

AGENDA ITEM 7

THE NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL 2006** at 3.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor George Allan	–	London Borough of Islington
Councillor David Blunt	–	London Borough of Waltham Forest
Councillor John Boast	–	London Borough of Enfield
Councillor Brian Coleman	–	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Brian Haley	–	London Borough of Haringey
Councillor Bill Hodgson	–	London Borough of Hackney (Vice-chair in the Chair)
Councillor Bill Price	–	London Borough of Enfield
Councillor Roger Robinson	–	London Borough of Camden
Councillor Eric Sizer	–	London Borough of Waltham Forest

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councillor Melvin Cohen	–	London Borough of Barney
Councillor Ray Dodds	–	London Borough of Haringey
Councillor Bridget Fox	–	London Borough of Islington
Councillor Heather Johnson	–	London Borough of Camden
Councillor Vincent Stops	–	London Borough of Hackney

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

COUNCILLOR BILL HODGSON, VICE-CHAIR IN THE CHAIR

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cohen, Dodds, Johnson and Stops.

There were no other apologies.

2. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legal Support: Members noted that as Ms Alison Lowton, Legal Adviser, was on holiday, Ms Melanie Field would provide legal support to the meeting as required.

There were no other announcements.

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

Councillors Haley, Robinson and Sizer each declared a personal interest as NLWA Appointed A-Directors on the Board of LondonWaste Limited (LWL).

There were no other declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

Item 7, Revenue Budget and Levy 2006/07: Councillor Coleman expressed dissatisfaction in relation to the cross-party letter to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to be signed by Councillors Dodds, Coleman and Allan; he had been presented with a draft version of the document but due to the absence of the originating officer he had not been able to discuss it and consequently, Councillor Dodds had signed the letter unilaterally as Chair. Councillor Coleman advised that he had no problem with Councillor Dodds' action but stressed that he would have liked more time to consider the letter and the opportunity to discuss it with the officer who wrote it. The Vice-Chair advised that this was a reasonable point and asked that officers ensure that such circumstances did not occur again.

ACTION BY: NLWA Officers

Item 8, Procurement Options and Tasks: Councillor Haley updated Members in relation to the comments made by Councillor Allan that there was a possibility that the North London Waste Authority might not exist in several years time. He said that Ministers had written to advise that despite any uncertainty in relation to long-term existence, the Authority should not derogate its responsibilities or it could face a severe fine.

Item 9, Joint Waste Strategy Update: Members sought clarification in relation to the subsidy of £54.15 being the basis on the nappy subsidy and was advised that this was per child for the duration of use of the service.

Item 13, Appointment of A-Directors: Councillor Sizer clarified his comments in relation to his views on A-Directors; he believed that it was appropriate for A-Directors to be selected from the membership of the NLWA and furthermore he had confidence that members of the Authority would not indulge in partisan party politics at the expense of the greater interest of the Authority overall.

After discussion, and subject to the clarification detailed above, it was

RESOLVED -

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the North London Waste Authority held on 8th February 2006, having been confirmed as a correct record, be signed by the Chair.

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

There were no such items.

7. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY – CONSULTANCY SUPPORT

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

It was then

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the contracts awarded as set out in Section 3 of the report be noted; and
- (ii) THAT the contents of the report be noted in general.

8. DEFRA REVIEW OF ENGLANDS WASTE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

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

Members then considered the report and made the following comments:

- Councillor Haley thanked officers for the clear way in which the report was written but expressed the view that the Authority should be stronger in its response to the Government. He advised that he had several comments and that he would provide them to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts for inclusion in the consultation response. However, he highlighted the bullet points included in paragraph 6.3 (page 8/9 of the report) in particular for strengthening.
- Councillor Coleman concurred with the need to strengthen paragraph 6.3. He also pointed out that in response to national newspapers frequently providing free DVDs and CDs, the London Borough of Barnet had set up a recycling facility to deal with the great many were thrown away. He therefore highlighted the need to strengthen waste prevention, particularly amongst businesses.

- Councillor Hodgson advised that the Authority should be also encouraging Members of the public to ask questions of organisations producing unnecessary waste.
- Councillor Sizer suggested that people should be encouraged to retain things for longer and thereby increase waste prevention. He wished to see cars being kept longer by owners, which would both prevent waste and reduce the problem of abandoned vehicles. Councillor Sizer also criticised the imposition of unrealisable recycling targets, believing that targets should be realistic in order to help people develop a sense of being able to reach them – and so prevent them being ignored. He also favoured increased free collection of waste to help reduce fly-tipping together with greater fines for those who continued to do so.
- Councillor Blunt requested that the consultation response also include a request for a review of incinerator residue related products being re-included in the list of recycled goods as had been the case up until approximately four years ago.

It was then

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the principles of the Authority's response as already outlined and as summarised at Appendix I of the report together with the comments detailed above be approved as the basis of the response; and
- (ii) THAT authority be delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chair to prepare and submit a full response to the consultation based upon the principles outlined in the report and the comments detailed above.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contract

9. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2005

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

Members commented that the diagrams on pages 9/15 and 9/17 would have been easier to understand if printed in colour. The Vice-Chair requested that officers note this and either arrange for colour printing or for more obvious black and white differentiation to clarify such diagrams in future reports.

ACTION BY: NLWA Officers

Councillor Robinson requested that there be mention of the Authority's support for nappy laundering schemes across the constituent boroughs included in the plan. Officers undertook to include this.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

It was then

RESOLVED –

THAT the draft Best Value Performance Plan be approved subject to the comments detailed above and that authority be delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chair to make the necessary final changes as full year end data becomes available and before the statutory deadline of 30th June 2006.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

10. JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

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

It was then

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the Planning and Technical Officer recommendations for boroughs to apply for further DEFRA waste implementation programme funding in October 2006 for work on the joint waste development plan document community involvement strategy be noted;
- (ii) THAT the request to amend the nappy subsidy to “the nearest pound” in future years be noted; and
- (iii) THAT the importance of continued public engagement and communication activities be noted and the submission of a partnership bid for funding from waste and resources action programme for further promotional activity with the detail to be agreed by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chair be approved.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

11. REVENUE BUDGET AND LEVY 2006/07 – UPDATE

Members considered a report by the Financial Adviser.

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

12. FUTURE REPORTS

Members considered a report by the Deputy Clerk.

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the North London Waste Authority would take place on Wednesday, 28th June 2006 in the Council Chamber, Camden Town Hall and that this would be annual meeting of the Authority.

14. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There was no such business.

15. 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 5th April 2006 during consideration of Items 16 and 17 on Part II 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 Items 16 and 17 would be likely to lead to disclosure of information relating to exempt information Category III – 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 Council's conduct of a commercial operation or because the disclosure of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interest of the Council and organisations engaged in commercial

activities as the information relates to commercial activities that are conducted in a competitive environment.

16. PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANTS – TENDER SUBMISSIONS

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

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

17. LONDON WASTE LIMITED BOARD MINUTES

Members considered a report by the Deputy Clerk.

Members discussed the issue of the exportation of some waste and stressed the importance of ensuring that public confidence in the current recycling scheme was maintained. In response the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts explained measures which had been put in place to strengthen the current controls. However, he advised the exportation of waste was necessary on some occasions as recycling facilities for certain products only existed in other countries. In response to Members' concerns about pollution stemming from the exportation of such waste, the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts advised that the Government was changing laws to ensure the collection of particular kinds of waste within Britain which would act as a "feedstock" to help develop UK industries to deal with it.

It was then

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND IS EXEMPT WITHIN THE MEANING OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT 1972

There was no such business.

Vote of Thanks

Councillor Coleman, on behalf of all Members, expressed his gratitude to Councillor Ray Dodds for his work as Chair of the Authority over the last four years. He also thanked all officers of the Authority for their efforts. In response Councillor Hodgson as Vice-Chair thanked all Members of the Authority for their contribution and

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assistance and then Councillor Robinson also thanked Councillor Hodgson for chairing the meeting.

The meeting finished at 3.45 pm.

CHAIR

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File: S:DemServ/ComServ/NLWA/Minutes/Main Authority/Apr0506

MINUTES END