

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **THURSDAY, 24TH APRIL, 2025** at 2.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY PRESENT

Councillors Clyde Loakes (Chair), Rowena Champion (Vice-Chair), Mike Hakata (Vice-Chair), Sinan Boztas, Dana Carlin, Robert Chapman, Paul Douglas, Elif Erbil, Arjun Mittra, Richard Olszewski, Alan Schneiderman, Diarmaid Ward and Sarah Young

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ABSENT

Councillor 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. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Adam Harrison and apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Paul Douglas and Elif Erbil.

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

Councillors Clyde Loakes, Rowena Champion and Mike Hakata 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.

Councillors Mike Hakata and Dana Carlin declared an interest in Item 8: *Approach to Digital, Data and Technology* and Item 11: *Asset Planning & Asset Management Strategy Summary Update* due to being Haringey Members and would withdraw during those items. Councillors Arjun Mittra and Alan Schneiderman declared an interest in Item 11: *Asset Planning & Asset Management Strategy Summary Update* due to being Barnet Members and would withdraw for that item.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record; and
- (ii) THAT the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 13th February 2025 be noted.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Webcasting of the meeting

The Chair announced that the meeting was being broadcast live by Camden Council to the Internet and a recording would be made available after the meeting. Those who were addressing the meeting were deemed to be consenting to having their contributions recorded and broadcast.

Order of the agenda

Due to the Members for Haringey withdrawing for both Items 8 and 11, the Chair had agreed a revised order to the agenda to aid in the management of the meeting, bringing Item 11 forward to follow Item 8.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

6. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

There were no deputation requests.

7. SERVICES UPDATE

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

Authority members commended the report and the work detailed on waste reduction, pushing the boundaries on recycling and reuse, and the work with third sector partners.

In response to a suggestion, it was agreed to bring a report to a future meeting on the collection of commercial waste and whether the NLWA could facilitate this. It was also agreed to bring a report detailing which specialist recycling services were available at each Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC), what restrictions were

preventing services being provided and what scope there was to mitigate these constraints.

ACTION: Head of Strategy and Services

It was agreed to arrange a tour of the Biffa site for Authority members.

ACTION: Head of Strategy and Services

In response to a question about variation in tonnages at RRCs, it was noted that there were many reasons for this including that the RRCs had varied offerings, behaviour changes by the public resulted in RRCs being used in different ways, and borough services differed. There was likely to be some use from residents outside the area, especially where RRCs were close to the boundary.

Members queried the proposal by Biffa that it could achieve 100% of paper being recycled within the UK and its subsequent suggestion that this would not be possible. Officers confirmed that paper recycling was a complex issue. There was increased volatility in the UK paper recycling market. There had been an element of Biffa having wanted to impress during contractual discussions but recognising market volatility.

There was support expressed for The Bike Project. Officers noted that it was important not to overwhelm the project with the number of donations.

It was confirmed that aluminium was one of the most lucrative materials received by the Authority. It was included in recycling collections and processed but pre-sorting black bag waste to extract aluminium was difficult. A paper on pre-sorting options could be brought to a future meeting.

ACTION: Head of Strategy and Services

There was a large aluminium campaign underway, but more could be done in this area.

Thanks were given to officers across NLWA, LondonEnergy Limited and Islington for making the drop-off point at Hornsey Street RRC accessible, given the site's constraints.

It was noted that there was still a significant amount of cardboard coming through despite the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations. As part of the Authority's public affairs work, it was campaigning for improved facilities to process fibre, an economic environment that encourages cardboard to be treated in the UK and the removal of composite materials.

RESOLVED –

THAT the operational, performance and recycling updates provided be noted.

8. APPROACH TO DIGITAL, DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

Councillors Mike Hakata and Dana Carlin declared an interest and withdrew for the duration of the item.

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Corporate Services.

It was clarified that it was part of the agreement with Haringey Council policy a one-year notice be served for termination of provision of managed IT services. However, officers would seek to move faster where possible. It was important to ensure resilience in having business continuity for NLWA's Corporate IT operations when transitioning the offering from Haringey to London Energy, so the speed of delivery must be balanced with business continuity of the service.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the Authority agreed to serve a one-year notice on Haringey Council to terminate their agreement for provision of managed IT services and work with the council to migrate its systems and data in 2025/26 or another timeframe agreed with the council;
- (ii) THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services to award and manage a contract for managed IT services with LondonEnergy Ltd at an estimated total cost of £275,000 a year (subject to inflation) for an initial contract term of three years with two possible extensions of one year each;
- (iii) THAT the estimated migration costs of £300,000, which have been included in the budget for 2025/26, be noted; and
- (iv) THAT the updates on the Authority's digital initiatives in this report be noted.

9. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT

Consideration was given to the report of the Programme Director.

Members commended the work of the Health and Safety officer on site at the Energy Recovery Facility during the site visit, noting the zero-accident rate over the last 12 months.

In response to questions about Acciona's participation in the audit of the project, it was explained that Acciona did not believe they were contractually required to provide further information. The Authority had taken Acciona to adjudication and there were indications that they were now prepared to cooperate.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

10. ANNUAL RISK REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Corporate Services.

It was confirmed that records were kept of mandatory training provided by Camden Council and completed by Authority staff. There were also records of compulsory on-site activity.

In response to comments about the impressive work by LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) in recent years to engage staff in de-risking and the strong relationship with the Authority, officers agreed that relationships had strengthened, there were better systems in place, and LEL had good governance arrangements. Going forward, relationships must be maintained between key individuals, with openness about any challenges being a by-product of those relationships.

The Director of Corporate Services clarified that the Authority operated a range of assets, including Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs). It was important to have leases in place in case of any issues and liabilities arising, and there were new accounting regulations to consider. The Managing Director explained that operating sites without a lease in place was acceptable in the short term and had not been urgent to address but did now need to be dealt with.

Concern was expressed that cyber security was not included in the Risk Register. Officers explained that it was a high-level risk register but that cyber security was taken very seriously. Haringey Council currently provided IT services and, with it being migrated to LEL, there would be a risk transference. Preventative measures were in place within the NLWA, including test emails and training. Jim Kendall, Managing Director of LEL, agreed cyber security was very important. The company's IT system was accredited to Cyber Essential Plus standard and LEL worked with third parties who provided IT security. LEL's insurers also look at how it mitigates cyber security risk. The Managing Director was confident that cyber security was being managed appropriately.

RESOLVED –

THAT the update be noted.

11. ASSET PLANNING & ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY SUMMARY UPDATE

Councillors Mike Hakata, Dana Carlin, Arjun Mittra and Alan Schneiderman declared an interest and withdrew for the duration of the item.

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

In response to a question about how the dual designation of Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and Employment Land would be balanced, officers explained

that this would be looked at as part of the work to create an Area Plan for the Authority's land at Pinkham Way.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the proposed outline plan to create an Area Plan for the Authority's unutilised land at Pinkham Way (in the London Borough of Haringey) be agreed; and
- (ii) THAT the substantial progress made with the implementation of the Authority's asset management approach and next steps be noted.

12. WASTE PREVENTION PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Strategic Communications.

In response to questions about how the impact of work could be measured against waste tonnages, it was noted that translating behaviour change work to tonnages was very difficult. Visiting numbers to Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs) could be correlated with increased tonnages but it was more challenging to measure the impact of the reusable nappy subsidy and reusable period products campaign on waste levels. Members challenged officers to develop further interim measures to understand the impact of behaviour change activities. Officers informed the meeting that there was an evaluation of the reusable nappy subsidy being conducted, following up with parents and carers on whether they continued to use reusable nappies. A system mapping activity was also about to be undertaken exploring the entire system of absorbent hygiene products, from production to disposal to understand when and how interventions could be made and who was best placed to do this.

Work with borough councils to communicate about use of recycling services was ongoing. Communications specifically on aluminium recycling would be explored.

ACTION: Head of Strategic Communications

Councillor Arjun Mittra declared an interest as a member of the City of London's Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee. Councillor Mittra noted that recycling rates in parks were very low and there were periods with high levels of waste. It was asked whether there was scope to work with the big parks to increase recycling rates. The Chair suggested that the borough councils were best placed to do this, with the NLWA facilitating the discussions.

RESOLVED –

THAT the update be noted.

13. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Managing Director noted that aluminium placed in the recycling waste stream could be sent straight to treatment. If it was included in the residual waste stream and fed into the Energy from Waste facility it would be collected in the bottom ash, so the material and its value was not lost to the Authority. However, it was preferable that aluminium be placed directly into the recycling process.

RESOLVED –

THAT the comments on the Company's performance and activities in the January/February 2025 Report be noted.

14. FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Chair noted that it was the last meeting for some members of the Authority. Councillors Richard Olszewski and Diarmaid Ward were thanked for their support over a number of years and wished well for the future. Councillor Olszewski remarked on having enjoyed the experience and gave appreciation to the leadership of the Authority and the officer team.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 3.45 pm.

CHAIR

Contact Officer: Cheryl Hardman

Telephone No: 020 7974 1619

E-Mail: cheryl.hardman@camden.gov.uk

MINUTES END