

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE:** MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY AND COMMITTEES: UPDATE

**REPORT OF:** MANAGING DIRECTOR

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:** AUTHORITY MEETING

**DATE:** 11 FEBRUARY 2021

**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

This report updates Members on changes to the membership of the Authority, and requests that, subject to the written notification of the appointment of new Members to the Authority by the date of the meeting, appointments to Committees and working groups be amended to reflect these changes.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Authority is recommended to:

- A. Note the changes to membership as outlined in the report and further changes as updated at the meeting; and
- B. Approve any updated appointments to Committees and working groups as listed in Section 3 to the report.

**SIGNED:**  ..... Managing Director

**DATE:** 1 February 2021

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The Authority comprises two representatives appointed by each of the seven constituent councils and notified to the Authority in writing. No substitute representatives are permitted.

## **2. CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1. Councillor Jon Burke stood down from the London Borough of Hackney on 31 December 2020, leaving a vacancy on the Authority. Hackney Council has an Executive Mayoral model of governance, with the Mayor appointing to the Cabinet. An appointment to the position of Hackney Cabinet member for energy, waste, transport and public realm has not yet been made. Councillor Burke's replacement on the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) will be advised following the new cabinet appointment. Should that occur by 11 February, the Authority will be verbally updated at the meeting.
- 2.2. Councillor Rebecca Rennison has advised that she will be taking maternity leave with effect from the end of February 2021. Hackney Council will be making a maternity cover appointment for her role as Deputy Mayor and Cabinet member for finance, housing needs and supply. Councillor Rennison's maternity cover appointment on NLWA will subsequently be advised to the Authority.

## **3. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

- 3.1. Three Committees were re-established for 2020/21 at the Authority meeting on 24 September 2020. These were:
  - 3.1.1. Urgency Committee
  - 3.1.2. Audit Committee
  - 3.1.3. Programme Committee
- 3.2. In accordance with the Authority's Standing Orders, each Committee shall have a membership of seven so that one Member is from each of the Constituent Boroughs. The quorum for meetings is four Members. The other Member from the relevant Constituent Council that was not appointed to the Committee may attend that meeting as a substitute.
- 3.3. Councillor Burke was the Hackney appointment to Urgency Committee while Councillor Rebecca Rennison is the Hackney appointment to Audit Committee and Programme Committee. Given the updated membership, Members are asked if they wish to update their appointments to these Committees.

- 3.4. Two Working Groups were re-established for 2020/21 at the Authority meeting on 24 September 2020. These were:
  - 3.4.1. Finance Working Group
  - 3.4.2. Recycling Working Group
- 3.5. Each Working Group has a membership of seven so that one Member is from each of the Constituent Boroughs.
- 3.6. Councillor Burke was the Hackney appointment to the Recycling Working Group as well as the Chair. Councillor Rennison is the Hackney appointment to the Finance Working Group. Given the updated membership, Members are asked if they wish to update their appointments to these Committees.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. The Authority will make any reasonable adjustments to ensure that Members of the Authority can participate in meetings of the Authority or its Committees.
- 4.2. Meetings of the Authority and its Committees are being held remotely in accordance with the powers contained within the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the Regulations”).
- 4.3. It is recognised that that some persons who ordinarily would be able to participate in Authority meetings in person will not be able to participate in remote meetings due to physical or other disability or because they lack the technological capability to do so. It is believed that this will only be a small minority of persons, but will likely disproportionately affect older persons and those of less financial means. It is acknowledged that in terms of income those that fall within certain protected groups are statistically more likely to lack the means to have access to that equipment or the ability to use it. The Authority is of the view that in passing the Regulations to permit remote meetings, the Government has both considered this impact and also set out the importance of holding council meetings, including joint authorities, during the coronavirus emergency. Therefore, having given its obligations under Section 149 of the Equality Act due regard it considers the public interest in public elected member decisions resuming outweighs the impacts on any persons who may not be able to participate. It is also mindful of the current statutory prohibition on public gatherings when alternative means are available and it considers that the regulations allowing remote decision making is such an alternative which should be used.
- 4.4. Where there is the functionality to dial into a meeting instead of joining via the Internet, the Authority will support this as far as possible in line with the

procedures set out in the Guidance on Remote Meetings Held During the Coronavirus National Emergency agreed at each meeting.

- 4.5. Teams has live captions functionality for remote meetings for the deaf / hard of hearing, which users can independently turn on; guidance on how to do so will be provided. The Authority cannot accept any liability for the accuracy of these live captions.
- 4.6. The Authority will consider any other requests for reasonable adjustments to be made in order to allow parties to be involved in remote Authority meetings as far as circumstances at the time of the meeting allows.
- 4.7. In addition the Authority will review and monitor the operation of its remote decision making and make adjustments when it considers it can further mitigate any adverse impact.

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

- 5.1. The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER**

- 6.1. The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

### **List of documents used:**

Correspondence with constituent Boroughs relating to membership.

### **Contact officer:**

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