



**At a meeting of the Authority  
held on Friday 25th November 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

28. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Nelson.

29. **Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

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

32. **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.

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

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

34. **External Audit – Annual Letter to Members 2015-16**  
**WDA/29/16**

Members were presented with the Annual Audit Letter and a report detailing the outcome of the 2015-16 audit undertaken by the Authority's external auditor, Grant Thornton.

**Resolved** that the contents of the report be noted.

35. **Changes to Arrangement for Appointment of External Audit**  
**WDA/30/16**

Members were provided with a report summarising the changes to the arrangements for appointing External Auditors following the closure of the Audit Commission and the end of the transitional arrangements at the conclusion of the 2017/18 audits. The report asked Members to consider options available and put in place new arrangements in time to make a first appointment by 31 December 2017.

**Resolved** that:

1. Members agree to the request to support the Local Government Association (LGA) in setting up a National Sector Led Body by indicating an intention to "opt-in"; and
2. A further report will be brought to Members on the preferred approach by June 2017, including details of any costs included in the 2017/18 budget.

36. **Internal Audit – Corporate Governance**  
**WDA/31/16**

Members considered a report provided by St Helens Audit. As part of its statutory governance arrangements, The Authority is required to maintain an effective Internal Audit. The report presented to Members details any weaknesses and recommended improvements.

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

Kath Fogarty from Internal Audit at St Helens confirmed that the Authority had received a High Assurance and that there were no key issues.

37. **RRC Progress Update**  
**WDA/28/16**

A report was presented to Members providing an update on the progress of construction and commissioning of the Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) signed with SITA Sembcorp UK on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 and which is coming to the end of construction and commissioning and will shortly be entering its fully operational phase. Approval was sought from Members to delegate powers of the Authority to the Chief Executive to undertake a procurement exercise for interim waste disposal arrangements, should the need for such arrangements and a formal procurement become necessary.

**Resolved that:**

1. the progress made against the delivery of the Authority's 'Resource Recovery Contract' and the key issues currently arising be noted; and
2. delegated powers of the Authority be given to the Chief Executive to implement a procurement process for interim waste disposal, should such a procurement become necessary.

38. **Corporate Planning Review 2016**  
**WDA/27/16**

A report was submitted to Members detailing the Authority's Corporate Plan accompanied by a current version of the Corporate Risk Register.

**Resolved that:**

1. the Authority's current Corporate Plan attached at Appendix 1 be noted; and
2. the contents of the current Corporate Risk Register attached at Appendix 2 be noted.

39. **Community Fund 2017-18**  
**WDA/26/16**

Members considered a report about the Community Fund 2017-18 options set out at paragraph 3 and were asked agree Option 1 (Status Quo). The report also sought approval to delegate powers of the Authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairperson, for approval of the projects to receive final awards for funding.

**Resolved** that:

1. the allocation of funding in line with Option 1 (Status Quo) as detailed at paragraph 3.2 of the report be approved; and
2. powers of the Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairperson, to approve projects subject to the Community Fund being apportioned as above.