



**At the Annual meeting of the Authority
held on Friday 25th June 2021**

Present: **Cllr T Concepcion**
Cllr L Robertson-Collins
Cllr Y Sayers
Cllr S Williams
Cllr J Hanson
Cllr H Bell
Cllr C Page
Cllr A Johnson
Cllr J Walsh

1. **Appointment of Chair**

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Concepcion be appointed Chair.

Resolved that Councillor Tony Concepcion be appointed Chair for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

Chair gives thanks to all current members, previous members, contractor staff and officers for all their hard work.

2. **Appointment of Deputy Chair**

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Catie Page be appointed Deputy Chair.

Resolved that Councillor Catie Page be appointed Deputy Chair for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

3. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Nelson.

4. **Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 23rd April 2021**

Resolved that the minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 23rd April 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

Declarations were given by Councillor Williams, Item 14 member of the Bidston Methane Ltd board.

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

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

7. **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.

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

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

9. **Appointment of Committees**
WDA/09/21

The Authority determined the appointments and representations set out in this report for the 2021/22 Municipal Year and granted delegated powers of the Authority to the Clerk to complete any outstanding appointments.

Resolved:

1. approval of the Terms of Reference and delegations for the Appeals Committee, Audit and Governance Committee and the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee and the appointment of Members to those committees.
2. appointment of Chair to the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee.
3. appointment of Members to the Forward Planning Panel.
4. representation on the Boards of Mersey Waste Holdings Limited, Bidston Methane Limited and the North West Employers' Organisation; and
5. delegated powers of the Authority were granted to the Clerk in consultation with all Members to finalise any outstanding appointments in relation to the above.

Appeals committee:

Councillor Concepcion, Councillor Williams, Councillor Bell,
Councillor Sayers.

Audit and governance committee:

Councillor Williams, Councillor Hanson, Councillor Bell, Councillor Page.

Investigating and disciplinary committee:

Councillor Williams (appointed as Chair), Councillor Bell, Councillor Page.

Forward planning committee:

Councillor Concepcion, Councillor Sayers, Councillor Johnson,
Councillor Bell.

Outside Bodies-

Mersey Waste Holding Ltd:

Councillor Concepcion, Councillor Page, Councillor Johnson.

Bidston Methane Ltd:

Councillor Williams, Councillor Walsh, Councillor Johnson.

North West Employers:

Councillor Robertson-Collins.

10. **Questions on the Discharge of Functions**
WDA/10/21

The Authority indicated its five nominations for the forthcoming year in accordance with Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985.

Resolved that:

The Authority nominates Members at its Annual Meeting each year and the Members nominated in this Municipal Year were:

Knowsley MBC	Councillor Bell
Liverpool CC	Councillor Robertson-Collins
St Helens MBC	Councillor Johnson
Sefton MBC	Councillor Sayers
Wirral MBC	Councillor Walsh

11. **Constitution Update Governance Matters**
WDA/11/21

Members note the removal of the constitutional references to The Local Authority, Police and Crime Panels (Flexibility of the Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England and Wales) Regulations 2020/392;

Members are asked to adopt the Scheme of Delegation for the 2021/22 Municipal Year, attached Appendix 1; to agree to adopt the revised Member Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 2 and to adopt the revised Constitution accordingly.

Resolved:

That Members noted the removal of the constitutional references to The Local Authority, Police and Crime Panels (Flexibility of the Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England and Wales) Regulations 2020/392;

that Members adopt the Scheme of Delegation for the 2021/22 Municipal Year, attached Appendix 1;

that Members agreed to adopt the revised Member Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 2; and

that Members agreed to adopt the revised Constitution accordingly

12. **Service Delivery Plan**
WDA/12/21

Members are asked to note progress made in the delivery of the previous year's plan and to approve the Service Delivery Plan for 2021-22.

Resolved:

Members noted the progress made during 2020/21 in the delivery of the Corporate Plan; and

Members approved the proposed Service Delivery Plan for 2021/22.

13. **Internal Audit Report**
WDA/13/21

The Authority is required to maintain an effective Internal Audit as a part of its statutory governance arrangements. The Authority's Internal Audit is provided by St Helens Council. The Auditor reviews the arrangements at the Authority and reports to Members on any weaknesses and recommends improvements. This report brings to Members attentions the outcome of the latest review. Members are asked to note the report.

Resolved that Members noted the contents of the reports from the Internal Auditor.

14. **Bidston Methane Joint Venture**
WDA/14/21

Members considered a report and were asked for their agreement to terminate the Bidston Methane Limited joint venture between the Authority and Infinis Energy Limited

Resolved that Members agreed to the termination of the Bidston Methane Limited joint venture between the Authority and Infinis Energy Limited.

15. **MWDA Outturn report 2020-2021**
WDA/15/21

The report identifies the financial performance of the Authority in the financial year 2020-21; it indicates the level of reserves and comments on their adequacy. The report seeks Members support to repay certain one-off additional Covid funds back to District Councils where they are available. The report also confirms the Authority has operated within the boundaries of its approved Prudential Indicators.

Resolved:

Members noted the final outturn position with regard to the Authority's Expenditure for 2020-21;

Members Agreed to return the balance of unused Covid funding to constituent District Councils; and

Members noted the final outturn with regard to the Authority's Prudential Indicators as included in Appendix 2.

16. **Levy Mechanism**
WDA/16/21

The District Councils pay for the costs of the whole system of household waste collection, treatment, and disposal. The collection costs they stand themselves and, in the main, the treatment and disposal costs they pay through the Levy to this Authority (in its role as the statutory waste disposal authority).

The present Levy mechanism which apportions the costs of waste treatment and disposal by the Authority to the constituent Districts, is based on tonnage (of whatever kind) and population elements. Whilst the population element remains an equitable basis for cost apportionment of shared infrastructure, etc., the tonnage-based Levy element does not incentive or reward action by councils to prevent waste, re-use materials or increase recycling. At a time when climate action is urgently needed, the retention of such a Levy cost apportionment method for waste would seem out of date and no longer fit for purpose. Members were asked to note the report and instigate discussion at their host authority to see if a new consensus on the Levy can be reached.

Resolved that Members noted the report and agreed to instigate discussion at their host authority to see if a new consensus on the Levy can be reached.

Members requested a further briefing note on the Authority's Levy Mechanism. The briefing note should refer to Councils' declarations of climate emergency and why the current mechanism could be considered as no longer fit for purpose. The note should also identify possible options for a levy that was more suited to helping achieve carbon reductions and contributing positively to the climate action. Members proposed to use the note in a workshop discussion to identify a way to move Levy Mechanism discussions forward at their Authorities.

Members also requested that a model Motion be agreed for MRWA Members to take back to their Council that proposed a way forward on changes to the Levy mechanism that would contribute to addressing climate actions.

17. **Alignment to SDG**
WDA/17/21

The Authority is most closely aligned with SDG 12 – Sustainable consumption, but it is also aligned with many others which do not immediately come to mind. Many of the social value outcomes we achieve as a 'side benefit' of our core activities are capable of improvement and delivering more impact. Questioning how to deliver more and better SDG outcomes is a valuable tool we can use to rethink waste strategy and our main contracts and activities. The SDG's are not the only factors to take into account in designing future service provision, but they can help frame priorities and performance measures. It is recommended, therefore, that the Authority:

- Note the current degree of alignment to the SDG's
- Undertake a Voluntary Local Review of Progress against the SDG's. This is a more rigorous assessment of performance, and benchmarking against other waste authority areas, where possible, not just the degree of alignment.
- Carry out an appraisal of the future contractual needs and standards of the Authority, in terms of the need to either bring contractual performance standards up, or to develop the suite of contractual performance standards, especially social value outcomes, for any future contract(s) – so called 'future-proofing'. One example of looking ahead is the need to take into account the likelihood of higher Government reuse and recycling targets, together with the need to collect and sort a wider range of materials for recycling.
- Agree that collaborative work to assist the LCRCA on the development of a City Region Zero Waste Strategy be given the highest priority.

Resolved:

Members Noted the current degree of alignment to the SDG's;

Members agreed to the undertake a Voluntary Local Review of Progress against the SDG's in 2021/22;

Members carried out an appraisal of the future contractual needs and standards of the Authority in terms of the potential to improve SDG outcomes; and

Members agreed that collaborative work to assist the LCRCA on the development of a City Region Zero Waste Strategy be given the highest priority.