

FORWARD PLAN

Publication Date: May 2019

Introduction

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Authority publishes a "Forward Plan" of "Key Decisions".

The Forward Plan is published on a six weekly basis to match the Authority's meeting cycle and covers key issues to be dealt with in the subsequent three months. It is a publicly available document and its purpose is to reinforce the openness and accountability of the Authority's decision-making process.

The Plan seeks to anticipate the issues that will be the subject of a Key Decision during that period. For each item the Plan includes:

- The item's title and a short description of the decision being sought.
- An indication of who will be making the decision.
- The Scrutiny arrangements for the decision.
- An indication of when the decision is expected to be made. This may be a specific date i.e. the date of a meeting, or a period during which the decision is likely to be made.
- A list of Supporting Papers. These will be documents which the decision-maker(s) will consider or take into account when making the decision.
- An indication of what consultation will take place on the item which is the subject of the proposed decision. This will include an indication as to who will be consulted (i.e. principal groups and organisations) and how that consultation will be conducted.
- An indication of how and to whom representations should be made on the item.

Within the Plan, the items are listed in the chronological order in which it is anticipated that the decisions will be made.

The decision in respect of each key decision is recorded in the minutes for the relevant meeting which are approved at the subsequent meeting of the Authority and are open for inspection at the Authority Offices and on the Authority's web site.

Definition of a Key Decision

The definition of a Key Decision is set out in the Authority's Constitution. It is as follows:-

A Key Decision is an executive decision:-

- (i) incurring expenditure or making savings which are financially significant, unless the specific expenditure or saving has previously been agreed by the Authority; or
- (ii) which, in the view of the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Merseyside.

A decision will be considered financially significant if:-

- a) in the case of revenue expenditure, it results in incurring expenditure or making savings of £250,000 or greater;
- b) in the case of capital expenditure, the capital expenditure/savings are in excess of £1 Million;

unless the specific expenditure or savings have previously been agreed by the Authority or have been taken in line with the Authority's Financial Management Policy.

In determining whether a decision is significant in terms of its effect on communities, the Chief Executive and lead Member will give consideration to:-

- a) the number of residents/service users/District Council areas that will be affected;
- b) whether the impact is short term, long term or permanent;
- c) the impact on the community in terms of the economic, social and environmental well-being.

Decision-Makers

Key Decisions will be made by the Authority or its committees where relevant powers have been delegated. A report will be submitted to the relevant meeting on each key decision, and Members will also consider, where necessary, any report which has been 'called-in' under the Authority's scrutiny arrangements.

Consultation

The Chief Executive, in taking decisions under delegated powers, will consult with the relevant Authority Members and other key stakeholders, in accordance with those identified in the Forward Plan.

Authority Meetings

The Authority will meet formally approximately every six weeks. Meeting dates are published on the web site www.merseysidewda.gov.uk. Each Authority meeting will be in two parts. The first part of the meeting will consider the Key Decisions contained in the Forward Plan, and any other matters determined by the Chair. The second part of the meeting will be made available for any scrutiny discussions.

The current schedule of meetings is as follows:

21st June 2019 (AGM) 20th September 2019 22nd November 2019 07th February 2020 (Budget Meeting) 24th April 2020

Scrutiny Arrangements

Two Members of the Authority may request that the Chair place a delegated decision matter on the Agenda of an Authority regular meeting as a 'scrutiny item'.

Information Reports

The Authority will periodically publish information reports about its Policies, Strategies and Performance on the web site www.merseysidewda.gov.uk

Contacts

If you have any queries or comments regarding the contents or format of this document please direct them to Paula Pocock (Clerk to the Authority) on 0151-255-1444 or by e-mail at enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk

AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP 2018/19

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Item	Ref No.	Decision Date	Lead Officer
Halton/MRWA Inter-Authority Agreement	K12-19	21/06/2019	I. Stephenson
Halton BC HWRC Variations	K13-19	21/06/2019	I. Stephenson
Appointment of Committees	K14-19	21/06/2019	P. Pocock
Questions on the Discharge of Functions	K15-19	21/06/2019	P. Pocock
Scheme of Delegation and Constitution	K16-19	21/06/2019	P. Pocock
Outturn Statement 2018-19	K17-19	21/06/2019	P. Williams

Title	Halton/MRWA Inter-Authority Agreement				
File Reference	K12-19				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authority				
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – X Impact please specify				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	A formal Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) is proposed between MRWA and Halton BC with respect to the provision of services under the WMRC. This report seeks delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to finalise and sign the Agreement on behalf of the Authority.				
Scrutiny area	Contracts				
Date for decision	21 st June 2019				
List of Background Papers for consideration	None				
Risk Management Implications	Failure to approve the recommendation increases the risk of uncertainty regarding future WMRC and Halton BC management relations.				
Prior consultation	None				
Representations	In writing to or ian.stephensor	by email to n@merseysidewo	da.gov.uk		

Title	Halton BC HV	/RC variations			
File Reference	K13-19				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authority				
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – X Impact please specify				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	The report seeks approval from Members to make changes to the WMRC with Veolia, and for the authority to finalise and implement the required changes to be delegated to the Chief Executive.				
Scrutiny area	Contracts				
Date for decision	21 st June 2019				
List of Background Papers for consideration	None				
Risk Management Implications	Failure to approve the recommendation will prevent those changes being made, impacting on Halton BC's service provision.				
Prior consultation	None				
Representations	In writing to or ian.stephensor	by email to n@merseysidewo	da.gov.uk		

Title	Appointments of Committees and Representation on other Bodies.				
File Reference	K14-19				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authority	,			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – Governance please specify				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	The Authority's constitution and changes to its membership following District Council AGM's require a review committees and representation on other bodies.				
Scrutiny area	Governance				
Date for decision	21st June 2019				
List of Background Papers for consideration	None				
Risk Management Implications	It is good corporate governance to effectively delegate responsibility to committees and to identify appropriate levels of representation on other bodies				
Prior consultation	None				
Representations	In writing to or paula.pocock@	by email to merseysidewda	ı.gov.uk		

Title	Questions on the Discharge of Functions				
File Reference	K15-19				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authority	,			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify Governance				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	The Authority is required each year to nominate Members to answer questions at each of the District Council's own proceedings on behalf of the Authority.				
Scrutiny area	Governance				
Date for decision	21 st June 2019				
List of Background Papers for consideration	None				
Risk Management Implications	Risk of inconsistencies unless a single Member from each District Council is identified to answer questions regarding the Authority's activities.				
Prior consultation	None				
Representations	In writing to or paula.pocock@	by email to merseysidewda	ı.gov.uk		

Title	Scheme of Delegation and Constitution				
File Reference	K16-19				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authority	,			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	The Authority's Constitution requires the Scheme of Delegation to be adopted at the Annual Meeting each year. This report will also identify any proposed changes to the Constitution following an annual review				
Scrutiny area	Governance				
Date for decision	21 st June 2019				
List of Background Papers for consideration	None				
Risk Management Implications	Failure to adopt the Scheme of Delegation is a breach of the Authority Procedural Rules				
Prior consultation	None				
Representations	In writing to or paula.pocock@	by email to merseysidewda	gov.uk		

Title	Outturn Report 2018-19				
File Reference	K17-19				
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public				
Decision Maker	Full Authority	,			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial Community Other – please specify				
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	Members are asked to consider the revenue and capital outturn and the level of balances together with the Treasury management indicators				
Scrutiny area	Finance				
Date for decision	21 June 2019				
List of Background Papers for consideration	N/A				
Risk Management Implications	Members need to understand the relative strength of the Authority's financial position so that they can properly consider the Authority's performance objectives				
Prior consultation	N/A				
Representations	In writing to or peter.williams@	by email to merseysidewda	a.gov.uk		