

**(OPEN) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE
WASTE AUTHORITY (WRWA)**

**HELD AT THE LAMBETH TOWN HALL, 1 BRIXTON HILL, SW2 1RW ON
THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

NOTE: These minutes are to be read in conjunction with the agenda papers relating to the meeting on Thursday 9 February 2023.

PRESENT:

Hammersmith and Fulham Council

Councillor Wesley Harcourt (Chair)
Councillor Sharon Holder

Lambeth Council

Councillor Rezina Chowdhury
Councillor Jackie Meldrum

Wandsworth Council

Councillor Judi Gasser
Councillor Leonie Cooper

APOLOGIES:

Kensington and Chelsea Council

Councillor Will Pascall
Councillor Johnny Thalassites

IN ATTENDANCE

Bayo Dosunmu – Clerk
Chris Buss – Treasurer
Mark Broxup – General Manager
Rachel Espinosa – Deputy General Manager
Katherine Burston – Deputy Treasurer
Wayne Chandai – Deputy Clerk
Deuvaunn Darroux – Lambeth Democratic Services

Borough Technical Officers

Doug Perry – Lambeth
Annie Baker – Hammersmith & Fulham
Matthew Lawrence – Kensington and Chelsea
Mark Allen - Wandsworth

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no interests to be declared.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:

That the open and restricted minutes of the of the meeting held on 21 September 2022 be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and that the open version be approved as a public summary.

3. AUTHORITY'S BUDGET AND LEVY FOR 2023/24 AND THE PROSPECTS FOR 2024/25 AND BEYOND

Chris Buss, Treasurer, presented the report. The following was noted:

- In September 2022, Section 151 officers in the constituent boroughs were contacted to give their views on proposed changes to the charging arrangements for household waste and recycling costs.
- One constituent council did not want a variation to the current arrangement. Due to the agreement requiring all constituent councils to approve any changes, the variation was not implemented.
- In the November 2022 forecast, Members were notified of the changes in electricity income which were beneficial to the Authority.
- The position on recycling remained the same as in the forecast presented at November 2022.
- Over the past six years, the Authority had reduced the levy by 34 per cent.
- Due to a drop in pensions, the Authority had sizeable reserves.
- The proposals in the report were presented to the Section 151 officers in the constituent boroughs, who were satisfied with the proposals.
- The overhead costs of the Authority had decreased by seven per cent.

Resolved:

- a) to approve a revised gross expenditure budget for the Authority of £48.564 million for 2022/23 (£43.742 million directly determined by direct tonnage delivered and £4.822 million paid for by the Levy) and £55.609 million for 2023/24 (£50.237 million directly determined by direct tonnage delivered and £5.372 million paid for by the Levy), as presented in the Budgets for Direct costs and Levy costs in Appendices B and C;
- b) to approve the AWDC rates to apply for 2023/24 as detailed on page 5 and note the arrangements for recharging contaminated recyclate;
- c) to approve the basis of cost recovery as set out in the report, including the residual Levy figure of £4.165 million for 2023/24 for the Treasurer to apportion and issue the levy among the constituent councils in line with the actual constituent council's council tax bases for 2023/24; and
- d) approve the Authority's proposed reserves as set out Appendix E and the use of reserves as set out in paragraph 34, which will be subject to review annually when budgets are set.

4. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL STRATEGY FOR 2023/24

Chris Buss, Treasurer, presented the report. The following was noted:

- A treasury management strategy was required to be presented to the Authority annually.
- The section of the report related to capital might be reviewed during the year dependent on decisions made on Cringle Dock.

Resolved:

- a) to adopt an Authorised Borrowing Limit and Operational Boundary for 2023/24 of £5 million;
- b) to agree to the borrowing policy outlined in paragraph 13;
- c) to agree to the MRP policy in 2022/23 and 2023/24 outlined in paragraphs 14-15;
- d) to agree to the investment policy outlined in paragraphs 16 and 17;
- e) to note the 'Prudential Indicators' contained in the Appendix to this report, including newly specified borrowing and investment policies and the capital strategy; and
- f) to otherwise receive this report as information.

5. FORWARD PLAN

Mark Broxup, General Manager presented the report. The following was noted:

- The table on page 62, should have included decisions on Cringle Dock, that would be required in June 2023.
- The report from the governance review would be ready for Members in June and some operational governance changes were being made and would report to the meeting in September 2023.

Resolved:

- a) to receive this report as information.

6. APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

Bayo Dosunmu, Clerk, presented the report. The following was noted:

- a) Mr Buss' appointment as Treasurer for WRWA was coming to an end and the paper set out the context in which the recruitment of the next Treasurer would take place.
- b) The recruitment process, duties and person specification for the role of the Treasurer was set out in the report.
- c) The recruitment for the role would be conducted via an open recruitment process.
- d) There would be a committee, consisting of members of the Authority, to formally appoint the Treasurer.
- e) It was noted that London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham would be happy to take on the Treasurer role on an interim basis.
- f) It would need to be confirmed that Wandsworth Council wished to continue to provide a background administrative service. That arrangement could be changed if so desired by the Authority.
- g) Chief officers were required to be employees of the Authority.
- h) Members questioned the remuneration of the Clerk and Treasurer and were informed that the payment for those roles were reviewed in 2020 and were in line with the other statutory joint waste disposal authorities and similar roles advertised by the civil service.

Resolved:

- a) to recruit for Mr Buss's replacement as Treasurer on an open basis;
- b) to agree to the Treasurer's remuneration, including arrangements for an honorarium if significant additional time is expended on Authority duties;
- c) to appoint one member from each constituent council to serve on the Appointments Committee with the second member from each Constituent Council acting as their alternate;
- d) to agree that the Appointment Committee's terms of reference will be to interview and appoint a candidate for the role of Treasurer and its procedural rules shall follow those of the Authority itself, except where the Authority's Chairman rules otherwise, or the Committee agrees otherwise; and
- e) to otherwise receive this report as information.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mark Broxup, General Manager, presented the report. The following was noted:

- There was a post-pandemic increase in demand from schools, however, that was just visits to Smugglers Way and not visits to schools.
- There was work ongoing to get bookings from schools for the autumn and Members noted the increased engagement.
- Nitrous oxide canisters were an ongoing problem and a plan for disposal of the canisters needed to be devised with constituent councils.
- Reference was made to the government's deposit return scheme which would be introduced in October 2025. It was pointed out that more detail was needed on some of the more detailed arrangements of the scheme.
- Members questioned whether second-hand furniture, when disposed of as waste, could be sold, and were informed that due to fire safety regulations, there were restrictions due to some of the materials that the furniture were made from. Members requested a clear definition of what the Authority considered to be textiles versus clothing, for the purposes of recycling.
- More work was needed at a London level on using social media and getting messages out about recycling.

Resolved:

- a) To agree, as set out in paragraphs 22 to 26 above, that officers focus communication efforts on Rigid Plastics, Batteries and Textiles in 2023/24, using social media only, and continue to focus attention on increasing Reuse and Recycling at the HWRC (through social media, signage and HWRC staff training);
- b) to approve the proposed communications budget of £45,000 for 2023/24 as set out in the Table at paragraph 27 above; and
- c) to otherwise receives 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 12, 13, 14 and 15 were** being considered because it was likely that exempt information as described in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act would be disclosed to them if they were present; and it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest

in maintaining exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, given the fact that these papers and the presentation deal with ongoing negotiations and procurement terms.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 2130

CHAIR

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