

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **THURSDAY, 7TH OCTOBER, 2021** at 2.30 pm in Committee Room 2, Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1BD

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY PRESENT

Councillors Peter Zinkin (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Dean Cohen, Isidoros Diakides, Satnam Gill, Mike Hakata, Adam Harrison and Hass Yusuf

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ABSENT

Councillors Clyde Loakes, Kate Anolue, Rowena Champion, Robert Chapman, Mete Coban, Rosalind Doré and Richard Olszewski

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. GUIDANCE ON HYBRID MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

THAT the hybrid meetings procedures set out on the agenda be agreed.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kate Anolue, Rowena Champion, Robert Chapman, Clyde Loakes and Richard Olszewski.

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

Councillor Peter Zinkin declared an interest in items on the agenda relating to LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) as he had been appointed a Non-Executive Director of LEL by the Authority. He noted that he had been given a dispensation from his local authority to participate and vote on the items.

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 had asked to address the meeting, whether seated in the meeting room or participating via Teams, 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 was no notification.

6. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

There were no deputations.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the public minutes of the Authority meeting held on 24th June 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record; and
- (ii) THAT the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting and the public minutes of the Programme Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2021 be noted.

8. 2020/21 FINANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Adviser. In introducing the report, the Head of Finance proposed a slight amendment to the recommendation A, so that it read 'Note the conclusion of the 2019/20 audit and the delayed audit of the 2020/21 accounts.'

A Member queried the difference between the budgeted tonnage and the forecast tonnage of food waste generated by Haringey and why this was much higher than other constituent councils. The Managing Director directed Members to the table at

the bottom of page 50 and advised that the difference was likely to be as a result of the speed at which the mixed organic waste collection was changing to a separate food and green waste collection.

In response to a question regarding the assumptions made for 2021/22 about the price achievable for recyclates, the Head of Finance confirmed that the estimates factored in an assumption that the current high price per tonne would gradually fall back towards around £20 per tonne as the current shortage of raw materials was rectified.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the conclusion of the 2019/20 audit and the delayed audit of the 2020/21 accounts be noted;
- (ii) THAT the review of the 2021/22 revenue budget be noted; and
- (iii) THAT it be noted that a further update of the 2021/22 budget will be reported to the Authority meeting in December, together with an updated assessment of the budget and resource requirements for 2022/23.

9. SERVICES UPDATE

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

In response to a question regarding the impact of Turbine 4 being out of action, Jim Kendall, Interim Managing Director of LondonEnergy Limited, explained that a facility of the age of the Edmonton plant relied on turbines to condense the steam produced by the boilers during waste disposal, meaning that the loss of a turbine reduced the capacity to dispose of waste. Turbine 4 was expected to be back on line by the end of the month, and a new turbine was due to be installed in the first quarter of next year, which would increase the resilience of the waste disposal operation.

In relation to Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) tonnages levelling off in July and August, the Head of Strategy and Services remarked that it was intended to retain the booking system for the time being in order to assist with operational preparedness, but it was hoped that RRCs would be able to return to their normal operating hours shortly, which would make it more convenient for people to attend, should the progress of the pandemic permit. Some changes had been made to improve the booking system, to allow more short notice and flexible booking, and some work was needed on how these changes were communicated. Mr Kendall added that feedback on the booking system was overwhelmingly positive.

A Member remarked that he had heard reports of queues and waiting times at RRCs. The Managing Director indicated that officers would look into this, but data showed that at no point were slots fully booked and there was always capacity. Officers would update on this at a future meeting.

A Member queried why the budgeted recycling tonnage for 21/22 for Haringey and Waltham Forest was lower than the 20/21 outturn but the forecast tonnage was higher. The Managing Director explained that these boroughs had produced a lot more recycling in 20/21 than had been anticipated. This increase arose because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The assumption had been that domestic recycling had peaked, but in fact levels had remained high, and it was very difficult to predict how far recycling behaviour would return to pre-pandemic levels. The Head of Strategy and Services added that the Authority would be undertaking another forecasting exercise with the boroughs at the end of the month and would report back on the outcome of that in December.

ACTION BY: Head of Strategy and Services

A Member noted the significant decline in the amount of rejected recycling, and remarked that this reduction in contamination and improvement in recycling behaviour was good news.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the latest tonnage and recycling performance in the current year be noted;
- (ii) THAT the operational update provided since the last report to the Authority on 24 June be noted;
- (iii) THAT the continued upwards trend in tonnage and residents' visitor numbers at the network of Reuse and Recycling Centres be noted; and
- (iv) THAT it be noted that officers will work with LondonEnergy Ltd to considering extending operating hours for the Authority's network of RRCs to those which applied pre-pandemic.

10. RESIDUAL WASTE REDUCTION PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director.

A Member commended the Waste Prevention Community Fund and asked if there was scope to increase this work. The Managing Director responded that a great deal of effort had gone into increasing awareness of the Fund. As a result of this, grant applications had risen significantly which was a welcome development. Officers would look at expanding the scheme for 2022/23.

It was noted that Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust, referred to in Appendix A as a recipient of a Community Fund Grant, was in fact in Camden rather than Islington.

Members welcomed the very positive progress shown in the report.

In relation to waste minimisation work, the Managing Director remarked that most campaigning activity was around reducing contamination and raising awareness of what could and could not be recycled. Extracting recyclable material from black bag waste was challenging and some authorities were undertaking mechanical-biological treatment of their black bag waste, but this only resulted in a 1-10% increase in recyclable material and did not remove the need for a substantial asset to deal with residual waste. If the process of mechanical-biological treatment became more effective and less expensive it would become more widely used.

A Member enquired about the involvement of borough officers and Cabinet Members in waste reduction work. The Managing Director responded that there was a group of borough officers with whom the Authority's waste prevention team discussed issues such as confidence of deliverability and he would provide further details of this and of the reports that were prepared on what had been achieved and how this was measured.

ACTION BY: Managing Director

In response to a question regarding addressing the slight increase in plastic use during the pandemic and bringing back the focus on low plastic zones, the Managing Director remarked that there was a likelihood of the government consulting shortly on banning some more single use plastics. The Authority was planning to get out to visit local businesses to understand the challenges they faced in reducing plastic usage, although clearly this had been more difficult to do during the pandemic.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the work delivered in quarter 4 of 2020/21, from 1 January to 31 March 2021, and in quarters 1 and 2 of 2021/22, 1 April to 30 September 2021, be noted; and
- (ii) THAT the proposed six months of activity from 1 October 2021 to end March 2022, as set out in section 3 and Appendix B of the report, be noted.

11. CONSULTATIONS AND POLICY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED -

- (i) THAT the submission of the following Authority responses be noted:
 - a. to the government Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England and,

b. to an invitation to consider the possible implications of a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on the North London Waste Plan, the spatial strategy for waste in north London.

(iii) THAT the progress with the Environment Bill be noted.

12. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE AND REPORTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Programme Director, who updated the Authority that 19 apprenticeships has been created on the project to date. Two further candidates from Enfield had been offered apprenticeships and at least seven more apprenticeship vacancies were due to be filled on the EcoPark South contract over the next few months. 72 training placements had been completed to date and the latest cohort was currently in progress.

Members commended the work on training and apprenticeships, although a Member noted the low number of female apprentices. The Programme Director remarked that there was a good level of gender diversity at the professional services level, but this was more challenging in other roles, and the Authority was working with the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London on workshops to attract more female candidates. Consideration was also being given to how to promote female role models on the project. The local employment target was set in consultation with Enfield Council and good progress was being made. Work was ongoing with the contractors on tapping into local markets and ensuring that job adverts reached the right groups in the community. It should be borne in mind, however, that future work would be much more specialist and the target was likely, therefore, to remain challenging to deliver.

A Member remarked that the target needed to be realistic in the light of the specific circumstances and officers might wish to come back to Members with a target that was rational and achievable.

In response to a question regarding local employment, the Project Director remarked that officers had taken advice from Build Enfield on what had been achieved on other projects in the area. The targets had then been agreed in the light of that advice, but this did not mean that the catchment was limited to Enfield and the employment pool also included individuals from Waltham Forest and Haringey as well as further afield.

A Member commented that construction was a major source of employment in Haringey and the Council was looking at ways to expand those employment opportunities, so closer liaison between the Authority and Haringey in the run up to the next phase of the project would be welcome.

ACTION BY: Project Director

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) THAT the amendment to Financial Standing Orders set out in Section 7 and Appendix B of the report be agreed.

13. FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director, who confirmed that he expected to bring a report recommending the award of the contract for the construction of the new energy recovery facility to the December meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

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

There were no such items.

15. 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 7th October 2021 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 1 - Information which relates to an individual: the reason why the public interest favours withholding the information is that the release of such information could constitute or facilitate an unwarranted interference with the individual's privacy.

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.

Exempt Information Category 5 - Information in respect of which there is a claim to legal professional privilege: the reasons why the public interest favours withholding the information are that the release of such information could prejudice the safeguarding of openness in all communications between client and lawyer and the Authority's ability to ensure access to full and frank legal advice.

16. PART II MINUTES

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the private minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record; and
- (ii) THAT the private minutes of the meeting of the Programme Committee held on 2nd September be noted.

17. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the recommendations set out in the report be approved.

18. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Programme Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

19. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT PROCUREMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Programme Director.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT a decision of recommendation (a) be referred to the next meeting of the Programme Committee; and

(ii) THAT recommendation (b) be approved as set out in the report.

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

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 4.30pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END