

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **THURSDAY, 22ND JUNE, 2023** at 2.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY PRESENT

Councillors Rowena Champion, Robert Chapman, Mete Coban, Geof Cooke, Isidoros Diakides, Paul Douglas, Elif Erbil, Clyde Loakes, Richard Olszewski, Alan Schneiderman and Diarmaid Ward

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ABSENT

Councillors Mike Hakata, Adam Harrison and Bektas Ozer

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

The meeting was opened by the Clerk to the Authority.

RESOLVED –

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

2. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillor Clyde Loakes be appointed Chair of the North London Waste Authority for the 2023/24 municipal year.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR(S) OF THE AUTHORITY FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillors Rowena Champion and Mete Coban be appointed Vice-Chairs of the North London Waste Authority for the 2023/24 municipal year.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bektas Ozer, Mike Hakata and Adam Harrison. Apologies for leaving early were received from Councillor Richard Olszewski.

5. 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 dispensations from their local authorities to participate and vote on the items. Councillor Loakes declared the same for Councillor Mete Coban in his absence.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY 2023/24

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Chair welcomed the two new Members from Enfield Council and thanked the two previous Members for their service to the Authority.

RESOLVED –

THAT the membership of the Authority for 2023/24 be noted.

8. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Managing Director informed the meeting that Councillor Mike Hakata had been appointed to the Social Value Governance Board with Acciona. Nominations to committees and working groups had not been agreed for the Enfield Members.

RESOLVED –

- i) THAT the political balance requirements as they affect the Authority for the ensuing municipal year be noted;

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- ii) THAT an Urgency Committee be established with the terms of reference as set out in section 4 of the report and membership as follows:

Councillor Geof Cooke
Councillor Mete Coban
Councillor Rowena Champion
Councillor Mike Hakata
Councillor Clyde Loakes
Councillor Richard Olszewski
Enfield vacancy

- iii) THAT an Audit Committee be established with the terms of reference as set out in section 5 of the report and membership as follows:

Councillor Geof Cooke
Councillor Robert Chapman
Councillor Paul Douglas
Councillor Isidoros Diakides
Councillor Richard Olszewski
Councillor Diarmaid Ward
Enfield vacancy

- iv) THAT the Programme Committee terms of reference be revised as set out in section 6 of the report and authority be delegated to the Managing Director to update Standing Orders;
v) THAT Programme Committee be established with the agreed terms of reference and membership as follows:

Councillor Robert Chapman
Councillor Alan Schneiderman
Councillor Mike Hakata
Councillor Clyde Loakes
Councillor Richard Olszewski
Councillor Diarmaid Ward
Enfield vacancy

- vi) THAT the Chair and Vice-Chair(s) of the Authority be appointed to the LondonEnergy Ltd Board as identified in paragraph 7 of the report;
vii) THAT a Finance Working Group be maintained as set out in paragraphs 8.4-8.5 of the report with membership as follows:

Councillor Geof Cooke
Councillor Robert Chapman
Councillor Isidoros Diakides
Councillor Paul Douglas
Councillor Richard Olszewski (Chair)
Councillor Diarmaid Ward

Enfield vacancy

- viii) THAT a Recycling Working Group be maintained as set out in paragraphs 8.6-8.7 of the report with membership as follows:

Councillor Rowena Champion
Councillor Mete Coban
Councillor Mike Hakata
Councillor Adam Harrison (Chair)
Councillor Clyde Loakes
Councillor Alan Schneiderman
Enfield vacancy

- ix) THAT it be confirmed that the Chair of the Authority will guide Officers in connection with the Authority's communication strategy and will be consulted on individual media communications of a sensitive nature; and
x) THAT the position regarding attendance at meetings be noted.

9. NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Chair welcomed the continuous development of the recycling services. It was suggested that performance of the NLWA in this area be compared to other urban areas and any further best practice identified for consideration.

ACTION: Managing Director

The significant reduction in the amount of recyclates processed overseas was commended. The behaviour ripple effect of reusable nappy vouchers, which had been recently increased to a value of £70, was also noted.

RESOLVED –

THAT the Annual Report attached in Appendix A to the report be approved.

10. ANNUAL REPORT OF DIRECTORS OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

11. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR THE AUTHORITY IN 2023/24

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the proposed dates and times for meetings during the municipal year 2023/24 and the AGM for the following year be agreed; and
- (ii) THAT the meetings of the Programme Committee during the municipal year 2023/24 be noted.

12. 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.

13. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

14. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

The Chair announced that he had agreed to hear two deputations. Consideration was given to deputations from Malcolm Stow (Stop! The Edmonton Incinerator Now! Campaign (Stein!)) and Dorothea Hackman (local resident).

In response to a disturbance in the public gallery, the Chair noted that the NLWA had an obligation under its Standing Orders and the law to complete the business before it and that while the public could participate within the rules of the Authority, they were asked to remain quiet while the business of the meeting took place.

The Chair thanked the deputees for their comments and made the following points:

- There had been correspondence with Malcolm Stow over the years on the points in his deputation. The NLWA continued to look at alternatives and developments in the industry globally to identify the best possible practices to take forward. None of the suggestions made by Stein! dealt with the sheer amount of residual waste that the NLWA had to manage each year.

- Some of the new facilities would enable more recyclates to be pulled out of the residual waste stream and the new Resource Recovery Facility at the EcoPark would be operational over the summer 2023.
- There was a recognised industry-wide challenge to address emission spikes from gas canisters. The NLWA sought to educate the public on not put gas canisters into the residual waste stream.
- There was increased recognition that reducing residual waste tonnages was a better indication of long term performance than increasing the percentage of recycling. The amount of residual waste in the seven constituent boroughs was lower than in similar areas. The best performing recycling boroughs were low density areas, with garden waste being a big contributor to the recycling rates.
- There was a challenge across the public sector to have accounts signed off by auditors who were working through a Covid backlog.
- A bin analysis was being undertaken in advance of developing a new waste strategy. This was identifying what was in the residual waste stream, including the percentage of plastics. This would potentially give reassurance on the position.
- The specification for the new facilities at the EcoPark was an exemplar, providing extremely high levels of environmental protection and following extensive engagement with experts. The emissions specification was significantly within the limits required by legislation.

15. CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Chair commented on the Corporate Peer Challenge having been a worthwhile exercise for the Authority.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the Corporate Peer Challenge Report and the action plan to take forward its recommendations be noted;
- (ii) THAT the appointment of an independent, non-voting member of the Audit Committee be agreed;
- (iii) THAT the appointment process for an Independent Member of the Audit Committee be approved; and
- (iv) THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the other members of the interview panel, to appoint an Independent Member of the Audit Committee.

16. FINANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Financial Adviser.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

17. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE AND REPORTS

Consideration was given to the report of the Programme Director.

The Chair highlighted the breadth of social value activity and reinforced the need to ensure that residents from all seven constituent boroughs benefited. The Programme Director confirmed that all boroughs would share in the opportunities. The Social Value Governance Board had been established to support this process. The 18 further apprenticeship roles identified had not yet been allocated. The Chair suggested that all Authority Members ensure that relevant services in their boroughs were considering the opportunities available.

The Chair highlighted that the second round of the community projects programme was set to be launched in July 2023. This was a challenging time for community organisations to get forms in and communications would need to be ready.

The Chair noted that this would be the final meeting for David Cullen, Programme Director, thanking him for all his work and for leaving a strong legacy in the North London Heat and Power Project.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report were noted.

18. NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY CARBON CAPTURE PROJECT: UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

In response to questions about how the procurement of carbon capture and storage (CCS) would work and be future proofed given that technology was moving on quickly, the Managing Director explained that the project was trying not to narrow down the technical solutions too much. A specific design solution may not be agreed for a number of years. The Authority's advisers were also advising and talking to other facilities. This helped the Authority to keep abreast of emerging technology and understand how other facilities were managing uncertainty. This process was a consequence of being at the leading edge of innovation.

In response to questions about whether there were similar undertakings elsewhere, the Managing Director confirmed that within the UK the government envisaged CCS being developed in clusters with facilities grouped together. This enabled efficient transport and storage of carbon. Two clusters had been announced already with funding agreed, one in the North East and one in the North West. This was the equivalent of 20 times the carbon capture possible at the Energy Recover Facility.

A Member reported on a recent trip to Copenhagen with London Councils to visit District Heat Networks. During the trip, he had visited energy from waste facilities who were approaching CCS technology on the basis that Denmark was not planning to phase out the use of energy from waste for disposing of rubbish. The visit enabled him to learn more about the challenges to be addressed. It was helpful to monitor each stage of the process and get the best technology possible. It was also noted that CCS was now built into the strategy for waste management in Denmark. Another Member commented that he believed that Denmark was reducing their incinerator capacities.

The Chair suggested that current thinking be shared with North London MPs so that it was on their radar.

ACTION: Managing Director

Concern was expressed that decisions taken today not be regretted by the Authority's successors, for example by tying them down to supporting CCS. Another Member commented that usually public sector procurement sought to minimise risks and deal with certainties. For this project, uncertainty had to be recognised and the Authority needed to be as open as possible, sharing experiences. The Chair responded that the project had arisen through horizon scanning and identification of emerging technology. The Authority was de-risking as much as possible but there would always be unknowns.

The Chair noted that the Danish had made clear that incineration would continue to be part of their solution. In the UK, further Energy Recovery Facilities had also received planning permission since the one in Edmonton. There was still significant amounts of residual waste being exported out of North London. The Authority continued to look at what other facilities were doing and testing out new ideas.

The Managing Director commented on Members' concern about waste, particularly business waste, being exported out of North London but the current Edmonton facility could not deal with all the residual municipal waste being produced. A future meeting could consider how the NLWA could interact more with business waste.

ACTION: Managing Director

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the outcome of the carbon capture project adviser procurement be noted; and
- (ii) THAT the forward plan of activities under the Strategic Assessment Stage be noted.

19. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the Company's activities in the first quarter of 2023 be noted.

20. FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

22. 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 22nd June 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.

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the Part II minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

24. 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 be noted.

25. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the comments on the Company's performance and activities be noted; and
- (ii) THAT the interim Quarter 1 report on the Company's activities and Board Minutes for January 2023 at Appendix A to the report be noted.

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

There were no exempt urgent items.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END