

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW 2015

1. Core principle: Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on the outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
1.1 Exercising strategic leadership by developing and clearly communicating the authority's purpose and vision and its intended outcome for citizens and service users	1.1.1 Develop and promote the authority's purpose and vision	<p>Vision used as a basis for corporate and service planning</p> <p>Community engagement and involvement</p> <p>Communication strategy in respect of corporate objectives has been developed, approved and implemented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan • Corporate Training Plan • Community Fund • Social Media Engagement • Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside (JRWMS) • Media Relations • Social Media Policy 	<p>CG2: Communications Strategy – Approval and Delivery</p> <p>CG1: Approval, publication and completion of the Service Delivery Plan.</p>
	1.1.2 Review on a regular basis the authority's vision for the local area and its implications for the authority's governance arrangements.	<p>Record of the review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the authority's vision • the governance code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan Annual Review • Corporate Governance Code and Assessment reported annually • Member Forward Planning Panel • JRWMS Review every 5 years 	
	1.1.3 Ensure that partnerships are underpinned by a common vision of their work that is	<p>Partnership protocol including an agreement on the role and scope of each partner's contribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JRWMS • Memorandum of Understanding 	CG11: Establish scrutiny arrangements in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with each of

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
	understood and agreed by all partners	Strategic partnership Priorities Partnership arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter Authority Agreement with Halton • Representation on boards (MWHL, BML) • Merseyside & Halton Waste Partnership • Senior Officer Working Group (SOWG) • Annual Report by Partnership (via SOWG) • Memorandum of Understanding with constituent councils re Waste Development Fund (WDF) 	the Constituent Councils
	1.1.4 Publish an annual report on a timely basis to communicate the authority's activities and achievements, its financial position and performance	Formal annual report which includes key points raised by external scrutineers and service users' feedback on service delivery Annual financial statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Outturn and Financial Statements • Quarterly Report including performance outturn 	CG3: Review of the PMF including performance monitoring and reporting
1.2 Ensuring that users receive a high quality of service whether directly, or in partnership, or by commissioning	1.2.1 Decide how the quality of service for users is to be measured and make sure that the information needed to review service quality effectively and regularly is available	An agreed set of quality standard measures for each service element and included in service plans Evidence that views of service users and non-users have been received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMRC service measures including user surveys • Stakeholder & Community Liaison Plan (WMRC) • Complaints Reporting • User Satisfaction Surveys 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
		Evidence that views have been taken into account in service planning and delivery	and analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Operations Group 	
	1.2.2 Put in place effective arrangements to identify and deal with failure in service delivery	Regular reports on the progress of service delivery Performance trends are established and reported upon Formal complaints policy and procedures exist and are operating effectively Evidence that complaints have informed positive service improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly Reports Comments and Complaints Procedure Performance standards within current and future contracts Environmental Management System (ISO 14001) 	CG4: Comments and Complaints - Process Review
1.3 Ensuring that the authority makes best use of resources and that tax payers and service users receive excellent value for money	1.3.1 Decide how value for money is to be measured and make sure that the authority or partnership has the information needed to review value for money and performance effectively	Clear corporate requirement and instruction on how to measure VFM Corporate procurement policy and strategy Comparison of information on the authority's economy, efficiency and effectiveness of services with that provided by similar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Management Framework Sustainable Procurement Policy Environmental Monitoring System VFM Audit by Districts WMRC Service Delivery Plans identified annually Treasurer included in Chief Finance Officer Meetings 	CG5: Review staff resources and skills as part of the ongoing organisational review CG6: Identify strategic direction of the Authority's budget with Members early in year.

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
		<p>organisations</p> <p>Evidence that the results are reflected in the authority's performance plans and in reviewing the work of the authority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Contract Procurement • Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) – Construction Phase • Member Forward Planning Panel 	
	1.3.2 Measure the environmental impact of policies, plans and decisions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management System • Environmental Impact included in reports to Members 	

2. Core Principle: Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
2.1 Ensuring effective leadership throughout the Authority and being clear about executive and non-executive functions and of the roles and responsibilities of the scrutiny function	2.1.1 Set out a clear statement of the respective roles and responsibilities of the executive and of the executive's members individually and the Authority's approach towards putting this into practice.	Published job descriptions for the leader of the Authority and Chief Executive. Member/officer protocol Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution, including Procedural Rules, Scheme of Delegation, Member / Officer Protocol • Members Appointments and Representations at AGM • Member Training and Development Plan • Code of Conduct for Members (Voluntary) 	
	2.1.2 Set out a clear statement of the respective roles and responsibilities of other Authority members, members generally and senior officers.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural Rules and Scheme of Delegation • Job Descriptions 	
2.2 Ensuring that a constructive working relationship exists between elected members and officers and that the responsibilities of authority members and officers are carried out to a high standard	2.2.1 Determine a scheme of delegation and reserve powers within the constitution, including a formal schedule of those matters specifically reserved for collective decision of the authority taking account of relevant legislation and ensure that it is monitored and updated when required	Scheme of delegation reviewed at least annually in the light of legal and organisational changes Standing orders and financial regulations which are reviewed on a regular basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural Rules and Scheme of Delegation • Record of Sub-Delegations • Committee Structure • Statutory Instruments and Regulations • Member Training and Development (Workshops and Visits) 	CG13: Implement the requirements under the Local Audit and Accountability Act when the enabling legislation has been passed.

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
	2.2.2 Make a Chief Executive or equivalent responsible and accountable to the Authority for all aspects of operational management	Statutory provisions Conditions of employment Up-to-date job description / specification Appraisal arrangements Robust performance management system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive role defined in Authority Procedural Rules • Job Descriptions and Service Plans. • Member Forward Planning Panel – establishes priorities. • Performance Management Framework 	
	2.2.3 Develop protocols to ensure that the Leader and Chief Executive (or equivalent) negotiate their respective roles early in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintained	Job descriptions New Chief Executive and Leader pairing consider how best to establish and maintain effective communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member and Staff Induction • Member / Officer Protocol • Chair’s Briefings. • Member Forward Planning Panel 	
	2.2.4 Make a senior officer (the section 151 officer) responsible to the authority for ensuring that appropriate advice is given on all financial matters, for keeping proper financial records and accounts, and for maintaining an effective	Section 151 responsibilities Statutory provision Up-to-date job description / specification The authority has complied with the <i>CIPFA Statement on</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Treasurer to the Authority (Chief Finance Officer under Section 73) • Financial Procedural Rules • Director of Finance - Job Description – includes reference to Statutory 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
	system of internal financial control	<p><i>the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government</i> and has reported on it accordingly in its annual governance statement</p> <p>The authority has complied with the <i>CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit in Public Service Organisations</i> and has reported on it accordingly in its annual governance statement</p>	<p>Role of Treasurer – which means the role under the Accounts and Audit Regulations is applied in full</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee papers include a standard section re Financial implications • Director of Finance – CIPFA Membership and accountancy qualifications specified in the post’s person specification as essential • Scheme of Delegation establishes powers • Internal Audit 	
	2.2.5 Make a senior officer (usually the monitoring officer) responsible to the authority for ensuring that agreed procedures are followed and that all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with	<p>Monitoring officer provisions</p> <p>Statutory provision</p> <p>Up-to-date job description / specification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Clerk to the Authority and Monitoring Officer – respective roles defined within Procedural Rules and Job Descriptions. • Contract for Professional Legal Advice 	
2.3 Ensuring relationships between the authority, its partners and the public are clear so that each know that	2.3.1 Develop protocols to ensure effective communication between members and officers in	Member / officer protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member/Officer protocol 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
to expect of the other	their respective roles			
	2.3.2 Set out the terms and conditions for remuneration of members and officers and an effective structure for managing the process including an effective remuneration panel	<p>Scheme for member remuneration and allowances</p> <p>Robust pay and conditions policies and practices for employees</p> <p>Structured pay scales reflecting competence</p> <p>Established process for grading and appeals procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Allowance Scheme • Officer Conditions of Service 	CG5: Review staff resources and skills as part of the ongoing organisational review
	2.3.3 Ensure that effective mechanisms exist to monitor service delivery	<p>Key performance indicators have been established and approved for each service element and included in the service plan and are reported upon regularly</p> <p>Reports include detailed performance results and highlight areas where corrective action is necessary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management Framework. • ISO 14001 – Environmental Management • Waste Contracts Performance Arrangements including work of Compliance Officers • Data Quality Strategy 	CG1: Approval, publication and completion of the Service Delivery Plan.
	2.3.4 Ensure that the organisation's vision, strategic plans, priorities and	Business and financial planning processes established to deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management Framework • JRWMSM in place 	CG7: Commence the waste strategy review and complete a waste

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
	targets are developed through robust mechanisms, and in consultation with the local community and other key stakeholders, and that they are clearly articulated and disseminated.	strategic objectives Protocols for consultation Statutory guidance is followed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Performance Targets • Senior Officer Working Group • Stakeholder Liaison Panel • Member Forward Planning Panel • Involvement in Constituent Districts Scrutiny processes 	composition analysis.
	2.3.5 When working in partnership, ensure that members are clear about their roles and responsibilities both individually and collectively in relation to the partnership and to the authority	Protocols for partnership working mean that for each partnership there is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a clear statement of the partnership principles and objectives • clarity of each partner's role within the partnership • definition of roles of partnership board members • line management responsibilities for staff who support the partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JRWMS • Inter Authority Agreement with Halton • Representation on Joint Boards • Project Plans, Statement of Funding and representation on Project Boards (Eg. Procurement) • Delegation to GMWDA re Interim Contract • Memorandum of Understanding with constituent councils re Waste Development Fund 	CG11: Establish scrutiny arrangements in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with each of the Constituent Councils
	2.3.6 Ensure that there is clarity about the legal status of the partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a statement of funding sources for joint projects and clear accountability for proper financial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter Authority Agreement with Halton (IAA) • Shareholders Agreement 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
		administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a protocol for dispute resolution within the partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Officer Working Group Terms of Reference • Statutory Officer Roles • Delegation to GMWDA re Interim Contract • Memorandum of Understanding with constituent councils re Waste Development Fund 	
	2.3.7 Ensure that representatives or organisations both understand and make clear to all other partners the extent of their authority to bind their organisation to partner decisions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum of Understanding with constituent councils re Waste Development Fund • Inter Authority Agreement with Halton • Financial Procedural Rules • Delegation to GMWDA re Interim Contract 	

3. Core Principle: Promoting values for the Authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
3.1 Ensuring authority members and officers exercise leadership by behaving in ways that exemplify high standards of conduct and effective governance	3.1.1 Ensure that the authority's leadership sets a tone for the organisation by creating a climate of openness, support and respect	Codes of conduct, annual governance statement Conduct at meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codes of Conduct (Officer and Members) • Performance Management Framework • Staff Development Scheme. • HR Strategy including training in relevant HR policies • Management Team Meetings • Constitution 	CG3: Review of the PMF including performance monitoring and reporting
	3.1.2 Ensure that standards of conduct and personal behaviour expected of members and staff, of work between members and staff and between the authority, its partners and the community are defined and communicated through codes of conduct and protocols	Members'/officers' code of conduct which acknowledges professional bodies' codes of conduct Performance appraisal Complaints procedures Anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies are up to date and working effectively. Induction for new members and staff on standard of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member/Officer Protocol. • Officer Code of Conduct. • Code of Conduct for Members (Voluntary) • Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy • Declarations of Interest by Members • Declarations of Interest by senior officers • Social Media Policy 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
		behaviour expected		
	3.1.3 Put in place arrangements to ensure that members and employees of the authority are not influenced by prejudice, bias or conflicts of interest in dealing with different stakeholders and put in place appropriate processes to ensure that they continue to operate in practice	<p>Standing orders, financial regulations and codes of conduct, all reviewed and updated on a regular basis</p> <p>Register of interests (members and staff)</p> <p>Provision of ethical awareness training</p> <p>Procedures for dealing with conflicts of interest</p> <p>Up-to-date register of gifts and hospitality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • Codes of Conduct and Declarations of Interest (Officer and Members) • Equality and Diversity Policy (Updated following Equality Act 2010) • Gifts and Hospitalities Procedure • Diversity Training 	CG12: Employee Corporate Training Programme (Including Whistleblowing, Diversity and Budget Management for Budget Managers)
3.2 Ensuring that organisational values are put into practice and are effective	3.2.1 Develop and maintain shared values including leadership values for both the organisation and staff reflecting public expectations, and communicate these with members, staff, the community and partners	<p>Codes of Conduct</p> <p>Evidence of communicating shared values with members, staff, the community and partners</p> <p>Whistleblowing arrangements are in place and protect individuals raising concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer Code of Conduct • Member Code of Conduct (Voluntary) • Waste Management Recycling Contract Service (WMRC) Delivery Plans • RRC Service Delivery Plans • Bullying and Harassment Policy • Whistleblowing policy • Social Media Policy 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Communications “In The Know” 	
	3.2.2 Put in place arrangements to ensure that systems and processes are designed in conformity with appropriate ethical standards, and monitor their continuing effectiveness in practice	Codes of Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codes of Conduct (Officer and Members) Antifraud and Corruption Strategy WMRC / RRC Service Delivery Plans Terms and Conditions in Waste Contracts 	
	3.2.3 Develop and maintain an effective standards committee	<p>Terms of reference</p> <p>Regular reporting to full Council</p> <p>Examples of responding to complaints about behaviour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Conduct for Members – MWDA procedure incorporates Constituent Councils standards arrangements 	
	3.2.4 Use the organisation’s shared values to act as a guide for decision making and as a basis for developing positive and trusting relationships within the authority	<p>Decision-making practices</p> <p>Evidence that shared values have guided the decision making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Management Framework including Corporate Plan and Service Delivery Plan Team Meetings / Briefings Intranet establishes effective communications Annual Corporate Training Programme HR Policies 	
	3.2.5 In pursuing the vision of a partnership, agree a set	Protocols for partnership working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Delivery Plans for Waste Contracts 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
	of values against which decision making and actions can be judged. Such values must be demonstrated by partners' behaviour both individually and collectively	Evidence of agreed values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum of Understanding with WCAs re Waste Development Fund • Inter Authority Agreement with Halton • JRWMS and monitoring arrangements through SOWG • Treasurers' Group 	

4. Core Principle: Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk.

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
4.1 Being rigorous and transparent about how decisions are taken and listening and acting on the outcome of constructive scrutiny	4.1.1 Develop and maintain an effective scrutiny function which encourages constructive challenge and enhances the authority's performance overall and that of any organisations for which it is responsible	<p>The role of and responsibility for scrutiny have been established</p> <p>Agenda and minutes of scrutiny meetings</p> <p>Evidence of improvements to proposals as a result of scrutiny</p> <p>An effective internal audit function is resourced and maintained</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny function delivered through Scheme of Delegation • Annual statement to district councils regarding scrutiny • Authority meetings deliver the scrutiny function • Service Level agreement with St Helens for Internal Audit • Inter Authority Agreement with Halton • Internal Audit Plans • Memorandum of Understanding with constituent councils re Waste Development Fund 	<p>CG9: Invitation to attend Scrutiny Committees at Constituent Councils including Halton</p> <p>CG11: Establish scrutiny arrangements in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with each of the Constituent Councils</p>
	4.1.2 Develop and maintain open and effective mechanisms for documenting evidence for decisions and recording the criteria, rationale and considerations on which decisions are based	<p>Decision-making protocols</p> <p>Record of decisions and supporting materials</p> <p>Record of professional advice in reaching decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme of Delegation and documented sub-delegations • Key Decisions recorded in Authority minutes • Agenda and minutes published on website • Standardised template for Key Decision reports • Forward Plan published 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
			monthly on website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard format for Executive Decisions • Executive Decisions published on website • Admin Decisions recorded • Access to Information Procedural Rules 	
	4.1.3 Put in place arrangements to safeguard members and employees against conflicts of interest and put in place appropriate processes to ensure that they continue to operate in practice	Members' and officers' code of conduct which refers to a requirement to declare interests Minutes showing declarations of interest were sought and appropriate declarations made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of Interest for Members • Related Party Transaction Declarations by Senior Officers annually • Scheme of Delegation • Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy. • Code of Conduct for Officers 	
	4.1.4 Develop and maintain an effective audit committee (or equivalent) which is independent of the executive and scrutiny functions or make other appropriate arrangements for the discharge of the functions of such a committee	Terms of reference Membership Training for committee members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference 	CG13: Implement the requirements under the Local Audit and Accountability Act when the enabling legislation has been passed. CG4: Comments and Complaints - Process Review

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
	4.1.5 Ensure that effective, transparent and accessible arrangements are in place for dealing with complaints	Complaints procedure Evidence of changes/ improvements as a result of complaints received and acted upon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments and Complaints Procedure • Quarterly Reporting 	<p>CG3: Review of the PMF including performance monitoring and reporting</p> <p>CG4: Comments and Complaints - Process Review</p>
4.2 Having good quality information, advice and support to ensure that services are delivered effectively and are what the community wants/ needs	4.2.1 Ensure that those making decisions, whether for the authority or the partnership, are provided with information that is fit for the purpose – relevant, timely and gives clear explanations of technical and financial issues and their implications	<p>Discussion between members and officers on the information needs of members to support decision making</p> <p>Agreement on the information that will be provided and timescales</p> <p>Calendar of dates for submitting, publishing and distributing timely reports that are adhered to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Training and Development including Induction process • Report Writing Guide for Officers • Authority reporting uses standard template for key paragraphs • Forward Plan and Annual Timetable of Meetings • Treasurer reviews and reports future financial strategies and levy options to Members and Treasurers Group • Capital Strategy reviewed annually • Forward Planning Panel 	<p>CG8: Budget profiles to continue to be developed to ensure patterns of expenditure can be monitored more effectively</p> <p>CG12: Employee Corporate Training Programme (Including Whistleblowing, Diversity and Budget Management for Budget Managers)</p>
	4.2.2 Ensure that proper professional advice on matters that have legal or financial implications is available and recorded well in advance of decision making and used	The authority complies with the <i>CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government</i> and reports accordingly in its annual governance statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial and legal advice considered at Chairman's Briefings and relevant advice conveyed within standard para in all Authority reports • Annual Governance 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
	appropriately	Record of decision making and supporting materials Meeting reports show details of advice given	Statement and Annual Assessment • Member of the NW Legal Consortium	
4.3 Ensuring that an effective risk management system is in place	4.3.1 Ensure that risk management is embedded into the culture of the authority, with members and managers at all levels recognising that risk management is part of their jobs	Risk management protocol Risk management strategy/ policy has been formally approved and adopted and is reviewed and updated on a regular basis Financial standards and Regulations Counter-fraud arrangements are in place and operating effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management Strategy • Templates for Key and Executive Decisions includes risk assessment • Executive Management Team review of Corporate Risk Register 	CG10: Review of risks as part of Performance Review Meetings with EMT and managers
	4.3.2 Ensure that effective arrangements for whistleblowing are in place to which officers, staff and all those contracting with or appointed by the authority have access	A whistleblowing policy exists and is reviewed on a regular basis The policy has been made available to members of the public, employees, partners and contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whistleblowing Policy – included in Corporate Training and major contracts 	CG12: Employee Corporate Training Programme (Including Whistleblowing, Diversity and Budget Management for Budget Managers)
4.4 Using their legal powers to the full benefit of the citizens and communities in	4.4.1 Actively recognise the limits of lawful activity placed on	Constitution Monitoring officer provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • Monitoring officer provisions 	CG7: Commence the waste strategy review. (including policing of HWRCs)

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
their area	them by, for example, the ultra vires doctrine, but also strive to utilise their powers to the full benefit of their communities	Statutory provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory provision 	
	4.4.2 Recognise the limits of lawful action and observe both the specific requirements of legislation and the general responsibilities placed on local authorities by public law	Record of legal advice provided by officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal / QC advice sought where appropriate and collated centrally • Legislative monitoring through subscription service and officer research role • Procurement of legal services available through the NW Legal Consortium 	
	4.4.3 Observe all specific legislative requirements placed upon them, as well as the requirements of general law, and in particular to integrate the key principles of good administrative law – rationality, legality and natural justice – into their procedures and decision-making processes	<p>Monitoring officer provisions</p> <p>Job description/specification</p> <p>Statutory provisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Officer provisions • Job Description / Person Specifications • Suitably qualified HR professional • Statutory provision • Corporate Social Responsibility Policy • Equality Act 2010 implications included in Report Writing Guide for Officers • ISO14001 Legal Register 	

5. Core Principle: Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective.

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
5.1 Making sure that members and officers have the skills, knowledge, experience and resources they need to perform well in their roles	5.1.1 Provide induction programmes tailored to individual needs and opportunities for members and officers to update their knowledge on a regular basis	<p>Training and development plan</p> <p>Induction programme</p> <p>Access to update courses/ information/briefings on new legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Development Scheme including Training Plan. • Member Training and Development Plan including Induction Process • HR Strategy • Recruitment and Retention Strategy 	
	5.1.2 Ensure that the statutory officers have the skills, resources and support necessary to perform effectively in their roles and that these roles are properly understood throughout the authority	<p>Job description/personal specifications</p> <p>Membership of the top management team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Descriptions / Person Specifications • Performance Management Framework • Staff Development Scheme • Organisational Structures • Legal Register • NW Legal Consortium • CIPFA Membership 	
5.2 Developing the capability of people with governance responsibilities and evaluating their performance as individuals and as a group	5.2.1 Assess the skills required by members and officers and make a commitment to develop those skills to enable roles to be carried out effectively	<p>Training and development plan</p> <p>Performance reviews of officers and members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Development includes Statutory Officers • Training and Development Plans for Officers and Members 	CG12: Employee Corporate Training Programme (Including Whistleblowing, Diversity and Budget Management for Budget Managers)

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Training and Development • Corporate Training Programme • Management Training Programme • Skills Auditing 	
	5.2.2 Develop skills on a continuing basis to improve performance, including the ability to scrutinise and challenge and to recognise when outside expert advice is needed	Training and development plan reflects requirements of a modern councillor including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to scrutinise and challenge • the ability to recognise when outside advice is required • advice on how to act as an ambassador for the community • leadership and influencing skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Training and Development supports MWDA role • Wider Member training delivered by host authorities • Performance Management Framework linked to Corporate Plan and ultimately the Staff Development Scheme to identify training needs 	CG5: Review staff resources and skills as part of the ongoing organisational review (including technical training requirements for the RRC)
	5.2.3 Ensure that arrangements are in place for reviewing the performance of the executive as a whole and of individual members and agreeing an action plan, which might for example aim	Performance management System Staff development plans linked to staff appraisals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable • MWDA does not have Executive Arrangements 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
	to address any training or development needs			
5.3 Encouraging new talent for membership of the authority so that best use can be made of individuals' skills and resources in balancing continuity and renewal	5.3.1 Ensure that effective arrangements are in place designed to encourage individuals from all sections of the community to engage with, contribute to and participate in the work of the authority	Strategic partnership Frameworks Stakeholders' forums' terms of reference Area forums' roles and Responsibilities Residents' panel structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable • Constituent council's responsibility for encouraging new talent 	
	5.3.2 Ensure that career structures are in place for members and officers to encourage participation and development	Succession planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Development Scheme • Forward Planning Panel • HR Strategy • Annual review of Member Training and Development. • Recruitment and Retention Strategy 	CG5: Review staff resources and skills as part of the ongoing organisational review

6. Core Principle: Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
6.1 Exercising leadership through a robust scrutiny function which effectively engages local people and all local institutional stakeholders, including partnerships, and develops constructive accountability relationships	6.1.1 Make clear to themselves, all staff and the community to whom they are accountable and for what	Community strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation processes • Corporate Plan and Annual Performance Plan • Performance Management Framework including Service Delivery Plan 	CG2: Communications Strategy – Approval and Delivery CG3: Review of the PMF including performance monitoring and reporting
	6.1.2 Consider those institutional stakeholders to whom the authority is accountable and assess the effectiveness of the relationships and any changes required	Establish a database of stakeholders with whom the authority should engage and for what purpose and a record of an assessment of the effectiveness of any changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter Authority Agreement with Halton and Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy • Joint and Project Boards • Senior Officer Working Group and sub-groups • Engagement with regional boards • Treasurers' Group • Memorandum of Understanding with constituent councils re Waste Development Fund 	
	6.1.3 Produce an annual report on the activity of the scrutiny function	Annual report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny items considered by full Authority • Scrutiny items reported on website 	CG11: Establish scrutiny arrangements in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with each of the Constituent Councils

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
6.2 Taking an active and planned approach to dialogue with and accountability to the public to ensure effective and appropriate service delivery whether directly by the authority, in partnership or by commissioning	6.2.1 Ensure clear channels of communication are in place with all sections of the community and other stakeholders, including monitoring arrangements, and ensure that they operate effectively	Community strategy Citizen survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Strategy. • Complaints Procedure • Performance Management Framework • Stakeholder and Community Liaison Plans (WMRC and RRC) • Transparency Expenditure / Senior Officer Salary / Contracts Reporting • MWDA and Partner Websites 	CG4: Comments and Complaints - Process Review
	6.2.2 Ensure that arrangements are in place to enable the authority to engage with all sections of the community effectively. These arrangements should recognise that different sections of the community have different priorities and establish explicit processes for dealing with these competing demands	Record of public consultations Processes for dealing with competing demands within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality and Diversity Policy • Contract Specifications / Service Delivery Plans • MWDA Website including electronic interfaces • Social Media • JRWMS Review – Consultation Process • Stakeholder and Community Liaison Panel 	CG2: Communications Strategy – approval and delivery
	6.2.3 Establish a clear policy on the types of issue on which they will meaningfully	Partnership framework Communication strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Strategy. • Authority and Contractual 	CG2: Communications Strategy – approval and delivery

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
	consult on or engage with the public and service users, including a feedback mechanism for those consultees to demonstrate what has changed as a result		User Surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JRWMS • Comments and Complaints Procedure • Management Report includes comments and complaints monitoring • WMRC User Surveys and Stakeholder Liaison Panel 	CG4: Comments and Complaints - Process Review
	6.2.4 Publish an annual performance plan giving information on the authority's vision, strategy, plans and financial statements as well as information about its outcomes, achievements and the satisfaction of service users in the previous period	Annual report Annual financial statements Corporate plan Annual business plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Performance Plan • Statement of Accounts • Budget Reports • MWDA inclusion in Council Tax Leaflets 	CG3: Review of the PMF including performance monitoring and reporting
	6.2.5 Ensure that the authority as a whole is open and accessible to the community, service users and its staff and ensure that it has made a commitment to openness and transparency in all its dealings, including partnerships, subject only	Constitution Freedom of Information Act publication scheme Council tax leaflet Authority website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural Rules including Access to Information Procedural Rules • Website provides access to information • Social Media / Social Media Policy • Freedom of Information Publication Scheme (last 	

Supporting Principle	Requirement	Examples of Evidence	What MWDA does:	What it will do to improve:
	to the need to preserve confidentiality in those specific circumstances where it is proper and appropriate to do so		reviewed 2012) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency Reporting of Expenditure • Audit outcomes reported to the Authority 	
6.3 Making best use of human resources by taking an active and planned approach to meet responsibilities to staff	6.3.1 Develop and maintain a clear policy on how staff and their representatives are consulted and involved in decision making.	Constitution Adherence to best practice standards in recruitment and staff terms and conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management Framework and Decision Making Process • Health and Safety Committee • Section and Staff Meetings • Strategic Review development process 	CG14: Review Health and Safety Committee and arrangements

ADDITIONAL KEY LINES OF ENQUIRY CONSIDERED BY THE PRIMARY ASSURANCE GROUP:

Additional KLOE in relation to Core Principle 2 - Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles		
Examples of assurance:	Evidenced by:	Areas of Improvement:
7.2.1 Ensure that the Chief Finance Officer reports directly to the Chief Executive and is a member of the leadership team with a status at least equivalent to other members. If different organisation arrangements are adopted, explain the reasons publicly, together with how these deliver the same impact.	Treasurer is a member of the Executive Management Team. Organisational structure establishes direct accountability of Treasurer to Members	
7.2.2 Ensure that the Authority's governance arrangements allow the Chief Finance Officer direct access to the Chief Executive Officer and to other leadership team members.	Organisational structure establishes direct accountability of Treasurer to Members. Treasurer is a Member of the Executive Management Team with access to other EMT members and the Chief Executive	
7.2.3 Appoint a professionally qualified Chief Finance Officer (CFO) whose core responsibilities include those set out in the Statement on the Role of the Chief Finance Officer in Local Government and ensure that they are properly understood throughout the Authority.	Director of Finance – CIPFA Membership and accountancy qualifications specified in the post's person specification as essential Scheme of Delegation establishes powers Role of CFO underpins Treasurer's role and duties	
7.2.4 Ensure that the Chief Finance Officer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads the promotion and delivery by the whole organisation of good financial 	Financial Strategy reviewed at least annually Organisational structure and Service Level	CG12: Employee Corporate Training Programme (Including Whistleblowing,

<p>management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a line of professional accountability for finance staff throughout the organisation 	<p>Agreements</p> <p>Treasurer promotes prudent use of the Authority's finances</p> <p>Treasurer is responsible for the accountant and financial services, and for annual SLA with service provider</p>	<p>Diversity and Budget Management for Budget Managers)</p>
<p>7.2.5 Ensure that budget calculation are robust and reserves adequate, in line with CIPFA's guidance.</p>	<p>The budget follows prudent guidelines and is not done in isolation but with service managers to ensure it is robust</p> <p>Reserves are established both to deal with foreseen events and unplanned – the reserve level is agreed as part of the budget and the risks attached to reserve levels form part of the decision making process in line with CIPFA's guidelines</p>	
<p>7.2.6 Ensure that appropriate management accounting systems, functions and controls are in place so that finances are kept under review on a regular basis. These systems, functions and controls should apply consistently to all activities including partnership arrangements, outsourcing or where the Authority is acting in an enabling role.</p>	<p>Service Level Agreements in place with St Helens MBC</p> <p>Corporate Services provide in house financial systems which are kept under review by the Corporate Services Manager</p> <p>Internal Audit review systems on risk-based programme</p>	
<p>7.2.7 Establish a medium term business and financial planning process to deliver strategic</p>	<p>Corporate Plan</p>	<p>CG3: Review of the PMF including performance monitoring and reporting</p>

<p>objectives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a medium term financial strategy to ensure sustainable finances; • a robust annual budget process that ensures financial balance; • a monitoring process that enables this to be delivered; • ensure that these are subject to regular review to confirm the continuing relevance of assumptions used. 	<p>Budget Planning</p> <p>Financial Strategy reviewed annually – particularly in light of proposed new contracts and the Levy strategy</p> <p>A sinking fund has been established to offset future large scale increases in the levy</p> <p>The revised estimate and outturn processes ensure financial plans are reviewed robustly</p> <p>Member Forward Planning Panel</p>	
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<p>Additional KLOE in relation to Core Principle 3: Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour</p>		
<p>7.3.1 Ensure that systems and processes for financial administration, financial control and protection of the Authority’s resources and assets are designed in conformity with appropriate ethical standards and monitor their continuing effectiveness in practice.</p>	<p>Internal and External Auditing</p> <p>Procedural Rules and Financial Procedures</p> <p>Corporate Services provide in house financial systems and an SLA is in place to ensure external systems are adequate and effective in practice</p>	

Additional KLOE in relation to Core Principle 4: Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk		
7.4.1 Ensure that the Authority's governance arrangements allow the Chief Finance Officer direct access to the Audit Committee and external audit.	Organisational structure establishes direct accountability of treasurer to Members	
7.4.2 Ensure the provision of clear, well presented, timely, complete and accurate information and reports to budget managers and senior officers on the budgetary and financial performance of the Authority.	<p>Quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports</p> <p>Finance reported in Quarterly Performance Report</p> <p>Budgets are loaded onto the financial information system and budget managers access reports regularly</p> <p>Business Support Manager provides support and challenge to budget holders to enable them to manage their budget areas effectively</p>	CG8: Budget profiles to continue to be developed to ensure patterns of expenditure can be monitored more effectively
7.4.3 Ensure the Authority's governance arrangements allow the Chief Finance Officer to bring influence to bear on all material decisions.	<p>Organisational structure establishes direct accountability of treasurer to Members</p> <p>Director of Finance attends all Authority Meetings</p> <p>All Authority reports with a financial impact are reviewed by the Treasurer</p>	
7.4.4 Ensure that advice is provided on the levels of reserves and balances in line with good practice guidance.	<p>The budget report process ensures members are advised of the levels of reserves and the reasons for them</p> <p>The outturn report to Members comments on the</p>	CG3: Review of the PMF including performance monitoring and reporting

	levels of balances	
7.4.5 Ensure the Authority's arrangements for financial and internal control and for managing risk are addressed in annual governance reports.	<p>The Annual Governance Statement confirms arrangements</p> <p>Confirmation from chairperson regarding arrangements to prevent fraud and corruption annually</p> <p>Primary Assurance Group reviews all processes and identifies areas for improvement</p>	
7.4.6 Ensure the Authority puts in place effective internal financial controls covering codified guidance, budgetary systems, supervision, management review and monitoring, physical safeguards, segregation of duties, accounting procedures, information systems and authorisation and approval processes.	<p>Financial Procedural Rules</p> <p>Contract Procedural Rules</p> <p>Financial Instructions and procedures</p> <p>Scheme of Delegation</p> <p>Internal Audit Reviews (reported to the Authority)</p> <p>Officer Job Descriptions</p>	

Additional KLOE in relation to Core Principle 5: Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective		
7.5.1 Ensure the Chief Financial Officer has the skills, knowledge experience and resources to perform effectively in both the financial and non-financial areas of their role.	<p>Recruitment Process</p> <p>Person Specifications</p> <p>Staff Development Scheme</p> <p>CIPFA Financial Accounting Network membership including training resource</p>	
7.5.2 Review the scope of the Chief Finance Officer's other management responsibilities to ensure financial matters are not compromised.	The Chief Finance Officer contributes to the management of the Authority through EMT – but this does not impact on the overall ability to continue to the financial management of the Authority	
7.5.3 Provide the finance function with the resources, expertise and systems necessary to perform its role effectively.	<p>Service Level Agreements in place with St Helens MBC</p> <p>Corporate Services provide the internal resources and functions that enable the finance function to be effective</p> <p>Audit undertaken annually</p>	
7.5.4 Embed financial competencies in person specifications and appraisals.	<p>Director of Finance Person Specification</p> <p>Business Support Manager's Person Specification</p> <p>Budget managers' Person Specifications</p>	CG12: Employee Corporate Training Programme (Including Whistleblowing, Diversity and Budget Management for Budget Managers)
7.5.5 Ensure that Councillors' roles and responsibilities for monitoring financial performance/budget management are	Constitution	

<p>clear, that they have adequate access to financial skills and are provided with appropriate financial training on an ongoing basis to help them discharge their responsibilities.</p>	<p>Member Training and Development Plan</p>	
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