

THE NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE 2007** at 3.00pm 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
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 Eleftherios Savva – London Borough of Enfield
Councillor Eric Sizer – London Borough of Waltham Forest
Councillor Vincent Stops – London Borough of Hackney
Councillor Lucy Watt – London Borough of Islington

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

MS MOIRA GIBB, CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY, IN THE CHAIR

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Ms Moira Gibb opened the meeting and sought nominations for the position of Chairman.

It was proposed by Councillor Cohen and seconded by Councillor Boast that Councillor Coleman be elected Chairman of the Authority for the year 2007/8.

It was proposed by Councillor Sizer and seconded by Councillor Laing that Councillor Stops be nominated as Chairman of the Authority for the year 2007/8.

There being two nominations for the position of Chairman, Ms Gibb put the matter to the vote and it was

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillor Coleman be elected Chairman of the North London Waste Authority for the year 2007/08.

COUNCILLOR BRIAN COLEMAN IN THE CHAIR

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMEN

The Chairman sought nominations for the two Vice-Chairman positions.

It was proposed by Councillor Allan and seconded by Councillor Watt that Councillor Belam be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the year 2007/08.

It was proposed by Councillor Sizer and seconded by Councillor Haley that Councillor Stops be elected as Vice-Chairman for the year 2007/8.

There being two vacancies, and no more nominations, it was

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillors Belam and Stops be elected as Vice-Chairmen of the North London Waste Authority for the year 2007/8.

3. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

4. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comments from the Chairman

Councillor Coleman thanked colleagues for his election and advised that it was his intention to act in a collaborative way and adopt, wherever possible, a cross-party approach. He reminded all Members that it was in the interest of the Authority and all seven constituent boroughs for them to work together effectively, particularly in relation to the procurement exercise which was currently being planned.

He then formally thanked the Clerk and all officers of the North London Waste Authority for their continued work.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ray Dodds back to the North London Waste Authority as a Member from the London Borough of Haringey.

He also formally thanked Councillor Jayanti Patel who had served on the Authority in the last year but had not been re-appointed for the year 2007/8.

Notification of Party Leaders

Members noted that Councillors Coleman, Stops and Belam had been appointed as party Leaders for the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties on the North London Waste Authority.

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

Councillors Laing, Cohen and Knight advised they were either Members or substitute Members of the NLWA Constituent Boroughs' Planning Working Group, which fed into the Authority's procurement programme. Ms Melanie Field, Legal Adviser to the Authority, advised that the membership of the Working Group was a personal rather than a prejudicial interest. However, she reminded those Members that they would need to judge any items on future agenda relating to planning matters on a case by case basis to ensure that they did not have a prejudicial interest.

Members noted the standing declarations in the agenda. There were no other declarations of interest.

7. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 11th April 2007, having been confirmed as a correct record, be signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no such notifications.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

9. STATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Members considered the report by the Deputy Clerk.

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

10. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Members considered a report by the Deputy Clerk.

During the discussions on how to fill the appointments detailed in the report, there were no contested elections except in relation to those for the A-Directors of LondonWaste Ltd (LWL).

In relation to the appointment for the three LWL A-Director positions, Councillors Boast, Cohen, Dodds, Haley and Sizer were all nominated and seconded. The Chairman therefore put the matter to the vote and Councillors Boast, Cohen and Haley were duly elected.

There was no contested election in relation to the alternate A-Director and therefore Councillor Sizer was elected.

It was

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the political balance requirements as they affect the Authority for the ensuing municipal year be noted;
- (ii) THAT an Urgency Committee be established as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report with the following membership: Councillors Belam, Coleman, Knight, Sizer and Stops;
- (iii) THAT A-Directors for LondonWaste Ltd for the period until the Annual General Meeting of the Authority in 2008 be as follows: Councillors Boast, Cohen and Haley, with Councillor Sizer being appointed as the alternate A-Director;
- (iv) THAT Councillor Cohen and Mr Mike O'Donnell be appointed as trustees to the LondonWaste Ltd Pension Scheme;
- (v) THAT Councillor Stops be appointed as the representative to the Joint Waste Strategy Implementation Board with Councillor Coleman being appointed as a substitute representative;
- (vi) THAT Councillors Allan, Boast and Stops be appointed as the representatives to the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) Member Working Group; and
- (vii) THAT the position regarding attendance at meetings be noted.

ACTION BY: Deputy Clerk

11. NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY – ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

Members considered a report of the Deputy Clerk.

It was then

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

12. ANNUAL REPORT OF NLWA DIRECTORS OF LONDONWASTE LTD

Members considered a joint report of the Deputy Clerk and the NLWA Directors of LondonWaste Ltd which was introduced by Councillor Haley.

After a short discussion, it was

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

13. AMENDMENT TO THE NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY STANDING ORDERS

Members considered a report by the Deputy Clerk.

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the Standing Orders of the North London Waste Authority be amended as described in Section Two of the report.

ACTION BY: Deputy Clerk

14. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR THE AUTHORITY IN 2007/8

Members considered a report of the Deputy Clerk.

Members discussed when they would prefer meetings to be scheduled and agreed that the current arrangements should continue, namely, that meetings should take place at 3.00pm on Wednesday afternoons five times a year and that wherever possible these should take place at Camden Town Hall.

TO NOTE: All

Members then discussed possible dates and it was

RESOLVED –

(i) THAT the dates for meetings of the Authority in 2007/8 should be held on the following:

- Wednesday 19th September 2007
- Wednesday 12th December 2007
- Wednesday 6th February 2008
- Wednesday 16th April 2008
- Wednesday 25th June 2008

(ii) THAT these meetings should commence at 3.00pm and take place at Camden Town Hall.

ACTION BY: Deputy Clerk

This concluded the business of the Annual Meeting of the Authority.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

15. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Members considered a report of the Deputy Clerk.

Members noted that there had been no questions and so it was

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

16. 2006/2007 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FINAL OUTTURN AND 2007/2008 FIRST BUDGET REVIEW

Members considered a report of the Financial Adviser.

The Finance Officer introduced the report and answered questions from Members.

It was noted that there would be a report on the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme Trading Strategy presented to the next meeting of the Authority.

**ACTION BY: Financial Adviser
TO NOTE: Deputy Clerk**

Members expressed concern about the Landfill Tax Escalator and the implications for the Authority's budget and those of the constituent seven boroughs. In response,

(North London Waste Authority: 27th June 2007)

Councillor Coleman advised that he had written to the Chair of the Local Government Association registering strong concerns on this matter.

It was then

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT 2006/2007 final outturn be noted subject to audit;
- (ii) THAT the overpayments by boroughs in respect of non-household waste in 2006/2007 and the arrangements for repayment to boroughs be noted;
- (iii) THAT the draft statement of accounts at appendix A of the report for 2006/2007 be approved;
- (iv) THAT the first review of the 2007/2008 budget be noted;
- (v) THAT it be noted that the 2nd review of the 2007/2008 budget would be submitted to the Authority in September; and
- (vi) THAT the updated outlook for 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 and the likely budget pressures be noted.

**ACTION BY: Financial Adviser
TO NOTE: Deputy Clerk**

17. JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

Members considered a report by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts who introduced the item.

During discussion, it was agreed by Members that the Authority should try to encourage waste minimisation and non-consumption as more important than recovery and recycling. Members asked officers to help develop a concrete strategy on how this could be progressed, and in response officers undertook to raise the issue with the North London Recycling Forum and also to raise the profile of the Authority's own waste prevention plan through joint working with boroughs with suggestions on how this could be prioritised appropriately.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

It was then

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the selection of the compliance scheme, Recycling Network Europe (RENE), to provide a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Collection Service under the delegated authority agreed at the Authority meeting on 7th February 2006 be noted; and
- (ii) THAT the award of the Community Composting Grant under the delegated authority agreed at the Authority meeting on 20th September 2006 and 20th December 2006, as outlined in the report, be noted.

18. PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME – UPDATE REPORT

Members considered a report by the Financial Adviser who introduced the item.

Councillors Boast, Cohen, Haley and Sizer as A-Directors and Alternate A-Director of LondonWaste Ltd advised that they had a prejudicial interest in this item and therefore left the meeting room for the duration of the discussion on it.

Members then had a wide-ranging discussion on the implications of the report and asked questions of officers.

It was noted that, because of the challenging timescale proposed, it was necessary to ensure that there was political engagement with the process by the seven constituent boroughs from both their relevant Executive Members and from senior officers.

In response to Members' concerns that the Authority appeared only to be concentrating on a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) approach to procurement funding, officers explained that the approval of proposed recommendation (i) in the report to submit an application for PFI credits did not commit the Authority to a PFI approach or rule out other methods of procurement.

After discussion, it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the submission of an application to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for PFI credits be approved;
- (ii) THAT the progress made with regard to the Brent Cross/Cricklewood developers' proposals for the Authority's relocated Hendon Waste Transfer Station be noted; and
- (iii) THAT the actions taken for the provision of Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) capacity in the short term be noted.

ACTION BY: Financial Adviser

19. REVIEW OF EARMARKED RECYCLING RESERVE

Members considered a report by the Financial Adviser, which was introduced by the Finance Officer.

It was noted that there was no suggestion of abolishing the recycling reserve fund, but some Members had concerns that the Authority should not be adding to it on an annual basis if it were not being used.

The Chairman reminded Members that he, Councillor Allan and Councillor Haley, as representatives of the three political parties on the Authority, had met with officers during the formulation of the last round of budget proposals (for 2007/8) and worked through them in some detail to ensure a budget agreeable to all members. This had

proven a useful process and it was proposed that a similar exercise take place prior to the next financial year and that all reserves available to the Authority be reviewed at that time.

ACTION BY: Financial Adviser

Councillor Laing proposed that the recycling reserve fund be used to encourage increases in waste collection in boroughs and Councillor Coleman concurred. The Chairman then proposed, and it was agreed by those present, that the £1000,000 base of the earmarked recycling reserve fund be retained for projects relating to the North London Waste Authority's Joint Waste Strategy allowing the Authority to make payments to the constituent boroughs for projects which met the appropriate criteria but that the £320,000 worth of interest be returned to general balances.

ACTION BY: Financial Adviser

It was therefore

RESOLVED –

THAT the earmarked recycling reserve be retained, as detailed above, and be used in helping to establish the Authority's future treatment facility needs and providing match-funding for bids to the expected London Waste and Recycling Fund.

ACTION BY: Financial Adviser

20. ANNUAL REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Members considered a report by the Financial Adviser.

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted and that the updated risk register be agreed.

ACTION BY: Financial Adviser

21. DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE BILL CONSULTATION

Members considered a report by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts.

After discussion, it was agreed that a further response be sent supporting the comments made by London Councils in relation to the work of local authorities in relation to climate change, ensuring that London spoke with a unified voice.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

It was then

RESOLVED

THAT the response to the draft climate change bill as attached to Appendix 2 of the report which had already been submitted by the due consultation deadline of 12th June 2007, be approved but that a second response from the Chairman supporting the comments made by London Councils in relation to the work of local authorities on climate change also be sent.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

22. THE LONDON MAYOR'S DRAFT BUSINESS WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Members considered a report by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts.

During discussion, the following points were made:

- The London Mayor should provide incentives to help local councils' involvement in commercial waste collection.
- More detail was needed before effective comments could be made.
- Greater emphasis on re-use was needed (ie returnable bottles by breweries)
- There should be a move away from using a solely "tonnage based" focus on disposal in order to allow the most environmentally damaging items in the waste stream to be removed.
- That the Chairman would discuss this matter with the London Assembly's Environment Committee's Chairman.

ACTION BY: Councillor Brian Coleman

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the draft response to the Mayor of London's draft Business Waste Management Strategy as attached as appendix 1 be approved, subject to being amended to incorporate the comments above, and that the new proposed response be circulated to party leaders before final submission.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

23. WASTE STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND 2007

Members considered a report by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts.

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Members discussed the report and the Chairman noted that it would be useful for local councils, as the collection agencies for waste, to try to harmonise their approach on collection and recycling in order to allow for economies of scale in relation to the Authority's procurement exercise.

Members commented that waste reduction was not sufficient in itself to reduce climate change and that the increased use of bio-degradable goods would help work towards a zero waste culture. It was noted that re-use should be emphasised more and the Government should be strongly encouraged to put measures in place to reduce packaging within Britain. It was also noted that overall this was more effective and better for the environment than recycling.

After discussion, it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT authority be delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman and the other party leaders on the Authority, to approve a response to the Government's consultation on "incentives for recycling for households" May 2007 as outlined in paragraph 1.7 of the appendix to the report, subject to the comments made above; and
- (ii) THAT authority be delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman and other party leaders on the Authority, to submit to the government (in conjunction with boroughs) a "zero waste places" proposals if an invitation for such proposals were forthcoming before the next Authority meeting as outlined in paragraph 8.5 of the appendix to the report.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

24. COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFUSE COLLECTION INQUIRY

Members considered a report by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts.

It was then

RESOLVED –

THAT the response to the House of Commons Committee for Communities and Local Government into refuse collection, as approved by political group Leaders and as attached as appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

25. FUTURE REPORTS

Members considered a report by the Deputy Clerk.

It was proposed that representatives of the organisation, Campaign for Real Recycling, be invited to attend a future meeting of the Authority. It was agreed that

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the Deputy Clerk should make arrangements to invite them to a meeting if it were considered that the agenda had capacity for such a presentation.

ACTION BY: Deputy Clerk

It was then

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

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

There were no such items.

27. 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 27th June 2007 during consideration of Item 28 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 28 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 disclosure of the information was 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.

28. LONDONWASTE LTD MINUTES

Members considered a report by the Deputy Clerk.

Members requested that the attendance records of the A-Directors to the board of LondonWaste Ltd over the last year be compiled and circulated to Members.

ACTION BY: Deputy Clerk

It was then

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

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

There was no such business.

The meeting ended at 4.40pm

Chairman

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Minutes end