

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **THURSDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 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), Camron Aref-Adib, Sinan Boztas, Dana Carlin, Paul Douglas, Elif Erbil, Adam Harrison, Arjun Mittra, Alan Schneiderman, Flora Williamson and Sarah Young

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ABSENT

Councillors Robert Chapman

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 Robert Chapman. Councillor Elif Erbil gave apologies for lateness.

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.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the public minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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.

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 deputations.

7. STRATEGY AND POLICY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Managing Director highlighted that the Authority had won two national awards since the last meeting for delivery of the North London Heat and Power Project: an Asset Management Award for Corporate Organisation Transformation of the Year, jointly awarded to the Authority and LondonEnergy Ltd; and a British Construction Industry Award for Social Value Project of the Year for EcoPark House.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

8. CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND RECYCLING INITIATIVES

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

In response to a question regarding the measurement of success, Michael Clarke, Head of Strategy and Services, stated that for the recycling advisers' team, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) would include the number of contacts made. Questions asked on the doorstep would be used to inform future campaigns. Measurable targets were being explored for waste reduction and reuse, focussing on the poorest performing collection rounds. This would be a pilot phase, with interventions adjusted based on learning before rolling out into business as usual.

Regarding the performance of community group projects funded through the North London Community Fund, Joe Sheeran, Head of Strategic Communications,

explained that in the application process, groups had to outline how they would evaluate their project's success. For micro-grants, the focus was on community engagement rather than tonnage changes. For larger projects, more detailed evaluation was required, including impact on the waste stream. The repair voucher scheme had resulted in over 800 vouchers being used, allowing for tracking of numbers of repaired items and the resultant impact on the waste stream.

In response to a question about sharing learnings from successful and unsuccessful projects, the Head of Strategic Communications stated that an annual impact report was published, providing both quantitative and qualitative analysis. This was shared with Members and borough officers.

Regarding engaging diverse religious communities during festival periods, the Head of Strategic Communications confirmed that the Authority worked with borough officers on seasonal communications about waste for religious festivals, adapting London-wide materials for local communities.

In response to a question about ensuring recycling advisers and education work was culturally sensitive, the Head of Strategy and Services stated that the Authority relied on borough officers for local expertise to tailor interactions with specific groups. A working group with all boroughs was in place to develop communications.

The Chair commended the swift progress with initiatives following the finalisation of the Joint Waste Strategy, particularly around repair cafes, the Community Fund, education outreach, and Absorbent Hygiene Products, noting the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) expectation for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding to be used in this area. The Chair also commented positively on a positive interaction with doorstep recycling advisors.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT it be agreed initiatives be taken forward as set out in sections 2-11 of the paper to take forward goals of the Joint Waste Strategy, Towards a Low Waste north London. Progress will be reported to enable the impact of initiatives to be reviewed; and
- (ii) THAT a four-year commitment totalling £1m be approved to continue to evolve and take forward the North London Community Fund. Details are provided in section 6 of the paper.

9. APPROACH TO DIGITAL, DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

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

In response to a question about whether other waste authorities had developed similar AI-enable resident apps, the Director of Corporate Services mentioned discussions with West London regarding a similar initiative. He noted that existing apps, such as "Scrap," lacked AI capability, suggesting the Authority's app would be an evolution of existing offerings, ensuring value for money.

A Member highlighted concerns about the accuracy of AI and was pleased that risks had been considered. The importance of manual checks for analytics provided by AI was emphasised, as was the need to keep risk registers and policies updated with regard to cybersecurity. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that ethics were a key consideration, with a cautious approach to the veracity of information to avoid misleading residents. The point on cybersecurity was acknowledged.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the content of the report be noted; and
- (ii) THAT a two-year programme, with spend up to £450K to build an AI enabled mobile phone app for residents to contribute with other initiatives to improving recycling rates, be approved.

10. GOVERNANCE OF LONDONENERGY LIMITED

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

A Member expressed pleasure at the recovery of recycling performance to seasonal levels and the 100% recycling of wood for panel board manufacturing, noting it was encouraging to see genuine reuse and recycling.

A Member highlighted that there had been 22 unplanned outages, which underlined how well-run LondonEnergy Ltd was and the work done to maintain high throughput. However, it was also noted that the plant was nearing the end of its life, reinforcing the necessity of the North London Heat and Power Project.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the comments on the Company's performance and activities in the Quarter 3 2025 Report be noted;
- (ii) THAT the Board Minutes for July 2025 be noted; and
- (iii) THAT the Company's Budget for 2026 be approved.

11. FINANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Financial Adviser.

The Chair commented that some of the tonnage forecasts on the back pages were interesting.

A member of Hackney Council noted that the council's external commercial waste company had increased tonnages. A decision to wind up that company would likely lead to a fall in tonnage contributions. The Managing Director acknowledged the good communication between Hackney and the Authority regarding this change.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the review of the 2025/26 financial position be noted;
- (ii) THAT the current assessment of the budget and resource requirements for 2026/27 and the factors that could affect the level of the 2026/27 levy be noted; and
- (iii) THAT the issues that will need to be addressed in setting the budget and levy for 2026/27 at the Authority meeting on 12 February 2026 be noted.

12. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

Members expressed gratitude for the detailed briefings and analysis provided by Authority officers to elected Members and borough officers, and requested reassurance that these detailed briefings and conversations would continue. The Managing Director confirmed the team's commitment to keeping Members informed.

RESOLVED –

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

13. FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

15. 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 4th December 2025 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.

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the private minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

17. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

RESOLVED –

THAT the cost and commercial summary be noted.

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

There was no exempt urgent business.

The meeting ended at 3.10 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END