



**At a meeting of the Authority
held on Friday 22nd September 2017**

Present : Councillor Graham Morgan
Councillor Tony Concepcion
Councillor Laura Robertson-Collins
Councillor Steve Williams
Councillor Carol Sung
Councillor Charlie Preston

15. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roscoe, O'Brien, Norbury & Nelson

16. **Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 23rd June 2017**

Resolved that the minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 23rd June 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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. **External Auditors Report 2016-17**
WDA/24/17

Members considered a report that presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations resulting from Grant Thornton's review of the Authority's statutory accounts and its arrangements to secure value for money, to enable the auditor to comply with the auditing standard ISA 260 (UK&I).

It was mentioned that the £70k discrepancy picked up as part of the audit was not reflected in the current Statement of Accounts but that it will be shown in the financial position of the Authority moving forward. It was also mentioned that the £70k makes no material difference in the Authority's Statement of Accounts .

Thanks were also given to Jackie Bellard from Grant Thornton for her work on the Authority's audits over the years. Members and Officers wished Jackie well in retirement.

Resolved that:

1. the Auditor's findings attached at Appendix 1 be noted; and
2. Members note the recommendations contained within the auditor's report to further strengthen the Authority's financial and governance arrangements and grant delegated powers to the Treasurer to finalise the proposed action plan.

22. **Statement of Accounts**
WDA/25/17

Members were presented with a report that contained the Authority's Statement of Accounts for 2016-17. They 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.

Resolved that:

1. the changes made to the accounts during the audit be noted;
2. the Statement of Accounts for 2016-17 be approved; and

3. the Letter of Management Representation to the auditor be approved.

23. **Internal Audit Report – Business Continuity Management**
WDA/22/17

As part of its statutory governance arrangements the Authority is required to maintain an effective Internal Audit which is provided by St Helens Council. Members considered a report from the Auditor, reviewing the arrangements at the Authority and as part of the latest review detailed any weaknesses and recommended improvements.

The Director of Finance confirmed that a substantial assurance had been received from the audit.

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

24. **Waste Development Fund**
WDA/23/17

In April 2014 the Authority distributed its Waste Development Fund of £28.9M to constituent District Councils. The Fund was distributed under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by all parties, which established the basis for the distributed funds to be utilised. The Funds were to be used to support the delivery of the objectives of the Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside (JRWMS). As part of the Memorandum of understanding the District Councils were required to write to the Authority setting out how they have utilised their share of the funds. Members were presented with this report.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the wording at para 4.5 was incorrect and should in fact read that Sefton Council will have fully utilised the funds by the end of the year.

Resolved that the assurance provided by 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.

25. **RRC Progress Update**
WDA/21/17

Members considered a report that provided an update on the progress of construction and commissioning of the Resource Recovery Contract (RRC), and the arrangements for disposal of the Authority's residual municipal waste.

Resolved that the current position regarding delivery of the Authority's Resource Recovery Contract and the key issues currently arising be noted.