

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **TUESDAY, 30TH JULY, 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), Mike Hakata (Vice-Chair), Dana Carlin, Robert Chapman, Paul Douglas, Adam Harrison, Mittra, Richard Olszewski, Alan Schneiderman and Diarmaid Ward

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ABSENT

Councillors Elif Erbil and Bektas Ozer

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 were received from Councillors Elif Erbil and Bektas Ozer.

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

Councillors Clyde Loakes 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.

Councillors Clyde Loakes and Paul Douglas declared an interest in Item 10: *Reuse and Recycling Centre Network*, as they were members of the London Borough of Waltham Forest. They would leave the room for the duration of deliberation on the report and not participate or vote on the recommendations.

Councillor Arjun Mittra declared for transparency that he was an employee of the Greater London Authority.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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.

Congratulations

The Chair congratulated Councillor Richard Olszewski on behalf of the Authority for his election to Leader of Camden Council and expressed a hope that he would consider remaining a member of the NLWA given his experience and knowledge.

The Chair also congratulated Councillor Mete Coban who had resigned from London Borough of Hackney and his position on the NLWA following his appointment as Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy. The NLWA would continue to engage with Councillor Coban on their overlapping agendas.

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 deputation requests.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY AND COMMITTEES: UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report and supplementary report of the Managing Director.

It was noted that the vacancies arising from Councillor Mete Coban's resignation would be filled once Hackney Council had appointed a replacement.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the changes to membership as outlined in the report and supplementary paper be noted;
- (ii) THAT Councillor Mike Hakata be elected as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year;

- (iii) THAT Councillor Hakata be appointed to the LondonEnergy Ltd Board as identified in section 3 of the supplementary paper; and
- (iv) THAT Councillor Arjun Mittra be appointed to Urgency Committee, Audit and Governance Committee and Finance Working Group.

8. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Programme Director.

Officers were commended for the commencement of operations at the new Edmonton Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) and the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) and for the work on achieving social value from the North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP). In response to a question about recruitment interventions, Peter Andrews, Programme Director, explained that Acciona was breaking down work packages into smaller packages to attract the required skills from smaller companies across the UK. The NLWA was also exploring opening a skills training centre at EcoPark House.

Given that the outturn cost forecast for the NLHPP was at the top end of the estimated cost, officers were asked about confidence in staying within the range. The Programme Director informed the meeting that there were ongoing discussions with the Acciona Board and all aspects of the contract were being reviewed to have a better underpinning of the programme and costs. A Member briefing would be scheduled in September to provide further information on proposals.

In response to a question about customer feedback on the RRC, Jim Kendall, Managing Director of LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL), stated that there had been positive comments including on access and the separation from heavy goods vehicles. As booking slots for RRCs was ceasing, LEL would be working with the NLWA on whether it would still be possible to track where users were coming from.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

9. TRANSITION OF NEW FACILITIES INTO OPERATION

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

Members commended the level of involvement of employees at LondonEnergy Ltd in designing management systems and operations at the new facilities.

The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that customer feedback and insights would be collected as visitor numbers and booking grew in order to continue improving the Reuse and Recycling Centre.

In response to questions about engagement with targeted user groups, it was explained that engagement would be developed in an agile way. Proposals that

further expert groups such as those involved with major regeneration schemes would be considered for future engagement.

The Sea Cadets' decommissioned naval gun was now back in place at EcoPark House and the Authority was in dialogue with them on transitioning them to their new premises. It was important that the transition not compromise their safety.

It was noted that Barnet Council was reintroducing separate food waste collections. Officers confirmed that there was capacity to handle the collections but logistics would be confirmed to Authority members.

ACTION: Director of Corporate Services

The Managing Director confirmed that there had been no update from the new Government on food waste collections.

With regard to public safety, the Director of Corporate Services that the Authority was working on high quality deliverables. LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) was working to a clear safety first programme. The Managing Director of LEL summarised public safety activity as including clear signage and information, a safe walking route, good physical systems to segregate public access from other parts of the site, and a testing programme for EcoPark House using trial groups to ensure safety prior to the Sea Cadets return.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

10. REUSE AND RECYCLING CENTRE NETWORK

Councillors Clyde Loakes and Paul Douglas withdrew from the meeting for the item and did not participate or vote.

Councillor Rowena Champion took the Chair for the item.

Councillor Robert Chapman declared an indirect interest due to the Gateway Road Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) being situated close to the border with London Borough of Hackney, and stated that he would not vote on the item.

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

In response to a question about proportionate use of Gateway Road RRC, it was confirmed that it had the second smallest usage of all the RRCs. Detailed footfall was not monitored at all the RRCs as it was possible to attend without booking. The tonnage measurements for all RRCs could be provided to Authority Members.

ACTION: Managing Director

It was confirmed that use of RRCs would continue to evolve over time. Boroughs were offering increasingly good collection services. RRCs were also historically car-based and, while Members had challenged officers to make them more accessible to pedestrians and cyclists, they were still accessed mainly by car. Meanwhile car usage was falling.

It was noted that there were nine RRCs within the north London area which was the highest number in any waste authority area in London.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT it be noted the RRC network in north London was comprehensive and an additional RRC at the Edmonton EcoPark had recently been opened, which was owned directly by NLWA and operated by LondonEnergy Ltd
- (ii) THAT a consultation on the possible closure of the Gateway Road RRC, which is a site owned and operated by a private operator on behalf of NLWA, be approved. The consultation would provide information to better understand the potential effects of closing the facility and how any impacts might be mitigated.

11. CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE PROJECT UPDATE

Councillor Clyde Loakes retook the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director, which was introduced by Jacqueline Fitzgerald, Technical Assurance Project Manager, with the approval of Members.

In response to questions regarding risks to cost estimates, the Technical Assurance Project Manager explained that figures were in an early stage of estimation. There were different levels of certainty between the separate elements involved in carbon capture and storage, with transport costs having least certainty.

Members noted that there were a lot of questions regarding carbon capture and storage, with progress being dependent on government support. On balance, it was considered to be right to continue with the project while recognising it was an emergent technology and allowing for the possibility of not continuing to invest at a future stage.

Construction costs had not been examined in detail at this stage but would be considered further once the options had been narrowed to one or two.

All the options had a high benefit-cost ratio, with benefits to the environment. However, at present it would cost less to pay the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) liability. The carbon price needed to be higher to support the business case for carbon capture and storage. It was expected to increase over the next five to ten years.

With regard to committing to a particular technology, it was noted that the project would be closely watching the Government's cluster sequencing programme and carbon capture projects globally, how the technology develops and any lessons. Lessons would be sought from carbon capture projects generally but also specifically from those at Energy from Waste facilities being implemented at considerable scale.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the findings of the Strategic Assessment and recommendations to be taken forward as part of the Strategic Outline Case be noted.
- (ii) THAT commencement of the next stage of the business case development work referred to as Stage 1 Strategic Outline Case be agreed. This would be within the financial limit of £3.2 million, expected to be delivered over a period of 3 years. Expenditure and extent of work for each year would be approved by Members as part of the annual budgeting process.

12. FINANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Financial Adviser.

It was noted that delays in auditing the accounts were not a reflection on the NLWA but were due to sector-wide issues with external audit.

In response to questions regarding any further financial impacts due to the delayed delivery of EcoPark South facilities or other variables, The Director of Corporate Services stated that there should be no more surprises arising from EcoPark South but there would be choices to be made on building the funds to pay back the loans.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the completion of the 2021/22 audit be noted; and
- (ii) THAT the review of the 2023/24 financial outturn and plans for updated assessments of the financial position for 2024/25 and future years be noted.

13. CONSULTATIONS AND POLICY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Chair confirmed that he had written to all the newly elected constituency MPs, including an open invitation to visit the new EcoPark facilities.

RESOLVED –

THAT the updates be noted.

14. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Councillor Mike Hakata withdrew from the meeting for the item as he had been appointed as a Non-executive Director of LondonEnergy Ltd and had not yet received a dispensation from his local authority.

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the comments on the Company's performance and activities in the Q1 2024 Report be noted.

15. FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

17. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - ACCESS TO INFORMATION

RESOLVED –

THAT the press and public be excluded from the proceedings of the North London Waste Authority on 30th July 2024 during consideration of the following items 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:

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 the disclosure of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Authority and organisations engaged in commercial activities as the information related to commercial activities that are conducted in a competitive environment.

18. NLHPP COMMERCIAL UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Programme Director.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the recommendations set out in the report be approved; and
- (ii) THAT the commercial status summary on the ERF project be noted.

19. ANY OTHER EXEMPT ITEMS THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There were no exempt items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END