

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE** held on **THURSDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2024** at 2.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT

Councillors Robert Chapman, Mike Hakata, Clyde Loakes, Richard Olszewski and Alan Schneiderman

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT

Councillors Elif Erbil and Diarmaid Ward

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 Programme Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The meeting was opened by the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillor Clyde Loakes be appointed Chair of the Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillor Mike Hakata be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the Committee were noted.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elif Erbil and Diarmaid Ward.

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

Councillors Clyde Loakes declared an interest in items on the agenda relating to LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) as he had been appointed as 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.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

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.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

8. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

There were no deputations.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the public minutes of the Programme Committee meeting held on 23rd September 2022 and the minutes of the inquorate meeting on 7th September 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

10. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE AND REPORTS

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director who provided an update on the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF).

A target completion date had been agreed with Taylor Woodrow of 22 December 2023. At the 14 December Authority meeting, officers had reported that Taylor Woodrow were behind schedule but this could be made up. On 22 December 2023,

Taylor Woodrow submitted documentation that they considered indicated that they had completed the facility by the deadline, with further tasks to be undertaken after handover where they do not affect the operational capacity and practices of the facility. The North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP) team had analysed the situation and considered that Taylor Woodrow had not completed as per the contractual requirements. Further works were required before the facility could be handed over. The list of things that needed to be complete before the site could be accepted included some fire cabling not being complete, some water pumps had leakages, and confirmatory laboratory samples were awaited to demonstrate the safety of the trade effluent system. The handover documentation was not fully complete, including as-built plans. It was clarified that a small delay to ensure the completion of contractual requirements would reduce the Authority's longer-term risk. There was testing underway of the facility with waste and the flow of vehicles. It was now expected that the facility would be operational in early February. There was daily monitoring of progress with Taylor Woodrow and completion was very close. There would be difficult conversations with Taylor Woodrow about the delay following completion and bringing the RRF into operation to determine any cost allocation.

In response to questions about borough awareness of the new RRF, the Managing Director informed the meeting that some borough vehicles had visited the site to drop off small waste amounts. There had been feedback from borough drivers that it was a good site to come to. There was also a briefing programme to speak to all operations team to raise awareness. A progress note on the briefing programme could be provided to Members.

ACTION: Managing Director

Douglas Chisholm, Interim Programme Director, commented that the NLHPP team had not been notified of supplies issues as a result of Red Sea attacks.

In response to questions about the likely handover date, the Managing Director suggested that this would be likely to take place in the first half of February. An update would be provided at the February Authority meeting.

In response to questions about the continued functioning of the existing Energy from Waste plant during construction of the new Energy Recovery Facility, the Managing Director noted that the Authority had agreed the LondonEnergy Ltd budget for 2024. This included the funding of a budget gap that was most significantly a result of the necessary maintenance and investment to keep the plant operating. The plant was currently operating at full power as electricity prices were greatest at this time of the year. Maintenance was scheduled for other times of the year. This would be monitored during the year with quarterly reports to Members. The cost of disposing of the waste elsewhere would be significant. There was currently no closure timetable. This would be developed closer to the readiness of the new energy recovery facility and handover date for operations. Members would be consulted on an orderly closure and transfer to the new facility.

The Interim Programme Director informed the meeting that market engagement had been held with UK decommissioning and demolition firms in 2023. They had been informed of the plans to remove the existing Energy from Waste plant and their views were sought on how they would go about this. There had been interesting feedback around decommissioning, demolition and ground remediation. An internal report would inform the procurement strategy. Procurement would not start until 2026.

The procurement strategy would consider the skills sets required for the next phase and opportunities to develop those skill sets in the local labour market. This was discussed during the market engagement work.

With regard to the environmental impacts of demolition, the Interim Programme Director highlighted asbestos risks. The strategy around environmental impact would be avoidance. The industry had approaches to dust suppression. There was also interest in the market regarding making better use of material from demolition.

Members affirmed that, while there was a desire to see the RRF operational, this should not happen prematurely.

In response to questions about committed costs, the Managing Director explained that these were costs that the Authority had a contractual obligation to pay but had not yet paid.

The Chair queried when EcoPark House would be handed over and operational. The interim Programme Director suggested that construction would be complete by the end of March. There would then be work with LEL on maintenance and discussion with the Sea Scouts to reoccupy from summer. The Managing Director explained that plans would be developed for bringing the Sea Scouts to EcoPark House safely prior to the site being fully open to the public.

RESOLVED –

THAT the content of the report be noted.

11. DELIVERING SOCIAL VALUE IN THE COMMUNITY

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director, who briefed the Committee on the meeting of the Social Value Governance Board that week. An update had been provided from Acciona on their plans for employing local and UK people. There was concern from Acciona about national skills shortages in specific areas. Councillor Hakata had suggested that recruitment should be attuned to the communities in north London; following an exploration of existing skills, qualifications and experience with a focus on skills development where this was a shortage. Dialogue on this would continue. There had also been reporting about major schemes across north London, which were also adding social value by recruiting apprentices. It was intended to work in cooperation to develop a range of options for

young people. The Chair noted the importance assigned to achieving a skills legacy from the project.

The Managing Director noted that the 10% target for local contractor spend was ambitious but achievable given that a lot of specialist equipment needed to be sourced from around the world. Acciona was launching a Meet the Buyer programme to share the workplan with local businesses with the aim of spending money on services locally.

The Chair commended Douglas Chisholm, Interim Programme Director, for working with apprentices to bring the project alive.

RESOLVED –

THAT the content of the report be noted.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - ACCESS TO INFORMATION

RESOLVED –

THAT the press and public be excluded from the proceedings of the Programme Committee on 18th January 2024 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.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the private minutes of the Programme Committee meeting held on 23rd September 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

There were no exempt items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 3.15 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END