

## **AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**

### **FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2022 - PART 1 PUBLIC ITEMS: - (10:00 AM–12:00 PM)**

#### Present:

Councillor Dorothy Akwaboah (Chair / Barking & Dagenham), Councillor Jo Blackman (Vice Chair / Redbridge); Councillor Kashif Haroon (Barking & Dagenham); Councillor Ray Morgon (Havering); Cllr Barry Mugglestone (Havering); Councillor James Asser (Newham), Councillor Miraj Patel (Newham) Councillor Matthew Goddin (Redbridge).

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

#### **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 01 JULY 2022 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 01 July 2022. The Chair was authorised to sign the same.

**Members agreed** the minutes.

#### **4. REVISIONS TO THE APPROVED TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022/23 AND PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS 2022/23 TO 2024/25.**

The Finance Director (FD) recommended that Members agree the revisions to the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23, the borrowing requirement 2022/23 and the Prudential Code Indicators 2022/23 to 2024/25 as set out in the report. The FD explained that the changes are necessary to provide greater flexibility to finance capital expenditure through external borrowing over a short term period of 12-48 months. The FD referred to para. 5.3 which sets out the revised indicative borrowing requirement for 2022/23 to 2024/25, linked to the ongoing fire improvement works, and highlighted that all of the Prudential Indicators are included for completeness rather than just those that have changed.

In response to a question from Cllr Patel (LBN) the FD explained that the Authority will not be able to finance planned capital expenditure from continued internal borrowing and that she requires the necessary permission from the Authority to take out external borrowing, of the appropriate value and duration, as required.

**Members agreed** the Revisions to the Approved Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 and Prudential Code Indicators 2022/23 to 2024/25.

#### **5. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 JULY 2022.**

The FD asked Members to note the Budgetary Control Report to 31 July 2022 which details the forecast outturn for the year. The predicted £4.769m underspend is mainly due to a reduction in waste tonnages against profile.

In response to questions from Cllrs Blackman (LBR), Mugglestone (LBH) and Asser (LBN) the FD noted that the budget planning process takes into account estimates of household growth

and tonnage change in each of the constituent councils and that the forecast outturn for 2022/23 and budget for 2023/24 would be updated and reported to the November meeting, with the final budget and levy for 2023/24 (including the use of available underspends) being confirmed at the February 2023 meeting. The HWSS also noted that reductions in local waste tonnages were consistent with other waste authorities regionally and nationally (with green garden waste showing a larger reduction than other types of waste due to the very dry summer), and that the impacts of the economic cost-of-living difficulties on the waste stream were being closely followed by the contract monitoring team and would inform future reports to Members.

**Members noted** the report.

### **6. CONTRACT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 2022/23.**

The HWSS asked Members to note the updated Contract performance for 2022/23 and progress against the ABSDP.

Members were also offered an illustrative explanation of the drop in tonnages and the recycling rates for the different waste materials. In respect of the ABSDP, the HW&SS highlighted Table 1 in the report that recorded progress against the three key projects that are contributing to the current recycling rate of 34.2%.

Members were reminded that an RRC Policy Workshop has been arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> November which will cover best practice and options for revised policies in support of RRC performance improvements.

The HWSS informed Members the FYSDP has now been re-scheduled to be reported at the November 2022 meeting as a result of delays from DEFRA on national policy.

In response to questions from Cllrs Asser (LBN) and Goddin (LBR) the HWSS advised the lower recycling performance at Jenkins Lane is due to lower levels of garden waste due to the dry summer and lack of properties with gardens in LB Newham and that papers for the workshop would be discussed with the Chair in advance of the above workshop. Members were also informed that the new Bulky Waste Recycling Centre operation at Jenkins Lane was due to commence in mid-October and will replicate the operation that is being successfully undertaken at Frog Island.

**Members noted** the report.

### **7. EAST LONDON WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME.**

The Head of Strategy & Development (HSD) asked Members to note the update to the East London Waste Prevention Programme. The Repair Cafés project is in its third round which is being part-funded by ELWA and an external partner. LBN has yet to confirm a date for the event in Newham. The long-term sustainability of the Repair Cafés is being considered with the potential for them to be community led and run. This will include electrical repairs which is the most popular form of equipment brought to the events by the public.

In addition, the Library of Things kiosks will be implemented with one per borough, the first of which Members are invited to visit at Barking Library immediately after the Authority meeting.

The HSD noted that ELWA is contributing funding and officer time to a London-wide joint campaign on food waste that will be launched in Jan/Feb 2023, with insights research being

undertaken beforehand to inform the messaging within the campaign. The project is being coordinated by ReLondon, which is also seeking possible commercial partners to expand the scale of the campaign.

Cllr Asser offered apologies for delays in arrangements for Library of Things in Newham but gave assurance that this is being chased.

**Members noted** the report.

## **8. LEGISLATION UPDATE, INCLUDING PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS).**

The HSD asked Members to note the Legislation Update, and began by giving an overview of the national Resources and Waste Strategy. He noted that there continue to be delays to the release of further information on how the Government intends to implement the policies that it consulted upon in the spring and summer of 2021, which means that local authorities do not yet have clarity on how they need to go about planning any required changes to services. The HSD advised Members that the Authority has good connections with Government through local authority officer networks, and will keep Members informed of any changes to policies highlighted in the report.

In response to a question from Cllr Blackman (LBR), the HSD advised that as the Government has not yet announced the way forward in relation to food waste (and other wastes) it would be prudent for officers to bring forward local proposals once the national plan was known.

The HSD then covered the second part of the report, giving Members an overview of the emerging issues around Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in some furniture products. He advised Members of the potential implications (including financial) as a result of the Environment Agency's interpretation of how compliance with the Stockholm Convention needs to be achieved. Members were asked to note the potential impact of POPs and the inherent risks on finance and performance if these types of bulky waste cannot be collected separately. It was also noted that there may be associated costs that arise under the IWMS contract (as well as for constituent councils' collection services).

**Members noted** the report.

## **9. GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR EAST LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

The Monitoring Officer (MO) asked Members to note the report detailing the update to the Governance Review for ELWA. The MO advised Members that the Local Government Association (LGA) panel was now in place and invitations to attend interviews on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 October 2022 have been issued to one Member from each CC. After discussion it was agreed that all eight Members of the Authority should be invited for interview.

A feedback session is also to take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 26 October 2022.

The MO confirmed that this will be implemented, and invites will be sent out to all eight Members as well as an invite for the formal feedback session on Wednesday 26 October at 2pm.

### **ACTION**

**Members noted** the report.

**10. FORWARD PLAN.**

The HWSS asked Members to note the Forward Plan.

**Members noted** the report.

**11. ANY OTHER PUBLIC ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

There were none.

**12. RESOLUTION**

Members resolved to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted

**13. MINUTES – TO AGREE PART 2 (RESTRICTED ITEMS) OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY’S MEETING HELD ON 01 JULY 2022 AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE SAME.**

**Members agreed** the Minutes.

**14. INSURANCE (CONFIDENTIAL).**

**Members approved** the recommendation.

**15. CLOSED LANDFILL SITES IN THURROCK (CONFIDENTIAL).**

**Members approved** the recommendation.

**16. PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT EXPIRY (CONFIDENTIAL).**

**Members noted** the report.

**17. ELWA LIMITED UPDATE (CONFIDENTIAL)**

**Members noted** the report.

**18. ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

There were none.

**The meeting concluded** at 12.00pm

Chair: .....

Date: .....