AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 100B (4)(b) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 , THE CHAIRMAN IS OF THE OPINION THAT THIS REPORT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE THAT THE AUTHORITY NEEDS TO CONCLUDE THE AUDIT OF THE 2022/23 ACCOUNTS

PAPER NO. WRWA 24-08

WESTERN RIVERSIDE WASTE AUTHORITY

MEETING	8th February 2024
REPORT AUTHOR/ DATE	Treasurer (Sukvinder Kalsi-Tel 0208 871 2788) 4th February 2024
SUBJECT	Report of the Treasurer on the Authority's Audited Accounts for 2022/23
CONTENTS	Page 1 Executive Summary and Background Page 3 Recommendations Followed by : Appendix A – Statement of Accounts Appendix B – Report from the Auditor including ISA 260 Appendix C – Letter of Representation
STATUS	Open-circulation of this paper is not restricted.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	No background papers were used in the production of this report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

1. As outlined in the outturn report presented in June 2023 to the Authority, the auditing standards placed on the external auditor (Deloitte) require that the Auditor makes a report to the Authority following the Audit of the accounts, as a prelude to issuing a formal Opinion on the Authority's accounts. As per the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, the date by which principal local authorities must normally publish their accounts along with the auditor's opinion would be 31 July 2022. Due to the Covid Pandemic this deadline was moved for both the 2020/21 and 2021/22 accounts to 30 November, with a set of accounts presented to the auditor and signed by the Treasurer by 30 September. For 2022/23 that date was amended to the 30 September, with a set of accounts presented to the auditor and signed by the Treasurer by 31 May.

2. The outturn report in June explained that the draft set of accounts had been provided to the auditor and the audit was underway with an expected report to the Authority meeting in September regarding the full audited set of accounts. The audit has not experienced any complexities and although later than planned, is now complete having provided clarifications on the matters relating to pension surplus, Health and Safety Executive investigation and RAAC (see page 3 of Appendix B).

ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT 2022/23

3. As the responsible financial officer, the Treasurer signed and dated the Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 on 31 May 2023, in line with the statutory deadline. The draft audited set of accounts are now attached for approval by the Authority.

4. Under the Auditing Practices Board's International Auditing Standard (UK and Ireland) 260 – "Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance", the Auditor is required to report to those charged with governance on the significant findings from the audit as a prelude to issuing a formal Opinion on the Authority's accounts. The ISA260 is attached at Appendix B.

5. The Audit report brings to your attention that there is just one recommendation as a result of the 2022/23 work based on the work to date as outlined on page 13 with the management response alongside that. Deloitte anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion on the Authority's financial statements. No areas of misstatement have been identified.

6. The Audit report has not noted any other deficiencies in relation to systems of internal control.

7. Page 3 outlines the minor areas still awaited and a verbal update will be given at the Authority meeting.

8. Deloitte are required to be satisfied that proper arrangements have been made by the Authority for securing value for money in its use of resources as outlined on page 12 of the ISA260 report at Appendix B.

9. Auditing standards require Deloitte to obtain a written representation from management on certain matters material to their Opinion. A draft Letter of Representation is attached at Appendix C. The Authority is requested to authorise the Treasurer to sign the final version of this Letter on behalf of the Authority.

10. Following the Audit, the Authority is requested to approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 at Appendix A and to authorise the Treasurer and Chairman to sign it accordingly.

FUTURE EXTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS 2023/24 to 2027/28

11. As previously advised in Paper No. WRWA 22-31 to the Authority in November 2022, the PSAA has proposed that KPMG be appointed as the Authority's auditors from 2023/24 to 2027/28 and therefore this is the final year of Deloitte's audit. Preliminary work has already begun by KPMG and regular meetings have been arranged between the audit lead and WRWA staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The Authority is recommended to:

(a) approve the Authority's Statement of Accounts (Appendix A)

(b) note the report from Deloitte relating to the Accounts for 2022/23 (Appendix B)

(c) authorise the Treasurer to sign the Letter of Representation (Appendix C), and if there are any matters arising after the meeting, to delegate to the Treasurer authority to agree the final version of this Letter

(d) otherwise receive this report for information

Western Riverside Waste Authority
Administration Office
Smugglers Way
LONDON SW18 1JS

SUKVINDER KALSI
Treasurer

4 February 2024

Western Riverside Waste Authority

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

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NARRATIVE REPORT

Organisational Overview, External Environment and Operational Model

Western Riverside Waste Authority (WRWA) is one of four Statutory Joint Waste Disposal Authorities in London which are charged by Parliament with managing the waste collected by their respective constituent councils. In the case of WRWA, these are:

- Hammersmith & Fulham,
- Lambeth,
- Wandsworth
- The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The Authority manages its affairs with a main contractor, Cory Riverside Energy (Cory), through the Waste Management Services Agreement (WMSA) to minimise costs and maximise income from recycled materials. Total waste managed by the Authority in the years 2021/22 and 2022/23 is as follows:

	2021/22		2022/23		Difference	
	Tonnage	%	Tonnage	%	Tonnage	%
General Waste	293,761	79.4%	285,890	77.3%	- 7,871	-2.7%
Recycling	76,213	20.6%	69,035	18.7%	- 7,178	-9.4%
Total	369,974		354,925		- 15,049	

The reduction in General waste tonnage in the year is likely to be due to a number of factors, including the continued reduction in the weight of packaging and the impact of the cost of living crisis.

The Authority's key sources of income are charges to constituent councils for the disposal costs of waste via Apportionment of Waste Disposal Costs (AWDC) charges and a levy upon those councils. The Authority has a statutory duty to apportion levies among the constituent councils for each financial year to meet liabilities for which provision is not otherwise made. The Authority has agreed with all four constituent councils the basis of this levy which is directly related to tonnage levels delivered for specific waste streams and proportionate council tax bases for household waste and recycling tonnage and other running costs.

Despite previous restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Authority continued to maintain services both to the public and constituent councils with minimum disruption. This was in part assisted by the introduction of a booking system to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre which both regulated traffic flows, minimising nuisance to neighbours, and restricted unauthorised use of the Authority's facilities.

Risks

The Authority annually reviews its Risk Management Strategy and has developed a Risk Register which identifies key risks together with an analysis of their likelihood/impact and the key preventative, detective and corrective controls. The Annual Governance Statement confirms that the Authority's Risk Management Strategy is effective and well embedded into management processes.

A key risk relates to the Local Authority sector's financial position in being able to fund their waste disposal costs and the potential subsequent pressure on the Authority to seek short term cost savings. The Authority continues to be open and transparent regarding its ability to

reduce costs for constituent councils. The location of one of the Authority's transfer stations is within the regeneration area of Nine Elms and the redevelopment of the area may lead to possible nuisance claims by new residents. The Authority is mitigating this via ongoing discussions on a comprehensive redevelopment plan.

The volatility of recycling rates is a key risk to the constituent Councils in terms of price. In order to mitigate this, the Authority has arrangements with its contractor to ensure both an available market and price certainty as far ahead as possible for recyclates.

Performance

The operational income and expenditure of the Authority is wholly affected by the tonnage of waste managed during the year. The Usable Reserves Balances at the end of March 2023 stood at £26.5 million, an increase of £7.9 million compared to that reported in March 2022 (£18.6 million). The balance at the end of March 2023 was £4.1 million higher than anticipated when the budget for 2023/24 was set in February 2023 due to improved electricity prices and the 'Triad' income generated by the contractor meeting specific energy supply targets set by the National Grid as well as an underspend on legal and consultancy costs which will slip into 2023/24.

During the year Cory reached financial close on the arrangements to construct a further Energy from Waste facility on land adjoining the existing facility at Belvedere. As part of that arrangement the Authority received a one-off payment which will be drawn down in the Authority's accounts over the remaining life of the Cory contract.

Pensions

All permanent staff are eligible for inclusion in the statutory Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administered by the London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA) under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

The Fund's assets reduced by £0.3 million to £9.2 million (from £9.5 million). The Fund's actuary estimated that the present value of scheme liabilities has reduced over the same period by £4.0 million, from £12.0 million to £8.0 million due to assumptions around inflation and discount rates. The net pension liability therefore reduced by £3.7 million to become a surplus of £1.2 million from a previous deficit of £2.5 million. However, this valuation is only a snapshot in time. As the change between 2022 and 2023 illustrates the position could easily change and the Authority has a cash reserve of £1.8 million to offset any future potential cost should it ever crystallise.

Total annual employment costs are only £0.7 million which underlines the low level of directly employed staff and the risk of increased pension contributions that could ultimately be required in the event of pension performance reverting.

Each Local Government Pension Scheme fund is required to have a triennial fund valuation which differs in basis to the accounting valuation undertaken annually. The latest Triennial Valuation has been undertaken as at 31 March 2022 and shows that on that basis the Authority's element of the fund was over 100% funded, and accordingly the minimum employer contribution rate as a percentage of payroll for the year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026 was set at 4.1%, down from 13.8% in the previous valuation. The Valuation undertaken as at 31 March 2022 and previously in 2019 does not include a secondary contribution requirement.

Borrowing Facilities

The Authority finances debt through the PWLB with loans totalling £1.0 million outstanding at 31 March 2023, having repaid £2.0 million during 2021/22 and no new loans being advanced during the financial year. The Authority's current policy is to redeem debt from balances wherever this is practicable and the top up of the earmarked reserve established in 2018/19 will be used to redeem future loans. Average balances of £10.8 million were invested via Wandsworth Council earning the investment rate achieved by the Council at an average of 2.27%. The Authority also holds £6 million in the Diversified Income Fund (DIF) account with CCLA Investment Fund Management (CCLA). Day to day cashflow is managed within a Special Interest Bearing Account (SIBA) with the current retail banker (RBS/ NatWest) earning 1.35%. The Authority's total cash balance was £17.3 million at 31 March 2023. The cash balances are shown as cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet.

Outlook

The total level of waste managed by the Authority in 2022/23 has reduced which follows a national trend of reducing packaging weight. However, the level of waste could grow in future years in line with the increase in population forecast for its area. The Authority continues to drive forward efficiencies from within the WMSA in order to generate savings for Constituent Councils in the current financial climate. The Authority is also keenly aware of the Constituent Councils' commitment to achieving net zero and its principles around the waste hierarchy and increasing recycling align with those goals.

Key challenges for 2023/24 and beyond are:

- Redevelopment proposals at Cringle Dock, providing a new transfer station for the Authority and financial benefits for the Constituent Councils;
- Establishing a waste and procurement strategy looking towards the new contract requirements when the existing contract expires in 2032; and
- Delivering savings.

However, the Constituent Councils benefit from the EfW facility at Belvedere under the current WMSA with:

- the avoidance of increasing government landfill tax costs;
- certainty of capacity to dispose; and
- contractual agreements through the WMSA to receive refinancing savings, income from the sale of energy and eventually, the benefits to be achieved from Residual Value what the end of the existing contract in 2032.

Conclusion

The Authority has been able to maintain a sound financial base to meet future financial pressures.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ACCOUNTS

The Responsibility of the Authority

The Authority is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Treasurer.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Responsibility of the Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with the proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Treasurer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and
- complied with the local Authority Code.

The Treasurer has also:

- kept proper accounting records which were up to date; and
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Certificate

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the Western Riverside Waste Authority's income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023 and the Authority's financial position as at 31 March 2023.

S Kalsi
Treasurer 2024

Statement of Accounts for Western Riverside Waste Authority

Introduction

This is the Statement of Accounts for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2023. The purpose of the Statement of Accounts is to summarise the financial position of the Authority.

The Statement of Accounts is a complex, technical document, the form and content of which is governed by the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) which in turn is underpinned by International Financial Reporting Standards. This means that the accounts are prepared on the same basis as the rest of the local authorities in the United Kingdom. This report is intended to provide a fair, balanced and understandable guide to the most significant aspects of the Authority's financial performance, year-end financial position and cash flow, as well as giving information as to how the Authority will develop over the next few years.

The Statement of Accounts is made up of four core statements as follows:

- **Movement in Reserves Statement -** This is a summary of the changes that have taken place in the bottom half of the Balance Sheet over the financial year. It is analysed into 'usable reserves' (those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce the Levy such as the General Fund) and 'unusable reserves'.
- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement -** This consolidates all the gains and losses experienced by the Authority during the financial year.
- **Balance Sheet** – This statement shows the value, as at 31 March each year, of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority.
- **Cash Flow Statement -** This statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Authority during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

In addition further Notes to the accounts provide more information.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce charges to Constituent Authorities) and 'unusable reserves'. The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for determining the Apportionment of Waste Disposal Costs (AWDC) charges and the residual Levy. The net Increase /Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Authority.

	Note	General Fund Balance	Pension Liability Reserve	Capital Reserve	Stabilisation Reserve	Loan Repayment Reserve	Recycling Initiatives Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Movement in Reserves during 2022/23										
Balance at 1 April 2022 carried forward		**3,803**	**1,800**	**2,210**	**9,575**	**1,000**	**250**	**18,636**	**105,264**	**123,900**
Surplus on provision of services		4,920	-	-	-	-	-	**4,920**	-	**4,920**
Other Comprehensive Income		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,837**	**3,837**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (CIES Statement)		**4,920**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4,920**	**3,837**	**8,757**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	7	**2,948**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2,948**	**(2,948)**	**-**
Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		**7,868**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**7,868**	**888**	**8,757**
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	8	**(7,190)**	**-**	**5,774**	**1,416**	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	**-**
Increase/(Decrease) in Year		**678**	**-**	**5,774**	**1,416**	**-**	**-**	**7,868**	**888**	**8,757**
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward		**4,479**	**1,800**	**7,984**	**10,991**	**1,000**	**250**	**26,503**	**106,153**	**132,656**

	Note	General Fund Balance	Pension Liability Reserve	Capital Reserve	Stabilisation Reserve	Loan Repayment Reserve	Recycling Initiatives Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Movement in Reserves during 2021/22										
Balance at 1 April 2021 brought forward		**3,312**	**1,800**	**-**	**9,575**	**3,000**	**250**	**17,936**	**45,583**	**63,519**
Surplus on provision of services		1,817	-	-	-	-	-	**1,817**	-	**1,817**
Other Comprehensive Expenditure		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**58,563**	**58,563**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		**1,817**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,817**	**58,563**	**60,380**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	7	**(1,117)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(1,117)**	**1,117**	**-**
Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		**700**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**700**	**59,680**	**60,380**
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	8	**(210)**	**-**	**2,210**	**-**	**(2,000)**	**-**	**-**	-	**-**
(Decrease)/ Increase in Year		**490**	**-**	**2,210**	**-**	**(2,000)**	**-**	**700**	**59,680**	**60,380**
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward		**3,803**	**1,800**	**2,210**	**9,575**	**1,000**	**250**	**18,636**	**105,264**	**123,900**

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from AWDC charges and the Residual Levy. The Authority raises income to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; this may be different from the accounting cost. The position relating to the raising of income to cover expenditure is shown in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

		2021/22		**2022/23**	
	Note	£000	£000	**£000**	**£000**
Operating expenditure					
Employees		643		**689**	
Premises		601		**584**	
General waste disposal		48,396		**43,485**	
Other supplies and payments		397		**332**	
Depreciation and Impairment	11	967		**2,213**	
Total			51,004		**47,303**
Operating Income (outside IFRS 15)					
Hammersmith and Fulham		(9,430)		**(9,151)**	
Kensington and Chelsea		(9,217)		**(9,652)**	
Lambeth		(14,994)		**(15,047)**	
Wandsworth		(13,790)		**(13,243)**	
Total			(47,431)		**(47,093)**
Net Cost of Services			3,573		**210**
Other Items					
Net Financing and investment (income)/expenditure	9		(112)		**403**
Other income recognised under IFRS 15	10		(531)		**(710)**
Other income outside IFRS 15			(342)		**(331)**
Deficit/(Surplus) on Provision of Services			2,588		**(428)**
Levy on Constituent Authorities (outside IFRS 15)					
Hammersmith and Fulham		(839)		**(862)**	
Kensington and Chelsea		(1,006)		**(1,019)**	
Lambeth		(1,150)		**(1,165)**	
Wandsworth		(1,411)		**(1,446)**	
			(4,405)		**(4,492)**
Surplus on Provision of Services			(1,817)		**(4,920)**
Surplus on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment assets	11		(56,918)		**-**
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability	28		(1,645)		**(3,837)**
Other Comprehensive Income			(58,563)		**(3,837)**
Total Comprehensive Income			(60,380)		**(8,757)**

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (AWDC charges and the Residual Levy) by the Authority in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the Authority in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	2021/22 £000			2022/23 £000		
	Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the funding and accounting basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	**Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund**	**Adjustments between the funding and accounting basis**	**Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**
Employees	527	116	643	**600**	**89**	**689**
Premises	601	-	601	**584**	**-**	**584**
General Waste Disposal	48,396	-	48,396	**43,485**	**-**	**43,485**
Other supplies and payments	397	-	397	**332**	**-**	**332**
Depreciation and Impairment (Note 11)	-	967	967	**-**	**2,213**	**2,213**
Operating Income	(47,431)	-	(47,431)	**(47,093)**	**-**	**(47,093)**
Net Cost of Services	2,490	1,083	3,573	**(2,092)**	**2,302**	**210**
Other Expenditure	2,088	(2,200)	(112)	**(242)**	**646**	**403**
Other Income	(873)	-	(873)	**(1,041)**	**-**	**(1,041)**
Levy income	(4,405)	-	(4,405)	**(4,492)**	**-**	**(4,492)**
Deficit/ (surplus) on Provision of Services	(700)	(1,117)	(1,817)	**(7,867)**	**2,948**	**(4,920)**
Opening Usable Reserve Balance	17,936			**18,636**		
Plus surplus on General Fund in Year	700			**7,867**		
Usable Reserve Balance carried forward	18,636			**26,503**		

For a breakdown of Usable Reserves, please refer to the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Authority may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves is those that the Authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations.

	Notes	31 March 2022	**31 March 2023**
		£000	**£000**
Property, Plant and Equipment	11	113,918	**111,705**
Long Term Assets		113,918	**111,705**
Short Term Investments	14	6,508	**5,929**
Short Term Debtors	13	6,219	**6,813**
Prepayments		35	**38**
Defined Benefit Pension Asset		-	**1,166**
Cash and Cash Equivalents	14	7,314	**17,255**
Current Assets		20,076	**31,201**
Short Term Borrowing	12	-	**-**
Short Term Creditors	15	3,956	**3,952**
Receipts in Advance		-	**1,349**
Deferred Income		2,625	**3,950**
Current Liabilities		6,581	**9,251**
Long Term Borrowing	12	1,000	**1,000**
Defined Benefit Pension Liability	28	2,513	**-**
Long Term Liabilities		3,513	**1,000**
Net Assets		123,900	**132,656**
Usable Reserves	17	18,636	**26,503**
Unusable Reserves	18	105,264	**106,153**
Total Reserves		123,900	**132,656**

The notes on pages 12 to 52 form part of the financial statements.

S Kalsi - Treasurer February 2024

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Authority during the reporting year. The statement shows how the Authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Authority are funded by way of AWDC charges or the Residual Levy received from the Constituent Authorities. All activities are based on recovery of costs from the Constituent Authorities. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Authority's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Authority.

	Note	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Net surplus on the provision of services		1,817	**4,920**
Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	19	(1,423)	**5,021**
Net cash flows from Operating Activities		394	**9,941**
Net cash outflow from Investing Activities	20	-	**-**
Net cash outflow from Financing Activities	21	(2,000)	**-**
(Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents		(1,606)	**9,941**
Represented by			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting year		8,920	**7,314**
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(1,606)	**9,941**
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the reporting year	14	7,314	**17,255**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2023. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as amended. These Regulations require that the accounts be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices under Section 21 of the 2003 Act primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards and any relevant statutory guidance issued by Government.

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments. The principal accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

ii. Going Concern

The Authority's financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis; that is, the accounts are prepared on the assumption that the Authority's functions and services will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Authority is a statutory body, funded in full by charges levied on constituent councils.

iii. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Authority can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on cash balances and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet.

Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

- Where cash is received in advance of being due, this is recorded as a Receipt in Advance.

iv. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by deposits with current retail banker (RBS/ NatWest[) and investments via Wandsworth Council repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in a specified period, no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts. If any overdraft is used, it is repayable on demand and used only for the purposes of cash management.

v. Exceptional Items

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to understand the Authority's financial performance.

vi. Prior Year Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

Prior year adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e. in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior year adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Authority's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless not material or stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior year as if the new policy had always been applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

vii. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Revenue is debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding fixed assets during the year:

- depreciation attributable to the assets used by the service
- revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off

- amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service

The Authority is not required to charge constituent Boroughs to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement, equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Authority in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance (Minimum Revenue Provision - MRP), by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two. Following a review of MRP policy and the establishment of an earmarked reserve to redeem debt MRP was nil in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

viii. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. health checks) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Authority. An accrual would be made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year, however, this is immaterial for the Authority and not recognised in the accounts.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy and are charged on an accruals basis to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Authority is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an officer or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post Employment Benefits

Employees of the Authority are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by the London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA). The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned whilst employees worked for the Authority.

The liabilities of the pension fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 4.80% in 2022/23 compared to 2.60% in 2021/22 (based on the net present value of the notional cash flow, discounted using the annualised Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate bond yield curve – this is consistent with the approach used at the previous accounting date).

The assets of the pension fund are valued at market value in the Balance Sheet. Further detail is outlined in note 28.

The change in the net pension's liability is analysed into seven components:

- current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked;
- past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Other Comprehensive Income;
- interest cost – the expected increase in the present value of liabilities during the year as they move one year closer to being paid – debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- expected return on assets – the annual investment return on the fund assets attributable to the Authority, based on an average of the expected long-term return – credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- gains or losses on settlements and curtailments – the result of actions to relieve the Authority of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees – debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part Other Comprehensive Income;
- actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – debited to the Pensions Reserve; and
- contributions paid to the pension fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises

on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

ix. Events After the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting year and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting year – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events; and
- Those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting year – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

x. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the Authority has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be

spread over future years. The Authority has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from a Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost;
- Fair value through profit or loss; and
- Fair value through other comprehensive income.

The Authority's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flow. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principal and interest (i.e. where the cash flows do not take the form of a basic debt instrument).

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Fair Value Measurements of Financial Assets

Fair value of an asset is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurements of the authority's financial assets are based on the following techniques:

• instruments with quoted market prices – the market price

• other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

• Level 1 inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the Authority can access at the measurement date.

• Level 2 inputs – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly.

• Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset.

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- instruments with quoted market prices – the market price; and
- other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis.

For Pooled Investment Funds which includes the Authority's Diversified Income Fund (DIF) with the CCLA, the government introduced a regulation to mitigate the effects of changes in fair value on the Authority for a period of 5 years from 1 April 2018 which has since been extended for another 2 years. Changes in fair value are transferred from the CIES to an account established solely for this purpose on the Balance Sheet. This account is called the Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account. Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES, along with any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised in the Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account.

Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, the instrument is carried at cost (less any impairment losses).

Accounting Policies for Expected Credit Losses and the Impairment of Financial Assets

The Authority recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost or where relevant fair value through profit and loss, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis as appropriate. The expected credit loss model would also apply to lease receivables and other assets if appropriate. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the Authority.

xi. Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

The Authority as Lessee

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

The Authority as Lessor

Operating Leases

Where the Authority grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment which it owns, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Income outside IFRS 15 line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

xii. Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- the purchase price;
- any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management; and
- the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

The Authority does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

The cost of an asset acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e. it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the Authority). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Authority.

Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- assets under construction – depreciated historical cost; and
- all other assets – fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of fair value.

Where non-property assets have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value, i.e. for vehicles and moveable plant.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for by:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains); and
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2009 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains); and
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land), assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction) and assets which have been reclassified from assets under construction within the year.

Depreciation is calculated on buildings, vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment on a straight-line basis over the useful life of the asset as estimated by the valuer. (Remaining useful economic lives are as follows: Building structure – 59 years, External works – 59 years, Roof – 34 years, fixed plant (heating etc) – 19 years, and electrical equipment – 34 years). Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

xiii. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For

instance, the Authority may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Authority becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (e.g. from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the Authority settles the obligation.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority.

Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

xiv. Reserves

The Authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged in that year to score against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against the levy for the expenditure.

xv. VAT

VAT payable is included as an expense in the comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the capital accounts only to the extent that it is not recoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). VAT receivable is excluded from income accounts. VAT due from HMRC and payable to HMRC at the year end is accrued in the accounts and included in debtors or creditors.

xvi. *Rounding* – it is not the Authority's policy to adjust for immaterial cross-casting difference between the main statements and disclosure notes.

2. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

The Code introduces changes in Accounting Policies which will need to be adopted fully by the Authority in the 2023/24 financial statements. The Authority is required to disclose information relating to the expected impact of the accounting changes on the financial statements because of adoption by the Code of a new standard that has been issued but is not yet required to be adopted by the Authority.

IFRS 16 (Leases) will require local authorities to recognise assets on their Balance Sheet where any contract gives rise to a 'right of use asset'. Currently, a distinction exists between operating and finance leases for lessees. Finance leases are accounted for as acquisitions (asset on the Balance Sheet) and operating leases are expensed in year and therefore are not currently required to be reported on lessee balance sheets. IFRS 16 largely removes this distinction, unless it is a short term (12 months or less) or low value contract. For lessors the reporting requirements are largely unchanged as under the revised IFRS 16 there is still a distinction between operating and finance leases. The implementation of IFRS 16 has been deferred until 1 April 2024.

There are unlikely to be any areas within the above which will materially affect the Authority. IFRS 16 will apply to the Authority's leases, but as it is a lessor (other than in respect of the Energy from Waste facility, discussed in note 3), there will be limited impact of the new standard.

3. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies, the Authority has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

In 2002 the Authority entered into a long term Waste Management Services Agreement (WMSA) with Cory Environmental Limited. This agreement has been restated where required to meet the needs of the Authority, most significantly in 2008 when Cory commenced construction of the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility at Belvedere. The Authority's arrangements with Cory are complex, and accounting for them involves a number of Critical Accounting Judgements, as well as accounting estimates that are disclosed as Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty. The principal aspects of these arrangements are disclosed below.

Services provided by Cory

The WMSA with Cory runs until 2032. The WMSA requires the Authority to direct its Constituent Councils to deliver all Authority waste they are responsible for to Cory at agreed locations. Any waste that is not recycled is made available to Cory for incineration in the EfW facility. There is no minimum tonnage that must be supplied and no minimum payment.

The Authority pays a price per tonne for waste delivered to Cory (the "gate fee"), which is indexed each year. The gate fee was determined based on a financial model that took account of Cory's financing costs for the construction of the EfW facility, and the Authority has contractual protections to enable it to share in any refinancing gain if Cory refinances its debt (discussed further below).

The calculation of the gate fee for each period includes an energy revenue risk share mechanism, based on the average price (for electricity or other outputs) achieved during the financial year by Cory (when the plant generates electricity income above a floor, the Authority benefits a share of that which hence lowers the price per tonne to the Authority and vice versa). This variation is considered to be closely related to the underlying services provided by Cory, and so is not separated and separately accounted for.

The cost of services provided is accrued based upon the volume of activity and the applicable gate fee for the period. No account is taken of the Residual Value Agreement (discussed further below).

The cost of services is presented as a single net figure, including the refinancing benefit arising from the 2017 refinancing by Cory and without any grossing up for other elements of the Authority's arrangements with Cory for the reasons discussed below.

Residual Value Agreement

The design life of the EfW extends past the end of the main WMSA in 2032. The Authority has a Residual Value Agreement with Cory, which reflects that payments to 2032 will have financed the construction of an asset with life beyond that date. The Authority will have the option between 2032 and 2046 to:

- Subject to agreement of commercial terms, to continue to deliver waste to Cory, and receive a reduced gate fee; and/or
- Receive a royalty on waste from other sources processed at the plant.

The Authority's ability to benefit under the Residual Value Agreement is dependent upon the continued operation of the EfW facility past 2032, and the volume of waste processed at the facility. These may be affected by legislative and/or policy changes.

The potential estimated annual value of this entitlement (which is indexed and so will vary over time) is difficult to estimate but could be as much as £11 million in the first year of the Residual Value Agreement.

A critical accounting judgement is whether any amounts should be recognised in respect of this in advance of 2032 (which would reduce the expense recognised pre-2032, and increase the net expense recognised post-2032). The Authority is of the view that there is a significant level of uncertainty as to whether this value will accrue and has decided not to reflect this within the accounts.

In particular, no intangible asset has been recognised in respect of this, on the basis that:

- The “cost” paid as part of the gate fee to 2032 is not separately identifiable; and
- There is no active market to determine the fair value of the asset.

It should be noted that during 2020/21 the Authority was approached by Cory regarding whether it wished to review the arrangements under the Residual Value Agreement which might amend the situation stated above in future. Following discussions with the constituent councils no further action was taken on this review.

Authority sites

The Authority owns the Smugglers Way and Cringle Dock sites. These sites, including buildings and plant thereon, are leased to Cory until 2032 for an annual payment of £1.

Under the terms of the WMSA, Cory was required to carry out various capital works on the site, including the construction of the Civic Amenity Facility and Municipal Recycling Facility. The Authority paid separately for the construction of these assets, with payments accounted for as capital expenditure.

The Authority considers these arrangements represent operating leases, as the Authority retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the assets. The economic value of the lease to Cory is not separately identifiable within the WMSA and lease agreement, and so it is not possible to show separately lease income and gross cost paid to Cory.

The assets are shown within Property, Plant and Equipment, and are revalued on a freehold basis using the methodology as detailed in note xii above.

EfW site leases

Cory owns the site of the EfW facility. This has been leased to the Authority on a peppercorn lease until the earlier of 2058 or the end of the Residual Value period. This is then leased back to Cory for a peppercorn until 2032, and thereafter for the amount of any royalties due under the Residual Value Agreement.

The Authority has considered the substance of this arrangement, and has concluded that this does not represent a lease, and is instead in substance a protective provision to ensure payments of any amounts due under the Residual Value Agreement.

Force Majeure provisions

The WMSA includes provisions to address various potential termination scenarios, including the possibility of Force Majeure events leading to termination of the contract. In the event of specified Force Majeure events occurring (and not being remedied by Cory), the Authority would be obligated to pay Cory an amount intended to cover inter alia the repayment of relevant elements of the Senior Debt. In return, the EfW facility would transfer to the Authority. Depending upon the situation arising, this could result in a valuable asset transferring to the Authority for under value, or the Authority acquiring an asset requiring significant expenditure to enable on-going operations. The principal element of any payment would be in respect of relevant elements of Cory’s Senior Debt, the Authority assessed the risk of payment as less than 1 in 1,600 in a year.

This arrangement involves the Authority taking on insurance risk, and therefore is considered under the requirements of IFRS 4. The Authority considers that there is no separately identifiable consideration for this arrangement that should be presented as income. The Authority has assessed the minimum level of provision required and has not recognised a provision as the possibility of cash outflows is currently considered remote.

Refinancing

The WMSA includes provisions to ensure that the Authority shares in any refinancing gains from Cory refinancing its borrowings.

- In 2017, the main contractor undertook a qualifying refinancing, with the result being treated as a combined arrangement with the Authority and resulting in a net benefit recognised over time via a change to the contract price and therefore reflected each year dependent upon the volume of activity.
- In 2018, the Authority received £3.5m from the main contractor and a further £1.75m in 2022 which were in effect payments to facilitate their refinancing, these payments have no impact on future potential or contingent liabilities and thus future costs. However, as these payments have arisen due to the existence of the WMSA, this income be recognised over the remaining life of the contract and therefore is held as deferred income and gradually released into revenue. An amount of £425,000 has been recognised as revenue in the 2022/23 accounts, with £250,000 recognised in the previous three years.

4. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Authority about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

There is a high degree of uncertainty about the government's implementation of measures in the Environment Act 2021. However, the Authority has determined that this uncertainty is not sufficient to undermine predictions about future levels of AWDC charges and the Residual Levy due to the use of the EfW plant.

The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. In the event that wear and tear on the assets is more intensive than assumed, then the assets will have to be depreciated over a shorter period of time, resulting in higher repairs and maintenance costs to extend the life of the asset or a shorter repayment period before PWLB loans fall due.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £33,300 for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £96,000. However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. A +1 year adjustment to the mortality age rating assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of £358,000. A detailed sensitivity analysis for

		changes in assumptions is included in note 28.
Arrears	The Authority recovers the significant majority of its costs from the Constituent Authorities under statute. Late payment by the Constituent Authorities will incur additional cash flow charges or result in a reduction in interest earned on cash flow movements.	If collection rates were to deteriorate, a higher penalty rate would have to be imposed on Constituent Councils to ensure cash flow losses are not incurred.

5. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

The Authority received £3.5 million cash receipt as a result of Cory executing a debt refinancing of the Belvedere Energy from Waste plant in October 2018 which has been classified as deferred income in the accounts and recognised gradually in revenue over the lifetime of the WMSA, that being for the period until October 2032. The amount included within revenue in 2022/23 is £250,000 which is the same as that recognised in 2021/22. Similarly, the Authority received a £1.75 million cash receipt as a result of Cory's refinancing following closure of the Riverside Energy Park financing at Belvedere in December 2022 which has been classified as deferred income in the accounts and recognised in revenue over the remaining lifetime of the WMSA. £175,000 has been recognised within revenue in 2022/23.

The Authority also benefits from a share of the 'Triad' income generated by the contractor meeting specific energy supply targets set by the National Grid during the year. The Authority accounted for a receipt of £1.4 million in 2022/23 and £0.7 million in 2021/22 in relation to this.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Draft Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Treasurer on 31st May 2023. Events taking place after this date are reflected in the final completed financial statements and notes as appropriate. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2023 the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

7. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of the Authority are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Authority are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance

therefore summarises the resources that the Authority is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Authority is required to recover) at the end of the financial year.

2022/23	**General Fund Balance £000**	**Movement in Unusable Reserves £000**
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	**(2,213)**	**2,213**
Changes in fair value of pooled investments	**(578)**	**578**
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Provision for debt redemption	**-**	**-**
Loan repayment charged against the General Fund	**-**	**-**
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	**-**	**-**
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:		
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (see Note 28)	**(222)**	**222**
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year (see Note 28)	**64**	**(64)**
Total Adjustments	**(2,948)**	**2,948**

2021/22	**General Fund Balance £000**	**Movement in Unusable Reserves £000**
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(967)	967
Changes in fair value of pooled investments	288	(288)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Provision for debt redemption	-	-
Loan repayment charged against the General Fund	2,000	(2,000)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:		
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (see Note 28)	(262)	262
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year (see Note 28)	58	(58)
Total Adjustments	1,117	(1,117)

8. TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund balance in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2022/23.

The Authority created a Pension Liability Reserve in 2012/13 of £1.8 million. The Actuary for the Pension fund (administered by the LPFA) has reported on the triennial valuation that as at 31 March 2022, the Authority's element of the LPFA fund was fully funded. This valuation, although it is a forward look, is still only valid as at that point in time and the fund will be subject to market pressures which could mean that the funding level drops due to investments not performing as well as could be expected. In light of this it is proposed to retain the Pension Liability Reserve at this time to provide against future increases in charges from the LPFA requiring increases in the Levy. The next triennial valuation will be calculated as at 31 March 2025.

The Authority has set aside a Stabilisation Reserve and Recycling Initiatives Reserve. The first of these reserves provides a prudent approach to offset potential changes in rates and the Levy as a result of circumstances outside the Authority's control. The planned subsidy of General Waste rates in 2023/24 will cost approximately £1.4 million and therefore this sum has been transferred into the reserve from the 2022/23 surplus to fund this. The Recycling Initiatives Reserve will enable future recycling projects to be proposed and funded without the requirement of additional borough funding. In 2018/19 a Loan Repayment Reserve was established to provide for the redemption of the majority of current debt with the PWLB which was then applied in full during 2019/20 to fund the repayment of loans. At the end of 2020/21 this reserve was topped up again to cover the remaining PWLB loan balances outstanding and partially used to fund the £2m loan repayment during 2021/22.

At the end of 2021/22 a Capital Reserve was created with a sum of £2.2 million in order to set aside funds for any potential legislative changes arising from the Environment Act 2021. This has been topped up by £5.8 million in 2022/23 for future use.

	Balance 1 April 2021 £000	Transfers Out 2021/22 £000	Transfers In 2021/22 £000	Balance 31 Mar 2022 £000	**Transfers Out 2022/23** £000	**Transfers In 2022/23** £000	**Balance 31 Mar 2023** £000
General Fund:							
General Fund Balance	3,312	(3,327)	3,817	**3,802**	**(7,190)**	**7,869**	**4,481**
Pension Liability Reserve	1,800	-	-	**1,800**	**-**	**-**	**1,800**
Capital Reserve	-	-	2,210	**2,210**	**-**	**5,774**	**7,984**
Stabilisation Reserve	9,575	-	-	**9,575**	**-**	**1,416**	**10,991**
Loan Repayment Reserve	3,000	(2,000)	-	**1,000**	**-**	**-**	**1,000**
Recycling Initiatives Reserve	250	-	-	**250**	**-**	**-**	**250**
Total	17,936	(5,327)	6,027	**18,636**	**(7,190)**	**15,059**	**26,506**

9. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO PROVISION OF SERVICES

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Interest payable and similar charges	99	**37**
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	88	**68**
Interest receivable and similar income	(11)	**(278)**
Movements in fair value of financial instruments	(288)	**578**
Total	(112)	**405**

10. OTHER INCOME

Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for other income include the full year recognition of £250,000 of the £3.5m receipt from Cory classified as deferred income as well as a subsequent £175,000 of the £1.75m receipt from Cory, and £270,000 income from Westminster council for the use of the Authority's Household Waste and Recycling Centres:

	2021/22	**2022/23**
	£000	**£000**
Other income	531	**710**

Nothing is included in the Balance Sheet for contracts with service recipients, nor was there in 2021/22.

11. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movement on Balances 2022/23

A valuation was carried out by the Authority's Valuer, P C Smith, MRICS IRRV (Hons), RICS Registered Valuer of Wilks Head & Eve LLP, on land, buildings and fixed plant and equipment as at 31 March 2022. Assets are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years and a full valuation took place as at 31 March 2022. There was a revaluation increase of £50.46m resulting from movement in land values around the Cringle Dock and Smugglers Way Transfer Station sites as part of that valuation in 2021/22. The Authority's Valuer advised that there was no material movement in asset values requiring a further revaluation in 2022/23.

	Land and Buildings	Fixed Plant and Equipment	Vehicles and Moveable Plant	**Total**
	£000	£000	£000	**£000**
Cost or valuation at 1 April 2022	99,954	13,964	223	**114,141**
Additions	-	-	-	**-**
Reclassifications	-	-	-	**-**
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in Revaluation Reserve				
Revaluation increases to Surplus/ Deficit on Provision of Services	-	-	-	**-**
At 31 March 2023	**99,954**	**13,964**	**223**	**114,141**
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment at 1 April 2022	-	-	(223)	**(223)**
Depreciation charge	(1,640)	(573)		**(2,213)**
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	**-**
At 31 March 2023	**(1,640)**	**(573)**	**(223)**	**(2,436)**
Net Book Value				
at 31 March 2023	**98,315**	**13,391**	**-**	**111,705**
at 31 March 2022	**99,954**	**13,964**	**-**	**113,918**

Fixed Plant and Equipment

No capital expenditure was incurred during 2022/23 or 2021/22.

2021/22

	Land and Buildings	Fixed Plant and Equipment	Vehicles and Moveable Plant	**Total**
	£000	£000	£000	**£000**
Cost or valuation at 1 April 2021	54,796	8,780	223	**63,799**
Additions	-	-	-	**-**
Reclassifications	-	-	-	**-**
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in Revaluation Reserve	45,158	5,184	-	**50,342**
Revaluation increases to Surplus/ Deficit on Provision of Services	-	-	-	**-**
At 31 March 2022	**99,954**	**13,964**	**223**	**114,141**
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment at 1 April 2021	(2,195)	(3,415)	(223)	**(5,833)**
Depreciation charge	(717)	(250)		**(967)**
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	2,912	3,665	-	**6,577**
At 31 March 2022	**-**	**-**	**(223)**	**(223)**
Net Book Value				
at 31 March 2022	**99,954**	**13,964**	**-**	**113,918**
at 31 March 2021	**52,601**	**5,365**	**-**	**57,966**

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Categories of Financial Instruments

The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the Balance Sheet:

	Long-term		Current	
	31 March 2022 £000	**31 March 2023 £000**	31 March 2022 £000	**31 March 2023 £000**
Financial Assets				
Fair value through profit and loss	-	-	6,507	**5,929**
Amortised cost	-	-	6,219	**6,813**
Total Financial Assets	**-**	**-**	**12,726**	**12,742**
Financial Liabilities				
Fair value through profit and loss	-	**-**	-	**-**
Amortised cost	1,000	**1,000**	3,956	**3,952**
Total Financial Liabilities	**1,000**	**1,000**	**3,956**	**3,952**

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- the interest rate at 31 March 2023 of 3.69% for loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB);
- no early repayment or impairment is recognised;
- where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value; and
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

Financial Liabilities	31 March 2022 Carrying amount £000	Fair value £000	**31 March 2023 Carrying amount £000**	**Fair value £000**
Financial Liabilities held at amortised cost – short term borrowing	-	-	**-**	**-**
Financial Liabilities held at amortised cost – long term borrowing	1,000	1,084	**1,000**	**1,005**
Total	1,000	1,084	**1,000**	**1,005**

The fair value of outstanding long term debts as at 31 March 2023 was higher than the book value due to the changes in market factors since the original borrowing was made.

Financial Assets	31 March 2022 Carrying amount £000	Fair value £000	**31 March 2023 Carrying amount £000**	**Fair value £000**
Financial Assets held at fair value through Profit and loss – Diversified income fund	6,219	6,507	**6,813**	**5,929**
Financial Assets held at amortised cost	6,219	6,219	**6,813**	**6,813**
Total	12,438	12,726	**13,626**	**12,742**

Fair Values of Financial Assets

Some of the Authority's financial assets are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and are described in the following table, including the valuation techniques used to measure them.

Financial Assets measured at fair value

Recurring fair value measurements	Input level in fair value hierarchy	Valuation technique used to measure fair value	As at 31 March 2022 £000	As at 31 March 2023 £000
Fair Value Through Profit or Loss				
Diversified Income Fund	Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in statement received	6,507	5,929
Total			6,507	5,929

13. SHORT TERM DEBTORS

Short term debtors and other receivables at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 can be analysed as follows:

	31 March 2022	**31 March 2023**
ITEM	£000	**£000**
Trade Receivables	6	**0**
Accrued Income	4,752	**5,364**
Other Receivable Amounts	1,461	**1,449**
Total	**6,219**	**6,813**

14. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements:

	31 March 2022	**31 March 2023**
	£000	**£000**
Cash at bank	2,442	**4,107**
Cash held by Wandsworth Council	4,872	**13,148**
Total	**7,314**	**17,255**

15. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

The balance of Short Term Investments is made up of the following:

	31 March 2022	**31 March 2023**
	£000	**£000**
Diversified Income Fund	6,508	5,929
Total	**6,508**	**5,929**

16. SHORT TERM CREDITORS

Creditor payments 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 can be analysed as follows:-

	31 March 2022	**31 March 2023**
ITEM	£000	**£000**
Accruals	3,956	**3,952**
Total	**3,956**	**3,952**

17. PROVISIONS

There are no provisions recognised at 31 March 2023 (31 March 2022 was also nil).

18. USABLE RESERVES

Movements in the Authority's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

19. UNUSABLE RESERVES

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000
Revaluation Reserve	86,279	**86,279**
Pensions Reserve	(2,513)	**1,166**
Capital Adjustment Account	21,494	**19,281**
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	4	**(574)**
Total Unusable Reserves	105,264	**106,152**

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost;
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation; or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2009, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Authority accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Authority has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Balance at 1 April	(3,954)	**(2,513)**
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability	1,645	**3,837**
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(262)	**(222)**
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	58	**64**
Balance at 31 March	(2,513)	**(1,166)**

Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account contains the amounts contributed from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the repayment of external loans, and is adjusted for depreciation. In 2021/22 and 2022/23 there has been a payment 'holiday' in relation to debt redemption. In 2021/22 £2.0m of PWLB loans were repaid and in order to write out the annual provision for debt redemption in relation to these debts, a payment has been made between the General Fund and the Capital Adjustment Account.

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Balance at 1 April	20,461	21,494
Provision for debt redemption	-	**-**
Depreciation provision	(967)	**(2,213)**
Repayment of PWLB loans	2,000	**-**
Balance at 31 March	21,494	**19,281**

Pooled Investments Adjustment Account

The Pooled Investments Adjustment Account reflects the balance between fair value and investment originally made for funds held in the CCLA Diversified Income Fund. As noted there is a five year exemption operational from 2018 which has been extended until 2025 which allows for the accounting treatment in this way.

20. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Interest received	11	**278**
Interest paid	(99)	**(37)**
Total	(88)	**241**

The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements:

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Depreciation	967	**2,213**
Impairment and downward valuations	(288)	**578**
Increase/(Decrease) in receipts in advance	(2,252)	**1,347**
Increase/(Decrease) in deferred income	(250)	**1,325**
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(648)	**(3)**
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	844	**(594)**
Increase in prepayments	-	**(3)**
Movement in pension liability	204	**158**
	(1,423)	**5,021**

21. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	-	**-**
Net cash flows from investing activities	-	**-**

22. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	(2,000)	**-**
Net cash flows from financing activities	(2,000)	**-**

23. RECONCILIATION OF LIABILITIES ARISING FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

There are no liabilities arising from the financing activities during the year 2022/23. During 2021/22 £2m of PWLB loans were repaid:

	1 April 2021	Financing cash flows	Non-cash changes	31 March 2022
Long term borrowing	1,000	-	-	1,000
Short term borrowing	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Total liabilities from financing activities	**3,000**	**(2,000)**	**-**	**1,000**

	1 April 2022	Financing cash flows	Non-cash changes	31 March 2023
Long term borrowing	1,000	-	-	1,000
Short term borrowing	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities from financing activities	**1,000**	**-**	**-**	**1,000**

24. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

The remuneration paid to the Authority's senior employees is as follows:

Title	Year	Salary, Fees and Allowances £000	Bonuses £000	Expenses Allowances £000	Pension Contribution £000	**Total £000**
General Manager – M. Broxup	2021/22	145	13	-	22	180
	2022/23	**147**	**13**	**-**	**22**	**182**
Deputy General Manager – S. Ross	2021/22*	50	12	-	8	70
	2022/23	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Deputy General Manager – R. Espinosa	2021/22	-	-	-	-	-
	2022/23	**71**	**-**	**-**	**10**	**81**
Clerk	2021/22	12	-	-	2	14
	2022/23	**12**	**-**	**-**	**2**	**14**
Treasurer	2021/22	12	-	-	-	12
	2022/23	**12**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**12**

*Deputy General Manager left the Authority's paid employment during 2021/22 and was replaced during 2022/23.
Bonuses relates to a Performance Related Pay award.

Remuneration band	2021/22 Number of Employees	2022/23 Number of Employees
£50,000 - £54,999	0	2
£55,000 - £59,999	0	1
£60,000 - £64,999	1	0
£70,000 - £74,999	0	1
£155,000 - £159,999	1	0
£160,000 - £164,999	0	1

The Authority's other employees receive below £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions).

There are no allowances paid to Members by the Authority and there were no exit packages in either 2021/22 or 2022/23.

25. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Authority has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections and to non-audit services provided by the Authority's auditors:

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Fees payable to Deloitte with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	12	**12**

Any 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 additional fees have not yet been agreed with the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) body and are therefore not included in this table.

26. RELATED PARTIES

The Authority is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Authority or to be controlled or influenced by the Authority. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Authority might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely.

Central Government: Central government has effective control over the general operations of the Authority in that it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Authority operates.

Members: Each of the four constituent boroughs of the Authority appoints two of their Members to the Authority. Apart from this dual role, no Member of the Authority has reported that he/she or members of their families and households exercised any control or

influence on any of the companies or other bodies with which the Authority transacted in 2022/23.

Officers: Finance and admin support services have been provided by Wandsworth Borough Council and Lambeth Borough Council in 2022/23. The Clerk to the Authority is also a Senior Officer at the London Borough of Lambeth. No other officer or member of their family or household, whether working wholly for the Authority or in an advisory role has indicated that they or members of their families and households exercised any control or influence on any of the companies or other bodies with which the Authority transacted in 2022/23.

The Authority's operations are financed by charges to constituent councils for the disposal costs of waste, Apportionment of Waste Disposal Costs (AWDC) charges and levies upon those councils. The cost of the support services from Wandsworth and Lambeth are also set out below and are included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

	Hammersmith and Fulham £000	Kensington and Chelsea £000	Lambeth £000	Wandsworth £000
Income				
Levies	862	1,019	1,165	1,446
AWDC	9,151	9,652	15,047	13,243
Total 2022/23	**10,013**	**10,671**	**16,212**	**14,689**
Expenditure				
Financial Services	0	0	0	69
Other Services (administrative support etc)	0	0	29	0
Total 2022/23	**0**	**0**	**29**	**69**

At 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 the following Authority balances related to the constituent councils:

Debtors and Accrued Income	31 March 2022 £000	**31 March 2023 £000**
Hammersmith and Fulham	781	**762**
Kensington and Chelsea	800	**797**
Lambeth	1,126	**1,147**
Wandsworth	1,158	**1,125**

The Authority invests cash via Wandsworth Council with a balance of £13.2m held with Wandsworth as at 31 March 2023 (£4.9m as at 31 March 2022). Net interest payments on cash flow balances of £242,511 were received by the Authority from Wandsworth Council for the year 2022/23 whilst net interest payments for 2021/22 amounted to £7,667.

27. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

There was no capital expenditure incurred in the year as shown in the table below. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Authority, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Authority that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	8,079	**6,079**
Capital investment		
Capital Expenditure	-	**-**
Sources of finance		
Direct revenue contributions	(2,000)	**-**
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	6,079	**6,079**
Explanation of movements in year		
Reduction in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	2,000	**-**
Decrease in Capital Financing Requirement	2,000	**-**

28. LEASES

Authority as Lessor

Operating Leases

The Authority has leased out land at Institute Wharf, Smugglers Way to Chartwell Properties Ltd on a 15 year lease with effect from 2015 for a rental value of £158,599 per annum.

The future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000
Not later than one year	159	159
Later than one year and not later than five years	634	634
Later than five years	588	400
Total	1,381	1,193

Authority as Lessee

Operating Leases

The Authority leases and leases back the Energy from Waste facility at Belvedere at a peppercorn rent. As discussed in note 3, the Authority considers that in substance this arrangement is not a lease and so is not accounted for as such.

29. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

1. PENSION FUND**.** As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Authority makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Authority has a commitment to make the payments (for those benefits) and to disclose them at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

2. Local Government Pension Scheme. All permanent staff are eligible for inclusion in the statutory Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) which is administered by the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations. Employee costs shown in the accounts include the contributions paid to the scheme in respect of the employees concerned in accordance with Regulations governing the Scheme. An independent firm of actuaries, Barnett Waddingham, was instructed to undertake IAS 19 calculations on behalf of the Authority as at 31 March 2023.

3. We recognise the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against the Levy is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

	Year to 31 March 2022 £000	**Year to 31 March 2023 £000**
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Service cost	174	**154**
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
Net Interest and Administration Expense	88	**68**
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus of Deficit on the Provision of Services	262	**222**
Other Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:		
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(1,213)	**120**
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	-	**138**
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(448)	**(3,752)**
Other actuarial gains and losses	-	**(358)**
Experience gain/(loss) on defined benefit obligation	16	**15**
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,645)	**(3,837)**
Movement in Reserves Statement		
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(262)	**(222)**
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:		
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	58	**64**

At the end of 2018/19, the Supreme Court ruled on the McCloud case, challenging the 2015 rule changes to the public sector pensions as discriminatory to younger employees. The ruling means that local government pension funds are likely to have to compensate and account for payments to ensure that no employee is left out of pocket. However, the structure of the Authority's liabilities with most being either deferred or already in receipt of pension will mean that the majority are outside of the impact of this judgement and therefore exposure to this risk is limited. The figures here include the estimated impact of the McCloud judgement.

Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the Authority's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is as follows:

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	11,982	**8,047**
Fair value of scheme assets	(9,469)	**(9,213)**
Present value of unfunded obligation	-	**-**
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	2,513	**(1,166)**

Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme Assets

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
Opening fair value of scheme assets	8,552	**9,469**
Interest income	162	243
Remeasurement gain/(loss):		
The return on assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	1,213	(120)
Other actuarial (losses)	-	(138)
Contributions from employer	58	64
Contributions from employees into the scheme	29	34
Benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(534)	(336)
Administration expenses	(11)	(3)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	9,469	**9,213**

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets Comprised:

	2021/22		2022/23	
	£000	%	£000	%
Equities	5,389	57	5,417	59
Target Return Portfolio	2,039	22	1,713	18
Infrastructure	965	10	1,166	13
Property	850	9	905	10
Cash	226	2	12	0
Total	**9,469**	100	**9,213**	100

40% of total assets do not have a quoted market price in an active market and therefore there is a higher degree of estimation uncertainty over their valuation at 31 March 2023, compared to 36% at 31 March 2022.

Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Opening balance 1 April	**12,506**	**11,982**
Current service cost	174	154
Interest cost	239	308
Contributions from scheme participants	29	34
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:		
- Actuarial gains arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-	(358)
- Actuarial losses/(gains) arising from changes in financial assumptions	(448)	(3,752)
Experience (gain)/loss on defined benefit obligation	16	15
Past Service Cost	-	-
Liabilities assumed on entity combinations		
Benefits paid	(534)	(336)
Unfunded pension payments	-	-
Closing balance at 31 March	**11,982**	**8,047**

4. Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The scheme has been assessed by Barnett Waddingham based upon the latest triennial valuation, as at 31 March 2022.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	2021/22	**2022/23**
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
-Men	21.7	**21.4**
-Women	22.6	**22.1**
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
-Men	23.6	**22.6**
-Women	25.5	**26.1**
Rate of inflation (CPI)	3.35	**2.85**
Rate of increase in salaries	4.35	**3.85**
Rate of increase in pensions	3.35	**2.85**
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.60	**4.80**

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

	£000	£000	£000
Longevity (sensitivity)	+1 Year	None	-1 Year
Present Value of Total Obligation	8,395	8,047	7,715
Projected Service Cost	76	74	71
Rate of increase in salaries (sensitivity)	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligation	8,054	8,047	8,040
Projected Service Cost	74	74	74
Rate of increase in pensions (sensitivity)	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligation	8,140	8,047	7,956
Projected Service Cost	76	74	72
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (sensitivity)	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligation	7,951	8,047	8,145
Projected Service Cost	72	74	76

30. CONTINGENT LIABILITY

The Authority's contract with Cory includes provisions in the event of early termination where in some circumstances the Authority may become liable for the repayment of the contractor's senior debt. The amount payable would depend upon the nature of the termination and timing. This would be offset either in part or in full by the transfer of the contractor's assets.

31. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Authority's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks in respect of financial instruments:

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Authority.
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Authority may not have the funds available to meet its commitments to make payment.
- Refinancing risk – the possibility that the Authority might be required to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.
- Market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Authority as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates.

The Authority's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund its services. The procedures for risk management in relation to key financial instruments are set out through the legal framework detailed within the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations. These require the Authority to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance. Overall, the Authority is required to manage risk in the following ways:

- by formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice;
- by approving annually in advance prudential indicators which limit the Authority's overall borrowing, its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable interest rates and its maximum and minimum exposure to the maturity structure of its debt.

In order to comply with the requirement that the Authority is required to set a balanced budget (Local Government Finance Act 1992) the above is required to be reported at the same time as the levy setting meeting. The annual treasury management strategy outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is compared to the strategy and reported annually to Members.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the Treasurer is responsible for all of the Authority's banking, borrowing and investment activities. Under the Authority's existing arrangements, the London Borough of Wandsworth administers part of the treasury management function on behalf of WRWA, there is a sum invested within a Diversified

Income Fund and the remainder is invested with the current retail banker (RBS/ Nat West) in a Special Interest Bearing Account (SIBA). WRWA receives reports and monitors the treasury management performance of the London Borough of Wandsworth on a regular basis.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Authority's customers. Credit risk with banks and financial institutions are managed under the Treasury Management arrangements operated by the London Borough of Wandsworth.

Credit Risk in relation to payments due from Council Customers (Debtors)

Credit risks can arise from the Authority's exposure to customers. As the great majority of income due to WRWA is derived from its four constituent boroughs, risks are low. Payments for services are either required in advance or due at the time the service is provided. As at 31 March 2022, £5.364 million (£4.758 million as at 31 March 2022) is due to the Authority from its customers. Of this sum, constituent councils were liable to pay a net £3.831 million all of which was accrued income to the Authority, and payable in April 2023. VAT due from the HMRC for February and March 2023 totalled £1.448 million whilst VAT due for February and March 2022 amounted to £1.461 million. These sums were received in April and May 2023 and 2022 respectively.

There was no provision for bad debts as at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 as all outstanding debtors are expected to be paid.

Credit risk arising from deposits with Banks and Financial Institutions

This is managed through the Treasury Management Arrangements which adopt the same as those operated by the London Borough of Wandsworth.

Liquidity Risk

The Authority manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the treasury and investment strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when it is needed.

The Authority has ready access to the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). The PWLB provides access to longer-term funds and acts as lender of last resort to authorities. Therefore there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. As at 31 March 2023, all of the Authority's outstanding loans were with PWLB.

Through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Authority is required to provide a balanced budget, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure.

There is no significant risk that the Authority will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments.

Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The key risk is that the Authority will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its financial instruments, in the form of PWLB loans, at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The risk relates to maturing financial liabilities as all PWLB loans are maturity loans. The Authority approved Treasury Management and Investment Strategies address the main risks and the Treasurer addresses the operational risks within approved parameters. This includes:

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or rescheduling existing debt; and
- monitoring the daily cash flow.

The maturity structure for borrowing as at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 is set out below and is within the Authority's Prudential Code limits for 2021/22 and 2022/23 as set out in its Treasury Management Strategy:

Renewal Period	Market Loans Outstanding as at 31 March 2022 £000	% of Total borrowing	**Market Loans Outstanding as at 31 March 2023 £000**	**% of Total borrowing**
Less than One Year	-	-	**-**	**-**
Between One and Two Years	-	-	**-**	**-**
Between Two and Five Years	1,000	100.0	**1,000**	**100.0**
Between Five and Ten Years	-	-	**-**	**-**
More than Ten Years	-	-	**-**	**-**
Total	1,000	100.0	**1,000**	**100.0**

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year

Market Risk

The Authority is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Interest rates have risen during 2022/23 in response to the Bank of England base rate rises. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Authority. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The Authority has the following strategies to manage interest rate risk:

- All the Authority's borrowings are at fixed rates for the period of the loan.
- Spreading the maturity of loans so that a large proportion of loans do not mature in the same year.
- Ensure the average maturity period for all new loans is at least 4 years.

In view of the fact that the Authority has no variable rate borrowings, no financial impact on the Authority's financial performance for 2022/23 is reported in the key financial statements.

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WESTERN RIVERSIDE WASTE AUTHORITY

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23

1. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Authority 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 Authority also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure 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 Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk. The Authority has reviewed governance arrangements against the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government* (including the subsequent Addendum). This statement explains how the Authority has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a statement of internal control.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Authority 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 CIPFA/SOLACE Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016) provides a core set of seven principles, listed below, to support good governance and the arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved.

- Principle 1 Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
- Principle 2 Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- Principle 3 Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- Principle 4 Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- Principle 5 Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
- Principle 6 Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.

- Principle 7 Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.

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 Authority's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks materialising and the impact should they materialise, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

- **Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.** The relevant Policies and Procedures, which were reviewed in 2020/21, when combined with proper procedures and audits, are effective in terms of reports of possible frauds or financial regularities. The Authority's complaints system is effective with numbers of complaints and reasons for complaints monitored by officers.

- **Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement** The Authority works in partnership with its constituent councils and maintains an effective internet site to provide feedback for all stakeholders. All meetings of the Authority are open to the press and public, and minutes of the meetings are published on the Authority's website. Further engagement is underway with constituent councils in relation to the new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (as outlined below), especially cognisant to new borough waste priorities under revised political control.

- **Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.** The Authority's strategic approach was established within the framework of the Riverside Waste Partnership (Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy - JMWMS) with its four constituent councils, the London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth and Wandsworth and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. This Strategy was supplemented in 2013 with the adoption of a joint waste policy document and in 2016 the Authority, jointly with the other five statutory joint waste disposal authorities, endorsed a number of points it believes are critical to developing a 'Circular Economy' and agreed a position paper on recycling. These documents, together with the Authority's Annual Report are the key documents that contain the current vision, purpose and intended outcomes for citizens and service users and are published on the Authority website. A new JMWMS is currently being developed in partnership with the constituent councils and timetabled to be complete in 2025. This will incorporate the latest changes from the Environment Act 2021 which gives the Government wide ranging powers to make regulations with respect to consistency in waste collections, extended producer responsibility and the introduction of a deposit return scheme and on 3rd July 2023 the Government's announced its decision to include EfW in the UK's Emission Trading Scheme from 2028. These new measures are likely to change the type and quantity of waste in the future.

As set out in current the joint waste policy document, the Authority's vision is to continue to promote the use of waste management techniques higher up the waste hierarchy as they represent best value both environmentally and economically. Performance is reviewed annually within an Annual Report.

The Authority introduced a booking system for the Household Waste and Recycling Centre in 2021. This has a) reduced vehicle queues with the associated environmental benefits and the convenience of users and neighbours; and b) to stopped usage by residents of boroughs that do not pay for the service.

- **Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.** The Authority has an effective performance management culture and system with regular review of key performance indicators at officer and Member level. In-year monitoring reports and year-end reviews are presented to the Authority to monitor progress and action plans for seeking continuous improvement are in place and progress reviewed. Authority officers provide appropriate advice at the points of consideration and report to Members on progress and the outcome of decisions taken. Monitoring of compliance is undertaken by the Clerk to the Authority (as the Authority's monitoring officer), supported by the General Manager and the Treasurer (as the s.73 officer), with legal advice available via the Authority's legal advisers. Members are informed of relevant legal advice as it is received. All reports that have actual or potential financial implications include a Treasurer's comment.

- **Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.** Formal protocols are not required within the Authority, given its size and the simplicity of its decision making processes, although Members are informed of their role in an induction pack. Officer training needs are judged to be adequately identified at annual review meetings with line managers and catered for as required with individual training plans. Members from the constituent authorities comply with their own authority codes. The officer Codes of Conduct are robust and set out clear and specific rules in relation to the giving and receiving of gifts and hospitality and are made available to officers. These were reviewed in 2019 and will formally be renewed in 2023/24 as part of the wider governance review.

- **Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.** The Authority's Constitution and Standing Orders set out how the Authority operates, how decisions are made, and the procedures that are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. The membership of the Authority comprises eight elected Members, with each of the four constituent councils appointing two Members, providing a high level of scrutiny for the Authority. The Authority has a Risk Management Strategy that is embedded within the management processes and a specific risk assessment is undertaken as part of the annual review of the Authority's internal control procedures.

- **Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.** Due to the nature and size of the Authority these functions are effectively

undertaken at the Authority level but as and when necessary, an audit committee is convened.

3. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

The Authority has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the senior officers who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies. The Authority is also undertaking at present a wide ranging Member-led review of Governance arrangements which is due to report in 2023.

Governance framework. The Authority's governance framework is embodied within a number of specific policies, codes of practice and procedures that are subject to regular review. The review of the Authority's existing governance arrangements against the updated CIPFA and SOLACE guidance highlighted the issue that many of the specific requirements of the guidance did not apply to the Authority as they relate to the statutory framework for local authorities and that given the compact size and single service nature of a joint waste disposal authority there is no need to adopt a specific Code of Governance as the current arrangements are generally fit for purpose.

Financial management. The Authority's financial management arrangements are based on a framework of a procurement code of practice and a scheme of delegations to officers that encompasses the accountability, segregation of duties, management and supervision, and administrative procedures. In particular the system includes:

- Comprehensive budgeting systems
- An annual budget approved by the Authority, formally revised in the year of account as part of the annual budget process
- A medium term financial planning process
- Mid-year and outturn reported to the Authority
- Budget review meetings with constituent Council's Finance officers
- Risk Management Strategy that is embedded within the management processes
- Measurement against the CIPFA financial management code.

Review Mechanisms. There is an annual review of the procedures and controls in place which if any amendments are required can be addressed at: The Management Team meetings, via the Standing Order No. 38 authorisation process or at an Authority meeting. Staff homeworking is now part of formal ongoing arrangements following adoption during the Covid 19 pandemic, and as a result there have been new manageable risks around data security, information governance and IT Business Continuity which have all been mitigated during this time. In addition, existing business continuity plans were reviewed to reflect the possibilities of a short notice local or national lockdowns.

Internal Audit. The annual review of the procedures and controls in place at the Authority concluded that there is basically a sound system of control in operation. Robust review

mechanisms are in place that enable Members to take reasonable assurance that the Authority's governance arrangements, including internal control, are effective, operated vigorously and contribute to the achievement of the Authority's overarching objectives.

Clerk to the Authority (as Monitoring Officer). There are no issues in this statement report that need to be specifically commented upon.

The senior officers are of a view that the governance arrangements, including the risk management arrangements of the Authority, are generally satisfactory and meet the relevant requirements of the CIPFA and SOLACE guidance on "Delivering Good Governance".

4. CONCLUSION

Governance arrangements, including internal control, across the Authority are generally sound. The Authority's review mechanisms are an effective framework for maintaining satisfactory governance arrangements including identifying any issues and for monitoring and securing their implementation.

5. CERTIFICATE

No significant governance issues were identified from internal audit, management reporting or other assurance processes. Therefore no action plan is required and we are satisfied that governance arrangements are sound and will be considered again in the next annual review.

Signed: ..... Clerk ..... Chairman

On behalf of Western Riverside Waste Authority 26th October 2023

Deloitte.



Western Riverside Waste Authority (WRWA)

Report to the Members of the Authority on the 2022/23 audit

Issued on 2 February 2024 for the meeting on 8 February 2024

Deloitte Confidential: Government and Public Services

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Introduction

The key messages in this report

Audit quality is our number one priority. We plan our audit to focus on audit quality and have set the following audit quality objectives for this audit:

- A robust challenge of the key judgements taken in the preparation of the financial statements.
- A strong understanding of your internal control environment.
- A well planned and delivered audit that raises findings early with those charged with governance.

I have pleasure in presenting our final report to the the Members of Western Riverside Waste Authority (the Authority) for the 2022/23 audit. The scope of our audit was set out within our planning report presented to the Members in June 2023.

Status of our Statement of Accounts audit	Our audit is is substantially complete subject to finalisation of the following principal matters: • Confirmation from the Authority in respect of: RAAC assessment; pension surplus and presentational matters relating to the financial statements; • Finalisation of our internal quality review procedures; • Receipt of the final signed version of the annual report and financial statements; • Receipt of signed management representation letter; and • Finalisation of our subsequent events procedures since 31 March 2023 through to signing. We will provide an oral update at the meeting regarding the status of these matters.
Status of our Value for Money audit	Our Value for Money work is substantially complete and the commentary will be reported in our Auditor's Annual Report. We have not identified any risks of significant weakness in arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. We have no matters to report by exception in our financial statement audit opinion.
Conclusions from our testing	The key judgements in the audit process related to: • valuation of the Authority's property assets; and • valuation of pension liabilities. We have not identified any significant audit adjustments or disclosure deficiencies. Based on the current status of our audit work, we envisage issuing an unmodified audit opinion, with no reference to any matters in respect of the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources, or the Annual Governance Statement.

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Introduction

The key messages in this report (continued)

Narrative Report & Annual Governance Statement	• We have reviewed the Authority's Narrative Report & Annual Governance Statement to consider whether it is misleading or inconsistent with other information known to us from our audit work. • The Annual Governance Statement complies with the Delivering Good Governance guidance issued by CIPFA/SOLACE. • We have no matters to raise with you in respect of the Narrative Report.
Duties as public auditor	• We did not receive any queries or objections from local electors this year. • We have not identified any matters that would require us to issue a public interest report. We have not had to exercise any other audit powers under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.
Whole of Government Accounts	• We are required to report our overall audit opinion and key issues from our audit to the National Audit Office following completion of the audit. However, the required reporting instructions have not yet been issued for 2021/22 and 2022/23, and so we will only certify completion of our audit when this is available and has been completed. This does not affect the issue of our audit opinion.

Mohammed Ramzan
Audit Lead

Deloitte Confidential: Government and Public Services

Your control environment

What we consider when we perform the audit

We expect management and those charged with governance to recognise the importance of a strong control environment and take proactive steps to deal with deficiencies identified on a timely basis. Moreover, regulators and investors have greater expectations relating to disclosures around the control environment when the entity is subject to the principles of the UK Corporate Governance Code.

Responsibilities of management

Auditing standards require us to only accept or continue with an audit engagement when the preconditions for an audit are present. These preconditions include obtaining the agreement of management and those charged with governance that they acknowledge and understand their responsibilities for, amongst other things, internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Members of the Authority

The Members of the Authority are responsible for:

- Reviewing the entity's internal financial controls and internal control and risk management systems (unless expressly addressed by a separate board risk committee or by the board itself).
- Monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the internal audit function; where there isn't one, explaining the absence, how internal assurance is achieved, and how this affects the work of external audit.
- Reporting in the annual report on the annual review of the effectiveness of the risk management and internal control systems.
- Explaining what actions have been or are being taken to remedy any significant failings or weaknesses.

The FRC, in its Review of Governance Reporting, issued November 2021, has identified good practice as including a detailed description of the process for reviewing the effectiveness of risk management and internal control systems and clarity on what the outcome of the review. This would include whether any weaknesses or inefficiencies were identified and explanations of what actions the board has taken, or will take, to remedy these.

As stakeholders tell us that they to wish to understand how external audit challenges and responds to the quality of an entity's control environment, we are seeking to enhance how we plan and report on the results of the audit in response. We will be placing increased focus on how the control environment impacts the audit, from our initial risk assessment, to our testing approach and how we report on misstatements and control deficiencies.

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Our audit explained

We tailor our audit to your organisation and your strategy

Identify changes in your business and environment

In our planning report we identified the key changes in your operations and articulated how these impacted our audit approach.

Scoping

Our planning report set out the scoping of our audit in line with the Code of Audit Practice. We have completed our audit in line with our audit plan.

Other findings

As well as our conclusions on the significant risks and our Value for Money work, we are required to report to you our observations on the internal control environment as well as any other findings from the audit.



Determine materiality

When planning our audit we set our materiality at £889k (2021/22: £990k). This was based on 2% of the Authority's expected gross waste disposal expenditure for 2022/23.

We have updated our materiality, based on 2% of the Authority's actual gross waste disposal expenditure, to £869k at year end. We report to you in this paper all misstatements above £43k (2021/22: £48k).

Significant risk assessment

In our planning report we explained our risk assessment process and detailed the significant risks we have identified on this engagement. We report our findings and conclusions on these risks in this report.

Conclude on significant risk areas

We draw to the Members' attention our conclusions on the significant audit risks. In particular Members must satisfy themselves that management's judgements are appropriate.

Our audit report

Based on the current status of our audit work, we envisage issuing an unmodified audit report.

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Significant audit risks

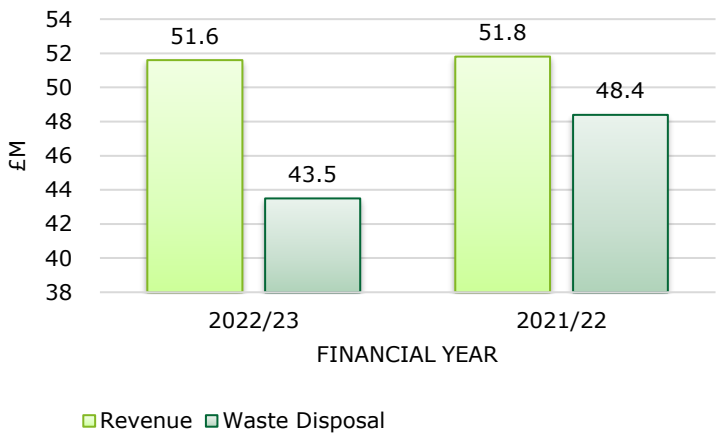
Revenue and expenditure recognition

Risk identified

Under UK auditing standards, there is a presumed risk in respect of revenue recognition due to fraud. For the Authority, we consider this significant risk to be the validity and accuracy of the variable element of the revenue relating to the actual direct tonnage charged to the four constituents councils.

Given that revenue is driven by the volume of activity during the year, this risk is also linked to the recognition of expenditure. The Authority has a significant contract with Cory Limited for the provision of waste management services. The risk includes the accuracy and completeness of expenditure calculated by Cory and whether the Authority is accounting for expenditure appropriately and consistently in line with activity.

The Authority approves every year a gross expenditure budget. Given the pressures across the whole of the public sector, there is an inherent risk that the year-end position could be manipulated by omitting or misstating accruals.



Deloitte response

In considering the risk identified, we performed the following audit procedures that directly address this risk:

- Reviewed and substantively tested revenue recognised by performing substantive procedures on each of operating income from Boroughs; Levy on Constituent Authorities; and other income balances through tracing to invoice or cost apportionment schedule, as applicable, and related bank receipts;
- We obtained an understanding of and tested the design and implementation of the key controls in place in relation to recording completeness of expenditure and accruals;
- We performed focused testing in relation to the completeness of expenditure and accruals;
- We gained assurance over the accuracy of the expenditure calculated by Cory via assessment of the operating effectiveness of the expenditure review control; nonetheless consistent with prior years we have opted to take a full substantive approach with no controls reliance;
- As part of this focused testing, we challenged the assumptions made in relation to year-end accruals;
- We also reviewed expenses recorded in the final month of the year against previous year's trends to identify if there are any inconsistencies;
- We performed testing for unrecorded liabilities based on payments made and expenses recorded in the period after year end up to 61 days; and
- In addition, we reviewed the year-on-year movement in expenditure and accruals and investigated significant movements

Conclusion
Our audit work suggests that the Authority has appropriately recorded revenue and expenditure for the period. No issues were noted.

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Significant audit risks (continued)

Valuation of property assets

Risk identified	The Authority is required to hold property assets within Property, Plant and Equipment at valuation. The valuations are by nature significant estimates which are based on specialist and management assumptions and which can be subject to material changes in value. The Authority held £111.7m of property assets (land and buildings) and fixed plant and equipment at 31 March 2023, a reduction of £2.2m from £113.9m when compared to 31 March 2022. The movement reflects the depreciation charged for the year. Due to the materiality of this balance, we reported a risk in respect of this in our audit plan. In the prior year, the Authority's valuer Wilkes Head & Eve (WHE) performed a full property revaluation resulting in a £56.9m upward revaluation to £113.9m. For the year ended 31 March 2023, management have determined that there had been no physical change to the properties and there were no material indicators of a movement in value due to market conditions and therefore proposed to retain the values as reported at 31 March 2022 in the preparation of their 31 March 2023 financial statements. This risk is in respect of the judgement that no valuation is required and that there are no material movements in value since the previous valuation.
Deloitte response and challenge	In the absence of a third party or internal valuation, the audit team have utilised our real estate specialists to assess whether management's assertion that there were no indicators of a material market movement was appropriate and hence adopting the reported values for the assets in line with those assessed as at 31 March 2022 was materially accurate. The audit team note the lack of formal process in place whereby management determines whether there has been a material movement in value since the previous valuation and the related necessity for a revaluation to be performed in the current year. As a consequence, we have made a control recommendation as detailed further on page 13. The following procedures were performed as part of the review: ○ sourced appropriate market benchmarks to assess indicators of movement in value having regard to the valuation methodology adopted as at 31 March 2022; ○ reviewed correspondence provided to the Authority by their third-party valuer, Wilkes Head & Eve (WHE) which Management had regard to in determining that a revaluation was not required as at 31 March 2023. In addition, we participated in a virtual meeting with the lead valuer at WHE attended by representatives of the Finance team; and ○ determined based on the evidence presented by WHE and our own research whether market conditions had changed to warrant a revaluation of the assets as at 31 March 2023 to ensure the financial statements provided a materially accurate representation of the assets held.

Significant audit risks (continued)

Valuation of property assets (continued)

	The following areas were considered: ○ Assessment of macro-economic indicators including: inflationary pressures; interest rate rise; volatile financial markets; rising gilt yields over the period. ○ Overview of real estate market: impact on rental and capital values of movements in prime property yields. ○ Land Values: datapoints used by external valuers including development land indices, market publications, and any sales of sites in the locality using relevant subscription databases; and related sentiment. ○ Build Costs: the build cost inflation figure for the period as reported by the Build Cost Information Service (BCIS) and Location Factor adjustments. ○ Impact of obsolescence and the fact there have been no physical changes to the buildings over the period.
Conclusion	Following our review of the market and call with WHE as external valuer to the Authority we conclude that whilst property market conditions, specifically for prime investment grade assets, demonstrate downward movement in values over the period, for the subject sites used for operational purposes with the land value the most significant component within the valuation calculations that there was no clear market evidence to support a movement in overall value of the sites as at 31 March 2023. We observe that both the macro-economic climate and real estate market conditions have continued to remain challenging over 2023 and would recommend that the Authority engage with WHE ahead of the 31 March 2024 year end to establish whether a revaluation is appropriate.

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Significant audit risks (continued)

Management override of controls

Risk identified	In accordance with ISA 240 (UK and Ireland) management override is a significant risk. This risk area includes the potential for management to use their judgement to influence the financial statements as well as the potential to override the Authority 's controls for specific transactions. The key judgments in the financial statements are those which we have selected to be the significant audit risks and areas of audit interest: revenue and expenditure recognition; valuation of property assets; and defined benefits pension scheme.
Deloitte response and challenge	In considering the risk of management override, we performed the following audit procedures that directly address this risk: • We tested the design and implementation of key controls in place around journal entries and management estimates; • We risk assessed journals and selected items for detailed follow up testing. The journal entries were selected using computer assisted profiling based on areas which we consider to be of increased interest; • We tested the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger, and other adjustments made in the preparation of financial reporting; • We reviewed accounting estimates for biases that could result in material misstatements due to fraud; • We obtained an understanding of the business rationale of significant transactions that we became aware of that are outside of the normal course of business for the entity, or that otherwise appeared to be unusual, given our understanding of the entity and its environment; and • We used our data analytics profiling to review ledger postings throughout the year, with focus on identifying any manual adjustments to revenue at the period end, or reversing entries that could be indicative of manipulation and management override. In considering the key judgements in the financial statements: • We reviewed the key judgements for biases that could result in material misstatements due to fraud. We note that overall the changes to key judgements in the period were balanced and did not indicate a bias to achieve a particular result. • We tested accounting estimates and judgements, focusing on the areas of greatest judgement and value. Our procedures included comparing amounts recorded or inputs to estimates to relevant supporting information from third party sources.
Conclusion	After concluding our work, we have no matters to bring to the attention of the Members of the Authority.

Other areas of audit focus

Defined benefits pension scheme

Background

The Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and IAS19 require the Authority to make extensive disclosures within its financial statements regarding its membership of the London Pension Fund Authority Pension Fund, which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Authority's pension fund surplus is a material estimated balance. Per the draft financial statements at 31 March 2023, this amounted to a net surplus of £1.2m as compared to a £2.5m liability in PY. As a result of this being an estimated balance there is a risk that inappropriate inputs and assumptions are used, which could result in the pension surplus valuation being materially misstated.

Deloitte response

- We obtained a copy of the actuarial report produced by Barnett Waddingham, the scheme actuary, and agreed in the disclosures to notes in the accounts.
- We assessed the independence and expertise of the actuary supporting the basis of reliance upon their work.
- We utilised specialists to review and challenge the assumptions made by the actuary, including benchmarking as shown on the table opposite
- We obtained assurance from the auditor of the pension fund over the controls for providing accurate membership data to the actuary.
- We assessed the reasonableness of the Authority's share of the total assets of the scheme with the Pension Fund financial statements for the year.
- The pension auditor did not identify any differences they deemed as material between the fund's audited accounts as compared to the value in the draft financial statements (used in the IAS 19 reporting).
- We reviewed the disclosures within the accounts against the Code.
- The Authority has not made any further allowance for the McCloud ruling as 31 March 2023 as allowance was made at the 31 March 2020 year-end. We are satisfied that the actuary's approach reasonable.
- The Authority is aware of the Goodwin case but has not allowed for any additional costs as a result of the ruling for the year ending 31 March 2022. The actuary is of the view that this would not be material given there were no widower pensions in payment in the 2019 valuation data (so in fact the actual liability may be zero). We consider this approach to be reasonable.

Assumption	Authority	Reasonable Ranges	Deloitte Assessment
Discount rate (% p.a.)	4.80%	4.70% - 4.95%	In reasonable range
Retail Price Index (RPI) Inflation rate (% p.a.)	3.35%	-	In reasonable range
Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation rate (% p.a.)	2.85%	2.80% - 3.05%	In reasonable range
Salary increase (% p.a.) (over RPI inflation)	3.85%	Authority specific	Reasonable
Pension increase in payment (% p.a.)	2.85%	2.80% - 3.05%	Reasonable
Pension increase in deferment (% p.a.)	2.85%	2.80% - 3.05%	Reasonable
Mortality - Life expectancy of a male pensioner from age 65 (currently aged 65)	21.40	-	Reasonable
Mortality - Life expectancy of a female pensioner from age 65 (currently aged 65)	22.20	-	Reasonable

Deloitte view

For the scheme liabilities: the assumptions adopted are considered reasonable when compared with the Deloitte benchmarks. The assumptions have been set in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and are compliant with the accounting standard requirement of IAS 19. For the scheme assets: procedures were performed satisfactorily with no issues noted. We await confirmation around the right and extent to which the Authority can recognise the scheme surplus.

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Value for money

Our work is substantially complete and will be reported in our Auditor's Annual Report

Value for Money requirements

We are required to consider the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. Under the revised requirements of the Code of Audit Practice 2020 and related Auditor Guidance Note 03 ('AGN03'), we are required to:

- Perform work to understand the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources against each of the three reporting criteria (financial sustainability, governance, and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness);
- Undertake a risk assessment to identify whether there are any risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements;
- If any risks of significant weaknesses are identified, perform procedures to determine whether there is in fact a significant weakness in arrangements, and if so to make recommendations for improvement;
- Issue a narrative commentary in the Auditor's Annual Report, setting out the work undertaken in respect of the reporting criteria and our findings, including any explanation needed in respect of judgements or local context for findings. If significant weaknesses are identified, the weaknesses and recommendations will be included in the reporting, together with follow-up of previous recommendations and whether they have been implemented. Where relevant, we may include reporting on any other matters arising we consider relevant to Value for Money arrangements, which might include emerging risks or issues arising; and
- Where significant weaknesses are identified, report this by exception within our financial statement audit opinion.

Work performed to obtain an understanding of the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

As part of our risk assessment, we have reviewed the summary of Value for Money arrangements prepared by the Authority, reviewed supporting documentation on arrangements, and held follow-up interviews on areas where additional information was required.

In addition, we have:

- Reviewed the Authority's draft Annual Governance Statement;
- reviewed internal audit reports through the year and the Head of Internal Audit Opinion
- considered issues identified through our other audit and assurance work; and
- considered the Authority's financial performance and management throughout 2022/23.

Status of our work

We have not identified any risks of significant weakness in arrangements. We are finalising our VfM commentary and will be reported in our Auditor's Annual Report, which accompanies this report

We have no matters to report by exception in our financial statement audit opinion.

Your control environment and findings

Control deficiencies and areas for management focus

Observation	Year first communicated, severity, component of internal control	Deloitte recommendation	Management response and remediation plan
The Authority did not have a formal process for undertaking an assessment of relevant factors to determine whether there are indicators of a material movement in the valuation of property assets triggering the need for a valuation to be carried out by their expert.	2022/23, Medium, fixed asset valuation 	A formal assessment should be undertaken of all relevant factors potentially impacting on the valuation of property assets to determine whether any indicators of a material movement exist that would warrant the need for a valuation to be carried out by management's expert or otherwise.	There is a process in place to request advice from the external expert valuer (WHE) annually around any factors which could impact on the value of the property assets. WHE monitor all market indices and publications to ascertain any movement in the way in which market sentiment is affecting valuations. This includes both review of transactional evidence of any sales / lettings across land sites and similar property types over the reporting period to identify any significant evidence which may impact upon the value. In addition, WHE review data sets on both local and wider markets trends to determine how these could be applied to the assets in question and to what impact they may have upon the reported values. If there is substantial evidence to suggest value change it is to be reported although not all evidence / data may be relevant for the purposes of these valuations. There is an operational monthly check of assets to confirm if there is any impairment plus the contractor (Cory) undertake biannual condition surveys to inform management opinion.

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Other significant findings

Financial reporting findings

Below are the findings from our audit surrounding your financial reporting process.

Qualitative aspects of your accounting practices:

The accounting policies applied by the Authority are appropriate for the organisation. We have considered the areas that have been highlighted as critical accounting estimates and judgments.

Other matters relevant to financial reporting:

There are no other matters arising from the audit that, in our professional judgment, are significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process.

Significant matters discussed with management:

There were no significant matters discussed with management outside of the discussions we would normally expect to form part of an audit.

Liaison with internal audit:

The audit team has completed an assessment of the independence and competence of internal audit and reviewed their work and findings. We do not have any significant findings.

In response to the significant risks identified, no reliance was placed on the work of internal audit and we performed all work ourselves.

Fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations

- We have not noted any actual or suspected fraud involving management, or employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
- We have not noted any other non-compliance with laws and regulations

Other matters:

- There were no significant matters arising in connection with the entity's related parties; and
- There are no other matters where we have judged that oral communication would not be sufficient.

We will obtain written representations from the Treasurer and Members of Authority on matters material to the financial statements when other sufficient appropriate audit evidence cannot reasonably be expected to exist.

Our audit report

The form and content of our report

Here we discuss how the results of the audit impact on our audit report. An overview of our financial statement audit work will be included in our Auditor's Annual Report.



Our opinion on the financial statements

We expect our opinion on the financial statements to be unmodified.

We will highlight that the going concern assessment is on the basis of the 'continuing provision of service' approach, and will report that we concur with management's use of the going concern basis of accounting.



Emphasis of matter and other matter paragraphs

There are no matters we judge to be of fundamental importance in the financial statements that we consider it necessary to draw attention to in an emphasis of matter paragraph.

There are no matters relevant to users' understanding of the audit that we consider necessary to communicate in an other matter paragraph.



Value for Money reporting by exception

Our opinion will note that our Value for Money work is complete and has been reported in our Auditor's Annual Report.

We have no matters to report by exception in our financial statement audit opinion.



Irregularities and fraud

We will explain the extent to which we considered the audit to be capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

In doing so, we will describe the procedures we performed in understanding the legal and regulatory framework and assessing compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

We will discuss the areas identified where fraud may occur and any identified key audit matters relating to fraud.

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Your annual report

We are required to report by exception on any issues identified in respect of the Annual Governance Statement

	Requirement	Deloitte response
Narrative Report	The Narrative Report is expected to address (as relevant to the Authority): • Organisational overview and external environment; • Governance; • Operational Model; • Risks and opportunities; • Strategy and resource allocation; • Performance; • Outlook; and • Basis of preparation	We have assessed whether the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with CIPFA guidance. We have also read the Narrative Report for consistency with the annual accounts and our knowledge acquired during the course of performing the audit. We have no issues to report.
Annual Governance Statement	The Annual Governance Statement reports that governance arrangements provide assurance, are adequate and are operating effectively.	We have assessed whether the information given in the Annual Governance Statement meets the disclosure requirements set out in CIPFA/SOLACE guidance, is misleading, or is inconsistent with other information from our audit. We have no issues to report.

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Audit quality and our system of quality management

Our commitment to audit quality

Audit quality is at the heart of everything we do and our system of quality management (SQM) supports our execution of quality audits.

The FRC recently promulgated ISQM (UK) 1, a standard that sets out a firm's responsibilities to design, implement and operate a system of quality management for audits, reviews of financial statements, and other assurance or related services engagements.

Led by senior UK leadership, Deloitte UK's ISQM (UK) 1 implementation activities reached successful completion on 15 December 2022.

Deloitte UK performed its first annual evaluation of its system of quality management as of 31 May 2023. This evaluation was conducted in accordance with ISQM (UK) 1 and we concluded our SQM provides the firm with reasonable assurance that the objectives of the SQM are being achieved as of 31 May 2023.

For further details surrounding the conclusion on the operating effectiveness of the firm's SQM, including results of the monitoring activities performed, please refer to the disclosures within Appendix 5 of our publicly available transparency report.



Purpose of our report and responsibility statement

Our report is designed to help you meet your governance duties

What we report

Our report is designed to help the Members of the Authority discharge their governance duties. It also represents one way in which we fulfil our obligations under ISA (UK) 260 to communicate with you regarding your oversight of the financial reporting process and your governance requirements. Our report includes:

- Results of our work on key audit judgements and our observations on the quality of your Annual Report.
- Our internal control observations.
- Other insights we have identified from our audit.

What we don't report

As you will be aware, our audit was not designed to identify all matters that may be relevant to the Members of the Authority.

Also, there will be further information you need to discharge your governance responsibilities, such as matters reported on by management or by other specialist advisers.

Finally, our views on internal controls and business risk assessment should not be taken as comprehensive or as an opinion on effectiveness since they have been based solely on the audit procedures performed in the audit of the financial statements and work under the Code of Audit Practice in respect of Value for Money arrangements.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss our report with you and receive your feedback.

The scope of our work

Our observations are developed in the context of our audit of the financial statements.

We described the scope of our work in our audit plan.

Use of this report

This report has been prepared for the Authority, as a body, and we therefore accept responsibility to you alone for its contents. We accept no duty, responsibility or liability to any other parties, since this report has not been prepared, and is not intended, for any other purpose.

Deloitte LLP

Birmingham| 2 February 2024

Appendices



Audit adjustments

Unadjusted misstatements

The following uncorrected misstatements have been identified up to the date of this report which we request that you ask management to correct as required by ISAs (UK). Uncorrected misstatements increase the CIES by £0.3 million, increase net assets by £0.3 million and increase the General Fund balance by £0.3 million. We will provide an oral update should any uncorrected misstatements be identified after issuing this report and at the Authority meeting.

	Debit/ (credit) CIES £000	Debit/ (credit) in net assets £000	Debit/ (credit) prior year reserves £000	*Memo: Debit/ (credit) usable reserves £000*	If applicable, control deficiency identified
Misstatements identified in current year					
Under estimation of the FY23 Triad payment expected from Cory with amount estimated by management as £1.4m at year-end but amount finalised and received post-year-end was £1.8m resulting in the difference identified here.	(407)	407	-	-	-
Over-recognition of FY23 deferred income release relating to financial close payment from Cory. With the £1.75m payment confirmed in October 2022 to be released evenly over remaining life of the contract to October 2032 equating to £175k per annum an amount of £88k should have been released for the six-month period falling within FY22/23 rather than the £175k actually released, resulting in the difference identified here.	88	(88)			
Total	(319)	319	-	-	

Disclosures

We have reviewed the accounts and annual report and have passed recommendations on to management.

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Independence and fees

As part of our obligations under International Standards on Auditing (UK), we are required to report to you on the matters listed below:

Independence confirmation	We confirm the audit engagement team, and others in the firm as appropriate, Deloitte LLP and, where applicable, all Deloitte network firms are independent of the Authority and our objectivity is not compromised for the year ending 31 March 2023
Fees	Details of the fees proposed for the period are presented below.
Non-audit services	In our opinion there are no inconsistencies between the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Authority's policy for the supply of non-audit services or any apparent breach of that policy. We continue to review our independence and ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place including, but not limited to, the rotation of senior partners and professional staff and the involvement of additional partners and professional staff to carry out reviews of the work performed and to otherwise advise as necessary.
Relationships	We have no other relationships with the Authority, its members, senior managers and affiliates, and have not supplied any services to other known connected parties that we consider may reasonably be thought to bear on our objectivity and independence.

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Audit fee (including Value for Money) *	12,058	12,058
Proposed increase to scale fee due to changes in work required **	10,000	8,000
Proposed fees for targeted/specialist work (Valuation) ***	6,000	6,000
Total audit fees	**28,058**	**26,058**

* The "scale fee" set by Public Sector Auditor Appointments Limited for the financial statement audit, including whole of government accounts and procedures in respect of the value for money assessment, is £12,058, subject to fee variations for changing accounting and auditing requirements and the cost of actual delivery. While we acknowledge management's commitment to improvement in the financial reporting process, we consider that the scale fees at present are significantly below the cost of delivery of the audit, and this has been recognised in the Redmond Review and proposals of MHCLG and PSAA.

** Additional fees were incurred in 22/23 relating to a number of area including the requirements of the revised Code of Audit Practice in particular; in respect of Value for Money, the increased requirements on audit of accounting estimates under the revised ISA 540; and wider regulatory changes increasing the cost of audit delivery. These are yet to be agreed with the Authority and are awaiting final approval by PSAA.

*** In 2022/23 additional audit work was required relating to the Authority's valuation of fixed assets (fee £6,000).

Our approach to quality

FRC 2022/23 Audit Quality Inspection and Supervision report

Audit quality is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to acting with the highest levels of integrity in the public interest to deliver confidence and trust in business.

In July 2023, the Financial Reporting Council ("FRC") issued individual reports on each of the seven largest firms, including Deloitte on Audit Quality Inspection and Supervision, providing a summary of the findings of its Audit Quality Review ("AQR") team for the 2022/23 cycle of reviews.

We greatly value the FRC reviews of our audit engagements and firm wide quality control systems, a key aspect of evaluating our audit quality.

In that context, our inspection results for our audits selected by the FRC as part of the 2022/23 inspection cycle remain consistent year-on-year, with 82% of all inspections in the cycle assessed as good or needing limited improvement. This reflects the ongoing investment we continue to make in audit quality, with a relentless focus on continuous improvement. Our audit culture and the audit quality environment we create are critical to our resilience and reputation as a business and we remain committed to our role in protecting the public interest and creating pride in our profession.

We value the observations raised by both the FRC AQR and Supervision teams, both in identifying areas for improvement and also the increasing focus on sharing good practice to drive further and continuous improvement.

We are pleased to see the positive impact of actions taken over the last 12-18 months to address findings raised by the FRC in the prior year relating to EQCR, Independence & Ethics and Group Audits, with none of these areas identified as key findings in this year's engagement inspection cycle. The reduction in findings in this area reflects the ongoing effectiveness of the actions taken, particularly the successful rollout of our group audit coaching programme. Our EQCR transformation programme, which commenced in the second half of 2021, has served to further enhance the effectiveness of our EQCR process and led to improved evidence on our audit files demonstrating the EQCR challenge.

We welcome the breadth and depth of good practice points raised by the FRC, particularly in respect of effective group oversight and effective procedures for impairments, where we have made sustained efforts and investment to drive consistency and high-quality execution.

All the AQR public reports are available on the FRC's website:

Audit Firm Specific Reports - Tier 1 audit firms | Financial Reporting Council (frc.org.uk)

Our approach to quality

FRC 2022/23 Audit Quality Inspection and Supervision report

The AQR's 2022/23 Audit Quality Inspection and Supervision Report on Deloitte LLP

"In the 2021/22 public report, we concluded that the firm had continued to show improvement in relation to its audit execution and firm-wide procedures.

82% of audits inspected were found to require no more than limited improvements. None of the audits we inspected this year were found to require significant improvements and 82% required no more than limited improvements, the same as last year. This was the case for 78% of FTSE 350 audits (91% last year). The firm has maintained its focus on audit quality on individual audits, with consistent FRC inspection results.

The areas of the audit that contributed most to the audits assessed as requiring improvements were revenue and margin recognition, and provisions. There continues to be findings related to the audit of provisions, which was a key finding last year, although in different areas of provisioning. At the same time, we identified a range of good practice in these and other areas."

Inspection results: review of the firm's quality control procedures

"This year, our firm-wide work focused primarily on evaluating the firm's: actions to implement the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard; partner and staff matters; acceptance, continuance, and resignation procedures; and audit methodology relating to settlement and clearing processes.

Our key findings related to compliance with the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard, timely continuance procedures, and audit methodology relating to settlement and clearing processes.

We identified good practice points in the areas of compliance with the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard, partner and staff matters, and acceptance, continuance and resignation procedures."

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Our approach to quality

FRC 2022/23 Audit Quality Inspection and Supervision report

Improve the effectiveness of the testing of revenue and margin recognition

How we have addressed this area as a firm

To address this finding, we have done, or plan to do, the following:

- We are establishing a Revenue centre of excellence to support engagement teams in the audit of revenue. The involvement of the centre of excellence will focus on the overall approach to revenue testing, including an end-to-end view of revenue, the risk assessment, planned controls and IT and substantive work and will take place during the key stages of the risk assessment, planning and execution stages of an audit.
- Monthly workshops are held with partners and directors to brief them on the areas of regulatory focus. We also regularly communicate the FRC findings, including those on revenue and margin recognition, to the wider audit practice during the inspection cycle through our weekly technical email update to ensure that audit teams who might be affected by the findings are fully briefed.
- We held a review of a portfolio of audits in specific industries to evaluate the approach to margin recognition and to ensure teams are consulting with our technical team when required.
- We updated partner and EQCR/EQR review guidance and templates to ensure these reviews considers all revenue testing regardless of risk assessment.
- We have refreshed our internal controls coaching and introduced independent health check reviews on internal controls. Coaching is direct 1-2-1 support tailored to the specific needs of the engagement team. The health check reviews include work performed on controls that address significant, higher and lower risks; and entity level controls, including those relating to revenue.

How we addressed this area in our audit

- The key matters noted above were not directly relevant for our audit in FY22/23.
- We have reviewed and implemented relevant updates to templates and guidance.

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Our approach to quality

FRC 2022/23 Audit Quality Inspection and Supervision report

Improve the audit of cash equivalents and cash flow statements

How we have addressed this area as a firm

To address this finding, we have done, or plan to do, the following:

- We continue to hold monthly workshops and share weekly technical emails to brief our people on the areas of regulatory focus. These included a focus on auditing cash and cash equivalents.
- We have issued a 'Getting it right FAQs' in relation to cash equivalents testing, updated to include clarified guidance relating to money market funds and alternative procedures when external confirmations are not requested or received.
- Our Business Unit quality community leads led AQR hot topic reminders workshops and these covered cash findings ahead of reporting season to raise awareness of common pitfalls.
- We have refreshed our cash flow statement work programme and issued reminders requiring its use to all audit practitioners.
- We have assessed the training of audit delivery centres and performed additional training for junior team members in the context of common pitfalls. As part of this, a training module was updated to include a cash testing workpaper exercise as part of the core audit curriculum which will link to the regulatory findings.

How we addressed this area in our audit

- Relevant technical updates on areas of regulatory focus have been reviewed and considered in the context of our audit approach.

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Our approach to quality

FRC 2022/23 Audit Quality Inspection and Supervision report

Improve the consistency of the audit of estimates for certain provisions

How we have addressed this area as a firm

To address this finding, we have done, or plan to do, the following:

- Our main annual technical training in 2022 included specific training in relation to the audit of complex estimates and provisions and includes scenario examples for auditing management estimates. Our Engagement Team Based Learning in 2022 ("TechEx Teams") included a follow-on session focusing on accounting estimates on a community basis to facilitate sharing of practical examples relevant to community.
- Our annual training for 2023 also included a module on the experienced auditor mindset to support our people in ensuring that audit evidence captures the story of the audit process and challenge therein.
- We have issued new templates and support guidance to assist our teams in auditing complex models and evidencing our 'standback' assessment.
- We regularly communicate the FRC findings, including a focused communication on avoiding the 'assumed knowledge' pitfalls particularly in relation to management estimates, to the wider audit practice during the inspection cycle through our weekly technical email update to ensure that audit teams who might be affected by the findings are fully briefed.
- Management estimates were included within our 'Key topics for FY23 audits' publication in December 2022 providing key messages and links to supporting materials for all teams ahead of reporting season.

How we addressed this area in our audit

- All key audit team members attended the annual technical training and Engagement Team Based Learning outlined here in 2022.
- Relevant new templates and support guidance were utilised as part our audit approach.

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Our approach to quality

FRC 2022/23 Audit Quality Inspection and Supervision report

Enhance the assessment of impairment reversals

To address this finding, we have done, or plan to do, the following:

- We plan to review our impairment specialist consultation policy to assess whether this should include reference to circumstances where an impairment reversal is identified.
- We have updated the impairment consultation memo to include a prompt on reversal of past impairments and ensure this is considered as part of the audit.
- We held briefings within the impairment specialist community on the AQR findings and the expectation that the specialists include impairment reversals in their review scope where a material reversal has taken place.
- Community Quality Leads are continuously briefed on key findings and reminders to ensure messages are disseminated to more junior grades through busy season including those relating to impairment reversals.
- We delivered a Bitesize learning on impairment reversals.
- We issued updated guidance to help company management understand some common questions on application of IAS 36, including impairment reversals.

How we addressed this area in our audit

- The key matters noted above were not directly relevant for our audit in FY22/23.

Our other responsibilities explained

Fraud responsibilities and representations

Responsibilities:

The primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with management and those charged with governance, including establishing and maintaining internal controls over the reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. As auditors, we obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.

Required representations:

We have asked the Members to confirm in writing that you have disclosed to us the results of your own assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud and that you are not aware of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the Authority.

We have also asked the Members to confirm in writing their responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error and their belief that they have appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.

Audit work performed:

In our planning we identified the risk of fraud in revenue and expenditure recognition and management override of controls as significant audit risks.

During the course of our audit, we have had discussions with management, those charged with governance and made inquiry of internal audit. This did not reveal any significant matters, and as such our audit approach did not need to be amended.

In addition, we have reviewed management's own documented procedures regarding fraud and error in the financial statements.

We will explain in our audit report how we considered the audit capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud. In doing so, we will describe the procedures we performed in understanding the legal and regulatory framework and assessing compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

Concerns:

We confirm we have no concerns in this area.

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Annex 1

Draft representation letter

Our Ref: MR/TP/2023

Dear Engagement Director

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Western Riverside Waste Authority ("the Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2023 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Western Riverside Waste Authority as of 31 March 2023 and of the results of its operations, other recognised gains and losses and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 ("the Code").

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations.

Financial statements

1. We understand and have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2022/23.

2. The methods, the data, and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

3. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of IAS24 "Related party disclosures".

4. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the applicable financial reporting framework requires adjustment of or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

5. The effects of uncorrected misstatements and disclosure deficiencies are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements and disclosure deficiencies is detailed in the appendix to this letter.

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6. We confirm that the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and disclose in accordance with IAS 1 all matters of which we are aware that are relevant to the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, including principal conditions or events and our plans. In making our going concern assessment we have adopted the 'continuing provision of service' approach and accordingly we are not aware of any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no circumstances that we are aware of that would affect the appropriateness of the 'continuing provision of service' approach. We confirm the completeness of the information provided regarding events and conditions relating to going concern at the date of approval of the financial statements, including our plans for future actions.

7. The measurement processes, including related assumptions and models used to determine accounting estimates in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework are appropriate and have been applied consistently.

8. The assumptions appropriately reflect our intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the Authority where relevant to the accounting estimates and disclosures.

9. The disclosures related to accounting estimates under the Authority's applicable financial reporting framework are complete and appropriate.

10. There have been no subsequent events that require adjustment to the accounting estimates and disclosures included in the financial statements.

11. The Authority has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the Authority's assets and assets pledged as collateral.

12. The disclosures given in the financial statements regarding control of the Authority are correct.

13. We have recorded or disclosed, as appropriate, all liabilities, both actual and contingent, and have disclosed in Note 29 to the financial statements all guarantees that we have given to third parties.

14. We are not aware of any deficiencies in internal control.

15. All minutes of members and management meetings during and since the financial year have been made available to you.

16. We are not aware of events or changes in circumstances occurring during the period which indicate that the carrying amount of fixed assets or goodwill may not be recoverable.

17. We confirm that all of the disclosures within the Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement, and in the remuneration disclosures within the financial statements, have been prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance.

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Pensions

18. We confirm that:

a. all retirement benefits and schemes, including UK, foreign, funded or unfunded, approved or unapproved, contractual or implicit have been identified and properly accounted for;

b. all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for;

c. all events which relate to the determination of pension liabilities have been brought to the actuary's attention;

d. the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of the scheme liabilities (including the discount rate used) accord with the directors' best estimates of the future events that will affect the cost of retirement benefits and are consistent with our knowledge of the business;

e. the salary increase assumption is reasonable and in line with our intention;

f. the actuary's calculations have been based on complete and up to date member data as far as appropriate regarding the adopted methodology;

g. the amounts included in the financial statements derived from the work of the actuary are appropriate;

h. The Authority has the right to recognise the surplus on the pension scheme.

19. We have considered the impact on the Authority's pension liability of the McCloud and Goodwin legal cases and do not consider the impact of any adjustments for the Authority's 7 active members to be significant to the financial statements.

Property Valuation

20. We have considered the valuation of the Council's Property, Plant and Equipment that have not been subject to revaluation in year, and are not aware of any circumstances indicating an impairment or volatility in asset values (either in year, or on a cumulative basis since the last revaluation of the assets) that would suggest the carrying value is materially misstated as a result of it not being revalued.

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21. We have reconsidered the remaining useful lives of the Authority's Property, Plant and Equipment and confirm that the present rates of depreciation are appropriate to amortise the cost or revalued amount less residual value over the remaining useful lives.

Value for Money

22. We acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring the Authority has put in place arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

23. We are not aware of any deficiencies in the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Information provided

24. We have provided you with:

    a. All relevant information and access as required by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;

    b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit;

    c. unrestricted access to persons within the Authority from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence; and

    d. With respect to the Authority's contractual arrangements with Cory, we have provided all relevant documentation, and, based upon our consideration of the contracts and the requirements of the CIPFA Code and International Financial Reporting Standards, have not identified any other features of the arrangements which may require consideration in determining the accounting for these arrangements or might impact upon the conclusions on the matters disclosed in the financial statements and/or discussed in the course of the audit. The Authority's agreements with Cory do not include any separately identifiable pricing of:

        a. the Force Majeure provisions; and

        b. payment giving rise to an identifiable receivable during the Residual Value period.

25. We have considered the substance of the Authority's lease and lease back of the Energy from Waste site from Cory, and consider that in substance this is a security mechanism to ensure payments of amounts potentially due from Cory, rather than a genuine lease arrangement.

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26. We have considered the terms and substance of the Authority's leases of Authority sites to Cory, and confirm that we consider these arrangements represent operating leases, as the Authority retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the assets. The economic value of the lease to Cory is not separately identifiable within the WMSA and lease agreement, and so it is not possible to show separately lease income and gross cost paid to Cory.

27. We have considered the minimum level of provision required under IAS 37 in respect of the Force Majeure provision and have not recognised a provision as the possibility of cash outflows is currently considered remote

28. All transactions have been recorded and are reflected in the financial statements and the underlying accounting records.

29. We acknowledge our responsibilities for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error and we believe we appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.

30. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

31. We are not aware of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the Authority and involves

    a. management;

    b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or

    c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

32. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Authority's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

33. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance, or suspected non-compliance, with laws, regulations, and contractual agreements whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

34. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Authority's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

35. No other claims in connection with litigation have been or are expected to be received.

36. We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

37. We confirm that;

    a. consider that the Authority has appropriate processes to prevent and identify any cyber breaches other than those that are clearly inconsequential; and

    b. we have disclosed to you all cyber breaches of which we are aware that have resulted in more than inconsequential unauthorised access of data, applications, services, networks and/or devices.

38. We have evaluated whether any of our properties are affected by Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete and therefore whether there are any factors to be taken into account in the valuation of our estate and have nothing to report in this regard.

We confirm that the above representations are made on the basis of adequate enquiries of management and staff (and where appropriate, inspection of evidence) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the above representations to you.

Yours faithfully

.....

Sukvinder Kalsi

Treasurer

Signed on behalf of Western Riverside Waste Authority

Date

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Western Riverside Waste Authority

Clerk: Bayo Dosunmu
General Manager: Rachel Espinosa
Treasurer: Sukvinder Kalsi

Smugglers Way, Wandsworth, SW18 1JS

Deloitte LLP
4 Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2HZ

5th February 2024

Our Ref: MR/TP/2023

Dear Engagement Director

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Yours faithfully

Sukvinder Kalsi
Treasurer
Signed on behalf of Western Riverside Waste Authority

Date February 2024

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