

## **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **THURSDAY, 10TH MARCH, 2022** at 2.30 pm in Committee Room 2, Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1BD

### **MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY PRESENT**

Councillors Clyde Loakes (Chair), Peter Zinkin (Vice-Chair), Kate Anolue, Robert Chapman, Mete Coban, Dean Cohen, Isidoros Diakides, Satnam Gill, Richard Olszewski and Hass Yusuf

### **MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ABSENT**

Councillors Rowena Champion, Paul Douglas, Mike Hakata and Adam Harrison

**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 Paul Douglas, Rowena Champion, Adan Harrison and Mike Hakata.

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

Councillors Clyde Loakes and Peter Zinkin 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. They noted that they had been given dispensations from their local authorities to participate and vote on the items.

### **4. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (i) THAT the public minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record; and

- (ii) THAT the public minutes of the meeting on 16 December 2021, approved and signed by the Chair at the meeting on 10 February 2022, be amended in the following respect to correct an inaccuracy subsequently discovered:

From

“The alternative to the Energy Recovery Facility was not sending residual waste abroad or to landfill but to send reduced levels to other incinerators or quarries using electric vehicles”.

To

“The alternative to the Energy Recovery Facility was not sending residual waste abroad or to landfill but to send reduced levels to other incinerators such as Cory using electric vehicles”.

## **5. 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.

## **6. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **7. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)**

There were no deputation requests.

## **8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

Consideration was given to the report of the Financial Adviser.

### **RESOLVED –**

THAT the Authority:

- (i) Accepted Public Sector Audit Appointments' (PSAA) invitation to 'opt in' to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years by PSAA commencing 1 April 2018;
- (ii) Waived the requirement under Contract Standing Order (CSO) for three quotations to be sought due to the nature of the services being such that a departure from the CSO is justifiable and in the Authority's overall interest as detailed in sections 2.6 and 3.3 of this report; and
- (iii) Agreed to delegate authority to the Financial Adviser to respond to the invitation and take the necessary steps to finalise the appointment itself following the PSAA procurement process.

## **9. ANNUAL RISK REVIEW**

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

In response to questions about risks relating to the international situation, the Managing Director reported that officers had reviewed with Taylor Woodrow and Acciona if there were any immediate implications following the invasion of Ukraine. The analysis indicated that there were no immediate impacts and Acciona was not exposed as a company by sanctions on Russia. It was more difficult to give longer-term assurance over the impact from wider international disruption or disruption to the economy.

### **RESOLVED –**

THAT the Authority noted the update.

## **10. STANDING ORDERS REVIEW AND UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

Members queried the need for changes to the provisions relating to deputations. The Head of Legal and Governance highlighted recent meetings with a high number of deputation requests. The Authority had been able to manage the deputations received but there was an assessment on each occasion of the time that would be taken and what a sensible process would be. The proposed amendments to the Standing Orders sought to make the provisions clearer for the public and the Authority. This would ensure that the deputation process was fair and easy to understand.

There was a discussion regarding the provision enabling the Chair to refuse a deputation request if it was considered that the person was not affected by the matter they wished to raise. Officers clarified that the provision was not new and did not affect deputation requests from people residing within the area of the constituent councils. Members were also assured that no deputation requests had been turned down and the expectation was that they would not be. It was not a proposed change of practice but provided clarity over process.

It was agreed that paragraph A.17.2(a) be amended to make it explicit that the only room for discretion in accepting deputation requests would be from those outside the area of the constituent councils who were not affected by the matter they wished to raise.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the Authority agreed the amended Standing Orders set out in Appendix A, subject to the amendment of paragraph A.17.2(a) from:

“A.17.2 The Chair may refuse a deputation request if he or she considers:

- (a) That the person or deputation is not so affected by such matter”

To:

“A.17.2 The Chair may refuse a deputation request if he or she considers:

- (a) That, in the case of deputations received from people residing outside the area of the constituent Councils, the person or deputation is not so affected by such matter”

**11. SERVICES UPDATE**

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

The Chair commended the high numbers of mattresses being recycled.

In response to questions about the international situation, officers confirmed that the forecast price for recyclates in 2022/23 remained the same. There was some evidence that prices had started to settle.

Officers informed Members that the booking system for Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs) was working well. As a result of the system, during Storm Eunice it was possible to contact residents and advise them of closures. It also enabled the Authority to better control and plan the work of the RRCs.

Concern was expressed that there were fewer people visiting RRCs. Officers confirmed that there was a surplus of appointments available during the week and options were also available for those who could not book appointments on the internet. It was unclear why visitor numbers were down. The Chair requested that a root and branch review of the booking system be undertaken with a report back later in the year.

**ACTION: Head of Strategy and Services**

In response to questions about the destination of cardboard and mixed papers, officers explained that they had been working with Biffa to reduce the transport of

waste to the Far East. There was now no treating of mixed paper in the Far East and only a small proportion of cardboard. The Authority had lobbied Government, with others in the waste sector, to support the growth of paper manufacturing in the UK, which would increase UK destinations for local authority recycle. Plastics were now 100% treated within the UK. Biffa had built a facility to process plastics. As economies of scale for plastics and paper were different, NLWA tonnages could influence the growth of processing capacity in plastics but not in paper.

The Chair noted that discussions were ongoing about community liaison activities on recycling.

In response to questions about Biffa being fined for exporting banned waste to Indonesia, the Chair assured Members that meetings with Biffa had taken place when the exports had been uncovered in 2019. The company had been taken to task for the issue and officers continued to address it in contract discussions.

Officers explained that approximately 50,000 tonnes of residual waste was sent to a facility in Kent for processing. Due to the ongoing work at the EcoPark, there would be decreased capacity at the Energy from Waste plant and increased tonnages would be sent to other facilities within the UK.

**RESOLVED –**

- (i) THAT the operational update provided since the last report to the Authority on 16 December 2021 at sections 2 to 4 was noted; and
- (ii) THAT the recycling update set out at sections 5 and 6 was noted.

**12. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE AND REPORTS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Programme Director.

In response to questions about the diversity of apprentices, officers confirmed that there was periodically a more detailed report on social value to Members. The equality and diversity objectives did inform engagement on social value activities. It was noted that, while women continued to be under-represented for training and apprenticeship placements, there was more promising representation from Black and minoritised ethnic groups.

Officers considered that it was too early make an assessment as to whether the invasion of Ukraine would impact on the forecast completion of Energy Recovery Facility in 2025. While Acciona was not exposed by Russian sanctions or the situation in Ukraine, there could be impacts from implications for the European workforce and on global supply chains.

Members noted that the consultation on use of EcoPark House had taken place eight years previously. While the proposed uses were worthy, it was not clear if, apart from provision of space for the Sea Cadets, they had to be carried out at EcoPark House.

It would be helpful to consider what the best use of the facility would be later in the year.

**ACTION: Managing Director**

Members were assured that the Programme Committee scrutinised Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) performance in detail. HSW was a priority on the project and reporting was transparent. There was a good safety record and near misses were investigated for any learning. There were HSW working groups with contractors on the project and visible reminders of safety measures. The Chair noted the complexity on site with many different contractors.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the Authority noted the contents of the report and commented on the commentary relating to the use of EcoPark House, as summarised above.

**13. FORWARD PLAN**

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

In response to questions about the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts, officers confirmed that the external auditor was in the middle of the audit. At a meeting the previous day with the audit partner, no concerns were raised. It was unlikely that audit would be completed in time to allow a meeting of the Audit Committee to go ahead in April 2022. A meeting of the Member Finance Working Group would be scheduled once reappointed at the Authority AGM in June 2022. The deadline for the Accounts to be approved had been missed in November 2021 but there was no sanction for this. Many authorities across local government were in the same situation. The accounts had been submitted to the external auditor by the deadline of July 2021.

A Member suggested that Audit Committee should hold more regular meetings to consider issues such as asset management and governance, rather than just meeting to approve the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement. Officers highlighted that issues were discussed in Working Groups, allowing for wide-ranging conversations. Other Members considered that meetings should not be held for the sake of holding meetings and it was noted that sitting on the Authority was already a huge commitment. It was suggested that it would be for the new membership of the Authority to consider its workload.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the Authority noted the contents of the report.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

As the last meeting of the Authority prior to local government elections, the Chair thanked Members for their time and commitment and officers for their support.

The Chair paid tribute to the dedication, diligence and support of Ursula Taylor, Head of Legal and Governance, who was retiring from the Authority after many years of service.

**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 10th March 2022 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 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.

**16. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the private minutes of the Authority meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February be approved and signed as a correct record.

**17. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Programme Director.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the cost and commercial status summary was noted.

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

There were no exempt items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm.

**CHAIR**

**Contact Officer: Cheryl Hardman**

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**MINUTES END**