AUTHORITY MINUTES: MONDAY 14 MAY 2012 (9.30AM – 11.30AM)

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mrs Suzanne Nolan, appointed in place of Councillor Michelle Dunn. The Chairman requested that a letter of thanks be sent. Councillor Mick McCarthy was also welcomed.

Present: Councillor I Corbett, Councillor R Crawford, Councillor S Kelly, Councillor G Letchford, Councillor M McCarthy (Chairman), Councillor S Nolan (Vice Chairman) and Councillor V Tewari.

1. Appointment of Chairman, Vice Chairman and ELWA Limited ‘A’ Director for the year 2012/13

Councillor Mick McCarthy was nominated as Chairman and Councillor Suzanne Nolan as Vice Chairman. Councillor Steven Kelly was nominated as ELWA Limited ‘A’ Director. The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the Authority to Councillor Steven Kelly.

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor B Tebbutt

3. Declaration of Members’ Interests

None declared

4. Nominations Under Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985

The Monitoring Officer presented his report recommending that one Member from each of the Constituent Councils be nominated to answer questions on behalf of the Authority. It was agreed that these Members will be Councillor McCarthy for London Borough of (LB) Barking & Dagenham, Councillor Kelly for LB Havering, Councillor Corbett for LB Newham and Councillor Nolan for LB Redbridge.

5. Minutes – To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2012 and note the previously agreed minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 27 June 2011

Members confirmed as correct the minutes of the Authority meeting on 6 February 2012 and noted the previously agreed minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 27 June 2011.

6. Internal Audit Progress Report 2011/12, Audit Plan 2012/13 and Planned Audit Coverage to March 2017

The Finance Director recapped the Internal Audit report. It is part of a rolling plan where all areas of ELWA are looked at. There were some minor issues reported but Internal Audit provided assurance that the core financial systems of the Authority are generally sound. The report included the 5-year audit plan and indicated the focus for the next 12 months would be reviews of the Authority’s risk assessment and business continuity procedures and financial management.

Councillor Nolan expressed concern about the allegations of fraud. The Finance Director confirmed that this has been looked at carefully and there were no implications for the Authority.

Members noted the recommendation set out in paragraph 2.1 a) of the report and
agreed to the recommendations set out in paragraph 2.1 b) and c).

7. **Projected 2011/12 Financial Outturn Position**

The Finance Director presented his report. The final underspend figure is subject to closedown and external audit. The main contributing factors were the new identity checking arrangements at the Reuse and Recycling Centres and improved diversion performance.

Councillor Kelly asked for clarification that the £2.8m will be carried forward. The Finance Director confirmed that £700k had been used to mitigate the current year’s levy increase and the remaining £2.8m would be used to help reduce next year’s levy increase.

Members noted the report.

8. **Contract Monitoring to March 2012**

The Head of Operations recapped his report and confirmed the indications are that the increased diversion from landfill, by means of exporting SRF, is sustainable. He confirmed Shanks have a contract with a company in Holland until November 2014.

The Head of Operations referred to paragraph 5.3 which shows that waste arisings were approximately 40,000 tonnes lower than budget. He also clarified that the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme does not have any implications for the Authority.

The Head of Operations confirmed that we have budgeted for additional waste tonnage due to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Shanks will receive the waste but ELWA will not have to pay for it as LBN will have their own ring-fenced funds for this waste.

The Head of Operations reported the repeal of the Refuse Disposal Amenity Act resulted in changes to the reporting of recycling rates. The constituent councils would no longer be able to include the recycling achieved at RRC sites as part of their overall recycling rates. Instead, ELWA would be credited with the recycling. However, ELWA officers are in discussions with Defra about reallocating the recycling figures to the relevant constituent councils.

Councillor Kelly complimented the Operational staff at Gerpins Lane saying the site was spotless and well organised. This will be passed on to staff at the site.

Members noted the report.

9. **ELWA Annual Review 2011-2012**

The Managing Director recapped his report. In the past there have been formal published annual reports. However, this report provides a review of the key issues that arose over the last year, including the problems with the BioMRF performance and fines material and the introduction of the revised procedures at the RRC sites. Overall it had been a relatively stable year.

In respect of the sale of Aveley, the purchaser is keen to go ahead and we are now awaiting final information from Infinis, the Authority’s partner in the joint venture Aveley Methane Limited.

Members asked about the cost of engaging lawyers to review the IWMS contract and whether the review was successful. The Managing Director confirmed the review was
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initiated at the request of members and reported that although nothing new was found, the review gave ELWA reassurance that we were making the most of the provisions of the contract. Therefore the work represented value-for-money.

The Managing Director said that there will be a review of the IWMS strategy and Members would be able to discuss revised targets at the workshop in July.

Members asked about the tracking of recyclable materials to their final destinations across the world. The Head of Operations reported that the materials are tracked to the docks but not beyond. However, residents should be able to access public websites that show this information.

Members noted the report.

10. **Food Waste Briefing**

The Managing Director presented his report which provides members with information about the disposal of food waste.

The separate collection of food waste is impractical and there may be financial consequences to this as set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report.

The main concern is if food waste is collected separately it remains the property of ELWA and will end up back into residual waste going into the BioMRFs.

At this time, ELWA officers do not consider it necessary or beneficial for constituent councils to consider the introduction of separate food waste collection services. The ultimate aim of separately collecting food waste is to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. The 2012-2013 ABSDP includes 78% diversion of waste from landfill, on the basis of current waste management arrangements, and this is likely to increase to 80% in following years

Members noted the report.

11. **Dates of next meeting**

Discussed attendance at the informal workshop. LBN Members’ Olympics commitments meant that LBN would nominate officers to attend in their place.

**Members noted** dates of future meetings.

12. **Private Business**

We have resolved to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the nature of the business to be discussed which included information exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government At 1972 (as amended).
13. **ELWA Ltd Agenda**

Members received the ELWA Ltd Board papers for information.

Minutes agreed as a true record.

Chairman: 

Date: 17/9/12