NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

At a meeting of the **NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY** held on **THURSDAY, 25TH JUNE, 2026** at 2.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY PRESENT

Councillors Camron Aref-Adib, Johann Beckford, Sarah Bentley, Jacob Cable, Rowena Champion, Madeline Church, Paul Convery, Em Dean, Gio Iozzi, Eralda Qirjo, Florence Schechter, Alan Schneiderman, James Slater and Peter Zinkin

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. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY FOR THE 2026/27 MUNICIPAL YEAR

In the absence of the previous year's Chair, the meeting was opened by Councillor Rowena Champion as the previous Vice-Chair of the Authority.

Nominations were invited for the Chair of the Authority. Councillors Jacob Cable and Rowena Champion were proposed and seconded for Chair. With 8 votes in favour of Councillor Cable and 5 votes in favour of Councillor Champion, it was:

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillor Jacob Cable be appointed Chair of the North London Waste Authority for the 2026/27 municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHAIR(S) OF THE AUTHORITY FOR THE 2026/27 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Nominations were invited for Vice-Chair(s) of the Authority. Councillors Madeline Church, Rowena Champion and Peter Zinkin were proposed and seconded for Vice-Chair. With 10 votes in favour of Councillor Zinkin, 8 votes in favour of Councillor Church and 5 votes in favour of Councillor Champion, it was:

RESOLVED –

THAT Councillors Madeline Church and Peter Zinkin be appointed Vice-Chairs of the North London Waste Authority for the 2026/27 municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

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

Councillors Rowena Champion and Peter Zinkin 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.

Councillor Zinkin noted that were there to be an item on the agenda regarding a Geron Way contract, Barnet councillors would declare an interest and withdraw from the meeting. Councillors would be advised when there were such relevant items on the agenda, as per usual practice.

5. MINUTES

A newly appointed Member commented that new Members could not attest to the accuracy of the minutes.

In response to a query about the accounting treatment of a lease highlighted in the Audit and Governance Committee minutes, it was confirmed that a report would be brought to a future meeting providing a full explanation.

ACTION: Managing Director

RESOLVED –

(i) THAT the public and minutes of the Authority meeting held on 12th February 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record; and
(ii) THAT the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 12th February 2026 be noted.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report and supplementary report of the Managing Director.

The Managing Director noted that the supplementary paper reflected a late change in the membership from Waltham Forest Council.

RESOLVED –

THAT the membership of the Authority for 2026/27, as set out in the supplementary report, be noted.

7. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

In introducing the report, Martin Capstick, Managing Director, highlighted the significant change in the Authority's composition, with multiple parties and three distinct political groups now represented. The paper proposed a shift towards involving all Members in discussions as much as possible. Committees with only a subset of Members would be discontinued and an Audit and Governance Committee established comprising all Members, requiring a different Chair from that of the Authority. Existing working groups were proposed to continue, with all Members invited to participate.

A Member suggested that for media communications, the Chair should consult with the Vice-Chairs. Anxieties regarding the removal of the Programme Committee were commented on and clarification sought on how crucial project oversight would be maintained.

The Managing Director explained that the appointment of committees with only a subset of Members meant that half of the Members were not involved in those decisions. The Programme Committee was established to provide regular project supervision but officers, in coordination with the Chair also provided regular briefings to all Members and borough officers. It was suggested that project issues should now be brought to full Authority meetings so that all Members were involved. The Authority could delegate powers to a separate committee with all Members of the Authority or alternatively review the number of Authority meetings. The need to ensure robust scrutiny was acknowledged. The Chair indicated a preference for more regular meetings if this facilitated comprehensive Member participation in programme discussions. It was also noted that the continuation of the Programme Committee in its current form was not workable due to the changes in membership. A Member argued that, as most Members were new to the Authority, all project updates should come to the main Authority meetings rather than maintaining a Programme Committee for its own sake. It was suggested that the officer proposals could be agreed and reviewed after a year. The Chair suggested that this could be included in an options paper to come back to the Authority. A returning Member clarified that the original intent of the Programme Committee was to provide dedicated time for detailed, discursive questions on complex project matters, which full Authority meetings often lacked. It was noted by a previous Programme Committee member that it had rarely met but that any options to include all Members should address ensuring there is sufficient time for robust scrutiny. The Managing Director noted that Programme Committee meetings had been held in calendars but when there were no decisions, the meetings were held as remote, informal briefings instead.

In response to a question about the proposal to abolish Urgency Committee, it was explained that the Urgency Committee could not be convened more quickly than an Extraordinary Meeting of the Authority and had not been utilised in many years. Its

composition involved a subset of Members, which would not align with the current preference for full Member involvement. The Chair expressed reservations about removing the Urgency Committee, citing current pressing issues related to contract management, project delivery, and borough relations. Another Member supported this view, suggesting its retention conveyed a different message and could influence Member behaviour. A Member noted the Urgency Committee had not met in 10 years, questioning its necessity. However, the Member strongly opposed abolishing the Programme Committee due to the critical need for scrutiny, requesting the Programme be included as a standing agenda item until a resolution was found and that a Programme Committee meeting be scheduled immediately.

Officers noted the suggestion that the Chair consult with Vice-Chairs on communications. It was considered that officers were aware of differing opinions within the Authority and that any communications would be acceptable to all Members. Any amendments to the arrangements regarding communications as agreed by Members would be followed.

Andrew Maughan, Legal Adviser, proposed an amended set of officer recommendations based on the discussions. Following a request for a reasonable adjustment, the recommendation was written and displayed in the room. Following a short period for Members to read the revised recommendations, it was:

RESOLVED –

(i) THAT an Audit and Governance Committee with the terms of reference as set out in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.5 be established and membership to consist of all Members of the Authority and Conrad Hall as an Independent Member, noting proposals for a second Independent Member, and authority be delegated to the Managing Director to make all necessary changes to Standing Orders;
(ii) THAT officers be instructed to bring a report to an Extraordinary Meeting of the Authority, to be arranged as soon as is practicable, outlining options for the operation and membership of the Urgency and Programme Committees;
(iii) THAT it be agreed to maintain the Working Groups as set out in Section 3, comprising all Members of the Authority and, on the Finance Working Group, the Independent Member of the Audit and Governance Committee;
(iv) THAT it be confirmed that the Chair of the Authority will, following consultation with the Vice-Chairs, guide Officers in connection with the Authority's communication strategy and will be consulted on individual media communications of a sensitive nature; and
(v) THAT the position regarding attendance at meetings be noted.

8. NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

Staff and officers were commended for their work. In response to enquiries about the North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP) delays with Acciona, the nature of the memorandum of understanding versus the legal contract, and the financial

consequences of these delays, the Managing Director explained that the contract with Acciona for the Energy Recovery Facility was a formal IChemE (Institute of Chemical Engineers) approved contract awarded in 2022, largely lump-sum, with the contractor bearing most risks. The Authority retained some risks, particularly with regard to inflation and certain labour requirements. The contractor was late in delivery, leading to disputes over compensation. The Memorandum of Understanding was a process for discussion during the dispute, not the contract itself.

A Member asked questions about Project 60, with the existing Energy from Waste facility needing to remain open until 2030, requesting details on additional capital and revenue costs and how these would be apportioned among the seven boroughs. The Managing Director explained that Project 60 addressed the need for the existing facility to operate longer due to delays in delivering the new facility. LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) was assessing maintenance and operational requirements to ensure service continuity. Increased costs were anticipated, and LEL's proposals would be presented to Members in the autumn. Costs were primarily met by NLWA, via borough levies, and electricity income. It was noted that the current costs were comparatively low, with very low levy costs to boroughs because the existing facility had no financing attached, and the NLWA owned LEL, encouraging it not to make a profit but to charge low gate fees to the Authority. The Chair suggested that future annual reports should include more detailed information on such critical projects and operational matters to pre-empt anxiety.

In response to a question of whether a £7 million budget transfer to LondonEnergy Ltd was specifically for Project 60, the Managing Director suggested this detailed funding query, relating to a 2024 funding gap, would be better addressed in a separate briefing.

Another Member requested access to and further information on the independent audit mentioned in the report. The Managing Director explained that an independent audit was commissioned due to delays with the Energy Recovery Facility and it was shared with previous Members. The audit report could be shared with new Members. A comprehensive information-sharing process would be planned. It was requested that the independent audit be presented and walked through, rather than just provided as an attachment.

ACTION: Managing Director

The Managing Director confirmed that the independent audit was private due to the contractual relationship with Acciona, who had not granted permission for disclosure. The Chair expressed a preference for Members to receive more information rather than less, allowing them to filter what was relevant.

It was noted that some discussions were moving beyond the scope of the Annual Report and suggested that detailed audits would typically be handled by the Audit and Governance Committee. The joint waste strategy was welcomed as a significant piece of work.

A Member identified an error in the report on pages 58 and 59 of the agenda pack regarding the percentages of mixed paper and cardboard reprocessed in the Far East, requesting a correction. The Managing Director acknowledged this and another minor error regarding the name of an award.

The Managing Director confirmed that the Authority's Equality Objectives were reviewed every four years and were on the work list.

RESOLVED –

THAT the Annual Report attached in Appendix A to the report be approved, subject to minor corrections as discussed at the meeting.

9. ANNUAL REPORT OF DIRECTORS OF LONDONENERGY LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Managing Director noted that LondonEnergy Ltd's (LEL) turnover was £96.1million and there was an accounting loss of £0.6million. The income figure in the report of £95.1million in 2025 was misstated.

An Enfield Member requested a report at the October meeting on progress with the transition in operation of Barrowell Green Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) to LEL.

ACTION: Managing Director

A Member identified a misunderstanding in Appendix A, paragraph 2.2, regarding Directors attending monthly Board meetings versus attending Board meetings and receiving monthly Board reports.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

10. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR THE AUTHORITY IN 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report and supplementary report of the Managing Director, who acknowledged that the earlier discussion regarding committee structures would necessitate an Extraordinary Meeting, and potentially further adjustments to the meeting schedule.

RESOLVED –

THAT the proposed dates and times for meetings during the municipal year 2026/27 and the AGM for the following year as set out in the supplementary report be agreed.

The meeting ended at 4.06 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END