

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

**HELD AT THE LAMBETH TOWN HALL, 1 BRIXTON HILL, SW2 1RW ON WEDNESDAY  
4 DECEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM**

**NOTE: These minutes are to be read in conjunction with the agenda papers relating to  
the meeting on Wednesday 4 December 2024.**

**PRESENT**

<b>Hammersmith and Fulham Council</b>	<b>Councillor Wesley Harcourt Councillor Sharon Holder</b>
<b>Kensington and Chelsea Council</b>	<b>Councillor Sam Mackover Councillor Roberto Weeden-Sanz</b>
<b>Lambeth Council</b>	<b>Councillor Rezina Chowdhury Councillor Jackie Meldrum</b>
<b>Wandsworth Council</b>	<b>Councillor Judi Gasser</b>

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Wayne Chandai – Interim Clerk  
Sukvinder Kalsi - Treasurer  
Trevor Pugh– Interim Deputy General  
Manager  
Frances Devane– Assistant General  
Manager  
Alicia Attoe- Deputy Treasurer  
Rachel Espinosa – Interim General  
Manager

**Borough Technical Officers:**

Doug Perry – Lambeth  
Annie Baker – Hammersmith and Fulham  
Matthew Lawrence – Kensington and Chelsea\*  
Natasha Epstein – Wandsworth\*  
\*online

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Leonie Cooper (Wandsworth).

## **1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were none.

## **2. MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED:**

(a) To approve the open and restricted minutes of the last meeting held on 02 October 2024 as a correct record of proceedings and that the open versions be approved as a public summary.

## **3. Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy - Results of consultation 24-28**

The Interim Deputy General Manager introduced the report. It was noted that the public consultation was conducted over a six-week period, from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024. It was highlighted that the priorities and action plans in the strategy had received strong public support.

It was noted that the strategy would be updated to work towards a stretch target of recycling 38% of Local Authority Collected Waste by 2030 and a stretch target of recycling 33% of Household Waste by 2030.

Members stressed that the strategy needed to take into considerations residents that did not own a vehicle. Councillor Weeden-Sanz raised concerns that only 6.4% of respondents were from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and queried whether there was anything that could be done to get better engagement from RBKC residents.

Officers responded that significant measures were taken to engage RBKC residents and that the level of responses were similar to what other joint waste authorities had received. It was noted that the creation of new Communications Officer role would help to tackle the wider issue of public engagement.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) To note the consultation results.
- (b) To agree the proposed revision to the draft JMWMS based on the public consultation, for consideration by the Constituent Councils (CCs), with a view to a final version of the strategy being submitted to the Authority for adoption at the earliest possible Authority meeting in 2025.
- (c) To otherwise receive this report for information.

## **4. General Manager's report 24-29**

The Interim General Manager introduced the report and highlighted the operational and other matters pertinent to the Authority. It was noted that satisfaction rates had significantly improved during the HWRC User Satisfaction Survey 2024 with 99% of respondents stating they were satisfied with all elements of the centre.

The tonnage for wood waste had gone up by 11% in 2024 compared to 2023. In order to address this, if Members wished to officers could prepare a communications plan to restrict DIY deliveries to the HWRC. Trial collections for soft plastics were scheduled to begin in early 2025 and all four Borough Technical Officers had expressed an interest in being involved in the trial.

It was proposed that the current Education Programme was changed to restrict bookings for school tours to children of KS2 age or above to improve the impact of the tour and allow more capacity for adult tours. It was recommended that one of the vacant Education Officers posts be replaced with the creation of the Communications Officer post.

Members suggested that it would be useful to advertise vacant posts on the Constituency Councils job pages. Members also expressed that it would be useful to explore mobile options for those who did not have access to a vehicle.

It was noted that all Members did not wish to instruct officers to prepare a Communications Plan. Councillors Mackover and Weeden-Sanz did not agree to recommendation C.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) To instruct officers to prepare a Communications Plan, should they wish to restrict DIY deliveries to the HWRC (as detailed in paragraphs 35 to 39 below).
- (b) To approve the proposed revised Education Programme as detailed in paragraph 59 below.
- (c) To instruct officers to recruit to a dedicated Communication Officer position on a full-time basis, following production of a Job Profile and Job Evaluation in early 2025.
- (d) To otherwise receive this report as information.

### **5. Report on the Authority's Forward Plan 24-30**

The Interim General Manager introduced the report. Members noted the information within the forward plan document.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) To receive this report as information.

### **6. Financial Review 2024/25 and Draft Budget 2025/26**

The Treasurer introduced the report and highlighted that that the draft budget for 2025/26 proposed a domestic waste rate of £174 per tonne (or 3.5% increase on 2024/25) and a

recycling rate of £43.50 per tonne (or 36% increase). It also proposed to limit the levy charge to an increase of 4%.

It was noted that the draft budget proposals would require the use of £5.8m of reserves to subsidise the disposal rates and the Authority's reserves at the end of March 2024 totalled £37.1m.

Councillor Harcourt requested that the minutes of the meetings that had taken place with s155 officers be shared with Members.

It was noted that the Interim General Manager had approached all the Constituency Council's Chief Executives to set up the Cringle Dock working group but had received no response back.

Members responded that they would reach out to their Borough's Chief Executive to help get the working group set up.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) To note the financial review for 2024/25 and the forecast outturn for 2024/25 (Appendices A and B).
- (b) To note that the discussions are ongoing in relation to the proposed levy for 2025/26.
- (c) To note that the draft budget for 2025/26 will continue to be refined and the final proposals will be presented to Board in February 2025 (Appendices A and B).
- (d) To note that the reserves projections as outlined for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

### **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 20:58pm