

ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON
FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER 2008 AT THE TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER**

Present: -

In the Chair: Councillor Peter Smith - (Wigan MBC)

<u>BOLTON MBC</u>	Councillor Cliff Morris Sean Harriss
<u>BURY MBC</u>	Councillor Bob Bibby Mark Sanders
<u>MANCHESTER CC</u>	Councillor Richard Leese Howard Bernstein
<u>OLDHAM MBC</u>	Councillor Jackie Stanton Charlie Parker
<u>ROCHDALE MBC</u>	Councillor Irene Davidson Roger Ellis
<u>SALFORD CC</u>	Councillor John Merry Kevin Brady
<u>STOCKPORT MBC</u>	Councillor Dave Goddard John Schultz
<u>TAMESIDE MBC</u>	Councillor Roy Oldham Janet Callender
<u>TRAFFORD MBC</u>	Councillor Susan Williams David McNulty
<u>WIGAN MBC</u>	Joyce Redfearn
<u>GMPTA/E</u>	Councillor Matthew Colledge Councillor Andrew Fender David Leather
<u>GMWDA</u>	Councillor Neil Swannick Councillor Michael Young
<u>GMF&RS</u>	Councillor Paul Shannon

AGMA SCRUTINY
POOL

Councillors-
Simon Ashley
Roger Hayes
John Walsh
Dorothy Gunther
Mike Connolly
Jack Walton
Mary Watson
Alan Roughley
Dave Hibbert
Peter Evans
Peter Fish
Alan Godson
Alice Smyth
Karen Garrido
Martin Candler
Joe Kitchen
Martin Wareing
John O'Brien
Joan Hurst
Barry Fagin

AGMA POLICY UNIT

John Hawkins
David Fletcher
Julie Holden

39/08 APOLOGIES

Councillor Howard Sykes and Alan Taylor.

40/08 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2008 were approved as a correct record.

41/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Goddard and Councillor Susan Williams both declared a non pecuniary and personal interest in that they had both attended a meeting of the organisation known as the "Stop the Charge Coalition".

42/08 TIF PRESENTATION

The Executive Board and the AGMA Scrutiny Pool Members received a presentation by Sir Howard Bernstein, Clerk to the GMPTA and David Leather, Chief Executive, GMPTE on items 43/08 – 50/08 below.

Following this presentation there was a separate meeting of the AGMA Scrutiny Pool Members to consider the presentation/reports and make any comments/suggested amendments to the Executive Board.

43/08 TIF PRESENTATION – FEEDBACK FROM THE AGMA SCRUTINY POOL

Cllr. Simon Ashley, Chair of the AGMA Scrutiny Pool reported that the Pool supported the recommendations at Minute 45/08 below and wished to move that an amendment be incorporated into the TIF Analysis Report (item 48/08 below).

This amendment was accepted by the Executive Board.

44/08 RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE GREATER MANCHESTER TIF PACKAGE

The Clerk to the GMPTA and the Chief Executive of GMPTE submitted a report which presented the report from Ipsos MORI on the findings of the TIF public consultation programme.

The Executive Board AGREED: to note the findings of the public consultation programme.

45/08 TIF PACKAGE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The Clerk to the GMPTA and the Chief Executive of GMPTE submitted a report setting out a series of refinements to the TIF investment package and congestion charging proposals for the Executive Board's approval. The amendments and refinements reflected (a) the key findings of the public consultation on the proposed TIF Package and (b) the outcome further investigation of a number of issues, raised both prior to and since the DfT's Programme Entry decision in June 2008, which the Executive Board had agreed should be resolved at this stage of the process. Subject to the Executive's approval of the proposals, the TIF Package as amended will be submitted to the DfT for Conditional Approval, pending consideration of the outcome of the forthcoming referendum and the further business polling.

The report also needed to be considered alongside a separate report on the agenda, setting out Officer recommendations, subject to the outcome of the TIF referendum, for the utilisation of Local Transport Plan resources

to support measures to reduce congestion between Ramsbottom and Bury; to provide for investment priorities in the Blackburn/Bolton/Salford rail corridor; to provide for a future Golborne Rail Station; to contribute to Salford Crescent Station; to enhance further the provision of park and ride spaces in Greater Manchester; and to support specific local investment in Bolton, Stockport and Wigan.

The report also needed to be read in conjunction with the report on the outcome of the Public Consultation and the report which evaluated the TIF proposals as amended in the context of the four AGMA tests and the key conclusion that those tests continue to be positively met by the proposals contained in this report subject, of course, to consideration of the outcome of the forthcoming referendum and the further business polling.

The Executive Board AGREED:

1. To confirm the following schemes for inclusion in the TIF investment package:
 - the Barton Gyratory bus priority scheme;
 - an enhanced Yellow School Bus scheme, including provision for a further 60 vehicles;
 - the redevelopment of Salford Crescent station at its current location;
 - Kingsway Metrolink stop;
 - travel behavioural change programme consistent with the original bid submitted to the DfT;
 - the full cost of the Stockport Town Centre Accessibility Scheme, consistent with the original bid submitted to DfT.
2. To endorse the design principles associated with the development of the bus network and to authorise Officers to take into account the detailed feedback from the consultation with a view to producing further detailed bus network proposals for local consultation over the coming months;
3. To endorse the approach to fares and ticketing including the simplified fares structure, the approach to price capping and the introduction of new smartcard-based products;
4. To approve a low paid worker discount of 20% on public transport fares during the peak periods only as part of the implementation of the TIF package;
5. To endorse the requirement for a strategic review on the Altrincham-Stockport corridor on how service frequencies can be increased and the potential for new stations (e.g. Baguley, Cheadle, Gatley North and

Timperley East) to be evaluated in the anticipation of the outcomes of the Manchester Hub study, and on the full range of Metrolink/tram-train proposals serving Stockport, and Officers be requested to report back no later than June, 2009; and to agree that a strategic review be undertaken to consider the re-opening of the Stockport, Denton, Droylsden, Manchester Victoria rail service including new stations , feeder bus services and park and ride facilities at Denton and Droylsden to accommodate the need for local orbital and radial travel and strategic radial park and ride needs on the A57 corridor.

6. To endorse the presentation of a business case to the DfT incorporating the proposed new alignments to the extension of Metrolink to the Trafford Centre and to Port Salford including the proposed new stadium for Salford Reds and to authorise Officers to engage Salford and Trafford Councils and key landowners in the area on an implementation plan for report back in the New Year;
7. To authorise the preparation of a business case on Travel Behavioural Change programmes including cycling with a funding plan of £50 million;
8. That the outer ring will be as illustrated in Fig 4 of Appendix 1 of the report. Charging locations will be at the first roadside location on the local road network within the area defined by the M60 except:
 - in Stockport, where Brinnington and Travis Brow will be outside the outer ring, and the boundary will follow the River Mersey between M60 Junction 1 and Junction 4
 - in Manchester, where the boundary will follow the River Mersey between the M60 Junction 4 and Chorlton Water Park
 - in Trafford, where the boundary will follow the River Mersey between Chorlton Water Park and the A56 Stretford Road
 - in Bury, where Simister village will be inside the outer ring
 - in Oldham, where the area in the location of Semple Way-Hollinwood station-Kaskenmoor School will be outside the outer ring
 - in Tameside, where Lord Sheldon Way, Moss Way and the Snipe Retail area will be outside the outer ring.

The inner ring will be as illustrated in Fig 13 of Appendix 1 of the report. The inner ring will follow Alan Turing Way, Slade Lane, Moseley Road, Wilbraham Road, Withington Road, Upper Chorlton Road, Seymour Grove, Trafford Road, Albion Way, the River Irwell between The Crescent and Frederick Road, Camp Street, Great Cheetham Street, Elizabeth Street, and Queens Road.

9. To endorse the proposals in relation to the following charging discounts:
- a 20% discount for low income workers to be set at the level of the minimum wage for a period of 2 years when the impact of the discount will be reviewed;
 - 100% discounts in relation to medical appointments, Blue Badge Holders, motorcycles, licensed Hackney carriages and private hire taxis, emergency vehicles and registered recovery vehicles;
 - 100% discount for buses, scheduled coaches and community transport services as defined by Section 19/22 of the 1985 Transport Act;
 - 100% discount to workers in Trafford Park which will end when the optimum public transport investment package becomes operational.
10. To withdraw the proposed £10 capped day pass charge and that the maximum charge should be no more than the cost of a single crossing in any one charging period;
11. To welcome the approach to partnership by the Road Haulage Association and for joint working with AGMA on how the freight industry can contribute to reductions in congestion during peak periods and to the deferral of charges for HGVs (vehicles of 3.5 tonnes and more) pending the outcome of a study of the actual performance of the freight sector within the first 12 months of the operation of the charging scheme;
12. To endorse the Officers' proposals in relation to volunteers and driving instructors as described in the report;
13. That for the reasons stated in the report there should be no discount for public service vehicles;
14. That the reasons stated in the report that there should be no Annual Cap or ceiling charge;
15. To approve the proposals set out in the report for the establishment of a TIF Partnership Board chaired by the Clerk to GMPTA composed of the Chief Executive of the GMPTE, officers of neighbouring authorities and with DfT, GONW and the RDA being invited as observers, and to request that Officers bring forward a detailed work programme as soon as possible;

16. In respect of Bus Network Design Standards (page 7 of the report) to add Denton to the list of Towns.
17. That delegated authority is given to the Clerk of GMPTA in consultation with the Chair to determine the very minor proposed amendments to the boundary of the outer ring in Oldham.
18. To approve in the light of the above recommendations the TIF package as amended and as set out in Appendix 3 which will form the factual basis for the public information plan, and to authorise the Officers to prepare and submit the appropriate documentation to the DfT for Conditional Approval subject to consideration of the outcome of the forthcoming local referendum and the further business polling.
19. That the above decisions are reasonable and urgent and not subject to Call-in as the delay likely to be caused by the Call-in process would seriously prejudice the Board's and the public's interest.

46/08 TIF FUNDING AND FINANCE STRATEGY

The Clerk to GMPTA and the Chief Executive of GMPTE submitted a report presenting the finance and funding strategy underpinning the TIF package. Detailed economic and financial modelling had been undertaken which had then been reviewed in detail by DfT. This work had developed a robust TIF funding package that was both cautious and affordable, whilst providing sufficient contingencies and assurance to ensure that Greater Manchester could afford the required levels of debt.

The Executive Board AGREED: That the report be noted.

47/08 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN: FINANCE REVIEW

A report of the Transport Chief Executives Group was submitted explaining the process by which LTP priorities had been reassessed and set out proposals to AGMA Executive Board for reallocating LTP funding, if the TIF bid goes ahead, to deliver a broad range of complementary outcomes whilst ensuring that a balance of transport investment is maintained across Greater Manchester. This report was to be considered alongside a separate report on the agenda (item 6) which detailed proposed amendments to the TIF package.

The Board also accepted the following amendments to the text in the report –

Page 1 the following sentence to be added to the end of the 2nd paragraph under “Issues” – “This process will need to be completed to the satisfaction of Stockport.”

Page 3 the following sentence to be added to the end of the 2nd paragraph under “Background” – This process will need to be completed to the satisfaction of Stockport.”

Page 10. new 4th paragraph in Strategic Impact Schemes section: - “Given the strategic nature of the A57 corridor which carries traffic from outside Greater Manchester into the conurbation including the City Centre and the particular problems of congestion that occur, it is intended to undertake a strategic review of the transport issues in the corridor to establish a package of transport measures which will fall to be considered for funding from LTP monies.”

The Executive Board AGREED:

1. To the proposed redistribution of LTP funding from 2009/10 to 2018/19, should AGMA Executive Board decide that the TIF package goes ahead at its meeting following the referendum, as set out in Appendix A of the report for:
 - a). the distribution of LTP funding for each local authority; and
 - b). the proposed LTP funding for UTC and GMPTA.
2. That LTP funding be set aside for the following schemes, should AGMA Executive Board decide that the TIF package goes ahead at its meeting following the referendum, subject to the schemes maintaining/demonstrating good benefits to cost ratios as defined by DfT:
 - a) £25 million for options for reducing congestion between Rawtenstall, Ramsbottom, Bury and Heywood, possibly utilising the heritage East Lancashire Railway and the potential for the extension of this railway via Heywood, Castleton and Slattocks;
 - b) £3 million for investment priorities in the Blackburn/Bolton/Salford rail corridor;
 - c) £14 million for Golborne Station;
 - d) £12 million contribution to Salford Crescent Station; and
 - e) £10 million for enhancement of park and ride spaces.
3. That should AGMA Executive Board decide that the TIF package goes ahead at its meeting following the referendum, LTP funding be provided to those authorities not benefiting from Metrolink as part of the TIF package, specifically:

- a) £15 million for Bolton;
- b) £15 million for Stockport; and
- c) £15 million for Wigan.

4. To note the position with regard to the funding of the SEMMMS schemes and:

- a) reaffirm the importance to the DfT of the need to develop a delivery mechanism for the SEMMMS road schemes;
- b) require officers to complete the work on evaluating optimum public transport investment options to Stockport and develop a clear strategy by the end of June 2009 so that this can inform TIF and other investment planning; and
- c) agree that further work be undertaken to identify the feasibility of providing new railway stations and park and ride facilities in the Stockport area, and that the unallocated LTP Strategic Impact funds be available to fund them, subject to good benefit to cost ratios and subject to AGMA Executive Board deciding that the TIF package goes ahead at its meeting following the referendum.

5. To undertake a strategic review of the transport/congestion issues in the A57 corridor to establish a package of transport measures which will fall to be considered for funding from LTP monies.

6. That, should AGMA Executive Board decide that the TIF package goes ahead at its meeting following the referendum, a further report be presented to a future AGMA Executive Board detailing how the above expenditure would be profiled across the 10 year period for recommendations 2 and 3, and identifying any other priority schemes which could utilise the as yet unallocated £39 million of funding.

7. That the above decisions are reasonable and urgent and not subject to Call-in as the delay likely to be caused by the Call-in process would seriously prejudice the Board's and the public's interest.

48/08 TIF PACKAGE AGMA TESTS ANALYSIS

The Clerk to GMPTA and the Chief Executive of GMPTE submitted a report presenting an updated analysis of the performance of the amended TIF Package against the previously agreed AGMA tests for a compliant package.

Officers were satisfied that:

- the performance of the package against the key competitiveness, inclusion and environmental dimensions to the AGMA tests remains strong, with the latest work pointing to particularly substantial competitiveness benefits from day 1 of charging, and an additional employment boost in advance during the construction phase, with further direct employment benefits during the operational phase;
- the changes proposed to the package following the consultation have further strengthened the performance of the package against the second critical AGMA test;
- the programme remains on track to meet the critical 80% readiness test for introduction of the charging element of the package – i.e. July 2013.

These conclusions will be incorporated into the appropriate documentation for submission to the Department of Transport for conditional approval, subject to the consideration of the outcome of the forthcoming local referendum and the further business polling.

The Executive Board AGREED:

1. To note the continued strong performance of the package against AGMA tests 1, 2 and 4; and
2. To note the proposed approach to independent assessment of the 80% capacity readiness test, which will give effect to Test 1 although, as shown in this report, the delivery programme to be submitted to the DfT remains on target to meet the 80% threshold by the earliest possible start date for charging of July 2013.
3. To accept an amendment from the AGMA Scrutiny Pool that in addition to the 80% readiness test significant improvements should be in place in each of the 10 districts before congestion charging is introduced.
4. That the above decisions are reasonable and urgent and not subject to Call-in as the delay likely to be caused by the Call-in process would seriously prejudice the Board's and the public's interest.

49/08 TIF REFERENDUM

Sir Neil McIntosh, the Returning Officer submitted two reports:-

a) Progress on the Development and Implementation of the Detailed Operational Arrangements for the Delivery of the Referendum Together with Projected Costs

This report set out progress on the development and implementation of detailed operational arrangements for the delivery of the referendum, the Returning Officer's Communications Strategy and the projected costs of the referendum.

The Executive Board AGREED:

1. To approve the detailed operational arrangements for the delivery of the referendum set out in this report.
2. To note the estimated costs of delivering the referendum across the ten District councils.
3. To agree the approach to communications and publicity outlined in the report.
4. To approve and adopt the code of conduct and fraud protocol on behalf of AGMA.
5. That the above decisions are reasonable and urgent and not subject to Call-in as the delay likely to be caused by the Call-in process would seriously prejudice the Board's and the public's interest.

b) Referendum – Ballot Paper Pack

This report requested Members to consider the recommended ballot paper wording and accompanying information leaflet for the TIF referendum in December (copies circulated). This was critical if a referendum was to be delivered within the timescales previously determined by AGMA.

Councillor Susan Williams, Leader of Trafford MBC moved that the wording of the question on the ballot paper be amended to include specific reference to the congestion charge, on being put to a vote this was lost by 7 votes (Councillors Davidson, Leese, Merry, Oldham, Morris, Stanton & Smith) to 3 (Councillors Bibby, Goddard and Williams).

Councillor David Goddard, Leader of Stockport MBC moved a further amendment that the wording of the question be amended to read – “do

you support the Government's offer of £2.7 billion of public transport improvements by paying a peak time congestion charge after 80% of planned public transport improvements are in place?", on being put to a vote this was lost by 7 votes (Councillors Davidson, Leese, Merry, Oldham, Morris, Stanton & Smith) to 3 (Councillors Bibby, Goddard and Williams).

The Executive Board AGREED the following resolutions by 7 votes (Councillors Davidson, Leese, Merry, Oldham, Morris, Stanton & Smith) to 3 (Councillors Bibby, Goddard and Williams):.

1. That the recommended ballot paper wording and the accompanying information leaflet for the TIF referendum be approved.
2. That the above decisions are reasonable and urgent and not subject to Call-in as the delay likely to be caused by the Call-in process would seriously prejudice the Board's and the public's interest.

50/08 TIF PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

The Clerk to GMPTA and the Chief Executive of GMPTE submitted a report bringing forward an update to AGMA on the Public Information Exercise to be executed to ensure that the public and businesses had full and accurate information following the refinement of the TIF proposals and in the period leading up to the referendum and second round of business polling.

The Executive Board AGREED: That the final form of the public information plan as explained in this report be noted.

51/08 TIF MONTHLY BUDGET UPDATE

The Clerk to GMPTA and the Chief Executive of GMPTE submitted a report detailing TIF related expenditure incurred in 2008/9 up to 30 September 2008.

Total budgeted expenditure for 2008-09 is £34 million. The total includes expenditure on Programme Team Costs (£9.6 million), Congestion Charging (£7.8 million) and Complementary Transport Schemes (£16.6 million).

Actual expenditure in the year to 30 September 2008 is £14.2 million, compared to the budget for the period of £15.2 million. The favourable variance is in line with the revised report to AGMA on 26 September 2008 which forecast an under spend for the year of £0.2 million.

The AGMA Executive Board AGREED that the expenditure incurred to 30 September be noted.

52/08 GREATER MANCHESTER 2ND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Head of the GM Joint Transport Team submitted a report explaining that The Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan Progress Report 2008 was a statutory requirement and must be submitted to Government by the end of the 2008 calendar year.

This report provided a background to the document, and detailed the consultation and approval processes required. Appendix 1 to the report was an executive summary of the information included in the Progress Report. Appendix 2 listed the names and contact details of the GM Local Transport Plan Steering Group officer representatives.

The Executive Board AGREED:

1. To note the progress made in delivering the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan 2.
2. To delegate final sign-off of the document to the Chair and Vice-Chairs of AGMA.

53/08 AGMA SCRUTINY POOL

a) AGMA Scrutiny Pool – Future Arrangements

A report of the AGMA Secretariat was submitted informing the Executive Board of the future operating arrangements of the AGMA Scrutiny Pool.

The Executive Board AGREED to note the report.

b) Minutes of the AGMA Scrutiny Pool – 10 October 2008

The Executive Board AGREED to note the minutes of the AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 10 October 2008.

54/08 REGIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS: ROUND 2

The Head of the AGMA Policy Unit submitted a report and the meeting received a presentation from Officers from NWDA and 4NW on the process being adopted in the North West for RFA Round 2. This was the mechanism by which the Government invites regions to provide advice on the use of indicative regional financial allocations in a number of funding

areas. For round 1 there was a particular focus on major transport schemes; but for Round 2 the process was much wider.

The Board also accepted the following amendments to the text in the report –

Page 1, add new para 1.3 – “For reference, the schemes within Greater Manchester that are represented in the 4NW programme are as follows:-

Greater Manchester Urban Traffic Control
SEMMMS QBC
Metrolink Phases 1 and 2 Renewal
Metrolink Extensions 3a
A57T/A628T Mottram to Tintwistle Bypass
A57 Glossop Spur
Ashton Northern Bypass Stage 2
Leigh Salford Manchester QBC
M60 Jetts QBC
Rochdale Interchange
Bolton Town Centre Public Transport Strategy
GM highway Retaining Walls Strengthening Schemes
SEMMMS Relief Roads
Yellow School Buses.”

The Executive Board AGREED:

1. To receive a further presentation at the meeting of the Board on 28 November 2008.
2. To re-affirm support for the Mottram to Tintwistle Bypass and Glossop Spur schemes.

55/08 AGMA BUDGET GUIDELINES 2009/10

A report of the Honorary Treasurer was submitted providing an opportunity for Members to consider the issue of 2009/10 budgets for AGMA Units and to confirm arrangements for reviewing joint board budgets.

The Executive Board AGREED:

1. To request that local authorities responsible for managing AGMA Units whose budgets are subject to approval by the Executive Board prepare budgets for 2009/10 based on a cash standstill from 2008/9.

2. That any lead local authority which considers a cash standstill is not appropriate for any Unit they manage must report this and the reasons for it, to the AGMA Executive on 28 November.
3. The timetable set out at paragraph 3.4 of this report which envisages AGMA Unit budgets for 2009/10 being resolved by the Executive meeting on 30 January 2009 at the latest; and
4. To note the proposed arrangements for scrutinising Joint Board & Marketing Manchester budgets set out at section 4 of this report.

56/08 AGMA UNITS – FINANCIAL PROGRESS 2008/9

The Honorary Treasurer submitted a report providing Members with brief information on the progress the Units were making in achieving their budgetary targets for 2008/09.

The Executive Board AGREED that the report be noted.

57/08 AGMA COMMISSIONS

The minutes of:-

- a) The Economic Development, Employment and Skills Commission held on 2 October 2008 and
- b) The Greater Manchester Health Commission held on 10 October 2008 were submitted.

The Executive Board AGREED that the above minutes be noted.

Chair.

ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON
FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2008 AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, OLDHAM**

Present: -

In the Chair: Councillor Peter Smith - (Wigan MBC)

<u>BOLTON MBC</u>	Councillor Cliff Morris Sean Harriss
<u>BURY MBC</u>	Councillor Bob Bibby Mark Sanders
<u>MANCHESTER CC</u>	Councillor Richard Leese Howard Bernstein
<u>OLDHAM MBC</u>	Councillor Howard Sykes Charlie Parker
<u>ROCHDALE MBC</u>	Councillor Irene Davidson Roger Ellis
<u>SALFORD CC</u>	Councillor John Merry Barbara Spicer
<u>STOCKPORT MBC</u>	Councillor Martin Candler John Schultz
<u>TAMESIDE MBC</u>	Councillor Roy Oldham Janet Callender
<u>TRAFFORD MBC</u>	Councillor Susan Williams David McNulty
<u>WIGAN MBC</u>	Joyce Redfearn
<u>GMPTA/E</u>	Councillor Matthew Colledge Councillor Keith Whitmore David Leather
<u>GMWDA</u>	Councillor Neil Swannick Councillor Michael Young John Bland

GMF&RA

Councillor Paul Shannon
Councillor Jack Walton
Barry Dixon, CFO
Ged Murphy

GMP

Councillor Paul Murphy
Peter Fahy, Chief Constable

AGMA SCRUTINY
POOL

Councillor Simon Ashley

AGMA POLICY UNIT

John Hawkins
David Fletcher

58/08 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2008 were approved as a correct record.

The Leader, Oldham MBC referred to the circulation of papers and requested that all papers be issued in good time.

59/08 THREE YEAR PRECEPT AGREEMENT: REPORT OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE AUTHORITY

A report of the GMPA was submitted giving an update on the progress and performance of GMP against the three - year precept funding agreement and the Chair and Chief Constable of GMP commented thereon.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

60/08 PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMISSION

The Public Protection Chief Officers Group submitted a report commenting on the development of the AGMA Public Protection Commission (Shadow) and in particular sought nominations from the AGMA Executive Board of 3 senior elected Members, at least one of whom should be a Leader, to the Leadership Group for the Shadow Public Protection Commission, to work alongside the Chairs of GMPA and the GMF&RS.

AGREED: That the report be accepted and nominations sought and reported to the next meeting of the Executive Board.

62/08 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

AGREED:- That the public be excluded from the meeting during the items of business specified below as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during those items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of the descriptions respectively specified: -

Agenda Item No.	Title of Report	Minute No. (to be added)	Description of exempt information by reference to the paragraph number in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)
E1.	Manchester Airports Group Corporate Strategy	63/08	3: (Information about the financial or business affairs of any person or organisation)
E2	Joint Authority Budget Proposals 2009/10	64/08	3: (Information about the financial or business affairs of any person or organisation)
E3	Marketing Manchester: Proposed Agma Contribution 2009/10	65/08	3: (Information about the financial or business affairs of any person or organisation)
E4	Agma Unit Budgets 2009/10	66/08	3: (Information about the financial or business affairs of any person or organisation)
E5	Capacity For Sub Regional Delivery	67/08	3: (Information about the financial or business affairs of any person or organisation)
E6	Manchester Solutions Group. Strategic Business Plan 2008-2011	68/08	3: (Information about the financial or business affairs of any person or organisation)
E7	Greater Manchester Metropolitan Debt Administration Fund: Estimated Rates Of Interest And Borrowing Strategy. 2008/09 Revised And 2009/10 Original	69/08	3: (Information about the financial or business affairs of any person or organisation)

63/08 MANCHESTER AIRPORTS GROUP CORPORATE STRATEGY

The Chief Executive and Company Secretary, Manchester Airports Group,

submitted a report informing the Executive Board of the proposed corporate strategy for Manchester Airports Group (MAG) which was derived from the outputs of the strategic review of the Group conducted by LEK and which was presented to the Shareholders' Committee at its last meeting. The report also outlined shareholder objectives in the light of the outcomes of the strategic review.

AGREED: That the report be endorsed.

64/08 JOINT AUTHORITY BUDGET PROPOSALS 2009/10

The Leader, Bolton MBC referred to the current economic climate and the tight financial situation that all the Local authorities faced at this time. He requested that this be borne in mind by all the Joint Authorities when constructing their budgets. All the Joint Authorities budget proposals would be scrutinised by the groups of Leaders previously agreed before reporting back to the Executive Board.

a) Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Authority

The GMF&RA submitted a position paper and the Chair, GMF&RA commented thereon outlining Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Authority's current assessment of budget projections for 2009/2010, and the main issues which affect the budget, for discussion with the AGMA Executive. There was also a high level forward forecast for the two subsequent years, with appropriate caveats for information.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

b) Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority

GMPTA/E submitted a position paper and the Chair GMPTA commented thereon setting out the main issues which were affecting the PTA's 2009/10 budget projections for discussion with the AGMA Executive.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

c) Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority

GMWDA submitted a report and the Chair, GMWDA commented thereon providing a brief summary of the budget prospects for GMWDA for

2009/10 and the process being followed to ensure that robust figures were made available prior to the Levy being set in February 2009.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

65/08 MARKETING MANCHESTER: PROPOSED AGMA CONTRIBUTION 2009/10

Paul Simpson, Deputy Chief Executive, Marketing Manchester submitted a report outlining the activities that Marketing Manchester had carried out with the support of AGMA intervention during 2008/9.

Marketing Manchester would continue to develop its commercial activities but was still reliant on the ongoing financial and partnership support of AGMA. Marketing Manchester, therefore, requested that the contribution during 2009/10 remained at £333,960. It guaranteed that all of this funding would be used specifically in the promotion of Greater Manchester nationally and internationally.

In addition, it also requested £100,000 to fund the Conference Partnership as explained in the report. This funding would be matched by Manchester partners. The total request for funding for 2009/10 was, therefore, £433,960.

AGREED: That this request be subject to the usual scrutiny process (Manchester and Salford) and reported back to the 19 December meeting.

66/08 AGMA UNIT BUDGETS 2009/10

a) Funding for the Halle Orchestra

1. The Leader of Salford CC and the Chief Executive, Stockport MBC submitted a report commenting on the current financial situation faced by the Halle.

As mentioned in the report to the Executive Board's last meeting on budget guidelines for 2009/10, the Chair of the AGMA Executive Board recently met the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Hallé, in the presence of AGMA's two representatives on the Board, to discuss the current position.

AGREED: 1. To increase the annual grant to the Halle Concerts Society by £100,000 in 2009/10.

2. To guarantee inflation proofing for 3 years from 2009/10.

3. To negotiate an agreement setting out the benefits on offer to AGMA Councils from the Halle.

4. To support the Halle fully in an approach to the Arts Council England and central government for further grant.

b) AGMA Grants Scheme

The Chief Executive, Manchester CC (Lead Authority) submitted a report requesting guidance to the AGMA Statutory Functions Committee (SFC) and the Lead District for the GM. Grants Scheme on the budget framework for 2009/10 in the light of various factors affecting the scheme and the scheme's revenue clients.

The SFC and the Lead District recommended that the 2009/10 grants scheme budget be prepared on a cash standstill plus inflation basis.

The Leader, Trafford MBC commented on the need to look at efficiencies and savings and asked that the SFC again review the main funded organisations.

AGREED: That this matter be referred to the AGMA Members Scrutiny Pool reviewing AGMA Budgets for detailed consideration.

c) AGMA Policy & Research Unit

The Head of the AGMA Policy & Research Unit submitted the draft revenue budget for 2009/10. Although the Head of the Policy Unit proposed that the Unit's budget should be agreed at a cash standstill for 2009/10, there was one aspect within that proposal which he wished to draw to the attention of the AGMA Executive and seek their agreement to enacting.

It was proposed to increase the contributions from other partners to the Brussels Office in line with inflation. This would both partially offset the loss of one partner (GM Waste Ltd) and also the adverse movement of the £ against the €. The overall contribution of AGMA districts to the Brussels office would also increase slightly, by £6,000; but this would be absorbed by savings elsewhere.

AGREED: A standstill budget for the Policy Unit budget for 2009/10 based on current operations, and to the proposed increase in charges to other partners in the Brussels Office as set out above.

d) Other AGMA Units

The AGMA Treasurer submitted a report commenting on the proposed revenue budgets 2009/10 for the AGMA Units not considered elsewhere on the agenda.

The following Units had reported a standstill budget for 2009/10:

- Urban Traffic Control
- Abnormal Loads
- Transportation Modelling Unit
- AGMA Policy Unit (a separate report is included on the agenda)
- Specialist Trading Standards Unit

AGREED: That standstill budgets for the above Units be approved and referred to the AGMA Members Scrutiny Pool reviewing AGMA Budgets for detailed consideration.

The Leader, Tameside MBC informed the meeting that Manchester University had served 90 days notice on the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit. This action would have a very detrimental affect on the Unit itself and various AGMA schemes, including, the DiG Manchester project.

AGREED: That an urgent meeting be sought with the President and Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University to resolve this matter.

67/08 CAPACITY FOR SUB REGIONAL REVIEW

The AGMA Chief Executives Group submitted a report informing the Executive Board that a considerable level of analysis was being carried out by Officers into the resources and supporting infrastructure required to provide the capacity necessary within the city region to deliver on the commitments contained within the MAA, and the wider aspirations of the emerging new Executive and Commissions within the AGMA governance framework.

The intention was that this should be presented for Executive Board Members' consideration and attention as part of the consideration of AGMA budgets for 2009/10. In this respect Chief Executives were conscious of previous requests from Leaders that this issue was dealt with in the round, rather than through piecemeal approaches to the Executive for extra resources.

Consequently it was intended to produce a full report for the Executive Board on this issue for their meeting on 19th December. However in the meantime there were a small number of areas where unless decisions are

taken now we will not be able to fulfil the obligations we had made in agreeing an MAA with Central Government, and to continue progress in embedding the operation of our new Governance arrangements. This report sets these urgent issues out now for an early decision by the Executive Board.

AGREED: 1. That the urgent costs set out in this report for sub regional delivery of our MAA commitments in 2008/9 of £40k and the arrangements for their distribution between Districts be approved.

2. A maximum of £200k per annum for the next 5 years to secure appropriate accommodation for the EDES Commission; and

3. To receive a comprehensive report on overall proposals for resourcing sub regional delivery at the meeting on 19 December.

68/08 MANCHESTER SOLUTIONS GROUP: STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN 2008 -11

Richard Guy Chief Executive, Manchester Solutions submitted an executive summary, prepared for AGMA, of the Manchester Solutions Group Strategic Business Plan 2008-2011. The plan set out how the Group's resources and services would be developed and deployed. The Group had a turnover of £60m and around 1,000 staff. AGMA, together with the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, agrees the Group's strategic plan. The full plan had already been considered by local authority Economic Development Officers; the Commission for Economic Development, Employment & Skills; the Economic Development lead Chief Executives and the Manchester Solutions Board (which includes AGMA representation). The Executive were invited endorse the plan, subject to any comments.

AGREED: That plan be endorsed.

69/08 GREATER MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN DEBT ADMINISTRATION FUND ESTIMATED RATES OF INTEREST AND BORROWING STRATEGY 2008/09 REVISED AND 2009/10 ORIGINAL

Tameside MBC (Lead Authority) submitted a report presenting the Fund's estimated rates of interest for 2008/09 and 2009/10 together with the borrowing strategy to be employed.

AGREED: That the report be accepted.

70/08 TIF FINANCIAL PROGRESS

A report of the Clerk to GMPTA and the Chief Executive of GMPTE detailing the TIF related expenditure incurred in 2008/9 up to 31 October 2008 was submitted.

Actual expenditure in the year to 31 October 2008 was £18.1 million, compared to the budget for the period of £18.9 million. The favourable variance is in line with a projected underspend for the year of £0.2 million.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

71/08 TIF FUNDING STRATEGY

The Clerk to GMPTA and the Chief Executive of GMPTE submitted a report bringing together in one place current information in relation to the TIF funding and finance strategy.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

72/08 AGMA SCRUTINY POOL – BUDGET ISSUES

The minutes of a meeting of the AGMA Scrutiny Pool Members reviewing AGMA budgets held on 14 November 2008 were submitted.

The meeting agreed to make the following recommendations to the Executive -

1. That this pool should provide a scrutiny and challenge role for AGMA Unit budgets during the 2008/9 budget setting round. In particular this should focus on any Units where budgets in 2009/10 were proposed to be above a cash standstill from 2008/9.
2. Any lead authority proposing an increase above cash standstill for 2009/10 should be asked to present its proposals to the next meeting of this panel on 12 December.
3. That the panel also review any issues concerning late or inadequate monitoring reports during the year with the appropriate Lead Authority and report back to the Executive if necessary.

AGREED: That the above recommendations be approved.

73/08 GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGIC PLAN

The Head of the AGMA Policy Unit submitted a report giving an update on the progress of preparing the GM Strategic Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'Plan') , which formed building block one of the MAA for Greater

Manchester; agreed with Central Government. This report proposed some key principles to underpin its preparation, an overall format for the plan and an outline engagement strategy, and set out the planned overall timescale for its production.

AGREED: 1. That the principles for developing the Greater Manchester Plan, as set out in the report be approved.

2. That the proposed outline timetable and approach to stakeholder and Executive Board engagement be accepted.

74/08 HEALTH INEQUALITIES: AUDIT COMMISSION REVIEW

The Chair of the GM Health Commission submitted a report informing the Executive Board of the recently published report of the Audit Commission into work on health inequalities across Greater Manchester over the last two years or so. The report lavished a most unusual degree of praise on the inter-agency work of the Health Commission, supported by the Health Leadership Group.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

75/08 GOVERNANCE OF MANCHESTER SOLUTIONS

Richard Guy, Chief Executive Manchester Solutions submitted a report clarifying arrangements for the Governance of Manchester Solutions as a result of the change to the Economic Development, Skills and Employment Commission.

The key issues covered in the paper were:

- ME to cease to be a party to the Commissioning Agreement
- Commissioning Agreement to be amended to deal with decisions of Search and Selection Committee and related matters
- Service Level Agreement related to the agreement to be abolished
- Corporate Services Agreement to be terminated and redrafted in order to comply with conflict of interest requirements and deal with the research service.

AGREED: To endorse and enact the proposals on the Commissioning Agreement and related documents as soon as possible.

76/08 MIDAS OWNERSHIP – RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP TO THE TEN GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Chief Executive Salford CC, submitted a report seeking the support of the AGMA Executive for the 10 Greater Manchester Local Authorities to become Members of Manchester Investment Development Agency Service Limited ('MIDAS').

Should AGMA support the decision to agree to the transfer of ownership of MIDAS from Manchester Enterprises to the ten local authorities, each of the constituent authorities would need take the decision individually.

In processing the transfer, the City Solicitor for Manchester City Council has agreed to formalise the arrangements on behalf of AGMA. Such arrangements will subsequently be ratified by the MIDAS Board.

AGREED: 1. To the transfer of MIDAS ownership from Manchester Enterprises to the ten Greater Manchester local authorities, subject to ratification by each of the authorities.

2. To request the Manchester City Solicitor to undertake the necessary legalities to formalise the arrangement.

77/08 AGMA COMMISSIONS

A note of the inaugural meeting of the AGMA Improvement and Efficiency Commission held on 5 November 2008 was submitted.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

Chair.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER 2008

Present:

Councillor P.B. Shannon (in the Chair), Councillor J. Pearson (Vice-Chairman), Councillor J. Walton (Deputy Chairman), Councillors D. Acton, P. Ankers, M. Ayub, J. Bell, E. Burgoyne, P. Clegg, H. Cooper, J. Davis, R. Derricutt, D. Heffernan, B. Holland, M. Hollick, P. Holley, B. Judge, T. Judge, I. Lindley, W. Meikle, B. Millard, J. O'Brien, W.T. Risby, P. Rush, J. Taylor, F.B. Walker and G.W. Wilson.

Also in Attendance: B. Dixon (County Fire Officer and Chief Executive), D. Smith (Treasurer), P. Corcoran (Assistant County Fire Officer (Service Delivery)), S. Beckley (Assistant County Fire Officer (Fire Safety)), A. Ciaramella (Assistant County Fire Officer (Operations)), M. Doggett (Deputy Fire Investigation Team Manager), S. Thomas (Contingency Planning & Business Continuity Manager), G. Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor) and D. Parker (Democratic Services Manager).

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G. Brockbanks and J. Lord.

39. MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2008 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

The Chair reported that under Minute 35 – 20th Anniversary of the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations 1988, all Members had now received a DVD version of the two Presentations which were given at this meeting.

In addition, Members were informed that the Rt Hon Ian McCartney MP had written to the Chairman of the Authority to thank Members and Officers for the wonderful day and gifts he received at the last meeting of the Authority, celebrating the achievements of the Authority and its successful campaign over 20 years ago to have introduced the Furniture and Furnishings Fire Safety Regulations which complemented the subsequent introduction of smoke alarms and other measures. Rt Hon Ian McCartney MP welcomed the next steps and the recommendations of the Authority and looked forward to a meeting with the Authority to discuss how to take the campaign forward.

In response, Councillor G. Wilson commented that a large number of Officers and Members from Manchester County Council had also played a role in the introduction of the Furniture and Furnishings Fire Safety Regulations who had not been mentioned. The Chairman, noted this comment and extended the

Authority's gratitude to all Officers and Members that had been involved in the introduction of the Furniture and Furnishings Fire Safety Regulations.

It was agreed that Councillors J. O'Brien, J. Pearson and P. Rush be appointed to the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Working Group that was established at the last meeting of the Authority. A date for the first meeting of this group would be arranged in due course.

The Chair reported that under Minute 36 – Update on Local Area Agreements and Borough Performance for the First Quarter (April – June 2008) – Recommendation 4, he had now written to all Borough Commanders as requested to express the Authority's appreciation for their hard work and commitment in improving performance through Local Area Agreements and improving partnership working at a local level.

Resolved: That:

1. The update on the Minutes and comments, be noted.
2. Councillors J. O'Brien, J. Pearson and P. Rush be appointed to the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Working Group that was established at the last meeting of the Authority.

40. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES 2008/2009: Pursuant to Procedural Standing Order 24 it was:-

Resolved: That the following changes to the Appointment to Committees for 2008/2009 be approved:-

- i) Councillor J. Pearson to replace Councillor M. Hollick on the Personnel Committee;
- ii) Councillor H. Cooper to replace Councillor J. Davis on the North West Fire and Rescue Regional Management Board (NWFRMB).

41. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Chair encouraged Members to attend the Equality Training on Tuesday 21 October 1.30pm to 4.00pm in the Members Room, FSHQ.
2. The Chair encouraged Members to attend the Chief Fire Officers Association International Development and Humanitarian Aid Conference on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th October at the GMFRS Training Centre in Manchester.
3. The Chair informed Members that the Appeals Sub-Committee that was due to be held on 23th October had now been withdrawn, the Personnel Committee due to be held on 30th October had been cancelled and the Equality and Diversity Overview Group would now be held on Thursday 13th November 2008 at 2.00pm.

4. The Chair informed Members that this would be Mr Patrick Corcoran's Assistant County Fire Officer (Service Delivery) last meeting as he was due to retire from the Authority on 31st October 2008. The Chair took the opportunity to thank Mr Corcoran for all the hard work, commitment and support he had given to Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority over the years and wished him all the best for his retirement. The Chair on behalf of the Authority presented Mr Corcoran with a gift.

Councillor J. Pearson (Vice-Chairman), Councillor F.B. Walker, Councillor W. T. Risby and the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive also took the opportunity to speak on this item.

Mr Corcoran thanked Members for their kind words and the gift which had been presented.

5. The Chair informed Members that Mr Kieran Nolan was now in post as Deputy County Fire Officer, Mr Anthony Ciaramella had been appointed as the new Assistant County Fire Officer (Operations) and was now in post and Mr Nick Mure from London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority had been appointed as the new Assistant County Fire Officer (Service Delivery) and was due to join the Authority on 1st November 2008.

42. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: The Minutes of the proceedings of the Personnel Committee held on 18th September 2008 were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Personnel Committee held on 18th September 2008, subject to the inclusion of Councillor M. Hollick in the attendance list, be approved.

43. AUDIT COMMITTEE: The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on 24th September 2008 were submitted (Appendix 2).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on 24th September 2008, be approved.

44. POLICY COMMITTEE: The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy Committee held on 9th October 2008 were submitted (Appendix 3).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy Committee held on 9th October 2008, be approved.

45. SERVICE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW 2ND QUARTER (JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2008): Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive which provided Members with a statistical analysis of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, in respect of the agreed National Indicators. It also categorised incident types and aligned a number of factors to

provide a summary of the performance of the Service in the second quarter of 2008/09 compared to the same period last year.

It was reported that since the introduction of the Borough Command structure in 2005, Borough Command Teams had engaged into partnership working to meet Service expectations. The empirical evidence identified that the progress through risk reduction measures, partnerships and innovations to reduce the number of incidents attended was having a significant impact. In addition, the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive commented that he was satisfied that the performance in the second quarter of 2008/09 was progressing well and continued in a downward trend in terms of direction of travel experienced since the introduction of the Borough Command structure.

Members welcomed the reduction in incidents in all areas and the reduction in the sickness absence figures which were below the national target of 6.5% Shifts.

Councillor O'Brien took the opportunity to update Members on the work of the Scrutiny Panel following its last meeting that was held on 15th October 2008. The Chairman welcomed the report and thanked Officers for their hard work in reducing these figures.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments, be noted.
2. Members support the Borough Commands in their drive to improve performance through Local Area Agreements and continue to provide political support where necessary.
3. Members continue to support the drive to deliver against agreed outcomes through the Service's Performance Management Framework (GRIP).

46. FATAL FIRES OVERVIEW 2007/2008 – PRESENTATION: Members received a presentation from the Assistant County Fire Officer (Fire Safety) on 'Fatal Fires Overview 2007/2008 which highlighted the key issues arising from the investigation of the fatal fire related incidents occurring in Greater Manchester during 2007/08. The presentation supplemented the recent internally published overview of fatal fires for the period April 2007 to March 2008 which was circulated to Members and provided an insight into some of the 'human factors' involved in these tragedies.

The presentation illustrated that the problems of alcohol abuse, careless smoking and mental illness remained the significant contributory factors in fatal fires, and these were prompting some of the initiatives and partnership working that was taking place in an attempt to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

As part of this item the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive took the opportunity to update Members on the progress of Firefighter Steve Morris.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the Presentation and comments, be noted.
2. Members support the efforts of the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive in identifying those at greatest risk from fire and developing appropriate risk reduction strategies.

47. OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE:

Members received a presentation from the Contingency Planning & Business Continuity Manager on the Operation Protector which had been implemented in connection with the recent Labour Party Conference 20–24 September 2008.

Members were informed that Manchester City Council and Marketing Manchester with the support of Greater Manchester Police had participated in the bid process to host Annual Party Political Conferences. The 2008 Conference was a 6.5 million pound operation and had taken six months planning with key stakeholders. It was reported that over 18,000 delegates attended the Conference over the four days and Manchester now had Conference business confirmed for 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Resolved: That the content of the presentation be noted.

CHAIRMAN

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

HELD ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Present:

Councillor J. Bell (in the Chair), Councillor D. Heffernan (Vice Chairman)
Councillors P. Ankers, M. Ayub, E. Burgoyne, B. Holland, P. Holley, W.T. Risby,
P.B. Shannon, J. Taylor, J. Walton and F.B. Walker.

Also in Attendance: B. Dixon (County Fire Officer and Chief Executive), A.
Wainwright (Director of Human Resources), G. Williams (Deputy Clerk and
Authority Solicitor) and D. Parker (Democratic Services Manager).
Councillor B. Holland left the meeting at 11.45am.

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor J. Davis.

12. MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th August 2008 were
confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

13. MINUTES OF SHORTLISTING SUB-COMMITTEE: The Committee received
the Minutes of a Meeting of the Shortlisting Sub-Committee held on 7th August
2008. The Sub-Committee had met to shortlist candidates for the post of Deputy
County Fire Officer.

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Shortlisting Sub-Committee held on 7th
August 2008, be approved.

14. MINUTES OF APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE: The Committee received the
Minutes of a Meeting of the Appeals Sub-Committee held on 4th September
2008. The Sub-Committee had met to hear an appeal by an employee against
his dismissal. The appeal was dismissed.

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Appeals Sub-Committee held on 4th
September 2008, be approved.

15. HR PROGRESS UPDATE: Consideration was given to a report of the County
Fire Officer and Chief Executive which advised Members of the progress that had
been made and the contribution by all Sections of the Service in the delivery of
the Authority's People Strategy. It was reported that the People (HR) Strategy
was agreed in August 2007 and that the submitted report covered the progress
achieved from that date to August 2008. Members received an information pack
which included a copy of the following documents:- People Strategy, July

Monthly report, Timeline Activity Sheet and the People Management Article – July 2008, for reference.

It was reported that the People Strategy had been divided into eleven sections which align with the Employee Lifecycle, and included:-

- Culture, Values and Behaviours;
- Communication and Engagement;
- Organisational Design and Improvement;
- Resourcing;
- Performance Management;
- Training;
- Management Development;
- Talent Management and Succession Planning;
- Reward and Recognition;
- Exit Strategies; and
- Efficiency and Effectiveness.

The report dealt with each section in turn and outlined the key objectives for the three year plan and the progress against those objectives for the year to date.

The Committee had a detailed discussion on the firefighter recruitment process and how this had been streamlined and improved. A state of the art website had been developed, together with new and innovative promotional material designed to attract a more diverse workforce. An online application and tracking system had been purchased and installed and since its introduction 3183 applications had been received and processed. As a result of these new approaches the Authority had been selected as a finalist for two national awards. In response, Members commented on the fairness of the online application process and the time period when the public could apply for the trainee firefighter posts.

In addition, Members were informed of the improved training and development programmes that had been introduced for both uniformed and non-uniformed staff, including management development.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank the Director of Human Resources for the informative report and presentation to the Committee.

Recommended: That:

1. The excellent progress that had been made against the People Plan since August 2007, be noted.
2. The overall strategic direction for the forthcoming years, be confirmed.
3. The Personnel Committee receive HR Progress reports on a quarterly basis, be agreed.
4. The recruitment process for Member level appointments posts be considered at a future meeting of the Personnel Committee.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Present:

Councillor G. Brockbanks (in the Chair), Councillor P. Rush (Vice-Chairman), Councillors E. Burgoyne, P. Holley, M. Hollick, B. Judge, J. Lord, W. Meikle and Mr K. Harper (Independent Member).

Also in attendance: T. Proctor (Deputy County Fire Officer), G. Murphy (Director of Finance and Technical Services), P. Corcoran (Assistant County Fire Officer – Service Delivery), D. Smith (Treasurer), M. Kenyon (Head of Audit and Risk Management – Wigan MBC), P. Sharples (Head of Corporate Support), A. Fargher (Senior Policy Officer Corporate Support), G. Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor), D. Parker (Democratic Services Manager).

Guests: J. Bellard (District Auditor – Audit Commission), L. Kettles (Audit Manager – Audit Commission) and R. Tembo (Audit Administrator – Audit Commission).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Acton.

2. MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th June 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. KEY CORPORATE RISKS (STANDING ITEM): Members received a Presentation from Mr P. Sharples – Head of Corporate Support on the Authority's Risk Register and how this fitted into the Corporate Planning Process. Members were informed of the process used to gather risks and how each risk identified was allocated with a risk rating. A copy of the current Risk Register was circulated for information.

Recommended: That:

1. The Presentation and comments be noted.
2. Key Corporate Risks be a Standing Item on the Audit Committee Agenda.

4. SERVICE DELIVERY AUDIT PLAN 2008-2011: Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive which advised Members of the Central Service Delivery Audit Plan 2008-2011. The purpose of the Plan would be to assist the Service in achieving its objectives outlined within the Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan.

Members were informed that the Audit Plan had been prepared taking into account the requirements of the Service Delivery Audit Strategy and stipulated

the number of inspections and audit periods for both Borough Command Team officers and the Performance Review Team (PRT). It was reported that the Borough Command Teams had been allocated a total of 552 audit inspections per annum and the PRT Members had been allocated a total of 600 days. In addition, the audits would now fall under one of the following headings:-

- Operational Audit/Inspections;
- Review of Borough Management Systems; and
- Service Thematic Audit and Reviews.

The areas for audit and review over the period 2008-2011 had been identified from a number of sources, and reporting mechanisms and performance targets had incorporated into the Plan to ensure the outcomes both contribute to and are aligned to the Authority's drive for continuous service improvement to the communities of Greater Manchester.

Members welcomed the Service Delivery Audit Plan 2008-2011 and thanked officers for the report.

Recommended: That:

1. The report and comments be noted.
2. The CSD Audit Plan 2008-2011, be approved.
3. The Committee continue to support the Service Performance Management and Review Framework.

5. AUDIT COMMISSION AND ANNUAL GOVERNMENT REPORT: Further to minute 30 of the meeting held on 25th June 2008 consideration was given to the annual governance report of the Audit Commission setting out the conclusion of their work in respect of the 2007/08 accounts.

The Audit Commission expected to issue an unqualified opinion on the financial statements by the end of September 2008 and reported that overall good arrangements continued for the preparation of the statement of accounts. A few improvements had been identified to the financial statements originally submitted for audit, primarily relating to accounting treatments and disclosure of FRS17 estimates of pension liabilities, where information and technical guidance had become available after the date the accounts were approved, and financial instruments note and other notes to the core financial statements. None of these adjustments impacted on the closing General Fund balance.

Resolved:

1. That the report be accepted and that the adjustments included in the revised financial statements for 2007/08 prepared by officers and as outlined in this report be agreed.

2. That the Treasurer be authorised to sign the representation letter on behalf of the Authority; and

3. That the proposed recommendations at Appendix 1 to the report be agreed.

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

HELD ON 9TH OCTOBER 2008

Present:

Councillor P.B. Shannon (in the Chair), Councillor J. Pearson (Vice-Chairman), Councillors J. Bell, P. Clegg, H. Cooper, J. Davis, R.J. Derricutt, D. Heffernan, B. Holland, M. Hollick, C. MacAlister, B. Millard, J. O'Brien and W.T. Risby.

Also in Attendance: T. Proctor (Deputy County Fire Officer), D. Smith (Treasurer), G. Murphy (Director of Finance and Technical Service), P. Corcoran (Assistant County Fire Officer (Service Delivery)), G. Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor) and D. Parker (Democratic Services Manager).

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor F.B. Walker.

18. MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The Chairman reported that under Minute 16 – Procurement of Management Consultancy in Connection with the Introduction of Programme Management - Recommendation 3, the first meeting of the Service Excellence Steering Group had now been arranged and would take place on Monday 3rd November 2008.

19. MINUTES OF THE POLICY STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE: The Committee received the Minutes of the Policy Standing Sub-Committee held on 25th September 2008. The Sub-Committee had met to appoint to the Assistant County Fire Officer posts and to consider a report on the Fireguard Project. Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy Standing Sub-Committee held on 25th September 2008, be approved.

20. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Treasurer provided Members with an update on the Authority's financial investments following the Icelandic Bank crisis. It was reported this did not affect the Authority as funds had not been invested overseas. The Authority's funds were currently split between Royal Bank of Scotland, Nationwide Building Society and Yorkshire Building Society.

2. Members were informed that the three Party Leaders had a meeting arranged to discuss Member Training. If any Member had any thoughts or suggestions on this matter could they pass these through their Group Leader and these could be discussed at this meeting. In addition to this meeting, the

Director of Human Resources, the Chairman of the Authority and the Chairman of the Personnel Committee would be meeting with North West Employers to discuss the possibility of the Authority becoming involved in the North West Charter for Elected Member Development. Members would be advised on the outcome of this meeting accordingly.

3. It was announced that this would be DCFO Proctor's last Committee meeting before he retired from the Authority on 15th October 2008. Members took the opportunity to thank DCFO Proctor for all the hard work, commitment and support he had provided to Members over the years, and wished him all the best for his retirement.

21. RESPONSE TO FIRE AND RESCUE CIRCULAR 41/2008 – FiReCONTROL COST APPORTIONMENT: Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive which advised Members of the content of the Fire and Rescue Circular 41/2008 (FSC 41/2008) on the proposed FiReControl cost apportionment methodology for shared costs and sought approval for the proposed Authority response to this circular to Communities and Local Government (CLG).

Members were informed that the CLG's preferred Option was Option A – Apportion in proportion to relative share of the tax base, this preference being based on approving an apportionment basis which was simple, transparent and easy to understand, would be relatively stable over time and reflected the region's ability to pay. CLG had requested any feedback on the proposal to allocate shared costs in proportion to relative share of the tax base by 31 October 2008. Following deduction of the element of costs that related to national resilience, the preferred option for the Authority would be Option D as this would offer the North West region the most equitable and least costly solution, which in turn would reduce the cost of the contract with LACC.

Members thanked officers for the informative report, and supported the recommendations provided.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report and comments, be noted.
2. The draft response to Communities and Local Government (CLG) outlined in Appendix A of the report rejecting CLG's preferred option for apportionment of shared costs and recommending a formula which would entail initial deduction of national resilience costs, and apportions the remaining costs equally between each region, be approved.
3. The Director of Finance and Technical Services submit a copy of the response to the North West Fire and Rescue Management Board to enable the Authority's views to be taken into account when formulating a response to the consultation paper by the North West Fire and Rescue Management Board.

22. MEMBER ENGAGEMENT ON BOROUGH: Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive which provided Members with an overview in respect of Member attendance and local issues discussed at Borough Command level for the year to date.

It was reported that at the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 24th July 2008, Members resolved that a report detailing Member attendance and engagement at Borough Command meetings be submitted to a future meeting of the Policy Committee for Members information. The Matrix attached at Appendix A of the report outlined the current status of Member engagement with their respective boroughs and an overview of the issues discussed. Members were advised that since the preparation of the Committee report further Borough Command Meetings had taken place which Members had attended.

Members welcomed the report and commented that the attendance at these meetings was overall very good. It was agreed that an update report on this issue should be submitted to the Policy Committee for information on a six- monthly basis.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report and comments, be noted.
2. An update report on Member Engagement on Boroughs be submitted to the Policy Committee on a six-monthly basis.
3. Members continue to support the Borough Commanders where possible at local authority level and provide political guidance and support where possible.

23. ROSTERING FOR DUTY (R4D) UPDATE: Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive which advised Members of the recent enhancements made to the Rostering for Duty (R4D) process following consultation with the Fire Brigades Union.

It was reported that the R4D system had been extremely successful, establishing more flexible, modern working practices that permitted ongoing changes to deliver performance and reduce costs. These latest changes not only enhanced the system to the benefit of the Fire and Rescue Service but also ensured that many of the issues raised by the workforce were addressed, leading to improved industrial relations.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report, be noted.
2. The success of R4D to date, be acknowledged.
3. Members continue to support the developments and improvements to the system.

CHAIRMAN

**Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority
Authority Meeting**

24 October 2008

GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY
AUTHORITY MEETING - FRIDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2008

Present: Councillor Swannick (in the Chair)
Councillors Akram, Alexander, Bigg, Barrow, Burgoyne, Coupe,
Darvesh, Dillon, Fisher, Gordon, Kerslake, Mann,
Murphy, Shaw, Wareing and Young

Apologies: Councillors Molyneux, Piddington, Talbot and Wright
Officers Clerk to the Authority

M55 Urgent Business, if any, introduced by the Chair
There was no urgent business to consider.

M56 To receive Declarations of Interest in any contract or matter to be discussed at the Meeting Cllr. Swannick declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 62, by virtue of his partner being Chair of Community Recycling Network Board.

M57 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th September 2008 and note the meetings of the Special Purposes Committee held on 26th September 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Authority

a) approves the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2008 as an accurate record; and

b) notes the minutes of the Special Purposes Committee held on 26th September 2008.

The Chair explained that due to the significance of the report regarding the PFI waste contract, the meeting would adjourn after the authority had received the presentation from officers and lead advisors and the question and answer session had taken place. The meeting would then reconvene after the Group meetings to consider the recommendations within the report.

M58 2008/09 Budget Monitoring Report - 1st April 2008 to 30th September 2008

Members considered the report of the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk that advised the Authority of the budget monitoring information for the six months ended on 30th September 2008. Attached to the report, at Appendix A, was a summary budget monitoring report covering the period 1st April 2008 to 30th September 2008, The Authority noted that the overall position was a net under spend against the budget for the period of £155k.

Due to a question raised regarding advisor costs the Authority discussed whether the whole report should be considered in the closed section of the meeting, as the proposed answer was likely to breach paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person/company).

The Authority's Procurement Advisors withdrew from the meeting whilst the Authority considered whether the question should be answered in the open or closed section of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be considered in the closed section of the meeting by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. (Information relating to financial or business affairs of any particular person/company).

The Authority's Procurement Advisors returned to the meeting.

M59 Treasury Limits 2008/09 to 2010/11 - Increase re Potential PFI Funding Requirement
Consideration was given to the report of the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk which sought approval to increase the Authority's Treasury borrowing limits in order to cover the potential requirement to prudentially borrow in order to fund the PFI contract, as set out on Appendix A of the report.

RESOLVED: That the Authority approves the revised Operational Limits and Authorised Limits as set out in Appendix A of the report.

M60 Joint Waste Development Plan Document: Stage 2 Issues and Options Consultation
The Authority considered the report of the Director of Strategy and Communications which informed Members of the recent launch of the consultation for the Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan Document: Stage 2 Issues and Options Report and sought delegated authority for the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to respond to the consultation. A presentation was also received from Alethea Faulkner, GMGU which set out the background and process in order to achieve the objective of a Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan (JWDP).

A question was raised regarding whether GMGU had experienced any confusion from the public in respect of what the Authority was planning to build now and the purpose of the JWDP. In response, it was explained that through their consultation meetings, the GMGU had been able to inform the public of the difference between the two processes. The Executive Director also explained that the Authority had also been working alongside the Districts and the GMGU to ensure that there was no confusion.

A member raised a question regarding the map within the presentation which showed potential sites, some of which were clustered together and requested further information regarding the possibility of further facilities being located within the same vicinity for the industrial and commercial sector as well as municipal waste facilities. In response the Executive Director explained that a lot of work was on-going through the work of the GMGU plus the Authority's Asset Management Steering Group would also feed into the bigger picture when looking at facilities and how the needs of all sectors within Greater Manchester would be met.

RESOLVED: That the Authority

a) notes the report and;

b) delegates to the Executive Director, in consultation with Councillors Coupe, Gordon and Mann, approval of the response to the Joint Waste Development Plan Document: Stage 2 Issues and Options Report consultation.

M61 WRAP Support for a Greater Manchester Waste Prevention Project

The Authority considered the report of the Director of Strategy and Communications which informed Members of provisional financial support offered by WRAP (the Waste Resources Action Programme funded by DEFRA) of up to the value of £220,000 per annum for a waste prevention project in Greater Manchester partnership, including Wigan and sought approval for the Authority's required investment of £50,000 per annum for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The Treasurer and Deputy Clerk apologised to Members that the wording under Treasurers' comments was incorrect and should read under 5.4:

'The contribution required from the WDA (£50,000) will be 'top sliced' from the existing marketing budget.'

A Member expressed his concerns that whilst he appreciated the work WRAP were undertaking, recycling facilities for terrace housing needed to be addressed along with sheltered housing in order to produce better education awareness of what can and cannot be recycled. In response it was explained that WRAP was also supporting recycling projects within districts and agreed that the messages about recycling needed simplifying. An offer was given from Trafford Council to share best practice, whose recent campaign had seen recycling raise to 34.59% over the last few months.

In respect of a question raised regarding the possibility of a campaign surrounding the redistribution of televisions in light of the pending digitalisation, it was agreed that the Recycling Awareness Group would look into possible campaigns.

Concerns were raised how the Authority would measure whether the reduction in waste was down to the partnership's performance or due to the economic down-turn. The Executive Director explained that this issue would be raised with WRAP to see if they could look at comparisons.

RESOLVED: That the Authority

a) notes the provisional financial support offered by WRAP for 2008/11 of up to £200,000 per annum for 2009/10 and 2010/11 and the governance arrangements for the project and require regular reporting to the Authority on what was planned and the impact of the projects.

b) approves the contribution of £50,000 per annum for two years in 2009/10 and 2010/11, to be spent out of the predicted, not additional expenditure, subject to the Authority's approval of the budgets for the coming years.

M62 Financial Support for the Community Waste Network - Progress Report

Councillor Swannick declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item by virtue of his partner being the Chair of Community Recycling Network Board and withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Young, Vice-Chair of the Authority took over the role of Chair for this item. Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Strategy and Communications which informed Members of the monitoring arrangements by the Joint Officer Group in respect of the activity being undertaken by the North West Community Waste Network (NWCWN). It was explained the NWCWN was working with the Authority on achieving better engagement with the community and voluntary sector along with commencing better involvement/support through the proposed PFI contract.

A Member raised his concerns that the monitoring reports were being received and reviewed by the Joint Officer Group rather than going to the Authority and requested that the report be brought to the next Authority meeting on 5th December 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Authority notes the content of the report and requests that a further monitoring report outlining their programme of work be considered at the next Authority Meeting on 5th December 2008.

M63 Financial Support for Envirolink – Progress Report

Councillor Swannick returned to the meeting and to the role of Chair.

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Strategy and Communications which informed Members of the monitoring by the Joint Officer Group of the activity by Envirolink. It was explained that Envirolink had been working on important regional pieces of work such as a study of the plastics supply chain and markets development work for recycled materials from municipal and commercial/industrial waste streams.

Members noted that the Authority and the Greater Manchester Waste Partnership had been appointed to Envirolink's Active Network Board and to the Strategic Board.

The Chair raised a question to the representative from Envirolink, who was present at the

meeting regarding an event he had attended in January 2008, where Envirolink had a stall which main focus was to promote the Orchid Technology. He raised concern that the Authority had not chosen this un-tested technology and expressed the Authority's dissatisfaction if their contributions were funding the promotion of the technology. In response Envirolink explained that the Authority's contribution was not going towards the funding of the Orchid Technology and reported that Envirolink was in the process of organising an event which would show-case wider Technologies in the New Year. It was agreed that all members would be notified of the date and invited to the event.

RESOLVED: That the Authority notes the content of the report and requests that a further monitoring report outlining their programme of work be considered at the next Authority Meeting on 5th December 2008.

M64 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting at this juncture for the following business including Item 5 – 2008/9 Budget Monitoring Report, on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respectively indicated paragraph 3 and that it would not be, on balance, in the public interest to disclose the information to the public because disclosure would be likely to breach the reasonable requirements of companies to commercial confidentiality at this stage of the procurement process.

M65 Methane Stripping Plant Procurement

Members considered the report of the Executive Director which invited the Authority to:

- approve the select list of contractors to tender for the Methane Stripping Plant works; and
- delegate the approval of the tender evaluation process of the Methane Stripping Plant Contract to the Executive Director and Director of Resources, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority.

RESOLVED: That the Authority

a) approves the select list of contractors A to E, as identified at paragraph 3.1 within the report, to tender for the Methane Stripping Plant works;

and

b) authorises the Executive Director and Director of Resources, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority, to determine the weightings attribute to the evaluation criteria as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

M66 Wigan MBC's Proposed Membership of the Authority - 1st Progress Report

Members considered the Joint Officers' report which fulfilled the requirements of the resolutions adopted following the Authority meeting on 25th July 2008 in relation to the proposal for Wigan Council to join the Authority, or otherwise to engage with it in joint delivery of waste disposal services. The report also explained the further work which had taken place since 25th July 2008, in relation to:

- the adoption by Wigan Council of a revised Municipal Solid Waste Management Strategy (MSWMS);
- the progress with its options appraisal for future service delivery; and
- Wigan's discussions with DEFRA about the possible availability of further PFI credits.

In response to a question raised regarding the need for financial adjustment if Wigan rejoined the Authority and the PFI, it was confirmed that Wigan fully understood and accepted that there would be the need for financial adjustment.

RESOLVED: That the Authority notes the report.

M67 Inter-Authority Agreement

Consideration was given to the Joint Officers' report which sought agreement of the Authority to the final form of the Inter–Authority Agreement (IAA), and to note the process to determine an appropriate way forward in respect of dealing with the issue of smoothing in setting the levy. The report also recommended delegation to the Solicitor to the Authority to enter into a formal form of detailed agreement on behalf of the Authority. The Treasurer and Deputy Clerk to the Authority reported that models were currently being agreed with all districts and the appropriate decision making processes were in place to sign the agreement. He also explained that the smoothed levy aspects within the report would be covered within the Budget and Levy 2009/10 Prospects and Timetable report. Members attention was drawn to the circulated amendment to paragraph 13(e) to schedule 3 within the IAA, which had been requested by the Districts Chief Officers and Treasurers to be inserted in the document.

A Member raised a question regarding paragraph 4.2 of the report and whether the Authority would still receive PFI credits if the IAA was not signed. In response the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk explained that whilst in legal terms the Authority did not need the IAA, the OBC and FBC stated that the Authority would sign an IAA prior to financial close. It was further explained that DEFRA expected the IAA to be signed, as they felt that it would send the right message to other projects.

Clarity was also sought regarding the wording on page 45, paragraph 3.3 and the indicative smoothed levy graph which seemed to be in conflict with one another. It was confirmed that the data within the graph was correct and the greatest impact on the levy would be in 2012/13.

A question was raised regarding which waste stream within the bandings was pulpables. It was explained that pulpables, was classed as Source Separated within the bandings, however to make the bandings totally clear the Authority would be proposing to rename the co-mingled waste stream banding to 'Twin-Stream'.

The Authority discussed the recommendations within the report and agreed that due to the smoothed levy being considered under the Budget and the Levy 2009/10 Prospects and Timetable report, recommendation "b" should be removed.

RESOLVED: That the Authority

a) agrees in principle to the updated IAA, attached at Appendix A of the report and commends adoption of the IAA to districts;

b) also agree the additional wording submitted by the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk in relation to paragraph 13(e) to schedule 3 of the IAA; and

c) authorises the Solicitor to the Authority , in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer and Deputy Clerk, to make wording changes, if required, and to sign Agreements on behalf of the Authority.

M68 Budget and Levy 2009/10 Prospects and Timetable

Members considered the Joint Officers' report which:

drew together information from previous reports to the Authority on the Budget and Levy for 2009/10; set out a body of current matters which affect the final fixing of the Budget and Levy for 2009/10 and for future years; and recorded the expected process and timetable to conclude the Budget and Levy fixing and allocation process.

It was reported that as part of the levy process for 2009/10 discussions had taken place with District Treasurers regarding the operation of smoothing and whether Districts wanted to continue with the Authority's Levy Equalisation Reserve or whether Districts wanted to set up their own reserve internally. As part of these discussions a 'Virtual Smoothed Levy' was proposed where the Authority based on the District projected tonnages, would advise Districts what the smoothed levy would have been calculated at, which would then enable them, within their budget process, to incorporate that amount within their reserves. It was explained that the 'Virtual Smoothed Levy' was supported by the District Treasurers.

It was reported that the Levy needs to be set, under statute, by the 14th February 2009 and below set out the proposed timetable in order to meet that deadline. It was explained that if the levy could not be agreed by all Districts, the levy would revert back to the default position, which would not meet the Authority's aspirations regarding incentivisation.

DATE MEETING PURPOSE

As requested AGMA Progress report on budget prospects

5th December 2008 Full Authority Further progress report

Nov/Dec. AGMA Scrutiny

23rd Jan. 2009 Full Authority Set budget and levy for 2009/010

In terms of the proposed timetable, the Chair raised his concerns regarding the possibility of AGMA's Environment Commission providing the scrutiny function rather than the previous arrangement of an AGMA Budget Review Group. He explained that through the previous arrangement the Authority had representation however under the current proposed Environment Commission arrangement the Authority would have no representation, which was unacceptable.

The Treasurer and Deputy Clerk explained that, in light of the timetable being challenging, Members may wish to consider holding a special meeting of the Authority on or before the 13th February 2009 to set the budget and levy for 2009/10.

Members considered the recommendations and felt that the Authority should aim to set the budget on 23rd January 2009 rather than set up an additional meeting at this stage in the process.

RESOLVED: That the Authority:

a) notes the update on the previously adopted position and current key influences;

b) notes the arrangements for the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk to continue to consult with his District Treasurer colleagues;

c) agrees the outline timetable and arrangements set out at Sections 5 and 6, including receipt of a report at its 5th December 2008 meeting, which seeks to record the Authority's first revised view of the Budget and Levy 2009/10 and over the period to 2014/15;

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:45pm and reconvened at 13:10pm.

M69 PFI Project Update

Consideration was given to the Joint Officers' report which informed the Authority of the steps taken since the last Authority meeting on 12th September 2008 towards securing the conclusion of a PFI Waste Management Services Contract with Viridor Laing (Greater Manchester) Ltd. (VL). It was noted that given the complexity of the report, a separate briefing session for Members had taken place on Tuesday 21st October 2008, with the objective to provide Members with details of the contract prior to their local briefings.

The Authority received a detailed presentation which was lead by the Director of Procurement, the Authority's Senior Management Team and Lead Procurement Advisors that provided Members with the structure of the contract and the key considerations for the Authority.

The presentation provided Members with the following information:

- What had happened since the Authority's decision to award the contract on 4th April 2008,
- The current finance structure and technology solution of the contract,
- The views of the advisors,
- Sites and planning,
- The position in respect of the Authority affordability envelope,
- Risk retained and transferred; plus
- The consequences of delay.

The Solicitor and Treasurer and Deputy Clerk also provided advice to the Authority focusing on their comments within the report and the decision-making process. A question and answers session followed which provided members with further clarity regarding the issues outlined below:-

- Banks
- Pensions
- Government Funding
- LATS
- Alternative Solutions
- Funding Strategy
- Re-financing during the contract

Upon completion of the question and answer session the meeting was adjourned at 14.40pm to allow further discussions within the Group meeting rooms. The meeting reconvened at 15.30pm and the Authority considered the recommendations within the reports.

RESOLVED: That the Authority, unanimously

a) following acceptance by H. M. Treasury of the Derogations set out in the Contract, and the issue by DEFRA of a Promissory Note for the PFI Credits, agrees to enter into a contract (the "Project Agreement") with VL for the provision of waste management services on the terms and for the services, set out in this report (the "Contract Award").

Furthermore, it agrees to TPS Co. (the special purpose vehicle for the Thermal Power station at Runcorn) being a party to the Project Agreement, but only for certain purposes, especially in relation to the arrangements for insurance and for the termination of the contract;

b) authorises the Solicitor to the Authority to sign the Project Agreement;

c) in order to facilitate the Project Agreement, agrees to enter into the Share Purchase Agreement, and all associated ancillary documents, to dispose of its shareholding in Greater Manchester Waste Limited (GMWL), to Viridor Waste Management Limited, for £1 as envisaged by the Invitation to Tender.

d) authorises the Solicitor to the Authority to sign the Share Purchase Agreement;

e) notes the existence within the Project Agreement of:-

the Lease and Lease Back of sites - (as described in the report to the Authority meeting of 4th April 2008) - in the Authority's current ownership, for use by VL to deliver the contract.

At the end of the PFI contract term, the assets revert back to the Authority, maintained and fit for purpose, save the thermal power station to be constructed at Runcorn (the "Runcorn Facility") to which the Authority will have rights of access for disposal of waste under a Residual Value Contract; agrees that to enter into an agreement with TPS Co. - "the Residual Value Contract" the object of which is to entitle the Authority to provide Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) to TPS Co. under prices and other terms and conditions fixed now for a period of 15 years, following expiry of the Project Agreement or to come into effect upon early termination under certain circumstances described in the Project Agreement;

• agrees the Energy from Waste (EfW) Site Head Lease with Ineos Chlor;

• agrees the EfW Site Underlease with TPSCo.

Further, the Authority authorises the Solicitor to the Authority to sign the various leases and underleases required in connection with the Project and which were set out in the report to the Authority meeting on 4th April 2008;

f) agrees to enter into the Collateral Warranties, Novation of the Landfill Contracts, Financiers' Direct Agreements and Agreement and Guarantee in respect of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund, a Deed of Confirmation in respect of the LAWDC Pension Scheme and any other contractual documents, either related to those set out in this Paragraph (10.6), or to any other document or transaction required in relation to the Project.

g) authorises the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk, advised as appropriate by the Director of Procurement, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority to agree the final price and funding package (including PB), to agree any final, minor amendments to the contractual terms in the Project Agreement or any other of the contractual or other documents described or referred to in this report, and to otherwise complete the contract;

h) agrees to the issue of a certificate in respect of the Project Agreement and the Financiers' Direct Agreements required pursuant to Section 3 of the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997, and that the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk be authorised to sign the certificate on behalf of the Authority, in accordance with the previously agreed indemnities;

i) agrees that in respect of the above recommendations, agrees that the following reserves be nominated in case of indisposition:-

- For the Solicitor to the Authority - the Executive Director;
- For the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk to the Authority – the Deputy Treasurer;
- For the Clerk to the Authority - the Executive Director;

subject to the Clerk being satisfied as to appropriateness of arrangements.

The Chair, upon agreement of the above resolutions, proposed that two further resolutions be added as follows;

1. That the Authority express its disappointment in not achieving financial close by 31st October 2008; and
2. That Officers continue with negotiations, however a Special Authority meeting be called on 21st November 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Authority, unanimously

j) expresses its disappointment in not achieving financial close by 31st October 2008; and

k) authorises Officers, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to continue negotiations and agrees that a special meeting be convened on Friday 21st November 2008 at 10am.

M70 2008/09 Budget Monitoring Report - 1st April 2008 to 30th September 2008

The Authority's Procurement Advisors withdrew from the meeting for this item.

The Authority reconsidered the report of the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk which was presented by the Deputy Treasurer that advised Members of the budget monitoring information for the period 1st April 2008 to 30th September 2008.

A member expressed his concern over the current overspend of £1,506,000 in advisor costs and asked if the Authority was getting value for money. In response the Deputy Treasurer explained that the budget for 2008/09 was set in February 2008 in the anticipation that the contract would commence on 1st April 2008. Due to the process to bring the contract to financial close since April, the Authority's Procurement Advisory Team had been working full-time on the project. It was further explained that the Authority had control arrangements in place for the three organisations and it was noted that as soon as financial close was reached, maintenance arrangements would supersede the current arrangements. In response to this information Members expressed that as part of the control arrangements previously endorsed by the Authority, they had requested to receive quarterly monitoring reports, however there had been no monitoring report submitted to the Authority for a considerable length of time. It was suggested and agreed that a monitoring report for Advisors' costs should be considered by the Authority at their next meeting on the 5th December 2008.

RESOLVED That the Authority

a) notes the report; and

b) requests that an Advisors Costs monitoring report be considered by the Authority at the next meeting on 5th December 2008.

M71 Delegated Decisions taken since the last meeting

It was noted that no delegated decisions had taken place since the last Authority meeting

on 12th September 2008.

The meeting opened at 11.10am and at closed at 15.45pm

**Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority
Authority Meeting**

21 November 2008

GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY
SPECIAL AUTHORITY MEETING - FRIDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2008

Present: Councillor Swannick (in the Chair)
Councillors Young, Akram, Alexander, Bigg, Barrow, Burgoyne,
Coupe, Darvesh, Dillon, Fisher, Gordon, Kerslake,
Mann, Murphy, Molyneux, Piddington, Shaw, Talbot and Wright
Officers Clerk to the Authority, Treasurer and Deputy Clerk to
the Authority, Solicitor to the Authority, Director of
Contract Services, Director of Procurement, Director of
Resources and Director of Strategy and Communication

Apologies: Councillors Wareing
Officers Executive Director

M72 Urgent Business, if any, introduced by the Chair

There was no urgent business to consider.

The Chair welcomed the new Clerk to the Authority to his first meeting. The Clerk thanked the Chair and expressed that it was a great privilege to be both the Chief Executive of Oldham MBC and Clerk to the Authority.

M73 To receive Declarations of Interest in any contract or matter to be discussed at the Meeting There were no declarations of interest received.

M74 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 24th October 2008

Members considered the revised minutes which were circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the revised minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2008 were confirmed as an accurate record.

Referring to Minute 68 – Inter Authority Agreement, Councillor Mann raised concerns regarding the difficulties Salford was experiencing with the recycling of plastics. Cllr Mann explained that this issue would not stop Salford entering into the Inter Authority Agreement but felt strongly that the matter needed to be resolved. The Treasurer and Deputy Clerk to the Authority explained that Officers had written to the current contractor regarding the costs of collecting and sorting all plastics. It was acknowledged that the end market for plastics was currently problematic.

M75 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Chair explained that the Authority had received a request from the GMWL's Trade Union representatives to be able to attend the meeting and remain in attendance for the PFI Project Update. It was agreed that at this stage in the process it would be inappropriate for the representatives to remain for the item, however a Trade Union Representative meeting would be organised in the very near future so that they could be updated on the progress of the contract.

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting at this juncture for the following business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information

as defined in the respectively indicated paragraph 3 and that it would not be, on balance, in the public interest to disclose the information to the public because disclosure would be likely to breach the reasonable requirements of companies to commercial confidentiality at this stage of the procurement process.

M76 PFI Project Update

The Authority considered the Joint Officers' report that provided, as requested at the Authority meeting on 24th October 2008, an update on the continued negotiations with Viridor Laing (VL) towards financial close of the PFI Waste Management Contract. Members received a detailed presentation which was introduced by the Clerk but lead by the Director of Procurement and the Authority's Senior Management Team. The presentation provided Members with an update of the current financial structure and the key considerations for the Authority.

A question and answer session followed which provided Members with further clarity regarding the issues outlined below:-

- Advance Works contract
- Refinancing
- The Levy
- Communication with MP's
- Construction Programme & cost of facilities

It was agreed that after the meeting Members would receive a draft analysis of the projected levy through the construction phase of the contract. In addition, for the meeting on 5th December 2008, a table would be produced which showed when facilities when be available, their interdependency and the headline capital cost of each.

In response to a question raised regarding whether recommendation 8.6(b) within the report should be withdrawn given that the Authority had a meeting on 5th December 2008, it was explained that the resolution was recommended to provide maximum flexibility to Officers.

The Chair further explained that the recommendation was delegated to Officers, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair and he reassured Members that prior to any decision taken under that recommendation, key stakeholders would be consulted.

The Director of Procurement explained that the Authority would be sending a further letter to Viridor Laing immediately after the meeting expressing the Authority's view on financial closure of the proposed PFI contract.

RESOLVED: That the Authority unanimously,

- a) following acceptance by H.M. Treasury of the Derogations set out in the Contract and the issue by DEFRA of a Promissory Note, for the PFI Credits, agrees to enters into a contract (the "Project Agreement") with VL for the provision of waste management services on the terms and for the services, set out in the report (the "Contract Award"). Furthermore, it agrees to TPS Co. being a party to the Project Agreement, but only for certain purposes, especially in relation to the arrangements for insurance and for the termination of the contract;
- b) authorises the Solicitor to the Authority to sign the Project Agreement;
- c) in order to facilitate the Project Agreement, agrees to enter into the Share Purchase Agreement, and all associated ancillary documents, to dispose of its shareholding in Greater Manchester Waste Limited (GMWL), to Viridor Waste Management Limited, for £1 as envisaged by the Invitation to Tender; and that the Solicitor to the Authority be authorised to sign the Share Purchase Agreement.
- d) notes the existence within the Project Agreement:-
 - i. the Lease and Lease Back of sites (as described in the report to

the Authority meeting of 4 April 2008) in the Authority's current ownership to VL to deliver the contract. At the end of the PFI contract term, the assets revert back to the Authority, maintained and fit for purpose, save the thermal power station to be constructed at Runcorn to which the Authority will have rights of access for disposal of waste under a Residual Value Contract;

ii. an agreement with TPS Co.– “the Residual Value Contract” the object of which is to entitle the Authority to provide Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) to TPS Co. under prices and other terms and conditions fixed now for a period of 15 years, following expiry of the Project Agreement or to come into effect upon early termination under certain circumstances described in the Project Agreement:

iii. the Energy from Waste (EfW) Site Head Lease with Ineos Chlor:

iv. the EfW Site Underleases with TPS Co.

Further, the Authority authorises the Solicitor to the Authority to sign the various leases and underleases required in connection with the Project and which were set out in the report to the Authority meeting on 4 April 2008;

e) agrees to enter into the Collateral Warranties, Novation of the Landfill Contracts, Financiers' Direct Agreements and Agreement and Guarantee in respect of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund, a Deed of Confirmation in respect of the LAWDC Pension Scheme and any other contractual documents, either related to those set out in this report and the report to the Authority meeting of 4 April 2008, and to any other document or transaction required in relation to the Project;

f) i. agrees to authorise the Clerk and the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority to agree the final price and funding package based upon the core funding solution set out in paragraph 2.6 above, in order to achieve the earliest possible financial close;

ii. agrees that in the event of any of the sources of funding identified in paragraph 2.6 being unavailable in time for an early financial close, the Clerk and Treasurer and Deputy Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority, be authorised to access further funds through the Prudential Borrowing route, up to a maximum limit of £130m.

g) agrees that the Clerk and Treasurer and Deputy Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority be authorised, to agree all outstanding issues in relation to pensions.

h) Agrees that the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority be authorised, to enter into further Advance Works Contracts in order to maintain price and programme.

The meeting opened at 10.02 am and closed at 11.20 am

**GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY
AUTHORITY MEETING - FRIDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2008**

Present: Councillor Swannick (in the Chair)
Councillors Young, Akram, Alexander, Barrow, Burgoyne,
Coupe, Darvesh, Dillon, Fisher, Gordon, Kerslake,
Mann, Murphy, Piddington, Shaw and Wright
Officers Clerk to the Authority, Treasurer and Deputy
Clerk to the Authority, Executive Director,
Director of Contract Services, Director of
Procurement, Director of Resources and Director
of Strategy and Communication

Apologies: Councillors Bigg, Molyneux, Talbot and Wareing
Officers None

M77 Urgent Business, if any, introduced by the Chair
There was no urgent business to consider.

The Chair explained that it was his sad duty to inform Members of the recent death of Councillor Margaret Oldham, who had served on the Authority from 1997 to 2007. Councillor Oldham was an active Member on Authority projects that were coming near to close and she would be truly missed. Details of the funeral were circulated to Members and it was noted that representatives from the Authority would be attending the funeral.

M78 To receive Declarations of Interest in any contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting

Councillor Swannick declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 80, Financial Support for the Community Waste Network (NWCWN) – Progress report, by virtue of his partner being Chair of the Community Recycling Network Board.

M79 To approve the minutes of the Special meeting held on 21st November 2008
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2008 were confirmed as an accurate record.

M80 Financial Support for the Community Waste Network (NWCWN) - Progress Report

Councillor Swannick declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item, by virtue of his partner being Chair of the Community Waste Network Board and withdrew from the meeting. Councillor Young, Vice-Chair of the Authority took over the role of Chair for the item.

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Strategy and Communications which provided a further monitoring report, as requested by the Authority on 24th October 2008, which highlighted the targets for the North West Community Waste Network for 2008/09.

RESOLVED: That the Authority

a) notes the progress report and programme of work.

M81 Financial Support for Envirolink – Progress Report

Councillor Swannick returned to the meeting and to the role of Chair.

Members considered the report of the Director of Strategy and Communications which, as requested by the Authority on 24th October 2008, provided a further monitoring report which detailed the work that Envirolink had completed and the

programme of work that they would be carrying out through 2008/09.

Members raised concerns that whilst the report was helpful to enable the Authority to see the benefits of the work Envirolink were undertaking, it also highlighted the fact that the Authority was paying the majority of the share and requested that prior to consideration of further funding, an explanation be provided to why other JWDA's were not paying their pro-rotta contribution as previously agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Authority

a) notes the progress report and programme of work.

M82 Delegated Decisions taken since 24th October 2008

RESOLVED: That the Authority notes the delegated decisions taken since the last Authority meeting on 24th October 2008.

M83 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting at this juncture for the following business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respectively indicated paragraph 3 and that it would not be, on balance, in the public interest to disclose the information to the public because disclosure would be likely to breach the reasonable requirements of companies to commercial confidentiality at this stage of the procurement process.

M84 PFI Procurement Update

Consideration was given to the Joint Officers' report and the detailed presentation which provided Members with

- a brief update on progress since the 21st November 2008 Special Authority meeting; and
- an outline of arrangements which are ready to be put into effect to manage and monitor the contract from its inception; and
- options, at a high level, which may need to be further developed about a way forward, if the Authority was unable to conclude the current PFI contract negotiations with the Preferred Bidder.

A question and answers session followed which provided Members with further clarity regarding the issues outlined below:-

- Refinancing
- Prudential Borrowing
- Due-diligence
- Construction Programme in relation to the CHP facility
- Markets for RDF

The Chair explained that the minutes of last Authority meeting on 21st November 2008 recorded that the Chair would consult with key stakeholders regarding the Authority's funding strategy. The Authority agreed that through the discussions that had taken place at the meeting and wider discussions with District Treasurers, the Chair's commitment for further consultation had been fulfilled. It was further agreed that no further consultation would take place so long as it remained around 10% of the figure outlined within the report.

RESOLVED: That the Authority

a) notes the continuing adequacy of recommendations agreed at the 21st November 2008 Special Authority meeting;

b) notes both the arrangements to operate the PFI contract from the point when it is concluded and other matters contained in the report; and

c) agrees that a Special Authority meeting be held at 11.00am on Friday 19th December 2008 to receive a report on the progress of the PFI procurement.

M85 Budget & Levy Prospects 2009/10 & Subsequent Years

Consideration was given to the report of the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk which provided Members with a further brief summary of the budget prospects for GMWDA for 2009/10 and of the process being followed to ensure that robust figures were made available prior to the Levy being set by 14th February 2009. The report also described the requirement to determine the process for the adjustment to be made (refund to Districts) to the 2008/09 Levy and requested that a Special Meeting be held on the 13th February 2009 to agree the 2009/10 Budget and Levy. Resolved: That the Authority

- a) notes the current budget projection;
- b) notes the intention to operate a virtual smoothed Levy and running balance as described at paragraphs 3.6 - 3.8 within the report;
- c) confirms its agreement to the proposed arrangements for scrutiny;
- d) agrees to hold a Special Purposes Committee meeting of the Authority at 11.00 a.m. on the 13th February 2009.

M86 PFI Procurement - Advisors' Costs

The Director of Procurement withdrew from the meeting.

The Authority considered the Joint Officers' report, as requested by the Authority on 24th October 2008, which responded to the request for Members to receive an Adviser Cost monitoring report, along with a projected outturn position assuming a mid-December financial close.

In response to a question raised regarding whether the Authority would have the appropriate expertise upon commencement of the contract, it was explained that the Authority restructured 12 months ago in order to have the appropriate staff and knowledge to meet the future needs of the Authority.

The Chair expressed that the Authority had a 1st rate procurement team in order to obtain a 1st rate solution and explained that the knowledge the Advisors had obtained by the development of a complex solution would provide them with valuable experience moving forward into new projects.

RESOLVED: That the Authority notes the report.

The Solicitor to the Authority reminded Members that confidentially was still of the upmost important and that they were still bound by the Insider Trading declaration, due to the commercially sensitive information contained within the agenda and throughout the meeting.

The Chair explained that Jean Minton, the Executive Director's personal secretary had retired from the Authority yesterday and wished to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the Authority.

The meeting opened at 11.05am and closed at 1.00pm.

National Park Authority Meeting

Date: 3 October 2008

Venue: Aldern House Baslow Road Bakewell Derbyshire

Chair: Mr N Balaria

Present: Mrs A Ashe, Clr T Bagshaw, Miss P Beswick, Clr Mrs J Bevan, Ms P Coleman, Clr Mrs T Critchlow, Prof J Herbert, Clr A Marchington, Clr C McLaren, Mr G Nickolds, Mr C Pennell, Mr R Priestley, Mrs S Prince Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe, Mr L Rix, Mrs L C Roberts, Clr Mrs S Roberts, Clr Mrs J A Twigg, Clr R Wilkinson, Clr Mrs B J Wilson.

Apologies for absence:

Mr C J Howell, Mr C Carr, Clr A Favell, Clr Mrs H M Gaddum, Mrs K Potter, Clr Mrs D Ward, Clr Mrs D Wilde.

69/08 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed Mrs Lesley Roberts a parish member who had been appointed to the Authority by the Secretary of State after election by the parishes.

The ANPA conference in the Lake District had been very successful with some useful side meetings. Meetings had been held with the Board of Natural England as well as a meeting with the Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, the Secretary of State for the Environment and Jonathan Shaw MP the Environment Minister.

He had attended the Europarc Conference in Romania which had concentrated on sharing experiences in the management of protected landscapes in Europe.

Phil Hope MP, the Minister for the East Midlands, had recently visited the National Park. Meetings were held with the Local Government Minister, John Heeley MP and also the shadow cabinet of the Cheshire East Council where regional issues were discussed. Arrangements are being made for the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council to meet with the Authority Chair and Chief Executive.

Consultation workshops were being held around the National Park on the Local Development Framework and the Landscape Strategy. Planning surgeries will also be held in October.

Community visits were being held. The first one in Hartington had provided an opportunity to meet community representative to discuss matters of local concern. Other future meetings had been arranged with the Chair and Chief Executive of EMDA; a visit by the English Heritage Commissioners; a meeting with the Chief Executive of the RSPB and a meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive of Natural England.

70/08 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 27 June 2008 and 12 September 2008, amended as below, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

27th June 2008: Add "Mrs A Ashe" to the list of Members present at the meeting. Delete "Mrs A Ashe" from the list of Apologies for absence.

12 September 2008: Add "Mrs S Prince" to the list of Apologies for absence.

71/08 MATTERS ARISING

MINUTE 68/08 AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – CHESHIRE COUNCILS (A.11/EWJ/JBD)

The Chief Executive reported that a letter had been sent to the Minister informing him of the Authority's view.

72/08 7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item Nos 8 & 9 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Paragraph 3 "Information relating to the financial affairs of the Authority" and Paragraph 5 "Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings".

Part B

73/08 8. EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt minutes of the meetings held on 27 June 2008, amended as below, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Add "Mrs A Ashe" to the list of Members present at the meeting. Delete "Mrs A Ashe" from the list of Apologies for absence.

58/01 10.1 QUARRYING ISSUES AT LONGSTONE EDGE (MIN.2382/JJL)

In the third paragraph delete the word "advised".

At the end of the last paragraph add the words "Members also sought clarification and explanation of restoration issues."

STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

Summary

74/08 9. 1 QUARRYING ISSUES AT LONGSTONE EDGE (MIN.2382/JJL)

The meeting considered a report on the present position to find a permanent solution to the concerns raised by the 1952 planning permission for mineral extraction at Longstone Edge.

The decision of the Meeting is recorded in the PART B Exempt Minutes relating to this item.

Part A The meeting re-opened to the public.

The Chair proposed that Item 11.1 be considered next as there were members of the public waiting to speak on the item or listen to the debate.

OPERATIONS

75/08 11.1 REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY TO MANAGE RECREATIONAL VEHICULAR USE OF UNSURFACED HIGHWAYS AND OFF ROAD USE IN THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK (A.7622/MJR)

This report reviewed the progress of actions under the Peak District National Park Authority's strategy to manage recreational vehicular use of unsurfaced highways and address off road use in the National Park.

Chris Furness addressed the meeting on behalf of Bradwell, Abney, Brough and Shatton Parish Councils under the Public Participation Scheme. He referred to conflicting statements in the Policy and Procedures about the circumstances when the Authority would consider making Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).

Officers explained that the Authority reserved the right to make TROs as a last resort within the Defra framework.

RESOLVED

1. That progress on the strategy to manage recreational vehicular use of unsurfaced highways and off-road use in the Peak District National Park, as summarised in this report, be noted.

2. That officers continue to develop work programmes based on the strategy with relevant partner organisations.

The meeting adjourned at 1.00 pm and reconvened at 1.40pm.

Chair: Mr N Bajaria

Present: Mrs A Ashe, Clr T Bagshaw, Miss P Beswick, Clr Mrs J Bevan, Ms P Coleman, Clr Mrs T Critchlow, Prof J Herbert, Mr G Nickolds, Mr C Pennell, Mr R Priestley, Mrs S Prince, Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe, Mrs L C Roberts, Clr Mrs S Roberts, Clr Mrs J A Twigg, Clr R Wilkinson.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

76/08 10.1 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK, REFINED OPTIONS STAGE (A.6101/AG/BJT)

The meeting was requested to authorise officers to run a programme of consultation on Refined Options proposals as the next stage in the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF); and to formalise current milestones agreed with the Plans Review Task Team (PRTT) for the LDF programme into a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for submission to Government Office East Midlands (GOEM).

The Chief Executive gave assurances that the revised Local Development Scheme, even if minor changes were proposed, will be submitted to an Authority meeting for approval after October 2009 before being submitted to the Secretary of State.

If Members wanted to propose an ideal model for Member involvement in the process this will be considered. Members were asked to provide the Chief Executive with ideas.

Members were informed that a workshop on the Local Development Framework had been arranged for 24th October 2008

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed process of consultation on Refined Options proposals as the next stage in the preparation of the LDF Core Strategy be agreed.
2. That the current milestones for the Local Development Framework programme as proposed by the LDF Project Board and supported by the Plans Review Task Team be agreed and that authority be delegated to the Plans Review Task Team to approve a revised Local Development Scheme being prepared by officers for submission to Government Office for the East Midlands.

77/08 10.2 CONSULTATION RESPONSE FOR GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN: REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (RSS) 8 (PTA/A.61442)

The meeting was requested to agree a response to a consultation by the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) on proposed changes to the East Midlands Regional Plan, following its consideration of the Panel Report from the 2007 Examination in Public. The response was in line with the Authority's position on spatial and development matters as approved in the earlier response to the Draft Regional Plan (Authority Meeting December 2006 – Min98/06). Any further matters arising will be dealt with by officers in accordance with standing orders.

It was suggested that response should include references to conservation areas in paragraph 5 and open market housing in paragraph 12.

RESOLVED:

1. That the response, as set out in Annex 1 to the report, as amended above, seeking further changes to the proposed RSS8 to improve the context it provides for spatial planning in the Peak District National Park be agreed.
2. That a personal letter be sent to the Director of the Government Office for the East Midlands to highlight the importance of achieving the best

possible wording for a Regional Plan that will enable the Authority to maintain its contribution to regional and national spatial priorities in a distinctive manner.

CORPORATE RESOURCES

78/08 12.1 CONSULTATION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS TO ENGLISH NATIONAL PARK AND BROADS AUTHORITY (A.1114/JDB/EWJ)

The meeting considered the Authority's response to a consultation paper from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on the principle of direct elections to National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority.

The Chief Executive tabled a supplementary report that had been prepared following a Member workshop on the proposal where the majority of Members were not convinced of the value of replacing any category of membership with direct elections. The report set out options for the Authority's response.

Following a debate the meeting agreed the following views on the consultation paper.

1. That direct elections to appoint members who are currently appointed by the Secretary of State are:

- unwelcome in principle because the national interest must be properly reflected by people of expertise and experience in the make up of National Park Authorities.

- impractical because it would be inordinately expensive and politically unwelcome to hold a national election.

2. That direct elections to appoint members currently appointed by councils are:

- unwelcome because it would break the link with councils with whom NPAs work closely and need to work increasingly closely with.

- impractical because it would duplicate the election of members already elected by popular vote to councils and because it would be impossible to decide what boundaries would apply to the constituency of electors.

3. That direct elections to appoint members who are currently appointed by ballot of parish councils are:

- unwelcome because it would break the link with parish councils and meetings with whom NPAs work closely and need to work increasingly closely with.

- impractical because it would be a more expensive way of giving the resident communities the opportunity to appoint people currently elected to parish councils and then by parishes to the National Park Authority.

4. That the National Park Authority is committed to working with communities and with partners to encourage full participation in their activities by all sectors of the community. By community, we mean residents, visitors, people who work in the National Park and people whose lives are affected by our decisions. We want to reach out to harder to reach groups, such as younger people, and conduct our business in an open and transparent way. We believe that there are many ways of strengthening the relationship between the Authority and these communities that would be a priority over the costs of introducing direct elections.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Authority's response to the questions raised in the consultation paper, reflecting the views above, be sent to Defra with the precise details delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Authority.

2. That a press release be issued that alerts the public who live in or who have an interest in the National Park to both the Authority's position and

also the opportunity for individuals to respond directly to the Defra consultation.

79/08 12.2 MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE ROLES AND TASK TEAMS (A111/RMM)

This report reviewed the Member Representative roles and proposed appointments for the next year. It was proposed that 10 of the Member Representatives be appointed for each of the National Park Management Plan outcomes. It also reviewed the current Task Teams and monitoring groups and proposed that they be continued for a further year. All the proposals were summarised in Annex 1 to the report. The Director of Corporate Resources agreed that the Budget Monitoring meeting was not a Task Team in the sense of the word and was withdrawn from the list.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Members Representative roles be agreed for the topics listed below for a period up to the Authority meeting in October 2009 and that the Members shown be appointed to those roles.

Biodiversity Mr C J Bowell

Cultural Heritage (Historic Environment) Miss P Beswick

Natural Beauty (Landscapes) Mr C Pennell

Climate Change and Natural Resources Mrs A Ashe

Mineral Extraction Clr Mrs H M Gaddum

(Planning Committee Chair)

and Narendra Bajaria (Chair of the Authority)

Traffic, travel and accessibility Clr Mrs J Bevan

Recreation Mr G D Nickolds

Tourism Mr L Rix

Understanding the National Park Prof J Herbert

People and Communities Mrs L C Roberts

Economy Mrs S Prince

Asset Management Mr L Rix

Transformational Government Ms P Coleman

Member Learning and Development Ms P Coleman

2. That the following Task Teams continue for a further year and that the Members shown be appointed to those Task Teams.

a) Plans Review Task Team:

Chair of the Authority Mr N Bajaria

Deputy Chair of the Authority Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe

Chair & Vice Chair of Planning

Committee

Clr Mrs H M Gaddum

Mrs A Ashe

6 other Members:

Councillors (2) Clr Mrs J Bevan

Clr Mrs T Critchlow

Secretary of State (2) Miss P Beswick

Mr C Pennell

Parish (2) Ms P Coleman

Prof J Herbert

b) Losehill Hall Business Strategy Monitoring Group:

Clr Mrs H M Gaddum

Prof J Herbert

Mr C Pennell

Mr L Rix

3. That the Member Representative and Task Team and roles above be

approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances.

80/08 12 .3 MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE ANNUAL RETURN (A.111/EWJ)

The meeting considered the annual return of Members' attendance at Authority and Committee meetings and Training and Development events for 2007/08.

RESOLVED:

That the annual return of Members' attendance for 2007/08 be noted.

81/08 13. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be received:

Planning Committee 13th June, 11 July & 15th August 2008

Services Committee 23rd May & 6th June 2008

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm

Oldham Partnership Steering Group Meeting
Held at Civic Centre, Oldham
on 13th November 2008

Members	Bill Edwards Zuber Ahmed James Allen Mohammed Alyas Mohammed Azam Cllr Ian Barker Jon Bloor Cllr Mike Buckley Cllr Olwen Chadderton John Crompton Kevin Dawson Clare Fish Marie Gillot Janet Gipson Stuart Goodwin Roger Gould Alan Higgins Alan Lee David McGealy Lihanne Nelson Pauline Richardson Cllr Alan Roughley John Tummon	Chair and Environment Partnership Oldham Primary Care Trust Coldhurst Area Committee Werneth Area Committee Voluntary & Community Sector Oldham MBC Local Learning Partnership Oldham MBC Oldham MBC Failsworth Area Committee East Oldham Area Committee Health & Social Care Partnership Jobcentre Plus Hollinwood Area Committee Greater Manchester Police Faith Sector – Churches Together Oldham Primary Care Trust Oldham MBC – Oldham Children’s Trust Voluntary & Community Sector Oldham Children’s Trust Chadderton Area Committee Oldham MBC Oldham Race Equality Partnership	
Observers	Mark Bolger Paula Boshell John Eley Ian Flanagan Smith Neil Gibson Ian Kendall Karen McCrackle Mary Murphy Michelle Renshaw Anne Ryans Peter Stringer	Oldham MBC - Communities Voluntary, Community & Faith Partnership Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham MBC – Strategy & Resource Oldham Community Leisure Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham Partnership Support Team (minute-taker) Oldham MBC - Finance Oldham MBC - Finance	Oldham Oldham Oldham
Members Apologies	Martin Gleeson Cllr E Hulme Jean Maxwell Moira Percy Jennet Peters	Oldham Trades Union Council Oldham MBC Royton and Shaw Area Committee Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Government Office North West	

The Chair welcomed the new members to the meeting.

35/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

36/08 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Oldham Partnership Steering Group 14th August 2008

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

24/08 FREQUENCY OF OLDHAM PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP MEETINGS

Issues raised:

1. There are now 6 bi-monthly meetings per year. The Quarterly Performance update will be presented at the nearest meeting once data has been collated.
2. Car Parking passes are now available for the Steering Group meetings. These can not be issued on block. Members who are attending the meetings need to let the Support Team know in advance that they require a pass allowing enough time for these to be posted out prior to the meeting.
3. An update was given re the concern raised by Philip Gaul in the minutes at the last meeting re employees of the Council being excluded from participating in Area Committees. Mary Murphy informed the meeting that the change came about due to Area Committee's being constituted bodies which restricts officers to sit on these committee's.
4. There is now a Chairs blog on the internet. This is a two way communication. Issues raised re abbreviations will also be included on the internet giving a full glossary of meanings. Further details can be obtained from Karen McCrackle, Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator, Oldham Partnership Support Team (karen.mccrackle@oldhampartnership.org.uk)

27/08 GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT – LSP ENGAGEMENT

The Chair gave a reminder to the members to use their vote.

29/08 RESEARCH DELIVERY PLAN

Ian gave an update on the development of the Oldham Partnership Strategic Research Working Group's (OPSRWG) Delivery Plan. Since the Delivery Plan was approved on 14 August some further work has been done to refine the budget allocations. The contingency budget of £9,575 has now been allocated to a range of activities. The Place Survey has also cost approximately £5,000 less than anticipated which has meant it is possible to allocate a greater amount to the planned research project on low income, poverty and worklessness (the OPSRWG group felt this would add considerable value).

Ian confirmed the following revised budget allocations:

Two research engagement events	£4,000
OldhamInfo costs	£33,000
Place Survey	£25,000
Active People Survey sample boost change)	£3,425 (no
Oldham in Profile	£6,000
Research project on low income/poverty/worklessness	£38,000

The Steering Group formally approved the revisions to the Delivery Plan.

Regarding the project to be commissioned on the theme of low income, poverty and worklessness, Ian explained that the work will be commissioned asap in this financial year but the work may not be complete until post-March 2009. This means it may be necessary to finance all or part of this project using the group's budget for 2009/10 (depending on whether or not it will be possible to carry forward some of the budget from 2009/09). Ian therefore asked the Steering Group whether the OPSRWG can proceed to commission the work on the understanding that it may need to be financed in 2009/10, and also requested pre-approval to include this item of work in the 2009/10 Delivery Plan, should all or part of the work need to be commissioned in 2009/10. The Steering Group agreed that the OPSRWG should continue to commission the project on the above understanding and confirmed that it gives pre-approval that it would support the decision to carry out the project in 2009/10 should this be required (which assumes that an Area Based Grant allocation to strategic research will continue in 2009/10).

Ian gave details of a Research event he was holding on the 18th November. **Action:** Ian to circulate invitation to the Steering group.

30/08 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

John Eley provided an update. The work has now been approved and the proposal is to undertake the EIA in 3 phases:

Phase One

Original screening activity to be carried out by Harji Patel, with support from commissioning unit staff and technical advice from Catherine Newton. Activity to commence middle of November 08 and aim to complete by end of December 08. Equalities officers from partner organisations to be fully involved. Will focus upon the current LAA.

Phase Two

To include any outcomes of riep funded pilots in Sefton and Cumbria, which are seeking to disaggregate National Indicators scheduled to be available early in the new year. Move to full EIA of identified areas of weakness. Harji Patel to lead, Catherine Newton to offer technical support. To take place early in the New Year with a March 31st end date. Equalities officers from partner organisations to be fully involved.

Phase Three

To carry out an equality impact assessment on the new refreshed LAA. To take place early in the new year with a March 31st 2009 end date. Harji Patel to lead on this and the impact assessment itself to be carried out by suitably qualified personnel from within LAA partner organisations.

John expressed the consensus was that this should be resourced as a borough and requested Partner Organisations and individuals get involved.

Action: John Eley to email summary to Steering group members.

Volunteers were requested to assist with the process. The following volunteered:

James Allen, representative for Coldhurst Area Committee; Janet Gipson, representative for Hollinwood Area Committee; Pauline Richardson, representative for Chadderton Area Committee

John Tummon sought clarification that the EIA would be paid for by the Partnership and carried out by Oldham MBC officers with volunteers to oversee. John Eley confirmed this would be the process.

33/08 MANCHESTER'S MULTI AREA AGREEMENT (MAA)

Cllr Roughley is on the Scrutiny Panel and gave a brief update.

John Crompton sought clarification on who attended the MAA event from the Steering Group. The Oldham Partnership Support Team did not organise this event so were unable to provide the information at the meeting. **Action:** The Support Team will contact the organisers to try and find out who attended from the Steering group.

Oldham Partnership Executive Group 18th September 2008

34/08 LAA REWARD GRANT

John Eley updated the meeting that Oldham were potentially planning on using the grant monies on one or two big transformational items. The monies will not be received until 2010/11.

35/08 PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Clarification was sought on the difference between this group and the Oldham Partnership Executive Group. John Eley explained that this group comprises the major public sector budget holding agencies which now need to meet regularly to drive the delivery of the Community Strategy and LAA.

Action: Bill Edwards to do a blog on the internet on this group at a later date.

Action: It was agreed this item would be brought to a future meeting.

38/08 LSP ELECTED MEMBER PROTOCOL

John Eley explained this was an agreement that included the number of Elected Members who would sit on various groups including working groups.

John Tummon requested that more detail of what was included in each item be incorporated in the minutes.

End of Matters Arising

37/08 LAA UPDATE: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BLOCK

An update on the Children & Young People Block within the Local Area Agreement

Alan Lee, Service Director - Children Young People and Families Directorate presented the report (please refer).

The report informed the Steering Group of progress in relation to establishing a Children's Trust in Oldham in addition to the development and delivery of the Children and Young People Block of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The report covered: Revised Governance Arrangements; LAA Performance 2007-8; Commissioning 2007-2008; Drivers and Priorities 2008-2011; Funding and Commissioning 2008-2009.

A discussion highlighted the following:

- It was requested that the RAG rating be made clearer in reports especially as not everyone has colour copies. In future the word Red, Amber or Green will be written within the colour codes to ensure it is clear even in black and white copies.
- Re: Page 11 of the report section: 'Make a Positive Contribution' discussion and concern was raised re the closure of Youth Centre's. This was echoed by a number of Area Committee Representatives.

Alan Lee responded to the concerns: The budget position is very challenging and services have had to be examined to reduce spend. Much of this has been looking at back office and properties held. The commitment remains to deliver in frontline services to the Young, the approach to rationalise is to look at improving provisions and having better facilities at fewer locations.

Further discussion highlighted concern that the needs for Youth Services are different in different communities within the borough and central locations may not be suitable for everyone.

John Crompton representative for Failsworth Area Committee highlighted that the Young people in his area had expressed they would like to meet in their own area with their own friends.

Other concerns raised included whether the new facilities would be open and ready for use before the existing one's were closed.

- Cllr Buckley expressed that Councillors and trying to make decisions on cuts and this committee is a great forum to express guidance and ideas.

Action: In view of the concerns from a number of representatives at the meeting it was decided that a separate session with Alan Lee would be arranged on the area of Youth Provision and views fed back into the process.

- Re. Page 7 Section 3.4 of the report. John Tummon raised his concerns that the ethnic breakdown within the LAA Indicators is not given within reports or in the LAA and if it was it would highlight further concerns.

Alan Lee responded to the concern: The report had a clear focus which did not take the one mentioned above, however, there is no reason at all why this information won't be provided.

John Eley confirmed that the Equality Impact Assessment would review such issues.

38/08 JSNA (JOINT SERVICE NEEDS ASSESSMENT)

A presentation presenting the findings to the Oldham Partnership Steering Group.

Alan Higgins, Director of Public Health and Clare Fish, Service Director, Adult & Community Services gave a presentation (please refer).

The purpose of the JSNA is to: Identify the current and future health and well-being needs of the local population; To inform priorities and targets set by LAA's; To inform commissioning priorities to improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

The full report and a summary of the JSNA is on the OldhamInfo website. Please give feedback.

A discussion highlighted the following:

- Cllr Roughley expressed the need for the information to be translated into understandable actions for the panels to be able to assist i.e. quality of life can be improved by some of the following.
- Engaging and Commissioning are significant problems which need to be addressed on a larger scale to make an impact.

It was expressed by the group that this is an area which should be considered during the review of the Council Budget. Health is a consequence of everything else which is done and should be incorporated in budget making.

- Communication needs to be improved to ensure residents are aware of what is being done, how they can help themselves etc.
- Cllr Chadderton sought clarification re. what is being done to address under age drinking.

Alan Higgins responded: With increased alcohol problems and the increase in people at hospital with alcohol related injuries this has been given priority status. It has been highlighted that this is a wider issue which the whole partnership needs to address.

39/08

SCS/LAA

To provide an opportunity to discuss the document in more detail as requested at the last Oldham Partnership Steering Group meeting.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

40/08 QUARTER 2 – PERFORMANCE UPDATE

To provide an overview on Performance for Quarter 2.

This item was deferred to the next meeting and would be given priority on the agenda.

41/08 OCLL CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY

To provide an update to the Oldham Partnership Steering Group

Ian Kendall, Oldham Community Leisure gave a presentation (please refer).

The presentation covered ‘the expected outcomes from sport and culture’.

A discussion highlighted the following:

- Clarification was sought as to how OCLL report into the Oldham Partnership.
OCLL report in via the Council and they also have strong links with the health block.
Action: Clare Fish to look at OCLL being included in the Health & Well-Being Partnership to provide a much clearer link.
- James Allen representative for Coldhurst Area Committee expressed concern and disappointment that disability facilities had not been mentioned including facilities to enable disabled people to be able to get out and about.

Ian Kendall responded informing the group that access had been reviewed at existing buildings and that new facilities provide for people with disabilities.

- John Tummon asked what had been considered re. the 2012 olympics and paraolympics in encouraging people to get involved and improve health and fitness awareness in the borough inspiring people to consider their lifestyles.

Ian Kendall responded informing the group that by 2012 plans should be in place for all Oldham's leisure facilities to be refurbished.

42/08

COMPACT

To inform the Oldham Partnership Steering Group on progress of the review regarding the local Compact and seek endorsement for the consultation and development process.

This was deferred until the next meeting.

43/08 PRIORITY PROGRAMME FUNDING TO COMMISSIONING THROUGH A STRONG COMMUNITIES FUND

To provide an update to the Oldham Partnership Steering Group

Mary Murphy, Communities Unit Manager presented the report (please refer).

The report was approved by the Oldham Partnership Executive at its meeting on the 18th September 2008. The Voluntary and Community Sector expressed concerns and requested that the report be brought to the Steering Group meeting for further discussion. The report set out proposals for the development of a more co-ordinated approach across the Oldham Partnership for work to build strong communities.

Mary Murphy included the following detail in her presentation:

Funding may be reduced to £880,000. For groups that aren't commissioned funding will be given for four months to assist with the transition or wind down.

Two task groups have been set up and will meet for the first time next Monday to look at what needs commissioning and a Needs Assessment will be undertaken which starts next week.

Overview & Scrutiny have task and finish group and will invite recipients of the funding to meet and input into consultation.

Mary provided the following timetable:

- Before Christmas – Needs Analysis around themes of Infrastructure, Community Development and Legal and Advice Services.
- Risk assessment of change to groups who may no longer be funded.
- Early New Year – decide commissioning framework, invite expressions of interest
- April – new commissions start

A discussion raised the following:

- Clarification was sought on how the groups had been put together and who sat on them.

Mark Bolger responded: The aim was to get representation from those not currently receiving funding.

- Clarification was sought as to whether the report had gone to the Voluntary, Community and Faith Partnership (VCFP).

The report had gone to the Community Cohesion Advisory Group (CCAG) which the VCFP are part of.

- Paula Boshell asked for clarification on the status of the report.

Mary Murphy responded: The report has been approved by the Oldham Partnership Executive Group at their meeting held on the 18th September 2008.

The Consultation Process is still ongoing and the Overview & Scrutiny meeting is on Monday.

Paula Boshell expressed her concern that this has been the first opportunity to have a dialogue and would not class it as meaningful consultation.

- Clare Fish commented that the Health & Well-Being Partnership had concerns about the content of the report and it had not had the opportunity to have input.
- Concern was raised re Ethnic Minority groups not having met for sometime and as such how do these groups get represented at the meetings making the decisions.
- John Tummon raised a couple of concerns. Firstly, equality does not seem to figure in the process and it isn't specified that it will be looked at. Equality is one of the six Community Cohesion principles and some assurance is needed that this will be included.

Secondly, there's concern that by moving to Area Based Grant (ABG) numerous Voluntary Organisations will not manage past April simply because of the need to meet core costs i.e. employment of a manager.

Also, the Voluntary and Community Sector need to feel secure about the process than they do at present especially with the absence of feeling that they have been consulted on the process.

John Tummon also had concerns that the same team of officers are going to undertake the Equality Impact Assessment and feels real consultation will not be undertaken. His view is that consultation should have been carried out prior to the Oldham Partnership Executive Group agreeing the report and he suggested that the process is deferred for 12months to allow full consultation.

John Eley responded: There is no reason why a formal consultation cannot be undertaken with both the VCFP and the H&WB board.

- Paula Boshell raised concern re. Volunteers who had given their time and would not find out until March what the outcome was. Paula expressed that this did not allow time for redundancy of staff, there are lots of questions unanswered and felt the timescale needed to be extended to allow for this.

Mark Bolger responded: A letter had been sent to those affected by the Priority Programme Funding.

Paula Boshell had a copy of the letter and confirmed a response had been sent back but no reply had been received to answer the queries within it.

John Eley informed the group that a meeting had been organised with Paula and others to discuss some of these issues further.

The Chair summarised that there was a very strong indication that further discussion was needed and that it was important that members input into the meetings already arranged raising their concerns. The Steering group is a policy making group not a decision making group.

- Clarification was sought re. action being taken against trustees leading to personal costs being incurred and whether the Local Strategic Partnership would take responsibility for costs incurred rather than trustees.

Mary Murphy responded: The Council nor the Local Strategic Partnership would be responsible. Those organisations which received funding should have been incorporated as Limited by Guarantee, Voluntary Action Oldham should have been advising them of this.

John Eley distributed a form ' More arts funding for Oldham'. He expressed the importance of people in the borough completing these if they have taken part in any events within the borough. The forms will have an impact on the borough receiving £600,000. Partners were asked to circulate and encourage completion from those who had taken part in the Arts within the borough.

Action: John Eley to email questionnaire with a briefing to partners.

Dave McGealy asked if clarification could be given on whether Radio was seen as part of the Arts. **Action:** John Eley to liaise as necessary and respond.

44/08 2009/10 OLDHAM COUNCIL BUDGET

<i>To provide an update to the Oldham Partnership Steering Group</i>
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Anne Ryans, Assistant Director - Finance gave a presentation supported by Peter Stringer SSDP Project Manager (please refer)

The purpose of the presentation was to present the proposals around Oldham Council's budget for 2009/10. As part of the papers copies of 2 reports presented to Cabinet had already been circulated. This gave an opportunity to obtain views and give the group chance to feedback into the process.

A discussion highlighted the following:

- John Tummon asked if the Priority Programme Funding was the 2nd largest cut in the budget as seemed to be the case in the reports circulated.

The figures would need to be looked at in detail to be able to confirm this.

- Clarification was sought on what had made the budget deficit worse than expected.

Anne Ryans responded: Savings had not materialised as expected. There was an assumption that the size of premises portfolio would be reduced. This has been effected by the current economic situation.

- Concern was raised re the cuts in the budget for Adult Services re disabled and carers.
- Clarification was requested as to how views from the borough had been sought as it was expressed the MORI poll only went out to 800 residents which did not seem like a large enough proportion of the boroughs residents.

Peter Stringer responded: There have been a number of options available to residents to have their input. These include: a simulator exercise on the Oldham Council's website, by email, by telephone etc.

- John Eley summarised that more work on the impact of the proposals needs to be done to look at what it means for residents.

Action: The group agreed that a one item agenda meeting should be arranged to look at this prior to the decision making stage. John Eley to co-ordinate.

In the meantime any suggestions and feedback can be sent in to Peter Stringer (peter.stringer@oldham.gov.uk) who will advise members of the views received.

45/08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

46/08 DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS AT THIS STAGE.

No changes made.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Date of Next Meeting

Date: 15th January 2009

Time: 6pm

Venue: Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham

