

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM) MINUTES

FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2022 - PART 1 PUBLIC ITEMS: - (10:40 AM–11:00 AM)

Present:

Councillor John Howard (Chair / Redbridge), Councillor Syed Ghani (Barking & Dagenham), Councillor Osman Dervish (Havering), Councillor Jo Blackman (Redbridge)

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Dorothy Akwaboah (Barking & Dagenham), Councillor Robert Benham (Havering), Councillor James Asser (Vice Chair / Newham), and Councillor Nilufa Jahan (Newham)

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none declared.

3. Statement of Accounts and Audit Results Report 2020/21

The Finance Director (FD) introduced the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts, presented for approval at the meeting, and the Audit Results Report which reports the outcome of the external audit. The audit is now complete, which was highlighted as an achievement as a number of other local authorities' audits have not yet been concluded. The Audit Results Report reports an unqualified audit opinion with no outstanding actions. There were two audit adjustments to the accounts which have been actioned, therefore no unadjusted errors remain. It was noted that the audit fees for 2019/20 and 2020/21 audit have not yet been agreed.

The FD introduced Ian Young of Ernst & Young (EY) who highlighted the Executive Summary on pages 10 to 13 of the agenda pack and that there was an unqualified audit opinion on the Statement of Accounts and an unqualified value for money conclusion. He continued by highlighting the areas of audit focus on page 15 to 19 of the agenda pack, which are unchanged from those identified in the indicative audit plan, particularly page 11 where Members can see details of the audit differences identified, including adjustments made to the value of property, plant and equipment at Frog Island and Jenkins Lane in the previous two years as a result of changes to floor areas. Mr Young advised that the outstanding additional fees proposed for 2019/20 are now with PSAA for review and their response is awaited.

The Chair invited questions from the Councillors and Cllr Ghani asked why the two errors identified had not been picked up during the audits in the previous two years. The FD noted to Members that changes to the floor plans for Jenkins Lane had been identified during the recent Fire Improvement Works (FIW) and that the valuers will be provided with any updates going forward. This had not detracted from the unqualified result achieved.

The Chair asked for an update to be issued on the outcome of the audit fees once confirmed.

ACTION FD

Members agreed the Audit Results Report; **approved** the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2020/21; and **approved** the letter of representations on behalf of the Authority.

4. Appointment of Monitoring Officer & Legal Adviser

Members **agreed** that Alison Stuart, Barking and Dagenham's Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer, be appointed as ELWA's Monitoring Officer and Legal Adviser.

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

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 11:00 am.

Chair: _____

Date: 01 July 2022
