

# NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

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**THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023 AT 2.30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, JUDD STREET, LONDON WC1H 9JE**

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## **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

- 14. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT** (Pages 3 - 6)

Report attached:

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY 2023/24**

Report of the Managing Director

This report explains the statutory six-month rule and seeks approval of the reasons for a Member's absence from this meeting to ensure their continuity of membership.


### **Reason for Urgency**

The Chair has agreed that this report be brought to the Authority as an urgent item of business. This is

because a Member of the Authority is at risk of ceasing to be a Member unless the Authority accepts a reason for their absences at the meeting.

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ENDS**

Issued on: Thursday, 14 December 2023

<b>NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b> MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY 2023/24
<b>REPORT OF:</b> MANAGING DIRECTOR
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> AUTHORITY MEETING
<b>DATE:</b> 14 DECEMBER 2023
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT:</b>  This report explains the statutory six-month rule and seeks approval of the reasons for a Member's absence from this meeting to ensure their continuity of membership.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>  The Authority is recommended to approve the reason for absence of Councillor Alan Schneiderman from today's meeting, being unavoidable work commitments which could not be rearranged, until the 8 February 2024, the date of the next Authority meeting.
<b>SIGNED:</b>  ..... Managing Director
<b>DATE:</b> 13 December 2024

## **1. INTRODUCTION (AND REASON FOR URGENCY)**

- 1.1. Under the Local Government Act 1972, if a Councillor fails to attend a meeting of the Authority for six consecutive months, they cease to be a member of that Authority, unless the Authority accepts a reason for the failure before the six-month period expires (the 'six-month rule').
- 1.2. Councillors from NLWA's seven Constituent Boroughs are appointed at their Councils' Annual General Meetings, usually held in May each year. In accordance with the six-month rule, if they are to remain members of NLWA, they must attend one of its meetings within six months of their date of appointment, and at least once within every six months thereafter.
- 1.3. To support Members, a record of attendance is kept and Members advised when they are at risk of not attending a meeting within the required six month time frame.
- 1.4. The Chair has agreed that this report be brought to the Authority as an urgent item of business. This is because a Member of the Authority is at risk of ceasing to be a Member unless the Authority accepts a reason for their absences at the meeting.

## **2. MEMBER MEETINGS**

- 2.1. Members of the Authority contribute to its success through a range of formal meetings, either of all Authority Members or of its Committees, and informal Working Groups.
- 2.2. The Peer Review of the Authority in January noted that:

*... the authority's governance structures are robust with formal and informal structures to agree on priorities and the delivery of projects. NLWA holds five full Authority meetings a year where strategic decisions are made. These meetings are open to members of the public and available online.*

*In addition, a Programme Committee meets with similar frequency, to ensure there is regular oversight of progress and issues on the North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP). There is also an Audit Committee. Meetings of the committees are also held in public and streamed online.*

*The frequency and easy access to these meetings assists NLWA to manage their decisions effectively and demonstrates their aim to be open, transparent, and accountable to members, staff, and stakeholders. Both members and staff described these meetings to the peer team as well-run and productive. In addition to these public meetings, there are informal structures that sit behind the formal*

*ones, including two member working groups meeting regularly to inform and shape the Authority's work, and meetings where groups of borough and NLWA officers meet. The peer team heard from members and staff how useful these meetings are to aiding understanding of the decisions that need to be made.*

- 2.3. In the last six months NLWA scheduled its AGM on 22 June, an Authority meeting on 5 October and two meetings of its Programme Committee. The Programme Committee meeting on 7 September did not go ahead as it was inquorate, and the meeting scheduled for November 9 was cancelled given Members' difficulties in attending.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1. Councillor Schneiderman attended the Authority's AGM on 22 June but was not able to attend the Authority meeting on 5 October. On 12 December Councillor Schneiderman advised officers that due to a work commitment he would not be able to attend today's meeting. If the Authority does not approve the reason for his absence, Councillor Schneiderman will cease to be a member of the Authority on 21 December 2023.

- 3.2. Accordingly, the Authority is recommended to approve the reason for Councillor Schneiderman's absence, being unavoidable work commitments which could not be rearranged, until the 8 February 2024, the date of the next Authority meeting.

### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. There are no equalities implications.

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

- 5.1. The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments have been incorporated.

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

- 6.1. The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments have been incorporated.

**List of documents used:** None

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