

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **MONDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 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), Dana Carlin, Elif Erbil, Suna Hurman, Richard Olszewski, Alan Schneiderman and Diarmaid Ward

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ABSENT

Councillors Robert Chapman, Paul Douglas, Mike Hakata, Adam Harrison and Mittra

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 Robert Chapman, Paul Douglas, Mike Hakata, Adam Harrison and Ajun Mittra.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Elif Erbil and Diarmaid Ward.

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.

Councillor Loakes also declared an interest in Item 7: *Reuse and Recycling Centre Network*, as a member of the London Borough of Waltham Forest. He would leave the room for the duration of deliberation on the report and not participate or vote on the recommendations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the public and exempt minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 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.

Membership

The Chair noted that Councillor Bektas Ozer of Enfield Council had stood down from the NLWA and been replaced by Councillor Suna Hurman. Councillor Hurman was welcomed to the Authority.

Councillor Sarah Young was to formally join the NLWA as Hackney Council's second representative from 14 October 2024.

A report would be brought to the December meeting of the Authority to note the membership changes formally and make appointments to committees and working groups.

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. REUSE AND RECYCLING CENTRE NETWORK

Councillor Clyde Loakes withdrew from the meeting for the item and did not participate or vote.

Councillor Rowena Champion took the Chair for the item.

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

The Chair welcomed the very thorough report detailing the responses to the consultation. It was recognised that journey time to a Reuse and Recycling Centre

would be slightly longer for some people but Members also took under consideration the background and reasons for the recommendation.

RESOLVED –

- A. THAT the findings of the public consultation, the Authority's statutory responsibilities including its public sector equality duty and the equality impact assessment be noted.
- B. THAT, having given due regard to the findings of the public consultation, the Authority's statutory responsibilities including its public sector equality duty and the equality impact assessment, the permanent closure of the Gateway Road Reuse and Recycling Centre be agreed. This decision was based on the following:
 - i. The overprovision of Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs) and waste services within the network generally and the east of the Authority area in particular,
 - ii. The lack of certainty over the future of a site not owned by the Authority or a constituent borough,
 - iii. The lack of space at the site to improve the service offer in line with the rest of the RRC network, and
 - iv. The increased operating and land costs associated with the site.
- C. THAT authority be delegated to the Managing Director to make arrangements for the orderly exit and closure of Gateway Road RRC including to:
 - i. Agree and enter a full and final settlement agreement with Bywaters in relation to the site.
 - ii. Confirm in writing to the administrators of the North London Waste plan that the Authority will no longer be using Gateway Road as a Reuse and Recycling Centre and that we have opened a larger RRC site at Edmonton EcoPark for the purpose of providing an alternative land for use as an RRC.
 - iii. Take any other steps necessary to give effect to the decision.

8. SERVICES UPDATE

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

In response to a question about why there is variation in tonnages between boroughs, Michael Clarke, Head of Strategy and Services, explained that there were a number of reasons including the impact of commercial waste, service changes and increases in property numbers in some boroughs. The slight increase in tonnages was not dissimilar to the rest of London.

Members commended the proportion of Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) processed within the UK and encouraged greater publicity to counter the perception of materials

being processed in the Far East. In response to questions about increasing the proportion of paper and cardboard processed in the UK, the Head of Strategy and Services commented on the lack of capacity in the UK, with energy costs disincentivising an expansion in capacity by processors. A gap between UK and European prices for paper and cardboard was also driving movement to Europe and the Far East. Current discussions on the DMR contract included processing destinations and it was intended to update the Authority at the December meeting.

In response to a question about data being publicly available, the Head of Strategy and Services noted that Members were regularly updated on the data and the reports were published on the NLWA website.

Officers were asked to provide comparative data on end destinations for other waste disposal authorities.

ACTION: Head of Strategy and Services

Nikesh Shah, Director of Corporate Services, informed the meeting that borough officers had access to dashboards providing data on a real time basis. This enabled better, smarter decisions to be made locally.

There was concern about the crash in textile recycling prices and officers were asked for specific ideas on how the Authority could influence the situation. The Head of Strategy and Services stated that the Authority was calling on the Government to address fast fashion which was introducing poor quality textiles. It was agreed that the Authority should write a letter signed by all Members regarding the poor quality of fast fashion textiles and the burden having been passed to waste disposal authorities.

ACTION: Head of Strategic Communications

RESOLVED –

THAT the operational, performance and recycling updates provided be noted.

9. WASTE PREVENTION PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the head of Strategic Communications.

The Chair commended the positive update on delivery of the North London Waste Prevention Plan.

RESOLVED –

THAT the update be noted.

10. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Programme Director.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) THAT authority be delegated to the Programme Director to procure project and programme management data hub services. This would be done via the Crown Commercial Services G-Cloud 13 framework, at an estimated contract value of £410,000 for an initial period of two years with an option to renew for two further periods of one year each. Appropriate software products are needed through the life of the project, and this is a retender of a service procured in 2020.

11. FINANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Financial Adviser.

In response to a question about further detail on the forecast being given to borough officers, Nikesh Shah, Director of Corporate Services, clarified that the costs would be broken down by borough and pressures explained. Martin Capstick, Managing Director, explained that due to turnover within the constituent authorities, there were differing levels of understanding about the forecast budget. The meeting with Borough Directors of Environment would enable NLWA officers to answer any questions.

While there was disappointment in the delay to opening of the Resource Recovery Facility, the initial saving in costs was welcomed.

It was noted that the backlog of outstanding audits was a sector-wide problem and not a reflection of the Authority's work.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the review of the 2024/25 financial position be noted; and
- (ii) THAT it be noted a further update of the 2024/25 financial position will be reported to the Authority meeting in December together with an updated assessment of the budget and resource requirements for 2025/26.

12. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

It was noted that LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) had recently paid £12m in Electricity Generator Levy, affecting LEL's financial position and taking money away from Local Government. This would be flagged to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as part of the

budget representation by the Authority. The Chair commented that the letter would be circulated to all Members for comment.

RESOLVED –

THAT the comments on the Company's performance and activities in the Q2 2024 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 3.10 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END