



**At a Meeting of the Authority
held on Friday 25th April 2014**

Present : Councillor Graham Morgan
Councillor Tony Concepcion
Councillor Kevin Cluskey
Councillor Patricia Hardy
Councillor Richard Oglethorpe
Councillor Irene Williams
Councillor Steve Williams
Councillor Laura Robertson-Collins
Councillor Stef Nelson (Observer Status)

84. **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

85. **Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 31st January 2014**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

Amanda Valentine, Clerk to the Authority, declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 17, recorded herewith as minute 100 in so far as it relates to the appointment of Monitoring Officer.

Peter Williams, Treasurer to the Authority, declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 19, recorded herewith as minute 102 in so far as it relates to the board of Mersey Waste Holdings Limited.

Councillor Concepcion, Councillor Robertson-Collins, Councillor Cluskey and Alex Murray (Director of Operations) declared a disclosable interest in Item 19, recorded herewith as Resolution 102, in their capacity as Directors of Mersey Waste Holdings Limited.

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

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

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

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

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

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

90. **Internal Audit Plan 2014-15**
WDA/15/14

A report was submitted which sought Members' approval to the Internal Audit Plan which outlined the work to be undertaken by the Authority's internal auditors in the forward year to provide assurance on the governance arrangements of the Authority.

Resolved that the Internal Audit Plan for 2014/15 be approved.

91. **Internal Audit Report – Waste Contract Arrangements**
WDA/17/14

A report was submitted which presented the findings of the Internal Auditor's recent review of Waste Contract Arrangements.

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

92. **External Audit Plan 2013-14**
WDA/13/14

The Authority considered a report which set out the proposed work programme of the external auditor and the associated fee.

Resolved that the planned audit work and fees proposed by the external auditor, Grant Thornton, be noted.

93. **External Audit – Fraud Questionnaire**
WDA/14/14

A report was submitted which informed Members of the external auditor's questions regarding the Authority's arrangements to prevent fraud and the responses provided by the Authority.

Resolved that the questions from the Auditor be noted and the responses from the Chairperson and management be noted.

94. **Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement**
WDA/06/14

The Authority considered a report informing Members of the findings of the annual assessment of the Authority's corporate governance arrangements and seeking approval to the draft Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts 2013/14.

Resolved that:

1. the findings of the Annual Corporate Governance Assessment be noted;
2. the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Authority's representatives; and
3. the inclusion of the Annual Governance Statement in the Statement of Accounts 2013/14 be approved.

95. **Service Plans 2014/15**
WDA/07/14

A report was submitted which informed Members of the progress made against the approved Corporate Plan and sought approval of the Annual Service Plans for 2014/15 to deliver continued performance improvements in the coming year.

Resolved that:

1. the progress made to date in the delivery of the Corporate Plan be noted; and
2. the Authority's set of Annual Service Plans for 2014/15 be noted.

96. **Performance Reporting – Quarter 3 2013/14**
WDA/08/14

Members were presented with the third quarterly performance report for 2013/14 which outlined current performance as monitored against the Authority's Corporate Plan.

Resolved that the Authority's performance as monitored between October and December 2013 for the 2013/14 year be noted.

97. **Community Fund 2014/15**
WDA/09/14

The Authority considered a report which informed Members of the projects supported by the Community Fund in 2013/14 and sought approval to the details of the annual scheme for the forward year.

Resolved that:

1. the allocation of funding be approved in line with Option 4 (Regional and District split) as detailed at paragraph 3.5 of the report; and
2. the amendments to the annual scheme proposed in paragraph 4 of the report be approved.

98. **Resource Recovery Contract – Adviser Support**
WDA/16/14

A report was submitted which updated Members on the position regarding adviser support for the Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) and sought approval to continue with the appointments during the implementation of the contract.

Resolved that the continued use of the professional advisers who supported the Authority's RRC procurement be approved and the arrangement be reviewed in twelve months.

99. **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items for the reasons stated:

<u>Minute</u>	<u>Reason (under the Local Government Act 1972)</u>
100	Exempt information relating to any individual person (including the Authority holding that information) (Para 1 of Schedule 12A)
101 & 102	Exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (Para 3 of Schedule 12A)

Amanda Valentine declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the following item, recorded herewith as resolution 100 and in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct for Officers, left the meeting during consideration of this item.

100. **Appointment of Monitoring Officer**
WDA/10/14

The Authority considered a report which informed Members of the need to appoint a new Monitoring Officer as a result of the current post holder leaving the Authority.

Resolved that the appointment of Amanda Valentine as Monitoring Officer be agreed.

101. **Interim Residual Waste Treatment Arrangements**
WDA/11/14

A report was submitted which informed Members of a mini competition carried out under the Interim Waste Management Services Framework and sought approval to enter into a contract for services. In addition, approval was sought to negotiate an extension to an existing agreement for waste treatment and undertake further market testing with a view to securing additional capacity to divert waste from landfill.

Resolved that:

1. the results of the procurement exercise carried out under the established Framework Agreement to secure interim treatment capacity to divert residual Municipal Solid Waste (rMSW) from landfill be noted;
2. the award of a contract for the treatment of rMSW under the third year of the Interim Waste Management Services

Framework to the organisation named in paragraph 1.1 of the report be approved;

3. the Clerk to the Authority be authorised to affix the seal of the Authority to the completed contract in accordance with the Authority's Procedural Rules;
4. the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Treasurer and Chairperson, be authorised to negotiate an extension to the existing treatment arrangement with the organisation named in paragraph 1.2 of the report, subject to approval of the agreed terms by the Authority;
5. the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Treasurer and Chairperson, be authorised to carry out further market testing exercises to obtain additional capacity for the diversion of rMSW, subject to the approval of the agreed arrangements by the Authority; and
6. the compensatory payments to be made under the Authority's landfill contracts be noted.

Councillor Concepcion, Councillor Robertson-Collins, Councillor Cluskey and Alex Murray declared a disclosable interest in the following item, recorded herewith as resolution 102 and in accordance with the Authority's Codes of Conduct, remained in the meeting.

Peter Williams declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the following item, recorded herewith as resolution 102 and in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct for Officers, left the meeting during consideration of this item.

102. **Mersey Waste Holdings Limited – Director Appointments**
WDA/12/14

The Authority considered a report which informed Members of the changes to the Board of Mersey Waste Holdings Limited and sought approval to make an appointment of a new Director.

Resolved that:

1. the resignation of two Directors of Mersey Waste Holdings Limited be noted;
2. the appointment of Peter Williams as a Director of Mersey Waste Holdings Limited be approved; and

3. the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairperson, be granted delegated powers of the Authority to provide an indemnity where necessary to Peter Williams in respect of his position as a Director of various companies within the MWHL group of companies.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairperson noted that Councillor Oglethorpe would be stepping down after the next election and took the opportunity to thank him for his contribution to the Authority over the years. The Chairperson also asked that a note of thanks be minuted to Neil Ferris, Director of Strategy and Resources and Barbara Jones, Assistant Strategy Manager who had recently left the Authority.