

Agenda Item No:

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN - PLANNING MEMBERS' GROUP

REPORT OF:

HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:

19th September 2007

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report provides details of a request from the Chairman of the North London Waste Plan Planning Members' Group for the Authority to consider providing an observer Member to the North London Waste Plan Planning Members' Group. The request for an Authority Member to sit on the Planning Members' Group arrived after other papers for the Authority meeting on 19th September had been finalised. The request is being tabled as a matter of urgency to enable to the Authority to engage at the earliest possible opportunity, as the next meeting of the PMG has not yet been fixed, so it is not possible to be certain that waiting until the December meeting of the Authority would not preclude the Authority from contributing to the work of the PMG.

RECOMMENDATION

The Authority is recommended to:

- i) appoint a Member observer to the North London Waste Plan Planning Members' Group from now until the Authority's Annual General Meeting in June 2008, and at each Annual General Meeting thereafter.
- ii) consider appointing a substitute Member in case the principal Member is unable to attend any particular PMG meeting, on the same timescale.

**Signed by Head of Waste Strategy
and Contracts**

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Date:

1. BACKGROUND TO THE NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN

- 1.1 A report elsewhere on this agenda provides a six monthly update on joint waste planning work in North London, which will lead to the production of the North London Waste Plan, a document which will create the shared land-use planning framework for sites for all wastes (household, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition) in North London up to 2020, including the identification of suitable sites for waste facilities.
- 1.2 The plan preparation process is being delivered by the constituent borough councils as planning authorities largely through the use of consultants. The day-to-day work is being supervised by the Planning Officers Group (POG) which meets approximately every six weeks. An Authority officer sits as an observer on the POG, attending the non-confidential parts of each meeting only.
- 1.3 The Planning Members' Group (PMG) has been more recently established and has met three times since its formation. The chairman of the PMG is Cllr Terence Neville from Enfield, with Cllr Alan Laing from Hackney and Cllr Terry Stacy from Islington as the vice chairmen. The PMG is not a formal decision making body because each borough must ratify the plan at each statutory stage. However, the PMG exists to give Member direction and co-ordination to the plan-making process across the seven boroughs by receiving reports from the POG and its consultants and collectively guiding their work. The PMG is recognised as an important part of the plan making process and provides a vital link between key Members and their boroughs, which must ratify the plan at each statutory stage.

Table 1 - Members of the North London Planning Members' Group

Borough	PMG rep	Substitute	PMG position
Barnet	Cllr Melvin Cohen	Cllr Matthew Offord	
Camden	Cllr Mike Greene	Cllr Chris Knight	
Enfield	Cllr Terence Neville		Chairman
Hackney	Cllr Alan Laing	Cllr Christine Boyd	Vice-chairman
Haringey	Cllr Kaushika Amin		
Islington	Cllr Terry Stacy		Vice-chairman
Waltham Forest	Cllr Terry Wheeler		

- 1.4 The Chairman of the Planning Members' Group has asked if the Authority would consider nominating an Member to sit as an observer on the North London Waste Plan Planning Members' Group. This would not only make Member representation consistent with officer engagement on this subject, but would also provide valuable input from the Authority's perspective to an important plan making process which will directly affect its activities into the future. It should be noted that there may be parts of the meeting that it would be inappropriate for the Authority Member to attend (due to the Authority being a stakeholder in the outcome of the process), but advice will be given on this by the POG if the circumstance arises.

- 1.5 The Planning Members Group meets at key points to oversee the plan preparation process and provide feedback in response to recommendations of the Planning Officers Group. It is generally composed of the cabinet member with responsibility for planning in each borough. It met on 11th September 2007 for the third time to consider the Issues and Options report that will go out to public consultation in early 2008. The next meeting date has yet to be confirmed, pending the development of a detailed programme of meetings up to the end of 2009.

Rationale for the Request to the Authority

- 1.6 The North London Waste Plan has to be consistent with all community strategies and councils' wider aspirations. It has to be concerned with all types of waste including commercial and industrial and construction and demolition. However, the Planning Members Group is mindful that the municipal waste stream is a key driver for the process and the group has given due consideration to the procurement strategy of the NLWA at its meetings. It is with this in mind that the Group seeks a NLWA Member as an observer.
- 1.7 Two of the existing members of the Planning Members' Group are also Authority members - Cllr Alan Laing and Cllr Melvin Cohen and one of the substitute members, Cllr Chris Knight is also an Authority member. However the position of PMG representatives on the Planning Members Group is as a cabinet member with responsibility for planning. It is felt that it would be useful to have as an observer on the group a Member solely representing the NLWA.
- 1.8 It is recommended that the Authority nominates a Member to be part of the Planning Members' Group as requested above. It is recommended that the Authority appointment be made in normal manner by which other appointments are made, at the annual general meeting. However, as this request has been made part way through the Authority year, it is recommended that an appointment is made immediately with effect until the Authority's Annual General Meeting in June 2008, and at each AGM thereafter.

Reason for Urgency

- 1.9 The request for an Authority Member to sit on the Planning Members' Group arrived after other papers for the Authority meeting on 19th September had been finalised. The request is therefore being tabled as a matter of urgency to enable to the Authority to engage at the earliest possible opportunity, as the next meeting of the PMG has not yet been fixed, so it is not possible to be certain that waiting until the December meeting of the Authority would not preclude the Authority from contributing to the work of the PMG.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Authority is recommended to:

- i) appoint a Member observer to the North London Waste Plan Planning Members' Group from now until the Authority's Annual General Meeting in June 2008, and at each Annual General Meeting thereafter.
- ii) consider appointing a substitute Member in case the principal Member is unable to attend any particular PMG meeting, on the same timescale.

3.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

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

4.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

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

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

Documents used:

Contact Officers:

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&
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