

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - RESOURCE RECOVERY CONTRACT
WDA/06/20

Recommendation

That:

1. Members note the contents of the report from the Internal Auditor

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Report of the Treasurer

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Authority is required to maintain an effective Internal Audit as a part of its statutory governance arrangements. The Authority's Internal Audit is provided by St Helens Council. The Auditor reviews the arrangements at the Authority and reports to Members on any weaknesses and recommends improvements. This report brings to Members attentions the outcome of the latest reviews.

2. Background

- 2.1 The agreed audit plan for the year included a review of the Authority's arrangements for managing the Resource Recovery Contract with Merseyside Energy Recovery Ltd (MERL).

3. The Resource Recovery Contract

- 3.1 The review considered arrangements in place to ensure that payments are in accordance with the contract and looked at payment reconciliations from 2017-18 and 2018-19.
- 3.2 The Auditor's detailed report is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.3 The Auditor concluded that in their overall opinion **high assurance** could be taken from the system and the way it was operated. This means that:
- "All expected controls are in place and being applied consistently and effectively and there is a sound system of control designed to ensure the achievement of the service or system's business objectives."*
- 3.4 The auditor has confirmed there are no Key Issues arising from this review to bring to the attention of Members.
- 3.5 The auditor has made a recommendation for improvements to the arrangements in respect of performance deductions (set out in section 4 of Appendix 1) which has been accepted and agreed by management.

4. Risk Implications

4.1 There are no new risks arising from the auditor's review

5. HR Implications

5.1 There are no new HR implications

6. Environmental Implications

6.1 There are no new environmental implications

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

9. Conclusion

9.1 Internal Audit reviewed the arrangements for managing the Authority's Resource Recovery Contract and concluded that they gave 'High Assurance'.

9.2 There are no Key Issues for Members.

9.3 Members are asked to note the report.

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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil.