

Present:	Councillor	Murphy (in the Chair)
	Councillors	Ali, Bellamy, Driver, Emmott, Fitzpatrick, Hewitt, Holden, Iqbal, Jones, Lancaster, Quinn, Shilton-Godwin, Smart and Young.
	Officers	Clerk to the Authority, Treasurer & Deputy Clerk, Solicitor, Director of Contract Services, Deputy Treasurer, Head of Corporate Services, Interim Programme Director (Commercial), Head of Organisational Development and Administration, and Senior Governance and Scrutiny Officer.

M76 Acknowledgement - Councillor Kieran Quinn

At the commencement of the meeting the Chair advised Members of the sad passing of Councillor Kieran Quinn, Leader of Tameside Council. The Chair highlighted that Councillor Quinn had been a strong friend to the Waste Authority and extended condolences to his family.

As a mark of respect, Members stood for a moment in silent reflection.

M77 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Brock, Cummings, Piddington and Zaman and from the Interim Programme Director (Commercial).

M78 Urgent Business, if any, introduced by the Chair

The Chair noted that with regard to Item 8 Impact of Chinese Decision to Close Markets for Plastics Recycles and Opportunities Following That Decision, there would be a presentation supporting this report which would provide an overview on the 25 year Environmental Plan.

The Chair explained that Item 12 Trade Union Presentation had been deferred to the 8 February 2018 meeting of the Authority.

With regard to Item 15 GMCA Governance and Revised Staffing Structure, it was noted that the Chair had allowed for this item to be tabled, in order for Members to be presented with the most up to date position and would now be in the form of two reports with Item 15A Report on GMCA Governance Update and Item 15B Report on GMCA Staffing Update.

M79 Declarations of Interest in any contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting

There were no declarations of interest made by any Member, in respect of any contract or agenda item.

With regard to Item 15B GMCA Staffing Update, Members noted that officers would leave the meeting during the consideration of this item.

M80 Minutes of the last meeting held on the 21st December 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Authority, held on 21 December 2017 were submitted for consideration as a correct record.

RESOLVED:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority, held on 21 December 2017, be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Jones in the list of those apologies received and to note the attendance of Daryl Hill, Defra.

M81 Public and Member Question Time

The Authority considered questions from a member of the public which sought a response on (i) the proportion of waste is sent to China and how much of this was household waste; (ii) household waste recycling and sorting; and (iii) creation of new jobs. The following response was made by the Authority:-

Question 1 What proportion of waste from Greater Manchester is sent to China?

Response 1: Around 7% of Greater Manchester's waste goes to Asia, which primarily made up of about 81% of the paper & card that our Contractor receives, however VRM (part of the Viridor Waste Management Group) is not dependant on the Chinese markets having diversified into a range of global markets. The remaining 19% of paper and card collected and primarily all other recyclates go to outlets in the UK and Europe. Please see the link to [Recycle for Greater Manchester - What happens to my waste and recycling?](#) which provides quarterly updates on where the end markets of all our recyclates.

Question 2: How much of that is household waste?

Response 2: None of Greater Manchester's household residual waste is sent to China.

Question 3: In the light of the difficulties of getting the public on board re avoidance of contamination of recyclable materials how is it proposed to offer reassurance the materials in the different bins are now being and will continue to be recycled. Disbelief is sometimes offered as a reason for careless sorting.

Response 3: The Authority is committed to collecting quality recyclates to obtain the best value of money through current end markets. To help achieve this an extensive action plan has been produced through the delivery of the Authority's Behavioural Change and Communications Strategy to reduce contamination. We agree however that it is essential to continue to get the messages about the importance of 'recycle right'.

Question 4: What scope is there for Greater Manchester to create new jobs in recycling materials?

Response 4: We believe that by creating the right conditions for a Circular Economy approach, and being an early mover, Greater Manchester could become a world leader in this field. That should then produce quality 'green jobs' for our citizens. Our wider plans being led by the Combined Authority are seeking to deliver those aspirations as part of the Green Cities initiative.

Question 5 Are there any plans to encourage businesses to reduce their plastic waste?

Response 5 Government's recently published 25 year Environment Plan sets ambitious targets to eliminate avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042. In revising the

Authority's Waste Management Strategy in 2018, the Authority (and subsequently the Greater Manchester Combined Authority) will look at ways Greater Manchester can contribute to helping the Government reach the targets set out within their Plan.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the member of public be thanked for submitting her questions; and
- 2) That the response to the questions, as set out in the preamble above, be noted.

M82 Review of the Health and Safety Action Plan 2017/18

The Director of Contract Services introduced a report which provided Members with an update on the progress made against the 2017/18 Health and Safety Action Plan, as set out at Appendix A to the report.

A Member enquired if health and safety inspections at waste facilities were undertaken with representatives from the Trade Unions in attendance. He also highlighted an incident of plastic materials affecting traffic on the M66 at Pilsworth. In response, officers noted that such inspections were undertaken with the operator. Members also noted that all vehicles leaving waste facilities were required to be fully sheeted to stop incidents of wind-blown litter. Members were encouraged to inform officers if they observed incidents where this was not the case.

RESOLVED:-

That the progress made against the 2017/18 Health and Safety Action Plan, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be noted.

M83 Review of the Free Tip Permit Scheme

The Head of Organisational Development and Administration presented a report which advised Members on the findings of a review of the Free Tip permits scheme, which is in place across Greater Manchester, and sought the endorsement of Members to the recommendation from the Task and Finish Group on how the permit scheme may be improved to reduce the potential for abuse and reduce the current burden in administering the existing scheme.

The report highlighted the existing policies in place at a number of different Waste Authorities across the country and set out proposals to:-

- a) Reduce the administration process;
- b) Ensure that the process was kept simple and can be followed consistently by all waste collection authorities;
- c) Restrict the amount of non-recyclable waste being disposed of; and
- d) Promote recycling.

Members wished to place on record their thanks to partners at Bolton Council for their assistance in helping to develop the scheme.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the actions set out in section 5 and 6 to the report, as recommended by the Task and Finish Group, be endorsed;
- 2) That the recommended expenditure as set out in section 7 to the report, be approved; and

- 3) That Members place on record their thanks to officers at Bolton Council for their support in developing this scheme.

M84 Impact of Chinese Decision to 'Close' Markets for Plastics Recyclates and Opportunities Following from That Decision

Members considered a joint report of the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk, the Director of Contract Services and the Head of Corporate Services, which advised them of the recent press coverage around recycling markets and in particular China. The report also suggested that in light of this, the Authority renews its lobbying with Central Government to ensure that opportunities from the decisions in China can be potentially used to benefit Greater Manchester.

In addition to the report, a presentation was provided which highlighted Chinese waste restrictions on imports of 24 grades of solid waste, including unsorted mixed papers and post-consumer plastics. In addition, it was noted that from 1 March 2018, loads exceeding a contamination limit of 0.5% will also be blocked. A breakdown of current recycling destinations and an overview of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan were also presented.

A discussion took place, during which Members made the following observations:-

- a) The 50% recycling target remained challenging;
- b) Continue to engage with the Local Government Association (LGA) regarding policy matters;
- c) The potential for the Authority to manage plastics from other authorities through the RVC facility in Runcorn could be explored;
- d) It was important for markets for recycling to be developed in the UK and to create green jobs for Greater Manchester;
- e) An industry wide approach was needed to ensure that packaging can be recycled.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the potential impact of changes to recycling markets, as set out in Section 4 to the report, be noted;
- 2) That the work already in train regarding improving the clarity of the recycling messages and quality, as set out in paragraph 5.2 to the report, be noted; and
- 3) That the proposed market development and lobbying activities, as set out in paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4 respectively, be agreed.

M85 Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA) - Final Agreement for Adoption

Members considered a joint report of the Treasurer and Deputy Clerk and the Director of Contract Services which set out the proposed final amendments to the Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA), which have been requested by constituent Districts to improve clarity.

The report also sought Members confirmation to adopt the final LAMA form, so that they can be formally signed by each District, prior to the budget levy being approved at the meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That it be noted that all Districts have not signed the LAMA;

- 2) That the proposed changes to the draft LAMA, as outlined in section 5 and detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and
- 3) That the final LAMA as attached at Appendix 1 to the report be agreed for signature by the Authority's constituent councils.

M86 Work Programme Report

Members considered the Authority's work programmes for the 2017/18 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

With regard to the Audit and Standards Committee, it was noted that the Annual Report was still required.

An additional meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee would be held on 28 February 2018.

RESOLVED:-

That the Authority's Work Programme for the 2017/18 Municipal Year, as attached to the report, be agreed.

M87 GMCA Merger and Governance - Governance Update

[Note: At the meeting, Members resolved to consider this item in the open section of the Agenda, as the report did not contain sensitive information. Members noted that such sensitive information was contained in the accompanying Staffing Matters Update, at item 15B.]

The Treasurer and Deputy Clerk submitted a report which updated the Authority on the progress with preparations for the merger into GMCA from 1st April 2018, and to specifically advise on the additional areas on Governance added at the 21st December meeting. Members noted that a separate report, Part B report covered the second area of staffing matters.

Members highlighted concerns that so far, there was no certainty as to the role of the Authority/Waste Committee going forward.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the progress being made to define and adopt GMCA Member Governance, as set out in section 5 to the report, be noted; and
- 2) That it be agreed for a further update report be presented to the 15th March 2017 meeting, and that that be added to the work programme.

M88 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 paragraphs 1 and 3 and that it would not be, on balance, in the public interest to disclose the information to the public because disclosure involves information relating to an individual and would be likely to breach the reasonable requirements of companies to commercial confidentiality at this stage of the procurement process.

M89 Trade Union Presentation

Members noted that this item had been withdrawn and would now be provided at the next meeting of the Authority on 8 February 2018.

RESOLVED:-

That the deferment of this item to the 8 February 2018 meeting of the Authority be noted.

M90 GM Combined Waste and Recycling (GMCWR) Shareholder Update Report

Members considered a joint report of the Directors and the Company Secretary of Greater Manchester Combined Waste and Recycling Limited (GMCWR) which presented them with an update on the work that they are carrying out to deliver the Authority's direction of achieving the winding-up of the companies and hence prevent issues that otherwise could arise at year end.

RESOLVED:-

That the progress update be noted.

M91 Contract Progress Update - Presentation

The Treasurer & Deputy Clerk and the Director of Contract Services provided a presentation which provided Members with an update on contract arrangements. The following matters were highlighted:-

- a) Interim Arrangements;
- b) Run off - contract signature;
- c) Facility and service delivery modification;
- d) GMCWR - termination, insurance and winding-up;
- e) Residual Value Contract (Runcom TPSCo) (RVC) - sign off;
- f) Reprocurement;
- g) Evaluation progress;
- h) Key contract principles; and
- i) PFI Grant – update on discussion with Defra.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the presentation be received with thanks and noted;
- 2) That Members formally record their thanks to officers for their hard work in relation to the contract matters; and
- 3) That with regard to workforce consultations, the establishment of Trade Union sub groups to ensure that all staff were represented, be supported.

M92 GMCA Merger and Governance - Staffing Update

[Note: Given the sensitivities associated with this report, officers removed themselves from the meeting room during its consideration.]

The Treasurer & Deputy Clerk presented a report that provided a progress update on how staffing and TUPE matters are being dealt with, prior to the Authority's transfer into the GMCA

on 1st April 2018. Members debated the report in detail and expressed their disappointment that matters relating to the transfer of staff had not yet been fully dealt with.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the measures being taken to ensure a smooth TUPE transfer for existing staffing, into GMCA from 1st April 2018, as set out in section 5 be noted;
- 2) That the current situation was unacceptable and require that that view be communicated to the GMCA Chief Executive;
- 3) That a further update report be presented to the 8th February 2018 Authority meeting, and that the GMCA Chief Executive be requested to attend to present the paper; and
- 4) That with regard to resolution 3 above, the report be added to the work programme for that meeting.

The meeting opened at 1.30 pm and closed at 3.55 pm

GMWDA

