

Publication Date: March 2013

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:-

- 1. incurring expenditure or making savings in excess of £250,000, unless the specific expenditure or saving has previously been agreed by the Authority, or
- 2. Is, in the view of the Chief Executive, in consultation with the lead Member significant in terms of its effects 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 Chairman. The second part of the meeting will be made available for any scrutiny discussions.

The current schedule of meetings is as follows:

19th April 2013 28th June 2013 (AGM) 29th November 2013 31st January 2014 (Budget and Ordinary Meeting) 25th April 2014

Scrutiny Arrangements

Two Members of the Authority may request that the Chairman 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 2012/2013

COUNCILLOR	Portfolio Area	Address and Contact Details
J De Asha (Chairperson) (St Helens)	 Scrutiny Public Consultation Procurement Portfolio Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd Board North West Local Authorities' Employers' Organisation Strategy and Development Portfolio Chief Executive's Appraisal Panel Audit and Governance Committee Community Fund 3 – Assessment Panel Contract Procurement 	628 Warrington Road Rainhill Prescot L35 0NS Tel: 01744 678 980 Email: cllrde'asha@sthelens.gov.uk
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l Williams (Wirral)	 Scrutiny Public Consultation Bidston Methane Ltd Board Appeals Committee Community Fund 3 – Assessment Panel 	49 Parkhill Road Prenton Birkenhead Wirral CH42 9JD Tel: 0151 608 7806 Email: irenewilliams@wirral.gov.uk

Carl Beer Chief Executive	Various delegated matters	6th Floor, North House 17 North John Street Liverpool L2 5QY Tel: 0151 255 1444 Email: carlbeer@merseysidewda.gov.uk
Peter Williams Treasurer	Various delegated matters	6 th Floor, North House 17 North John Street Liverpool L2 5QY Tel: 0151 255 1444 Email: Peter.williams@merseysidewda.gov.uk
Mandy Valentine Clerk to the Authority	Various delegated matters	6th Floor, North House 17 North John Street Liverpool L2 5QY Tel: 0151 255 1444 Email: mandy.valentine@merseysidewda.gov.uk
Neil Ferris Monitoring Officer	Various delegated matters	6th Floor, North House 17 North John Street Liverpool L2 5QY Tel: 0151 255 1444 Email: neil.ferris@merseysidewda.gov.uk

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Item	Ref No.	Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Lead Officer
Performance Report Q3	K41-13	Strategy and Development	19/04/2013	A Valentine
Service Plans 2013/2014	K42-13	Corporate Governance	19/04/2013	A Valentine
Scheme of Delegation	K51-13	Corporate Governance	28/06/2013	A Valentine
Discharge of Functions	K52-13	Corporate Governance	28/06/2013	A Valentine
Appointment of Committees	K53-13	Corporate Governance	28/06/2013	A Valentine
Code of Corporate Governance	K54-13	Corporate Governance	28/06/2013	A Valentine
Quarterly Performance Report Q4	K55-13	Strategy and Development	28/06/2013	A Valentine

Item for consideration	Service Plan	s 2013/2014			
File Reference	K42-13				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Impact Other – please specify Corporate Governance				
Reason for meeting Key Decision Criteria		proval of Anni the delivery of t			
Scrutiny area	Corporate Governance				
Date for decision	19 th April 2013				
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			_		
Representations	•	Mandy Valentine tine@merseysion	•		

Item for consideration	Quarterly Performance Report Q3 2012/13				
File Reference	K41-13				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Impact Other – please specify Corporate Governance				
Reason for meeting Key Decision Criteria	To inform Members of the Authority's performance in relation to the delivery of the Corporate Plan.				
Scrutiny area	Strategy and Development				
Date for decision	19 th April 2013				
List of Background Papers for consideration					
Risk Management Implications	Failure to manage performance risks non-achievement of corporate targets.				
Prior consultation					
Representations		Mandy Valentine tine@merseysion			

Item for consideration	Scheme of D	elegation			
File Reference	K51-13				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify				
Reason for meeting Key Decision Criteria	The Scheme of Delegation is reviewed and adopted each year at the Authority's Annual meeting.				
Scrutiny area	Governance				
Date for decision	28th June, 2013				
List of Background Papers for consideration	None				
Risk Management Implications	Good corporate governance to review the scheme of delegations on a regular basis.				
Prior consultation	None				
Representations	In writing to N mandy.valent	landy Valentine ine@merseysion	e or by email to dewda.gov.uk		

Item for consideration	Questions on the Discharge of Functions				
File Reference	K52-13				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Impact Other – please specify				
Reason for meeting Key Decision Criteria	Governance Requirement. Changes in MWDA membership following District Council AGM's require the Authority to review who will be nominated to answer questions at each of the District Council's own proceedings on behalf of the Authority.				
Scrutiny area	Governance				
Date for decision	28th June, 2013				
List of Background Papers for consideration	None				
Risk Management Implications	Risks inconsistencies if single Member from each District Council is not identified for direct questions regarding the Authority's activities.				
Prior consultation	N/A				
Representations		Mandy Valentine ine@merseysio	•		

Item for consideration	Appointment of Committees and Representation on Other Bodies				
File Reference	K53-13				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify				
Reason for meeting Key Decision Criteria	Corporate Governance Requirement. Changes in MWDA membership following District Council AGM's require the Authority to review membership of committees and representations.				
Scrutiny area	Governance				
Date for decision	28th June, 2013				
List of Background Papers for consideration	None				
Risk Management Implications	Good corporate governance to effectively delegate responsibility to Lead members and committees and to identify appropriate levels of representation on other bodies				
Prior consultation	N/A				
Representations	In writing to N	landy Valentine ine@merseysic			

Item for consideration	Code of Corporate Governance and Statement of Internal Control				
File Reference	K54-13				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	y			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify				
Reason for meeting Key Decision Criteria	To agree the Statement of Internal Control as part of the annual Code of Corporate Governance review.				
Scrutiny area	Governance				
Date for decision	28th June, 2013				
List of Background Papers for consideration	None				
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		Mandy Valentine ine@merseysio			

Item for consideration	Performance Report Q4 2012/13				
File Reference	K55-13				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authorit	у			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify				
Reason for meeting Key Decision Criteria	Authority Members consider the report on performance and determine, where relevant, the actions required to improve performance				
Scrutiny area	Strategy & Development				
Date for decision	28 th June, 2012				
List of Background Papers for consideration					
Risk Management Implications	Failure to manage performance risks non-achievement of targets				
Prior consultation					
Representations		Mandy Valentine tine@merseysion			