

**OPEN VERSION**  
**WESTERN RIVERSIDE WASTE AUTHORITY**

**NOTE:** These minutes are to be read in conjunction with the agenda papers relating to the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 (except for those containing exempt information).

Minutes of the meeting of the Western Riverside Waste Authority held at the Town Hall (Room 122), Wandsworth High Street, SW18 on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7pm.

**PRESENT**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Kensington and Chelsea Council</b>   | – Councillor P. Warrick (Chairman)     |
|   | – Councillor M. Palmer                 |
| <b>Hammersmith &amp; Fulham Council</b> | – Councillor W. Harcourt               |
| <b>Lambeth Council</b>                  | – Councillor M. Atkins                 |
|   | – Councillor J. Brathwaite             |
| <b>Wandsworth Council</b>               | – Councillor J. Cook (Deputy Chairman) |
|   | – Councillor G. Senior                 |

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cartwright.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**MINUTES**

On item 1 it was –

**RESOLVED** - That version A of the minutes of the Authority held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, and that version B be confirmed as the open summary of the minutes subject to the following amendment to Paper No. WRWA 819 - Senior Staff's Terms and Conditions (amendments shown emboldened).

Amendment to recommendation (d) - to add 'and reported to the Authority for information' after the word "concerned" to read:

d) authorise the Clerk and Treasurer to implement any subsequent changes to Terms and Conditions following consultation with the staff concerned **and reported to the Authority for information.**

#### **OPERATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY. (PAPER NO. WRWA 823).**

The Deputy General Manager introduced the report and advised that Cory's consultant, Fichtner, has completed the specification report for the reinstatement works to the MRF; and that Cory has selected an engineering consultant to oversee the reinstatement works and act as Principal Designer and Principal Contractor. The actual reinstatement works have started (23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017) and it is hoped that there will not be a need to close the MRF during the works which should be completed by Easter.

The Deputy General Manager advised the Authority that on 29th November 2016, between 20:30 and 21:00, a Carbon Monoxide exceedance had taken place at the Riverside Resource Recovery Limited's Energy from Waste facility located in Belvedere. These levels returned to normal within 30 minutes of the incident. The General Manager added that this was most probably due to a gas canister. The General Manager agreed to provide the Authority with emission data from the Riverside Resource Recovery facility. It was noted that the Environment Agency were satisfied that the contractor was doing all it could to educate the public not to dispose of canisters with their rubbish.

[Post meeting note: RRRRL emissions report for November 2016 has been circulated to Authority Members. Emissions data for each month can be found at <http://www.coryenergy.com/about-us/emissions/> and all instances of when allowable limits have been exceeded have been reported to the Authority.]

The Authority noted that an excessive amount of clinical waste was making its way in to the MRF resulting in a high number of needle-stick injuries to MRF employees. In an effort to introduce more control to stop this problem, officers discussed the possibility of exploring the operation of a joint clinical waste collection service across the four boroughs which could include a proactive communications campaign and an information helpline. Technical officers have been consulted further and have agreed that Authority officers should carry out a feasibility study to progress this idea. The results of the study will be reported to the Authority's

meeting in June 2017. During discussion it was acknowledged that needles come from a variety of sources and therefore, pro-active advertising will enable those who provide needles to clients/patients to advise the end-user of proper disposal.

In respect of abandoned vehicles, the Deputy General Manager advised that three of the constituent councils now deal with abandoned vehicles through their Parking Enforcement contracts and Wandsworth is considering doing the same. If a constituent council removes an abandoned vehicle using its powers under the Refuse Disposal Amenity Act (RDA) 1978 then the statutory duty for the storage and disposal of those vehicles lies with the Authority. However, given that the constituent councils remove a relatively small number of vehicles using their RDA 1978 powers, the Deputy General Manager advised that the proposal is for a legal agreement to be drawn up whereby the constituent councils also carry out the Authority's duties. Progress on the development of the legal agreement will be reported to the Authority's meeting in June.

In relation to the Golden Ticket, the Deputy General Manager stated that there had been no community groups registered in both Hammersmith & Fulham and Lambeth Councils; and this may be because both Councils do not have publications distributed to every household.

The Deputy General Manager referred the Authority to paragraph 28. The second Golden Ticket Recycling draw is planned to take place on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Planned communications activity, by borough, from January 2017 through to 16th March 2017 is as set out in paragraph 28.

The Deputy General Manager confirmed that the Estates intervention trial finished on 16th December 2016. One of the key measures of the trial is to assess any sustained improvement in the amount of recycling material collected and the quality of the material collected. The final measure will be made in March 2017, three months following the trial. The finding will therefore be reported to the Authority meeting in June 2017.

The Deputy General Manager advised that the Technical officers' agreed priorities for the Recycle Western Riverside (RWR) Financial Year 2017/18 are as follows:

- a) to stop the Golden Ticket initiative as a communications campaign;
- b) to continue with a recycling communications campaign – they felt this essential in order, at the very least, to sustain the current levels of recycling and help to combat contamination levels.
- c) to have the communications campaign tie in with the WRAP and Resource London campaigns and use their new branding that can be tailored to each borough's requirements.
- d) Estates-based work – the full results of the Estates Intervention project will not be available until March 2017, when any sustained improvement in

contamination levels and the amount of recycling tonnage collected has been fully assessed. It is, therefore, proposed to hold any decision about an “Estates” project in abeyance until the next Authority meeting.

Technical Officers felt that feeding in to a London-wide communications campaign has the benefit of a consistent message that may assist with getting the message across to residents which move around the London boroughs. The Deputy General Manager confirmed that £120,000 has been set aside for the RWR programme for 2017/18 and includes WRAP/Resource London brand recycling and food waste communication campaign with a detailed communications plan. In response to a question about the cost of vehicle panel advertising in the four boroughs, the Deputy General Manager agreed to provide this information.

[Post meeting note: The cost of vehicle panel advertising in the four boroughs is around £7,000 per borough in 2016/17. Hammersmith & Fulham is roughly 4x more expensive than the other three boroughs, although it is believed that this is currently under review.]

The Deputy General Manager referred to Appendix C which provides a list by borough of the schools that have visited the Education Centre, or the Education Officers had visited, since the programme was introduced in 2014. It was confirmed that Wandsworth’s Education Centre was in Smugglers Way, and that the possibility of providing an outreach facility was being looked into. Councillor Harcourt was of the view that it was important for schools to visit the centre and that work should continue to encourage schools to visit. Concern was also raised about the number of schools not engaging in the process. The Deputy General Manager responded by stating that in November 2016 the education team emailed a new leaflet, attached as Appendix D to this report, to all schools in the four boroughs which they have not previously been in contact with. They will be repeating this at the beginning of each term, as well as sending it out to those schools that have been involved previously. In response to further questions the Deputy General Manager agreed to provide a breakdown of how many visits/workshops had been delivered to each Constituent borough over the last 3 years.

[Post Meeting Note: A breakdown of how many visits/workshops have been delivered to each borough over the last 3 years has been provided which indicates that Wandsworth has had the bigger share but the numbers for the other boroughs have increased, particularly last year. The reach is lowest in RBKC, and highest in Wandsworth. Officers have targeted schools in all boroughs that had not been visited previously and have had some new schools coming in (or officers going to them) as a result.]

The General Manager confirmed that an in-depth report on recycling would be submitted to the Authority’s meeting in June, which could form the basis for a

Members' Forum at Smugglers Way in the Autumn. The report would focus on the transient population, the implications for the Authority if it were to recycle bottom ash, the impact of Brexit and communication techniques. Concern was raised that methods of recycling by most London boroughs focused on the 20-40 age group, usually denoting a transient population, and which had little or no faith in recycling. The General Manager responded by stating that, given light weighting (i.e. the same size and shape tin cans and bottles now weigh considerably less (up to 30% in some cases) than they did say 5 to 10 years ago) and other factors, maintaining the recycling figures was in itself an achievement, but clearly that there was more that could be done to help increase recycling figures. Councillor Palmer raised a concern that fly-tipping in the Royal Borough had increased and was being blamed on those placed in bed & breakfast.

The Authority was advised that the following item of expenditure has been authorised by officers under delegated powers within the band range of £5,000 to £30,000 since the last Authority meeting:-

Holben Software Computer Systems Support – Waste Management System redevelopment £12,000

Following further discussion on Item 2 (Paper No. WRWA 823), it was then

**RESOLVED** to:

- a) approve the proposals for RWR in financial year 2017/18 detailed in paragraphs 31 to 35 of the report; and
- b) otherwise receive the report as information.

**AUTHORITY'S BUDGET AND LEVY FOR 2017/18 AND THE PROSPECTS FOR 2018/19 AND BEYOND. (PAPER NO. WRWA 824).**

The Treasurer introduced the report. During discussions Members requested information on the Residual waste arisings per household.

[Post meeting note: Details from WasteDataFlow, for each of the constituent councils, has been circulated to Authority Members. The results show around 450kg/hh for Lambeth and RBKC, 475kg/hh for HF and 550kg/hh for Wandsworth.]

In response to the Chairman's question as to why the revised AWDC costs and income in 2016/17 had decreased to £529,000 from the budgeted figure of £885,000, the Treasurer agreed to write to the Chairman and explain the reasons for this decrease.

[Post meeting note: This is because Cory has an alternative outlet for the disposal of detritus waste at a reduced price to the contract rate. In budgeting terms officers have not assumed that this outlet is available beyond the current year and, therefore, the price for the treatment of detritus jumps again in future years].

Following further discussion on Item 3 (Paper No. WRWA 824), it was then

**RESOLVED** to:

- (a) approve a revised gross expenditure budget for the Authority of £53.7 million for 2016/17 (£46.8 m directly determined by direct tonnage delivered and £6.9 million paid for by the Levy) and £55.1 million for 2017/18 (£48.0 million directly determined by direct tonnage delivered and £7.0 million paid for by the Levy), as presented in the Budgets for Direct costs and Levy costs in Appendices B and C;
- (b) approve the AWDC rates to apply for 2017/18 as detailed on page 5; and
- (c) approve the basis of cost recovery as set out in the report, including the residual Levy figure of £6.683 million for 2017/18 for the Treasurer to apportion and issue the levy among the constituent councils.

#### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT FOR 2017/18. (PAPER NO. WRWA 825).**

The Treasurer introduced the report and confirmed that options for redeeming the remaining loans have been explored but the early redemption penalties from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) are largely prohibitive. The Treasurer further advised that any Authority short-term surpluses are invested with Wandsworth Council at one month market rates. Consequently, the WRWA balances are invested according to the Council's Treasury policy. In response to questions the Treasurer advised that the Authority has in the region of £7-14 million to invest depending on where we are in the financial year.

During discussion Members requested information on Wandsworth Council's Treasury Policy.

[Post meeting note: this information can be found under Item 10 of Wandsworth Council's November 2016 meeting of its Finance and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee].

Following further discussion on Item 4 (Paper No. WRWA 825), it was then

**RESOLVED to:**

- (a) adopt an Authorised Borrowing Limit and Operational Boundary for 2017/18 of £14 million;
- (b) agree to the investment policy outlined in paragraph 14;
- (c) note the 'Prudential Indicators' contained in the Appendix to this report, including newly specified borrowing and investment policies; and
- (d) 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 6 (Paper No. WRWA 826) 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.

**VARIOUS MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE AUTHORITY'S WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT (WMSA), INCLUDING THE POTENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT OF CRINGLE DOCK (PAPER NO. 826)**

The following adviser was in attendance for this item:

- a) John Chandler, Partner (Energy), from the Authority's WMSA lawyers Shakespeare Martineau LLP; and

The Chairman thanked Mr. Chandler for his attendance. Following discussion, it was then

**RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations in paragraph 27 of the report.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, 28TH JUNE 2017.**

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.