



**At a meeting of the Authority
held on Friday 5th February 2016**

Present : Councillor Graham Morgan
Councillor Tony Concepcion
Councillor Irene Williams
Councillor Steve Williams
Councillor Kevin Cluskey
Councillor Alan Cunliffe
Councillor Laura Robertson-Collins
Councillor Andrew Foxley
Councillor John Fairclough

40. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nelson.

41. **Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 20th November 2015**

Resolved that the minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 20th November 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

43. **Question(s) from Members under Procedural Rule 9**

There were no questions submitted by Members in accordance with Procedural Rule 9.

44. **Question(s) from Members of the Public under Procedural Rule 10**

There were no questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with Procedural Rule 10.

45. **Motion proposed by Members under Procedural Rule 15**

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

46. **Annual Meeting and Timetable of Meetings 2016/17**
WDA/01/16

Members were provided with a report requesting that a date be set for the annual meeting and that the timetable of Authority meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year be approved.

Resolved that:

1. a date for the Annual Meeting be fixed and that the programme of meetings for 2016/17 be approved ; and
2. the Clerk be granted delegated powers to make any future alterations to the timetable of meetings as deemed appropriate, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority.

47. **Internal Audit – Financial Systems**
WDA/05/16

Members considered a report showing the outcome of the recent Internal Audit review of the financial systems used and operated by the Authority and whether the controls at the Authority on those systems are adequate and effective. The review concluded that the level of assurance that all expected controls are in place was “High.”

Resolved that the contents of the Internal Auditor’s report be noted.

Graham Morgan thanked Kath Fogarty from St Helens for her excellent work on the Internal audit and praised the Authority for receiving a High level of assurance for the Financial Systems that are in place.

48. **Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2016/17; Annual Revenue Provision Policy Statement; Annual Investment Strategy; and Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators**
WDA/04/16

A report was provided to Members asking them to consider and approve the requirements from The Local Government Act 2003 to set Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the next three years. The Act also requires the Authority to set out its Treasury Strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy that sets out its policies for managing its investments and the priority given to the security and liquidity of those investments.

The Treasurer, Peter Williams made reference to a typing error in the table on page 40 of the report. The amounts are stated as being in millions when in fact they should be in thousands.

Resolved that:

1. the report attached at Appendix 1 be noted;
2. the Treasury Management Strategy 2016-17; the Annual Revenue Provision Policy Statement; the Annual Investment Strategy; and the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators as set out in the report at Appendix 1 be approved;
3. the Treasurer be granted delegated authority, within the total limit for each year, to effect movements between the separately agreed prudential indicator limits in accordance with option appraisal and best value for money for the Authority; and
4. the Treasurer be granted delegated authority to effect movements between borrowing and other long term liabilities sums under the framework of the Prudential Code.

In accordance with Procedural Rule 16 (k), the following motion to adjourn the meeting had not been included in the summons for the meeting but was considered by Members.

49. **Adjournment of Meeting**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned for approximately twenty minutes.

Resolved that the meeting be adjourned for approximately twenty minutes.

The meeting was reconvened after a short adjournment.

50. **Budget 2016-17**
WDA/03/16

Members were provided with a report detailing the proposed budget and the level of Levy to be charged to each of the constituent Local Authorities annually alongside a Levy payment schedule for 2016-17.

The Treasurer, Peter Williams made reference to some amendments to the budget and an amendment sheet was circulated to all Members.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Fairclough and seconded by Councillor Cluskey to alter Recommendation 3 in Item 10 to read:

“That the Authority sets the levy at the same cash level for each constituent council as they were levied in 2015/16, subject to the Authority receiving in writing from every constituent council confirmation that they agree this change to the levy mechanism for 2016/17 only. If unanimous agreement is not received by 12th February 2016, the overall levy for 2016/17 will remain at the same level as 2015/16 but will be apportioned on the existing levy mechanism basis. Each of the above options will require an additional £655,910 contribution from balances.

Furthermore, that a Strategic Review is undertaken of the whole system of collection, treatment and disposal; the levy mechanism; and the governance arrangements.

That this review is undertaken using independent expertise with a Terms of Reference agreed by the lead local authority Chief Executive and the Chief Executive of this Authority, in consultation with the Chair of the Combined Authority, and to be concluded by June 2016.”

Resolved that the amendment be approved.

Resolved that:

1. the revised budget for 2015-16 as set out in the report be approved;
2. the revenue budget for 2016-17 as set out in the report be approved;
3. that the Authority sets the levy at the same cash level for each constituent council as they were levied in 2015/16, subject to the Authority receiving in writing from every constituent council confirmation that they agree this change to the levy mechanism for 2016/17 only. If unanimous agreement is not received by 12th February 2016, the overall levy for 2016/17 will remain at the same level as 2015/16 but will be apportioned on the existing levy mechanism basis. Each of the above options will require an additional £655,910 contribution from balances.

Furthermore, that a Strategic Review is undertaken of the whole system of collection, treatment and disposal; the levy mechanism; and the governance arrangements.

That this review is undertaken using independent expertise with a Terms of Reference agreed by the lead local authority Chief Executive and the Chief Executive of this Authority, in consultation with the Chair of the Combined Authority, and to be concluded by June 2016;

4. the Levy to be made on the District Constituent Councils for 2016-17 be authorised;
5. the payment dates for the levy as detailed in the report be agreed; and
6. the proposed capital programme set out in the report be agreed.

51. **Community Fund 2016/17**
WDA/02/16

A report was provided to Members asking them to consider the Community Fund 2016-17 options set out at paragraph 3 and agree Option 1 (Status Quo with communications savings) as recommended.

The Chief Executive, Carl Beer made reference to a typing error in the recommendations which should have stated 3.1 rather than 3.2.

Resolved that the allocation of funding with Option 1 (Status Quo) as detailed at paragraph 3.1 of the report be approved.