

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
WDA/02/18

Recommendation

That Members:

1. Agree to seek accreditation to the new EMS Standard to manage the Authority's environmental impacts systematically and effectively.

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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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Report of the Chief Executive

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the Environmental Management System (EMS) utilised by the Authority to manage its environmental impacts and to seek Members approval to pursue the revised (new) EMS Standard ISO14001.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2007 Members approved the findings of a Best Value Review of Sustainability. As part of this review an Environmental Management System (EMS) was established in mid-2008 and has operated to the ISO14001:2004 Standard since then.
- 2.2 ISO14001 provides a framework for organisations to work against in order to protect the environment and respond to changing environmental conditions. The Authority has operated its EMS for nearly 10 years which has resulted in significant improvements to environmental performance, working practices and compliance.
- 2.3 The EMS provides a robust and universally recognised way of demonstrating compliance with Permit conditions. It is a requirement of the Environment Agency issued Permits held by the Authority that a robust management system is in place. The EMS provides a lower cost and wider reaching system when compared to the bespoke nature of other frameworks (such as MCERTS) that could be used to comply with the Permits.
- 2.4 The EMS is externally verified by Lloyds Register Quality Assurance (LRQA). Each accreditation period lasts for a period of three years. Accreditation to the ISO14001 Standard was initially gained in 2009. The EMS was reaccredited to the 2004 version of ISO14001 on two subsequent occasions, in 2012 and 2015. The next reaccreditation audit will take place in April 2018.

- 2.5 The reaccreditation audit in 2018 will see the EMS reaccredited against the revised ISO14001:2015 Standard. The 2015 version of the Standard was introduced after the 2015 reaccreditation audit hence a three year transition period for the Authority to establish its revised EMS.

3. System Scope

- 3.1 Initially the Scope of the EMS encompassed the seven closed landfill sites and the associated office activities. Whilst this allowed significant improvements to be made, a recommendation made by MWDA's External EMS Auditor has resulted in the Scope of the EMS being amended to include both of the major waste contracts.

- 3.2 The inclusion of the Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) and Waste Management Recycling Contract (WMRC) in 2017 has expanded the scope of the EMS and will further allow MWDA to improve its environmental performance. This will give assurance that Veolia and Suez (as RRC operating contractor) are operating in a manner compliant with the requirements of ISO14001.

- 3.3 The current Scope of the EMS under the ISO14001:2015 is:

'The activities associated with the monitoring and maintenance of seven closed landfill sites and the Authority's office activities and the management of the Authority's waste contracts.'

- 3.4 There is a contractual requirement within both the RRC and WMRC for both Suez and Veolia to operate an accredited ISO14001 EMS for the life of the respective contracts. By including the management of both contracts within the scope of the EMS, the Authority will be in a better position to meet its obligations in terms of understanding and managing the environmental requirements of its contract management activities and also the environmental impacts of the contractors.

4. Transition and Reaccreditation

- 4.1 The updated Standard has included a number of new and revised elements that organisations must conform to in order to achieve accreditation. This includes additional requirements (compared to the previous iteration of 14001) to demonstrate Leadership within the EMS; to provide further evidence of continual improvement and; to consider the needs and expectations of persons or organisations with an interest in the Authority's activities.

- 4.2 Leadership is demonstrated through several means within the EMS including the Authority structure and management systems. Members' approval of the approach to managing the Authority's environmental impacts will demonstrate a measure of the highest level of leadership as sought by the ISO Standard.
- 4.3 Officers have been reviewing and revising the Authority's EMS with a view to ensuring it enables the Authority to meet the requirements of ISO14001:2015. This work must be completed before April 2018. The EMS has also been streamlined and improved to aid navigation and ease of use. Appendix One of this report gives an overview of the changes made to the EMS manuals implemented as part of the transition.
- 4.4 The transition process is ahead of schedule; all of the manuals in the EMS have now been revised and redrafted to incorporate the requirements of the new version of the Standard.
- 4.5 The reaccreditation audit by LRQA will take place in April 2018. This audit will assess the EMS against the revised updated requirements of the revised Standard.
- 4.6 The new accreditation audit by LRQA will measure and assess conformance to the new Standard.

5. Feedback to Members

- 5.1 Officers will report back to Members at the end of each audit year (typically in April/May) on progress made with the EMS.

6. Risk Implications

- 6.1 The EMS itself contains a number of environmental risk management elements.
- 6.2 There are high levels risks, which if left unmanaged, could have a negative impact upon the Authority. The EMS assists in the mitigation of such risks as detailed in the table below:

Identified Risk	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Value	Mitigation
Failure to gain reaccreditation to ISO14001:2015	2	3	6	Robust and established System. Knowledgeable

				staff, training programmes and awareness sessions
Failure to manage environmental impacts	2	4	8	EMS reaccreditation
Failure to operate a management system in accordance with the requirements of Environment Agency Permits	2	4	8	Environmental Management System
Reputational impacts following loss of EMS accreditation	2	4	8	Robust system, commitment to provide adequate resources from top management

7. HR Implications

- 7.1 There are no HR implications associated directly with this report. Management of the EMS is made through existing resources.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1 Whilst there are no direct environmental implications associated with this report. The continued operation of an Environmental Management System seeks to improve the Authority's environmental credentials. The inclusion of the management of the RRC and WMRC within the EMS provides a means by which the Authority can monitor the contractors' environmental performance in a comprehensive, systematic, planned and documented manner.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report. Provision for the management and accreditation of the EMS is met through the Authority's revenue budget.

- 9.2 As part of the EMS, projects and initiatives have been implemented that have monitored and improved electricity consumption of the closed landfill sites. As such, savings have been made compared to previous years (pre-EMS) through efficiencies and leachate treatment system improvements.

10. Legal Implications

- 10.1 There are no directly applicable legal requirements associated with this report. However, Members should note that the ISO14001 Standard requires legal obligations to be reviewed and assessed. As such, Officers can identify any potential shortcomings in legal compliance (within the Scope of the EMS) and take action to address accordingly.
- 10.2 Since the inception of the EMS, Officers have undertaken comprehensive reviews of applicable legislation and other requirements (leases, licences and the like). It is considered by Officers that compliance is at a high level with no issues identified by the Authority's external EMS Auditors.

11. Conclusion

- 11.1 The EMS has operated as an accredited EMS since 2009. There is a good track record within the EMS of conformance and during the previous three years no findings have been raised by the External Auditors. This is a significant achievement and is testament to the level of knowledge and understanding within the Authority.
- 11.2 The reaccreditation of the EMS will be sought in April 2018. Officers are confident that the required preparations are in place to enable the Authority to achieve accreditation to the revised Standard.
- 11.3 Members are asked to demonstrate their commitment to the EMS approach under ISO14001:2015 by agreeing to the continued use of the EMS as part of the Authority's management of environmental impacts and to agree that accreditation to the new Standard be pursued.

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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.