

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **THURSDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 2024** at 2.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY PRESENT

Councillors Clyde Loakes (Chair), Mike Hakata (Vice-Chair), Sinan Boztas, Dana Carlin, Adam Harrison, Arjun Mitra, Richard Olszewski, Alan Schneiderman, Diarmaid Ward and Sarah Young

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ABSENT

Councillors Rowena Champion, Robert Chapman, Paul Douglas and Elif Erbil

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, Rowena Champion and Paul Douglas. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Adam Harrison.

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

Councillors Clyde Loakes and Mike Hakata 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 Arjun Mitra and Alan Schneiderman also declared an interest in Item 11: *Transfer Station in West of Area*, as members of the London Borough of Barnet. They 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 minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 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.

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. MEMBERSHIP AND DATES OF MEETINGS: UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Young to her first meeting and gave the Authority's best wishes to Councillor Paul Douglas for his recovery from sickness.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the changes to membership as outlined in the report be noted;
- (ii) THAT appointments to Committees and working groups be updated as follows:

Councillor Sarah Young to be appointed to Urgency Committee and Recycling Working Group

Councillor Sinan Boztas to be appointed to Audit and Governance Committee and Finance Working Group

- (iii) THAT the reasons for absence from the meeting on 5 December 2024 by Councillor Paul Douglas as being sickness and Councillor Robert Chapman as being a clash of meetings, extending membership until 13 February 2025, the date of the next Authority meeting, be approved; and
- (iv) THAT the AGM be rescheduled from 26th June 2025 to 19th June 2025.

8. DRY MIXED RECYCLING ARRANGEMENTS

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

RESOLVED –

THAT the press and public be excluded from the proceedings of the North London Waste Authority on 5th December 2024 during consideration of the Part II appendix, 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.

Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the results of a benchmarking exercise included within the Part II Appendix be noted;
- (ii) THAT the commercial case for awarding a full four-year extension for the separation and processing of Dry Mixed Recycling materials collected by the seven constituent Borough's contained within the Part II Appendix be noted; and
- (iii) THAT authority be delegated to the Managing Director to extend the existing Dry Mixed Recycling Contract (excluding organics) with Biffa Ltd for a further four years from December 2025 to the contract's full term ending in December 2029.

9. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Authority was updated on a short service interruption between 20 and 29 November 2024. This was the result of repairs needing to be undertaken on an export cable connecting the Energy from Waste facility to the National Grid due to an oil leak. This affected throughput during that period.

In response to questions about the £7m funding gap after the Authority's contractual payments had been filled, LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) officers clarified that there were a number of challenges related to the age of the Energy from Waste plant, including it becoming less efficient, the need to do more maintenance and the cost of insuring an ageing facility. Funding needs would be reviewed as LEL transitioned to operating the new Energy Recovery Facility. The Director of Corporate Services explained that Members had approved a new reserve policy in February 2024 to fund the maintenance required for the old plant by building up maintenance reserves with interest from cash borrowing for the North London Heat and Power Project. Any shortage would be included in the Medium Term Financial Plan forecast and where possible, would be managed within the existing pre-set budget.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the comments on the Company's performance and activities in the Q3 2024 Report be noted;
- (ii) THAT the Board Minutes for July 2024 at Appendix A be noted;
- (iii) THAT LEL's proposed 2025 Budget be approved and consequential Authority costs be incorporated into plans for the Authority's 2025/26 budget; and
- (iv) THAT the appointment of a new board member as set out in section six be approved.

10. FINANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Financial Adviser.

The Chair stated that Members could inform the budget setting at the Member Finance Working Group meeting in January 2025.

Members commended government initiatives that could result in funding to be used in the Authority's favour and suggested that it be built into the base budget. The Director of Corporate Services noted that the new government's waste reforms were being treated as uncertainties but acknowledged that the Simpler Recycling funding was at the higher end of estimates. Other uncertainties could be reviewed. Pressures were being discussed collaboratively with the constituent boroughs.

In response to questions about work to find efficiencies and bring down levy increases given local authority financial pressures, it was confirmed that efficiencies were being sought for 2025/26. However, it was noted that the potential for further efficiencies were less than previously. Officers also aimed to be prudent in a time of uncertainties when proposing the budget to ensure that the Authority did not overspend.

The Chair thanked the finance team in the Authority and constituent authorities who each year ensured that the budget was not overspent.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT this review of the 2024/25 financial position be noted;
- (ii) THAT the current assessment of the budget and resource requirements for 2025/26 and the factors that could affect the level of the 2025/26 levy be noted; and
- (iii) THAT the issues that will need to be addressed in setting the budget and levy for 2025/26 at the Authority meeting on 13 February 2025 be noted.

11. TRANSFER STATION IN WEST OF AREA

Councillors Arjun Mitra and Alan Schneiderman declared an interest as members of the London Borough of Barnet and withdrew for the duration of the item.

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

RESOLVED –

THAT the update be noted.

12. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Programme Director.

Officers were thanked for their briefings for Members on the project.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

13. AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal.

Members commended the balance that had been struck in the response to the government consultation regarding remote attendance.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the amendment to the Authority's Standing Orders set out in section 2 of this report to enable electronic sealing of documents be approved;
- (ii) THAT the amendment to the Authority's Standing Orders set out in section 2 of this report to authorise the Chair to change meeting dates as required be approved; and
- (iii) THAT the Authority's proposed response to government consultations as set out in Appendix A be endorsed.

14. CONSULTATION AND POLICY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Chair noted that the report was written before the detailed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) figures were published.

Members commended officers for attending public committee meetings in the constituent boroughs, providing information on what the NLWA was about and what it was doing. The Chair encouraged Members to identify further opportunities for NLWA officers to attend events.

The Chair highlighted the successful resolution of lobbying to ban single-use vapes, noting the positive outcomes for both the environment and health.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the update on the Joint Waste Strategy be noted;
- (ii) THAT the update on Extended Producer Responsibility Payments be noted;
- (iii) THAT the update on the ban on single-use vapes be noted;
- (iv) THAT the Government Budget 2024 and its implications for the waste and resources sector be noted; and
- (v) THAT authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs, to respond to ongoing Government consultations and policies which will impact Authority operations or activities.

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.

The meeting ended at 3.30 pm.

CHAIR

North London Waste Authority - Thursday, 5th December, 2024

Contact Officer: Cheryl Hardman

Telephone No: 020 7974 1619

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

MINUTES END