

THE NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **WEDNESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2005** at 3.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, at 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 Melvin Cohen	-	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Brian Coleman	-	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Ray Dodds	-	London Borough of Haringey (Chair)
Councillor Bridget Fox	-	London Borough of Islington
Councillor Brian Haley	-	London Borough of Haringey
Councillor Bill Hodgson	-	London Borough of Hackney
Councillor Heather Johnson	-	London Borough of Camden
Councillor Bill Price	-	London Borough of Enfield
Councillor Roger Robinson	-	London Borough of Camden
Councillor Eric Sizer	-	London Borough of Waltham Forest
Councillor Vincent Stops	-	London Borough of Hackney

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

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nappy Ever After

Councillor Roger Robinson publicly congratulated Nappy Ever After, the nappy laundry service and seller of re-usable nappies for home washing based in Chalton Street, London NW1 for coming second in a recent recycling competition. The Chair on behalf of the entire Authority echoed the congratulations.

There were no other announcements.

4. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTED 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). Councillor Dodds declared a personal interest as an NLWA alternate A-Director of the board of LWL. Councillor Brian Coleman declared a personal interest as a Member of the London Governance Commission which was likely to be considering the future of London-based statutory waste disposal authorities in the future.

There were no other declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the North London Waste Authority held on 15th December 2004, having been confirmed as a correct record, be signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Item 10: Arsenal Relocation – Update (Page 5 of the Minutes): Mr Andrew Lappage, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in response to a request from Members, updated those present on the progress in resolving the five outstanding issues relating to health and safety identified in relation to the Arsenal relocation at the last meeting. Councillor Stops advised that he would seek further updates on this at future meetings.

TO NOTE: Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts

There were no other matters arising.

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

There was no notification of urgent business.

7. REVENUE BUDGET AND LEVY 2005/6

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

Members then asked questions of Mr Bench in relation to the report and debated the issues arising from it.

In relation to the levy itself, it was proposed by Councillor Dodds, and seconded by Councillor Sizer, that the levy for the next financial year should be based on the proposed budget as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report.

In response, it was proposed by Councillor Boast, and seconded by Councillor Coleman, that an different levy be agreed on the basis of a 2005/6 budget revised from that in the report: a reduction of the overall budget by £3 million, which would result in £38.6 million needing to be raised through the levy - an increase of 0.6% on the previous years, which was less than that proposed in the report.

There then followed a debate on the two proposed levies, and then the Chair put the amendment by Councillor Boast to the vote. This was subsequently declared lost.

It was proposed by Councillor Dodds and seconded by Councillor Sizer that the basis for apportioning the levy for the next financial year should be based on the default position of the Council Tax base of each borough (option (i) as detailed in paragraph 6.4 of the report).

Given the support of several boroughs to the move to a levy apportioned on each borough's estimated household tonnage, Members then discussed the possibility of agreeing a transitional proposal of levy apportioned on a combination of the borough council tax base and estimated household tonnage, as detailed in options (iii) and (iv) of paragraph 6.4 of the report. Councillor Stops advised that the London Borough of Hackney supported this as a concept and requested that officers at the levy setting meeting in 2006, should propose more transitional options. He also asked that the Authority lobby the Government to allow for the introduction of a supported transitional position.

Councillor Fox, on behalf of the Liberal Democrats, and Councillor Coleman, on behalf of the Conservatives, advised that although they wished to see a household waste tonnage basis for the apportionment of the levy, they would be prepared to support Option (iv) if there was support from Labour party Members. Councillor Sizer argued against this move.

It was noted that unanimity was required amongst Members of the authority for there to be a change to the default position of using the council tax base for the apportionment of the levy.

At the conclusion of the discussions, the Chair called for a decision and it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the 2004/5 revised budget and the 2005/6 proposed budget be considered and noted;

- (ii) THAT it be noted that the proposed budget would be sufficient to meet the net expenditure requirements for the year ahead and that the 2005/6 budget as detailed in the report be agreed;
- (iii) THAT the medium term budget forecast for 2006/7, 2007/8 and 2008/9 be noted;
- (iv) THAT the 2005/6 charge for non-household waste be set at £44.21, and in doing so, that further consideration be given over the coming year to the merit of introducing a supplementary landfill allowance tax scheme (LATS) charge and a targeted reward scheme for biodegradable municipal waste conversion in 2006/7;
- (v) THAT the levy for 2005/6 be agreed as that detailed in the report;
- (vi) THAT the basis for apportioning the levy be agreed as being the council tax base; (Option (i) of paragraph 6.4 of the report);
- (vii) THAT the financial Adviser be authorised to make arrangements for collection of the levy and charges for non household waste and that the prudential indicators as set out in paragraph 8 of the report be approved.
- (viii) THAT the Prudential Indicators as set out in paragraph 8 of the report be approved.

ACTION BY: Finance Adviser

Councillors Coleman, Cohen, Boast and Price requested that their dissent be recorded in relation to recommendation (v) and Councillors Allen, Boast, Coleman, Cohen, Fox and Price requested that their names be recorded against the decision at recommendation (vi).

8. EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER TO MEMBERS 2004

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

After discussion, it was

RESOLVED –

THAT the findings and recommendations of the annual audit letter be noted.

9. CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT LANDFILL (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2005 AND ASSESSING THE DIVERSION OF BIO-DEGRADABLE MUNICIPAL WASTE FROM LANDFILL BY MECHANICAL BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT (MBT) AND OTHER OPTIONS

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

It was

RESOLVED –

THAT the responses to the consultation papers set out in the report be approved.

ACTION BY: Head of Strategy and Contracts

10. CONSULTATIONS ON SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WASTE PLANNING

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

Members noted a change to the recommendation so that the draft responses to the consultation papers be circulated to all boroughs and to all Members of the Authority for comments and that such comments be incorporated into the final version to be finalised by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contract after final consultation with the Chair.

It was then

RESOLVED –

THAT authority be delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chair, to finalise responses to the consultation papers on sustainable waste management and waste planning reflecting Members and boroughs views following the circulation to them.

ACTION BY: Head of Waste Strategy and Contract

11. CHANGES TO AUTHORITY PERSONNEL

Members considered a report by the Deputy Clerk.

The Chair advised Members that this was the last meeting to be attended by Mr John Mabey, the Authority's Financial Adviser prior to his retirement. The Chair proposed, and it was seconded by Councillor Coleman, that a vote of thanks be agreed for the work that he had done for the Authority over many years.

Members wished Mr Mabey every happiness on his retirement.

It was then

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

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

Members considered a report by the Deputy Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Stops, and seconded by Councillor Sizer, that Mr Bob Bench, the Authority's Finance Officer be nominated as the Authority's representative to vote at the LWL Annual General Meeting in April.

It was proposed by Councillor Coleman, and seconded by Councillor Cohen, that Councillor Bill Price be nominated as the Authority's representative to vote at the LWL Annual General Meeting in April.

The Chair then put the two names to the vote and it was subsequently

RESOLVED –

THAT Mr Bob Bench, Finance Officer, be appointed as representative to vote on behalf of the Authority at the LondonWaste Limited Annual General Meeting to vote in accordance with his own wishes following consultation with the Financial Adviser to the Authority and the Chair.

ACTION By: Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk

13. FUTURE REPORTS

Members considered a report by the Deputy Clerk.

It was noted that the London Borough of Hackney had recently won two national awards for its composting scheme. It was suggested that the North London Waste Authority therefore receive a presentation on this scheme at its next meeting.

ACTION BY: Deputy Clerk

It was then

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the North London Waste Authority was scheduled for Wednesday 27th April 2005 at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber, Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE.

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

There were no such items.

16. 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 9th February 2005 during consideration of Item 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,

Specifically, publicity in respect of Item 17 would be likely to lead to disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Authority).

17. LONDONWASTE LIMITED MINUTES

Members considered a report by the Deputy Clerk.

Councillor Haley, the Chair of the LondonWaste Limited Board, answered questions on the minutes.

It was then

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR 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 4.25 pm

CHAIR

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MINUTES END