

FORWARD PLAN

Publication Date: April 2015

Introduction

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Authority publishes a "Forward Plan" of "Key Decisions".

The Forward Plan is published on a six weekly basis to match the Authority's meeting cycle and covers key issues to be dealt with in the subsequent three months. It is a publicly available document and its purpose is to reinforce the openness and accountability of the Authority's decision-making process.

The Plan seeks to anticipate the issues that will be the subject of a Key Decision during that period. For each item the Plan includes:

- The item's title and a short description of the decision being sought.
- An indication of who will be making the decision.
- The Scrutiny arrangements for the decision.
- An indication of when the decision is expected to be made. This may be a specific date i.e. the date of a meeting, or a period during which the decision is likely to be made.
- A list of Supporting Papers. These will be documents which the decision-maker(s) will consider or take into account when making the decision.
- An indication of what consultation will take place on the item which is the subject of the proposed decision. This will include an indication as to who will be consulted (i.e. principal groups and organisations) and how that consultation will be conducted.
- An indication of how and to whom representations should be made on the item.

Within the Plan, the items are listed in the chronological order in which it is anticipated that the decisions will be made.

The decision in respect of each key decision is recorded in the minutes for the relevant meeting which are approved at the subsequent meeting of the Authority and are open for inspection at the Authority Offices and on the Authority's web site.

Definition of a Key Decision

The definition of a Key Decision is set out in the Authority's Constitution. It is as follows:-

A Key Decision is an executive decision:-

- (i) incurring expenditure or making savings which are financially significant, unless the specific expenditure or saving has previously been agreed by the Authority; or
- (ii) which, in the view of the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Merseyside.

A decision will be considered financially significant if:-

- a) in the case of revenue expenditure, it results in incurring expenditure or making savings of £250,000 or greater;
- b) in the case of capital expenditure, the capital expenditure/savings are in excess of £1 Million;

unless the specific expenditure or savings have previously been agreed by the Authority or have been taken in line with the Authority's Financial Management Policy.

In determining whether a decision is significant in terms of its effect on communities, the Chief Executive and lead Member will give consideration to:-

- a) the number of residents/service users/District Council areas that will be affected;
- b) whether the impact is short term, long term or permanent;
- c) the impact on the community in terms of the economic, social and environmental well-being.

Decision-Makers

Key Decisions will be made by the Authority or its committees where relevant powers have been delegated. A report will be submitted to the relevant meeting on each key decision, and Members will also consider, where necessary, any report which has been 'called-in' under the Authority's scrutiny arrangements.

Consultation

The Chief Executive, in taking decisions under delegated powers, will consult with the relevant Authority Members and other key stakeholders, in accordance with those identified in the Forward Plan.

Authority Meetings

The Authority will meet formally approximately every six weeks. Meeting dates are published on the web site www.merseysidewda.gov.uk. Each Authority meeting will be in two parts. The first part of the meeting will consider the Key Decisions contained in the Forward Plan, and any other matters determined by the Chair. The second part of the meeting will be made available for any scrutiny discussions.

The current schedule of meetings is as follows:

24th April 2015 26th June 2015 (Annual General Meeting) 25th September 2015 20th November 2015 5th February 2016 (Budget & ordinary meeting) 22nd April 2016

Scrutiny Arrangements

Two Members of the Authority may request that the Chair place a delegated decision matter on the Agenda of an Authority regular meeting as a 'scrutiny item'.

Information Reports

The Authority will periodically publish information reports about its Policies, Strategies and Performance on the web site www.merseysidewda.gov.uk

Contacts

If you have any queries or comments regarding the contents or format of this document please direct them to Mandy Valentine (Clerk to the Authority) on 0151-255-1444 or by e-mail at enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk

AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP 2013/14

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Item	Ref No.	Decision Date	Lead Officer
Service Delivery Plan 2015/16	K5-15	24/04/2015	Mandy Valentine
Quarterly Performance report (now incorporated into Service Delivery Plan)	K4-15		
Shared Parental Leave Policy	K3-15	24/04/2015	Paula Pocock
Community Fund 2015/16 – Invitations for Final Projects	K14-15	24/04/2015	Stuart Donaldson
Annual Governance Statement	K15-15	24/04/2015	Mandy Valentine
Communications & Marketing Strategy	K20-15	24/04/2015	Paula Pocock
Urgent Action – Residual Waste Treatment	K21-15	24/04/2015	Mandy Valentine
External Audit Plan 2014/15	K22-15	24/04/2015	Peter Williams
Internal Audit 2015/16	K23-15	24/04/2015	Peter Williams
Internal Audit – Interim Contracts	K24-15	24/04/2015	Peter Williams
Questions on the Discharge of Functions	K16-15	26/06/2015	Mandy Valentine
Scheme of Delegation and Constitution	K17-15	26/06/2015	Mandy Valentine
Appointment of Committees and Representation on Other Bodies	K18-15	26/06/2015	Mandy Valentine
Interim residual waste treatment procurement	K19-15	26/06/2015	John Connell

Title	Service Deliv	very Plan 2015	/16		
File Reference	K5-15				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Impact Other – Corporate Governance specify				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	Member approval of a Service Delivery Plan which sets out how the Authority will make steps towards its Corporate Aims in the forward year, and consideration of a new reporting regime.				
Scrutiny area	Corporate Governance				
Date for decision	24 th April 2015				
List of Background Papers for consideration					
Risk Management Implications	 Failure to set clear objectives will result in poor corporate governance Failure to plan and prioritise will lead to inefficient use of resources. Clear planning will improve performance and engage Members, staff and stakeholders. 				
Prior consultation	Members' Forward Planning Panel				
Representations	_	Mandy Valentine tine@merseysio	•		

Title	Shared Parental Leave Policy				
File Reference	K3-15				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	y			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify Corporate				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	To adopt a S	hared Parental	Leave Policy		
Scrutiny area	Corporate Governance				
Date for decision	24 th April 2015				
List of Background Papers for consideration	Draft Shared Parental Leave Policy				
Risk Management Implications	Failure to ensure fairness and consistent application of Policy and Procedure may leave the Authority open to legal challenge				
Prior consultation	Executive Management Team				
Representations		r by email to Pa @merseysidev			

Title	Community Fund 2015-16 Allocation				
File Reference	K14-15				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	y			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Community Impact	Other – please specify		
	J	J	Environmental benefits		
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	To consider and approve projects to be invited to submit Stage 2 applications for funding from the Community Fund 2015-16.				
Scrutiny area	Strategy/Gov	ernance			
Date for decision	25 th April 2015				
List of Background Papers for consideration	Community Fund 2015-16 Report (WDA 03/15) of 6 th February 2015.				
Risk Management Implications	Failure to demonstrate value for money Failure of applications to meet the aims and objectives of the Fund and be suitable for inviting to Stage 2 Failure to address resource requirements to manage the Community Fund.				
Prior consultation Representations		ation Team. by email to Stua son@merseysion			

Title	Annual Gove	ernance Stater	nent		
File Reference	K15-15				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Impact Other – please specify Governance				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	To consider the annual review of the Authority's governance arrangements and approve the Annual Governance Statement.				
Scrutiny area	Governance				
Date for decision	24 th April 2015				
List of Background Papers for consideration					
Risk Management Implications	Failure to review corporate governance and internal control arrangements is a statutory requirement and may lead to weaknesses in the direction and control of the Authority's functions.				
Prior consultation	Primary Assurance Group				
Representations	•	r by email to M ine@merseysion	•		

Title	Communications and Marketing Strategy				
File Reference	K20-15				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	To approve a Communications and Marketing Strategy				
Scrutiny area	Corporate Governance				
Date for decision	24 th April 2015				
List of Background Papers for consideration	Draft Communications and Marketing Strategy				
Risk Management Implications	Failure to set clear communications objectives which are linked strategically to the Authority's corporate aims and objectives would result in unfocused delivery of communications.				
Prior consultation	Executive Management Team				
Representations	In writing to o paula.pocock	r by email to @merseysidew	<u>/da.gov.uk</u>		

Title	Urgent Action – Residual Waste Treatment				
File Reference	K21-15				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Private				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	To inform Members of an urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive to make a limited variation to the Waste Management and Recycling Contract (WMRC) to enable the Authority to divert approximately 20,000t of residual waste from landfill.				
Scrutiny area	Waste Contracts				
Date for decision	Decision taken on 3 rd December 2015 and reported to Authority meeting on 24 th April 2015.				
List of Background Papers for consideration					
Risk Management Implications	Issues regarding procurement were considered as part of the decision-making process.				
Prior consultation	Chair and De	puty Chair.			
Representations	In writing to o mandy.valent	r by email to ine@merseysion	dewda.gov.uk		

Title	External Audit Plan 2014-15				
File Reference	K22-15				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	The external auditor is required to prepare a plan for approval by the Authority before completing substantive work				
Scrutiny area	Finance				
Date for decision	24 April 2015				
List of Background Papers for consideration	N/a				
Risk Management Implications	Without a plan approved the Authority may not meet its obligations for external audit				
Prior consultation	N/a				
Representations	In writing to o peter.williams	r by email to merseysidev	vda.gov.uk		

Title	Internal Aud	it plan 2015 16	•		
Title	Internal Audit plan 2015-16				
File Reference	K23-15				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	The Authority is required to maintain an adequate and effective internal audit – the plan sets out, for Members, how that obligation is to be delivered				
Scrutiny area	Finance				
Date for decision	24 April 2015				
List of Background Papers for consideration	N/A				
Risk Management Implications	If the plan is not considered and approved there is a risk that the obligation for internal audit will not be met				
Prior consultation	n/a				
Representations	In writing to o peter.williams	r by email to merseysidev	vda.gov.uk		

MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

KEY DECISION SHEET

Title	Internal audit – interim contracts			
File Reference	K24-15			
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public			
Decision Maker	Full Authority			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial ✓	Community Impact	Other – please specify	
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	Internal audit meet their obligations by reporting the outcome of their work, Members attention is drawn to the report so that they can assess the adequacy of internal controls at the authority.			
Scrutiny area	Finance			
Date for decision	24 April 2015			
List of Background Papers for consideration	NA			
Risk Management Implications	Unless Members review the outcome of Internal Audit's work there is a risk that internal control weaknesses will be missed			
Prior consultation	N/a			
Representations	In writing to o peter.williams	r by email to merseysidew	vda.gov.uk	

Title	Questions on the Discharge of Functions			
File Reference	K16-15			
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public			
Decision Maker	Full Authority			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Community Impact	Other – please specify	Governance
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	The Authority is required each year to nominate Members to answer questions at each of the District Council's own proceedings on behalf of the Authority.			
Scrutiny area	Governance			
Date for decision	26 th June 2015			
List of Background Papers for consideration	None			
Risk Management Implications	Risk of inconsistencies unless a single Member from each District Council is identified to answer questions regarding the Authority's activities.			
Prior consultation				
Representations	In writing to or by email to Mandy Valentine mandy.valentine@merseysidewda.gov.uk			

Title	Scheme of Delegation and Constitution			
File Reference	K17-15			
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public			
Decision Maker	Full Authority			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Community Impact	Other – please specify	Governance
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	The Authority's Constitution requires the Scheme of Delegation to be adopted at the Annual Meeting each year. This report will also identify any proposed changes to the Constitution following an annual review.			
Scrutiny area	Governance			
Date for decision	26 th June 2015			
List of Background Papers for consideration	None			
Risk Management Implications	Failure to adopt the Scheme of Delegation is a breach of the Authority Procedural Rules			
Prior consultation				
Representations	In writing to or by email to Mandy Valentine mandy.valentine@merseysidewda.gov.uk			

Title	Appointment of Committees and Representation on Other Bodies			
File Reference	K18-15			
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public			
Decision Maker	Full Authority			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Community Impact	Other – please specify	Governance
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	Changes to the Authority's membership following District Council AGM's require the Authority to review membership of committees and representation on other bodies.			
Scrutiny area	Governance			
Date for decision	26 th June 2015			
List of Background Papers for consideration	None			
Risk Management Implications	It is good corporate governance to effectively delegate responsibility to committees and to identify appropriate levels of representation on other bodies.			
Prior consultation				
Representations		r by email to Maine@merseysion		

Title	Interim residual waste treatment procurement			
File Reference	K19-15			
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Private			
Decision Maker	Full Authority			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial ✓	Community Impact	Other – please specify	
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	Financially significant, impact on the community in terms of environmental wellbeing.			
Scrutiny area	Procurement			
Date for decision	26 th June 2015			
List of Background Papers for consideration	None			
Risk Management Implications	Opportunity to secure improved performance and financial efficiencies.			
Prior consultation	Chairman			
Representations	_	r by email to Jo merseysidewo		