

**MINUTES (VERSION B) OF THE MEETING OF
THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE WASTE AUTHORITY HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL (ROOM 123), WANDSWORTH HIGH STREET, SW18 ON
TUESDAY, 29TH JUNE, 2021 AT 7.00 P.M.**

NOTE: These minutes are to be read in conjunction with the agenda papers relating to the meeting on 29th June 2021.

PRESENT

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| Hammersmith & Fulham Council | – Councillor W. Harcourt
Councillor D. Morton |
| Kensington and Chelsea Council | – Councillor J. Husband (Chairman)
– Councillor M. Weale |
| Lambeth Council | – Councillor C. Holland
– Councillor J. Meldrum |
| Wandsworth Council | – Councillor R. Morgan
– Councillor Mrs. S. Sutters (Deputy Chairman) |

In attendance:

- | | |
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| WRWA | Mark Broxup – General Manager
Chris Buss – Treasurer
Bayo Dosunmu – Clerk

Sharon Ross – Deputy General Manager
Thayyiba Shaah – Deputy Clerk |
| Hammersmith & Fulham Council | Annie Baker - Assistant Director – Street Environmental Services |
| Lambeth Council | Doug Perry – Assistant Director Environment Public Protection & Regulatory Services |

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

In accordance with Standing Order 1(c) of the Authority's Constitution, Councillor Husband opened the meeting. After welcoming Members to the meeting, Councillor Husband then handed over the chair to Councillor Mrs Sutters.

On item 1, Councillor Mrs Sutters (having taken the Chair as Deputy Chairman in the absence of a Chairman) called for nominations to the post of Chairman. Two nominations were received.

Councillor Morgan proposed Councillor Husband, and the nomination was seconded by Councillor Weale.

Councillor Holland proposed Councillor Meldrum. In the absence of the nomination being seconded, Councillor Mrs Sutters declared Councillor Husband to have been duly elected as Chairman of the Authority.

Councillor Husband then took the Chair and called for nominations to the post of Deputy Chairman. Two nominations were received.

Councillor Weale proposed Councillor Mrs Sutters and the nomination was seconded by Councillor Morgan.

Councillor Holland then proposed Councillor Meldrum, and the nomination was seconded by Councillor Harcourt. By 5 votes to 4 (with the Chairman using his casting vote), the nomination was not supported.

The nomination of Councillor Mrs. Sutters as Deputy Chairman was then put to the vote. By 5 votes to 4 (with the Chairman using his casting vote), the nomination was supported.

The Chairman declared Councillor Mrs Sutters to have been duly elected as Deputy Chairman of the Authority.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Morgan disclosed a connection in any relevant matter insofar as he is a resident in a block in Kirtling street which overlooks Cringle Dock.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2021 AND MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON 14TH APRIL 2021

On item 2 it was –

RESOLVED - That Version A (the closed version) of the minutes of the Authority held on 26th January 2021 and 14th April 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, and that version B be confirmed as the open summary of these minutes.

MEMBERS' REPORT (PAPER NO. WRWA 21-08)

On item 3 (Paper No. WRWA 21-08) the Clerk introduced the report.

During discussion, the Chairman, Councillor Husband, congratulated Councillor Holland on her appointment as Leader of Lambeth Council; and welcomed Councillors Morgan and Weale to the Authority.

Councillor Husband wished that the Authority’s thanks to be noted to Councillors Senior and Palmer for the contributions they had made, and the length of their service, to the Authority. Both Members had decided to stand down from the Authority as of the current Municipal year. Councillor Senior had been an Authority Member for 18 years and Councillor Palmer for 7 years. Councillor Husband confirmed that he had already written to Councillor Palmer thanking him, and would also write to Councillor Senior on behalf of the Authority thanking him for his wealth of experience that he had brought to the meetings and his distinguished length of service. It was then

RESOLVED to:

- a) appoint the members, as suggested by each constituent council (as given below) to be the Authority representatives to answer questions on behalf of the Authority put by other Members of his/her Constituent Council in the course of council proceedings; and

Council	Member
Hammersmith & Fulham Council	Councillor Harcourt
Royal Borough Kensington and Chelsea Council	Councillor Husband
Lambeth Council	Councillor Holland
Wandsworth Council	Councillor Mrs. Sutters

- b) otherwise receives this report as information.

FORWARD PLAN (PAPER NO. WRWA 21-09)

On item 4 (Paper No. WRWA 21-09) the General Manager introduced the report. It was then

RESOLVED to receive this report as information.

OUTTURN POSITION FOR 2020/21 (PAPER NO. WRWA 21-10)

On item 5 (Paper No. WRWA 21-10) the Treasurer introduced the report and highlighted that the budget had overestimated the valuation of Triad payments from previous years. Despite this, the Treasurer confirmed that the Authority’s Reserve levels remained healthy. The Treasurer referred Members to paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report. The Treasurer stated that the Stabilisation Reserve of £9,575,000 could be drawn upon to ensure the stabilisation of charges for the boroughs, enabling greater flexibility in how to meet future spending pressures. The

Treasurer further added that £7,257,000 of the Stabilisation Reserve, as agreed in the 2021/22 budget, would be used to subsidise both the General Waste rate and the Co-mingled Recycling rate.

In response to questions the Treasurer advised that:

- The Triad payments are related to electricity. When the base budget is set no allowance is made for Triad payments as they are unpredictable. Income from recycling is also not included because it too is unpredictable.
- The recycling income up until the end of the last financial year was paid to the Constituent Councils. However, given that the Authority is subsidising the recycling rate, as agreed the income from recycling would be retained by the Authority to the level of the subsidy and any income above this would then be paid to the Constituent Councils.
- Although the Authority received a payment of £131,000 in April 2021 for co-mingled recycling, this sum could not be guaranteed for every month going forwards. However, officers would monitor the situation and report back with revised figures in November 2021 and in January 2022 in relation to next year's budget.
- The 'Recycle Western Riverside programme' of £50,000 could be increased, from the Recycling Initiatives Reserve, to fund particular one-off initiatives if necessary.

It was then

RESOLVED to

- a) note the outturn position for 2020/21 (Table 1); and
- b) note the continued principle of the redemption of debt from reserves as far as practicable

REVIEW OF THE AUTHORITY'S RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (PAPER NO. WRWA 21-11)

On item 6 (Paper No. WRWA 21-11) the Treasurer introduced the report. In response to how the Authority could mitigate against the negative impacts of developments on Cringle Dock and Smuggler's Way Transfer Stations, the General Manager advised that the developers were required under the conditions of the planning application granted to mitigate against any detrimental impact on the safeguarded wharfs the Authority operates; and that the Wandsworth Planning Authority would hold them to account. Day-to-day concerns include disruption to vehicular access, i.e. the dust carts having to queue to access Smuggler's Way because other trucks etc needing access to the development site. The longer-term risk to the Authority are potential complaints from residents after they have moved in. The General Manager added that it remained important for the Authority to exercise its rights, and oppose any detrimental impact whilst endeavouring to be a good neighbour.

It was then

RESOLVED to note the Risk Register set out in the Appendix to this report.

ANNUAL REPORT (PAPER NO. WRWA 21-12)

On item 7 (Paper No. WRWA 21-12) the General Manager introduced the report. In response to questions, the General Manager and Deputy General Manager advised that:

- Measuring how successful the Education Programmes are - on-line tours and talks are being delivered to adults, and secondary and primary school children. Feedback on the tours and talks is gathered via surveys, and such feedback has been positive. At present it is not possible to undertake a direct linkage to recycling and waste reduction.
- Schools have adjusted well to lockdown, participating in regular on-line tours.
- Aim to re-open open days once the social distancing rules are lifted.

Members requested the following information to be included in the Annual report:

1. The use of phrases that were up to date.
2. To state which Members had been appointed and which Members had chosen to stand down in that Municipal year.
3. To include a paragraph on fly-tipping so that it was clear to all, including the public, that the Authority does not remove or deal with general fly-tipping and/or fly-tipping that includes industrial or construction waste; and, that the responsibility for removing fly-tipping rests with the local Council.
4. Under complaints, to include an additional column for positive feedback.
5. To publicise the re-use and re-work schemes to raise awareness amongst the public, especially publicising the end product achieved through the scheme.

The Chairman was agreeable to the changes being suggested.

It was then

RESOLVED to:

- a) subject to the additional information being added as requested by Members and the final version being circulated to all Members, approve the proposed new wording for the relevant sections of the Annual Report, as depicted in the Appendix to this report, and instruct officers to produce an updated version; and
- b) approve the intended approach on Freedom of Information and Politically Restricted Posts set out in this report.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (PAPER NO. 21-13)

On item 8 (Paper No. WRWA 21-13) the Deputy General Manager introduced the report. In response to whether the Government award of £12.1 million in grants and loans to Cory would impact on the current negotiations the Authority had with Cory, the General Manager confirmed that there would be no impact. In addition, the award proved that the Government believed the project submitted by Cory to develop one of the UK's largest heat networks in the London Borough of Bexley was viable.

Councillor Morgan commented on how impressed he was with the booking system. Following a question from Councillor Harcourt, the Deputy General Manager confirmed that the booking system did capture postcodes, but given GDPR, that such information had to be carefully managed.

The Treasurer confirmed that the cost of the staff restructuring was £65,000 per year.

In response to the suggestion that the current KPIs monitored should be refreshed, the General Manager advised that a basic report had been produced for the Authority on this occasion given that, because of Covid-19, comparisons with 2020 data was potentially misleading especially given that the HWRC was closed in April and May 2020.

In relation to the redundancy policy, the Clerk advised that this was a new policy in line with current legislation. The Clerk confirmed that, as no staff members are members of a union, there had been no trade union consultation on this policy. However, any employee could bring a representative with them to discuss personnel issues.

It was then

RESOLVED to:

- a) agree the proposed questions relating to the Booking System trial as detailed in paragraph 21;
- b) agree the proposed Redundancy code attached as Appendix B;
- c) agree the new staffing structure as described in paragraphs 44 to 46 and instruct officers to commence the necessary recruitment processes; and,
- d) otherwise receive this report as information.

ITEM 9 – CARBON METRIC REPORT (PAPER NO. WRWA 21-14)

On item 9 (Paper No. WRWA 21-14) the General Manager introduced the report.

In response to whether a hybrid of option 3 (separate food waste collection to Anaerobic Digestion / In Vessel-Composting vs Status) and option 6 (low carbon transport options) was modelled, the General Manager advised that the eight options

identified for the Authority and its Constituent Councils for managing their waste differently in the future were modelled separately. The General Manager added that it was for each Constituent Council to determine which option they wished to focus on.

Councillor Meldrum questioned why, like Wales, the Authority did not recycle 65% of its waste. The General Manager advised that there was greater funding in Wales for recycling compared to England; and that he believed that Wales still included the recycling incinerator bottom ash in their figures. The General Manager clarified that the comparison in the Annual Report with Wales was simply to draw attention to the scale of the Authority's facilities.

It was then

RESOLVED to receive this report as information.

ITEM 10 – THE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSES TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS (PAPER NO. 21-15)

On item 10 (Paper No. WRWA 21-15) the General Manager introduced the report.

Councillor Meldrum disagreed with the Authority's response on page 351 of the report, and instead felt strongly that food waste should be collected separately. Councillor Meldrum stated that the Authority should be supporting the Mayor on this proposal and that Lambeth was very keen on collecting food waste. The Authority's response was contrary to the Mayor's policy. Councillor Meldrum questioned whether the waste disposal sector was opposing this or was it this Authority. Councillor Meldrum was of the view that the waste sector should keep up with the packaging innovation taking place, i.e. to recycle new forms of packaging as it arises.

Councillor Harcourt stated that food waste had just started in Hammersmith & Fulham, and was proving to be highly successful. Councillor Harcourt stressed that the Authority needed a policy on the collection and disposal of food waste.

The General Manager confirmed that the Authority was not against the principle of food waste collection, but felt that this should be a local view/choice. The General Manager also advised that currently the Authority did not have the infrastructure in place to cope with separate food waste collections. The General Manager referred the Authority to page 352. He explained because the question below stated 'must' the Authority disagreed with the statement:

*“Local authorities already collecting food waste separately **must** continue to collect this material for recycling at least weekly from the 2023/24 financial year”.*

On page 352 of the report the reason for disagreeing was qualified as stated below:

“The Authority recently commissioned a detailed study into the carbon impact of its own and its constituent councils' waste management arrangements. The current baseline operation is that food, as part of the residual waste stream, is transported

by river for energy recovery. The study, using WRATE, highlighted that separately collecting food waste to send by road to Anaerobic Digestion would generate more carbon than the current baseline operation. This disparity will increase if plans to utilise the waste heat from the existing energy recovery plant are realised. It should therefore be left to individual local authorities to decide how to manage their own waste to best address the climate emergency”.

Councillor Holland commented on the pilots that were running on estates in Lambeth, and echoed the sentiments of Councillor Meldrum and Harcourt. Councillor Holland, whilst acknowledging the lack of infrastructure in place currently, felt that the Authority needed to be more forward thinking and pro-active as to what the solution may be.

The General Manager advised that this would become clearer once the Government had set out its policy on the subject and how it was going to fund the necessary changes and in what timescales.

The General Manager advised that the responsibility of ensuring packaging can be recycled should rest with the producer of that packaging. The Extended Producer responsibility for packaging aims to do this. The General Manager added that under the Government’s proposals the packaging industry would be incentivised to design packaging that can be recycled. The Authority has always supported this concept. The Authority noted that the MRF may not be able to recycle new packaging immediately, or at all, in its current layout.

Councillor Holland considered the feedback loop suggested by Councillor Morgan to be a useful tool that the Authority should buy into – i.e. feedback loop between manufacturers, the Government and waste disposal authorities so that packaging is created that can be recycled.

The General Manager advised that officers were waiting on the Government, following the consultations, to clearly state what it is going to introduce and when. A strategy would be developed once these uncertainties have been resolved.

The Deputy Chairman, Councillor Mrs Sutters stated that this was the Authority’s response and that each Constituent Council would have its own response which may differ from that of the Authority’s.

It was then

RESOLVED to:

- a) approve the responses to the following Government consultation documents:
 - i. Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging attached at Appendix A to this report whilst noting that Councillors Harcourt, Holland and Meldrum were in disagreement with the Authority’s response on the separate collection of food waste from households for recycling, as stated on page 351 of the report;
 - ii. introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern

Ireland attached at Appendix B to this report;

- iii. consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England attached at Appendix C to this report; and

b) otherwise receive this report as information.

**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM: THE EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR 2020/21
(PAPER No. WRWA 21-17)**

On item 13 (Paper No. WRWA 21-17) the Chairman stated that as provided for under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman is of the opinion that this report should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances. The circumstances are that the Authority needs to review the Audit Plan prior to the conclusion of the 2020/21 audit.

RESOLVED to:

- (a) accept the level of materiality and misstatement outlined on page 6 of the plan; and
- (b) otherwise 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 item 12 (Waste Management Services Agreement and potential redevelopment of the Cringle Dock Transfer Station (Paper No. WRWA 21-16)) is 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.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT AND POTENTIAL
REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CRINGLE DOCK TRANSFER STATION
(PAPER NO. WRWA 21-16)**

On item 12, (Paper No. WRWA 21-16) the General Manager introduced the report Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations in paragraph 32 of the report.

The meeting ended at 8.47 p.m.

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