

FORWARD PLAN

Publication Date: November 2009

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 decisionmaker(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:-

- 1. incurring expenditure or making savings in excess of £250,000, unless the specific expenditure or saving has previously been agreed by the Authority, or
- 2. Is, in the view of the Director, in consultation with the lead Member significant in terms of its effects 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 Director 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 Director, 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 <u>www.merseysidewda.gov.uk</u>. 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 Chairman. The second part of the meeting will be made available for any scrutiny discussions.

The current schedule of meetings is as follows:

27th November 2009 5th February 2010 (Budget and ordinary meeting) 16th April 2010

Scrutiny Arrangements

Two Members of the Authority may request that the Chairman 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 <u>www.merseysidewda.gov.uk</u>

Contacts

If you have any queries or comments regarding the contents or format of this document please direct them to Mandy Valentine (Corporate Services Manager) on 0151-255-1444 or by e-mail at <u>enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk</u>

AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP 2009/2010

COUNCILLOR	Portfolio Area	Address and Contact Details
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N Mills (Liverpool)	 Scrutiny Public Consultation 	4 Portgate Close Liverpool L12 0SF Tel: 0151 270 1868 Email: norman.mills@liverpool.gov.uk
J Salter (Deputy Chairperson) (Wirral)	 Risk Management Audit Procurement Scrutiny Public Consultation 	7 Church Meadow Close Egremont Wallasey CH44 8HQ Tel: 0151 638 1364 Email: johnsalter@wirral.gov.uk
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OFFICERS		
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			Date	Lead Officer
Mersey Waste Holdings Limited	K18_09	Finance	27/11/2009	Neil Ferris
Resource Recovery Contract- Selection of Participants to Enter Call for Final Tenders Stage of Procurement	K21_09	Procurement	27/11/2009	Carl Beer
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy	K22_09	Strategy	27/11/2009	Stuart Donaldson
Provision of Support Services	K24_09	Corporate Governance	27/11/2009	Peter Williams
Resource Recovery Contract Procurement and Sites and Planning Strategy Risk Review	K25_09	Procurement	27/11/2009	Carl Beer
International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Transition Arrangements	K26_09	Corporate Governance	27/11/2009	Peter Williams
Internal Audit Report	K27_09	Corporate Governance	27/11/2009	Mandy Valentine
Annual Audit Letter	K28_09	Corporate Governance	27/11/2009	Mandy Valentine
Authority Representation	K29_09	Corporate Governance	27/11/09	Mandy Valentine
Revenue Budget 2010/11	K02_10	Corporate Governance	05/02/2010	Peter Williams
Annual Meeting and Timetable of Authority Meetings	K01_10	Corporate Governance	05/02/2010	Mandy Valentine
Director's Appraisal	K23_09	Corporate Governance	05/02/2010	Neil Ferris

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Mersey Waste Holdings Limited				
FILE REF	K18 09				
DECISION MAKER	Authority				
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial? X	Impact? Please			
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	To consider the Authority's long term strategy for MWHL				
SCRUTINY AREA	Finance				
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	27 th November 2009				
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION	Report from MWHL Report from Ernst and Young and Eversheds Project Larch phase 3				
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Long term Landfill arrangements				
PRIOR CONSULTATION	Merseyside Pension fund Citrus Pension Fund				
REPRESENTATIONS		leil Ferris or by erseysidewda.			

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Resource Recovery Contract - Selection of Participants to Enter Call for Final Tenders Stage of Procurement				
FILE REF	K21_09				
DECISION MAKER	Full Authorit	y			
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial?Community Impact?Other – Please SpecifyxxSpecify				
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Decision required to approve the outcome of the evaluation of bids for the RRC contract				
SCRUTINY AREA	Procurement				
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	27th November 2009				
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION	None				
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Cost of delay implications in relation to the delivery of a solution to deal with residual municipal waste.				
PRIOR CONSULTATION	None				
REPRESENTATIONS		Carl Beer or by e erseysidewda.ge			

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy					
FILE REF	K22_09					
DECISION MAKER	Full Authority					
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial? x	Impact? Please				
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Update on JMWMS Review budgets and timetable					
SCRUTINY AREA	Strategy					
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	27th November 2009					
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION						
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Manage change to resources and budgets in light of decision on RRC contract					
PRIOR CONSULTATION						
REPRESENTATIONS		In writing to Stuart Donaldson or by email to stuart.donaldson@merseysidewda.gov.uk				

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Provision of Support Services					
FILE REF	K24_09					
DECISION MAKER	Full Authorit	у				
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial? x	Impact? Please Governance				
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	To agree to formalise the confirmation of an existing arrangement without a tender exercise					
SCRUTINY AREA	Corporate Governance					
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	27th November 2009					
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION						
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Failure to secure effective support services would put the efficiency and governance of the organisation at risk					
PRIOR CONSULTATION						
REPRESENTATIONS		Peter Williams c @merseysidev				

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Resource Recovery Contract Procurement and Sites and Planning Strategy Risk Review				
FILE REF	K25_09				
DECISION MAKER	Full Autho	rity			
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial?Community Impact?Other - Please State:xx				
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Authority's Pr Planning Stra	the Authority a rocurement Stra ategy and to see ad approach to t	ategy and S ek approval	ites and	
SCRUTINY AREA	Procurement				
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	27 th November 2009				
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION	None				
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Failure to deliver next steps of the procurement and sites would lead to a delay in the Resource Recovery Contract Procurement with significant cost implications				
PRIOR CONSULTATION	None				
REPRESENTATIONS	In writing to Carl Beer or by email to <u>carlbeer@merseysidewda.gov.uk</u>				

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Transition Arrangements					
FILE REF	K26_09					
DECISION MAKER	- Full Authorit	у				
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial? x	Financial?Community Impact?Other – Please SpecifyLegal requirement				
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Members need to be aware that the basis for preparing the accounts will change and need to understand their responsibilities					
SCRUTINY AREA	Corporate Governance					
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	27th November 2009					
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION						
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	To ensure the Authority continues to meet the statutory requirements for financial reporting					
PRIOR CONSULTATION						
REPRESENTATIONS	In writing to Peter Williams or by email to peter.williams@merseysidewda.gov.uk					

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Internal Audit Report				
FILE REF	K27_09				
DECISION MAKER	- Full Autho	rity			
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial?Community Impact?Other - Please State:Corporate Governance				
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	To inform Members of the findings of the annual auditing undertaken by the Authority's Internal Auditors.				
SCRUTINY AREA	Corporate Governance				
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	27 th November 2009				
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION	None				
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Failure to involve Members in the auditing and strengthening of the Authority's internal controls may lead to poor corporate governance.				
PRIOR CONSULTATION	Internal Auditor				
REPRESENTATIONS		/landy Valentine ine@merseysio			

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Annual Audit Letter			
FILE REF	K28 09			
DECISION MAKER	Full Authority			
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial? <u>X</u>	Community Impact? X	Other - Please State:	Requirement to receive Auditor's letter
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	To consider the Annual Audit Letter prepared by the Audit Commission detailing their opinion on various aspects of the Authority's performance and financial standing and proposing actions for improvement.			
SCRUTINY AREA	Corporate Governance			
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	27 th November 2009			
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION	None			
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Consideration of the findings and recommendations of the auditor at Member level is best practice.			
PRIOR CONSULTATION	None			
REPRESENTATIONS	In writing to Mandy Valentine or by email to mandy.valentine@merseysidewda.gov.uk			

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Authority Representation			
FILE REF	K29-09			
DECISION MAKER	Full Authority			
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial?	Community Impact?	Other – Please Specify	Corporate Governance
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Requirement to seek nominations for representation on the Authority's committees and other bodies, following change in membership			
SCRUTINY AREA	Corporate Governance			
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	27 th November 2009			
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION	None			
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Failure to have sufficient representation may affect the Authority's decision making processes.			
PRIOR CONSULTATION				
REPRESENTATIONS		/landy Valentine tine@merseysio		

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Revenue Budget 2010/11			
FILE REF	K02_10			
DECISION MAKER	Full Authority			
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial? X	Community Impact?	Other – Please Specify	
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	To identify the spending plan for 2010/11 to 2012/13 and in particular set the levy for 2010/11.			
SCRUTINY AREA	Corporate Governance			
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	5 th February 2010			
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION	Budget Files			
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Failure to set a budget would breach statutory requirements in respect of setting the levy.			
PRIOR CONSULTATION				
REPRESENTATIONS	In writing to Peter Williams or by email to peter.williams@merseysidewda.gov.uk			

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Annual Meeting and Timetable of Authority Meetings			
FILE REF	K01_10			
DECISION MAKER	Full Authority			
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial? <u>X</u>	Community Impact? X	Other - Please State:	Requirement to set AGM
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	To set the date of the Annual Meeting of the Authority and identify an appropriate timetable of meetings for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year			
SCRUTINY AREA	Corporate Governance			
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	5 th February 2010			
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION	None			
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Statutory requirement to set a date for the Authority's Annual Meeting which must take place on or before 30 th June each year.			
PRIOR CONSULTATION	None			
REPRESENTATIONS	In writing to Mandy Valentine or by email to mandy.valentine@merseysidewda.gov.uk			

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION	Director's Appraisal			
FILE REF	K23_09			
DECISION MAKER	Full Authority			
KEY DECISION CRITERIA	Financial? Value for Money is reliant on outcomes. Performance management is therefore a key mechanism for delivering VFM	Community Impact?	Other – Please Specify	
REASON FOR MEETING KEY DECISION CRITERIA	The Director's Performance and thereby his impact on the whole Authority's services and ethos is a key Governance issue for the Authority. Members engagement in and subsequent receipt of a report regarding the Head of the Authority's services produced through independent assessment and challenge is therefore a key mechanism by which the Authority holds its most senior member of staff accountable.			
SCRUTINY AREA	Corporate Governance			
DATE/ PERIOD FOR DECISION	5 th February, 2010			
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION	Solace Review			
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	Independent Review of the Director reduces Governance risks for the Authority and assists the Director in identifying key organisational priorities and operational risks.			
PRIOR CONSULTATION	The Director has been consulted and agreed to the process.			
REPRESENTATIONS	In writing to Neil Ferris or by email to neil.ferris@merseysidewda.gov.uk			