

**Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority**

**At a meeting of the Authority  
held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

Present: Councillor Fletcher  
Councillor Swann  
Councillor Oglethorpe  
Councillor Small  
Councillor Cluskey  
Councillor Salter  
Councillor Moseley

22. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tattersall, Small and Keaveney.

23. **Declaration of Interest by Members and Officers**

Councillor Swann declared a non-prejudicial interest in items 4, 6, 7 and 8, recorded here as resolutions 25, 27, 28 and 29 and a prejudicial interest in item 12, recorded here as resolution 33 in his role as a Non-Executive Director of Mersey Waste Holdings Limited.

24. **Minutes of Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2004**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2004 be approved and signed as a correct record.

25. **Revenue Budget 2005/06 and Prudential Indicators 2005/06 to  
2007/08  
WDA/06/05**

A report was submitted seeking Members approval to a revised Revenue Budget 2004/05 and to set the Revenue Budget 2005/06. Members were informed of the significant financial pressures facing the Authority resulting in a 17.9% increase. Members were also asked to approve the Authority's Prudential Indicators for the years 2005/06 to 2007/08.

**Resolved** that:

1. the Revised Revenue Budget for 2004/05 be approved;
2. a Revenue Budget for 2005/06 amounting to £45,225,502 be approved;

3. pursuant to Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1988 (as amended by the local Government and Housing Act 1989) and having regard to the budget, the Authority determines that a levy of £45,225,502 for 2005/06 be made, to be distributed between each District Council on the basis of Council Tax Base, as follows:

Knowsley	£ 4,506,511
Liverpool	£13,723,043
St Helens	£ 5,818,084
Sefton	£ 9,987,875
Wirral	<u>£ 11,189,989</u>
	£45,225,502

4. the District Councils be required to pay the Treasurer the levy due from them respectively, in pursuance of paragraph 3 of this resolution, by ten instalments on or before the 18th day of April 2005, 25th day of May 2005, 1st day of July 2005, 8th day of August 2005, 14th day of September 2005, 20th day of October 2005, 25th day of November 2005, 5th day of January 2006, 10th day of February 2006 and 17th day of March 2006.
5. the changes to the 2004/05 Prudential Indicators as shown in the Monitoring Statement attached as Appendix 5 to the report be noted;
6. the Prudential Indicators for 2005/06 to 2007/08 be approved as set out in the report and detailed in Appendix 6;
7. delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Treasurer to the Authority to, within the total limit for each year, effect movements between the separately agreed limits in accordance with option appraisal and best value for money for the Authority; and
8. delegated powers of the Authority be granted to the Treasurer to the Authority to effect movements between borrowing and other long-term liabilities sums as with the above paragraph.

26. **Changes to the Levy Apportionment Mechanism**  
**WDA/07/05**

The Authority was presented with a report outlining an alternative method of levy apportionment from the current default mechanism which is based on a Council Tax Base. The proposed alternative method would use waste tonnages as part of its base and would be phased in over three years to mitigate the effects of such a change on some councils. Members were asked to agree a recommendation to be made to the District Councils and were advised that any change in the apportionment mechanism would require unanimous agreement.

**Resolved** that a recommendation be made to the District Councils for a change in the mechanism of apportioning the Levy for Waste Disposal to one which is more tonnage based and therefore complies more readily with the 'polluter pays' principle.

27. **Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Merseyside**  
**Progress Report**  
**WDA/02/05**

A report was submitted informing Members of the progress in the final production of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. Members were updated on various aspects of the strategy development including Waste Minimisation, Waste Modelling, the Waste Local Development Document and consultation with district councils. Members also received a presentation on the public consultation process due to commence in February 2005.

**Resolved** that the progress on the production of the Joint Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside and the timetable for implementation be noted.

28. **Strategy Options for Managing Landfill Allowances**  
**WDA/09/05**

A report was submitted informing Members of a number of options for managing municipal waste in the light of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme and associated cost penalties, prior to the main waste contract procurement exercise. Members were asked to consider a draft Memorandum of Understanding to which the Authority and the district councils would be asked to sign up to with a view to improve joint working arrangements and to ensure disposal and collection decisions are not taken in isolation.

**Resolved that:**

1. the main options for minimising the levy impacts of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme be noted, including the chief requirement to plan jointly investments in collection and treatment facilities; and
2. the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) be agreed on behalf of the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority and that Members seek the agreement of their respective councils to the MoU by June 2005.

29. **Annual Audit Letter**  
**WDA/01/05**

The District Auditor presented Members with the Annual Audit Letter 2003/04 on behalf of the Audit Commission. Members were informed of the District Auditor's findings on the Authority's performance relating to its accounts, performance management and corporate governance and specific recommendations for further improvement were made.

**Resolved** that the contents of the Annual Audit Letter for 2003/04 be noted.

30. **Corporate Social Responsibility**  
**WDA/03/05**

The Authority considered a report seeking Members approval to the adoption of the Draft Corporate Social Responsibility Policy. Members were informed of the benefits of such a policy and the level of commitment and resources required. A recommendation was made to develop an implementation plan within the planned Sustainability Best Value Review.

**Resolved that:**

1. the contents of the report be noted;
2. the Draft Corporate Social Responsibility Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and
3. the inclusion of the Corporate Social Responsibility into the framework of the Sustainability Best Value Review be approved and rescheduled for November 2005.

31. **Family Friendly Policies (Flexible Working and Special Leave Arrangements)**  
**WDA/08/05**

A report was submitted informing Members of changes in Employment Law. The report sought approval to a set of Family Friendly Policies which would align the Authorities policies with statutory provisions and also included best practice in relation to a Career Break Policy.

**Resolved** that:

1. the changes to the Statutory Provisions made under recent Employment Law legislation be noted;
2. the Family Friendly Policy (Flexible Working and Special Leave Arrangements) be approved in principle;
3. delegated powers be granted to the Director to consult the trade union and provided that there are no significant policy changes, to finalise the wording of the policy document.

32. **Exclusion of the Public**

**Resolved** that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item for the reason stated.

<b><u>Minute</u></b>	<b><u>Reason (under the Local Government Act 1972)</u></b>
33	Exempt information concerning the financial affairs of a particular company (Paragraph 7 of Schedule 12A)

The following item had not been notified three clear working days in advance of the meeting, however, the Chairman agreed to it being considered as a matter of urgency in order to implement a decision as soon as possible.

Councillor Swann declared a prejudicial interest in the following item, recorded herewith as Minute 33, and in accordance with the Code of Conduct, withdrew from the meeting.

33. **Acquisition of Hafod Quarries Limited by Mersey Waste Holdings Limited**  
**WDA/10/05**

A report was submitted informing Members of a request by Mersey Waste Holdings Limited for Authority approval in relation to the company's acquisition of Hafod Quarries Limited.

**Resolved** that the request by the Board of Mersey Waste Holdings Limited (MWHL) to permit MWHL to accept the increased asking price specified in the report for the acquisition of shares in Hafod Quarries Limited.