

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC – BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2026

Workstream lead: Legal and Governance Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report asks the Board to pass a resolution to exclude the public from the parts of its meeting on Wednesday 14 October 2026 where it will consider the following commercially sensitive matters and procedural business under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

Agrees to exclude the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting in accordance with section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 as it would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding under section 7 would exist.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Item	General subject matter	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground relied on
2.1	Procedural business	The item may include legal advice and personal information about directors, including appointments, declarations of interest and the interests register.	s 7(2)(a) – Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s 7(2)(g) – Maintain legal professional privilege
2.2	Service delivery business case	The report contains commercially sensitive information on the business case for future service delivery arrangements, including costs and options, ahead of Board decisions.	s 7(2)(h) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities
2.3	Target operating model and appendix	The report and its appendix contain detailed proposals and costings for how services will be structured and delivered, ahead of Board decisions.	s 7(2)(h) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities

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Item	General subject matter	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground relied on
2.4	Financial strategy	The report contains commercially sensitive financial information, including funding, pricing and borrowing assumptions, ahead of Board decisions.	s 7(2)(h) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities
2.5	LGFA accession update	The report contains commercially sensitive information on the status of Southern Waters' application to the Local Government Funding Agency.	s 7(2)(h) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities
2.6	People transition update	The report contains information on the transfer of staff from shareholding councils, ahead of consultation and employment negotiations.	s 7(2)(i) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)
2.7	Water services strategy	The report contains draft strategy content, including investment priorities and commercially sensitive information, ahead of adoption.	s 7(2)(h) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities
2.8	Asset valuation	The report contains commercially sensitive asset valuation information which, if released, could prejudice future negotiations.	s 7(2)(i) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)
2.9	Property matters	The report assesses potential locations for Southern Waters' premises, ahead of any property negotiations.	s 7(2)(h) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s 7(2)(i) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

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Item	General subject matter	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground relied on
2.10	MCERT quarterly report	The report contains draft financial and asset information that has not yet been finalised or reported.	s 7(2)(h) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities
2.11	Programme update – September 2026	The report contains commercially sensitive information on programme activities, including supplier engagement, ahead of Board decisions.	s 7(2)(h) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities
2.12	Board meeting calendar	The report contains proposed meeting arrangements and locations that have not yet been confirmed with shareholding councils.	s 7(2)(h) – Enable any Council holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities

Approves Fiona Smith, Programme Director; Fraser Liggett, Legal and Governance Lead; Claire Spencer, Service Delivery and Operating Model Lead; Mark Ford, Finance and Commercial Lead; Matt Bayliss, Asset Workstream Lead; Louise Fleck, HR Transition Lead; and Erica Hodgkinson, Programme Manager, remaining in the meeting after the public is excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed, which will help the Board in its discussion.

SIGNATORIES

Author:	Fraser Liggett, Legal and Governance Lead
Authoriser:	Fiona Smith, Programme Director

ATTACHMENTS

Nil