

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** held on **THURSDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY, 2025** at 3.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT

Councillors Richard Olszewski (Chair), Diarmaid Ward (Vice-Chair), Sinan Boztas, Dana Carlin, Robert Chapman and Arjun Mittra

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT

Councillor Paul Douglas (substituted by Councillor Clyde Loakes)

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor 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 Audit and Governance Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Douglas. Councillor Clyde Loakes substituted for Councillor Douglas.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBER OF ANY PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

3. 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 had asked to address the meeting, whether seated in the 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.

Supplementary Agenda

The Chair noted that a supplementary paper had been published and tabled. It would be introduced for consideration at Item 7 on the agenda.

4. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

There were no deputation requests.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

6. NOTIFICATIONS OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

7. 2023/24 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Consideration was given to the report and supplementary report of the Financial Adviser.

The Authority's auditors gave an oral update on the issuance of a disclaimed audit opinion on the 2023/24 accounts due to the short time limit before the backstop deadline. This issue affected many authorities. It was clarified that, while an opinion was being issued, no assurance was given on the accounts. It was noted that the accounts could not be signed until the end of the inspection period and if any eligible objections were to be received the deadline would be missed.

The Chair stressed that the backlog deadline had been imposed by statute and highlighted that the Financial Reporting Council had stated that local authorities should not be adversely judged for the issuance of a disclaimed opinion.

In response to a question about delays to signing the accounts, it was clarified that any objections had to be eligible. Delays due to an eligible objection would depend on the grounds on which any such objection might be made and when the correspondence was received. Timetables for publishing accounts and conducting audits would return to normal in future years. There would be a staged progress from a disclaimed to clean opinion over the next few years.

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The Director of Corporate Services commented that the Authority would have more fixed assets over the course of the year which would introduce further complexity.

Conrad Hall, Independent Member, noted that officers had reported confidence in producing the 2024/25 accounts and the external auditors had confirmed that they anticipated being able to conclude the 2024/25 audit by the required deadlines.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the draft Audit Completion Report be noted;
- (ii) THAT any oral update from the Authority's auditors be received;
- (iii) THAT the Director of Corporate Services be authorised to sign the 2023/24 letter of management representation as drafted at the end of Appendix A;
- (iv) THAT the Authority's 2023/24 Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement in Appendix B of the original paper amended with the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements in this supplementary paper be approved, and the Audit and Governance Committee Chair and Clerk be authorised to sign these documents once the public inspection period is complete.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END