

GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, 22nd January, 2025

TIME: 10.00am-12noon

VENUE: The Tootal Buildings - Broadhurst House
1st Floor, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**

2. **Chairs Announcements and Urgent Business**

3. **Declarations of Interest** 1 - 4

To receive declarations of interest in any item for discussion at the meeting. A blank form for declaring interests has been circulated with the agenda; please ensure that this is returned to the Governance & Scrutiny Officer 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

Please note that this meeting will be livestreamed via www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk, please speak to a Governance Officer before the meeting should you not wish to consent to being included in this recording.

- 4. GM Waste and Recycling Committee Minutes - 16 October 2024** 5 - 18
- To consider the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2024.
- 5. Membership of the GM Waste & Recycling Committee 2024/25**
- To note that Councillor Laura Boyle (Tameside) (Labour) was appointed to the Committee for 2024/5 at the GMCA meeting held on 13 December 2024, replacing Councillor Denise Ward.
- 6. Budget and Levy 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan to 2027/28** 19 - 36
- Report of Steve Wilson, Group Chief Finance Officer attached.
- 7. Contracts Update** 37 - 46
- Report of Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services & Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team attached.
- 8. R4GM Community Fund** 47 - 64
- Report and presentation of Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications & Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team attached.
- 9. Strategy and Policy Update** 65 - 76
- Report of Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team attached.

10. Update on the Management of Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating 77 - 84

Report of Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team attached.

11. Sustainable Consumption and Production Programmes Update 85 - 94

Report of Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable, Consumption and Production & Michelle Lynch, Lead Programmes Manager, Sustainable Consumption and Production, GMCA Environment Directorate attached.

12. Future Meeting Dates

To consider future meeting dates for the Committee for 2025/26:

12 March 2025

9 July 2025

8 October 2025

21 January 2026

18 March 2026

All meetings will be held 10am-12noon, venue to be confirmed.

13. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

PART B

14. **Contracts Update**

95 - 100

Report of Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services &
Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA
Waste and Resources Team attached.

For copies of papers and further information on this meeting please refer to the website
www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk. Alternatively, contact the following
Governance & Scrutiny Officer: Kerry Bond, Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer
✉ kerry.bond@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

This agenda was issued on Tuesday, 14 January 2025
on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority,
Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU

Greater Manchester Waste & Recycling Committee – 22 January 2025

Declaration of Councillors' Interests in Items Appearing on the Agenda

Name: _____

Date: _____

Minute Item No. / Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest	Type of Interest
		Personal / Prejudicial / Disclosable Pecuniary
		Personal / Prejudicial / Disclosable Pecuniary
		Personal / Prejudicial / Disclosable Pecuniary
		Personal / Prejudicial / Disclosable Pecuniary
		Personal / Prejudicial / Disclosable Pecuniary
		Personal / Prejudicial / Disclosable Pecuniary

Please see overleaf for a quick guide to declaring interests at GMCA meetings.

Quick Guide to Declaring Interests at GMCA Meetings

Please Note: should you have a personal interest that is prejudicial in an item on the agenda, you should leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and the voting thereon.

This is a summary of the rules around declaring interests at meetings. It does not replace the Member's Code of Conduct, the full description can be found in the GMCA's constitution Part 7A.

Your personal interests must be registered on the GMCA's Annual Register within 28 days of your appointment onto a GMCA committee and any changes to these interests must notified within 28 days. Personal interests that should be on the register include:

1. Bodies to which you have been appointed by the GMCA
2. Your membership of bodies exercising functions of a public nature, including charities, societies, political parties or trade unions.

You are also legally bound to disclose the following information called Disclosable Personal Interests which includes:

1. You, and your partner's business interests (eg employment, trade, profession, contracts, or any company with which you are associated).
2. You and your partner's wider financial interests (eg trust funds, investments, and assets including land and property).
3. Any sponsorship you receive.

Failure to disclose this information is a criminal offence

Step One: Establish whether you have an interest in the business of the agenda

1. If the answer to that question is 'No' then that is the end of the matter.
2. If the answer is 'Yes' or 'Very Likely' then you must go on to consider if that personal interest can be construed as being a prejudicial interest.

Step Two: Determining if your interest is prejudicial

A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest:

1. where the wellbeing, or financial position of you, your partner, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association (people who are more than just an acquaintance) are likely to be affected by the business of the meeting more than it would affect most people in the area.
2. the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

For a non-prejudicial interest, you must:

1. Notify the governance officer for the meeting as soon as you realise you have an interest.
2. Inform the meeting that you have a personal interest and the nature of the interest.
3. Fill in the declarations of interest form.

To note:

1. You may remain in the room and speak and vote on the matter
2. If your interest relates to a body to which the GMCA has appointed you to, you only have to inform the meeting of that interest if you speak on the matter.

For prejudicial interests, you must:

1. Notify the governance officer for the meeting as soon as you realise you have a prejudicial interest (before or during the meeting).
2. Inform the meeting that you have a prejudicial interest and the nature of the interest.
3. Fill in the declarations of interest form.
4. Leave the meeting while that item of business is discussed.
5. Make sure the interest is recorded on your annual register of interests form if it relates to you or your partner's business or financial affairs. If it is not on the Register update it within 28 days of the interest becoming apparent.

You must not:

Participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting participate further in any discussion of the business, participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

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Minutes of the Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee held on Wednesday 16 October 2024

Present:

Bolton Council	Councillor Richard Silvester
Bury Council	Councillor Alan Quinn (in the Chair)
Bury Council	Councillor Gareth Staples-Jones
Manchester CC	Councillor Lee-Ann Igbon
Oldham Council	Councillor Pam Byrne
Oldham Council	Councillor Ken Rustidge
Rochdale Council	Councillor Aasim Rashid
Salford CC	Councillor David Lancaster
Salford CC	Councillor Barbara Bentham
Salford CC	Councillor Paul Heilbron
Stockport Council	Councillor Mark Roberts
Trafford Council	Councillor Stephen Adshead
Trafford Council	Councillor Dylan Butt

Officers in Attendance:

GMCA Deputy Monitoring Officer	Sarah Bennett
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
GMCA Waste & Resources	David Taylor
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michelle Whitfield
GMCA Waste & Resources	Justin Lomax
GMCA Environment	Sarah Mellor
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Kerry Bond
GMCA	Inayah Hussain

District Officers in Attendance:

Bury Council	Daniela Dixon
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Tameside Council

Jo Oliver

Trafford Council

Helen Ashcroft

WRC 24/21 Apologies

Resolved/-

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillor Shaukat Ali (Manchester) and Denise Ward (Tameside).

Apologies were also received and noted from Paul Morgan (GMCA).

WRC 24/22 Chairs Announcements and Urgent Business

Members raised the recent BBC coverage stating that burning household rubbish in waste incinerators to generate electricity is now the most polluting form of power regeneration in the UK, producing the same amount of greenhouse gases per unit of energy as coal power and suggested that the overall amount of residual waste should be reduced and disposed of in a responsible way.

Members acknowledged that Greater Manchester (GM) have a history of dealing with waste in a responsible way and requested assurance as to whether the current approach is correct and that the way waste is dealt with brings social value to GM.

Officers commented on the journalist BBC report advising that a number of points within the report are factually incorrect:

- The report relates to fossil-based carbon, comparing emissions from energy from waste to any other kind of power station. 3.1% of UK energy output is from waste plants, energy from waste facilities is more tightly regulated, have lower emission rates and are cleaner.
- Over time the composition of residual waste has changed, now containing more fossil-based items due mainly to increase in plastics. Food waste is reduced due to local capture through local authorities.

- Energy from waste emissions data shows that for every tonne of residual waste to landfill c.430kgCO₂e of carbon is released, energy from waste is c.50% lower than that figure.
- The incoming legislation and policies which are designed to reduce the amount of plastic going into the residual waste stream isn't included in the BBC report.
- Some items such as absorbent hygiene products and some textiles don't have a recycling alternative with energy from waste being the better option due to the ability to capture the heat to generate electricity and steam.
- Fossil carbon content through the supply chain needs to be addressed to reduce the amount of fossil-based carbon in the waste stream which would reduce the carbon emissions generated from waste.
- GM recycle over 50% of waste compared to the national figure of 44%, less than 1% of this is sent to landfill. The waste heat generates electricity and steam which support the local economy.

Resolved/-

1. That the update be noted.

WRC 24/23 Declarations of Interest

Resolved/-

1. There were no Declarations of Interest reported.

WRC24/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 July 2024

Resolved/-

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024 be approved as a correct record.

WRC 24/25 Membership of the GM Waste & Recycling Committee 2024/25

Resolved/-

To note members appointed to the Committee for 2024/5 at the GMCA meeting held on 27 September 2024:

Member: Councillor Paul Heilbron (Salford) (Lib Dem)

Substitute: Councillor Jonathan Moore (Salford) (Lib Dem)

WRC 24/26 Contracts Update

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report which provided an overview on performance of the Waste and Resource Management Services and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services Contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019 as well as an update on latest position on the English Resources and Waste Strategy.

The report presented cumulative annual data, for the period up to the end of June 2024 (Quarter 1) of the financial year 2024/25 (contract year 6), for the two contracts held by Suez. An overview of the cumulative data, total waste arisings, contamination levels, landfill diversion, HWRC recycling rate, overall recycling rate and HWRC visit levels and statistics were also provided.

A member advised during a recent Household Waste Recycling Centre visit that crates of books were left open to the elements and asked why this would be. Officers confirmed that they were made aware of this, they contacted the recycling centre and the books were moved to a sheltered area until collection could be made,

contact was also made with the contractor who advised that the supply chain issue is being addressed.

Officers confirmed that there are some differences in Waste Collection Authority trade waste collections (these collections do not involve the HWRCs at all), those collections with a mix of domestic and commercial waste are segregated into domestic and commercial at district level.

Members welcomed the 70% reduction in contamination levels and were advised that improved learning and behaviours around kerbside recycling have contributed to this reduction along with meet and greet and advice from staff at household recycling centres, and some third-party end market clean up.

The impact of neighbouring authority's household recycling sites closures is being managed by increased permit scheme and postcode checks across Greater Manchester household waste recycling sites, figures are being closely monitored that would give an indication of cross border site visitors.

Officers agreed to investigate whether the positive recycling figures are impacted through school projects.

Members congratulated Suez on the increase in recycling rates.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.

WRC 24/27 Communications & Engagement Behavioural Change Plan 2024/25

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team talked to a report and presentation updating Members on the Communications Plan and priority areas for 2025/26, including:

- Cotton On Campaign
- Pots, Tubs and Trays Recycling
- Fly Tipping Campaign – Your Waste Your Responsibility
- Top Tips for your Trips to the Tip Campaign
- Battery Safety and Recycling
- Food Waste Recycling
- Reducing Waste, Reuse, Repair

Officers agreed to speak with Keep Britain Tidy and the GMCA Safer and Stronger Communities Team to determine whether any research is being carried out on cross boundary fly tipping.

Officers confirmed that residents must apply for and receive a permit to access Household Waste Recycling Centres in vans with domestic waste, this enables staff to ascertain that the person is a GM resident and not a tradesperson.

Members praised the shopping centre Cotton On Campaign and encouraged other members to run the campaign in their districts, it was suggested that the Arndale and Trafford Centres would be good places for future campaigns due to heavy footfall.

Members gave feedback that residents have welcomed the Pots, Tubs and Trays Campaign.

Members requested that the Committee write to Defra again regarding the disposal of vapes and the challenges they cause if placed in residual waste.

It was suggested that recycling and the impact on health and well-being be included in future advertising and that more information be communicated to residents on recycling of damaged clothing and textiles.

Due to language barriers pictorial learning campaigns are being investigated for future campaigns.

It was suggested that good practise fly tipping campaigns be shared across local authorities.

Recycle It, a social enterprise initiative in Bolton, teach students from Bolton and Bury college how to dismantle and recycle components from used computers and laptops for recycling. It was suggested that these types of initiative be supported by the GMCA by advertising and sharing contacts of organisations that could work with. Officers confirmed that a directory of recycle and repair organisations is being worked on that can be shared with these types of initiatives, business and residents.

Officers confirmed that batteries and vapes can be recycled at supermarkets and various recycling centres across the conurbation.

Resolved/-

1. That the Communications & Engagement Plan, the progress updates and the key priorities for the next financial year be noted.
2. That the Committee write to Defra regarding the disposal of vapes and the challenges they cause if placed in residual waste be agreed.

WRC 24/28 2024/25 Budget Update and Budget and Levy Setting Process for 2025/26

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer presented a report updating members on the forecast 2024/25 budget position and the timeline for setting the budget and levy for 2025/26.

The report highlighted the forecast revenue outturn for 2024/25 as of month 5 detailing a c.£5m underspend driven by continuing trends in particular lower tonnages and higher income from recyclables. A further return of £20m of reserves has been made to the nine local authorities. The forecast capital outturn for 2024/25

at month 5 and the medium-term financial plan to 2025/26 and the budget consultation and timeline.

The CPI linked Suez contract September figure of 1.7% will improve the projected levy for 2025/26 with the full details of the budget and levy being brought to the January meeting of this Committee.

Members were advised that the budget is set against the tonnage forecasts received from districts and that low tonnage and changes to the makeup of waste has impacted the £4.5m variance on operational costs.

Landfill Tax increases by Retail Price Index (RPI) yearly and it is uncertain whether this has an impact on fly tipping.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That an update report be brought to the January 2025 meeting be agreed.

WRC 24/29 Waste Strategy and Policy Update

David Taylor, GMCA Executive Director for Waste presented the report updating Members on the latest announcements by government on Simpler Recycling and other associated policy areas, including:

Confirmation has been received by government that the Deposit Return Scheme is on track for implementation in 2027, the scheme includes recycling of aluminium and plastic of certain sizes and not glass. This scheme could result in reduced tonnages for districts that could affect contract and income levels with a potential change in law claim on contracts due to lower tonnages impacting income share levels.

The GMCA and the nine districts will receive their 2025/26 indicative payment figures for the packaging extended producer responsibility (EPR) as part of the Simpler Recycling Scheme in November, district receive the cost of collection and handling of packaging materials and the GMCA receive costs for the handling and disposal of those materials.

The statutory and non-statutory guidance for simpler recycling collection timescales and the position of co-collection of garden and food waste and associated charges hasn't yet been received.

The responses to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) consultation documents published in August are currently being reviewed by government with an expected initial response by December 2024 which should show how expected ETS's are intended to work for local authorities. A letter has been sent to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero highlighting the additional costs imposed on districts for additional carbon in residual waste which should be reflected to the producers of goods. Carbon permits for this scheme will be bought and sold on a two-weekly basis by government, with prices fluctuating according to demand.

The GMCA has written to the Secretary of State inviting them to meet with members of the Committee to discuss the costs to be imposed on districts for additional carbon in residual waste.

Resolved/-

1. That the update provided on strategic and policy matters be noted.
2. That an update report be brought to the January 2025 meeting be agreed.

WRC 24/30 Draft Five Year Environment Plan 2025-2030

Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, GMCA presented the first draft of the next Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan (2025-30)

and provided an overview of the process undertaken to develop the draft to date and the next steps prior to its final approval in November 2024, the update included:

- The structure of the Plan
- Aims to deliver on the vision
- Aims and objectives – the addition of air quality and economy to the objectives and their actions
- Next steps:
 - Final feedback from districts and external partners
 - Development and finalising targets
 - Approval and final comment from this committee, the Green City Region Partnership and Green City Region Board
 - Final amends to the plan through October
 - Approval at the GMCA in November
 - Launch publicly at the Green Summit on the 9 December 2024.

Members agreed that public engagement is a key priority for the plan and reducing waste.

It was suggested that conversations between GMCA and the government take place on standards of construction materials used across the conurbation around embedded and carbon extraction. Officers confirmed that discussions have been taking place with Defra on this subject.

Officers highlighted the finance section on becoming carbon neutral within the plan and noted the discussions to take place and models to be agreed to achieve carbon neutrality.

Members suggested that the majority of food waste is avoidable, and proposed the mandating of free food waste collections, including high rise buildings and apartments across Greater Manchester. Officers confirmed that various schemes and pilots have been carried out across apartment buildings to encourage food recycling and agreed that a solution needs to be reached.

It was confirmed that following the launch of the plan, executive summaries will be produced to assist in communication with residents and businesses.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the development process, next steps and that a sustainability and equality assessment will be conducted on the final draft document be noted.
3. To agree that the current Plan be circulated to Members.

WRC 24/31 Biowaste Management Strategy Update

David Taylor, GMCA Executive Director for Waste provide an update on the progress on the implementation of the Biowaste Management Strategy when the current contracts come to an end mid-2026.

Following marketing engagement event in August, a testing exercise on a dry anaerobic facility resulting in twelve written submissions which provided appetite in the market and highlighted some key issues, resulting in two key points coming to light:

- the lack of the availability of sites may become a challenge to deliverability; and
- uncertainty over the future of the government's Green Gas Support Scheme which throws doubt over the financial model of delivery.

If the GMCA decided to develop a plant, time constraints would be a risk to delivery by 2028 leaving the GMCA liable if green gas support is not available for c.£7-8m per year.

Analysis of the responses is taking place with a view to deciding the way forward prior to this committee in January 2025.

Clarity from the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero has been requested on whether it is intended that there will be a successor to the Green Gas Support Scheme to enable business cases to be ran.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That an update report be brought to the January 2025 meeting be agreed.

WRC 24/32 Raikes Lane Thermal Recovery Facility and Implications of the Best Available Techniques Reference Document

David Taylor, GMCA Executive Director for Waste updated members on the work required at GMCA's thermal recovery facility at Raikes Lane in Bolton to meet updated legislation requirements which will result in the need for capital investment with ongoing revenue implications to ensure the facilities are operating using the best techniques available.

The changes required are a Qualified Change in Law which is contractual, and as such leaves the GMCA obliged to meet the costs. There are some costs to cover arising from facilitating the introduction of the required changes, costs from increased consumption of process materials and from increased testing requirements. The financial impact on GMCA is estimated at c.£105k with other costs which are to be confirmed.

Resolved/-

1. That the report detailing the work required be noted.
2. That the expenditure associated with achieving compliance with the regulatory changes be noted.

3. That an update report be brought to a future meeting.

WRC 24/33 Future Meeting Dates

Resolved/-

To note the future meeting dates for the Committee:

22 January 2025, 10am-12noon

12 March 2025, 10am-12noon

WRC 24/34 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved/-

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

WRC 24/35 Contracts Update

Resolved/-

1. That the contract updates and key risks detailed in the report be noted.

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Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 22 January 2025

Subject: Budget and Levy 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan to 2027/28

Report of: Steve Wilson, Group Chief Finance Officer

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to seek comment on the budget and levy for 2025/26 and on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2027/28. Those plans are delivered by:

1. A total levy requirement for 2025/26 of £179.2m, which represents a 2.8% average increase over 2024/25. At a District level, the levy changes range from 2.2% to 3.6%; and
2. The MTFP then proposes levy charges of £192.2m in 2026/27 and £199.4m in 2027/28.

Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the forecast outturn for 2024/25, and a proposal to return a further £10m of reserves to Districts from the forecast in-year underspend;
2. Note the proposed 2026/27 Trade Waste rate of £141.94 to allow forward planning by Districts;
3. Note the capital programme for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix A;
4. Note the budget and levy for 2025/26 of £179.2m (2.8% increase); and
5. Note the risk position set out in the Balances Strategy and the intention to return a further £20m of reserves to Districts in 2025/26.

Contact Officers

Lindsey Keech, Head of Finance (Capital and Treasury Management)

Lindsey.keech@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Report authors must identify which paragraph relating to the following issues:

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

N/A

Risk Management

Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Authority's Chief Financial Officer is required to report on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget and levy calculations and the adequacy of the proposed reserves. This information enables a longer-term view of the overall financial position to be taken.

In accordance with these requirements a review has been undertaken of the risks that the GMCA may face from Waste & Resources activities which would require the allocation of resources over and above those already included in the MTFP budgets. That review broadly supports the proposed Revenue and Balances Strategy.

Legal Considerations

Please refer to risk management section above.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

This report sets out the proposed Revenue budget for waste disposal in 2025/26.

Financial Consequences – Capital

This report sets out the proposed capital budget for waste disposal in 2025/26.

Number of attachments to the report:

1 - Appendix A - Capital Programme

2 - Appendix B – Forecast Levy Increases per Districts

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background Papers

N/A

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22nd and 29th January 2025 - Final proposals to Waste & Recycling Committee and Scrutiny Committee

1. Introduction/Background

1.1. Base Budget for 2025/26

The base budget for 2025/26 has been compiled and updated based upon:

- a) District final tonnage information, as supplied in their October 2024 submissions;
- b) Actual inflation (as measured using the CPI September 2024 index) for the Waste and Resource Management Services (WRMS) and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services Contracts (HWRCMS); and
- c) Exclusion of income from the new packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (pEPR). The Authority has received a provisional notice of assessment with estimated total income of £22.7m. Due to the provisional nature of this large amount, the Authority intends to make a refund to Districts later in the year. That amount is expected to be £17.7m with the balance being placed in a reserve for use in future years.

1.2. Report Structure

This report is structured to cover the following matters:

- a) Expected Outturn 2024/25;
- b) Original Estimate 2025/26;
- c) MTFP for two further years to 2027/28;
- d) Balances and Reserves Strategy;
- e) Budget Engagement; and
- f) Risk Assessment.

2. Expected Outturn 2024/25

2.1. Revenue

The budget for 2024/25 was set by the GMCA at £178.3m with a contribution from reserves of £4m in February 2024. The forecast outturn position for 2024/25 is shown below.

	Budget 2024/25 £m	Forecast 2024/25 £m	Variance 2024/25 £m
Operational Costs	116.326	107.602	(8.724)
Operational Financing	55.104	54.686	(0.418)
Office Costs	6.245	5.681	(0.564)
Non-Operational Financing	0.599	0.599	-
Total Budget	178.274	168.568	(9.706)
Levy Adjustment	-	0.018	0.018
One-Off Return of Reserves	-	30.000	30.000
Transfer (from)/to reserves	(4.000)	(24.312)	(20.312)
Levy	178.274	168.568	9.706

The forecast underspend in Operational Costs is largely driven by savings on residual waste treatment due to lower than forecast tonnages of waste (£2.6m), and forecast income from paper/card and commingled waste being above budget (£2.6m). A combination of other costs projected to be below the forecast budget (£3.5m). Forecast share of third-party income from TPSCo is currently above budget by £2.2m.

The forecast underspend on operational financing arises from a slight reduction in the Minimum Revenue Provision charge for the year and the interest paid on the short term borrowed debt.

The forecast underspend on office costs is largely a result of lower than expected consultancy fees. Spend associated with waste compositional analysis has been reprofiled into 2025/26. Underspends have also been generated by staff vacancies and reduced premises expenditure.

The current Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA) provides for in-year adjustments to be made when actual waste arisings vary from declared levels. Based upon updated forecast tonnages an indicative outturn position has been calculated which predicts at District level, adjustments may be needed as set out below.

	Charge/ (Refund) £m
Bolton	0.081
Bury	(0.025)
Manchester	(0.204)
Oldham	(0.159)
Rochdale	0.011
Salford	(0.019)
Stockport	0.043
Tameside	0.054
Trafford	0.200
Total	(0.018)

2.2. Capital

A revised capital programme is shown below:

	Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m
Operational assets	9.070	9.179	(0.109)
Non-Operational assets	0.200	0.200	-
Total	9.270	9.379	(0.109)

The main changes to the assumptions around Operational Assets are the reprofiling of works to build a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Reliance Street, Newton Heath into 2025/26 and the commencement of works at Raikes Lane, Bolton to increase reliability and throughput and address a number of historical issues at the site. In addition there is a reprofiling of the spend on mobile plant and equipment into 2025/26.

3. Original Estimates 2025/26

3.1. Revenue

A base budget has been produced based upon achieving the vision and objectives set out in the Greater Manchester Waste Management Strategy.

The effect of the above is to produce a £4.937m increase in net budget requirement for 2024/25 (2.8% increase). Further detail is provided below:

	Budget 2025/26 £m
Operational Costs	119.952
Operational Financing	56.692
Office Costs	6.173
Non-Operational Financing	0.394
Total Budget	<u>183.211</u>
Use of Reserves	<u>(4.000)</u>
Levy	179.211

3.2. Levy Apportionment

The tonnages supplied by Districts, in October 2024, have been subjected to scrutiny by the Waste & Resources Team and detailed discussions with District Waste Chief Officers. Future year's projections also include the impact of population/ housing growth.

The method of allocating the levy to Districts has a provision allowing for the rebasing of tonnages used to allocate fixed costs. This rebasing has taken place for the setting of the 2025/26 levy.

The tonnage forecasts mean that individual Districts allocations will vary from the average of 2.8% increase and have a range of 1.4% (covering 2.2% to 3.6%). The final allocations to Districts can be summarised as:

District	2024/25 Levy £m	2025/26 Levy £m	Increase/ (Decrease) £m	Increase/ (Decrease) %
Bolton	19.990	20.523	0.533	2.7
Bury	14.069	14.436	0.367	2.6
Manchester	31.809	32.595	0.786	2.5
Oldham	17.889	18.279	0.390	2.2
Rochdale	16.002	16.514	0.512	3.2
Salford	20.583	21.226	0.643	3.1
Stockport	21.602	22.182	0.579	2.7
Tameside	16.226	16.769	0.544	3.4
Trafford	16.104	16.688	0.584	3.6
Total	174.274	179.211	4.937	2.8

3.3. Capital

The revenue budget takes account of the proposed spend on items of a capital nature. Appendix A sets out details of proposed capital spend in 2025/26. The forecast spend of £26.817m can be summarised as:

- a) £4.500m for a HWRC at Reliance Street, Newton Heath;
- b) £11.308m for Works at Raikes Lane
- c) £5.000m for a new MRF at Salford Road
- d) £0.300m for a new welfare unit at Cobden Street, Salford;
- e) £0.300m for an electrical rewire at Higher Swan Lane, Bolton;
- f) £1.320m for rail wagons;
- g) £3.189m for mobile plant and equipment; and

Any programme carry forward from 2024/25 will increase the values above.

4. Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2027/28

The GMCA has adopted a current year plus 2-year planning cycle in this budget paper. A number of assumptions have been made which take a balanced view of the risks facing the service in 2025/26 and beyond.

4.1. RPIx and CPI Inflation Assumptions

The forward look assumptions for RPIx and CPI inflation are shown below and have been included in the MTFP.

Financial Year	Forecast December RPIx	Forecast September CPI
2025/26	3.5%	1.7%
2026/27	4.0%	2.5%
2027/28	3.5%	2.0%

4.2. MTFP Projections

The MTFP projections have also assumed that:

- a) Districts will be able to deliver on their expected waste declarations;
- b) No change from England's Resources and Waste Strategy;
- c) Landfill tax will continue to rise annually by RPI;
- d) An income for mixed paper and card in 2025/26 equivalent to the handling charge; and
- e) Exclusion of pEPR and Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) due to commence 1 January 2028.

4.3. Estimated Budget and Levy for the MTFP

Taking account of the above, the estimated budget and levy for the MTFP period are:

Financial Year	Budget Requirement £m	Use of Reserves £m	Levy £m	Increase/ (Decrease)
2024/25	178.274	(4.000)	174.274	5.521
2025/26	183.211	(4.000)	179.211	4.937
2026/27	195.210	(3.000)	192.210	12.999

2027/28	199.410	-	199.410	7.200
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4.4. District Levy Changes over the MTFP Period

Below the headline figures, the impact on Districts will be slightly different and dependent on tonnage forecasts. Appendix B provides indicative details of the District Levy changes over the MTFP period.

5. Balances

The balances attributable to the Waste & Resources team as at 1 April 2024 were £81.559m. During 2024/25, £4m of reserves have been used to offset the cost to Districts of the levy. A return of £10m will be made to Districts. The Levy for 2025/26 contains proposals to utilise £4m of reserves and a further £20m of reserves will be returned to Districts alongside the partial refund of pEPR.

5.1. Balances and Risks

The level of balances is assessed for adequacy on a risk assessed basis, and this reflects the risks below:

- a) Tonnes of waste delivered and received at facilities;
- b) Achievement of recycling/composting levels by Districts and at the HWRCs;
- c) Reduction in contamination;
- d) Recyclate income prices;
- e) Income from pEPR and expenditure on ETS; and
- f) Upside/ downside risks from energy prices at the Runcorn TPS.

5.2 Level of Balances

The level of balances is an area of ongoing discussion with Districts. However, financial risk assessment on an annual basis and the need to hold an appropriate level of balances, will continue to have a major influence on the budget and MTFP for the Waste & Resources Team.

6. Budget Engagement

In accordance with our usual practice, Officers have sought to engage on budget matters with both Waste Chief Officers and Treasurers of constituent Districts. As far as possible the budget and levy take into account their comments.

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Appendix A - Capital Programme for 2025/26

Reliance Street, Newton Heath

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Redevelopment

A new HWRC is required at Reliance Street, North Manchester due to the existing facility being beyond its economic life span and a restricted layout which does not encourage recycling of commodities within the household waste stream. The existing layout is restrictive for operational needs often resulting in significant queueing at the HWRC during busy periods. The intention is to provide a new larger facility in place of the existing layout, an increase in size of approximately 0.6 acres will be gained by demolishing an adjacent Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant.

Benefits to be gained by the new layout include:

- Reduced traffic impacts on Reliance Street at busy periods, provided by a double lane wrapping around the HWRC;
- Separate operational entrance to reduce traffic disruption and provide safer access for operational plant and vehicles;
- Increase in waste recovery and recycling by the introduction of 16 separate containerised bays for individual waste streams;
- Introduction of a re-use shop to support a circular economy, providing a direct benefit to the local community; and
- Improved welfare provisions for HWRC staff.

Planning permission for this redevelopment was achieved early in 2023. Revised timescales will now delay construction commencement until June 2025 to avoid starting works in winter as poor weather conditions could incur further delays and unnecessary risk by exposing the ground works to poor weather. Delaying the start of construction will also ensure that we retain existing HWRC facility during the peak Christmas period and early 2025 which is typically a high demand time of the year for our HWRC's.

Works at Raikes Lane

Works at Raikes Lane were agreed as part of the negotiations to extend the WRMS contract with Suez. The works include replacement of the grate, ash handling systems, cooling system and control systems. The aim of the works is to increase reliability and throughput and to address a number of historical issues with the design of the facility. The works are programmed to commence in October 25 with a duration of 6 months.

Salford Road, Over Hulton

New Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

The existing MRF located at Longley Lane, Sharston has been operational since 2013 and processes c.90ktpa – 100ktpa of kerbside collected dry, mixed recyclable materials. GMCA are now seeking to build a new MRF within the former in-vessel composter (IVC) building at Salford Road Over Hulton. The new facility will allow the receipt of more materials such as pots, tubs, and trays (PTT's) along with flexible films and tetra cartons which local authorities are expected to collect and extract as part of the National Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS).

The project is a significant undertaking and will be a priority item of work during 2025/26 – 2026/27.

Salford Road, Over Hulton

New Education Centre

A new education centre is required to accompany the proposed MRF. The intention is to provide a new building on GMCA's wider site ownership next to the MRF. The centre will provide a space for our education team to deliver educational tours of the facility. The building will also provide a multifunctional space for the wider waste and Resources team. This project will be delivered as separate project to run alongside the MRF, delivery is scheduled for 2026-27 annual period.

Cobden Street, Salford

Welfare Building Upgrades

The existing welfare building at our Cobden Street is now more than 30 years old, it provides welfare provisions to staff the operate our Mechanical Treatment and Reception (MTR)

facility. The proposed capital spend is required to extend the current building to provide additional office space and implement upgrades to the existing building.

Higher Swan Lane (HSL), Bolton

Electrical Rewire

This location incorporates a maintenance depot to support contract delivery providing maintenance and repair facilities associated with transport and container repairs. The building at HSL is a large open framed structure which was constructed in the 1950's and now requires investment to ensure its continued operation. The capital spend is required for electrical upgrades to ensure the buildings wiring meets current electrical standards. This work is part of a phased approach over 2024/25 – 2025/26. Phase 1 was delivered last year.

Solar Photovoltaics (PV) on Welfare Buildings at Various Sites

This proposed capital spend is required to accommodate a small number of solar installations across the portfolio, which will form part of the Waste estates decarbonisation plans. A solar feasibility review is scheduled for the final quarter of 2024-25. This was intended sooner but delayed due to resources and other priorities in 2024-25. The forecasted expenditure is to deliver an initial phased approach for smaller scale opportunities across the waste portfolio. The approach is subject to the finding of the feasibility review and GMCA approval.

Rail Wagons

This capital spend was subject to a decision of this Committee on 17 January 2024 and relates to the second tranche of replacement wagons as outlined in the Contract Update Part B report.

Mobile Plant and Equipment

The proposed capital spend relates to the planned purchase of replacement Mobile Plant and Equipment during 2024/25 and beyond.

Access Ramp/ Road at Waithlands former landfill site.

A new ramped access road is required at Waithlands to provide long term access to a lower section of the site adjacent to the river Roch. The ramp is needed to provide vehicular access to existing manholes associated with a deep culvert running beneath the site, access is also

needed to manage the wider landscape and inclined slope along the river Roch as the current site is inaccessible.

A ramp design has been defined by a geotechnical consultant and works are under way to deliver this. A contractor is now appointed for delivery with works scheduled to commence early in 2025 for completion by the end of March.

Capital Programme		2024/25 Budget	2024/25 Forecast	2024/25 Variance	2025/26	2026/27
Facility		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Reliance Street	New HWRC	5.000	0.500	4.500	4.500	-
Raikes Lane	Works at Raikes Lane	-	5.620	(5.620)	11.308	-
Salford Road	New MRF	-	-	-	5.000	17.000
Salford Road	Education Centre	-	-	-	-	2.000
Cobden Street	Welfare building upgrades	0.300		-	0.300	-
Higher Swan Lane	Electrical Rewire	0.200	0.200	-	0.300	-
Various sites	Solar PV on welfare buildings	0.250	0.250	-	-	-
Various sites	Rail Wagons	1.320	1.320	-	1.320	1.188
Various sites	Mobile Plant and Vehicles	2.000	0.989	1.011	3.189	10.540
Waithlands former landfill	Access ramp/ road	0.200	0.200	-	-	-
		9.270	9.379	(0.109)	26.817	30.728

Appendix B – Forecast levy increases per GM Local Authority

	2024/25	2025/26	Increase/ (Decrease)		2026/27	Increase/ (Decrease)		2027/28	Increase/ (Decrease)	
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m	%	£m	£m	%
Bolton	19.990	20.523	0.533	2.7%	22.027	1.504	7.3%	22.851	0.824	3.7%
Bury	14.069	14.436	0.367	2.6%	15.510	1.074	7.4%	16.116	0.606	3.9%
Manchester	31.809	32.595	0.786	2.5%	34.936	2.341	7.2%	36.278	1.342	3.8%
Oldham	17.889	18.279	0.390	2.2%	19.513	1.233	6.7%	20.210	0.698	3.6%
Rochdale	16.002	16.514	0.512	3.2%	17.708	1.194	7.2%	18.359	0.651	3.7%
Salford	20.583	21.226	0.643	3.1%	22.738	1.512	7.1%	23.606	0.868	3.8%
Stockport	21.602	22.182	0.579	2.7%	23.863	1.682	7.6%	24.763	0.900	3.8%
Tameside	16.226	16.769	0.544	3.4%	18.001	1.232	7.3%	18.667	0.666	3.7%
Trafford	16.104	16.688	0.584	3.6%	17.914	1.226	7.3%	18.559	0.645	3.6%
Total	<u>174.274</u>	<u>179.211</u>	<u>4.937</u>	<u>2.8%</u>	<u>192.210</u>	<u>12.998</u>	<u>7.3%</u>	<u>199.410</u>	<u>7.200</u>	<u>3.7%</u>

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Waste and Resources Committee

Date: 22 January 2025

Subject: Contracts Update

Report of: Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services & Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, Waste and Resources Team

Purpose Of Report

To update the Committee on performance of the Waste and Resource Management Services and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services Contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019 as well as an update on latest position on the UK Emissions Trading Scheme and Carbon Capture and Storage.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note and comment on all matters set out in the report.

Contact Officers

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, Waste and Resources Team

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Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, Waste and Resources Team

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

There are no equalities impacts arising from the matters set out in this report. A fundamental principle of the WRMS and HWRCMS contracts is the sustainable management of waste in order to reduce carbon emissions from landfill disposal. The carbon impacts of the contracts are monitored and provided annually by the contractor.

Risk Management

Performance of the contracts and associated risks are captured in the GMCA corporate risk register.

Legal Considerations

Activities set out in this report are in accordance with the terms of the WRMS and HWRCMS contracts.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

Activities set out in this report are in accordance with the Waste revenue budget.

Financial Consequences – Capital

Activities set out in this report are in accordance with the Waste capital budget.

Number of attachments to the report: None

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background Papers

19/1/2019 - Waste Procurement, Corporate Issues and Reform Committee

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

Yes

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency? N/A

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction

This report provides the Waste and Recycling Committee with 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.

2. Contract Performance

This report uses cumulative annual data, for Contract year 6 (2024/25) Quarter 2 (April to September 2024), for the two Contracts held by Suez. This is the latest verified data available at the time of writing of the report.

2.1. Cumulative Data

Data is also provided for comparison with the current year to date, with the same period of the previous year, 2023/24:

OVERALL Combined Performance (WCA + HWRC)	2024 / 2025	2023 / 2024
Cumulative data (Year end figures)		
Total arisings (t)	544,493	545,108
Combined Recycling Rate*	49.3%	48.9%
Diversion Rate	99%	99%
HWRC Combined Performance		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste)*	64.5%	58.4%
Diversion (Household Waste)	99%	99%
WCA Recycling Collections		
Rejected Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	137	420
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled)	13.4%	13.5%

*This Recycling Rate relates only to tonnage handled through the Suez contracts, from both WCA collections and delivered to HWRCs. It is not the same as the nationally reported Waste Data Flow recycling rate which includes other WCA waste and recycling streams that do not flow through Suez contracts.

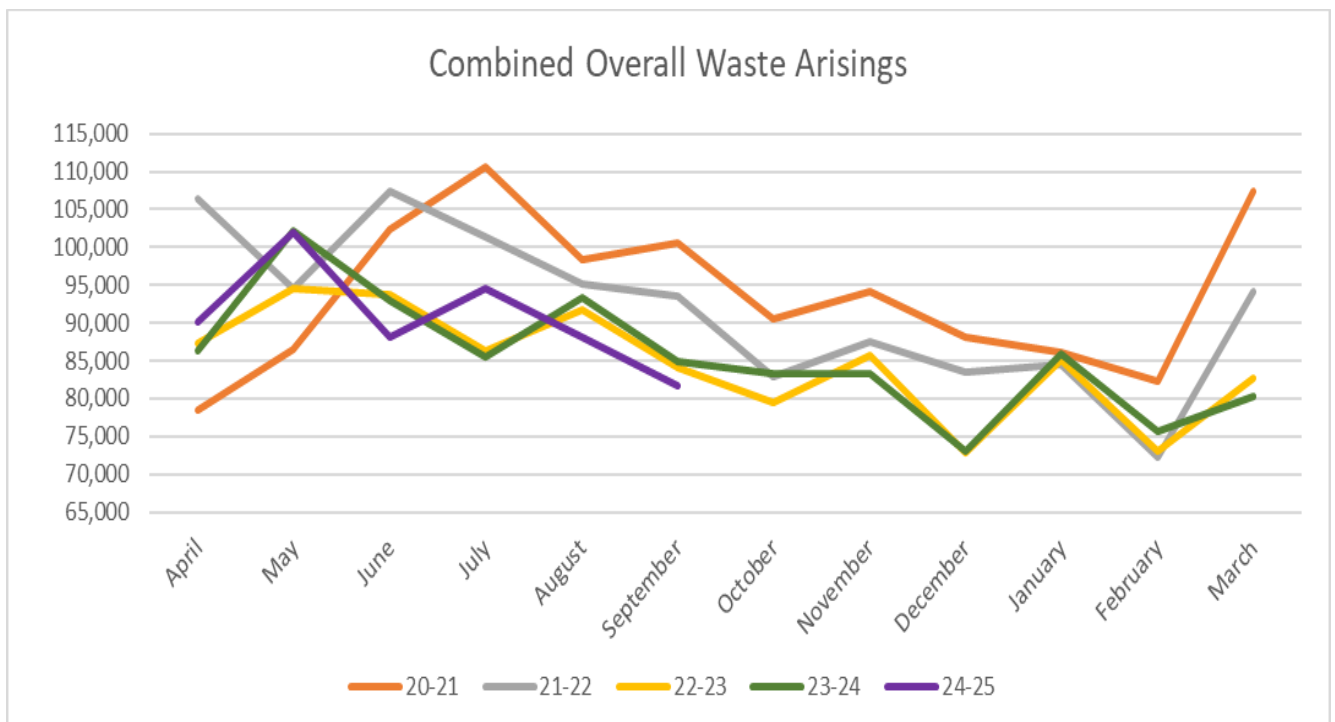
2.2. Total Waste Arisings

Total waste arisings for the first 6 months of this Contract year 6 (2024/25) was c.545k tonnes(t), which is very close to the level for the same period of the previous year.

The combined (overall) Contract Recycling rate was over 49%, which has increased by c.0.5% compared to the first six months of last year. Across the HWRC network, the significant increase in the combined Recycling performance has been sustained, resulting in a rise of over 6% higher year on year, reaching a total of over 64%.

The graph below gives a 5 year comparison, with the previous 4 years of the Contracts against the year-to-date trend (purple line) for 24/25, (noting the April to July trend in the orange line, for 20/21, reflects Covid lockdown impacts).

The trend for Contract Year 6 (purple line), April to September, against last year, shows a reverse pattern through June and July, but on aggregate has tracked a similar level to the same period of previous year, with a marginally lower overall tonnage level.



2.3. Landfill Diversion

Tonnages, up to the end of Quarter 2 of Contract year 6, showed the continuing good performance at both Energy Recovery Facilities (ERF), in Runcorn and Bolton. As a result, diversion remains very high, with almost all (over 99%) of residual (non-recycled) materials diverted away from landfill.

2.4. Contamination Levels

The contamination level of kerbside collected recyclate, from unacceptable materials extracted by the MRF process, was c.13%, similar to this time last year. This meant that only 137t of materials had to be rejected at Contract reception points, due to excess levels of unacceptable materials in the delivered loads, which is significantly lower than at this point in the previous year (a 67% reduction). Since the Contracts started, there has been an ongoing downward trend in non-target materials in the collection. This can be considered as very positive progress, whilst efforts continue to improve the accuracy of materials presented for recycling.

2.5. Overall Combined Rates

In summary, the overall performance for the first 6 months of Contract year 6, combined for both Contracts (incorporating WCA and HWRC tonnages), achieved a recycling rate of over 49%, with a landfill diversion rate of over 99%.

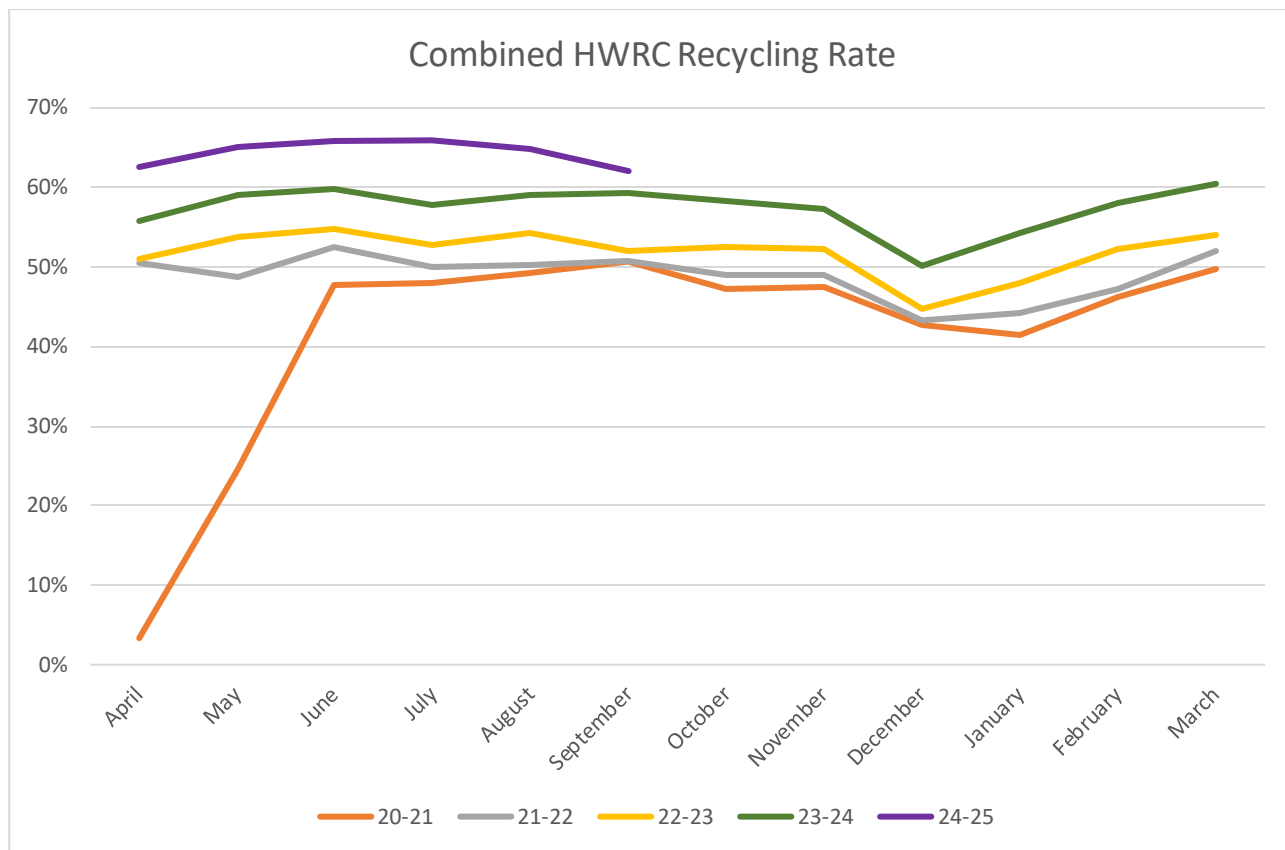
2.6. HWRC Recycling Rate

At the 20 HWRCs, across both Contracts (WRMS has 9 sites, plus 11 in HWRCMS contract), the combined recycling rate up to the end of Quarter 2 of 24/25 was above 64%.

Measures to maintain and increase recycling on the 20 HWRCs continue, combined with the prevention of trade and cross-boundary waste via the ongoing Access Policy controls (meet and greet; ANPR system; van permit scheme), having a positive impact by lowering levels of arisings and improving segregation for recycling.

The graph below gives a comparison of the year-on-year combined HWRC recycling rates against the previous 4 Contract years to date. The trend for 24/25 (purple line) shows the recycling rate across the HWRCs increasing by over 6%, when compared to the same period last year. There has been a continued year-on-year increase in the recycling rates across

the Contracts, since they commenced in 2019, meaning we continue to have an ongoing improvement each year, as well as against the previous Contract.

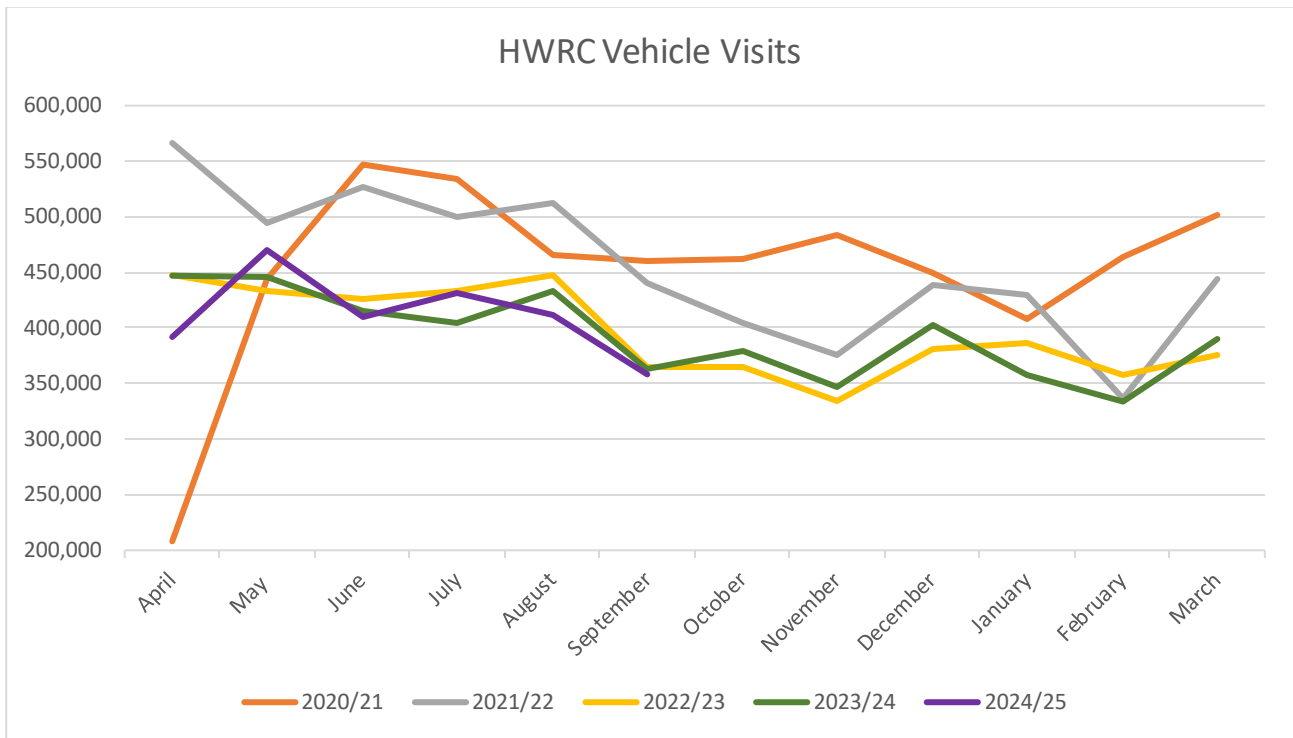


2.7. HWRC Visit Levels

The graph below shows monthly HWRC visit levels up to Quarter 2 of Contract Year 6 (April to September 24 – purple line on graph), compared with the previous four Contract years.

There were over 2.47 million visits in this 6 month period. There has been a continued trend of reducing visitor numbers across the 20 HWRC sites. Numbers have fallen significantly since the start of the Contracts, due to the Access Policy measures preventing trade / commercial waste from illegally entering the system.

Additionally, efforts continue to reduce the amount of cross-boundary waste, entering Greater Manchester sites from neighbouring Authority areas.



3. Health And Safety

Health and Safety statistics are provided in the Contractor Monthly Services Reports for each Contract and are scrutinised at the monthly Suez Contract Management meeting.

3.1. Reporting Categories

Health and Safety data is reported in key categories, separating incidents involving the Contractor staff and operations, from those involving members of the public (MoP), plus a Near Miss category. Near Miss, Incident and Notifiable Incident data is collected centrally and analysed to feed into local, regional and national lessons learned across the Contractor organisation and communicated to all staff.

3.2. RIDDORS

Up to the end of Quarter 2 of Contract year 6 (April to September 2024), fortunately, there have been no events reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013. Hopefully, this position will continue to be maintained.

3.3. Year on Year Comparison

The table below shows a comparison of the number of RIDDOR incidents that have occurred by Contract year:

Year End	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25* Qtr2 YTD
RIDDORs	5	3	3	4	4	0

4. Update on the UK Emissions Trading Scheme and Carbon Capture and Storage

At the January 2024 meeting of this Committee a report regarding the management of carbon emissions from GM's household waste was presented. This detailed:

- the potential future financial impacts of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme commencing 1st January 2028; and
- summarised proposal for an alternative technology to capture and store carbon emissions arising from waste thermally recovered at the Runcorn energy from waste facility.

4.1. Potential Future Financial Impacts

There is little news to report on this other than to say the Scheme is still scheduled to be implemented for the waste sector in January 2028 and the preceding two years will be used as a period to put in place and test the systems that will administer the Scheme. The financial impact of this is still likely to be considerable and the Waste & Resources team continues to seek to raise awareness of this with district finance officers. Further updates will be provided when more information becomes available.

4.2. Carbon Capture and Storage Proposals

The January 2024 report outlined a proposal to add infrastructure to the Runcorn energy from waste facility that would divert CO2 from being emitted to atmosphere and instead re-directing it to be stored in now-depleted natural gas strata below the Irish Sea. The operator of Runcorn was (and still is) in detailed discussions with the Department for Energy Security

& Net Zero (DESNEZ) to implement the project. However, to see it come to fruition the project requires the approval of GMCA as we supply around 36% of the waste to the facility.

4.3. Considerations and Impacts

Although preventing CO₂ from being emitted from the thermal recovery of household waste is positive, GMCA has a number of serious concerns over the technology, the impact the project may have on our contracts and the costs (it will cost the same as paying the ETS cost). Throughout 2024 there have been sporadic discussions with Viridor (the operator of the EfW and main partner in the project) and, disappointingly, at the time of writing our concerns had not been allayed.

4.4. Next Steps

Just after the deadline for the submission of this report, TPSCo (the owner of the Runcom EfW and our contracted party), Viridor and GMCA were due to meet. It is hoped that the meeting will result in progress so that the GMCA can make an informed decision on whether or not to participate in the project. A verbal update will be provided on this at the meeting.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 22 January 2025

Subject: R4GM Community Fund

Report of: Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications & Behavioural Change, Waste and Resources Team

Purpose of Report

To seek feedback from members regarding updating the terms and conditions of the Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note and provide comments and feedback on the proposals set out in the report to update the aims and objectives of the Community Fund, to change the name of the fund and to redevelop the application and scoring process to prioritise projects that are higher up the waste hierarchy. The changes will be implemented from April 2025.

Contact Officers

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications & Behavioural Change

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

GMCA along with its partners are working together to have a genuine commitment and practical approach to reducing inequality through communication and engagement. We are working to agree a common set of standards for communications, defining minimum requirements and expectations on accessible information, enabling a consistent approach to translation, easy-read, sign-language, publication and social media. As a minimum, this means evidencing 'due regard' to the needs of all communities of Greater Manchester (as per the Public Sector Equality Duty).

The team are assessing what documents could be translated into other languages taking into account the diverse communities of Greater Manchester. An ESOL (English for Speakers of other languages) training package has also been created with Bolton College. The resources which are available on the website introduces words commonly associated with recycling at home.

The Recycle for Greater Manchester and GMCA websites have both been updated to meet accessibility requirements.

The accessibility regulations build on existing obligations to people who have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 (or the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in Northern Ireland). These say that all UK service providers must consider 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled people.

At least 1 in 5 people in the UK have a long term illness, impairment or disability. Many more have a temporary disability.

Accessibility means more than putting things online. It means making content and design clear and simple enough so that most people can use it without needing to adapt it, while supporting those who do need to adapt things.

Risk Management

Successful and effective delivery of the communications and behavioural change plan will result in increased capture of recyclable materials and assist in driving down contamination. Contamination and access to recycle markets remains a critical risk in 2024/25 given the additional processing costs associated with removing contamination.

Legal Considerations

The requirements for SUEZ to support GMCA communications and engagement activities that relate to waste and resources are set out in the Waste and Resources Management Services (WRMS) contract and the Household Waste Recycling Management Services (HWRCMS) contract.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The financial consequences of not delivering the communications and behavioural change plan is an increase in waste disposal costs as a result of high contamination rates in the recycling bin.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no implications on the capital budget that arise from the activities set out in this report.

Number of attachments to the report:

N/A

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background Papers

N/A

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction/Background

The Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) Community Fund is in its fourth year. Every year £220,000 is available for community groups, schools, volunteer and faith groups to run projects based on reducing waste, reusing, repairing or recycling household waste. To date 90 projects have been supported.

The money is raised from sales of pre-loved items from our 3 Renew Shops, Renew eBay store and Renew online shop. Household items are donated to the household waste recycling centres, transported to the Renew Hub where they are repaired and upcycled by a team of experts and then sold in the shops. All money raised goes towards supporting communities and charities in Greater Manchester either via the R4GM Community Fund or by an annual £100,000 donation to the Greater Manchester's Mayor's Charity.

After 4 rounds of funding, it was necessary to carry out a review of the Community Fund to ensure it was meeting our goals of reducing waste, and increasing reuse, repair and recycling and that the outcomes were being measured effectively. To achieve this, the team reviewed the reports and outcomes from the completed projects from the first 3 years, gained feedback from community groups and spoke to several local authorities to understand how they approach managing similar funds.

2. Key Successes

The Community Fund has supported a range of innovative projects including:

1. Greater Manchester now has its first [Library of Things](#) which is full of the things you need but don't want to buy, like power tools, carpet cleaners, sewing machines and tents. Located in Levenshulme's old library, local residents can borrow instead of buying which saves money and reduces the need to buy new;
2. The [Little Green Sock Project](#) in Trafford takes donations of children's clothes and equipment and redistributes them to families in need. They work with professionals supporting families in financial crisis such as health visitors and foodbanks who refer families to the Little Green Sock project for help with clothing their children;
3. [Humans MCR](#) run a foodbank and also operate a delivery service for families in Bury, Rochdale, Manchester, Stockport, Trafford and Salford. Their service ensures supermarket food doesn't go to waste, and they can provide an essential food delivery service for those in need;

4. **Heatons Repair Café** in Stockport is a community café where residents can take household items to be repaired and have a coffee and chat;
5. [Recycle IT in Bolton](#) refurbishes computers and laptops to tackle digital inclusion and electronic waste. They also offer work placements and volunteer opportunities to help train up others in how to repair computers. The computers and laptops are redistributed for no or low cost to those in need; and
6. **Flixton Primary School PTA** in Trafford is redistributing school uniforms, books and toys by taking donations and making them available to those in need.

3. Learning from Other Authorities

As part of the review of the Community Fund, the team has spoken to other Authorities who deliver similar schemes to learn specific best practices that may be useful in evolving and improving our Community Fund.

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) act as the statutory waste disposal authority for the Liverpool City Region. They run a similar fund in partnership with Veolia, that community projects can bid for on annual basis. Up to £8,000 is available for projects run in one council area, £30,000 is available for projects that operate in 4 out of the 6 council areas. Around 14 to 17 projects are funded each year from an overall budget of £165,000.

Projects must focus on the prevention, reuse or recycling of one or more of the four priority household waste materials which have been identified by MRWA as key, namely **Food, Plastics, Textiles and Furniture**. An analysis of waste in the region highlighted that a greater amount of these materials could be re-used or recycled. Projects can also include other household waste materials, for example paper, card, metals.

They run a two-step process where groups can submit an expression of interest before completing a full application form.

MRWA have recently carried out a similar review of their community fund to encourage more reuse and repair projects.

Relondon is a partnership between the Mayor of London and the London boroughs to improve waste and resource management and transform the city into a leading low carbon circular economy. They do not run a fund for community groups but instead run a fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) as they have found that this provides the scalability and longevity needed to stimulate the growth in the circular economy. They also

provide expert, practical, one-to-one support and consultancy to small businesses, helping them to grow by translating circular principles into business opportunities.

North London Waste Authority (NLWA) is the statutory waste disposal authority for seven North London boroughs. They established the North London Community Fund to support waste prevention initiatives in North London. The Fund provides community-based (not-profit-making) organisations with funding to develop new approaches to reduce waste and/or extend the reach and impact of existing waste prevention activity in North London. It was set up in 2017 and has supported 59 projects. £250,000 per annum is available which is split into small awards of up to £5,000 and for medium sized projects up to £15,000 is available. The fund must be used to develop new approaches to reduce waste and/or extend the reach and impact of existing waste prevention activity.

The community funds from both MRWA and NLWA support projects similar to those in Greater Manchester and have a similar application and scoring process.

4. Review of Project Outcomes

Analysis of the first three years of funded projects shows reporting needs to be improved so that we can accurately capture the outcomes and report on the impact of the projects. During the first round of Community Fund projects, reporting focussed on measuring tonnage of waste prevented, reused, repaired or recycled. Across the 21 projects funded, 4,363 tonnes of materials were reported as being recycled, reused, repaired or redistributed. New outcome measures were introduced in round 2, so across the 26 projects funded in that year, 89.96 tonnes of materials were reported as being recycled, reused, repaired or redistributed as well as 1,000 volunteers and 7,498 people engaged in activities such as workshops and events. Following the evaluation of round 2, tonnage measurements were removed from the reporting process.

Outcomes reported from the 22 projects that were funded under round 3 (September 2023 to September 2024) are as follows:

- 732 volunteers took part in one of the funded projects;
- A total of 12,756 people were engaged through workshops and projects;
- 756 items of clothes were reused or repaired;
- 1,202 non-electrical items were repaired & reused;
- 339 bikes were repaired or reused;
- 6,566 electrical items were repaired and reused; and

- 69,516 kg of food waste was diverted from Energy from Waste.

Over the past 3 years, continuous improvements have been made to streamline the application and reporting process to enable us to evaluate the success of the projects. However, the most recent review has highlighted the need for some further improvements summarised below.

5. Recommendations

To continue to drive the increase in the number of projects involved in repair and reuse, it is recommended to refine the aims and objectives of the Community Fund to align with the overall business objectives of the Waste and Resources team.

5.1. Aims

The Community fund aims to increase the amount of household items that are donated, shared, repaired, upcycled and redistributed to reduce the amount we throw away.

5.2. Objectives

- Increase the number of community projects involved in donating, sharing, repairing, upcycling and redistributing household items like clothes, shoes, bikes, furniture, tools, books, school uniforms, IT equipment etc;
- Raise awareness of the different ways that residents can donate, share or borrow household items, places to get household items repaired or upcycled or ways to volunteer or learn new skills in repair and upcycling;
- Change people's behaviour and attitudes towards buying pre-loved or second hand, borrowing, hiring or renting items to reduce what we buy; and
- Increase community cohesion and improve mental wellbeing by bringing people together to share their knowledge, experiences and household items for the benefit of others.

5.3. Improvements

To enable us to better connect the source of the funding with its purpose, it is suggested to change the name of the fund to Renew Greater Manchester Community Fund.

To help communicate the purpose of the Fund, the new graphics developed by Keep Britain Tidy will be used to communicate the importance of reducing what we buy, using items again and again and repairing items to make them last longer.

It is also recommended to update the application process and weight the scoring to prioritise projects that are higher up the waste hierarchy to focus on waste prevention, reuse and repair rather than on recycling projects.



Fig 1. Graphic developed by Keep Britain Tidy to demonstrate that waste prevention, reuse and repair is better for the environment than recycling.

6. Next Steps

If the recommendations are agreed, the aims and objectives will be updated and the application and scoring process will be redeveloped ready for the Community Fund to open at the start of April 2025.

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R4GM Community Fund Review

Waste & Recycling Committee

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22nd January 2025

Key Successes

Manchester Library of Things, Levenshulme

- Run by volunteers
- Residents pay a small fee to borrow an item for 7 days
- Items have been donated by the community or bought second hand
- Things like drills, pizza ovens, wheelbarrow, binoculars etc
- Reduces waste by sharing quality items in the community
- Reduce unnecessary ownership therefore reducing the need to buy new items that may only be used once or twice.
- Community ownership

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The screenshot shows the MCRLOT website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MCRLOT logo and links for HOME, BORROW, SUPPORT US, ABOUT, NEWS, CONTACT, and FAQs. The main heading is 'MANCHESTER LIBRARY OF THINGS' in large, bold, blue and orange letters. Below this is a tagline: 'Your local community shed: full of things you need, but don't want to buy'. The page features four main sections, each with an image and a title: 'ABOUT US' (with a wheelbarrow image), 'BORROW' (with a red pizza oven image), 'DONATE' (with a yellow power tool image), and 'FAQS' (with a blue power drill image). Each section has a brief description below the title. At the bottom, there is a teal banner with the MCRLOT logo and the text 'mine yours' and 'How does it work?'. The text explains that MCRLOT works like a normal library but for things instead of books, and lists examples of items available for borrowing.

Key Successes – Heaton Repair Café, Stockport



- **Heatons Repair Café, Stockport** - residents take items to be repaired and have a coffee and chat
- **(left) Horwich Repair Café, Bolton**

Key Successes - Little Green Sock Project in Trafford

Take donations of baby and children's clothes and equipment from the community
Sorted, washed and ironed and made available to families in need via referrals
Raise money through corporate volunteering and fund raising



Review of Project Outcomes

- 2021 21 projects funded
 - 2022 26 projects funded
 - 2023 22 projects funded
 - 2024 21 projects funded
-
- Reporting has been improved but there's more to do. Initially focussed on tonnage but now looking at specific project outcomes such as no's of bikes repaired etc.

Outcomes reported from the 22 projects that were funded under round 3 (September 2023 to September 2024) are as follows:

- 732 volunteers took part in one of the funded projects;
- A total of 12,756 people were engaged through workshops and projects;
- 756 items of clothes were reused or repaired;
- 1, 202 non-electrical items were repaired & reused;
- 339 bikes were repaired or reused;
- 6,566 electrical items were repaired and reused; and
- 69,516 kg of food waste was diverted from Energy from Waste.

Aims and Objectives

Aims: The Community fund aims to increase the amount of household items that are donated, shared, repaired, upcycled and redistributed to reduce the amount we throw away.

Objectives:

- Increase the number of community projects involved in donating, sharing, repairing, upcycling and redistributing household items like clothes, shoes, bikes, furniture, tools, books, school uniforms, IT equipment etc;
- Raise awareness of the different ways that residents can donate, share or borrow household items, places to get household items repaired or upcycled or ways to volunteer or learn new skills in repair and upcycling;
- Change people's behaviour and attitudes towards buying pre-loved or second hand, borrowing, hiring or renting items to reduce what we buy; and
- Increase community cohesion and improve mental wellbeing by bringing people together to share their knowledge, experiences and household items for the benefit of others.

Renew Greater Manchester Community Fund

To enable us to better connect the source of the funding with its purpose, it is suggested to change the name of the fund to Renew Greater Manchester Community Fund.

Graphics used in the communications to help explain the importance of repair and reuse using language that is more easily understood by the public.

Next steps

Review and update application form, FAQs and reporting templates

Review and update communications plan

Open fund under the new name in April 2025.



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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Waste and Resources Committee

Date: 22 January 2025
Subject: Strategy and Policy Update
Report of: Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, Waste and Resources Team

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on recent developments in waste strategy and policy and identify any implications for GMCA.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Provide any comments or observations and note the update provided in the report.

Contact Officers

Paul Morgan
Head of Commercial Services, Waste and Resources Team
Paul.morgan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers

To note the proposals and recommendations within the report.

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation	G	
Housing		
Economy	G	<p>The UK ETS will either generate funds to put towards decarbonisation projects at a national level or the alternative for GMCA (carbon capture) will see fossil CO2 from residual waste be captured and not emitted making the thermal recovery carbon neutral. Activities to meet Simpler Recycling responsibilities may increase requirement for waste staff on collection and treatment/recovery. The construction and operation of the carbon capture facility in Runcorn will create employment opportunities.</p> <p>Activities to meet Simpler Recycling responsibilities may increase requirement for waste staff on collection and treatment/recovery. The construction and operation of the carbon capture facility in Runcorn will create employment opportunities including in engineering and skilled trades.</p> <p>In several ways - through knowledge transfer on carbon capture, operation of new leading edge waste treatment facilities etc.</p> <p>Opportunities will arise from the new developments.</p> <p>In response to Simpler Recycling GMCA is repurposing one of its buildings to accommodate a new materials recycling facility.</p>
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment	A	<p>If the governments requirement for a backstop of fortnightly collection frequency for non-recyclable waste is implemented there will be more waste collection vehicles on GM's roads.</p> <p>The opportunity to capture carbon and store it will effectively make a significant part of wastes' fossil carbon carbon neutral.</p>
Consumption and Production	G	<p>The new materials recycling facility will enable us to capture pots, tubs and trays and plastics films/flexibles for recycling.</p> <p>it will further generate raws materials for circular products.</p>
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		<p>If GMCA chooses to support the development of carbon capture and storage of the CO2 emitted from the thermal recovery of a significant proportion of its residual waste at the Runcorn EfW facility around 200ktpa fossil CO2 will not be emitted. A further 200ktpa of biogenic CO2 will be stored also.</p>
Further Assessment(s):	Carbon Assessment	
G Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	A Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	R Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
		RR Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment

Overall Score	[Black Box]			
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation		
New Build residential	N/A			
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A			
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	[Black Box]	Repurposing of existing building Unknown		
Transport				
Active travel and public transport	N/A			
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A			
Access to amenities	N/A			
Vehicle procurement	N/A			
Land Use				
Land use	N/A			
No associated carbon impacts expected.	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

Risk Management

There are no additional risks identified from this report.

Legal Considerations

There are no additional legal considerations identified from this report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no additional revenue impacts identified from this report.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no additional capital impacts identified from this report.

Number of attachments to the report: None

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background Papers

- [Simpler Recycling in England: policy update - GOV.UK](#)
- [Simpler recycling: workplace recycling in England - GOV.UK](#)
- [Ensuring good waste collection services for households - GOV.UK](#)
- [Collecting paper and card with other dry recyclable materials: written assessments - GOV.UK](#)

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

None.

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction/Background

In December 2018 the government published its Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS) to update the way household and household-like waste is managed in the UK. It contained proposals for:

- Providing consistency in the collection of household and business waste nationally (later renamed *Simpler Recycling*);
- A Producer Responsibility for Packaging; and
- A Deposit Return Scheme for beverage containers.

In the six years since its publication there has been progress on implementing these proposals in fits and starts. This report provides an update on the latest developments.

2. Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility

Members will be aware that the RaWS contained proposals to make the packaging supply chain (manufacturers, retailers etc.) take greater financial responsibility for their products on a lifecycle basis. This has been developed into the packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) scheme whereby those obligated in that supply chain have to pay, via a scheme administrator, local authorities a contribution towards the management of waste packaging whether it is in the recycling stream, litter bin stream or in non-recyclable waste. For this scheme it is packaging made of plastic, metal, glass, paper and card, composite fibres (cartons) and wood.

The GMCA as waste disposal authority would receive money to cover the costs of recycling (net of any income) and recovering (for example through energy from waste) packaging delivered to it by the waste collection authorities or taken by the public to household waste recycling centres. The districts, as waste collection authorities, will receive money to cover the cost of collecting that packaging. An overhead is also included to cover administrative and management costs.

The first year's pEPR payment that will be received covers 2025/26 with the first instalment paid in November 2025 covering the first two quarters of that year and then quarterly thereafter.

At the end of November 2024 Defra wrote to local authority Chief Executives to provide a provisional notice of assessment. The letters include:

- the estimated total pEPR payment for the 2025/26 financial year;

- information on what the payment covers;
- how it is calculated; and
- the breakdown of the payment across both collection and disposal for the waste the waste disposal authority is responsible for.

The estimate for GMCA is £22,673,000 (underwritten this year by the Treasury if the final figure is lower).

The payment covers the waste management costs associated with in-scope (household) packaging with the exception of:

- Drinks containers made of any material other than glass (drinks containers made from plastic and metal are excluded from pEPR until 2028. All drinks containers will be in scope from 2028 if a Deposit Return Scheme is not in place by that time.);
- Binned waste and littered packaging waste;
- Business waste; and
- Packaging collected within food and garden waste services.

The payment has been calculated using the Local Authority Packaging Cost and Performance (LAPCAP) model developed by Defra with the four home nations. It determines the estimated net efficient costs incurred by LAs in the management of packaging waste.

The following table provides the calculation for the in-scope packaging collection costs for packaging received at the GMCA HWRCs:

Estimated Collection Costs			
Service	£/t	Tonnes of packaging	£/t x Tonnes
HWRC	£92.57	13,754.55	£1,273,277.72
Service	£/household	Households	£/household x households
HWRC (Overheads)	£0.09	1,035,141	£92,671.21
TOTAL AMOUNT			£1,365,948.93

The following table provides the calculation for the in-scope packaging disposal costs for packaging received at the HWRCs and delivered to GMCA facilities by the districts:

Disposal Costs - £/t			
Disposal method	£/t	Packaging Tonnes	£/t x Tonnes
Recyclate - Comingled MRF	£91.42	92,510.98	£8,457,151.20
Recyclate - Multistream MRF / direct to reprocessor	£-33.66	24,444.87	£-822,931.41
Residual - MRF/MBT	£181.79	55,745.67	£10,134,124.08
Residual - Landfill / direct to reprocessor	£156.58	83.06	£13,005.26
Residual - Thermal treatment	£138.94	16,208.13	£2,252,018.29
Residual - RDF	NA	NA	NA
Other	NA	NA	NA
Disposal (Overheads) - £/household			
Service	£/household	Households	£/household x households
Disposal (Overheads)	£1.23	1,035,141	£1,273,337.04
TOTAL AMOUNT			£21,306,704.46

The pEPR payment calculation refers to the concepts of effective and efficient services. If a service is considered effective and efficient (in future years – not for the first two years of payments) it will receive the full allocation. However, if the scheme administrator does not consider that an authority is operating in an effective and efficient manner it will have the ability to hold back portions of payments. Effective and efficient are defined in the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024 as:

- A service is effective if it recycles a reasonable proportion of packaging waste (both in each packaging material stream and overall), taking into account factors outside the LA’s control such as the demographic and geographical characteristics of the authority area
- An efficient service is one where the costs of this service are as low as reasonably possible, considering:
 - The waste management service provided by the authority; and
 - Any other factor specific to that authority, or to the area, which in the opinion of the scheme administrator are likely to affect its disposal costs

Clearly £22.673m is a considerable and welcome sum. On reviewing the notification letters the calculation methodology is far from clear and the GMCA has queried this asking for further detail.

It must be repeated and remembered that the level of funding likely to be received in 2025/26 is unlikely to remain the same in future years. As the packaging industry responds to the demands of the plastic packaging tax, emissions trading scheme (ETS) and the pEPR by

making changes to their packaging, the local authority funding allocations are likely to reduce.

3. Deposit Return Scheme

Alongside the proposals in RaWS on waste collection and managing the financial impact of packaging, a deposit return scheme (DRS) was proposed. A DRS sees consumers of drinks beverages (in scope plastic bottles and metal cans) having to return these containers to conveniently located reverse vending machines to recover the deposit they paid when purchasing the beverage.

The scheme is planned to go live in 2027 with the aim of all four home nations having the same scheme. However, in November 2024 the Welsh Government announced it was withdrawing from the UK-wide scheme because, it says, "...in the time available it has not been possible to address the issues to the operation of devolution caused by the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020...". It is also known that the Welsh Government favoured collecting glass beverage receptacles (excluded in the scheme for England) in the scheme and were committed to this. It will continue to pursue a more comprehensive scheme.

In response the UK Government reaffirmed its commitment to a DRS with a launch scheduled for October 2027.

It is fair to say that a DRS is not universally supported – for example LARAC (the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee) and The Recycling Association (TRA) have called on the UK Government to reconsider the DRS. LARAC has requested a pause in implementation whilst other policies bed in, TRA called for abandonment.

GMCA is watching the development of the DRS closely. It is not clear what impact DRS will have on the volumes of in-scope containers being collected at the kerbside and further sorted at our materials recovery facility. Further updates will be provided in the future.

4. Simpler Recycling

At the end of November 2024 Defra published an update on the implementation of the Simpler Recycling regime. Simpler Recycling is a policy designed to ensure a consistent set of materials is collected through kerbside recycling schemes across councils in England. This, it is hoped, will avoid the current national variation of collection methods and materials targeted with the aim of increasing recycling rates and the quality of material captured. The

policy will see the widespread collection of food waste, plastic films and flexibles for recycling from households, and require businesses to have their waste separated and collected for recycling

Following the general election in May 2024 the incoming government paused announcements on Simpler Recycling whilst it reviewed the proposals – the announcement in November 2024 confirmed the new government’s position. Accompanying the policy update were four documents providing further detail on key aspects – these were:

- Simpler recycling: workplace recycling in England;
- Ensuring good waste collection services for households;
- Collecting paper and card with other dry recyclable materials: written assessments; and
- Template written assessment: collecting paper and card with other dry recyclables

4.1. Waste Collection Methodology

In brief the policy update clarified the default requirement for the separation of the recyclable waste streams – these are consistent with current collection services operated by the 9 Greater Manchester districts that participate in the GMCA waste arrangements:

- Residual (non-recyclable) waste;
- Food waste (mixed with garden waste if appropriate);
- Paper and card; and
- All other dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal and glass).

The choice of containers (whether wheeled bins, boxes or bags) is a matter of local choice.

Defra published the template for the written assessment if local authorities wished to deviate from the default collection method (for example collecting recyclable materials fully mixed) if the default method is not technically, environmentally or economically practicable.

4.2. Residual Waste Collection Frequency

Defra has given the decision on the frequency of collection of the non-recyclable residual waste stream to local authorities. The department commented that as “...householders will receive comprehensive and consistent recycling services through Simpler Recycling, we expect residual waste amounts to decrease”. Defra published non-statutory guidance to help local authorities develop “reasonable waste collection services”.

4.3. The Co-collection of Food Waste and Garden Waste

Previously Defra was considering the prohibition of the mixing of food waste and garden waste (but perhaps allowable following a written assessment) but it has confirmed the exemption from the separate collection requirement indicated in the spring.

4.4. Timescales for Micro-firms

Previously micro-firms were required to comply with the changes to the collection requirements for business waste by 31st March 2025. Defra confirmed a compliance exemption of two years to 31st March 2027.

5. Timescales

The following implementation timescales have been confirmed:

- December 2024: Secondary legislation implementing the policy updates will be laid, subject to parliamentary process;
- 31 March 2025: Businesses and relevant non-domestic premises in England will need to arrange for the collection of the core recyclable waste streams (glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, and food waste), with the exception of garden waste;
- 31 March 2026: Local authorities will be required to collect the core recyclable waste streams from all households in England. This includes introducing weekly food waste collections for households, unless a transitional arrangement has been agreed;
- 31 March 2027: Kerbside plastic film collections from households, businesses and relevant non-domestic premises, will be introduced; and
- 31 March 2027: Micro-firms (businesses with fewer than 10 FTE employees) will become in scope of the requirements for businesses set out for 31 March 2025.

6. Implications for Greater Manchester

Overall, the confirmation provided through this policy update is good news for Greater Manchester and a validation of the services we have already been providing for several years. In brief the implications for Greater Manchester waste collection and recovery/recycling/disposal are:

- The confirmation of the default four stream collection methodology is simply a reflection of the method used across Greater Manchester for several years so requires no change. Written assessments will be required for properties (such as

some apartments and homes of multiple occupation) where four streams of waste may not be able to be accommodated;

- Residual waste collection frequency – confirmation that this is a matter for each local authority will come as a relief to the four Greater Manchester districts that utilise the three-weekly frequency as reversion to fortnightly would have been costly. It also provides the flexibility for other councils to consider this in the future;
- The mixed collection of food waste and garden waste – again, this comes as a relief as it effectively means no change. It also removes the requirement to complete written assessments that would have required resources to undertake; and
- The delay in implementation for micro-firms: this may have an impact for those districts that operate commercial waste collection services as their customer bases can contain a high proportion of micro-firms (those with fewer than 10 full time equivalent employees across all premises). This may mean that any investment in new containers for customers may be spread over a few years. It also provides time for the new materials recovery facility to come on line before micro-firms start applying plastic films through their waste.

One other timescale to remember is the deadline for the introduction of separate weekly food waste collections. The 'transitional arrangement' delaying implementation to 2034 remains in place for six of the nine districts. Stockport, Tameside and Trafford still need to implement the changes required by 31st March 2026. This means that these 3 districts will need to offer a weekly service to 100% of households from that date.

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Waste and Resources Committee

Date: 22 January 2025
Subject: Update on the Management of Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating
Report of: Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, Waste and Resources Team

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the management requirements for managing waste upholstered domestic seating that contain persistent organic pollutants.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Provide any comments or observations and note the update provided in the report.

Contact Officers

Paul Morgan
Head of Commercial Services, Waste and Resources Team
Paul.morgan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers

Insert text

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy		
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment	RR	The decision (which is a result of a change of law) will result in an increase in waste collection vehicles on GM's roads. In the immediate term the additional vehicles will use diesel increasing CO2 emissions.
Consumption and Production	RR	The requirement will reduce the availability of some upholstered domestic furniture from being reused. It is as a result of a change in law where reduction of the environmental impact of the waste upholstered domestic seating item is seen as the priority.
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		In the immediate term the requirements for the separate collection of WUDS will increase the number of vehicles on the road increasing CO2 emissions.
Further Assessment(s):	N/A	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">G</div> <div style="background-color: #FFC107; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">A</div> <div style="background-color: #F44336; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">R</div> <div style="background-color: #D32F2F; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">RR</div> </div> <p> Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term. Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider. Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider. Negative impacts overall. </p>		

Carbon Assessment

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A	
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A	
Transport		
Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
Land Use		
Land use	N/A	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">G</div> <div style="background-color: #2196F3; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">B</div> <div style="background-color: #FFC107; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">A</div> <div style="background-color: #9E9E9E; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">S</div> <div style="background-color: #000000; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">F</div> </div> <p> No associated carbon impacts expected. High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon. Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon. Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve. Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts. </p>		

Risk Management

Failing to implement could result in enforcement action taken by the Environment Agency.

Legal Considerations

The changes required are in response to a change in law.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The Authority Notice of Change referred to in the report resulted in revenue impacts – these are quantified in the report or verbally reported at the meeting.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The Authority Notice of Change referred to in the report resulted in capital impacts – these are quantified in the report or verbally reported at the meeting.

Number of attachments to the report: None

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background Papers

- Contract update, Waste and Recycling Committee, 18th January 2023
- [Manage waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs - GOV.UK](#)

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

None.

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction/Background

On 1 January 2023 new compliance procedures covering the collection and disposal of waste upholstered domestic seating (WUDS) containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) came into force.

POPs are certain chemical substances that are known to stay intact and do not break down. If waste containing these is not managed responsibly, they have the potential to cause damage to the wider environment. POPs can be found in older WUDS (including sofas, armchairs, upholstered dining and office chairs etc.) above legal limits and in the form of certain flame-retardant chemicals which have been banned since 2019 and are no longer used.

This resulted in the need for local authorities to change their processes for dealing with WUDS potentially containing POPs. As the only disposal route for this waste stream is energy from waste, landfilling of it was banned (but this had little impact on the GMCA given the very rate of landfill diversion being achieved).

In late 2022 when the Environment Agency (EA) belatedly alerted local authorities to the requirements to change collection and management methodologies a number of Regulatory Position Statements were published effectively delaying implementation until December 2024.

This report updates the Committee on the new requirements, actions to date and the implications of the changes.

2. New Requirements

Historically, either through the HWRC network or via each district's bulky waste collections items of furniture including WUDs have been disposed of in the same skip or collected together in the same vehicle. Figure 1 below provides a simplified summary of that historical process. Bulky waste was either directly delivered or transferred to one of the mechanical treatment and recovery facilities (MTRs) where it was shredded before being loaded on to one of the trains for thermal recovery at Runcorn thermal power stationⁱ.

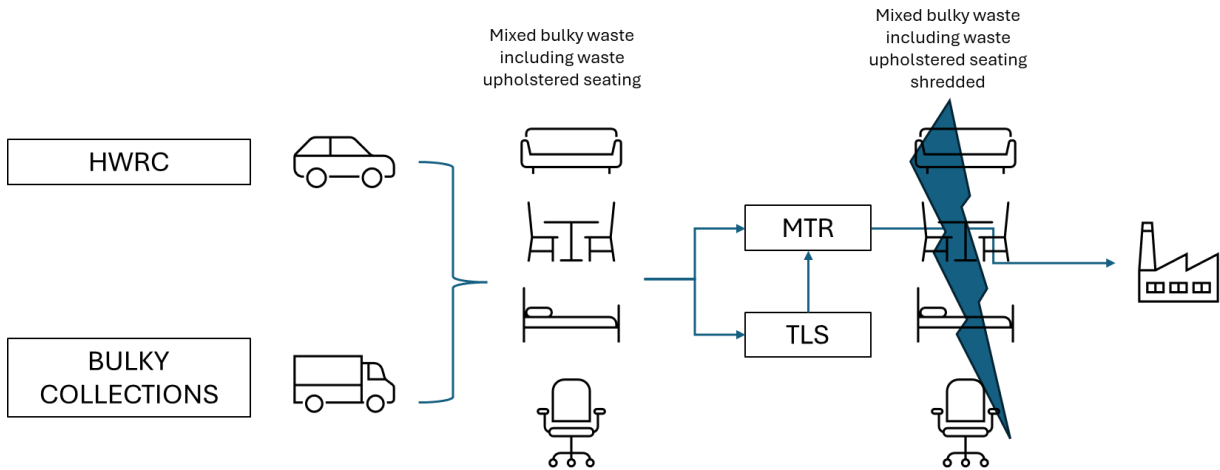


Figure 1: the historical bulky waste disposal process

The new legislation now requires a significant change to this process.

In terms of bulky waste delivered by householders to the HWRCs (see Figure 2 for a simplified summary. The red items depict potentially POPs-containing WUDS, the green items – other bulky wastes), residents take their bulky waste as normal to the facility but if the items include sofas, armchairs, upholstered dining and office chairs etc. for disposal (please note: items donated for reuse are not waste so therefore not included in the changes) a decision must be made on whether the items are likely to contain POPs.

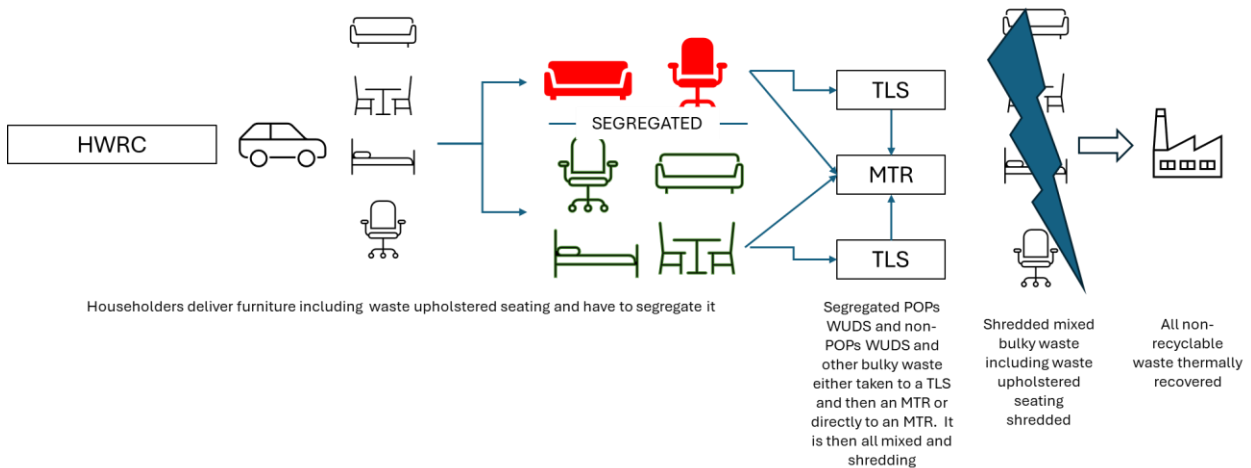


Figure 2: the new process for managing WUDs at HWRCs

In reality, the resident or site operative is very unlikely to know if the item contains POPs unless they undertake a test using a x-ray fluorescence detector. Without written evidence of the absence of POPs the items must be managed as if they contain POPs.

So in reality – at HWRCs WUDS will need a dedicated skip and items that are not WUDS (furniture that is not upholstered such as tables, wooden chairs etc.) will need another skip.

That is not the end of the process. These skips – depending on the location of the HWRC – will either be taken to a transfer loading station (TLS) or MTR. In some cases the WUDS skip will be taken to a TLS and tipped into a dedicated bay and the other bulky waste tipped into a normal non-recyclable waste bay. The WUDS will then be loaded onto a dedicated vehicle and taken to the MTR.

Similar skips from some HWRCs can be directly delivered to the MTRs.

In both cases the segregated WUDS material and the non-recyclable waste (containing other bulky waste items) can be mixed and put through the shredder as normal to create secondary recovered fuel for the Runcorn thermal power station.

For bulky waste collection services, districts can collect WUDS on the same vehicle as other waste items as long as they are:

- not mixed with other waste;
- collected in a way that does not contaminate the other waste (for example compaction); and
- separated from the other waste when unloaded from the vehicle.

If collectors use a compacting refuse collection vehicle (RCV) you must:

- collect only waste upholstered domestic seating;
- contain any particulates and debris generated during the compaction within the body of the vehicle; and
- use a vehicle dedicated to the collection of waste upholstered domestic seating only or, where this is not possible, make sure it is cleaned before it is used to collect loads of non-POPs waste.

Figure 3 below summarises the management process for kerbside bulky wastes.

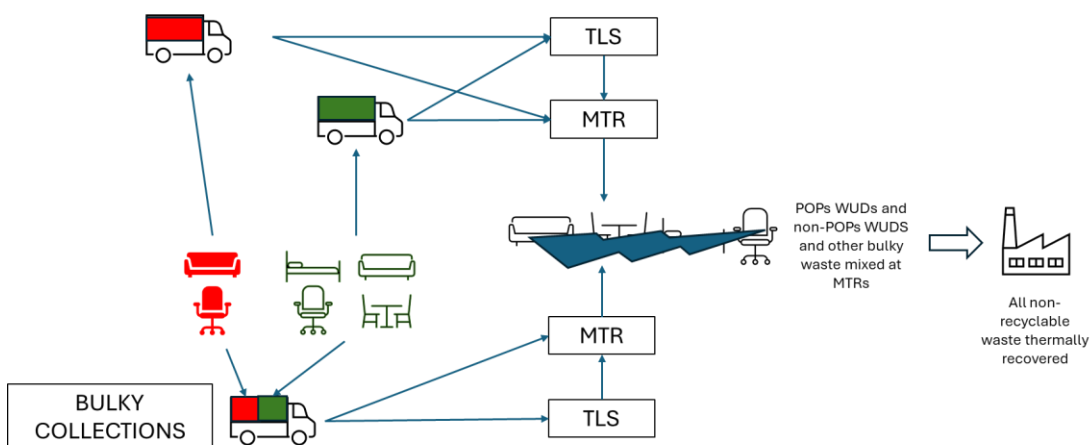


Figure 3: the new process for managing WUDs in kerbside bulky collections

As with WUDS and bulky wastes arising at HWRCs, kerbside collection now requires segregation of materials at the point of collection either on the same vehicle or by using two vehicles possibly trailing each other during collections. The back end of the process, again, permits the mixing of wastes at the MTRs.

3. Implications for GMCA

GMCA and all local authorities have long voiced their concerns about the changes and how they will and do result in additional vehicles on the roads with all the impacts on air quality, congestion and resource use, the double and triple handling of wastes and the pressure it places on facilities.

Since the introduction of the Regulatory Position Statements (RPS) the majority of local authorities have been operating under these effective exemptions. In the meantime strong lobbying of the EA by organisations such as the Local Government Association, the Environmental Services Association, the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee and regular discussion were taking place. The EA did make some concessions (for example they originally indicated they would only allow the mixing of POPs materials and other wastes at the energy from waste facilities – this would have required GMCA (for example) to send dedicated WUDS trains to Runcorn for that operator to mix and recover.

On December 1st 2024 the RPSs expired. The industry expected the EA to revise its position but it did not so it came as a shock when Suez informed us that we would need to make immediate changes to services. In short (and the position at the time of writing) we would be required to:

- **At HWRCs:** install dedicated WUDS skips or bays (depending on site layout) at all 20 sites. To accommodate this space has been taken from other wastes (for example green waste) – this may cause a problem in the longer term. Additional signage would also be required. Initially POPs waste will only be delivered to MTRs for shredding, or Raikes Lane for treatment – until TLS sites have POPs bays set up; and
- **At delivery points:** there is no issue for direct delivery from HWRCs or district collections of materials to MTRs. As Longley Lane does not have a shredder materials will be bulked out from a separate bay to another MTR or sent to Raikes Lane. WUDS delivered to TLSs by districts will need to be tipped into a segregated

bay at the TLS and then separately transported to an MTR facility for shredding prior to onward rail transport to Runcorn for incineration.

4. Next steps

GMCA has been working closely with the districts and Suez to try to find the solution to the WUDS challenge in the most pragmatic, least impactful but compliant manner. This is difficult. A Notice of Change will be issued detailing the costs associated with the change. These costs will be provided at the meetings.

ⁱ A relatively small proportion of the bulky waste is delivery to our Raikes Lane thermal recovery facility for disposal. This waste does not require shredding.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Waste and Resources Committee

Date: 22 January 2025

Subject: Sustainable Consumption and Production Programmes Update

Report of: Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable, Consumption and Production,
Environment Directorate & Michelle Lynch, Lead Programmes Manager,
Sustainable Consumption and Production, Environment Directorate

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update Members on the progress of a number of current programmes and initiatives within the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production Action (SCP) Plan with a focus on Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the progress of the key areas of activities currently being undertaken to enhance sustainability, reduce waste, and promote circular economy practices across Greater Manchester.

Contact Officers





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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	The Plan looks to raise awareness through community engagement and involvement
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy	G	Moving to a circular economy can have a positive social, economic and environmental effect on the conurbation By creating a circular economy it should identify gaps and skills and stimulate economic growth in those areas Innovation is key to developing solutions and end markets for difficult materials Inward investment could potentially through innovation
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	The SCP Plan looks to reduce carbon emission through its 4 key priority areas
Consumption and Production	G	The SCP Plan focuses on key priority areas, as set out in the report, to reduce the level of waste produced A number of projects are currently in place to look at minimising construction waste Managing waste sustainability as possible is a key priority within the plan Moving to a circular economy is a priority with the SCP Plan PlasticFreeGM continues to be a priority within the SCP work programme
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		The SCP Plan and work programme are a critical element to the delivery on GM achieving Carbon Neutral by 2038. As SCP covers a wide range of areas, ensuring that the work programme is sufficiently resourced would improve the contribution to delivery of the overall plan.
Further Assessment(s):	N/A	
		
Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
		
		Negative impacts overall.

Risk Management

All risks regarding the delivery of the 5YEP and SCP theme are set out in the GM Environment Team's Risk Register. There is nothing identified within the SCP section of the register which is currently identified as 'red' status.

Legal Considerations

There are no legal implications of the recommendations set out within the report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The SCP Work Plan sets out expenditure that is within the budget forecasts (2023/24 and 2024/25) for certain areas of work. Actions for future years may require additional funds. If so, these would be subject to a separate detailed business case being approved.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no capital consequences within the report. Actions for future years may require additional funds. If so, these would be subject to a separate detailed business case being approved.

Number of attachments to the report:

Appendix A – Activity Programme Timelines SCP Programmes

Background Papers

[The Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2025 - 2030 SCP Plan](#)

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

N/A

1. Introduction/Background

The SCP Theme of the Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan focuses on valuing resources and reducing waste. It also supports our carbon neutral ambitions by identifying actions which will reduce our Scope 3 emissions. The SCP plan covers 4 key priority areas:

1. Moving to a Circular Economy;
2. Managing Waste Sustainably;
3. Reducing Food Waste; and
4. Moving to Sustainable Lifestyles.

The SCP programmes are integral to achieving Greater Manchester's sustainability goals. These initiatives not only address environmental challenges but also promote community engagement, improved health and well-being and economic resilience. Continued support and collaboration with partner organisations are essential for the successful delivery of these programmes.

This report provides an overview of the current programmes and initiatives under the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) plan, with a focus on Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles. Appendix A contains the Activity Timeline for the SCP Programmes outlined below.

2. Key Initiatives

2.1. Public Sector Procurement for Scope 3 Emissions

The review of GMCA's scope 3 emissions to reduce the environmental impact of procurement activities is complete with reports and action plans for procurement and investments finalised. Workshops have been held with the Senior Leadership Team, the 5-Year Environment Liaison Group, and Local Authorities to share information.

2.2. Reducing Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Waste

Greater Manchester's ongoing programmes aim to reduce single-use plastics and promote reusables through the SUP and Refill campaigns, including the launch of two reusable cup schemes and an E-Learning Module. Efforts have increased Refill Stations by 10%, totalling 925, and boosted Refill app sign-ups by 35%, reaching 703. Reducing plastic waste remains a priority in the new 5-Year Plan, aiming for a 5% increase in Refill Stations across Greater Manchester and enhanced Refill communications with City to Sea.

2.3. Refill Schools Programme

After a successful Year 1, additional funding was released in October 2024. Fifteen new schools will begin their shops in January 2025, supported by GMCA funding, a £5,000 donation from Suez, and separate funding from Salford City Council for two schools. The Wave 2 funding recipients are:

- **Bolton** - Gilnow Primary School and Walmsley C.E. Primary School;
- **Manchester** - Brookburn Primary School and The Divine Mercy Primary School;
- **Rochdale** - Marland Hill Community Primary School and St Peter's Primary School, Middleton;
- **Salford** - Dukesgate Academy (Primary), St Augustine's CE Primary School, St Paul's CE Primary School and St Peter's Primary School, Swinton;
- **Stockport** - Mellor Primary School and Pear Tree High School;
- **Tameside** - Milton St Johns C of E Primary School;
- **Trafford** - Sale Grammar School; and
- **Wigan** - St Wilfrid's CE Primary Academy.

2.4. Eco-School Fund

Applications for the Small Eco-Grants for Schools fund to support sustainability projects began in November 2024, offering grants of up to £2,000 to support school projects focused on the circular economy, sustainable food/food waste, and environmental education (sustainable lifestyles). As of 17th December 2024, 39 applications had been received.

2.5. Green Summit

The 7th annual Green Summit took place on 9th December 2024 at the Lowry Theatre in Salford Quays. The event included:

- Over 1500 attendees;
- 70 exhibitor stands;
- 110 speakers;
- 18 speaker sessions; and
- More than 200 school and college attendees.

Current media statistics are:

- 11,000 views on the Green City website;
- Over 4,000 interactions on social media; and

- A social media reach of over 300,000.

2.6. Circular Economy Business Platform

An external partner has been procured to develop a business asset reuse platform, BeeGreenGM, which enables organisations to share their unwanted assets for reuse by others.

Key features of the platform include:

- Encourages the reuse of assets, reducing waste and conserving resources;
- Helps organisations meet their environmental targets by providing a platform for asset reuse;
- Easy to navigate, making it simple for businesses to list and acquire reusable assets; and
- Provides real-time measurement and reporting of sustainability metrics, giving organisations insights into their eco-efficiency and carbon footprint reduction.

Platform development and onboarding of organisations are continuing, with Phase 1 due to launch in March 2024.

2.7. Back to Baselines in Circular Fashion & Textiles (Network Plus)

In partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University (Lead), Suez, the Textile Recycling Association, Textile Recycling International, and Salford City Council, this study aims to generate a clean stream of end-of-life textiles for quality assessment. The project evaluated the following textile waste streams from kerbside collections and Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

- Kerbside Collection: 49 households in Salford participated, with deposits from 15 households;
- HWRC A: Textile waste was intercepted at 6 HWRCs in Greater Manchester before being deposited in existing textile banks; and
- HWRC B: Involved a one-off textile bank delivery.

Collected textiles were sorted and assessed for quality and material composition. A final report, due in January 2025, will quantify potential fibre-to-fibre feedstocks for reprocessing options and understand commercial implications. This data will be available to stakeholders to prepare the UK market for textiles circularity.

2.8. Place-Based Circular Society Innovations (CSI) Project

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Manchester City Council, and Stockport and Oldham Metropolitan Borough Councils are working with Manchester Metropolitan University on the CSI project to make places more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable.

They will develop five detailed case studies in Greater Manchester, Glasgow, Chicago, Utrecht, and Turku. The first case study will focus on Renew Greater Manchester, showcasing its success in combining social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

2.9. Behaviour Insights Research - Understanding & Influencing Sustainable Behaviours

The Impact Consumer Survey evaluates sustainable initiatives. The October 2024 survey, Wave 11, focused on sustainable food choices and travel. Results will guide future communication campaigns and explore barriers and incentives identified in the new five-year plan.

2.10. Guiding Sustainable Food Practices and Policies

The Food Waste Prevention report on climate and food-related health impacts in Greater Manchester is complete with recommendations. It assesses greenhouse gas emissions from food production and consumption, explores mitigation options, and provides a framework for effective local or regional action. This aims to offer evidence for climate and health impacts, support strategic programs, and influence policymaking in Greater Manchester.

2.11. Sustainable Lifestyle Initiatives

In 2025, two new initiatives will be launched to focus on priority 4, sustainable lifestyles - the Community Hub and a Sustainable Lifestyles e-Module. The Community Hub aims to foster local engagement and provide resources to support sustainable living practices. Meanwhile, the e-Module will offer an online platform for education and training on Sustainability and Carbon Awareness, accessible to the broader community.

3. Recommendation

The Committee is requested to note the progress of the key areas of activities currently being undertaken to enhance sustainability, reduce waste, and promote circular economy practices across Greater Manchester.

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Appendix A: Activity Timeline for SCP Programmes

Activity	Timescales	Priority
Scope 3 emissions Public Sector Procurement	Complete	2
Reducing Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Waste	Ongoing	1, 2, 4
Refill Schools Programme – Wave 2	From Dec-24	1, 2, 4
Launch of Eco-School Fund	From November - 24	1, 2, 3, 4
Delivery of Green Summit	Jan-24 to Feb-25	1, 2, 3, 4
Circular Economy Business Platform	From Nov-24. Phase 1 launch March 2025	1, 2, 4
Back to Baselines in Circular Fashion & Textiles – Study of end-of-life textiles in GM	Apr-24	1, 2, 4
Place-Based Circular Society Innovations (CSI) Project	From Oct-24 to Sep-27	1, 2, 4
Behaviour Insights Research/Pilots	Ongoing	1, 2, 3, 4
Food Waste Mapping and Foodprint of Food in GM (rerun of ESTA report)	Complete	2, 3
Maintain and update GM Green City Website	Ongoing	1, 2, 3, 4
Sustainable Lifestyles E-Module	From January-25	4
Community Hub Initiative - Supporting residents to make more sustainable lifestyle choices,	From January-25	4

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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