

Resources Department
7 Newington Barrow Way
London N7 7EP

Report of: Deputy Monitoring Officer

Meeting of: Council

Date: 8 December 2022

Ward(s): All

Subject: Dispensation request

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) is the statutory joint waste disposal authority for north London and as such is responsible for the disposal of waste collected by seven north London boroughs, including the London Borough of Islington.
- 1.2. NLWA is comprised of 14 councillors, with each constituent borough appointing two councillors. The appointments are made annually at the constituent borough's annual council meeting. Councillor Rowena Champion, Executive Member Environment, Air Quality and Transport and Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance were appointed as the Council's representatives on NLWA at Annual Council on 26 May 2022.
- 1.3. NLWA is the sole shareholder in LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL). LEL operates an energy from waste (EfW) facility and other waste facilities at the Edmonton EcoPark in Enfield, and waste transfer stations and reuse and recycling centres in the north London area. NLWA has a waste services contract with LEL for disposal of the waste delivered by the constituent boroughs.
- 1.4. As a result of her appointment as Vice Chair of NLWA, Councillor Rowena Champion has been appointed by LondonEnergy Ltd to act as a director of that company and as a result, receives £13,285 per annum as compensation for the time given to undertaking this role. This payment is a disclosable pecuniary interest under the Islington Code of Conduct for Members and is included in Councillor Champion's [Register of Interests](#).

- 1.5. The appointment of Councillor Champion as Director of LondonEnergy Ltd creates a positive and direct connection from the constituent Boroughs to the NLWA to LondonEnergy Ltd, which is in the public interest as it will ultimately facilitate a better service for the Borough.
- 1.6. As the appointment has created a disclosable pecuniary interest, under the Islington Code of Conduct for Members, Councillor Champion requires a dispensation from Council to allow participation in debates and votes on matters covered by the pecuniary interest, ie matters affecting LEL. The grounds for the dispensation include that it is in the interests of residents of Islington for Councillor Champion to be able to continue to participate in debates and votes on matters relating to waste disposal, energy from waste, waste facilities, waste transfer stations and reuse and recycling.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To grant Councillor Rowena Champion a dispensation, to allow her to participate in debates and votes on matters relating to waste disposal, energy from waste, waste facilities, waste transfer stations, reuse and recycling and any other waste related issues until Councillor Champion ceases to be a director of LondonEnergy Ltd or until 28 July 2026

3. Background

- 3.1. Councillor Rowena Champion, Executive Member Environment, Air Quality and Transport and Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance were appointed as the Council's members of NLWA at Annual Council on 26 May 2022. Councillor Rowena Champion has been appointed as a Vice Chair of the NLWA.
- 3.2. NLWA is established as a statutory joint waste disposal authority under Schedule 1 to the Waste Regulation and Disposal (Authorities) Order 1985. The NLWA's main waste disposal functions are set out in section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 3.3. Following a review to re-establish the necessary alignment between LondonEnergy Ltd and the NLWA's needs, changes have been made to the composition and membership of the LondonEnergy Lts board and it now comprises of:
 - Executive directors (Managing Director, Finance Director, and Operations Director);
 - Non-executive directors – the company's Chair, and non-execs with the following expertise – finance, health and safety, waste management, ERF plants.
 - Three NLWA Members – the Chair and Vice Chairs;
 - Four officers – the MD of NLWA, two directors from constituent boroughs, and the NLWA Head of Legal and Governance.

- 3.4. As a result of her appointment as Vice Chair of NLWA, Councillor Rowena Champion has been appointed by LondonEnergy Ltd to act as a director of that company and as a result, receives £13,285 per annum as compensation for the time given to undertaking this role. This payment is a disclosable pecuniary interest under the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and is included in Councillor Champion's [Register of Interests](#).
- 3.5. Under the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, Council may only grant a dispensation to a member to allow them to speak and/or vote in respect of an item of business at a meeting where they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in limited circumstances, which include 'granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the council's area'.
- 3.6. It is considered that granting the requested dispensation to Councillor Champion is in the interests of persons living in the council's area because the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest arises directly from Councillor Champion's role in LondonEnergy Ltd, where her role is to ensure there is alignment between the actions of LondonEnergy Ltd and the aims of the NLWA and its' constituent boroughs, including Islington.
- 3.7. A dispensation granted to a Member is published on the relevant council website and can last up to 4 years.

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

- 4.1.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

4.2. Legal Implications

- 4.2.1. The Council has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members (section 27(1) Localism Act 2011). The Islington Code of Conduct for Members has been revised to incorporate the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 and includes the requirement to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary interest and the arrangements for dispensations.

4.3. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

- 4.3.1. There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

4.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 4.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take

account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

- 4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required, because there are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. Council is asked to grant a dispensation to allow Councillor Rowena Champion to participate in debates and vote on matters relating to waste disposal, energy from waste, waste facilities, waste transfer stations, reuse and recycling and any other waste related issues, as detailed in the recommendation in this report because it is in the best interests of the residents of the borough.

Appendices: None.

Background papers: None.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Julian Walshaw, Deputy Monitoring Officer

Date: 30 November 2022

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