MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

FORWARD PLAN

Publication Date: October 2026

Introduction

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Authority publishes a "Forward Plan" of "Key Decisions".

The Forward Plan is published on a six weekly basis to match the Authority's meeting cycle and covers key issues to be dealt with in the subsequent three months. It is a publicly available document and its purpose is to reinforce the openness and accountability of the Authority's decision-making process.

The Plan seeks to anticipate the issues that will be the subject of a Key Decision during that period. For each item the Plan includes:

- The item's title and a short description of the decision being sought.
- An indication of who will be making the decision.
- The Scrutiny arrangements for the decision.
- An indication of when the decision is expected to be made. This may be a specific date i.e. the date of a meeting, or a period during which the decision is likely to be made.
- A list of Supporting Papers. These will be documents which the decision-maker(s) will consider or take into account when making the decision.
- An indication of what consultation will take place on the item which is the subject of the proposed decision. This will include an indication as to who will be consulted (i.e. principal groups and organisations) and how that consultation will be conducted.
- An indication of how and to whom representations should be made on the item.

Within the Plan, the items are listed in the chronological order in which it is anticipated that the decisions will be made.
The decision in respect of each key decision is recorded in the minutes for the relevant meeting which are approved at the subsequent meeting of the Authority and are open for inspection at the Authority Offices and on the Authority's web site.

Definition of a Key Decision

The definition of a Key Decision is set out in the Authority's Constitution. It is as follows:-

A Key Decision is an executive decision:-

(i) incurring expenditure or making savings which are financially significant, unless the specific expenditure or saving has previously been agreed by the Authority; or

(ii) which, in the view of the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Merseyside.

A decision will be considered financially significant if:-

a) in the case of revenue expenditure, it results in incurring expenditure or making savings of £250,000 or greater;

b) in the case of capital expenditure, the capital expenditure/savings are in excess of £1 Million;

unless the specific expenditure or savings have previously been agreed by the Authority or have been taken in line with the Authority's Financial Management Policy.

In determining whether a decision is significant in terms of its effect on communities, the Chief Executive and lead Member will give consideration to:-

a) the number of residents/service users/District Council areas that will be affected;

b) whether the impact is short term, long term or permanent;

c) the impact on the community in terms of the economic, social and environmental well-being.

Decision-Makers

Key Decisions will be made by the Authority or its committees where relevant powers have been delegated. A report will be submitted to the relevant meeting on each key decision, and Members will also consider, where necessary, any report which has been 'called-in' under the Authority's scrutiny arrangements.

Consultation

The Chief Executive, in taking decisions under delegated powers, will consult with the relevant Authority Members and other key stakeholders, in accordance with those identified in the Forward Plan.

Authority Meetings

The Authority will meet formally approximately every six weeks. Meeting dates are published on the web site www.merseysidewda.gov.uk. Each Authority meeting will be in two parts. The first part of the meeting will consider the Key Decisions contained in the Forward Plan, and any other matters determined by the Chair. The second part of the meeting will be made available for any scrutiny discussions.

The current schedule of meetings is as follows:

26th November 2026 – Audit & Governance Meeting
27th November 2026
21st January 2027 – Audit & Governance Meeting
5th February 2027
30th April 2027

Scrutiny Arrangements

Two Members of the Authority may request that the Chair place a delegated decision matter on the Agenda of an Authority regular meeting as a 'scrutiny item'.

Information Reports

The Authority will periodically publish information reports about its Policies, Strategies and Performance on the web site www.merseysidewda.gov.uk

Contacts

If you have any queries or comments regarding the contents or format of this document please direct them to Paula Pocock (Clerk to the Authority) on 0151-255-1444 or by e-mail at enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk

AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP 2026/27

COUNCILLOR	Responsibilities	Address and Contact Details
Catie Page (Sefton)	• Forward Planning Panel • Audit Committee • Investigating and Disciplinary Committee • Procurement Project Board	96 Gores Lane Formby Liverpool L37 7DF Tel: 07861 724391 Email: catie.page@sefton.gov.uk
Peter Harvey (Sefton)	• Appeals Committee • Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd Board • Procurement Project Board	C/o Labour Group Office Town Hall Oriel Road Bootle L20 7AE Tel: 0151 934 3361 Email: peter.harvey@sefton.gov.uk
Shelley Powell (Knowsley)	• Forward Planning Members Panel • Audit and Governance Committee	C/o Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Democratic Services, Huyton Municipal Building, Archway Road, Huyton Knowsley L36 9YU Tel: 07557004117 Email: shelley.powell@knowsley.gov.uk
Micheal Gibson (St Helens)		Tel: 01744 673333 Email: CllrMGibson@sthelens.gov.uk
Laura Robertson-Collins (Liverpool)	• Investigating and Disciplinary Committee	Labour Group Office Cunard Building Water Street Liverpool L1 3AH Tel: 07980 311545 Email: laura.robertson-collins@liverpool.gov.uk
Peter Norris (Liverpool)	• Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd Board • Procurement Project Board	Labour Group Office Cunard Building Water Street Liverpool L1 3AH Email: peter.norris@liverpool.gov.uk

Kris Brown (Liverpool)	• Forward Planning Members Panel • Appeals Committee • Audit and Governance Committee	6th floor Cunard Building Water Street Liverpool L3 1AH Tel: 0151 233 0427 Email: kris.brown@liverpool.gov.uk
Colin Baldwin (Wirral)	• Audit and Governance Committee	Tel: 07773777304 Email: colinbaldwin@wirral.gov.uk
Ann Ainsworth (Wirral)	• Forward Planning Members Panel • Appeals Committee • Audit and Governance Committee • Investigating and Disciplinary Committee • Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd Board • North West Local Authorities' Employers' Organisation	Tel: 07391 738112 Email: annainsworth@wirral.gov.uk
Paul Nolan (Halton)		383 Liverpool Road Widnes WA8 7HR Tel: 07826 877579 paul.nolan@halton.gov.uk

Lesley Worswick Chief Executive	Various delegated matters	7th Floor 1 Mann Island Liverpool L3 1BP Tel: 0151 255 1444 Email: Lesley.worswick@merseysidewda.gov.uk
Chris Kelsall Treasurer	Various delegated matters	7th Floor 1 Mann Island Liverpool L3 1BP Tel: 0151 255 1444 Email: Chris.Kelsall@merseysidewda.gov.uk
Paula Pocock Clerk to the Authority	Various delegated matters	7th Floor 1 Mann Island Liverpool L3 1BP Tel: 0151 255 1444 Email: paula.pocock@merseysidewda.gov.uk
Ian Stephenson Monitoring Officer	Various delegated matters	7th Floor 1 Mann Island Liverpool L3 1BP Tel: 0151 255 1444 Email: ian.stephenson@merseysidewda.gov.uk

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Item	Ref No.	Decision Date	Lead Officer
Service Delivery Plan 2026/27	K35-26	27th November	Paula Pocock
HWRC policies – public consultation	K36-26	27th November	Ian Stephenson

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KEY DECISION SHEET

Title	**Service Delivery Plan 2026/27**			
File Reference	**K35-26**			
Is the report likely to be private or public?	**Public**			
Decision Maker	**Full Authority**			
Key Decision Criteria	**Financial**	**Community Impact**	**Other – please specify**	X
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	The report recommends Members note Service Delivery Plan 2026/27 progress to date			
Scrutiny area	**Whole Authority (Constitution)**			
Date for decision	27th November 2026			
List of Background Papers for consideration	Authority report WDA13/26			
Risk Management Implications	Lack of appropriate monitoring and reporting could result in failure to fully deliver the service delivery plan 2026/27			
Prior consultation	None			
Representations	In writing to or by email to Paula.Pocock@merseysidewda.gov.uk			

MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

KEY DECISION SHEET

Title	**HWRC policies – public consultation**			
File Reference	**K36-26**			
Is the report likely to be private or public?	Public			
Decision Maker	**Full Authority**			
Key Decision Criteria	**Financial**	**Community Impact**	**Other – please specify**	X
Matter in respect of which a Key Decision is required.	The report recommends Members note public consultation outcome and approve proposed approach to the development of the forthcoming HWRC service procurement specification.			
Scrutiny area	**Whole Authority (Constitution)**			
Date for decision	27th November 2026			
List of Background Papers for consideration	None			
Risk Management Implications	Failure to address strategic HWRC issues through forthcoming procurement would limit MRWA's opportunity to improve services and outcomes.			
Prior consultation	None			
Representations	In writing to or by email to ian.stephenson@merseysidewda.gov.uk			