

## Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 11 October 2023  
Subject: Contracts Update  
Report of: Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team

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### 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.

### Recommendations:

Members of the Committee are recommended to:

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

### Contact Officers

Justin Lomax  
Head of Contract Services  
Waste and Resources Team  
[Justin.lomax@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Justin.lomax@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

## **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 the period up to the end of Quarter 1 (April 2023 to June 2023) of the financial year 2023/24 (Contract year 5), 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, 2022/23:

<b>OVERALL Combined Performance (WCA + HWRC)</b>	<b>2023 / 2024</b>	<b>2022 / 2023</b>
<b>Cumulative data (Year to date)</b>		
Total arisings (t)	<b>281,106</b>	276,255
Recycling Rate*	<b>49.10%</b>	48.54%
Diversion Rate	<b>100%</b>	99.18%
<b>HWRC Combined Performance</b>		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste)*	<b>58.16%</b>	53.12%
Diversion (Household Waste)	<b>98.83%</b>	98.30%
<b>WCA Recycling Collections</b>		
Rejected Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	<b>196</b>	360
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled)	<b>13.54%</b>	13.75%

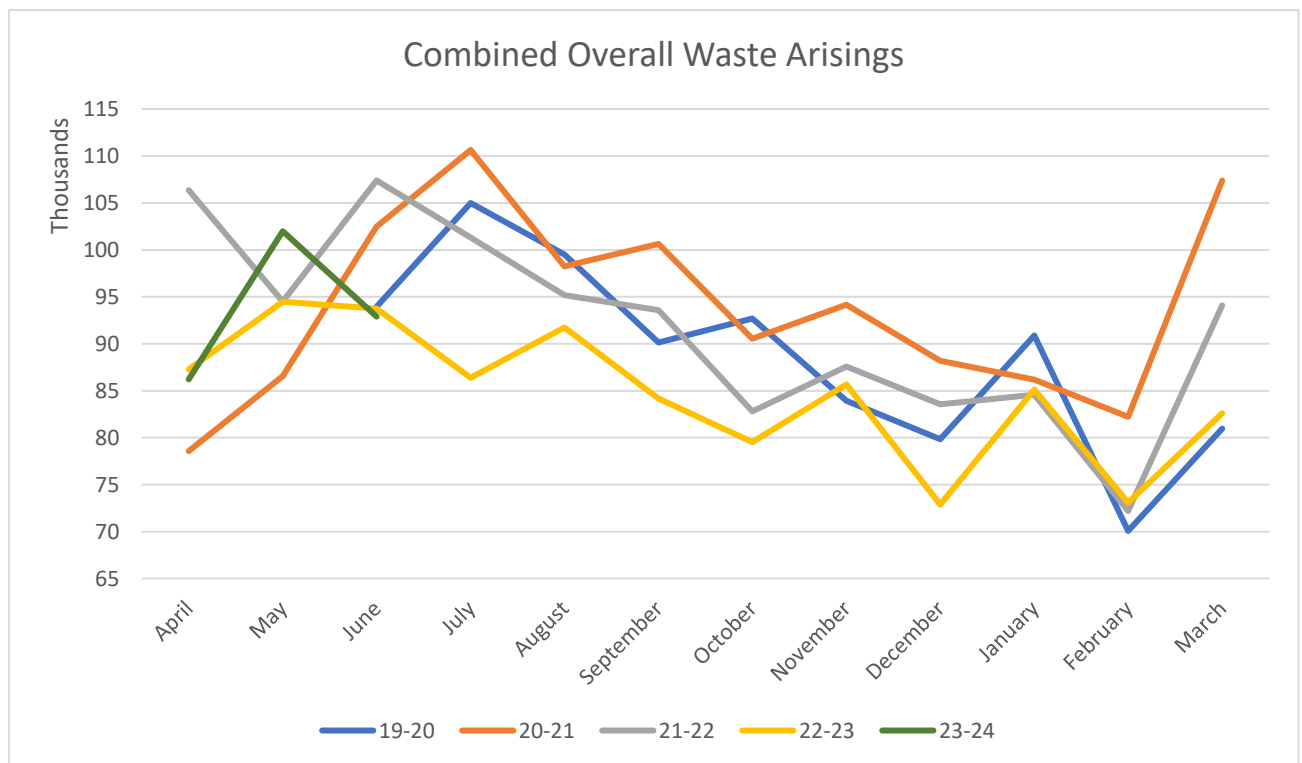
\*This Recycling Rate relates only to tonnage handled through the Suez contracts. It is not the same as the nationally reported Waste Data Flow recycling rate that will include other WCA waste streams that do not flow through the 2 Suez contracts.

## 2.2 Total Waste Arisings

Total waste arisings for this period were just over 280k tonnes(t), which was approaching 2% higher than for Quarter 1 of the previous year (2022/23).

The combined Contract Recycling rate was just over 49%, which is c.0.6% higher than it was for this period of last year. Despite the increase in overall arisings, there was a significant increase in HWRC Recycling across the combined network, of over 5%, reaching over 58% for the quarter.

The graph below gives a comparison of the waste arisings for the previous 4 years of the Contracts (noting that the blue line for 19/20 begins in June 19 reflecting the start date of the Contracts and the orange line for 20/21 reflecting Covid lockdown impacts) with the year-to-date trend for 23/24 (green line). The trend line for Quarter 1 shows there has been a different pattern of arisings for 23/24 so far, with overall comparison figures being slightly higher than last year (c.2%).



## 2.3 Landfill Diversion

During Quarter 1 we have had a good performance at both Runcorn CHP plant and Bolton TRF which, as a consequence of the improvement works and optimised treatment processes at the TRF and MTR facilities, has facilitated 100% diversion of all

residual (non-recycled) materials from landfill. This means for the first 3 months of 2023/24; zero tonnes of Contract waste have been sent to landfill for disposal.

Planned maintenance outages at both the Runcorn and Bolton energy from waste (EfW) facilities are programmed during Quarters 2 and 3, but contingency measures are in place to hopefully maintain an ongoing high level of diversion of residual material, away from landfill.

## **2.4 Contamination Levels**

Contamination levels of kerbside collected recyclate, from unacceptable materials extracted by the MRF process, remained at c.13.5% for Quarter 1. When compared to last year, this shows there has been a slight decrease in incorrect material needing to be extracted from this stream.

## **2.5 Overall Combined Rates**

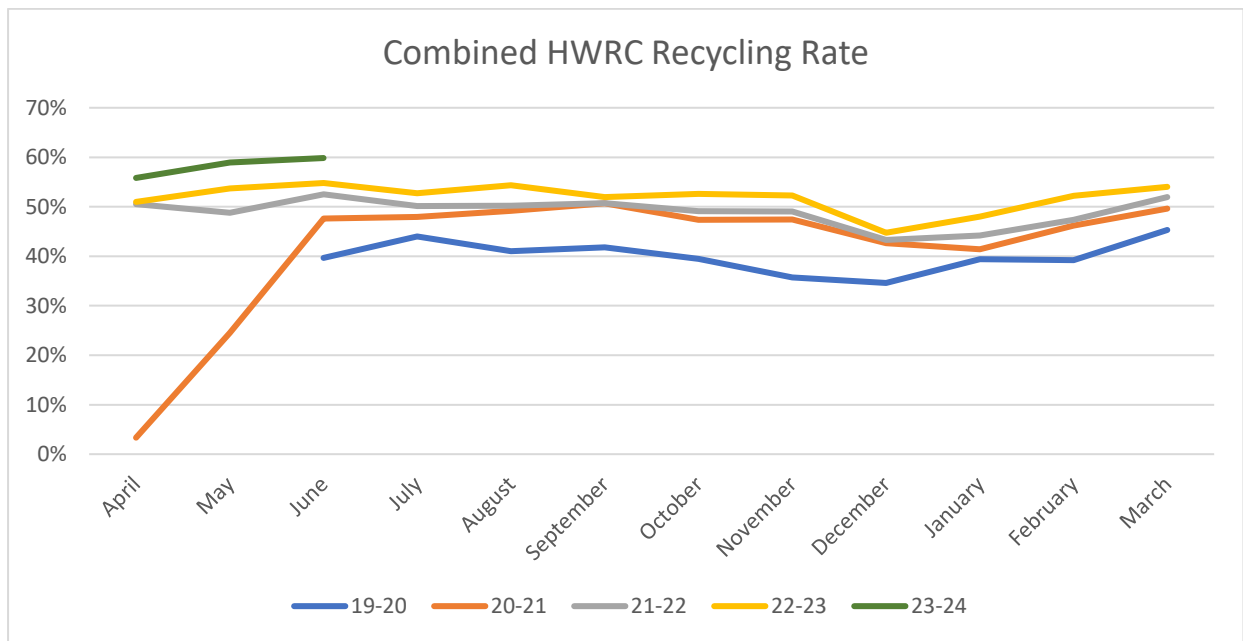
In summary, the overall performance for Quarter 1 of Contract year 5, across both Contracts combined (incorporating both WCA and HWRC tonnages), achieved a recycling rate of c.49%, with a landfill diversion rate of c.100%.

## **2.6 HWRC Recycling Rate**

For HWRCs across both Contracts (= 20 sites in total - WRMS has 9 sites, plus 11 in HWRCMS contract) the combined recycling rate for Quarter 1 of 23/24 was over 58%.

The graph below gives a comparison of the combined recycling rates against the previous 4 Contract years to date. The trend for 23/24 (green line) shows, whilst the Quarter 1 arisings increased by 3% (c.2kt), the recycling rate across the HWRCs still increased by over 5%, when compared to the same period last year.

The graph below demonstrates that there has been a continued year on year increase in the recycling rates across the Contracts.



During Quarter 1 of 23/24 measures to maintain and increase recycling on the 20 HWRCs included the prevention of trade and cross-boundary waste via the ongoing Access Policy controls (meet and greet; ANPR system; van permit scheme). This has clearly had an impact on the numbers of site visits and the consequent delivered tonnage (see section 2.7). Also, continued work from the four Recycling Officers (employed by Suez in the Quarter 4 of 22/23), will specifically target the areas that will help promote and encourage recycling at the HWRC sites. The impact of these measures is being tracked and reported to monitor the outcomes.

For this fifth Contract year, 2023/24, further measures are to be implemented, including sampling of residual waste to analyse the composition and identify what recyclable materials are still being inaccurately disposed of. This information will allow the targeting of the particular streams being lost into the residual waste, both operationally on site and in communications to residents.

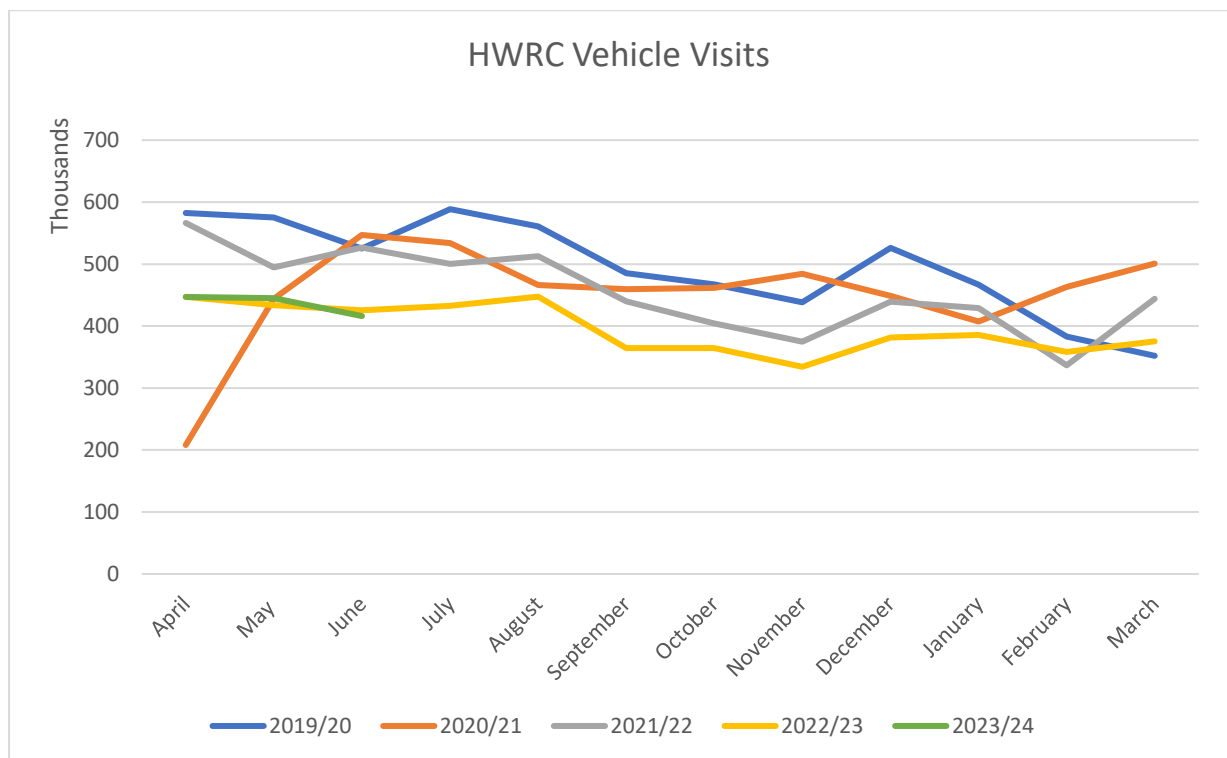
For the loads collected for recycling by Waste Collection Authorities (WCA), the rejected tonnage at the reception points across the Contract fell significantly compared to last year, with c.46% less tonnage rejected overall (almost 164t lower than last year). Whilst this position continues to improve, 196t of recycling collections were rejected due to contamination being above acceptable levels, requiring ongoing measures to reduce contamination and encourage accurate recycling by residents.

## 2.7 HWRC Visit Levels

The graph below shows monthly HWRC visit levels over Quarter 1 of Contract Year 5 (April 23 to Jun 23), (green line on graph), compared with the previous four years.

The trend of lower levels of visitor numbers has continued, with a similar throughput of traffic as seen in Quarter 1 of last year.

There were over 1.3 million(M) visits in the Quarter, which was c.2k more vehicles attending HWRCs than this period of the previous year. Despite the increase, this remains lower than the first three years of the Contracts, including 2020/21 - when the Covid restrictions temporarily closed HWRC sites during Quarter 1.



## 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**

For the first quarter of Contract year 5 (April 2023 to June 2023), end of year position, unfortunately there has been an event reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013.

Location: Adswold HWRC - operative opening the front gate fell on a pothole causing grazes to his right hand, left forearm and injury to ribs. Pothole depth was c.40mm. A temporary repair has been carried out and a full resurface has been programmed.

It should also be noted that we are aware of another incident (occurred in July so not included in Quarter 1 reporting) that has also qualified as reportable under RIDDOR:

Location: Longley Lane MRF. An operative sustained a cut and soft tissue damage to their finger during regular daily cleaning of MRF machinery. Suez has added an extra panel to block off this area to prevent reoccurrence.

### **3.3 Year on Year Comparison**

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

<b>Year End</b>	<b>19-20</b>	<b>20-21</b>	<b>21-22</b>	<b>22-23</b>	<b>23-24 (Qtr 1)</b>
<b>RIDDORs</b>	5	3	3	4	1