

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **THURSDAY, 27TH APRIL, 2023** at 3.00 pm in The Council Chamber, Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1BD

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY PRESENT

Councillors Clyde Loakes (Chair), Rowena Champion (Vice-Chair), Kate Anolue, Geof Cooke, Isidoros Diakides, Paul Douglas, Nelly Gyosheva, Adam Harrison, Richard Olszewski and Diarmaid Ward

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ABSENT

Councillors Mete Coban, Robert Chapman, Mike Hakata and Alan Schneiderman

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 meeting procedures set out on the agenda be agreed.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robert Chapman, Mete Coban, Alan Schneiderman 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 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 a dispensation from their local authorities to participate and vote on the items.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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 were seated in the Council Chamber 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 was no notification of urgent business.

7. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

There were no deputations.

8. SERVICES UPDATE

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

In response to a question, officers confirmed that the trial for receipt of hard plastics had proven a success, with 12.5 tonnes now collected and processed for recycling. A breakdown of acceptable materials and how they are used could be provided to Members.

ACTION BY: Head of Strategy and Services

There was an ambition to expand the range of materials processed. Conversation were being held with health care providers to recycle health care equipment. More traditional materials such as carpets were also being investigated.

The hard plastics coming into Hornsey Street Reuse and Recycling Centre were of good quality. This finding would support the Authority to achieve a competitive price for the material when the service was mainstreamed. A report on the expansion of the hard plastics scheme would be brought to a future meeting.

ACTION BY: Head of Strategy and Services

Following a query about recycling data for Enfield, officers explained that prior to April 2023 London Borough of Enfield operated separate arrangements from the Authority's contract with Biffa to manage the treatment of recyclable materials. In

February 2023, the Authority considered a report proposing that recyclable materials from Enfield be incorporated into the Authority's contract. This had now been implemented. Recycling data from Enfield would be incorporated into future reports.

RESOLVED –

THAT the operational, performance and recycling updates were noted.

9. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE AND REPORTS

Consideration was given to the report of the Programme Director.

The Women into Construction (WiC) training programme was commended for its contribution to increasing the proportion of women in the industry. Women in the first tranche were from Barnet, Camden, Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest. WiC were aware of the need to include women from all seven constituent boroughs in future cohorts. The Programme Director had met with the trainees who were enthusiastic and impressed with the quality of the placements. The Chair stressed the need for a pipeline from the training programme into construction jobs within the seven boroughs.

In response to comments about the need for a supportive culture where unwelcome behaviours were challenged, the Programme Director agreed that both safety and culture were in focus so that women would want to stay in the construction industry. This required role models for women from existing networks within the project and partner organisations so that trainees could see a clear career path. It also required attention on cultures of banter and other undesirable male behaviours.

The Chair expressed the Authority's thanks to the Programme Director, project team and contractors for their work in supporting women into the construction industry.

In response to a question about monitoring of particulates in relation to construction, the Programme Director confirmed that the construction site did take measures to protect its workforce. A further response would be provided about the independent verification of monitoring data.

ACTION: Programme Director

It was explained that the omission of women from Enfield in the first cohort of the WiC training programme was a result of processes of candidate selections from an initial pool of 130 local women, reduced to 28 who attended the open day and then a matching exercise of strengths and aspirations with the 15 placements available. The Chair highlighted that no apprentices were from Camden and Islington and that within the wider social value dashboard the opportunities balanced out.

With regard to awareness of the construction industry within schools, Members were advised that engagement with schools was a significant part of the Social Value programme. Female students had been targeted via engagement with girls' schools.

A Member highlighted uncertainties such as inflation and complications within the programme. The Programme Director noted that the North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP) was a complex programme and the coordination of activities to construct a major facility on an operational site was a major challenge. It had been successfully managed by the client team. The figures and forecasts took full account of the complexities. Acciona was forecasting that take-over into service would be as planned and this had been verified by the NLHPP. Within that overall time period there may be changes to the pathway of the programme. Uncertainty was in the nature of the construction industry. Within the budget baseline, a prudent cost-risk allowance was included and accepted by Members. This was benchmarked against experience within the industry. Risk exposure on the NLHPP had diminished due to progress. The NLHPP was still forecasting that it would meet its cost and programme objectives while having a proportionate risk contingency budget available to it. Change was being managed very carefully.

The Chair highlighted the impact of the mini-budget of the then Government in September 2022 and other economic pressures on major infrastructure projects, including HS2.

The Programme Director assured the Authority that the NLHPP was aiming for takeover of the Resource Recovery Facility in July 2023. However, the testing of 42 mechanical and electrical systems did contain uncertainty as problems could be identified and adjustments required. However, any potential change would be matters of weeks and was not open-ended.

It was confirmed that the solar array on the roof of the Resource Recovery Facility was being tested and commissioned so would be operational shortly.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report were commented on as summarised above and noted.

10. WASTE PREVENTION PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Chair commended the work to reduce residual waste.

In response to questions, officers explained that the reusable nappy subsidy was being targeted via social media at parents and prospective parents and with partners. A key message was that reusable nappies did not have to be used all time but that using them some of the time made a difference.

The Chair considered that the reusable period products project and the education offer were valuable contributions. Regular updates were requested.

Councillor Adam Harrison was thanked for his work overseeing activity.

RESOLVED –

THAT the update was commented on as summarised above and noted.

11. ANNUAL RISK REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

While it was noted that HLN022 was incorrectly coded as red, concern was expressed that promotion and assurance of health, safety and wellbeing (HSW) standards (HLN025) was still coded as a red risk following mitigations being applied. The Managing Director assured the Authority that the NLHPP had a very strong safety programme and operational contractors were monitored for implementation of HSW standards. The high risk score reflected the lack of complacency on this issue, the impossibility of completely preventing injury and the high impact of any incidents. In response, a Member explained his background in risk management and an approach that rejects the acceptability of any risk remaining at red after mitigations were implemented. The Managing Director agreed to reflect on the suggestion.

ACTION: Managing Director

RESOLVED –

THAT comments were made on the risk register as summarised above and the update noted.

12. STANDING ORDERS REVIEW AND UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the amended Standing Orders set out in Appendix A to the report were approved.

13. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

It was announced that LondonEnergy Ltd had won the RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) Gold award the previous week, for the third year in a row.

RESOLVED –

THAT LondonEnergy Ltd's performance and activities were noted.

14. FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report were noted.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

16. 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 27th April 2023 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.

17. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Programme Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the Authority noted the cost and commercial status summary.

18. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT LondonEnergy Ltd's performance and activities be noted; and
- (ii) THAT the appointment of Martha Desmond as an additional non-executive director to the LEL board be approved, to strengthen its experience of leading companies through change.

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

There were no exempt items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 4.10 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END