(OPEN) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE WASTE AUTHORITY (WRWA)

HELD AT THE LAMBETH TOWN HALL, 1 BRIXTON HILL, SW2 1RW ON WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM

NOTE: These minutes are to be read in conjunction with the agenda papers relating to the meeting on Wednesday 2 October 2024.

PRESENT

Hammersmith and Fulham Council	**Councillor Wesley Harcourt**
Kensington and Chelsea Council	**Councillor Sam Mackover**
	Councillor Roberto Weeden-Sanz
Lambeth Council	**Councillor Rezina Chowdhury**
	Councillor Jackie Meldrum
Wandsworth Council	**Councillor Judi Gasser**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Wayne Chandai – Interim Clerk
Sukvinder Kalsi - Treasurer
Trevor Pugh– Interim Deputy General Manager
Frances Devane – Assistant General Manager
Alicia Attoe- Deputy Treasurer
Rachel Espinosa – Interim General Manager
Katherine Burston – Deputy Treasurer
Ian Stedman – HR Advisor - Richmond and Wandsworth Councils*
Steve Blackburn – Technical Director at WSP
Roland Karthaus - Managing Consultant Inner Circle Consulting
Evgenia Batmanova - Senior Consultant - Inner Circle Consulting*

Borough Technical Officers:
Doug Perry – Lambeth
Annie Baker – Hammersmith and Fulham
Matthew Lawrence – Kensington and Chelsea

Natasha Epstein – Wandsworth*
*online

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Sharon Holder (Hammersmith and Fulham) and Councillor Leonie Cooper (Wandsworth).

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting on 29 July 2024 were discussed. It was noted that the minutes needed to be amended to highlight that Councillor Weeden-Sanz and Councillor Mackover disagreed with the decision to refund the £1m of surpluses to the Constituent Councils.

RESOLVED:

(a) To approve the open and restricted minutes of the last meeting held on 29 July 2024 as a correct record of proceedings and that the open versions be approved as a public summary.

3. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (WRWA PAPER NO. 24-21)

The Treasurer introduced the report and highlighted key details that were contained within the report for Members.

Councillor Gasser noted that there was room for improvement within our Governance which was being reviewed in 2024/25 and asked if it would be appropriate to be included in the 2023/24 statement. In response, officers referred to a paragraph which referenced the ongoing Governance review.

Councillor Mackover noted that it was unconventional to agree to the 2023/24 statement as a new member to the Authority after that period.

RESOLVED:

(a) To approve the proposed Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 for signature and publication with the Authority's accounts for 2023/24.

4. FORWARD PLAN (WRWA PAPER NO. 24-22)

The Interim General Manager introduced the report. Members noted the information within the forward plan document and suggested it would be useful to have a timetable of sessions for Members on the decisions they would be making next year.

RESOLVED:

(a) To receive the report as information.

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (WRWA PAPER NO. 24-23)

The Interim General Manager introduced the report and highlighted the operational and other matters pertinent to the Authority.

It was explained that vehicles needed to be diverted, following from a fire that had taken place on 6 September 2024 at approximately 4.49pm, at the Smugglers Way MRF. Members queried what have been the causes of the fires at the MRFs and what could be done to prevent them. Officers responded that it was difficult for crews to identify what was coming into the centres in vehicles.

Members stressed the importance of collecting data of what was arriving at waste centres and suggested that the forms completed by residents be updated to include a question that asked residents to specify what types of waste they were bringing in.

There was a new Staff code that strengthened controls over sexual harassment. Officers were working with HR colleagues in Richmond and Wandsworth.

RESOLVED:

(a) To agree to continue with current arrangements for the receipt of DIY waste by residents arriving in cars at the Smugglers Way HWRC **and implement a change to the current form completed by residents to specify what type of waste they were bringing in,** and report back to the February 2025 Committee meeting;

(b) To agree to delegate authority to the Interim General Manager, in consultation with the Chair, Interim Clerk and Treasurer to publicise the new Staff Policy and share with all staff ahead of 26th October 2024; and

(c) To otherwise receive this report as information.

RESOLVED:

"That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and the press be excluded from the meeting whilst remaining items are being considered because it is likely that exempt information as described in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act would be disclosed to them if they were present; and it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, given the fact that these papers and the presentation deal with ongoing negotiations and procurement terms

CLOSE OF MEETING