

SENIOR OFFICERS WORK GROUP WORK PLAN 2009-2010
WDA/70/08

Recommendation

That:

1. Members note and approve the Senior Officers Working Group Work Plan for 2009-10.
2. To seek Members agreement in principle for the £70,000 sponsorship of the Envirolink Market and Sector Development programme by the Merseyside and Halton Partnership, subject to District Council ratification by the Treasurers of the District Councils.

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SENIOR OFFICERS WORK GROUP WORK PLAN 2009-2010
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Report of the Director

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek Members approval for the Senior Officers Work Group (SOWG) Work Plan 2009-10 for the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership.
- 1.2 To seek Members agreement in principle for the resource requirements to contribute to the delivery of the Work Plan for the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership, in particular the £70,000 sponsorship of the Envirolink Market and Sector Development programme by the Partnership, subject to District Council ratification.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Joint Merseyside Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) 2008 was approved by Members on 1st February 2008 (Report WDA/04/08). The strategy represents the direction taken by the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership and so is the agreed view of MWDA and the Waste Collection Authorities. Halton has a separate but aligned Waste Management Strategy and is actively engaged within the Partnership to deliver shared waste management systems.
- 2.2 The SOWG is the officer group taking forward the day to day delivery of the objectives, targets and recommendations within the JMWMS. The group has no delegated powers or independent resources in relation to waste services and the delivery of the JMWMS and decision making for the Partnership is made at Member level within each Partner Authority.
- 2.3 Each partner district will take this report and the draft Action Plan to their own Authority for agreement.

- 2.4 The Audit Commission conducted a Waste Partnership Performance Audit (Report WDA55/08) and their report stated that the partnership authorities can demonstrate good examples of partnership working but their effectiveness has been limited by inconsistent implementation of decisions and action planning. The support of all partners on a way forward is critical to the delivery of the JMWMS. Members approved the process of developing a partnership action plan.

3. Current Position.

- 3.1 The majority of the recommendations in the JMWMS and the Audit Commission Report require actions across the partnership. The SOWG has developed a strategic level Work Plan with the proposed actions directly linked to the above recommendations. (See Appendix 1).
- 3.2 To enable the Partnership to deliver the Action Plan, each Partner has identified existing and future resource requirements. (See Appendix 2). The resources plan has identified where there are budget provision requirements above existing resources. The key items for consideration for the Authority to consider are:
- Joint Communications delivery;
 - Partnership sponsorship of Envirolink North West Market and Sector development programme; and
 - Full review of the JMWMS.

Resource requirements for joint communications with a budget of £100,000 are considered in a separate Authority report on the Joint Communications Strategy (WDA 72/08);

Resource requirements for the full review of the JMWMS 2009-2011 are also considered in a separate Authority report (WDA 71/08).

The Authority has sponsored Envirolink's Market and Sector Development Programme £20,000 each year since its inception in 2006 following on from the successful work of the Clean Merseyside Centre. The Director of the Authority sits on the Envirolink Board. The Authority has benefited significantly including Sustainable Procurement support, Survey of NW Recyclers and Reprocessors, the Deloitte case study on the economic benefits of the energy from waste proposals in our procurement and a Catering Food Waste and Biodiesel pilot scheme with a local social enterprise. The Authority receives quarterly reports on outputs from the

programme including tonnages diverted from landfill, new jobs and jobs safeguarded.

Through sponsorship by Local Authorities and partnerships across the North West based on waste arisings, Envirolink NW secures significant match funding from the North West Development Agency to deliver this programme. Based on their calculations, MWDA and the six partnership authorities should sponsor the programme £70,000 annually at a cost of 8.9p per tonne which is more cost effective than the 10.5p cost from the sponsorship by MWDA alone. The Districts Senior Officers have indicated support for this if the sponsorship came via the Levy.

4. Risk Implications

- 4.1 The failure to adopt an agreed Work Plan for the Senior Officers Working Group will make it difficult for the Authority and the Partnership to demonstrate effective and efficient joint working to deliver against the recommendations of the Audit Commission and JMWMS.
- 4.2 The inability of partners to identify and commit appropriate resources will result in work programmes not being started or delivered and performance against the JMWMS and the possible failure to meet statutory and local targets.

5. HR Implications

- 5.1 The Authority will be working alongside the other six members of the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership and therefore must ensure that adherence is given to all relevant employee legislation.

6. Environmental Implications

- 6.1 Implementation of the Audit Commission and JMWMS recommendations will improve the partnership waste management performance and thereby deliver environmental, social and economic benefits.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The majority of the work programme for SOWG will be delivered through co-ordinating existing resources.
- 7.2 The budget requirements for Joint Communications and the JMWMS Strategy Review are raised in separate Authority Reports.

7.3 In order for the Partnership to sponsor Envirolink North West on an annual basis, £70,000 will need to be included in the 2009/10 forward budget.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The SOWG on behalf of the Partner Authorities aims to deliver day to day progress against the recommendations and targets in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
- 8.2 The Authority has previously made budget provision for joint activities such as communications and strategy.
- 8.3 The approval of the SOWG work plan will support the recommendations made by the Audit Commission in their Waste Partnership Audit that consideration be given to joint funding to co-ordinate waste management activities.

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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil.

