



**At a Meeting of the Authority
held on Friday 12th December 2008**

Present : Councillor Cluskey (Chairperson)
Councillor Salter
Councillor Moffatt
Councillor Tattersall
Councillor Gardiner
Councillor Crowther
Councillor Harris

61. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean, Lonergan and Twigger and Mike Thomas, District Auditor.

62. **Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 26th September 2008**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2008 be approved and signed as a correct record.

63. **Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 17th October 2008**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2008 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

Councillor Cluskey declared a non- prejudicial interest in item 9, recorded herewith as minute 69 in so far as it relates to North West Employers Organisation.

Neil Ferris declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9, recorded herewith as minute 69 in so far as it relates to the appointment of Statutory Officers.

Mandy Valentine declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9, recorded herewith as minute 69 in so far as it relates to the appointment of Statutory Officers.

65. **Questions from Members under Procedural Rule 9**

There were no questions submitted by Members under Procedural Rule 9.

66. **Questions from Members of the Public under Procedural Rule 10**

There were no questions submitted by Members under Procedural Rule 10.

67. **Motions proposed by Members under Procedural Rule 15**

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

68. **Annual Audit Letter – 2007/08 Audit**
WDA/73/08

The Authority was presented with the Audit Commission's Annual Audit Letter which reported the outcome of the 2007/08 auditing process. It was noted that the District Auditor was unable to attend the meeting to present the item and Members were asked for their comments which would be passed on to him.

Resolved that:

1. the contents of the Annual Audit Letter be noted; and
2. the recommendations made by the Audit Commission be accepted.

Councillor Cluskey declared a non- prejudicial interest in the following item and in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members, remained in the meeting.

Neil Ferris declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item and in accordance with the Code of Conduct, left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Mandy Valentine declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item and in accordance with the Code of Conduct, left the meeting during consideration of the item.

69. **Recruitment of Statutory Officers**
WDA/61/08

A report was submitted which informed Members of the response from the Merseyside Chief Executives in relation to fulfilling the role of Clerk to the Authority. The report sought Members' approval to a revised senior management structure which incorporated the roles of Statutory Officers.

Following discussion at the meeting, the Director proposed amendments to the recommendations in the report which were agreed.

Resolved that:

1. Members note the response of constituent District Council Chief Executives regarding the Authority's request for expressions of interest in the role of Clerk; and
2. the proposed Senior Management Structure and associated cost implications be subject to consideration by Members as part of the budget setting process.

70. **Bullying and Harassment Policy**
WDA/63/08

The Authority considered a report which sought approval to the adoption of a Bullying and Harassment Policy for the Authority.

Resolved that the Bullying and Harassment Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved, subject to the amendment to section 4.1 proposed at the meeting.

71. **Provision of a Grant Scheme to Support the Community and Voluntary Sector**
WDA/65/08

A report was submitted which informed Members of the consultation with the Collection Authorities on the provision of a grant scheme to support the Community and Voluntary Sector. The report sought approval to the implementation of the grant scheme and an amendment to the Authority's Financial Procedural Rules.

A draft grant approval letter was appended to the report for information and the Director agreed to amend the wording of the letter to incorporate Members' comments.

Following discussion at the meeting, the Director proposed amendments to the recommendations in the report which were agreed.

Resolved that:

1. the details of the report and the conclusion of the consultation undertaken be noted;
2. delegated powers be granted to the Director, in consultation with a nominated Member ;

3. the inclusion of a budget allocation of £15,000 for 2009/10 be approved; and
4. the Authority's Financial Procedural Rules be amended as detailed in the report to take account of the provision of a grant.

72. **Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Review**
WDA/71/08

A report was submitted advising Members of the findings of the Scoping Exercise Report in the review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) and seeking Members' approval to a full review during 2009-2011.

Following discussion at the meeting, the Director proposed amendments to the recommendations in the report which were agreed.

Resolved that:

1. Members note the findings and the indicative costs in the Scoping Report for the review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside (2009-11); and
2. the Director be instructed to review the cost / benefit of the stages identified for the review and report back to Members with options as part of the budget setting process.

73. **Joint Communications Strategy**
WDA/72/08

The Authority considered a report which proposed the development of a Joint Communications Strategy which would aim to deliver effective joint working within the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership. The report also set out a timetable for seasonal campaigns during 2009/10 for Members approval.

Following discussion at the meeting, the Director proposed amendments to the recommendations in the report which were agreed.

Resolved that approval to develop a Joint Communications Strategy and the timetable of joint communications campaigns for 2009/10 be subject to consideration as part of the budget setting process.

74. **Senior Officers Working Group Work Plan 2009/10**
WDA/70/08

The Authority considered a report which sought approval to the Senior Officers Work Group (SOWG) Work Plan for 2009/10 for the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership. The report also sought agreement in principle for the resource requirements to deliver the work programme and in particular the

sponsorship of the Envirolink Market and Sector Development Programme which would be subject to District Council ratification.

Following discussion at the meeting, the Director proposed amendments to the recommendations in the report which were agreed.

Resolved that:

1. Members note the Senior Officers' Working Group Work Plan for 2009/10; and
2. the £70,000 sponsorship of the Envirolink Market and Sector Development Programme be subject to consideration as part of the budget setting process.

75. **New Technologies Demonstrator Programme – Succession Strategy**
WDA/69/08

A report was submitted which sought Members' agreement to a Succession Strategy for the New Technology Demonstrator Programme (NTDP) Plant at Huyton following the conclusion of the current project in March 2009.

Resolved that:

1. the succession strategy outlined as Option 3 in the report be approved, namely to seek to negotiate the lease of the NTDP building and equipment to Orchid Environmental Limited;
2. delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Director, in consultation with the Treasurer and following legal advice, to complete the negotiation of lease terms and conditions with Orchid Environmental Limited; and
3. a further review of options available to the Authority take place in 2010/11.

76. **Presentation on the Production of the Joint Merseyside Waste**
Development Planning Document
WDA/75/08

Members received a presentation by Dr. Alan Jemmett of Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service in relation to the production of the Joint Merseyside Waste Development Planning Document and its consultation process.

Following discussion at the meeting, the Director proposed amendments to the recommendations in the report which were agreed.

Resolved that:

1. the presentation on the development of the Joint Merseyside Waste Development Planning Document be noted; and
2. a special meeting of the Authority be arranged to consider a formal response to the consultation by the deadline of 16th January 2009.

77. **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items for the reason stated.

<u>Minute</u>	<u>Reason (under the Local Government Act 1972)</u>
78, 79 &80	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information (Para 3 of Schedule 12)

78. **Sites and Planning Strategy – Risk Review**
WDA/68/08

The Authority considered a report which provided Members with a risk review of the Authority's Sites and Planning Strategy conducted by the Authority's planning advisors.

Resolved that:

1. discussions continue to acquire options on the sites detailed in the report as these are likely to meet the Resource Recovery Contract participants needs for single and multiple sites based on their ISOS (Outline Solutions) submissions; and
2. the Site Acquisition and Planning Strategy be reviewed in detail when participants solutions have reached completion of the ISDS (Detailed Solutions) stage of the PFI Resource Recovery procurement.

79. **Sites and Planning Capital Programme Review**
WDA/64/08

A report was submitted which presented a revised Sites and Planning Capital Programme and associated financial implications for Members' consideration. The Director provided Members with a verbal update on the progress of negotiations with landowners.

Following discussion at the meeting, the Director proposed an amendment to one of the recommendations in the report, which was agreed.

Resolved that:

1. delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Director, in consultation with the Treasurer to the Authority, to secure options, complete land acquisition and to submit associated planning applications (for HWRC sites and the Gillmoss MRF) on the preferred sites identified in Appendix 1 to the report;
2. the revised Sites and Planning Capital Programme identified in Section 4.3 in the report be approved; and
3. the associated financial implications be noted and form part of the Authority's future budget setting programme to be reported to Members at their Budget Meeting on 6th February 2009.

80. **Waste Management and Recycling Contract – Competitive Dialogue WDA/74/08**

The Authority considered a report which updated Members on the progress of the Waste Management and Recycling Contract (WMRC) and sought Members' approval to the closure of the Competitive Dialogue Process.

Resolved that:

1. the progress towards the completion of the Competitive Dialogue Process in the WMRC and the review of risk implications from the current state of dialogue be noted; and
2. delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Director, in consultation with the Chairperson, to close the Competitive Dialogue and make a request for Final Tenders, subject to satisfactory receipt of the outstanding information and that no issues remain which constitute fundamental or high risks to the Authority in calling for Final Tenders.