

Item/Min Ref:	Title of Report: NIAO Review - Waste Management	Officer presenting: Lead Assurance Officer Author: Lead Assurance Officer
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members in relation to the Northern Ireland Audit Office's (NIAO) review of issues raised with them by a waste management contractor in May 2016.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members will recall that at a meeting of the Assurance, Audit & Risk Committee in 2016 issues were raised with the NIAO about waste contracts between a waste management contractor and Council. At that time, the NIAO advised that they were in the process of examining the issues raised and that they would report back to the Committee when their review was completed.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The issues raised were as follows:
- 3.1.1 Council incorrectly withheld payments to the waste management contractor* which led the company being put into administration.
 - 3.1.2 Council officers acted improperly in withholding such payments.
 - 3.1.3 The waste management contractor* was treated differently from other waste management contractors including the current contractor.
- 3.2 Members are advised that a letter was received from the NIAO on the 17th November 2017 providing the conclusions reached by them - refer to Appendix F.

- 3.3 In relation to 3.1.1 above the NIAO have concluded as follows: "The conditions for payment within the contract are considered reasonable. Local Government Audit expect local government bodies to have strong procedures in place to ensure proper evidence is obtained to support payments made. On the basis of the documentation I have been provided with from both the waste management contractor* and Council I am of the view that the allegation is not substantiated.
- 3.4 In relation to 3.1.2 above the NIAO have concluded as follows: "I have received no documentary evidence to support the allegation of improper behaviour by any council officer in dealing with the withholding of payments to the waste management contractor*"
- 3.5 In relation to 3.1.3 above the NIAO have concluded as follows: I have received no documentary evidence to support the allegation that the waste management contractor* has been treated differently from other waste management contractors including the current contractor."
- 3.6 In concluding the letter, the Local Government Auditor advised that this case is now closed.

4 Financial and Other Implications

- 4.1 No budget implications arise as a result of this business.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Background Papers

Appendix F

*Please note that this report and the NIAO letter have been redacted to remove references to the company and the individual who raised the issues with the NIAO.