

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE** held on **THURSDAY, 25TH APRIL, 2024** at 3.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT

Councillors Paul Douglas, Richard Olszewski, Bektas Ozer and Diarmaid Ward

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT

Councillors Robert Chapman, Geof Cooke (substituted by Councillor Alan Schneiderman) 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 Audit Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The meeting was opened by the Managing Director to the Authority.

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillor Richard Olszewski be appointed Chair of the Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillor Diarmaid Ward be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED –

THAT the terms of reference of the committee be noted.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robert Chapman and Geof Cooke. Councillor Alan Schneiderman substituted for Councillor Cooke.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

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 had asked to address the meeting, whether seated in the 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.

7. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

There were no deputations.

8. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

9. NOTIFICATIONS OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

10. 2021/22 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Consideration was given to the report of the Financial Adviser, which was presented by Nikesh Shah (Director of Corporate Services) and Suresh Patel (Mazars).

The Mazars representative commented that the audit process for the 2021/22 accounts had been smoother than the prior year and he commended the team who had prepared the accounts.

The Chair recognised the difficulties across the local government sector with delays to the audit process and noted that this was not a failure of the NLWA. The findings of the audit were taken seriously by the Authority and the committee, with adjustments to take place for future years.

Conrad Hall, Independent Member, endorsed the chair's comments including that delays were common across the system.

In response to a question about the audit being complicated by having taken place after the demolition of the Bulky Waste and Recycling Facility, officers assured the Committee that there should not be amendments in future accounts due to similar changes to the conditions at the EcoPark.

The Mazars representative confirmed that planning for the 2022/23 audit was almost complete. Detailed work would start in August 2024 with a plan to publish the audited accounts in September.

Paul Gulliford (Head of Finance) informed the committee that the 2023/24 year end outturn would be reported in June 2024.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the draft Audit Completion Report be noted;
- (ii) THAT the oral update from the Authority's auditors be received;
- (iii) THAT the Financial Adviser and the Director of Corporate Services be authorised to sign the 2021/22 letter of management representation as drafted at the end of Appendix A;
- (iv) THAT the Authority's 2021/22 Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement in Appendix B be approved and the Audit Committee Chair and Clerk be authorised to sign these documents.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm.

CHAIR

Contact Officer: Cheryl Hardman

Telephone No: 020 7974 1619

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

MINUTES END