

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER 2021 - PART 1 PUBLIC ITEMS: - (10:00 AM–10:55 AM)

Present:

Councillor John Howard (Chair / Redbridge), Councillor James Asser (Vice Chair / Newham), Councillor Dorothy Akwaboah (Barking & Dagenham), Councillor Osman Dervish and Councillor Robert Benham (Havering), and Councillor Jo Blackman (Redbridge).

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Syed Ghani (LBBB), Councillor Nilufa Jahan (LBN),

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none declared.

3. Minutes – To agree Part 1 (Public Items) of the minutes of the Authority's meeting held on 25 June 2021 and authorise the Chair to sign the same.

Members confirmed as true and accurate the Part 1(Public Items) of the minutes of the Authority's meeting held on 25 June 2021. The Chair was authorised to sign the same.

Members agreed the minutes.

4. External Audit Plan – (Oral Update)

The Finance Director (FD) gave a verbal update to Members regarding the 2020/21 external audit, mentioning the current delays being experienced due to resourcing issues within Ernst and Young (EY). The statutory deadline of 30 September 2021 will not be met, and the audit is scheduled to take place in November 2021. The FD confirmed to Members that the accounts were presented to EY on time in June 2021 and that the Authority and the finance team were ready for the audit to commence.

Members noted the report.

5. Budgetary Control & Contract Monitoring to 31 July 2021

Members received the Budgetary Control & Contract Monitoring report to 31 July 2021 from the Finance Director who highlighted the forecast underspend of £0.659m shown in Appendix A. She also highlighted to Members the challenges regarding commercial waste income which has been caused by Covid-19. The Finance Director went on to highlight the tonnage profile variance in Appendix B which is showing 2,580 tonnes under budget for the first four months of the year and will be an area of focus to the end of the financial year.

The Managing Director (MD) highlighted that the four boroughs had shown improved recycling performance, now almost reaching the 33% target achieved in part due to an increase in the range of kerbside recycling materials that Renewi can now receive. Furthermore, the redundant equipment due to be taken out at Jenkins Lane will create more space for operational efficiencies and improved recycling performance. Covid-19 related restrictions in vehicles numbers at the Re-use and Recycling Centres (RRC's) has ceased, therefore allowing operations to return to normal capacity. HGV driver availability is not impacting the MBT facilities; however, some delays in third-party companies' emptying containers at the RRCs is affecting performance. Members asked if there were increased costs relating to significant utility charge increases. The MD advised Members that ELWA was shielded as Renewi absorb these operational costs.

At this point Councillor Asser joined the meeting.

Members recognised the good effort which had been achieved with recycling rates almost reaching the 33% target, however relatively high contract tonnages were a concern.

The FD mentioned that insurance costs for 2022 are likely to increase which will have some impact in the current financial year as renewal is in late December.

Members noted the report.

6. Fire Improvement Works

The Head of Waste and Support Services (HWSS) updated Members on the progress being made on the Fire Improvement Works (FIW) at Jenkins Lane which is on track and within budget.

The Chair asked about the key lessons learned from the Jenkins Lane FIW that could be carried over to the Frog Island FIW. The HWSS advised it would be to help minimise costs, at this stage via a more efficient procurement timetable, but that cost estimates could not be finalised until later in the tendering process (although they are expected to be similar to the FIW at Jenkins Lane). Insurance renewals are due in December 2021 with the current lead insurer, Aviva, suggesting anticipated premium increases of around 15%. Alternative insurance options are being considered but at this stage it is not clear if these will be viable options for insurance renewal in December 2021.

The Chair commented that the progress achieved with the works at Jenkins Lane being within budget was good and welcomed savings through efficiencies for the future FIW at Frog Island.

The FD noted that the currently approved capital budget did not yet include the FIW at Frog Island .

ACTION

Members noted the report.

7. Strategy – Preparations for the Future Wastes Management Arrangements in East London – Update

The Head of Strategy and Development (HSD) updated Members on the development of the Joint Strategy, and noted that the consultation had closed on 20th September following an eight week period, and outlined the level of engagement from the public (noting the responses are in the process of being reviewed) and from the statutory consultees. A revised and final version of the Joint Strategy is planned to be put forward for adoption by the Authority and the Constituent Council Cabinets in February 2022.

The Chair asked if this could be brought forward to January 2022. Members noted there may be challenges with accelerating the process but that they would make enquiries at their 'home' boroughs and asked officers from all partner authorities to liaise on this suggestion.

ACTION

Members noted the report.

8. East London Waste Prevention Programme

Members received an update from the Head of Strategy and Development (HSD) on the revised East London Waste Prevention Programme. The HSD highlighted sections of the report on Real Nappies, the School Uniform Bank project, the Library of Things project, training of constituent council officers on supporting home composting, preparations for Food Waste Action Week in March 2022, and for a Reuse and Repair Festival for which external

funding is being sought. He also noted that training on home composting for officers had taken place earlier in the week, which will help ELWA and the Constituent Councils support residents to make more effective use of existing compost bin discounts and promotions.

Members relayed feedback regarding the Real Nappies scheme where it was thought that the pack of 1-2 nappies was not a sufficient offer. The HSD noted that the scheme was designed to give parents an opportunity to try out the products, but that feedback was welcomed to enable the scheme design to be adjusted if needed.

Members offered further suggestions which the HSD agreed to look at and provide feedback including: one venue for the Reuse and Repair Festival could be more economical rather than events being held in each borough; allotment users or associations could be approached for composting training ideas; laundry service options to be looked at to make Real Nappies easier to use for some households; and a focus group could be arranged with parents to look into more detail about the Real Nappies scheme offer locally. **ACTION**

Members noted the report.

9. Forward Plan

The Managing Director highlighted that the Five-Year Service Delivery Plan (FYSDP) will now be presented at the September 2022 meeting. This allows for the FYSDP to take account of national policy changes during 2022 and for the Plan to cover the final five years of the IWMS Contract up to December 2027.

Members noted the addition to the Forward Plan.

10. Any other public items which the Chair decides are urgent

There were none.

11. Resolution

Members resolved to consider whether it would be appropriate to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted.

12. Minutes – To agree Part 2 (Restricted Items) of the minutes of the Authority’s meeting held on 25 June 2021 and authorise the Chair to sign the same.

Members confirmed as true and accurate the Part 2 (Restricted Items) of the minutes of the Authority’s meeting held on 25 June 2021. The Chair was authorised to sign the same.

13. ELWA Limited Update (Confidential)

Members noted the report.

14. Any other confidential or exempt items which the Chair decides are urgent

There were none.

Chair:

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Date:

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