

**Alliance Environmental Services Ltd (AES)**  
**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 11.00 Via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:**

Cllr Arthur Moran, Chairman	AM
Kevin Melling, Managing Director	KM
Jane Thomason, Deputy Managing Director	JT
Melanie Henniker, Director HR & Corporate Services	MH
Tracy Baldwin, Group Finance Manager	TB
Andrew Stokes, Chief Exec SM&HP/Director AES	AS
Mark Trillo, Executive Director AES	MT

**Other:**

Jade Barber (Minutes)	JB
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**Apologies Received:**

**None**

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	Cllr Arthur Moran chaired the meeting throughout.  The Chairman reported that due notice of the meeting had been given and that a quorum was present. Accordingly, he declared the meeting open.	
2.	<b>Declaration of Conflict of Interest</b> KM declared that he was also the Managing Director of Ansa Environmental Services Ltd, a company wholly owned by Cheshire East Council.	
3.	<b>Minutes of meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 and Matters arising</b> The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.  <u><b>Audit</b></u>  Grant Thornton submitted the final accounts to Companies House by the deadline advised, however due to Covid related issues, the courier was unable to deliver these on time. GT are resolving.	
4.	<b>Financial Update (to include an In-Year Position Update and an overview of the draft 2022/23 Management Fee) – redacted due to commercial sensitivity.</b>	
5.	<b>Waste and Resource Strategy Update</b> There has been no further information since the last meeting. We are still expecting a consultation update released in spring, with the consultation on TEEP being expected in May/June. JT reminded that weekly food waste	

	<p>collections will be mandatory, so this is a piece of work that needs to be looked at. JT will update when further information is received.</p> <p>KM queried whether there could be a grace period for authorities who are currently comingling food and green waste. JT advised that no information had been given, however not all authorities will be able to switch over at the same time, so it appears likely.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Operational Update</b></p> <p>The period over Christmas and New Year has been difficult, with high levels of covid absence, poor weather and driver and vehicle shortage. Some of our collections have not gone as scheduled, but Waste in Staffordshire Moorlands has now caught up, and High Peak have a small number of outreach rural areas to complete which will be done by the end of the week. Organic recommenced as scheduled last week. There have been significantly higher tonnages than expected both on organic and other waste areas, and High Peak have seen an increased rate of fly tipping instances. JT noted that there has been a positive team culture, with employees from both Street Cleansing and Grounds, Parks and Horticulture supporting Waste services over the festive period.</p> <p>We are expecting 12 LGVs to be delivered over the next couple of months to finalise the new vehicle procurement in the current phase.</p> <p>AM noted that government isolation rules for Covid changed recently and asked if AES has reflected that within their rules. He also asked whether there was any information on staff vaccination rates for AES.</p> <p>MH advised that Isolation rules had only recently changed within AES just prior to the government changes, so a decision was made to stick to the 6-7 day ruling for now. MH also advised that we do not hold vaccination status information as data protection guidance advises that we need a valid reason in order to ask this. Currently, vaccination status is only queried when a staff member is self-isolating in order to determine how long they need to isolate for.</p> <p>AS asked whether the level of absenteeism over the festive period had now levelled off; JT advised that it had.</p>	
7.	<p><b>HVO Fuel</b></p> <p>The HVO trial commenced at the beginning of October. It was trialled on one 15 tonne vehicle, two 26 tonne vehicles and one 32 tonne vehicle. The summary shows some excellent results</p> <p>An issue and possible risk factor is the volatility on price of HVO Fuel.</p> <p>AM queried why the price was so volatile. JT advised there was an increase at the refinery in November, but that she was not sure of a reason beyond that.</p> <p>AS asked MT if the councils had accepted this as definite way forward. MT noted the trial was fantastic and positive for steps against climate change. JT noted the next Commissioning Board is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February – she has spoken to the Commissioning Manager re updating the board on the HVO trial. She asked AS/MT whether it was still appropriate to do so. They agreed that it was.</p>	
8.	<p><b>HR Policies Review - Redundancy &amp; Pensions Discretions</b></p>	

	<p>From time to time, the Board is asked to review strategic HR policies. MH presented a paper which has been written to allow the Board to consider the Redundancy Policy and Procedure and the Pension Discretions Policy. MH circulated copies of both the Redundancy and Pensions Discretions policies and reviewed them for the benefit of this meeting. No changes were proposed in either of these policies.</p> <p><b>Board Resolution – The board agreed both policies as presented to them.</b></p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Local Government Sector Union Ballot</b></p> <p>Since this item was circulated, the outcome of the Unison aggregated ballot was received. Unison was required to achieve 50 percent of eligible votes to vote for strike action, but only received 14.5%. Of the people that did vote, over 70% would have voted to strike. GMB conducted a consultancy ballot, and we are still awaiting their proposed next step. The outcome means that strike action will not be an imminent issue.</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>MH/JT advised that they are close to finalising results on the employee restructure of the AES management team. Job descriptions are being finalised and hope to go out to consultation and get that into place early in the new year. AS asked if there was any more information available on the restructure. MH advised there were no redundancies proposed.</p> <p>JT advised it's more an integrated approach, so there will be some changes in reporting lines.</p> <p>MH confirmed that after a prior query, a search is now ongoing for an employee rep to join the Commissioning Board. This should be in place in time for the summer meetings.</p>	

**The Meeting closed at 12.30**