

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **THURSDAY, 25TH APRIL, 2024** at 2.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY PRESENT

Councillors Clyde Loakes (Chair), Rowena Champion (Vice-Chair), Mete Coban (Vice-Chair), Paul Douglas, Elif Erbil, Mike Hakata, Adam Harrison, Richard Olszewski, Bektas Ozer, Alan Schneiderman and Diarmaid Ward

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ABSENT

Councillors Robert Chapman, Geof Cooke and Isidoros Diakides

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the North London Waste Authority.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Robert Chapman and Geof Cooke. Apologies for lateness had been received from Councillors Isidoros Diakides, Elif Erbil and Mike Hakata.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY, NON-PECUNIARY AND ANY OTHER INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Councillors Clyde Loakes, Mete Coban and Rowena Champion declared an interest in items on the agenda relating to LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) as they had been appointed as Non-Executive Directors of LEL by the Authority. It was noted that they had been given dispensations from their local authorities to participate and vote on the items.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record; and
- (ii) THAT the minutes of the Programme Committee meeting held on 18 January 2024 be noted.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Broadcast of the meeting

The Chair announced that the meeting was being broadcast live by Camden Council to the Internet and could be viewed on its website for twelve months after the meeting. After that time, webcasts were archived and could be made available upon request.

Those who were seated in the Council Chamber or participating remotely, were deemed to be consenting to having their contributions recorded and broadcast and to the use of those sound recordings and images for webcasting and/or training purposes.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

6. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

There were no deputations.

7. SERVICES UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Strategy and Services.

In response to a question about volatility in waste tonnages received, the Head of Strategy and Services explained that the data presented was the total outturn and that the borough declarations on the breakdown of residual waste into categories had not yet been received. This would help towards determining where and why there are increases in types of residual waste. Residual waste tonnages are also impacted by economic conditions, industry preparing for waste reforms, property growth, and change in property type. The Annual Report in June would include more detail, including reasons for movement in waste tonnage figures.

The Head of Strategy and Services responded to a question about specialist recycling, explaining that mattresses entered the recycling process from a combination of sources, including collection at Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs), and extraction from local authority deliveries that included flytipped mattresses. Polystyrene was collected from residents at all RRCs. It was initially processed at two hubs to compact the material but arrangements had been made with suppliers to accept it without compaction, making it less labour-intensive for LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL). The tonnages for polystyrene waste was increasing. Figures on the number of vapes collected would be circulated to the Authority.

ACTION: Head of Strategy and Services

With regard to commodity pricing, the Authority worked closely with Biffa who managed the brokering function. The market for paper and card had been affected by the collapse of the print industry in the UK, the shift to internet shopping and the increase in electricity prices in the UK and Europe resulting in processing being cheaper further afield. Officers were lobbying Government to support industry within the UK to process these materials. Members noted the need to reflect on climate justice and the importance of dealing with materials nearby. The Chair suggested that a comparative study be undertaken on where waste authorities were sending their materials to understand the NLWA performance in this area.

ACTION: Head of Strategy and Services

Officers confirmed that they were doing work on the need to stimulate markets in the UK. The Chair also highlighted the recent pan-London meeting of leaders of major waste disposal authorities and the need to coordinate work around two to three issues. Demonstrating the value of stimulating markets within the UK to the Government could be one of those issues.

The Chair commented on the extent of the work being undertaken on specialist recycling. It was suggested that all the RRCs should provide opportunities to drop off these materials as far as possible. It was suggested that a report be brought to the Authority providing a timeline for rolling this out and conversely explaining the reasons why it cannot be provided in certain locations.

ACTION: Head of Strategy and Services

The Chair commended officers for the carpet recycling figures.

RESOLVED –

THAT the operational, performance and recycling updates be noted.

8. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE AND REPORTS

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director, which was introduced by Martin Capstick, Managing Director, who presented the new Programme Director, Peter Andrews.

In response to questions about opportunities for local under-represented and disadvantaged groups, the Managing Director noted that Members had encouraged officers to think about how apprenticeships could deliver for less privileged groups. There had been one supported placement in the previous year and a second being scoped to ensure the recruited individual benefited from the placement. An update on the placement and learning from the process could be provided to Members.

ACTION: Managing Director

Michael Clarke, Head of Strategy and Services, explained that the transition of the Resource Recovery Facility into operational service had been planned with a phased introduction for each borough collection team. Learning for the teams had been very quick, following preparatory work with Taylor Woodrow and regular meetings and updates for borough officers.

On the Energy Recovery Facility, the Managing Director reported that the Authority was a demanding client to Acciona, conducting active contract monitoring and withholding payments where required documentation had not been provided. The Authority was closely monitoring delays and ensuring that every avenue was being explored to minimise delays. However, the delays were Acciona's responsibility. Members were assured that Acciona was aware that delays to delivering the mechanical and steelwork erection activities would have cost implications for them. There was concern that the contractor would try to push this back to the client and Acciona have argued that some of delays are due to actions by the Authority. However, the NLWA has ensured it has the evidence base to counter this and has rejected a number of claims.

With regard to the negotiation over the appointment of an accredited senior shop steward, the National Joint Council as supervisory body for the NAECI agreement was participating in discussions involving Acciona and the Trade Unions.

Officers were commended for the shortlisting in the MJ Awards in the category of Sustainability and Social Value.

It was confirmed that the solar array had been switched on and the Chair requested commentary in the report to the next meeting.

ACTION: Managing Director

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

9. APPROACH TO DIGITAL, DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Corporate Services.

The Director of Corporate Services explained that the Authority was in the midst of transformation in its approach to data and technology. The waste data management system had been upgraded. For operational data management, work was underway to democratise data and share it with boroughs for transparency. The Authority was working collaboratively with Haringey Council who provided its IT systems.

Current priorities included asset management data for the new Energy from Waste plant.

Officers noted that a live view of waste data was a few months away.

In response to a question about the utilisation of Camden's Financial Management Strategy, it was explained that because the Authority used Camden's purchase to pay and accounting systems, it was necessary to continue to ensure effective use of the systems.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

10. CONSULTATIONS AND POLICY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Chair noted that Defra was interested in hearing from waste disposal authorities on disposal costs arising from the Simpler recycling proposals, although nothing had been promised.

Joe Sheeran, Head of Strategic Communications, agreed that social media could be used to advertise apprenticeship positions.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the updates provided in the report be noted; and
- (ii) THAT the approach outlined in section 6.5 of the report to prepare for consultation on a draft North London Joint Waste Strategy be agreed.

11. ANNUAL RISK REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report by the Director of Corporate Services.

Questions were raised on how the risks associated with climate change, such as through flooding and extreme heat, were being assessed. Officers confirmed that climate change was considered as a risk in the North London Heat and Power Project programme. A condition report had been commissioned and the recommendations were being examined. There were also risks for existing assets such as the Reuse and Recovery Centres, and this would be considered. Members suggested that issues such as how services could be delivered in extreme heat be explored.

ACTION: Director of Corporate Services

It was suggested that a report be brought on risks arising from climate change to a future meeting.

ACTION: Director of Corporate Services

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

12. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

In response to a question about the £7.3 million of capital projects to support resilience of the Energy from Waste facility in 2024, it was noted that the budget to fund these had been approved in December 2024. Any delays by Acciona could impact on the necessary budget to ensure that the existing plant continued to operate.

Members were assured that reference to a partial update reflected it covering two rather than the usual three months due to the timing of meetings. Officers would take prompts from Members on the level of detail in the updates. It was noted that LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) had a Board that included a number of NLWA representatives as non-executive directors and that it could be useful to pick out some themes of LEL's initiatives in future meetings. Reporting to the NLWA as shareholder would be discussed with the Managing Director of LEL.

ACTION: Managing Director

The Chair commended LEL for the performance of the Reuse Shop and mattress recycling.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the comments on the Company's performance and activities in January and February 2024 be noted; and
- (ii) THAT the Q1 interim report on the Company's activities at Appendix A to the report be noted.

13. FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 3.30 pm.

CHAIR

Contact Officer: Cheryl Hardman

Telephone No: 020 7974 1619

E-Mail: cheryl.hardman@camden.gov.uk

MINUTES END