

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

HELD AT THE ON THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 6.30 PM

NOTE: These minutes are to be read in conjunction with the agenda papers relating to the meeting on Thursday 8 February 2024.

PRESENT

Hammersmith and Fulham Council

Councillor Wesley Harcourt

Councillor Sharon Holder

Kensington and Chelsea Council

Councillor Will Pascall

Councillor Johnny Thalassites

Lambeth Council

Councillor Rezina Chowdhury

Councillor Jackie Meldrum

Wandsworth Council

Councillor Judi Gasser

Councillor Leonie Cooper

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bayo Dosunmu – Clerk

Sukvinder Kalsi – Treasurer

Rachel Espinosa – Interim General Manager

Katherine Burston – Deputy Treasurer

Frances Devane – Assistant General Manager

Wayne Chandai – Deputy Clerk

Trevor Pugh – Interim Deputy General Manager

Michael Mousdale – Browne Jacobson

John Chandler - Shakespeare Martineau

Mo Ramzan – Deloitte

Borough Technical Officers:

Doug Perry – Lambeth

Annie Baker – Hammersmith & Fulham

Matthew Lawrence – Kensington and Chelsea*

Natasha Epstein – Wandsworth

*Joined online

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting on 22 November 2023 were discussed.

RESOLVED:

(a) To approve the open and restricted minutes of the last meeting held on 22 November 2023 as a correct record of proceedings and that the open versions be approved as a public summary.

3. BUDGET & LEVY REPORT (WRWA PAPER NO. 24-01)

The Treasurer introduced the report and highlighted key details that were contained within the report for Members:

- It was proposed that the general waste charge would be subsidised at a waste rate of £168 per tonne. The co-mingled recycling rate would be set at £32 per tonne for 2024/25 for boroughs, both would require the use of reserves to subsidise the cost. The proposed levy for 2024/5 would see a 3% increase compared to 2023/34, due to the increase in business rates.
- Members queried whether the food waste transform system would be the most cost-effective way to deal with food waste. Officers explained that the most cost-effective solution would be addressed in the business case being developed, and no decisions would be made until it had been presented to the Authority.
- Members queried if financial officers across the four boroughs held regular meetings. Officers assured members that meetings took place before the November forecast and updates before the budget was published and their feedback would be taken onboard. The minutes of those meetings would be appended to future Authority reports and members would be kept up to date informally.

RESOLVED:

- (a) To approve the revised budgets for the Authority for 2023/24 and 2024/25, 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 2024/25 as detailed on page 6 and note the arrangements for recharging contaminated recycle;
- (c) To approve the basis of cost recovery as set out in the report, including the residual Levy figure of £4.289 million for 2024/25 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 2024/25; and

- (d) To 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 REPORT (WRWA PAPER NO. 24-02)

The Treasurer gave a brief introduction to the report and highlighted the Treasury Management and Capital Strategy for 2024/25.

RESOLVED:

- a) To adopt an Authorised Borrowing Limit and Operational Boundary for 2024/25 of £5 million;
- b) To agree to the borrowing policy outlined in paragraph 12;
- c) To note the information in relation to the CCLA DIF investment in paragraphs 18-20;
- d) To agree to the MRP policy in 2023/24 and 2024/25 outlined in paragraphs 13-14;
- e) To note the 'Prudential Indicators' contained in the Appendix to this report; and
- f) To otherwise receive this report as information.

5. FORWARD PLAN (WRWA PAPER NO. 24-03)

The Interim General Manager introduced the report and noted the date of the next meeting had been agreed as 13 June 2024. Members noted the information within the forward plan document.

RESOLVED:

1. To receive the report as information.

6. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT (WRWA PAPER NO. 24-04)

The Interim General Manager introduced the report and highlighted the operational and other matters pertinent to the Authority.

- It was explained that there had been damage to equipment, following from a fire that had taken place on 9 January 2024 at Cringle Dock.
- Members queried when tours of the MRFs would restart. Officers explained that MRF tours were still taking place but were limited due to the number of staff available.
- Members highlighted that it would be important to liaise with the London Fire Brigade in regard to battery recycling. Officers agreed that this was something that they would be keen to do.
- Members raised concerns regarding the distance residents would have to travel to get to

their nearest household waste recycling centre. Officers responded that a conversation would be had with the borough technical officers on what could be done and the different avenues that could be explored.

RESOLVED:

- a) To approve that the current arrangements for receipt of DIY Waste from residents in cars continue, with officers reporting back to Members at the June Authority meeting, highlighting any increase in DIY type waste (see paragraphs 13 to 15 below);
- b) To approve the proposed communications budget of £45,000 for 2024/25 as detailed in paragraphs 18 to 21 below;
- c) To delegate authority to the Interim General Manager to draft a response to the Government's consultation on reform to the WEEE Regulations for submission in consultation with the Chair;
- d) To agree to respond to the letter from the Government on Food Waste Collection Grant funding (see paragraphs 29 to 31 below), delegating Official authority to conclude these to the Interim General Manager in consultation with the Chair; and
- e) To otherwise receive this report as information.

7. JMWMS UPDATE REPORT (WRWA PAPER NO. 24-05)

The Interim General Manager introduced the item.

- It was noted that the modelling of the collection service options was underway. Once the draft JMWM Strategy was completed the consultation materials would come to the WRWA meeting planned for June 2024.
- Members queried whether, given the level of engagement needed within the constituent council internal procedures, that it would be still possible to achieve this timeframe. Officers responded that it would be a challenge and undertook to map out the steps required and discuss separately with Members.
- Members questioned if there was modelling of the collection options for carbon impact. Officers responded that the whole system was being modelled for environmental impact.
- Members queried the figures regarding the growth of the overall household waste and whether it suggested that there would be a population growth of over 40% by 2040. Officers undertook to clarify the forecast figure.

RESOLVED

- a) To receive this report for information.

8. REPORT OF THE TREASURER ON THE AUTHORITY'S AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2022/23

The Auditors gave a brief introduction to the report and highlighted that:

- The Audit for 2022/23 was complete and no significant findings or risks that impacted on financial statements risks had been identified.
- Members queried if audits would highlight potential future risks. Officers reassured the authority that all audits assessed current and potential risks in the future.

RESOLVED:

- a) To approve the Authority's Statement of Accounts (Appendix A), and to delegate to the Treasurer any minor subsequent changes as agreed with the auditors
- b) To note the report from Deloitte relating to the Accounts for 2022/23 (Appendix B)
- c) To authorise the Treasurer to sign the Letter of Representation (Appendix C), and if there are any matters arising after the meeting, to delegate to the Treasurer authority to agree the final version of this Letter.
- d) To otherwise receive this report for information

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 remaining items are being considered because it is 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: 20:55pm

CHAIR

Date of Despatch: 15 February 2024

Contact for Enquiries: Wayne Chandai

Telephone: 0207 926 0029

E-mail: wchandai@lambeth.gov.uk

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