

Present:	Councillor	Piddington (in the Chair)
	Councillors	Alexander, Cornes, Emmott, Fitzpatrick, Gordon, Hunt, Merrett, N Murphy, Price, Quinn, Sherrington, Shilton Godwin, Skillen and Zaman
	Officers	Treasurer & Deputy Clerk, Director of Contract Services, Solicitor to the Authority, Head of Governance, Procurement & Transparency, Deputy Treasurer and Senior Governance Officer
Apologies:	Councillors	Jones, C Murphy, Peel and Young
	Officers	Clerk to the Authority and Director of Resources & Strategy

**M17 Urgent Business, if any, introduced by the Chair**

There was no urgent business introduced by the Chair.

**M18 To receive Declarations of Interest in any contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting**

There were no declarations of interest received at the meeting.

**M19 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Authority dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015 are approved as a correct record.

In relation to M13 (Annual Treasury Management Review 2014/15) of the previous minutes dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015, the Treasurer & Deputy Clerk advised Members that the Audit & Standards Committee had no issues that they wished to refer back to the Authority post scrutiny of the Annual Treasury Management Statement.

**M20 Authority and Committee Work Programmes for the 2015/16 Municipal Year**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Governance, Procurement & Transparency (GPT) that presented the Work Programme for the Authority and its Committees for the 2015/16 Municipal Year for approval. The Work Programme was attached to the report at Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the Authority approves the Work Programmes for the 2015/16 Municipal Year, which were attached to the report at Appendix A.

**M21 Public and Member Question Time**

There were no questions received at the meeting.

A Member suggested and Officers agreed, that 'question time' should be promoted in the Members' Newsletter that was distributed by the Authority.

## **M22 Towards a Circular Economy - Lobbying Update and Next Steps**

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Treasurer & Deputy Clerk and Director of Contract Services that provided an update to the Authority on progress being made in lobbying on the European Commission's (EC) emerging proposals for Towards a Circular Economy (TCE), and sought agreement of next steps, including approval to part fund with other Joint Waste Disposal Authorities (JWDA) some further evidence gathering work, which would assist in improving the likely success from that lobbying work.

RESOLVED: That the Authority:

- a) notes the progress on lobbying to date;
- b) approves the financial contribution towards the proposed evidence gathering and JWDA lobby statement (paragraph 5.1 and Appendix A of the report); and
- c) endorses the proposed activity for the next quarter (Section 6 of the report).

## **M23 Annual Report 2014/15**

The Authority considered the joint Officers' report that provided verified performance data for the 2014/15 financial year, charted progress against the Authority's main aim 'our aim is zero waste' and recorded progress against priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan.

The Treasurer & Deputy Clerk explained that traditionally the Annual Report presented a mixture of high level and detailed data to aid transparency. It was advised that with limited resources and pressure from further austerity measures the Authority needed to be able to demonstrate the worth of 'what we do'. Therefore the style and format of this year's Annual Report had been adjusted to improve accountability, though the process was expected to continue to further evolve over coming years.

It was reported that subject to Members comments it was intended to convert the report and accompanying Appendix into a one page outward facing document (Annual Report Factsheet) for use by members of the public. It was noted that that document, together with the detailed data included within the Appendix and Annex of the report would be published on the website by the end of September 2015.

RESOLVED: That the Authority:

- a) endorses the proposed Annual Report 2014/15, including the suitability of its revised format; and
- b) delegates to the Treasurer & Deputy Clerk authority to make any consequential changes to take on-board Member comments, correct minor typographic corrections and agree a final 'user friendly' factsheet, prior to publication on the Authority's website (Delegated Decision Number: DD152).

## **M24 Performance Monitoring 1st Quarter 2015/16**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of GPT that provided the Authority with a summary of performance from the first quarter of 2015/16.

**RESOLVED:** That the Authority endorses the direction of travel in meeting the objectives set out within the Corporate Plan and agrees that the waste composition analysis be rescheduled into the 2016/17 Corporate Plan.

## **M25 Budget and Levy 2016/17, Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2018/19, and Longer Term Plan to 2020/21**

Members considered the joint Officers' report that provided the Authority with the initial annual budget prospects report for the 2016/17 financial year, outlined some potentially significant financial pressures, and together with a complementary closed report (on the Recycling & Waste Management Contract (the Contract) - Progress and Budget Update) set out steps being taken; working with the Contract's main provider, Viridor Laing (Greater Manchester) Limited (VLGM); to mitigate the future potential impact of the Authority's budget requirements, and so minimise the Levy.

The Treasurer & Deputy Clerk introduced the item and explained that the report was the first budget report for the 2016/17 financial year being presented to the Authority, though in reality the budget had been a continuous process because of the multi-year agreement with the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) and the on-going progress with Plan A, the 2020 Partnership Vision (with VLGM and Viridor). It was advised that 2016/17 would be the final year of the AGMA agreement and the zero percent increase in the Levy, as promised could still be delivered. However, with increased uncertainty over local government finances and the budget pressures being faced by Districts it was important that the Authority looked early, and robustly, at the options that were available to reduce the burden of the Levy on Districts for future years.

It was noted that the report and the complementary closed report set out progress to date, and sought early views from Members about emerging savings options.

It was reported that this was an important area for all Members and the outcome of the debate today and proposals would be reported to AGMA Leaders on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 by the Chair of the Authority.

A Member expressed their disappointment in the Chancellor's Emergency Budget on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and advised that an additional financial pressure (£450k per annum) would result from the change to support for renewables and the removal of the Climate Change Levy Exemptions for renewable sourced electricity.

A Member asked if the changes to the Levy Exemptions for renewable sourced electricity would have any impact on the recently completed Solar Farm at Over Hulton. In response, the Director of Contract Services explained that there would be no impact because the feed in tariff would not be affected by changes to the Levy.

In terms of recommendation d), a Member suggested and the Authority agreed, that this be amended to 'include Members of the Authority'.

RESOLVED: That the Authority:

- a) notes the potential for a net £1.8m overspend in 2015/16 (Section 5 of the report);
- b) confirms the principal of supporting a zero percent increase in Levy in 2016/17, as previously budgeted, but note that cost pressures could require use of upto £7.6m more from Reserves in 2016/17 than originally intended (Section 6 of the report);
- c) notes that the potential additional pressures for 2016/17, if they occur, would adversely impact upon the 2017/18 and 2018/19 Levy requirements, which could reach 13.0% and 5.4% respectively (Section 7 of the report); and
- d) requests that District Leaders, re-establish a working group to include Members of the Authority to work jointly on measures to reduce the potential increases in Levy (paragraph 7.2 of the report).

#### **M26 Open Minutes & Reports for Consideration/Noting**

Members considered the open minutes and reports for noting contained within the agenda (Part 2). As there were no questions raised by Members, the Authority noted the information presented within the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Authority notes the information presented within the agenda (Part 2).

#### **M27 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(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

It would not be, on balance, in the public interest to disclose the information to the public and press for the reasons indicated within the report.

#### **M28 Recycling & Waste Management Contract - Progress & Budget Updates**

Members considered the joint report of the Treasurer & Deputy Clerk and the Director of Contract Services that provided the Authority with an update on key aspects of the Contract. This included performance, commissioning progress, insurance and how these areas interacted with the forecast 2015/16 budget outturn position and commercial aspects of the potential impact on future years' budget requirements. It was explained that the report should therefore be considered alongside the general Budget and Levy 2016/17, Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2018/19, and Longer Term Plan to 2020/21 report contained within the open section of the agenda.

The report also updated Members on delivery of the 2020 Vision and considered the future development of the Contract and savings potential. This included the role of advisors and also the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (Section 10 of the report). The report also provided Members, in Section 13 of the report, with an update on progress with the 2015/16 Communications & Engagement Plan as well as an overview of the process to develop the 2016/17 Plan.

The Treasurer & Deputy Clerk also provided Members with an update on progress about fire damage repairs at the Transfer Loading Station (TLS) at Bayley Street, Tameside and outcome of the LIFE+ budget redetermination application.

RESOLVED: That the Authority:

- a) notes the potential 2015/16 overspend set out in Section 9 of the report and endorses the mitigating actions;
- b) notes the potential savings options set out in Section 10 of the report and endorses the twin track approach proposed;
- c) endorses the proposed use of advisors for any Contract negotiation and agrees the appointment process set out in Section 11 of the report;
- d) confirms the agreement of a MoU with Defra and delegates the negotiation of final terms to the Director of Contract Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair (Chair of the Waste Management Committee) (Delegated Decision Number: DD151); and
- e) endorses the proposed approach and timescales for development of the 2016/17 Communications & Engagement Plan.

The meeting opened at 11.00 am and closed at 12.00 pm.

GMWDA