



Statement of Assurance by the Chief Executive

2023/24

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law, to proper standards and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. In discharging this responsibility, Members and senior officers are responsible for establishing a system of internal control including governance and risk management.

As Chief Executive, I have specific responsibility for maintaining a system of sound internal control which includes governance and risk management and supports the achievement of the Authority's Corporate Plan. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the Authority's objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

I understand the system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve these objectives; it can therefore provide only reasonable and not absolute confidence that the risks of failure have been mitigated. As Chief Executive I am responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control operating within the Authority as a whole. My review of the effectiveness of these processes during 2023/24 has taken into account the following:

- The extent to which key strategic and operational risks have been subject to identification and review during the year, together with the adequacy of their related controls and adequate reflection in the Authority's Corporate Risk Register;
- The ongoing review of the adequacy and effectiveness of management arrangements documented in the Corporate Governance Annual Assessment and internal control arrangements;
- The re-assessment in year of the control environment where key service areas / functions have been subject to significant change;
- The extent to which agreed actions arising from internal and external audit reports have been implemented;
- Outcomes and required actions arising from reviews by other bodies including external and statutory inspectorates and the external auditors;
- The ongoing review of compliance with the Authority's Code of Corporate Governance;
- The extent to which joint working arrangements and partnerships have been subject to review in year as to the effectiveness of their governance, control and risk arrangements.

Based on my review, I am satisfied that a sound system of internal control has operated within the Authority throughout the year ended 31 March 2024 and is ongoing.

I confirm that in my opinion the governance, control and risk issues identified in the Annual Assessment are not significant. Areas of improvement have however been identified and these will be implemented during the forward year.

Therefore, there are no significant governance, risk and control issues that require reporting within the Authority's published Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.

Signed:

Lesley Worswick, Chief Executive

Date: 8th April 2024