



**At a meeting of the Authority
held on Friday 23rd September 2016**

Present : Councillor Graham Morgan
Councillor Tony Concepcion
Councillor Carol Sung
Councillor Tony Norbury
Councillor Laura Robertson-Collins
Councillor Steve Williams
Councillor Kevin Cluskey
Councillor Alan Cunliffe
Councillor Mike O'Brien
Councillor Stef Nelson

15. **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence received.

16. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 24th June 2016**

Resolved that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 24th June 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

Ian Stephenson, Assistant Director of Operations, declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 12, recorded herewith as resolution 27 in so far as it relates to the appointment of Monitoring Officer.

18. **Question(s) from Members under Procedural Rule 9**

There were no questions submitted by Members in accordance with Procedural Rule 9.

19. **Question(s) from Members of the Public under Procedural Rule 10**

There were no questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with Procedural Rule 10.

20. **Motion proposed by Members under Procedural Rule 15**

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

21. **Statement of Accounts 2015-16**
WDA/21/16

Members were provided with a report detailing the Statement of Accounts for 2015-16 which the Authority is required to approve each year. An addendum page was circulated to Members at the start of the meeting reflecting the revised financial position of Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd. Members were asked to draw their attention to amendments made to the accounts as a result of the audit of the draft statement that was prepared. These amendments have had a small impact on the financial position of the Authority and contributed to a decrease in the balances. The final version of accounts had been agreed by the auditors and was made available to Members.

Resolved that:

1. the changes made to the accounts during the audit be noted;
2. the Statement of Accounts for 2015-16 be approved; and
3. the Letter of Management Representation to the auditor be approved.

22. **Auditor's Report to Members**
WDA/22/16

Members were presented with the findings, conclusions and recommendations resulting from Grant Thornton's review of the Authority's statutory accounts and of its arrangements to secure value for money, to enable the auditor to comply with the auditing standard ISA 260 (UK&I). The Authority's auditor, Perminder Sethi, provided Members with two addendums to report at the meeting.

Resolved that:

1. the Auditor's findings attached at Appendix 1 to the report and the addendums circulated at the meeting be noted; and
2. the recommendation contained within the auditor's report to further strengthen the Authority's financial and governance arrangements be noted and delegated powers be granted to the Treasurer to finalise the proposed action plan.

23. **Waste Development Fund**
WDA/23/16

Members considered a report which is a requirement under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreed by all of the constituent District Councils, and relates to the distribution of the Waste Development Fund of £28.9M in April 2014. The funds were to be used to support the delivery of the objectives of the Joint Recycling & Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside (JRWMS). As part of the MoU the District Councils were required to write to the Authority setting out how they had utilised their share of the fund each year.

Resolved that the assurance provided by the District Councils regarding the way they have spent the monies allocated to them from the Waste Development Fund on actions that achieve the shared objectives of the Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy be noted.

24. **Change in Order of Business**

In accordance with the Authority Procedural Rule 16 (c), it was moved by the Chair to change the order of business to allow Item 10, recorded herewith as resolution 26, to be considered later in the agenda

Resolved that the order of business be amended as proposed.

25. **Waste Strategy Issues**
WDA/24/16

A report was submitted, informing Members of the Authority's submissions to the All Party Parliamentary Sustainable Resource Group (APSRG) and the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee in relation to the implications for English Waste Strategy development post 'Brexit' and food waste policy respectively.

Resolved that:

1. the submission by the Authority, as part of the Joint Waste Disposal Authorities Group, to the All-Party Parliamentary Sustainable Resource Group on the circular economy and English Waste Strategy brought up by the EU referendum result (Brexit) be noted; and

2. the Authority's submission to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee inquiry into food waste in England ne noted.

26. **Strategic Review – Financial Support**
WDA/20/16

Members were provided with a report seeking approval to fund the cost of a Strategic Review of waste collection and disposal across the City Region, the review itself having been previously agreed by Members at the Authority meeting on 6th February 2016. The Strategic Review was commissioned by the Leader of the Combined Authority and the Leaders of all City Region Councils who agreed that the funding of this work was to come from this Authority. A revised set of recommendations were tabled at the meeting.

Resolved that:

1. delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairperson and Treasurer, to transfer sufficient funding from the General Fund Reserve to finance the costs of the Liverpool City Region Strategic Review of waste collection and disposal;
2. the costs of the transfer be capped at £250,000 without further reports to Members, and such further approval as the Authority may wish to consider;
3. the Authority's budget for contracts be increased in line with the transfer;
4. the decision in relation to how the increased costs are to be apportioned be deferred and Members consulted at a later date;
and
5. the work programme and payments from funding be subject to prior approval by the Chief Executive.

Ian Stephenson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the following item, recorded herewith as resolution 27 and in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct for Officers, left the meeting during consideration of this item.

27. **Temporary Appointments of Clerk and Monitoring Officer**
WDA/25/16

A report was provided seeking Members' approval to the temporary appointments of Clerk and Monitoring Officer which would remain in effect until permanent appointments can be made. The Chief Executive updated Members at the meeting on the outcome of the recruitment process referred to in the report.

Resolved that:

1. the appointment of Paula Pocock as Acting Clerk and Ian Stephenson as Acting Monitoring Officer be approved with effect from 16th November 2016, and for these appointments to remain in place until such a time as permanent appointments can be made; and
2. the Chief Executive report back to the Authority with proposals to make permanent appointments to the above statutory roles at the appropriate time.

Councillor Morgan took the opportunity to thank Mandy Valentine for all the support she has provided him and the other Members and for her contribution to the Authority. Councillor Cluskey seconded this and passed on his personal thanks.

Carl Beer passed on his thanks and those of the rest of the staff at the Authority for Mandy's contribution to the Authority over the past 31 years and Mandy took the opportunity to thank everyone for their kind wishes.