

AUTHORITY MINUTES: MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

Present:

Councillor K Clark (Chair), Councillor S Bain (Vice Chair), Councillor O Dervish, Councillor J Howard, Councillor P Murphy and Councillor J Wade.

30. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor S Kelly and Councillor L Rice.

31. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none declared.

32. Minutes of previous meeting (18 July 2017 EGM)

Members confirmed as true and accurate the minutes of the Extraordinary General meeting held on 18 July 2017. The Chair was authorised to sign the same.

33. Annual Audit Letter 2016/17

Members received the Finance Director's report and Annual Audit Letter 2016/17. The Finance Director explained that the Annual Audit Letter confirmed the activities undertaken by External Auditors on behalf of the Authority in the last financial year. Page 3 of the letter, confirmed the unqualified opinion in respect of value for money and financial statements. No recommendations for improvement were raised by the External Auditors around the effective and efficient financial controls.

Members noted the report.

34. Treasury Management Outturn 2016/17

Members received the Finance Director's report on the outcome of Treasury Management Outturn which covered borrowing and investment activities undertaken during the year to end March 2017. The report set out details of the economy and interest rates, investments (£8.313m), borrowing (£1.250m), external borrowing requirements (£0), reserves to fund capital expenditure (£0.100m), capital expenditure 2016/17 (£5.290m), prudential indicators and information on Markets in Financial Instruments Directive due to come into force in January 2018.

The Finance Director specifically referenced the UK EU referendum (Brexit) and the election of the USA's President Trump as having an impact on financial markets and interest rates; the investment in the Icelandic Heritable Bank was almost at a close (£1.034m received); consideration of the long standing Public Works Loan Board borrowing (£1.250m) and its current prohibitive early repayment situation. The Prudential Indicator limits in Appendix A had not been exceeded.

Members noted the report.

35. Budget Control & Contract Monitoring to 31 July 2017

Members received the Finance Director & Contract Manager's joint report, Budget Monitoring Statement, Tonnage Profile and Contract Monitoring Performance update appendices in relation to revenue budget, contract monitoring and prudential indicators.

Net expenditure against profiled budget showed an underspend to date of £0.141m. The overall forecast outturn is projected to be £0.554m under budget at year end because of forecast additional commercial waste income (£0.250m) and projected savings on waste tonnages (£0.300m). Tonnage to date was 5.4% below profiled budget. Contractor payments were forecast to be underspent by £0.300m because the tonnage to date was 5.4% below profiled budget. Recycling was slightly lower than anticipated at 26% due to a fall in green waste.

Officers responded to questions as to the reasons behind the tonnage variances. It was thought that the changes introduced to LB Redbridge & LB Barking & Dagenham green waste collections may have depressed tonnage, although this may balance out to some extent throughout the year.

Members commented on access delays at both Jenkins Lane and Chigwell Road and enquired as to whether the change in green waste collection at LB Redbridge had created this impact. Officers reported that the delays at Jenkins Lane and noted in the report, related to Constituent Council vehicles rather than public vehicles, whereas public traffic and queues had certainly increased at Chigwell Road due to increased green waste delivery by residents. It was noted that bottlenecks could be caused at both sites when the Constituent Councils collection vehicles arrive simultaneously to tip. Additionally, Chigwell Road is the smallest RRC site and has inherent location difficulties. The Interim Managing Director advised that as a priority this would be investigated, the busy times and potential for longer opening hours would also be considered.

Members noted the report.

36. Date of Next Meeting:

Members noted the date of 20 November 2017. Members were given the opportunity to rotate the venue between the Constituent Councils **and accepted** an offer to hold the next meeting in the offices of LB Redbridge.

37. Any other public items

There were none.

38. Private Business

Members 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 paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 8 respectively of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

39. Future Management Arrangements – Replacement Managing Director

The Chair agreed to receive Supplementary Document 1, containing the above report, to enable the urgent recruitment process to go ahead for the post of replacement Managing Director.

Members actively discussed the Interim Managing Director's proposals following commentary and suggested timetable (September – early December 2017). The Chair commented that he would like to participate in the Officer interview panel with final interview by Members and then formal appointment.

Members agreed:

- (a) to delegate authority to the Interim Managing Director to initiate and manage the external recruitment process for Managing Director/Head of Paid Service for the Authority (on a permanent basis) as outlined in the report in consultation with the Finance Director, Monitoring Officer and LB Barking & Dagenham's HR Business partner;
- (b) participation in the final recruitment panel as part of the selection process; and
- (c) to note the final appointment shall be made by Members of the Authority in line with the Constitution, Part D3: Employment Rules (paragraph 2.1).

40. ELWA Limited - 27 July 2017 Board Agenda

Members noted the contents of the confidential Agenda pack circulated for information only.

Minutes agreed as a true record.

Chair: K. Clark

Date: 20/11/2017