

MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board on Thursday, 13 March 2014 in The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), R. Hignett, Jones, J. Stockton and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Dawson, L. Derbyshire, D. Parr and M. Reaney

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

MGEB21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2014 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

MGEB22 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) Whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) Whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and

exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

MGEB23MERSEY GATEWAY PROCUREMENT PROGRESS

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided Members with an update on the progress towards Financial Close addressing the key issues in the Council funding arrangements with Government and the award of contracts to the Merseylink consortium. The Operational Director Legal & Democratic Services pointed out that the Council's specialist legal advisers had significant experience of and expertise in advising and drafting documentation on projects of this sort., They had worked throughout the development of the scheme and the final documentation to ensure that the Council's interests were protected as far as possible in a project of this kind.

RESOLVED: That the Board note that

- (1) the final funding arrangements with Government have now been agreed by the Council Chief Executive and the agreed proposals are being considered by Ministers (Department for Transport and HMT Ministers); and
- (2) the contractual arrangements with Merseylink are agreed and matters are in hand to clear proposals with the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive.

Chief Executive

MGEB24MERSEY GATEWAY CROSSINGS BOARD : FUTURE GOVERNANCE ROLE

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided Members with an update on the Governance

Agreement for the project and sought approval to alter the Articles of Association of Mersey Gateway Crossings Board Ltd and approval for interim short support to the project.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, and the Portfolio holder for Physical Environment be authorised to vote on the Council's behalf in respect of the alteration of the Articles of Association of Mersey Gateway Crossings Board Ltd; and
- (2) authority be granted to the Chief Executive to make all necessary appointment and commissions, and agree terms and conditions in respect of consultants identified within the report and associated Appendix to the report.

Chief Executive

Meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.

MINUTES ISSUED: 18 March 2014

CALL-IN: 25 March 2014

Any matter decided by the Mersey Gateway Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00 pm on 25 March 2014