



**At a Meeting of the Authority
held on Friday 31st January 2014**

Present : Councillor Graham Morgan
Councillor Tony Concepcion
Councillor Kevin Cluskey
Councillor Patricia Hardy
Councillor Richard Oglethorpe
Councillor Alan Cunliffe
Councillor Irene Williams
Councillor Steve Williams
Councillor Stef Nelson (Observer Status)

Before opening the meeting, the Chairperson took the opportunity to thank the Chief Executive and his staff on behalf of all Merseyside and Halton Members on the successful procurement of the Resource Recovery Contract which was signed on 23rd December 2013.

72. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Laura Robertson-Collins.

73. **Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 29th November 2013**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record.

74. **Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 12th December 2013**

Resolved that the minutes of the special meeting held on 12th December 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record.

75. **Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers**

Carl Beer, Neil Ferris, Peter Williams, Alex Murray and Amanda Valentine declared a personal interest in Item 12, recorded herewith as Resolution 83, in their capacity as officers of the Authority.

Councillor Concepcion, Councillor Cluskey, Neil Ferris and Alex Murray declared a personal interest in Item 12, recorded herewith as Resolution 83, in their capacity as Directors of Mersey Waste Holdings Limited.

76. **Questions from Members under Procedural Rule 9**

There were no questions submitted by Members under Procedural Rule 9.

77. **Questions from Members of the Public under Procedural Rule 10**

There were no questions submitted by Members of the Public under Procedural Rule 10.

78. **Motions proposed by Members under Procedural Rule 15**

There were no motions proposed by Members under Procedural Rule 15.

79. **Revenue Budget 2014-2015 and Prudential Indicators 2013-2014 to 2016-2017**

The Authority considered a report seeking Members' approval to a revised Revenue Budget for 2013/14 and a proposed Revenue Budget for 2014/15 of £65,591,099.

The Treasurer informed Members that Recommendation 7 of the report contained a typographical error and should have included the word 'beyond,' at the end of the sentence.

Resolved that:

1. the Revised Budget for 2013-14 be approved;
2. the Revenue Budget for 2014-15 be approved;

3. in consideration of the levy option proposals set out in Appendix 2 of the report, the proposal for a Levy of £65.591M be approved;
4. the levy be made on the constituent District Councils for 2014-15;
5. the payment dates for the levy be agreed as set out in the report;
6. the proposals for establishing a Waste Development Fund be agreed;
7. the proposed Capital Programme including the development of HWRCs during the remainder of 2013-14, 2014-15 and beyond be agreed;
8. the Prudential Indicators for 2013-14 to 2016-17 be approved as set out in the report and detailed in Appendix 4;
9. delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Treasurer, within the total limit for each year, to effect movements between the separately agreed prudential indicator limits in accordance with option appraisal and best value for money for the Authority;
10. delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Treasurer to effect movements between borrowing and other long term liabilities sums under the framework of the Prudential Code; and
11. the methodology for calculating Minimum Revenue Provisions for the Authority as set out at section 12 of the detailed report be noted.

80. **Internal Audit Report – Financial Systems**
WDA/04/14

A report was submitted which informed Members of the outcome of a recent review undertaken in relation to the Financial systems used by the Authority under the service level agreement (SLA) with St Helens Council.

Resolved that the contents of the report from the Internal Auditor be noted.

81. **Annual Meeting and Timetable of Meetings 2014/15**
WDA/01/14

A report was submitted which requested that Members set the date of the Annual Meeting and approve the timetable of Authority meetings for the forward year.

Resolved that:

1. Procedural Rule 3.1, which requires the Authority to set the date of its Annual Meeting between 1st March and 30th June each year, be suspended to enable the Authority to hold its Annual Meeting between 26th May 2014 and 31st August 2014 as a result of the European Parliamentary elections and in line with The Local Elections (Ordinary Day of Elections in 2014) Order 2013;
2. the Authority's Annual Meeting take place on 25th July 2014 followed by ordinary meetings on: 26th September 2014; 28th November 2014; 6th February 2015; and 24th April 2015; and
3. delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Clerk to make any future alterations to the timetable of meetings as deemed appropriate, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Authority.

82. **Joint Working Consultation Results**
WDA/02/14

The Authority considered a report which informed Members of the outcome of the formal consultation with Districts regarding Joint Working and sought approval to enter into the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) attached to the report.

A response from Liverpool was circulated at the meeting and the Chief Executive updated Members on the discussions taking place with all constituent district councils.

For clarity, it was noted that for the purposes of the report, 'municipal year,' referred to the period between 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015.

Resolved that:

1. the outcome of the consultation with Districts be noted;
2. delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Chief Executive to conclude minor drafting changes to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and sign following signing by all Districts; and
3. subject to the MOU being signed by all constituent Districts and the Authority, delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Treasurer to re-designate the Sinking Fund as the "Waste Development Fund" (WDF) and make arrangements with District Treasurers for distribution of the fund as proposed in Appendix 4 early in the municipal year 2014-15.

Carl Beer, Neil Ferris, Peter Williams, Alex Murray and Amanda Valentine declared a personal interest in the following item, recorded herewith as resolution 83 and in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct for Officers, remained in the meeting.

Councillor Concepcion, Councillor Cluskey, Neil Ferris and Alex Murray declared a personal interest in the following item, recorded herewith as resolution 83 and in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct for Members and Code of Conduct for Officers, remained in the meeting.

83. **Strategic Review**
WDA/05/14

A report was submitted which considered the scope of the next stage of the strategic review of the Authority and proposed a number of actions in relation to external consultancy support, procurement advisors, volunteers for early retirement or redundancy, and Mersey Waste Holdings Limited.

For clarity, it was noted that the Board referred to in recommendation 4 was Mersey Waste Holdings Board.

Resolved that:

1. the proposed next phase of the Strategic Review of the Authority be agreed to meet the Authority's current and anticipated operational needs;

2. the terms to be offered for a time-limited period for Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy, as set out in Paragraphs 5.15, 5.16 and 5.18 of the report be approved;
3. the principles of the Authority's (shareholder's) requirements set out at paragraph 6.4 for MWHL to implement changes to the scale of operations of MWHL and to review the Shareholders Agreement be agreed; and
4. delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Chief Executive as shareholder's representative to undertake all necessary actions on behalf of the Authority to facilitate the Board achieving the Authority's requirements, including, but not limited to, the reduction of share capital and any changes to the Shareholders Agreement.