

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

**HELD AT THE HERITAGE SUITE (20) - LAMBETH TOWN HALL, BRIXTON, LONDON,
SW2 1RW ON MONDAY 29 JULY 2024 AT 6.30 PM**

**NOTE: These minutes are to be read in conjunction with the agenda papers relating to
the meeting on Monday 29 July 2024.**

PRESENT

Hammersmith and Fulham Council	Councillor Wesley Harcourt
Kensington and Chelsea Council	Councillor Sam Mackover
	Councillor Roberto Weeden-Sanz
Lambeth Council	Councillor Rezina Chowdhury
	Councillor Jackie Meldrum
Wandsworth Council	Councillor Judi Gasser

IN ATTENDANCE:

Wayne Chandai – Interim Clerk
Sukvinder Kalsi - Treasurer
Trevor Pugh– Interim Deputy General
Manager
Frances Devane – Assistant General
Manager
Rachel Espinosa – Interim General
Manager
Katherine Burston – Deputy Treasurer
Ian Stedman – HR Advisor - Richmond
and Wandsworth Councils
Mark Twyford – Auditor at KPMG
Sarahjane Widdowson - Project Support
– JMWMS

Borough Technical Officers

Cormac Stokes – Lambeth
Natasha Epstein – Wandsworth
Pat Cosgrave – Hammersmith and
Fulham

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Sharon Holder (Hammersmith and Fulham) and Councillor Leonie Cooper (Wandsworth).

1A. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

It was moved by Councillor Harcourt, and seconded by Councillor Gasser, and, with there being no other nominations:

RESOLVED unanimously that Councillor Chowdhury be elected Chair for Western Riverside Waste Authority for 2024/25.

Councillor Chowdhury then took the Chair for the election of Deputy Chair.

It was moved by Councillor Chowdhury, seconded by Councillor Gasser, and, with there being no other nominations:

RESOLVED unanimously that Councillor Harcourt be elected Deputy Chair for Western Riverside Waste Authority for 2024/25.

1A. MEMBERS REPORT (WRWA PAPER NO. 24-20)

It was noted that confirmation of who the nominated candidate for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea was needed.

Members were reminded that they needed to complete and sign their register of interests form for 2024/25.

Members were also reminded that their Related Party Transactions forms would need to be complete at the end of the municipal year.

Resolved:

- a) agree the meeting dates set out in paragraph 3 above;
- b) appoint the members, as suggested by each constituent council, 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, as set out in paragraph 9; and
- c) otherwise receives this report as information.

1B. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

1C. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:

That the open and restricted minutes of the of the meeting held on 08 February 2024 be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and that the open version be approved as a public summary.

1. FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2023/24

The Treasurer, Sukvinder Kalsi presented the paper and noted that the overall net position was a surplus of £10.644m.

It was proposed that £1m of the reserves be distributed during 2024/25 to the Constituent Councils. Two options were proposed to members.

Option one would be a refund based on AWDC tonnage costs in 2023/24. Option two would be a refund based on the Levy underspend of £256,000 to be distributed on Levy Apportionment and the remainder to be based on the AWDC tonnage costs in 2023/24.

It was agreed by Councillors Chowdhury, Meldrum, Harcourt, and Weeden-Sanz that option one would be the preferred option.

It was noted that Councillor Gasser disagreed with the decision to refund the £1m of surpluses to the Constituent Councils.

Resolved:

- a) note the outturn position for 2023/24 (paragraphs 4 to 8 and detailed in the Table 1 below)
- b) note the reserves position at 31 March 2024 as set out in paragraph 15
- c) to agree the preferred Option for the refunds of £1m (as set out in paragraph 16)
- d) note the continued principle of the redemption of debt from reserves as far as practicable

2. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Deputy Treasurer, Katherine Burston presented the item. It was noted that one of the biggest potential risks was the additional costs incurred by the Authority during the Cringle Dock redevelopment.

Members queried when a full induction for the new RBKC members would take place.

The Interim General Manager, Rachel Espinosa confirmed that the new RBKC members had been contacted back in May to arrange an induction and that they would be contacted again to arrange a full induction and site visit.

Members suggested that changes to the register were highlighted and in red text. It was also suggested that the risk register was reviewed every six months rather than annually.

Resolved:

- a) To note the Risk Register set out in the Appendix to this report.

3. AUDIT PLAN

It was noted that KPMG was appointed as the Authority's auditors from 2023/24 to 2027/28.

The three significant risks identified were the valuation of land and buildings, the management override of controls, and the valuation of post retirement benefit obligations.

Members queried who managed the Authority's pensions. It was noted that the authority was a member of the London Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme.

Resolved:

- a) To accept the level of materiality and misstatement outlined on page 3 of the plan; and
- b) To otherwise receive this report as information

4. DRAFT JMWMS STRATEGY AND CONSULTATION SURVEY

The Interim Deputy General Manager, Trevor Pugh gave a brief overview of the report.

Members asked that an "other" category was included as an option for question 4 of the survey and that the agreed/disagree scale was rephrased to say "to what extent do you agree/disagree".

Members noted that consultation at the focus groups with residents aged between 18-35 years old was important.

Resolved:

- a) To approve the draft JMWMS;
- b) To approve the draft non-technical summary and consultation survey attached as appendices 2 and 3 and proceed to consult with the public and stakeholders using these consultation materials;
- c) To delegate responsibility to the Interim General Manager, in consultation with the Chair, to make any further minor amendments to the draft JMWMS arising from Constituent Council inputs received after this report was published and before the start of the public consultation exercise;
- d) To endorse the provisional recycling targets set out in paragraph 18 and confirm the draft vision set out in paragraph 16.
- e) To otherwise note the contents of this report.

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The Interim General Manager, Rachel Espinosa introduced the report and highlighted the following:

- The new arrangements of residents delivering DIY waste had been running smoothly.
- The objection to the Battersea Power Station planning application was withdrawn after receiving assurance by technical advisors and additional information from Battersea Power Station regarding noise and odour matters.
- A new Education Deputy Team leader and Project Coordinator had been recruited.

Members were asked if they would like a site visit to the Belvedere Energy site.

Members responded the following:

- They would like a site visit of the Belvedere Energy site.
- Councillor Meldrum queried what was being done with the recycling of plastic films.
- Councillor Mackover suggested that the data of what was arriving at the waste centre was reviewed.

The Interim General Manager, Rachel Espinosa responded the following:

- Cory had been contacted about the recycling of plastic films. An update would be provided at the next member's briefing.
- Contact with Cory would be made to look into the data of what was arriving at the waste centre to help bring down the contamination rate.

Members agreed to include the areas in bold to recommendation A. "To agree to continue with the current arrangements **with a review at the next Authority meeting in October** for the receipt of DIY waste by residents arriving in cars at the Smugglers Way HWRC".

Resolved:

- a) To agree to continue with the current arrangements with a review at the next Authority meeting in October for the receipt of DIY waste by residents arriving in cars at the Smugglers Way HWRC;
- b) To increase the scope of waste composition surveys and review the frequency in advance of the planned implementation of the Emissions Trading Scheme for Energy from Waste;
- c) To approve the draft response to the Emissions Trading Scheme consultation, which ends on 2nd August, attached as Appendix B;
- d) To review the Abandoned Vehicle Agreement with the Constituent Councils in advance of its expiry on 31st March 2025; and
- e) To otherwise receive this report as information.

6. FORWARD PLAN

The meeting dates for the next municipal year were briefly discussed.

Resolved:

- a) To confirm the Board meeting dates for 2024/25; and
- b) To otherwise receive this report as information.

7. ICC REVIEW

This item was deferred.

It was noted that Councillor Gasser did not agree to the deferral of this item.

8. SENIOR MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT

This item was deferred.

It was noted that Councillor Gasser did not agree to the deferral of this item.

9. REPORT PROVIDING AN UPDATE ON THE CLERK POSITION

The Head of HR at Richmond and Wandsworth Council, Ian Stedman presented the report. It was noted that the Bayo Dosunmu had resigned with immediate effect as the clerk of WRWA on 29 July 2024.

Some members raised concerns about Item 7 being deferred, as they felt that the organisation was unstable. Head of HR at Richmond and Wandsworth Council, Ian Stedman and the Interim Clerk, Wayne Chandai advised that there were strong management arrangements in place and the business of WRWA was being progressed without delay or uncertainty.

Members queried what the next steps and recruitment process would look like.

It was noted that the authority would look to appoint a new Clerk and that members would sit on the appointment panel.

10. PROCUREMENT OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE PROGRESS

The Interim General Manager, Rachel Espinosa provided an update. It was highlighted that an alternative site search study had taken place and that out of 65 identified sites 9 were being considered.

Members highlighted that the focus needed to be on safeguarding and retaining existing sites.

- a) To continue engagement with Thames Water and seek clarity on the potential space and layouts for a new waste transfer station at Kirtling Wharf;
- b) To investigate the suitability and cost of sites that may support the draft JMWMS strategic aims, such as reuse, repair and circular economy activities and report back to a future meeting of this Authority;
- c) To continue with constructive engagement with the market as the strategy for future services develops, to maximise market interest and to test the deliverability of options;
- d) To otherwise receive this report for information.

11. WMSA REPORT

The Interim General Manager, Rachel Espinosa provided an update. It was highlighted that:

- A strategic meeting had taken place between Cory, WRWA and the Constituent Councils with the intention for these to continue on a regular basis.
- A letter was received from Battersea Power Station regarding the 2015 planning cost agreement.
- An objection was submitted against Cory's DCO to build a Carbon Capture and Storage on the basis that there was not enough information provided on what they were seeking to do.

- a) To instruct Officers to investigate short, medium and long-term options to support the CCs implementation of Simpler Recycling as a priority;
- b) To endorse the establishment of the new strategic forum as a mechanism for supporting partnership working;
- c) To engage WSP through the Crown Commercial Services direct award procedure for technical advice (alongside the Authority's legal and financial advisers), to understand the implications of Cory's DCO and engage with Cory on WRWA's leasehold interests and any impact on the Waste Management Services Agreement (WMSA); and
- d) To otherwise receive this report for information.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 20.53pm

Date of Despatch: 1 August 2024

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