

EAST LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

3rd April 2002
(3.00 — 3.49 p.m.)

Present:- Councillor Patient (Chairman); Councillor Weinberg (Vice-Chairman);
Councillors Dale, Hilton, Saunders, Stafford and Ware

1147 MINUTES

We have confirmed as correct the minutes of our meeting held on 18th March 2002.

1148 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2001/02 & ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2002/03

We have received a report from the Treasurer on the internal audit coverage and findings for 2001/02 and the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2002/03.

At our meeting on 7th February 2001 (Minute 1060 refers), we agreed the audit coverage for 2001/02. We have received details of the various issues that have been subject to the audit coverage during the last 12 months and the specific actions that have been taken and further controls that are proposed. In particular, we have noted that:

- (i) Payroll — new signing-in arrangements for drivers have now been implemented; and
- (ii) Creditor payments/contractor tipping costs — the principle recommendations arising from this review related to the authorisation and batching of invoices.

In respect of the internal audit coverage, the Treasurer advised that the overall allocation for 2002/03 is 43 days. Of this, Newham s internal audit coverage allocation is 20 days and we have asked the Treasurer to seek an assurance from Newham that this allocation will be met, bearing in mind that only 4 days out of a programmed 30 days was carried out in 2001/02. The Treasurer agreed to advise Members accordingly of any shortfalls that may occur with the audit coverage during 2002/03.

In conclusion, the Treasurer reported that many of the services that are currently subject to ELWA s internal audit arrangements will transfer to the contractor under the IWMS Contract. He added however that ELWA and the four constituent boroughs will continue to work together to ensure that the Authority is both providing and receiving robust services.

Accordingly, we have noted the progress and audit findings arising from the work carried out in 2001/02 and have agreed the audit coverage for 2002/03 as set out in the report.

1149 IWMS CONTRACT — UPDATE

We are pleased to note that Shanks Waste Services Limited accepted unconditionally the proposed terms of appointment to preferred bidder status for the Authority's IWMS Contract,. Accordingly, Shanks' appointment as preferred bidder was formally made by the Clerk on 20th March 2002.

We have further noted that a debriefing meeting is to be held with Thames Waste Management to explain the reasons for that company not being selected as preferred bidder.

The Clerk and the Project Liaison Director also advised on the issues that now need to be resolved before the contract can commence and a timetable has been drawn up, to which all parties have given a commitment to. The Project Liaison Director further advised that it may be necessary for a special meeting of the Authority to be convened before our next scheduled meeting in order to consider matters relating to the joint venture company, ELWA Limited. We have agreed that, if necessary, the appropriate arrangements for this meeting should be settled following the forthcoming local elections.

1150 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CIVIC AMENITY SITES

(The Chairman agreed that this issue could be considered at the meeting under the provisions of Section 100B (iv)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a matter of urgency in order for Members to be advised of the temporary closure of borough civic amenity sites).

The General Manager advised that owing to the level of use of the borough civic amenity sites over the Easter bank holiday period, it had been necessary to periodically close the sites to the general public to enable waste to be removed. The General Manager added that the knock-on effect of the huge demand over the bank holiday period will mean that it is necessary to temporarily close the Gerpins Lane civic amenity site to the public tomorrow to enable safe access for ELWA's vehicles to remove the waste.

1151 COUNCILLOR ROY PATIENT

The Clerk advised that this was to be the last meeting to be attended by the Chairman, Councillor Roy Patient, as he will shortly be retiring from office as a Councillor of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Councillor Patient has been a Member of the Authority since its inception in 1986 and, during this time, has attended all but one of the Authority's 123 meetings. Councillor Patient was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Authority on 16th March 1989 before taking up the Chairmanship on 24th June 1992, a position he has held ever since. The Clerk paid tribute to Councillor Patient's commitment, drive and leadership throughout his 16 years as a Member of the Authority and these sentiments were echoed by other colleagues at the meeting. In response, Councillor Patient paid tribute to Members and officers, past and present, for their commitment and support and he commended the way in which ELWA has operated over the years.

We have placed on record our sincere appreciation of Councillor Patient's services to the Authority and have wished him every happiness for the future.