

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Adviser.

The Chairman thanked the three Members who had met with officers as an informal working group to examine the budget proposals.

During discussion of the budget proposals, Members made the following points:-

- The constituent boroughs were finally starting to engage with the Authority and this needed to be built on, with regular liaison meetings with borough officers.
- The fact that the boroughs effectively paid a uniform price for treatment and disposal of waste sent to the Authority meant that they lacked the incentive to bring in good quality separated materials for recycling. The possibility of adjusting the levy to incentivise boroughs to improve the quality of recyclables in particular should be examined.
- The small tonnage of food waste from Camden referred to in the report was an underestimate of what was likely to be collected.
- Some funding should be set aside to assist the boroughs to scrutinise the procurement process as some boroughs did not have sufficient expertise in-house to advise on such a large and complex project.

Councillor Haley proposed an amendment to the budget to the effect that £100,000 of the contingency provision for the procurement exercise, referred to at the top of page 13/16 of the report, should be ringfenced to assist the constituent boroughs to scrutinise the procurement process. Councillor Laing seconded the proposal.

Mike O'Donnell reported that there had been discussion at officer level about support to borough officers in relation to the procurement exercise and work would be done on developing models of how it might work and pulling together specific proposals. He advised that, until that work had been done, his view was that any proposal to ringfence funding to assist boroughs to scrutinise the procurement was premature.

Councillor Haley's amendment was then put to the vote and, with 5 in favour and 8 against, the proposal was lost.

It was then

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the 2007/08 revised budget and the 2008/09 proposed budget, as set out in the report, be noted;
- (ii) THAT the 2008/09 non-household waste charge of £62.53 per tonne be approved;
- (iii) THAT it be agreed that the proposed budget will be sufficient to meet the net expenditure requirements for the year ahead and that therefore the 2008/09 budget, as set out in the report, be agreed;
- (iv) THAT the medium term budget forecast for 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 be noted;
- (v) THAT the levy for 2008/09 be agreed as set out in report;
- (vi) THAT it be noted that the levy will be apportioned in accordance with the default provisions of the Joint Waste Disposal Authorities (Levies) (England) Regulations 2006;
- (vii) THAT the Financial Adviser be authorised to make the arrangements for collection of the levy and charges for non-household waste; and
- (viii) THAT the Prudential Indicators set out in Section 8 of the report be approved.

ACTION BY: Financial Adviser

14. NLWA REPRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LONDONWASTE LIMITED

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Deputy Clerk.

RESOLVED –

THAT Mr Robert Bench be nominated as the Authority's representative to vote at the LondonWaste Limited Annual General Meeting, to vote at his discretion following consultation with the Financial Adviser to the Authority and the Chairman.

ACTION BY: Acting Deputy Clerk/Finance Officer

15. GOVERNANCE

Consideration was given to a report of the Legal Adviser.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

16. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

**17. EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER TO MEMBERS
NOVEMBER 2007**

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Adviser.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bench and his colleagues for their continuing excellent work on behalf of the Authority.

RESOLVED –

THAT the findings and recommendations of the Annual Audit Letter be noted.

18. HALF YEARLY REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Adviser.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted and the changes to the risk register be approved.

ACTION BY: Financial Adviser

19. NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN DOCUMENT UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts.

Councillor Belam requested a summary of the main issues arising from the consultation once it was complete.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

RESOLVED –

THAT authority be delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman and Group Leaders, to submit a response to the North London Waste Plan Issues and Options report consultation.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

20. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Deputy Clerk.

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillors Belam, Dodds, Knight, Laing, Savva, Stops and Watts be appointed to the Procurement Committee until the Annual General Meeting of the Authority in June 2008.

ACTION BY: Acting Deputy Clerk

21. FUTURE REPORTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Deputy Clerk.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 16th April 2008 and this meeting would commence at 3.00 pm and be held in the Council Chamber, Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE.

23. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There was no such business.

24. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - ACCESS TO INFORMATION

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the press and public be excluded from the proceedings of the North London Waste Authority on 6th February 2008 during consideration of item 25 on part 2 of the agenda, on the basis that, were Members of the public to be present, there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended. Specifically:

Publicity in respect of item 25 would be likely to lead to disclosure of information relating to Exempt Information Category 3 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and not required to be registered under various statutes: The reasons why the public interest favours withholding the information are that the release of such information would prejudice the Authority's conduct of a commercial operation OR because the disclosure of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Authority and organisations engaged in commercial activities as the information relates to commercial activities that are conducted in a competitive environment.

25. LONDONWASTE LIMITED BOARD MINUTES

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Clerk.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

26. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND IS EXEMPT WITHIN THE MEANING OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There was no such business.

The meeting ended at 3.45pm

Chairman

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MINUTES END