

EAST LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

Monday, 12 April 2010
(9:35 - 10:50 am)

Present: Councillor S Kelly (Chair), Councillor B Tebbutt (Deputy Chair), Councillor I Corbett, Councillor M Dunn, Councillor P Murphy, Councillor E Norman and Councillor Mrs V Rush

58 Apologies for Absence

Councillor G Vincent.

59 Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no Declarations of Members' Interests.

60 Minutes - To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2010

We have received commentary from the Executive Director on the tabled, revised minutes. Noted that the revision provides greater clarity as to the recommendations agreed in respect of Levy matters at Minute 48. We have agreed the replacement minutes. There were no matters arising.

61 Budgetary Control Report to 28 February 2010

We have received and noted the Finance Director's report, Budget Statement and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Action Plan and noted that the previous under-spend against projected budget had reduced to £94,000. The Finance Director outlined the reasons behind this. We have noted the contingency position and that any revenue under-spend or unutilised contingency for the year will be put back to Revenue Reserves.

As a result of our discussions on reduced tonnage levels, the Head of Operations has offered to provide us with a breakdown of the waste streams at our next meeting.

We have noted the difficulties experienced with Commercial Waste data affecting projected income.

We have discussed the affect the IFRS Action Plan has on the 2009/10 accounts closedown process, the finance team and we have considered the need to balance the complexity of the core accounts with simplicity of interpretation for the residents and stakeholders.

62 Audit Plan 2009/10

We have received the Executive Director's report and external auditor's Audit Plan for the year 2009/10 which included the 2009/10 accounts.

The Finance Director introduced Mike Robinson of PricewaterhouseCoopers who advised that the audit for the previous year had been very successful and hoped, with the help of the finance staff, that it would go as smoothly this year. He drew our attention to the key risks as being our crucial relationship with the Contractor and contract management, assessment of PFI schemes and preparation of the Statement of Accounts under IFRS reporting standards. He outlined the additional work involved and that under IFRS the accounts would grow by up to 50% in size, mainly because of disclosure. Our attention has been drawn to the increase of £1,800 in the Auditor's fees and we have questioned the validity of this increase referring the Auditor to the second paragraph of page 6.

We have accepted the Audit Plan for 2009/10 and agreed to receive another report on matters arising from the Audit at our next meeting.

63 Waste Management to February 2010

We have received the Head of Operations' report and appendices for the period to February. We have particularly noted the position that the Contractor has, for the first time, achieved the 22% target recycling performance figure and exceeded it with 24/25%. We have noted the Borough performance against the new national performance framework, the lower than expected tonnage levels of waste arisings and that waste volumes were reduced in all areas of ELWA.

In addition, we have received commentary on the two stage consultation for meeting EU Landfill Diversion Targets and DEFRA's review of policies regarding landfill bans. Following discussion, we have agreed that an officer response on the implications of any waste classification for the Authority is circulated to us for approval within the next few weeks and that the Chairman be requested to sign off ELWA's response before the deadline of 10 June.

In accordance with Minute 51/2009, we have been informed of the weaknesses in the systems with regard to Jenkins Lane Bio MRF and the need for a greater level of reporting to ELWA by the Contractor. It is noted that some improvements have been made, with revised protocols being included in the Annual Budget & Service Delivery Plan (ABSDP). It is noted that an emphasis has been placed on preventative maintenance linked to improved maintenance skills by the Contract and that Officers will continue to monitor the situation closely to evidence sustained reliability and report to us again in September. We have considered the question of imposing penalties for poor recycling and possibility of incentives with regard to the optibag system.

The Executive Director has responded to a question regarding the impact of the Mayor's Draft Waste Strategy on ELWA's targets referring to the ELWA's Joint Waste Management Strategy (JWMS) agreed in 2006. Compliance with the Mayor's Waste Strategy, due end 2010, would be a matter for review in respect of ELWA's Joint Waste Management Strategy.

The Managing Director reminded Members that he was seeking to arrange a workshop in the summer and that this would be the ideal forum for Members, new and/or old to consider how to achieve targets, e.g. carbon, landfill diversion and recycling. We have expressed the desire to visit some of the Councils that are achieving high recycling and diversion levels.

We have noted all satisfactory performances including the outcome of the Environment Agency Audit, the updates on Jenkins Lane Bio MRF and Biossence projects and approved the proposal for responses to be circulated with regards to the two government consultations.

We have asked the Head of Operations to include in his Monthly report data on Jenkins Lane monitoring and to produce a System of Monitoring Report.

64 Whitehouse Cottages - Aveley 1 Site

We have received the Head of Operations' commentary and report on a recent attempt by a third party to take possession of the Aveley 1 landfill site property known as No.2 Whitehouse Cottages. We note that appropriate action has been taken to regain access to the site, that is now secure and that first registration of the property is underway ensuring that the ELWA is the registered owner.

65 Service Delivery Plan 2010/11 to 2014/15 (5 Year) and Annual Budget and Service Delivery Plan for 2010/11

We have agreed to take Agenda Items 7 and 11 together.

In accordance with Minute 55/2009, we have received a further report and appendices in respect of the ABSDP for 2010/11 and the 5 Year Plan. The Executive Director's report sets out the contractual background and development of the Service Delivery Plans in accordance with the JWMS, the Contractor's proposals, the reasons behind the delay in agreeing the Service Delivery Plans and the actions taken to remedy the position to Officers' satisfaction.

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that the Contractor aims to exceed the existing contractual target for diversion for landfill by 15% and in 2010/11 to achieve a higher recycling target and noted the position with regard to increases in Landfill Tax and the impact on the Levy.

In accordance with the recommendations, we have approved the 5 year SDP 2010/11 to 2014/15 and the ABSDP for 2010/11, both of which had summaries provided. Both documents will be made available to Borough Officers.

(Appendix D to this report was contained in the private section of the agenda by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

66 Aveley Methane

We have briefly discussed cessation of landfill and sources of power produced from alternatives to methane extraction, in general.

67 Governance Arrangements

We have received an update from the Managing Director on the recruitment of his successor.

The Chairman offered his thanks to Members for their active participation and support during the municipal year.

Chair:

Dated:.....