

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2021**

PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Councillor Adele Warren | Bolton |
| Councillor Alan Quinn | Bury |
| Councillor Peter Davis | Oldham |
| Councillor Mohammed Alyas | Oldham |
| Councillor Robin Garrido | Salford |
| Councillor Roy Driver | Stockport |
| Councillor Allison Gwynne | Tameside |
| Councillor Stephen Adshead | Trafford |
| Councillor Dylan Butt | Trafford |

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| David Taylor | Executive Director, GMCA Waste & Resources |
| Gwynne Williams | GMCA Deputy Monitoring Officer |
| Steve Wilson | GMCA Treasurer |
| Michael Kelly | GMCA Waste & Resources |
| Justin Lomax | GMCA Waste & Resources |
| Paul Morgan | GMCA Waste & Resources |
| Michelle Whitfield | GMCA Waste & Resources |
| Helen Ashcroft | Trafford Council |
| Kerry Bond | GMCA Governance & Scrutiny |

WRC 21/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Tracey Rawlins, Shaukat Ali, Wendy Cocks and David Lancaster.

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

WRC 21/25 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED-/

That Councillor Allison Gwynne be appointed Chair for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

WRC 21/26 MEMBERSHIP OF THE GM WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE 2021/22

That the Membership of the GMCA Waste & Recycling Committee, as agreed by the GMCA on 25 June 2021 for 2021/2022, be noted, as follows:

| District | Member |
|-------------------|--|
| Bolton | Adele Warren (Con) |
| Bury | Allan Quinn (Lab) |
| Manchester | Tracey Rawlins (Lab) Shaukat Ali (Lab) |
| Oldham | Peter Davis (Lab) Mohammed Alyas (Lab) |
| Rochdale | Wendy Cocks (Lab) Terry Smith (Lab) |
| Salford | David Lancaster (Lab) Robin Garrido (Con) |
| Stockport | Roy Driver (Lab) Helen Foster-Grime (Lib Dem) |
| Tameside | Allison Gwynne (Lab) |
| Trafford | Stephen Adshead (Lab) Dylan Butt (Con) |
| Wigan | N/A ¹ |

¹Membership excludes Wigan Council as it operates as a unitary authority and administers its own disposal arrangements.

**WRC 21/27 APPOINTMENT TO THE GM GREEN CITY REGION
PARTNERSHIP**

RESOLVED/-

That Alan Quinn be appointed to the Green City Region Board for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

**WRC 21/28 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL
DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM**

RESOLVED/-

That Members noted their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and to complete an annual declaration of interest form and that the completed form would be published on the GMCA website be also noted.

WRC 21/29 TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED/-

That the Terms of Reference for the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee be noted.

WRC 21/30 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2021/22

RESOLVED/-

That the Programme of Meetings for 2021/22, be noted as follows:

- 13 October 2021, 10.00am, Venue TBC
- 26 January 2022, 10.00am, Venue TBC
- 23 March 2022, 10.00am, Venue TBC

WRC 21/30 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no announcements or items of urgent business reported.

WRC 21/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported by any Member in respect of any item on the agenda.

WRC 21/32 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2021

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 21 April 2021 be approved as a correct record.

**WRC 21/33 WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
2021/22**

Members considered the Waste & Recycling Committee Work Programme, which provided a forward look of items that would focus the work of the Committee during 2021/2022.

Work surrounding the Waste Strategy would be developed into the Work Programme to fit in with the national position.

RESOLVED/-

That the Work Programme be noted.

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, Waste and Resources Team introduced a report which provided an overview of performance of the Waste and Resources Management Services (WRMS) and the Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS) Contracts, with updates on key issues currently affecting the waste management services during this period.

It was reported that the data used was undergoing final verification for the annual outturn for the financial year April 2020 to March 2021, which is up to the end of Quarter 4 of year 2, for the two Contracts held by Suez.

Highlights from the report included –

- Current recycling rates were at 46.42% for 2021/21, an increase on the 2019/20 rate of 41.15%
- A total rate of 98.5% of material had been diverted away from landfill disposal, a 5% increase on last year, equating to almost 55kt less with only 1.7kt being sent via this route.
- Rejection levels at the Materials Recovery Facility from kerbside recycling remain at around 18% Although slightly lower than last year's level the tonnage of collected loads rejected at the reception points remains very high, reaching over 7.4kt, with the majority of this coming from the mixed paper and card collection stream.
- Since the last Committee report, there has been 1 further RIDDOR incident, for the period up to 31 March 21, bringing the total for the year to 5. The last incident, in January 2021, was a dangerous occurrence reported to the Health and Safety Executive due to a high-pressure steam leak at the Bolton Thermal Recovery Facility. This was detected following the restart of the turbine bypass station, during a routine inspection of the turbine hall. Appropriate action was taken, including the steam supply being isolated from the affected section of the system, the source of the leak being identified, and a repair being carried out, along with an upgrade to the control system, and a reviewed inspection and replacement plan.
- The overall data shows that throughout the period of the pandemic, total annual Household Waste Recycling Centre visitor numbers have stayed below levels

seen in the previous 2 years. With 5.4m visits during 2020/21 being 500k less visits than in the previous year. Final annual data is currently being verified but indicates that there was approaching 20% less material going through these sites than for last year (equating to over 50kt).

- Van Permit Scheme: SUEZ is continuing to develop the system to administer and manage the usage of HWRC network by householders owning vans. The testing phase will ensure the process for the applicant is as straightforward as possible and that administration is streamlined and compliant with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation. It is anticipated that there will be a soft launch on sites during August 2021 with the hard launch commencing in September 2021.
- Biowaste treatment capacity has been secured until 2026. Bids have been received through the procurement process for a number of smaller treatment packages, these have been evaluated and final stage of approvals are underway.
- SUEZ introduced the segregation of carpets for recycling and sourced outlets whereby the material could be shredded and used on surfaces for equestrian training areas. At the end of 2020 the Environment Agency announced the withdrawal of the Low-Risk Waste Position, where carpet recycling was managed, this was due to come into force in mid-June 2021 but has been delayed for 12 months following the trade body Carpet Recycling UK, and others, lobbying the Environment Agency whilst evidence is gathered on potential plastics and POPs releases.
- The GMCA and SUEZ have agreed to the addition of plasterboard skip collection points at suitable Household Waste Recycling Centres. The sites identified are Arkwright St, Bayley St, Chichester St, Springvale, Hurstwood Court, Salford Road, Bredbury, Adswold, Boysnope Wharf, Lumns Lane and Longley Lane.
- Significant progress has been achieved to meet the construction programme between April and June at the Reliance Street Mechanical Treatment and Reception Facility, which following testing, will be capable of processing 130,000 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste which equates to an approximate hourly amount of 50 tonnes per/hour.
- Following extensive damage in September 2017 by a fire within the turbine hall building at Raikes Lane Thermal Recovery Facility, extensive refurbishments,

repairs, and the installation and trial of the new turbine engine have been undertaken by Suez and completed in April 2021.

Members queried the types of items taken to landfill, it was noted that these are bulky items that are non-compactable or unable to be shredded.

In relation to the disposal of domestic kerbside recycling, Members requested confirmation of percentages rejected due to resident behaviour. Officers clarified that 18% of residential recycling is rejected due to contaminants

It was confirmed that Bredbury Recycling Facility, Stockport, is used to further clean up contaminated paper and card to enable lower rejection rates.

It was clarified that residents who own vans and encounter issues with the new Van Permit Scheme should liaise directly with their districts recycling team. Trade services should continue to use the weighbridge site facilities.

Members asked where household carpet waste should be recycled. It was confirmed that they can continue to use household recycling facilities, where the majority of waste is recycled.

In relation to plasterboard waste, Members were informed that 1-2k tonnes per annum is shredded and reworked, details on this will be circulated to Members.

Officers confirmed that processes and procedures are in place, along with warranties and guarantees to minimise any down time at the Reliance Street Mechanical Treatment and Reception Facility and that tonnage figures have exceeded previous rates.

Members asked how metal is separated from the waste at the Reliance Street Facility, and what alert procedures are in place in case of battery fires. Officers reported that magnets separate, currently 4%, of metals at the facility and that a fully connected detection and sprinkler system has been installed.

It was confirmed that the shredder at the Reliance Street Facility is larger and therefore has a greater capacity than other sites and has a capacity to shred 50 tonnes per hour.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That further information in relation to plasterboard waste be circulated to Members.
3. That the Construction presentation received at section 9 of the report be circulated to Members.
4. That officers confirm the number of jobs created at the Reliance Street Mechanical Treatment and Reception Facility.
5. That further updates on the Raikes Lane Thermal Recovery Facility be brought to future meetings.

WRC 21/35 COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PLAN UPDATE

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team updated the Committee on the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications & Behavioural Change delivery plan and the joint SUEZ communications and engagement plan.

- The National Food Waste Action Week 2022 has been confirmed for 7th-13th March 2022.
- Promotion is continuing at the household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) to generate stock for the 3 ReNew shops. Donation containers have been placed at 15 out of the 20 HWRCs, this type of waste would otherwise have gone into the general waste container destined for energy from waste or landfill.

- The Greater Manchester Social Media Strategy is being reviewed to determine what type of content leads to better engagement, ensuring it meets the needs of our audience and contains relevant content.
- The education team are continuing to deliver virtual educational sessions and will continue when restrictions lifted. The refit of the Longley Lane Education Centre is on track to be completed in September. Restrictions allowing, face to face education visits at Longley Lane Visitor Centre and the Solar Farm at Bolton will commence in September.
- The National Nappy Campaign launched in March 2021. The Recycle for GM Team (R4GM) are developing the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign further by working with hospital communication leads to share in maternity wards and with the Maternity Clinical Lead at the Health and Social Care Partnership to hopefully secure partnership working. R4GM are also exploring options to work with Bounty, the online company that supports families in the transition to parenthood, from pregnancy to pre-school, and the Manchester Evening News are looking at options to share the campaign via their Families Online channel.
- For World Environment Day on 5 June 2021, R4GM partnered with Alupro (Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation) focussing on the Every Can Counts Campaign, and Every Can Counts ambassadors worked with the team on various public engagement campaigns.
- Research is underway to develop a food waste campaign across the conurbation.
- A report filmed by ITV Granada Reports at the Longley Lane site focussing on battery fires is due to air during w/c 21 June 2021, this will be supported by social media messaging by the R4GM team.

It was confirmed that battery recycling is the responsibility of the industry/supplier, there are emerging discussions with partners on how this can be addressed, whether through social media or a separate advertising campaign.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the progress of the Communications and Behavioural Change Plan.
2. To note the progress on the joint SUEZ and R4GM Communications and Engagement Plan.

WRC 21/36 RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND CONSULTATIONS

Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, Waste and Resources Team updated the Committee on the Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England and its possible implications for Greater Manchester.

Implications of the proposed strategy for Greater Manchester include:

- Even though the weekly collection of food and garden waste collections will be funded by the New Burdens regime, this would still impact depots and facilities.
- Having six/7 recycling containers per household would not be suitable to the more densely populated areas and would cause significant health and safety concerns, such as congestion and increased omission, not all provision services for flats would accommodate the receptacle's and will need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Studies have shown that there would be little environmental benefit over the current system used in GM.

The consultation response has been submitted to Government, responses detailing a course of action from all responses received are expected in the Autumn.

Discussions with districts will progress over the next few weeks and will include the waste strategy and wider implications, such as, the carbon agenda - net zero by 2028.

Members raised concerns on the suggestion that three bins be collected on one day, this causing problems for people with sight and/or mobility issues, users of mobility chairs, prams etc.

Members reiterated their concerns regarding the number of additional bins being required and other factors and suggested that GM residents be surveyed as evidence to the consultation response.

It was reported that Government believed that separate collections would indicate a better standard of return. In preparation, officers were undertaking relevant modelling to consider the best options.

In relation to mandated fortnightly residual waste collections, Members were concerned that this would reduce recycling rates and have significant cost implications. Furthermore, three weekly collections were well established in many areas of Greater Manchester so this would potentially cause unnecessary confusion for residents. However, it was noted that collections, bin sizes and bin colours were not standard across GM and therefore it would be difficult in the current contractual arrangements to meet Government demands to standardise at this point.

Greater Manchester has well established collection patterns and should also not be quick to introduce changes that would not be for the good of its residents.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report.

WRC 21/37 GMCA WASTE AND RESOURCES BUDGET OUTTURN 2020/21

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer introduced the report setting out the revenue and capital outturn for 2020/21 for the Waste and Resources Service.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report.

WRC 21/38 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED/-

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, member of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraphs 3 & 5, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

WRC 21/39 CONTRACTS UPDATE

RESOLVED/-

That the contracts update, and key risks set out in the report be noted.