

Agenda Item 4



GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY
RECYCLING, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 24TH JULY 2012

Present:	Councillor	Piddington (in the Chair)
	Councillors	A. Alexander, Donaghy, Lewis and Young
	Officers	Director of Contract Services, Solicitor to the Authority, Accountant, Senior Governance Officer
Apologies:	Councillors	Ahmed
	Officers	Contracts Manager

M1 Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair

There were no items of urgent business introduced by the Chair.

M2 To receive declarations of interest in any contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting

No declarations of interests were received.

M3 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 28th February 2012

The minutes of the last meeting dated 28th February 2012 were approved as a correct record.

M4 Terms of Reference

The Committee considered the Terms of Reference, which had been approved at the Authority Meeting on 8th June 2012.

RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the Recycling, Waste Management and Operations Committee's Terms of Reference.

M5 Contract Overview Presentation

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Contract Services which provided an overview of the Recycling and Waste Management Contract (the Contract).

In particular, this included information on the relationships between the Authority, Viridor Laing (Greater Manchester) Limited (VLGM) and VLGM's subcontractors; the outputs and achievements of the Contract in improving the recycling rate and the landfill diversion rate; the waste infrastructure and technologies used in the Contract; the monitoring and governance arrangements for the Contract; and the 'zero waste' model.

Members asked a number of questions regarding the presentation.

- Q1 A Member noted that within the presentation it had been stated that the level of landfill was higher than average during May each year due to the scheduled shutdown of Raikes Lane Thermal Recovery Facility (TRF), Bolton for essential maintenance, and asked whether it was possible for this waste to be redirected to other facilities to avoid this.
- A1 The Director of Contract Services explained that redirection of waste, throughout the whole range of facilities provided for within the Contract, to avoid landfill was one of the priorities of the 'zero waste' model. It was anticipated that once all of the Mechanical Biological Treatment - Anaerobic Digestion (MBT-AD) facilities were fully commissioned, the effect of future TRF scheduled shutdowns on the landfill rate would be minimised.
- Q2 A Member asked whether the stretch targets of 60% recycling and 90% landfill diversion would be deliverable.
- A2 The Director of Contract Services explained that he felt that the targets were definitely deliverable, but would rely on the resolution of a number of issues that would be discussed during the closed section of the agenda.

Members also discussed the actions that could be taken to drive improvements in recycling and landfill diversion in low performing areas, in particular terraced houses and flats, where there was often not sufficient space to allow all residents to take full advantage of the four-stream bin system. The Director of Contract Services explained that education of the public was key in this, and each District used a range of approaches to attempt to improve performance. The Chair informed Members that at the next Authority meeting Districts would make presentations to outline progress with their services in the last year, and providing information on plans for further improvements in the coming months.

RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the presentation.

M6 Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2012/13

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Governance, Procurement & Transparency which sought to obtain the Committee's comments on and endorsement of the Committee Work Programme for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

A Member asked whether there was any potential to consider promoting the collection of unused electrical equipment in schools to further encourage children to recycle. The Director of Contract Services explained that the collection of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) was controlled by a number of regulations, and required the collection facility to have the appropriate permits, due to the potentially hazardous chemicals in some WEEE. Therefore, this would not be appropriate in schools.

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

- a) notes the Work Programme for 2012/13; and
- b) agrees that no further items are requested to be added to the Work Programme for consideration by this Committee at future meetings at this time.

M7 Exclusion of press and public

RESOLVED: That, in accordance and with Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press are excluded from the meeting at this juncture for the following business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respectively indicated paragraph(s) of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act.

It would not be, on balance, in the public interest to disclose this information to the public and press because disclosure for the reasons indicated within the report(s).

M8 Quarterly Contract Update to the end of May 2012

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Contract Services, which provided an update on progress with the Contract up to the end of March 2012 with verified data. Where appropriate, unverified data from the 2012/13 financial year was also provided, to allow Members to have outline information on current performance.

The Director of Contract Services supplemented the report with a presentation.

The report and presentation provided Members with updates on financial issues; recycling and landfill diversion performance for the Contractor and Districts; progress with construction and commissioning of the remaining MBT-AD and Thermal Power Station (TPS) facilities; the partnership approach with VLG M to address any issues with the Contract; and information on potential future issues that may arise throughout the year.

RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the report.

M9 Sale of Spare Capacity

Consideration was given to the Joint Officers' Report which updated Members on the modeled levels of spare capacity at the treatment facilities and identified further actions required to enable the potential sale of this capacity.

Members asked questions regarding the estimated amount of spare capacity available and the potential levels of income that could be gained.

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

- a) notes the output from current modelling, and endorses the strategy of seeking to maximise plant performance;
- b) notes the potential impact that higher tonnages may have on incentivising the Contractor to improve current plant performance; and
- c) recommends to the Authority that a dual approach is taken as follows:
 - i) offer short term capacity at a comparative rate to that available in the market (2013 to 2015); and
 - ii) lobby the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for an increase in Landfill Tax and a ban on the landfill of untreated biodegradable waste to be implemented.

M10 Dates of future meetings

The Senior Governance Officer explained that Members had been consulted regarding a request from a Member of the Committee to change the start times of future meetings from 10.30am to 2.00pm.

RESOLVED: That future meetings of the Committee be held on the following dates, commencing at 2.00pm:

Tuesday, 16th October 2012
Tuesday, 11th December 2012
Tuesday, 12th February 2013

The meeting opened at 10.21 am and closed at 11.35 am

GMWDA