

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comprising Council Areas:
Derry City and Strabane District Council
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

North West Region Waste Management Group

For the year ended 31st March 2023

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Narrative Report

Introduction

The Joint Committee's financial performance for the year ended 31st March 2023 is as set out in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and its financial position is as set out in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement.

These financial statements have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 (the Code) and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 05/23. It is the purpose of this foreword to explain, in an easily understandable way, the financial facts in relation to the Joint Committee.

This Statement of Accounts explains the Joint Committee's finances during the financial year 2022/23 and its financial position at the end of that year. It follows approved accounting standards and is necessarily technical in parts.

Group Accounts

The Code requires Local Authorities to consider all their interests and to prepare a full set of group financial statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. North West Region Waste Management Group does not have material interests in such bodies and accordingly is not required to prepare group financial statements.

Financial Report

The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 have been prepared in line with The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in The United Kingdom 2022/23 (the Code) and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 05/23. It is the purpose of this foreword to explain, in an easily understandable way, the financial facts in relation to the Joint Committee for this period. However, the Financial Statements follow approved Accounting standards and are necessarily technical in parts.

The financial statements explain the Joint Committee's finances during the financial year ended 31st March 2023 and its financial position at the end of that year.

The following statements provide further information:

- The Movement in Reserves Statement, as set out on page 17, shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Joint Committee. The surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Joint Committee's services.
- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as set out on page 18, shows the income earned and the expenditure incurred during the year by the Joint Committee in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. This includes details of funding received from Government bodies and participating Councils, together with details of administrative expenditure incurred by the Joint Committee and financial assistance provided to beneficiaries.
- The Balance Sheet, as set out on page 19, shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the Joint Committee's assets and liabilities. The net assets of the Joint Committee (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Joint Committee.
- The Cash Flow Statement, as set out on page 20, shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the joint committee during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Joint Committee generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the Joint Committee accounted for participating Council contributions of £136,144 and incurred total costs of £149,554 of which £13,410 was shared between a number of Councils including the participating Councils.

Legislative Context for Preparation and Audit of the Financial Statements

The Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, Article 3, defines a joint committee of two or more councils to be a local government body and provides that:

The accounts of every local authority government body shall be :

- a) made up to the end of each financial year; and
- b) audited in accordance with this Part by a local government auditor designated by the Department, after consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland'.

Article 24 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 provides that the Department may issue regulations as to accounts and audit. In this regard the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 were made on 27 February 2015.

The Accounts Direction, issued by the Department for Communities on 31 January 2023 under Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations 2015 requires the Joint Committee to prepare accounts. These financial statements cover the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 and have been prepared in compliance with the Direction.

Statement of the Joint Committee's and the Chief Financial Officer's responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Joint Committee's Responsibilities

Under Section 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 a Council shall make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. A council shall designate an officer of the council as its Chief Financial Officer. Arrangements made by a council for the proper administration of its financial affairs shall be carried out under the supervision of its Financial Officer. The Joint Committee has adopted a similar arrangement and the Chief Financial Officer for the Administrative (Lead) Council undertakes equivalent duties for the Joint Committee. Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) fulfils this role.

Under Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 the Joint Committee is required by resolution to approve the accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Joint Committee on 26 September 2023

The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities

Under Regulations 9 & 10 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Joint Committee's Statement of Accounts in the form directed by the Department for Communities.

The accounts must give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial Officer is required to:-

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Department for Communities including compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom as amended and augmented from time to time as appropriate, and;
- follow relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The Chief Financial Officer is also required to:-

- keep proper accounting records that are up-to-date; and
- take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Governance Statement

Introduction

The North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee was established in 2008 and comprised of the following legacy councils; Ballymoney Borough Council, Coleraine Borough Council, Derry City Council, Limavady Borough Council, Magherafelt District Council, Moyle District Council and Strabane District Council. On 1 April 2015 their successors in title, namely, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council became the member Councils of the North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee. The Joint Committee is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Joint Committee is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Joint Committee also has a duty under Local Government (Best Value) Act (NI) 2002 to make arrangements for continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Joint Committee is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Joint Committee is required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. This statement explains how the Joint Committee meets the requirements of Regulation 4 of the Local Government Accounts and Audit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

The purpose of the governance framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Joint Committee is directed and controlled and the activities through which the Joint Committee accounts to and engages with the community. It enables the Joint Committee to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate cost-effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Joint Committee's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework has been in place for the financial period ended 31st March 2023 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

The Governance Framework

The key elements of the systems and processes that comprise the North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee governance arrangements are:

- Identifying and communicating North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee's vision of its purpose and intended outcomes for citizens and service users;
- Reviewing the North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee's vision and its implications for governance arrangements;
- Measuring the quality of services for users and ensuring they are delivered in accordance with the Joint Committee's objectives for ensuring they represent the best use of resources;
- Defining and documenting the roles and responsibilities of the executive, non-executive, scrutiny and officer functions with clear delegation arrangements and protocols for effective communication.

The Clerk to the Joint Committee has responsibility for maintaining a system of sound internal controls and risk management processes to support the Joint Committee in the achievement of all conditions in the Letter of Offer, and for reviewing their effectiveness. The systems of controls are based on a continual process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the project objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

Overall control of the governance framework and system of internal controls is the responsibility of the Joint Committee.

Arrangements for undertaking the core functions of an Audit Committee, as identified in CIPFA's Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities

The North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee has in place an Audit and Risk Committee whose overall purpose and objective is to assist the Joint Committee in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The procedures and regulations for its effective operation have been developed with reference to perceived best practice and CIPFA guidance and as identified in CIPFA's Audit Committee - Practical Guide for Local Authorities. The Audit and Risk Committee comprises four elected members - 2 from each of the Member Councils. The Audit and Risk Committee terms of reference set out a clear statement of purpose that it will provide an independent assurance on the adequacy of the Committee's risk management framework and associated control environment. It will provide an independent scrutiny of the Joint Committee's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it exposes it to risk and weakens the control environment. The Audit and Risk Committee met three times in the financial year 2022/23: - 8 February, 24 February and 28 March. It has responsibility for reviewing:

- The system of internal control and management of risks;
- The financial reporting process;
- The internal and external audit process;
- Council's processes for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Council's processes for monitoring compliance with its own Standing Orders, policies and procedures.

All governance and audit issues are reported directly to the Joint Committee.

Arrangements for ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and that expenditure is lawful

The Joint Committee regularly review progress made and issues arising by way of periodic progress reports, interim reports, and final reports. Improved processes regarding eligibility of expenditure have been reviewed and updated during the 2022/23 financial year.

The Lead Council has access to specialist legal advisors to provide expertise, advice and guidance as required. In addition, recommendations as outlined in internal and external audit reports enable the Lead Council and Joint Committee to address any issues of non-compliance.

Arrangements for whistle-blowing and for receiving and investigating complaints from the public

The Lead Council's Standing Operating Procedure: Fraud and Corruption, sets out whistle-blowing arrangements. The procedure sets out the arrangements where employees wish to make disclosures whilst remaining protected from action by their employer.

The handling of complaints is set out in the Council's Complaints Procedure, a copy of which is published on the Council's website.

These arrangements extend to the role of Derry City and Strabane District Council as Lead Council to the Joint Committee.

Other key elements of systems and processes that comprise the North West Region Waste Management Joint Committee Governance Arrangements

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, financial regulations, administrative procedures (including segregation of duties), management supervision and a system of delegation and accountability. Development and maintenance of the system is undertaken by managers within Derry City and Strabane District Council. In particular the system includes: - budgetary control procedures complying with relevant laws and regulations and internal policies and procedures to ensure that expenditure is lawful are embedded within the culture of the North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee. All officers are required to act with integrity and in accordance with the law and policy. Members, the Clerk to the Committee and internal audit monitor operations to ensure compliance and to identify and correct any weaknesses in procedures including; - credit control procedures, treasury management procedures, procedures for purchases and supply of services, risk management strategy, corporate and budgetary planning, preparation of relevant financial reports and regular reviews of periodic and annual financial reports that indicate financial performance.

A clear statement of the Joint Committee's purpose, vision and objectives is set out in the North West Regional Waste Management Plan. The Memorandum of Understanding, rules and procedures and Standing Orders document the Joint Committee's role and working relationship with member Councils in supporting the delivery of its strategic aims and objectives. The achievements of these controls is monitored by the Joint Committee and the Joint Committee's Audit and Risk Committee.

Review of effectiveness

The Clerk of the North West Region Waste Management Joint Committee has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the North West Region Waste Management Joint Committee, who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Internal Auditor's Report and also by actions taken in response to comments made by the external auditors and other external reviews.

The Joint Committee has considered its effectiveness and the impact of the transformation of local government post March 2015. The member Councils have given their commitment to the work of the North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee and its activities have continued. Relevant action has been taken as appropriate to ensure legal compliance including a review of the Memorandum of Understanding. The Joint Committee is satisfied that this remains appropriate to its activities and adequately reflects the work and operation of the Joint Committee. This area is being kept under review and in line with the work on the delivery of regional waste management activity between the Councils and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The outcomes of this work will be reflected in any future governance arrangements as appropriate.

The procedures applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the Governance Framework include the following:-

- The Joint Committee will meet on a monthly basis; provision has also been made within the rules for additional special meetings as and when required.
- Regular meetings are held with the Chief Executives and Directors of member Councils and the Audit and Risk Committee will meet at least two times per year. Internal Audit is an on-going process throughout the year and is provided by Derry City and Strabane District Council's Internal Audit function.
- External audit is provided by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO).
- Where appropriate external funding is audited by the appropriate funding body to provide additional levels of assurance.

The Clerk to the Joint Committee has responsibility for the preparation of this Annual Governance Statement. In preparing this statement, he has considered the governance framework and system of internal controls in place and full regard has been made to the Joint Committee's Corporate Risk Register for the year ended 31 March 2023.

North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee will continue to review the effectiveness of the Governance Framework in light of the transformation of local government. To this end the Joint Committee will continue to liaise with the Chief Executives of its member Councils and DAERA in the context of the wider discussions relating to the delivery of regional waste management. Discussions are on-going and the Joint Committee will keep abreast of proposed outcomes and, with its member Councils, will implement the results of this review to strengthen the governance framework and to ensure the continuous improvement of the systems in place and the robustness of the governance framework.

Internal Audit services are provided by Derry City and Strabane District Council. Internal Audit provides an independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control. This extends to reviewing the arrangements in place for the Joint Committee's projects which will be reviewed on a periodic basis as part of an on-going programme of work. Internal Audit reports any deficiencies in internal control to the Clerk of the Joint Committee whose responsibility it is to consider any recommendations made and to take necessary remedial action. The results of the work of Internal Audit are also reported to the Joint Committee and Derry City and Strabane District Council's Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee to ensure that continuous improvements take place. These reports ensure that actions previously agreed are implemented on a timely basis.

Derry City and Strabane District Council undertake an annual review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit in line with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom 2006. This review proved satisfactory.

The Clerk to the Committee has advised the Joint Committee of the results and implications of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework.

On-going review and update of the governance framework and internal controls will ensure continual improvement and a robust governance framework.

The Chief Executive of Derry City and Strabane District Council has overall responsibility for finance. The Chief Executive was supported by the Lead Finance Officer during 2022/23 who is professionally qualified and leads the promotion and delivery by the whole organisation of good financial management to ensure that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively. The Lead Finance Officer reported directly to the Chief Executive and was a member of the senior leadership team. The Lead Finance Officer has the skills, knowledge, experience and resources to perform effectively in both the financial and non-financial areas of the role and the scope of the Lead Finance Officer's responsibilities ensure that financial matters are not compromised.

The clerk to the Joint Committee has been advised by the Northern Ireland Audit Office of their intention to undertake a review of the Waste Management System in Northern Ireland. This review is ongoing.

Significant governance issues

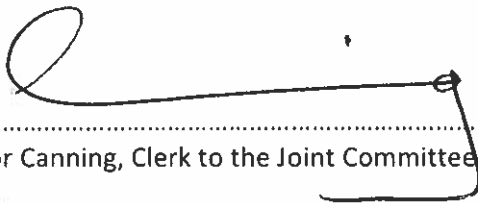
There were no significant governance issues noted that effect the North West Region Waste Management Group.

The most recent audit processes, both internal and external, identified no areas of concern. The most recent Internal Audit report provided a Satisfactory level of assurance. Risk management is a continuously evolving process that is monitored closely by the Audit and Risk Committee and Internal Audit. Risk pertaining to the Regional Infrastructure project has been managed through the Corporate Risk Register and the risk has been removed as it no longer exists. All other risk is included in the Corporate Risk Register which is constantly reviewed by the North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee.

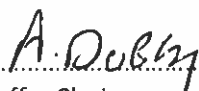
In common with all Councils in Northern Ireland, there is a continuing risk that the member Councils of the Group could incur fines for the non-achievement of waste management targets. Since this regime has been directly related to the UK's membership of the European Union it is unclear whether this will continue or be replaced by a UK wide system.

Brexit continues to add a further layer of complexity to the management of waste. However, the Councils of the North West Region Waste Management Group continue to put in place appropriate measures to mitigate this risk and to demonstrate that they are making best endeavours, both individually and collaboratively, to secure adequate waste treatment that delivers results in the form of appropriate waste contracts that ensure Councils remain compliant and assist in meeting targets that fulfil their statutory obligations. In addition to this, the cost of living issues experienced across the wider business community including local government are of concern at present particularly with regard to waste processing costs. The Member Councils have been notified of surcharges on treatment costs that reflect significant increases in energy and fuel costs over recent months with the constituent Councils agreeing payment mechanisms to deal with these additional charges.

The Joint Committee of the North West Region Waste Management Group continues as a going concern.

Signature 
Conor Canning, Clerk to the Joint Committee

Date 26.9.23

Signature 
Alex Duffy, Chairperson of the Joint Committee

Date 26.9.23

Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that :-

- a) The Statement of Accounts for the financial period ended 31st March 2023 on pages 17 to 25 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for Communities and under the accounting policies set out on page 21.
- b) In my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

Signature



.....
John Keefe, Chief Financial Officer

Date

26.9.23

Signature

.....
A. Duffy
Alex Duffy, Chairperson of the Joint Committee

Date

26.9.23

**North West Region Waste Management Group
Financial Statements**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTH WEST REGION WASTE
MANAGEMENT GROUP**

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of North West Region Waste Management Group for the year ended 31 March 2023 under the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. The financial statements comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and the related notes including significant accounting policies. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom supported by UK adopted international accounting standards.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022-23, of the financial position of North West Region Waste Management Group as at 31 March 2023 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities' directions issued thereunder.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this certificate. My staff and I are independent of North West Region Waste Management Group in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard, and have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that North West Region Waste Management Group's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the North West Region Waste Management Group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts other than the financial statements and my audit certificate and report. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the other information included in the Statement of Accounts. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the North West Region Waste Management Group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Statement of Accounts.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if:

- in my opinion:
 - the Annual Governance Statement:
 - does not reflect compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022-23;
 - does not comply with proper practices specified by the Department for Communities;
 - is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit; or

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the statement of accounts is not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit, or
- I issue a report in the public interest under Article 9 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005; or
- I designate under Article 12 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 any recommendation made to the Joint Committee; or
- I exercise the other special powers of the auditor under Article 19 to 21 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.

Responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Joint Committee's and the Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view;
- such internal controls as the Chief Financial Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- assessing North West Region Waste Management Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Chief Financial Officer anticipates that the services provided by North West Region Waste Management Group will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue a certificate that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulation, including fraud.

My procedures included:

- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to North West Region Waste Management Group through discussion with management and application of extensive public sector accountability knowledge. The key laws and regulations I considered included the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022-23;
- making enquires of management and those charged with governance on North West Region Waste Management Group's compliance with laws and regulations;
- making enquiries of internal audit, management and those charged with governance as to susceptibility to irregularity and fraud, their assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and irregularity, and their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and irregularity;
- completing risk assessment procedures to assess the susceptibility of North West Region Waste Management Group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. This included, but was not limited to, an engagement director led engagement team discussion on fraud to identify particular areas, transaction streams and business practices that may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: posting of unusual journals;
- engagement director oversight to ensure the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework throughout the audit;
- designing audit procedures to address specific laws and regulations which the engagement team considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements in terms of misstatement and irregularity, including fraud. These audit procedures included, but were not limited to, reading board and committee minutes, and agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and approvals as appropriate; and
- addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls by:
 - performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships or movements;
 - testing journal entries to identify potential anomalies, and inappropriate or unauthorised adjustments;
 - assessing whether judgements and other assumptions made in determining accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
 - investigating significant or unusual transactions made outside of the normal course of business.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my certificate.

This report is made solely to the Members of North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and for no other purpose, as specified in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Local Government Auditor and Local Government Bodies.

Certificate

I certify that I have completed the audit of accounts of North West Region Waste Management Group in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colette Kane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small blue mark above the first 'C'.

Colette Kane

Local Government Auditor
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
BELFAST
BT7 1EU

29th September 2023

Movement in Reserves Statement

	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
	£	£	£
At 1st April 2021	0	0	0
Movement in reserves during the year			
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	0	0	0
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
At 31st March 2022	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Movement in reserves during the year			
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	0	0	0
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
At 31st March 2023	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	Notes	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Income			
Recoupment of Costs	2a/2b & 4	13,410	3,563
Participating Councils	3	136,144	133,646
Total Income		<u>149,554</u>	<u>137,209</u>
Expenditure			
Staff Costs	6	97,421	78,739
Travel and Subsistence Costs		84	5
Other Payments		34,421	38,765
Administration Costs		15,419	15,225
Sundry Expenses		2,209	4,475
		<u>149,554</u>	<u>137,209</u>
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Balance Sheet

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Long Term Assets		0	0
Short Term Investments		0	0
Inventories		0	0
Short Term Debtors	7	23,564	32,075
Cash and Cash Equivalents		0	0
Assets Held for Sale		0	0
Current Assets		<u>23,564</u>	<u>32,075</u>
Bank Overdraft		0	0
Short Term Borrowing		0	0
Short Term Creditors	8	23,564	32,075
Provisions		0	0
Current Liabilities		<u>23,564</u>	<u>32,075</u>
Long Term Liabilities		0	0
Net Assets		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Usable Reserves		0	0
Unusable Reserves		0	0
Net Worth		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Cash Flow Statement	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	0	0
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing	9	0
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	0	0
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	0	0
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	0	0
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

1 Accounting Policies**General Principles**

The Financial Statements summarise the Joint Committee's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the end of 31st March 2023. The Joint Committee is required to prepare annual Financial Statements in a form directed by the Department for Communities in accordance with regulations 9 and 10 in the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2022/23 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Accruals of Income and Expenditure

The Financial Statements have been prepared on an accruals basis. The accruals basis of accounting requires the non-cash effect of transactions to be reflected in the Financial Statements for the year in which those effects were experienced and not in the year in which the cash is actually received or paid. This ensures that provision has been made for known outstanding debtors and creditors at the year end, estimated amounts being used where actual figures are not available.

2a Segmental Report - Current Year

	Waste Project £	Total £
Income from Participating Councils	136,144	136,144
Recoupment of Costs	13,410	13,410
Total Income	149,554	149,554
Staff Costs	97,421	97,421
Travel and Subsistence Costs	84	84
Other Payments	34,421	34,421
Administration Costs	15,419	15,419
Sundry Expenses	2,209	2,209
Total Expenditure	149,554	149,554
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0

2b Segmental Report - Prior Year

	Waste Project £	Total £
Income from Participating Councils	133,646	133,646
Recoupment of Costs	3,563	3,563
Total Income	137,209	137,209
Staff Costs	78,739	78,739
Travel and Subsistence Costs	5	5
Other Payments	38,765	38,765
Administration Costs	15,225	15,225
Sundry Expenses	4,475	4,475
Total Expenditure	137,209	137,209
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0

North West Region Waste Management Group

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2023

3	Income from Participating Councils	2022/23	2021/22
		£	£
	Derry City & Strabane District Council	69,678	68,400
	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	66,466	65,246
		<u>136,144</u>	<u>133,646</u>
4	Recoupment of Costs	2022/23	2021/22
		£	£
	From Councils associated with waste procurement / business case	13,410	3,563
		<u>13,410</u>	<u>3,563</u>
5	External Audit Fees	2022/23	2021/22
		£	£
	External Audit Fees	6,000	5,750
		<u>6,000</u>	<u>5,750</u>
6	Staff Costs	2022/23	2021/22
		£	£
	Salaries	74,387	61,039
	National Insurance	7,261	5,797
	Pension Costs	15,773	11,903
		<u>97,421</u>	<u>78,739</u>
		2022/23	2021/22
		FTE	FTE
	Total Staff Numbers	3	2
		Actual	Actual
		Numbers	Numbers
	Full-time numbers employed	3	2
		<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
7	Short Term Debtors	2023	2022
		£	£
	Councils	23,564	32,075
		<u>23,564</u>	<u>32,075</u>
8	Short Term Creditors	2023	2022
		£	£
	Government Departments	6,000	5,750
	Councils	17,564	24,985
	Other	0	1,340
		<u>23,564</u>	<u>32,075</u>
9	Cash Flow Note – Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	Note	2022/23
			2021/22
			£
	(Increase) / decrease in debtors	7	8,511
	Increase / (decrease) in creditors	8	(4,501)
			<u>0</u>
			<u>0</u>

10 Related Party Transactions

A Related Party Transaction is a transfer of resources or obligations between related parties, regardless of whether a price is charged. Related Party Transactions exclude transactions with any other entity that is a related party solely because of its economic dependence on the Joint Committee or the Government of which it forms part.

A related party is one that has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. This includes cases where the related party entity and another entity are subject to common control but excludes providers of finance in the course of their normal business with the Joint Committee and Trade Unions in the course of their normal dealings with the Joint Committee.

In addition where the relationship with the Joint Committee and the entity is solely that of an Agency, these are not deemed to be Related Party Transactions.

Transactions with related parties not disclosed elsewhere in these financial statements are set out below, where a description of the nature and the amount of the transaction is as follows:

The Joint Committee provides administration support to the two participant councils in relation to the procurement and management of waste related contracts. During 2022/23 the Joint Committee reported income of £136,144 (2021/22 £133,646) from member Councils, of which £16,859 (2021/22 £30,928) was outstanding as at 31 March 2023. During 2022/23 the Joint Committee incurred costs of £13,410 (2021/22 £3,563) on behalf of other Councils of which £6,705 was outstanding as at 31 March 2023 (2021/22 £1,147). No expenditure was made to member Councils for the year 2022/23. As the Joint Committee uses Derry City and Strabane District Council to cashflow its activities, there was a balance due to the Council as at 31 March 2023 of £17,564 (2021/22 £24,985).

The income from participating Councils is as shown below:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Derry City and Strabane District Council	69,678	68,400
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	66,466	65,246
	<u>136,144</u>	<u>133,646</u>

Derry City and Strabane District Council provides office accommodation and support services to the Joint Committee for which it received £15,000 during 2022/23 (2021/22 £15,000).

During the year the Joint Committee incurred additional expenditure in the sum of £13,410 (2021/22 £3,563) in relation to the tendering and preparation of a full business case for Developing Waste Management Infrastructure and Delivery Arrangements for Kerbside Collected Recyclables and Tyre disposal arrangements.

In order to minimise costs to the Joint Committee and obtain maximum value for money, other Councils worked with the Group in these activities and the total amount was recouped from participating councils.

The participating Councils included Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council.

Events after the reporting period

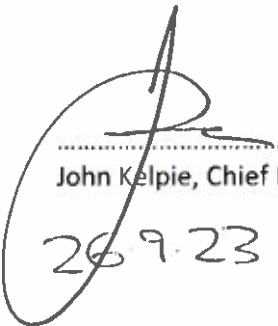
In accordance with International Accounting Standard 10, Events after the Balance Sheet Date (IAS 10) this Statement of Accounts which contains a number of minor amendments from the Accounts approved on 26 September 2023 are at today's date hereby authorised for issue.

IAS 10 sets out

- The period during which an entity should adjust its financial statements for events after the balance sheet date as being the period between the date the financial statements were prepared and the date of this authorisation; and
- In the event of adjustments the disclosures that should be made.

Date the accounts were authorised for issue by the Chief Financial Officer

Signed



.....
John Kelpie, Chief Financial Officer

Dated:

26.9.23

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTH WEST REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of North West Region Waste Management Group for the year ended 31 March 2023 under the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. The financial statements comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and the related notes including significant accounting policies. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom supported by UK adopted international accounting standards.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022-23, of the financial position of North West Region Waste Management Group as at 31 March 2023 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities' directions issued thereunder.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this certificate. My staff and I are independent of North West Region Waste Management Group in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard, and have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that North West Region Waste Management Group's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the North West Region Waste Management Group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts other than the financial statements and my audit certificate and report. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the other information included in the Statement of Accounts. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the North West Region Waste Management Group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Statement of Accounts.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if:

- in my opinion:
 - the Annual Governance Statement:
 - does not reflect compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022-23;
 - does not comply with proper practices specified by the Department for Communities;
 - is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit; or

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the statement of accounts is not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit, or
- I issue a report in the public interest under Article 9 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005; or
- I designate under Article 12 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 any recommendation made to the Joint Committee; or
- I exercise the other special powers of the auditor under Article 19 to 21 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.

Responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Joint Committee's and the Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view;
- such internal controls as the Chief Financial Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- assessing North West Region Waste Management Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Chief Financial Officer anticipates that the services provided by North West Region Waste Management Group will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue a certificate that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulation, including fraud.

My procedures included:

- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to North West Region Waste Management Group through discussion with management and application of extensive public sector accountability knowledge. The key laws and regulations I considered included the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022-23;
- making enquires of management and those charged with governance on North West Region Waste Management Group's compliance with laws and regulations;
- making enquiries of internal audit, management and those charged with governance as to susceptibility to irregularity and fraud, their assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and irregularity, and their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and irregularity;
- completing risk assessment procedures to assess the susceptibility of North West Region Waste Management Group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. This included, but was not limited to, an engagement director led engagement team discussion on fraud to identify particular areas, transaction streams and business practices that may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: posting of unusual journals;
- engagement director oversight to ensure the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework throughout the audit;
- designing audit procedures to address specific laws and regulations which the engagement team considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements in terms of misstatement and irregularity, including fraud. These audit procedures included, but were not limited to, reading board and committee minutes, and agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and approvals as appropriate; and
- addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls by:
 - performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships or movements;
 - testing journal entries to identify potential anomalies, and inappropriate or unauthorised adjustments;
 - assessing whether judgements and other assumptions made in determining accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
 - investigating significant or unusual transactions made outside of the normal course of business.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my certificate.

This report is made solely to the Members of North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee in accordance with the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and for no other purpose, as specified in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Local Government Auditor and Local Government Bodies.

Certificate

I certify that I have completed the audit of accounts of North West Region Waste Management Group in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colette Kane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end of the name.

Colette Kane

Local Government Auditor
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
BELFAST
BT7 1EU

29th September 2023