

AUTHORITY MINUTES**MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2020 - PART 1 PUBLIC ITEMS: - (10.30 AM–11.35 AM)**Present:

Councillor John Howard (Chair / Redbridge), Councillor James Asser (Vice Chair / Newham), Councillor Dorothy Akwaboah and Councillor Syed Ghani (Barking & Dagenham), Councillor Osman Dervish and Councillor Robert Benham (Havering), Councillor Genevieve Kitchen (Newham) and Councillor Sheila Bain (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 28 September 2020 and authorise the Chair to sign the same.

Members confirmed as true and accurate the public minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2020.

4. Statement of Accounts and Audit Results report 2019/20.

Members received and accepted the late report from the Finance Director which confirmed that the audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 had now concluded and that the Audit Results Report (ARR) had been received. Debbie Hanson, the external auditor from Ernst & Young (EY), was introduced and presented the Audit Results Report, drawing attention to key parts.

The report confirmed that EY issued an unqualified audit opinion on the Authority's financial statements and an unqualified value for money conclusion. Ms Hanson reported a small number of audits differences, highlighted on pages 7, and 21 of the ARR (pages 16 and 30 of the Agenda pack), that had been corrected in the final Statement of Accounts presented for approval.

Members received the Audit Results Report and **approved** the Statement of Accounts and the Letter of Representations as appended to the report.

5. Treasury Management Mid-Year Strategy Review 2020/21

Members received an update from the Finance Director on the Treasury Management Mid-Year Strategy Review 2020/21 report. The report summarised the economic conditions over the period since the Treasury Management Strategy was set at the beginning of the financial year. The Finance Director highlighted that additional detail had been included in section 5 of the report which summarises the counterparties with which the Authority's investments are placed and their maturity dates. The Finance Director confirmed that no capital expenditure had taken place and that treasury management activity during the first half of the financial year was within the limits of all approved Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.

Members noted the report.

6. Budgetary Control and Contract Monitoring to 30 September 2020

Members received a joint report from the Finance Director and Managing Director on the Budgetary Control and Contract Monitoring to 30 September 2020. The report showed a forecast underspend of £2.404m which incorporates actual tonnage data, contractual payments and capital finance costs. The table in paragraph 6.13 points out that the recycling target of 33% had not yet been achieved by every Constituent Council.

The Managing Director referenced a new chart at section 6.6 of the report that showed the average tonnage per working day in each month. The chart reflects a small drop in August 2020 due to a fire in the 'refinement section' at the Frog Island MBT facility. He added that Renewi are currently investing in new sorting equipment which will aid the recovery of all metals, helping to achieve the recycling targets of 33%.

The Managing Director added that Renewi has been able to maintain a full service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and is now mitigating the risks associated with the second wave by increasing stocks of PPE equipment and addressing the risks associated with the export of waste.

The Chair asked if there was an update on Renewi's savings on operational costs. The Managing Director confirmed Renewi had reported to the Stock Exchange that the contract with the Authority is "onerous", however, a number of ideas are being explored with Renewi which may provide opportunities for invest-to-save projects.

Members noted the report.

7. Modern Slavery Statement

The Managing Director informed Members that the Modern Slavery report was an update to the report issued in September 2019 and highlighted actions taken by the Operator over the last year to raise awareness to the issue of Modern Slavery within Renewi. He introduced a revised 2020 Modern Slavery Statement for ELWA and confirmed proposed actions for the forthcoming year to identify any potential issues in our supply chain.

Members noted the progress being made to implement the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and **approved** the Modern Slavery Statement appended to the report.

8. Strategy – Preparations for Future Wastes Management Arrangements in East London - update

Members received the report from the Head of Strategy & Development (HSD), including an update on the modelling work being carried out, and work on assessing future market capacity for the treatment of local authority collected wastes. The HSD noted that the timetable for developing the Joint Strategy is being reviewed with officers from the Constituent Councils, and that the Greater London Authority had been contacted to begin engagement. The HSD also noted that the next round of consultations on the national Resources and Waste Strategy are expected in March/April 2021.

Members noted the report.

9. East London Waste Prevention Programme

The HSD gave an update on the Waste Prevention Programme, which Members were previously advised had been postponed for six months because of the onset of Covid-19. The HSD reported that a Waste Prevention Manager had been successfully recruited, who had started on 1 October 2020.

The HSD highlighted the priority waste streams and activities currently proposed by officers and noted that work is underway to develop a new waste prevention programme for 2021/22, which will be presented to Members at the February Authority Meeting for discussion and approval. This programme will reflect the impacts on the pandemic in terms of routes to engage with the public, working with a wide variety of stakeholders including the Constituent Councils, reuse organisations and Renewi’s communications partner Keep Britain Tidy.

In response to a question about when the Constituent Councils would be the best means to communicate relevant messages to local residents, officers noted that the choice of medium and messenger for waste prevention engagement is extremely important, and that peer-to-peer interaction may be the most effective way to achieve behaviour change with ELWA acting as a facilitator. Also, there may be some projects which go beyond borough boundaries, and it would be important to engage a wide range of organisations to encourage wider uptake.

Members noted the report and the future waste prevention priorities and activities within it.

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

There were none.

11. Resolution

Members resolved to exclude the public and press by moving to a second 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 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

12. Minutes - Part 2 (Restricted Items) of the Minutes of the Authority’s meeting held on 28 September 2020

Members confirmed as true and accurate Part 2 (Restricted Minutes) of the Authority’s meeting held on 28 September 2020.

13. Fire Improvement Works (Confidential)

The Managing Director presented the report.

Members agreed the recommendations in the report.

14. ELWA Ltd Update (Confidential)

Members noted the report.

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

There were none.

Chair: _____

Date: _____

