



## **Annual Financial Statements**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

### ***Comprising Council Areas:***

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

## North West Region Waste Management Group

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## **Narrative Report**

### **Introduction**

The Joint Committee's financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2025 is as set out in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and its financial performance 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 for the year ended 31 March 2025 (the Code) and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 09/25. 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 2024/25 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 West Management Group does not have material interests in such bodies and accordingly is not required to prepare group financial statements.

### **The Movement in Reserves Statement**

This Statement, as set out on page 12, 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**

This statement, as set out on page 12, 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**

The Balance Sheet, as set out on page 13, 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**

The Cash Flow Statement, as set out on page 13, 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 2025, the Joint Committee accounted for participating Council contributions of £130,840 and incurred total costs of £177,233 of which £46,393 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:
  1. Made up to the end of each financial year; and
  2. 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 26 February 2025 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 2024 to 31st March 2025 and have been prepared in compliance with the Direction.

## **Statement of the Joint Committee's and 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 the chief 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 25 September 2025.

### **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 Council'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 and cash flows 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, and
- make judgments 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.

## **Annual 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 its activities through which it 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 ongoing 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 at the local authority for the year ended 31 March 2025 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 the North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee's vision of its purpose and intended outcomes for Member Councils, citizens and service users,
- Reviewing the North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee's vision and its implications for the Member Council's governance arrangements,
- Measuring the quality of services for Member Councils and ensuring they are delivered in accordance with the Joint Committee's objectives and ensuring that they represent the best use of resources, and
- 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 objectives, in conducting the business of the Joint Committee. 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.

### **The Joint Committee's vision and purpose**

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.

### **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 the Clerk to the Committee supported by relevant officers within the respective Member Councils. 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 Members, the Clerk to the Committee and

internal audit monitors 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.

#### **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 best practice principles 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 2024/25: 28 February 2025, 25 March 2025 and 7 April 2025.

The Audit and Risk Committee has responsibility for reviewing:

- The system of internal control and management of risks,
- The financial reporting process,
- The internal and external audit process,
- The Joint Committee's (and Council's) process for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations, and
- The Joint Committee's (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 reviews 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 2024/25 financial year in consideration of IA recommendations following the annual audit.

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 & Joint committee to address any issues of non-compliance.

#### **Arrangements for whistleblowing 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 Lead Council's Complaints Procedure, a copy of which is published on the Lead Council's website.

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

#### **Review of Effectiveness**

The Clerk to 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 have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment; in consideration of the Internal Auditor's Annual 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 bi-monthly basis; provision has 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 three 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 2025.

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 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 2024/25 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 Committee has been advised of a report issued by the Northern Ireland Audit Office in respect of the Waste Management System in Northern Ireland. This review is ongoing.

### Significant Governance Issues

There were no significant governance issues noted that affect 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.

Members asked that the Risk Register be further amended to include further detail on the costs associated with climate and this has been reflected in the most recent update to the document.

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 with the Councils taking all appropriate measures to mitigate this possibility.

The Joint Committee submitted the Addendum to the current Waste Plan to DAERA for review. DAERA has noted the submission of the document.

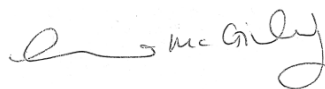
The Joint Committee of the North West Region Waste Management Group continues as a going concern.



Signed: .....

Conor Canning, Clerk to the Joint Committee

Date: 25 September 2025



Signed: .....

Councillor Emma McGinley, Chair of the Joint Committee

Date: 25 September 2025

### Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that;

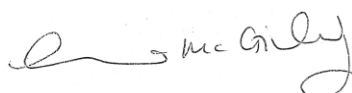
- a) The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 on pages 12 to 16 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for Communities and under the accounting policies set out on page 14.
- b) In my opinion the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year ending 31 March 2025.



Signed: .....

John Kelpie, Chief Financial Officer

Date: 25 September 2025



Signed: .....

Councillor Emma McGinley, Chair of the Joint Committee

Date: 25 September 2025



# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 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 2025 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. 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 2024-25, of the financial position of North West Region Waste Management Group as at 31 March 2025 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 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 2025 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.

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

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

- in my opinion:
  - o the Annual Governance Statement:
    - does not reflect compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25;
    - 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
  - o adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
  - o the Statement of Accounts to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
  - o 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 Council; 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 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 the 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 the North West Region Waste Management Group through discussion with management and application of extensive public sector accountability knowledge.

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

- 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;
- addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls by:
  - o performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships or movements;
  - o testing journal entries to identify potential anomalies, and inappropriate or unauthorised adjustments;
  - o assessing whether judgements and other assumptions made in determining accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
  - o 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](http://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 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.



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

Date: 26 September 2025

**North West Region Waste Management Group**  
**Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>Total Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 April 2023	0	0	0
<b>Movement in reserves during the year</b>			
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	0	0	0
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Movement in reserves during the year</b>			
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	0	0	0
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At 31 March 2025</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24 Restated*</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Recoupment of Costs	2 & 4	46,393	75,114
Participating Councils	3	130,840	124,509
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>177,233</b>	<b>199,623</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Staff Costs	6	90,585	87,160
Travel and Subsistence Costs		0	53
Other Payments		69,672	96,850
Administration Costs		16,976	15,560
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>177,233</b>	<b>199,623</b>
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*The 2023/2024 figures have been restated due to 3 invoices for legal fees totalling £12,476 which were not received until late May 2024 and not accrued in 2023/2024. These invoices were paid in 2024/2025.

## North West Region Waste Management Group

### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2024/25 £	2023/24 Restated £
<b>Long Term Assets</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Short Term Debtors	7	15,137	67,237
<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>15,137</b>	<b>67,237</b>
Short Term Creditors	8	15,137	67,327
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		<b>15,137</b>	<b>67,327</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Usable Reserves		0	0
Unusable Reserves		0	0
<b>Net Worth</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
<b>Net surplus or deficit on the provision of services</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	9	0	0
<b>Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		0	0
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

# North West Region Waste Management Group

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2025

### 1. Accounting Policies

#### General Principles

The Financial Statements summarise the Joint Committee's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year and its position at the end of 31st March 2025. 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 2024/25 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2024/25 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

#### Accruals and 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 are 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.

### 2. Segmental Reporting

		2024/25 £	2023/24 Restated £
<b>Income</b>			
Income from Participating Councils		130,840	124,509
Recoupment of Costs		46,393	75,114
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>177,233</b>	<b>199,623</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Staff Costs		90,585	87,160
Travel and Subsistence Costs		0	53
Other Payments		69,672	96,850
Administration Costs		16,976	15,560
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>177,233</b>	<b>199,623</b>
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### 3. Income from Participating Councils

		2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Derry City and Strabane District Council		66,964	63,724
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council		63,876	60,785
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>130,840</b>	<b>124,509</b>

### 4. Recoupment of Costs

		2024/25 £	2023/24 Restated £
From Councils associated with waste procurement / business case		<b>46,393</b>	<b>75,114</b>

## 5. External Audit Fees

		2024/25 £	2023/24 £
External Audit Fees		6,825	6,500

## 6. Staff Costs

		2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Salaries		70,102	67,522
National Insurance		7,164	6,809
Pension Costs		13,319	12,829
		90,585	87,160

		2024/25 FTE	2023/24 FTE
Total Staff Numbers		2	2
		Actual	Actual
Full time numbers employed		2	2

## 7. Short Term Debtors

		2024/25 £	2023/24 Restated £
Councils		15,137	67,237

## 8. Short Term Creditors

		2024/25 £	2023/24 Restated £
Government Departments		6,825	6,500
Councils		8,312	48,261
Accruals Legal Fees		-	12,476
<b>Total Creditors</b>		<b>15,137</b>	<b>67,237</b>

## 9. Cash Flow Note – Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services

	Notes	2024/25 £	2023/24 Restated £
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	7	52,100	(43,673)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	8	(52,100)	43,673
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 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 2024/25 the Joint Committee reported income of £130,840 (2023/24 £124,509) from member Councils, of which £15,137 (2023/24 £16,253) was outstanding as at 31 March 2025.

During 2024/25 the Joint Committee incurred costs of £46,393 (2023/24 £75,114) on behalf of other Councils of which £0 was outstanding as at 31 March 2025 (2023/24 £50,985). No expenditure was made to member Councils for the year 2024/25. 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 2025 of £8,312 (2023/24 £60,737).

The income from participating Councils is as shown below:

		2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Derry City and Strabane District Council		66,964	63,724
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council		63,876	60,785
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>130,840</b>	<b>124,509</b>

Derry City and Strabane District Council provides office accommodation and support services to the Joint Committee for which it received £15,000 during 2024/25 (2023/24 £15,000).

During the year the Joint Committee incurred additional expenditure in the sum of £46,394 (2023/24 £75,114 restated) in relation to the tendering and preparation of a full business case for Developing Waste Management Infrastructure and NI Waste Plans.

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 25 September 2025 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  
Date: 25 September 2025