

**DRAFT MINUTES (OPEN VERSION (VERSION B)) OF THE MEETING OF THE
WESTERN RIVERSIDE WASTE AUTHORITY
HELD VIRTUALLY ON
WEDNESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2020 AT 5.30 P.M.**

NOTE: These minutes are to be read in conjunction with the agenda papers relating to the meeting on 11th November 2020.

PRESENT

- | | |
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| Hammersmith & Fulham Council | – Councillor W. Harcourt |
| Kensington and Chelsea Council | – Councillor J. Husband (Chairman)
– Councillor Palmer |
| Lambeth Council | – Councillor C. Holland
– Councillor J. Meldrum |
| Wandsworth Council | – Councillor G. Senior
– Councillor Mrs. S. Sutters |

In attendance:

- | | |
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| WRWA | Mark Broxup – General Manager
Chris Buss – Treasurer
Martin Walker – Clerk

Katherine Burston – Deputy Treasurer
Shirley Cruse – Principal Finance and
Administration Officer
Sharon Ross – Deputy General Manager
Thayyiba Shaah – Deputy Clerk |
| Hammersmith & Fulham Council | Richard Shwe – Assistant Director
Environment - Recovery |
| Kensington and Chelsea Council | Matthew Lawrence – Head of Waste and
Street Enforcement |
| Lambeth Council | Bayo Dosunmu - Strategic Director – Resident
Services (Deputy Chief Executive)
Doug Perry – Assistant Director Environment
Public Protection & Regulatory Services |

Wandsworth Council

Wale Adeyoyin – Head of Waste and Street
Cleansing
Ishbel Murray – Assistant Head of Environment
and Community Services

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Morton.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON
29th SEPTEMBER 2020**

On item 1 it was –

RESOLVED - That Version A (the closed version) of the minutes of the Authority held on 29th September 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, and that version B be confirmed as the open summary of the minutes.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD
ON 20TH OCTOBER 2020**

On item 2 it was –

RESOLVED - That Version A (the closed version) of the minutes of the Appointments Sub-Committee held on 20th October 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, and that version B be confirmed as the open summary of the minutes.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (PAPER NO. WRWA 20-25)

On item 3 (Paper No. WRWA 20-25) the Deputy General Manager introduced the report and highlighted the following:

- Education Programme – all workshops were being delivered virtually for the different curriculum based key stages. The team were ringing schools directly to encourage them to use the resources.
- Virtual adult tours of the MRF and transfer station were also being offered. The number of bookings reported on page 36 of the agenda was reported to have increased by 8.

- The proposed communications budget for the next financial year has been reduced by £5,000 due to social distancing requirements not permitting face to face engagement at the HWRC.
- Draft Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations for 2021 - the Authority's response to the consultation was set out in Appendix C. In summary, the response dealt with those areas in the consultation that were relevant to the Authority's remit; and supported the draft regulations, particularly those that related to the Ecodesign of household appliances that aims to ensure electrical products last longer by being more easily repairable and specifically designed to be recyclable thus reducing waste.
- Brexit transition – Officers have taken steps to ensure Cory is fully prepared. Cory has put in place a number of contingency options including plans for additional storage capacity, contingency outlets and options for alternative haulage arrangements. Cory are also working closely with their European outlets to ensure that they have the required paperwork in place for 1 January 2021.
- Mr. Bayo Dosunmu will take up his appointment as Clerk from 1 April 2021.

In response to questions, the Deputy General Manager advised that Members would be able to test the HWRC booking system prior to it going live. In addition, the communication plan would be in place from late December to early January. The communication plan would provide all the information residents would need to use the booking system. The Deputy General Manager confirmed that a specification of the software had been to include a cancellation facility and that, within reason, there were no plans to restrict the number of visits that could be made to the HWRC.

In relation to Brexit, the General Manager confirmed that Cory receive an income from recyclables. He added that the market had been depressed in the last two years, and that the Authority would only receive an income if the basket price of recyclables exceeded a certain threshold. The General Manager advised that under the new arrangements next year the threshold would be lower although the Authority would be paying a higher gate fee.

It was then

RESOLVED to agree:

- a) the proposed communications budget for Financial year 2021/21, as detailed in paragraphs 21 to 23;
- b) the WRWA response to the Government's draft Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations for 2021, as detailed in Appendix C to this report; and
- c) otherwise receives this report as information.

FORWARD PLAN (PAPER NO. WRWA 20-26)

On item 4 (Paper No. WRWA 20-26) the General Manager introduced the report. It was then

RESOLVED to:

1. hold the budget setting meeting and the AGM of the Authority on the following dates:

January (Budget Setting)	26/01/21
June AGM	29/06/21
2. note that whilst meetings are being held virtually, that they will start at 5.30 p.m., reverting back to the normal start time of 7.00 p.m. once meetings resume to being 'physically' held at Wandsworth Town Hall; and
3. otherwise receive this report for information.

THE BUDGET FORECAST FOR 2020/21 AND THE PROSPECTS FOR APPORTIONMENT OF WASTE DISPOSAL COSTS (AWDC) RATES AND THE LEVY ARE PROVIDED THROUGH TO 2021/22 (PAPER NO. WRWA 20-27)

On item 5 (Paper No. WRWA 20-27) the Treasurer introduced the report and advised that the Authority has a good level of reserves of £15.5 million as at the end of last year, of which the largest proportion was the 'Stabilisation' Reserve. The Treasurer advised that the proposal before the Authority was to use the stabilisation reserve to:

- reduce the pressure which could otherwise occur on Constituent Council's budgets for the next 2 to 3 years (some used this year);
- to pay off the remainder of the Authority's debt in the sum of £3 million; and
- to subsidise the general waste/black bag waste given the falling electricity prices as otherwise Constituent Councils would see a significant increase in their black bag waste costs.

The Treasurer reminded the Authority that at its June meeting the revised co-mingled rate had been agreed with Cory. The revised rate falling between the old rate (which was a special discounted rate that had been negotiated) and the contractual rate. The Treasurer added that the proposal was to phase in the rate over either 3 or 5 years as otherwise if the new rate was introduced immediately it would mean a significant increase in costs to the Constituent Councils. The impact on using reserves to phase-in the agreed co-mingled rate over other time periods would be reported to the Authority in January 2021.

The Treasurer advised that in January, he would present the Authority with the likely impact of the following scenarios:

- continuing to have to subsidise general/black bag waste if electricity prices continue to fall or remain low for the next 2 to 3 years; and
- the proposed subsidy impact on recycle rates.

The Treasurer added that he anticipated that the outcome would be a significant reduction in reserves over the next 3 to 4 years, however, he was confident that the Authority would have sufficient reserves to deal with any unforeseen circumstances.

In response to concerns raised by Members - that electricity prices would never be as high as they were in previous years; in the last three years there had been no real sign of the recycle market being restored; reserves were not an infinite pot – the Treasurer advised that the proposal to use reserves allows Constituent Councils to plan gradual increases in waste costs rather than a large increase. It also gives the Constituent Councils the opportunity to see if they can reduce their costs by reducing waste and by changing their waste collection habits, for example composters being provided to residents.

It was then

RESOLVED to receive this report as information.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED -

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and the press be excluded from the meeting whilst items 7 (The detailed 2020/21 and 2021/22 General Waste Rate and update on Savings proposals for the Authority (Paper No. WRWA 20-28)) and 8 (Waste Management Services Agreement and potential redevelopment of the Cringle Dock Transfer Station (Paper No. WRWA 20-29)) are being considered because exempt information, as described in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, is likely to be disclosed.

THE DETAILED 2020/21 AND 2021/22 GENERAL WASTE RATE AND UPDATE ON SAVINGS PROPOSALS FOR THE AUTHORITY (PAPER NO. WRWA 20-28)

On item 7, (Paper No. WRWA 20-28) the Treasurer introduced the report. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED to receive this report as information.

WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT AND POTENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CRINGLE DOCK TRANSFER STATION (PAPER NO. WRWA 20-29)

On item 8, (Paper No. WRWA 20-29) the General Manager introduced the report. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED to receive this report as information.

The meeting ended at 6.22 p.m.