



MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

## **FORWARD PLAN**

**Publication Date: December 2009**

### **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:-*

- 1. incurring expenditure or making savings in excess of £250,000, unless the specific expenditure or saving has previously been agreed by the Authority, or*
- 2. Is, in the view of the Director, in consultation with the lead Member significant in terms of its effects 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 Director 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 Director, 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](http://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 Chairman. The second part of the meeting will be made available for any scrutiny discussions.

The current schedule of meetings is as follows:

27<sup>th</sup> November 2009

5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 (Budget and ordinary meeting)

16<sup>th</sup> April 2010

## **Scrutiny Arrangements**

Two Members of the Authority may request that the Chairman 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](http://www.merseysidewda.gov.uk)

## **Contacts**

If you have any queries or comments regarding the contents or format of this document please direct them to Mandy Valentine (Corporate Services Manager) on 0151-255-1444 or by e-mail at [enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk)

## AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP 2009/2010

COUNCILLOR	Portfolio Area	Address and Contact Details
K Cluskey (Chairperson) (Sefton)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy and Forward Planning</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Performance Management</li> <li>• Best Value</li> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Scrutiny</li> <li>• Public Consultation</li> <li>• MWHL Board Member</li> <li>• NWEO Representative</li> </ul>	39 Kent Avenue Litherland Liverpool L21 7QJ Tel: 0151 920 3704 Email: <a href="mailto:kevin.cluskey@sefton.gov.uk">kevin.cluskey@sefton.gov.uk</a>
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D Lonergan (Knowsley)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications &amp; PR</li> <li>• Scrutiny</li> <li>• Public Consultation</li> </ul>	6 Stonehey Road Southdene Kirkby L32 9PU Tel: 0151 548 3490 Email: <a href="mailto:david.lonergan@knowsley.gov.uk">david.lonergan@knowsley.gov.uk</a>

#### **OFFICERS**

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## CONTENTS

Item	Ref No.	Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Lead Officer
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