

WESTERN RIVERSIDE WASTE AUTHORITY (VERSION B)

NOTE: These minutes are to be read in conjunction with the agenda papers relating to the meeting on 30th January 2019.

Minutes of the meeting of the Western Riverside Waste Authority held at the Town Hall (Room 140), Wandsworth High Street, SW18 on 30th January 2019 at 7pm.

PRESENT

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hammersmith & Fulham Council | - Councillor W. Harcourt |
| Kensington & Chelsea Council | - Councillor J. Husband (Chairman)
- Councillor M. Palmer |
| Lambeth Council | - Councillor M. Clark |
| Wandsworth Council | - Councillor Mrs. S. Sutters (Deputy Chairman)
- Councillor G. Senior |

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holland and Morton.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.

Councillor Senior disclosed a personal interest in relation to item 4 - Details of the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy - Published 18th December 2018 (Paper No. WRWA 872) insofar as he is a member of the London Waste and Recycling Board.

MINUTES

On item 1 it was –

RESOLVED - That Version A (the closed version) of the minutes of the Authority held on 19th September 2018 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 being made to both Version A and B of the minutes:

REPORT OUTLINING PROGRESS WITH OPERATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

(PAPER NO. WRWA 866).

Replace 'which' with 'wish' (with additions in **bold** and deletions crossed through):

- The Position of Clerk and Treasurer – during discussion of this item both the Treasurer and Clerk left the room. During debate on this matter it was noted that some Members of the Authority would wish to see a review of the governance arrangements, in that a different Constituent Council(s) may **wish** to take on the administration and/or the finance roles. It was agreed that the General Manager would prepare an options paper for the Authority's meeting in July 2019.

AUTHORITY'S BUDGET AND LEVY FOR 2019/20 AND THE PROSPECTS FOR 2020/21 AND BEYOND (PAPER NO. WRWA 870)

The Treasurer introduced the report and highlighted the Authority's agreed general principle of reducing outstanding debt when setting the budget. In noting that the Authority had received £3.5 million in October 2018 regarding the refinancing of Cory (Paper No. WRWA 865) and therefore the General Reserve had increased to £11.7 million, the Treasurer recommended transferring £8.5 million of this reserve into a new reserve called the Loan Repayment Reserve. At the beginning of 2018/19, the value of outstanding PWLB loans was £8.5 million, of which £2 million will fall due before the end of 2019. The Treasurer advised that the creation of the reserve would allow the use of the reserve to fund the repayment of each loan, reducing the annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) in revenue. By removing the annual MRP cost from the Levy costs, the Levy requirement due in April 2019 for 2019/20 would be reduced from its 2018/19 levels to £4.793m, which is a reduction of £1.171m, nearly 20%.

In response to a question as to why the contract cost of co-mingled recyclables was forecasted to increase from its current cost of £26.26/tonne to £55.34/tonne in 2020/21, the Treasurer explained that the higher value is the contractual rate. The reduced rate of £26.26/tonne had been negotiated with Cory with a one year notice period, and therefore, could not be guaranteed for future years. It was then

RESOLVED to:

- approve a revised gross expenditure budget for the Authority of £51.3 million for 2018/19 (£46.1m directly determined by direct tonnage delivered and £5.2 million paid for by the Levy) and £51.6 million for 2019/20 (£46.5 million directly determined by direct tonnage delivered and £5.1 million paid for by the Levy), as presented in the Budgets for Direct costs and Levy costs in Appendices B and C;
- approve the AWDC rates to apply for 2019/20 as detailed on page 5;
- approve the basis of cost recovery as set out in the report, including the residual Levy figure of £4.793 million for 2019/20 for the Treasurer to apportion and issue the levy among the constituent councils.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL STRATEGY FOR 2019/20 (PAPER NO. WRWA 871)

The Treasurer introduced the report and referred the Authority to paragraphs 14-17 of the report which was in relation to the Revised Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement for 2018/19 and for 2019/20. It was then

RESOLVED to:

- (a) adopt an Authorised Borrowing Limit and Operational Boundary for 2019/20 of £9 million;
- (b) agree the MRP policy in 2018/19 and 2019/20 outlined in paragraphs 14-17;
- (c) agree to the investment policy outlined in paragraph 18;
- (d) note the 'Prudential Indicators' contained in the Appendix to this report, including newly specified borrowing and investment policies and the capital strategy; and
- (e) otherwise receive this report as information.

DETAILS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY - PUBLISHED 18TH DECEMBER 2018 (PAPER NO. WRWA 872)

The General Manager introduced the report and highlighted relevant paragraphs of the paper.

The Deputy Chairman, Councillor Mrs Sutters, requested sight of the draft responses to the Government's consultations as detailed in the Resource and Waste Strategy. Concern was raised by Councillor Palmer that the draft response should be produced in collaboration with the technical officers of all 4 constituent councils. The Chairman suggested that our response should take account of the responses of other waste authorities as a co-ordinated response with other waste authorities would give weight to arguments put forward, particularly if there was consensus amongst several waste authorities.

Councillor Senior suggested that more emphasis should be placed on promoting home composting as a means of reducing waste. Councillor Senior also asked whether the Welsh definition of recycling could be adopted where bottom ash is removed consequently increasing their recycling rates.

Following further discussion, the General Manager agreed to send the draft consultation response to the technical officers of the 4 constituent councils for comments before the draft was sent to Members of the Authority for any further comments/observations prior to finalisation. It was then

RESOLVED to:

- a) grant specific delegated authority to the to the General Manager, Treasurer and Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to respond to any consultations that close before the next ordinary meeting of the Authority and subsequently report to that meeting (see paragraphs 41 and 42 above); and
- b) otherwise receive this report for information.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (PAPER NO. WRWA 873)

The Deputy General Manager introduced the report and highlighted relevant paragraphs of the report. The Authority was referred to paragraph 37 of the Paper - Kensington and Chelsea's food waste trial (south area) - composition survey results. As part of the trial, officers wished to test the theory that the introduction of food waste collections could have a positive effect on reducing waste generation and increasing dry recycling levels as residents are thought to be more likely to focus on the waste they are producing and how best to manage it if they are focussed on separating their food waste. The Deputy General Manager advised that there is no evidence that there has been a decrease in waste generation or an increase in recycling across the period.

The Deputy General Manager further advised that the composition analysis was undertaken in February, May and October 2018. As the total waste collected during February 2018 was low compared to the two later samples, the Paper recommended that a fourth sample should be commissioned in February or March 2019 at an estimated cost of £5,000, to test if the low weight in February 2018 is a seasonal variation or an anomaly. In response to a question as to why the residual waste had increased in May, the General Manager advised that this was due to the high level of Garden Waste.

The Deputy General Manager recommended the Authority agree to Kensington and Chelsea's request for a food waste trial in the north area of the Borough.

The Deputy General Manager confirmed that the Authority's new website had been launched and had received positive feedback. The Deputy Manager requested Authority Members (excluding Wandsworth Members) to send her their photographs so that these could be uploaded onto the website.

In relation to the Authority's office refurbishment, following the receipt of further tenders, the works are now anticipated to cost around £100,000.

Councillor Mrs Sutters was concerned that the detailed communications/work plan will be produced before 1st April 2019, i.e. before the Authority's next ordinary meeting in July. The Deputy General Manager agreed to notify via email Authority Members once the Plan had been produced/agreed. It was then

RESOLVED to:

- a) approve the proposed budget to facilitate a waste minimisation and recycling campaign in 2019/20 as detailed in paragraph 18 of this report;

- b) approve the proposal to carry out a fourth Food Waste Trial (south area) Waste Composition survey in Kensington and Chelsea as detailed in paragraph 40 of this report and to approve the commission of a Food Waste Trial in the north area;
- c) approve the proposed budget in order to carry out the refurbishment works to the Authority offices as detailed in paragraph 51 of this report; 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 7 (Paper No. WRWA 874) 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 OPERATIONAL MATTERS AND THE AUTHORITY'S WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT (WMSA) WITH CORY ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITED (PAPER NO. 874)

Following discussion, it was then

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations in paragraph 46 of the report.

[Post meeting Note: Councillor Clark requested that an item be brought to the next ordinary meeting of the Authority on what the additional costs might be for the London Living Wage to be paid to sub-contracted employees working directly on Authority services].

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.