

# **MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING AND WASTE AUTHORITY**

## **EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS: YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

### **Publication of the Authority's Statement of Accounts and Audit Opinion The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 – Regulation 10, as amended by The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021**

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 require that the audited accounts and opinion are published by 30 September 2021. As at 30 September, the Authority's external auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, has not yet concluded the audit.

The delay has arisen due to a combination of factors, comprising the following:

- There remain a number of outstanding audit issues relating to the prior year accounts which has resulted in the audit yet to be concluded. The Authority experienced resourcing challenges during the initial preparation of the draft statement of accounts and there were subsequently delays in providing sufficient and appropriate audit evidence in response to queries from the auditor in a number of areas, including the valuation of property, plant and equipment. There were also resource capacity constraints on the part of the external auditors, Grant Thornton UK LLP. These factors have resulted in the audit of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 not being concluded in time to meet the 30 September publication date.

The Authority is continuing to work closely with the audit team as they complete their work. In line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Authority has published a set of draft accounts. The Authority will publish a final set of accounts as soon as the audit is concluded, and the Audit Report is issued.

This notice of delayed audit is being published in accordance with Regulation 10, paragraph (2a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.