

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 AT GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY**

**PRESENT:**

Bolton Council	Councillor David Chadwick
Bury Council	Councillor Alan Quinn (in the Chair)
Manchester CC	Councillor Lee-Ann Igbon
Manchester CC	Councillor Shaukat Ali
Oldham Council	Councillor Josh Charters
Oldham Council	Councillor Pam Byrne
Rochdale Council	Councillor Susan Emmott
Rochdale Council	Councillor Peter Rush
Salford CC	Councillor David Lancaster
Stockport Council	Councillor Dena Ryness
Stockport Council	Councillor Mark Roberts
Tameside Council	Councillor Denise Ward
Trafford Council	Councillor Stephen Adshead
Trafford Council	Councillor Tom Ross

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA Waste & Resources	David Taylor
GMCA Waste & Resources	Justin Lomax
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michael Kelly
GMCA Finance	Lindsey Keech
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michelle Whitfield
GMCA Waste & Resources	Paul Morgan
GMCA Environment	Sarah Mellor
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Kerry Bond
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Connell Hopkins-Tonge

GMCA Chief Executive

Eamonn Boylan

**DISTRICT OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bury Council

Daniela Dixon

Rochdale Council

Jo Oliver

Rochdale Council

Anthony Johns

Stockport Council

Mark Glynn

Trafford Council

Helen Ashcroft

**WRC 23/01            APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Arnold Saunders (Salford) and Richard Silvester (Bolton).

Apologies were also received and noted from Steve Wilson (GMCA).

**WRC 23/02    APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Nominations for the appointment of a Chair of the Committee for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year were sought. Members noted that any appointment of Chair will require endorsement by the GMCA.

The nomination of Councillor Alan Quinn was moved and seconded. No other nominations were received.

**RESOLVED/-**

That Councillor Alan Quinn be appointed Chair of the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee for 2023/2024 and that this appointment be recommended for endorsement by GMCA.

**COUNCILLOR ALAN QUINN IN THE CHAIR**

**WRC 23/03                    MEMBERSHIP OF THE GM WASTE & RECYCLING  
COMMITTEE FOR 2023/4**

**RESOLVED/-**

To note the membership of the GM Waste & Recycling Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

**WRC 23/04                    APPOINTMENT TO THE GM GREEN CITY REGION  
PARTNERSHIP**

The Chair sought nominations to the Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership.

The nomination of Councillor Stephen Adshead was moved and seconded. No other nominations were received.

**RESOLVED/-**

To appoint Councillor Stephen Adshead to the Green City Region Board for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

**WRC 23/05                    MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL  
DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM**

Members were reminded of their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and the requirement to complete an annual declaration of interest form. Members noted that once completed, their respective declarations of interest will be published on the GMCA website.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and Annual Declarations of Interest, be noted.

**WRC 23/06                      TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference for the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee were submitted.

**RESOLVED/-**

To note the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee Terms of Reference.

**WRC 23/07                      COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24**

David Taylor, Executive Director of Waste, GMCA, introduced a report that set out the Committee Work Programme for 2023/2024. Members were informed that it is a live document and will be updated at each meeting.

**RESOLVED/-**

To note the Waste & Recycling Committee Work Programme.

**WRC 23/08                      PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2023/24**

**RESOLVED/-**

That the following programme of meetings for the Committee for 2023/24, be noted:

- Wednesday, 11 October 2023, 10am-12noon
- Wednesday 17 January 2024, 10am-12noon
- Wednesday 13 March 2024, 10am-12noon

**WRC 23/09                    CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no announcements or items of urgent business reported.

**WRC 23/10                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED/-**

That it be noted that Councillor Quinn declared an interest in section 5 (Every Street Access Road) of item 16 – Capital Programme and Asset Management Update.

**WRC 23/11                    MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the committee, held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were submitted.

**RESOLVED/-**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**WRC 23/12    CONTRACTS UPDATE**

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report which provided an overview of the performance of the Waste and Resources Management Services (WRMS) and the Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS) contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019.

The report presented cumulative annual data, for the period up to the end of March 2023 (Quarter 4) of the financial year 2022/23 (Contract year 4), for the two Contracts held by Suez. An overview of the cumulative data, total waste arisings,

and contamination levels, landfill diversion, HWRC recycling rate, overall recycling rate, HWRC visit levels and tonnage rates were also provided.

The report outlined four events that had occurred over the last year that are reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

Officers advised that a report detailing comparisons with national tonnage levels would be brought to a future meeting.

A Member was informed that the GMCA are working on ways how to understand the public's behaviour on recycling centre visits, and that a communication campaign detailing the varied recycling options would take place later in the year to encourage members of the public to take their waste to different sites and that interactive tours of the sites would be made available to enable the public to plan their visits.

Members were advised that the access policies have led to significant reductions in commercial vehicles using the recycling sites.

Staff based at the Salford Road recycling centre were complemented by Members for their exceptional service towards visitors to the site.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a report detailing GM tonnage levels compared with national levels be brought to a future meeting.
3. That officers convey members compliments to staff at Salford Road Recycling Centre for their service to the public.

## **WRC 23/13      COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PLAN UPDATE**

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report and presentation updating Members on the Communications Plan including the In the Loop campaign, the R4GM Community fund, the educational tours and the paper and card campaign.

Members were updated on the R4GM Community Fund for 2023/24 which included:

- Applications for funding ran from 3 April to 26 May 2023
- 71 applications received are being scored by administrators of the scheme from the GMCA, SUEZ and Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- Final decisions will be made at the end of July, successful applicants will be notified in August
- Communication of the fund, which included workshops, press releases, leaflet distribution and social media advertising

Figures detailing visits to the education centres and online sessions were discussed, members were informed that the education team are working with districts to increase engagement with schools and community groups.

Members were informed of the 'In the loop' campaign, promoting a circular economy and demonstrating the link between recycling and the environment. The 'In the loop' campaign video [How to be part of the Circular Economy](#) was shown to Members, as well as further detail on the In the Loop Campaign that launched on 15 May 2023, a further campaign is scheduled for October to coincide with National Recycling Week.

The 2022 Paper and Card Campaign identified takeaway packaging to be one of the main contaminants of kerbside recycling. Targeted work to tackle the issue is being identified, including the possibility of advertising on take away packaging.

Officers notified Members that the closest renew shop to Rochdale borough is Arkwright Street, Oldham. SUEZ are currently reviewing this with the view to opening further shops across Greater Manchester.

Officers confirmed that the In the Loop Campaign was a relatively low-cost campaign with bus and digital advertising and that a report detailing advertising costs along with a breakdown of the type of visitors by primary/high school to the sites will be brought to a future meeting.

Members requested that representation on funding groups and panels be looked at to ensure diversity across Greater Manchester and to assist in identifying those communities that could benefit from additional support and engagement to access facilities available.

Councillor Lee-Anne Igbon offered her support to ensure diversity is reflected in all work across Greater Manchester.

Members suggested that additional virtual tours be made available of facilities to help encourage the public to use the services available across GM.

Officers agreed to liaise with Lancashire Wildlife Trust to ensure engagement takes place with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and other trusts that border or overlap with GM districts.

Members highlighted the benefits of and asked for further engagement with schools across GM on the provision of biodegradable and sustainable sanitary products.

Officers confirmed that funding and repair cafes do take place and that there is an increase in funding requests.

Members asked what the understanding of how the In the Loop Campaign video was received across districts and if there is any evidence of how it resonates with young people across GM districts, officers agreed to analyse the data.



## **RESOLVED /-**

1. The progress made on the Communications Plan including the In the Loop Campaign, the R4GM Community fund, the educational tours and the paper and card campaign be noted.
2. To agree that the successful applicants of the R4GM Community Fund be shared with members once confirmed.
3. To agree that a report detailing In the Loop advertising costs and a breakdown of visitors to sites be brought to a future meeting.
4. To agree that officers liaise with districts to discuss the roll out of biodegradable and sustainable sanitary products across GM schools.
5. To agree that officers analyse the In the Loop Campaign data across districts and share with Members.

## **WRC 23/14                      SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION UPDATE**

Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, GMCA introduced a report which provided new members with an understanding of the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production Action (SCP) Plan and outlined the framework for Greater Manchester's key activities in this area of work over the coming years.

Members noted that the SCP Plan forms part of the suite of documents sitting underneath the GM 5-year Environment Plan that sets out the high-level priorities of the Sustainable Consumption Theme focussing on valuing resources and reducing waste, covering four key priority areas:

- Moving to Circular Economy
- Managing Waste Sustainably
- Reducing Food Waste
- Moving to Sustainable Lifestyles

The challenge work to move Greater Manchester to a circular economy focusses on three key areas:

- Textiles and the creation of a circular economy for low grade materials
- Plastics – reduction of single use plastics and technology & sustainable end markets
- Procurement which is currently out to tender for the next piece of work to analyse the carbon footprint of the GMCA.

Work currently underway to understand the England's Waste Strategy will result in the draft of a Greater Manchester Waste Strategy, update reports will be brought to the committee at the end of 2023.

Members were advised that the GMCA don't have the authority to instruct pension fund providers on investment into green schemes but hope that the investment portfolio will influence and highlight this to scheme providers.

Members welcomed the report but expressed concern over the lack of government funding to support the work in districts.

Officers confirmed that, plans to reduce carbon emissions in waste management are underway and that there is a need to reduce residual waste by half by 2038, that feasibility studies are taking place looking at roof mounted solar PV at recycling facilities but that a shift to hydrogen solutions for the vehicle fleet is not currently at an affordable stage due to the lifecycle of the vehicles.

Officers conveyed the message that they are attempting to maximise local levers to engage communities by working with district Waste and Climate Change Officers.

Members suggested that a communication exercise explaining energy consumption of electrical devices that are being left on standby and ultimately leading to a waste of energy be investigated.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. To note the progress of the delivery of the SCP Plan and the key areas of activities over the coming years.
2. To note the start of the process to produce the next 5-year Environment Plan and that a report be brought to the next meeting of the committee.
3. To agree that a Greater Manchester Waste Strategy update report be brought to a future meeting.
4. To note that the Green Summit takes place on Monday 2 October 2023.

### **GMCA 23/15            GMCA WASTE AND RESOURCES BUDGET OUTTURN 2022/23**

Lindsey Keech, GMCA Finance, introduced a report of the GMCA Treasurer, which sets out the revenue and capital outturn for 2022/23 for the Waste and Resources Service.

## **RESOLVED/-**

1. To note the report.

### **GMCA 23/16            CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Michael Kelly, Head of Engineering and Asset Management, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided an update and presentation on the proposed asset upgrades at Every St, Bury, the rail-connected waste processing sites and on the redevelopment of the Reliance Street Household Waste Recycling Centre.

The update included detailed information on the background and site restrictions, mapping detail of Reliance Street, the current position of the site, the demolition process currently being undertaken, and the delivery of the new construction.

Members expressed support for the development, particularly the engagement with the Local Authorities to ensure residents were updated and supported from the start of the site works.

Fire risk reduction measures were highlighted due to the increase in regular incidents across the sites, 23 in April alone, where in most instances being caused by lithium batteries in small electrical items such as electronic vapes. Due to the rebuild costs of £8-10m if a transport loading station is destroyed by fire, Suez has proposed installation of thermal imaging cameras in reception areas and processing sites to ensure early detection of hot spots and fires at a cost of £202,522 with the costs split equally between the GMCA and Suez. An update report on further fire risk review work across the portfolio will be brought to a future meeting.

Officers requested the approval of installation of new container weighing equipment and software, similar to the one at the Reliance Street, at the other three GM sites to ensure more accurate weights for the rail manifest and accuracy of the Runcorn weighbridge.

Members were asked to approve a £40k contribution to Bury Council towards work required to the access road at the Every Street site which needs significant repairs due to pot holes and surface damage, and would also benefit from traffic calming measures.

Members and Officers discussed their concerns about single use vapes and the lack of battery disposal once the vape is finished. Officers conveyed the continual risk that these fires cause and whilst retailers are obliged to take the vapes back, this does not often occur. Officers explained that a campaign is being developed alongside the communication team at the GMCA to raise awareness of battery recycling. Members advised the committee that Oldham Council had recently passed a motion by their Youth Council to ban disposable vapes.

Members requested that officers write to Defra on behalf of the committee with a recommendation to introduce a deposit return scheme for single use vapes.

Officers advised that a thermal camera review is taking place across sites to ensure they are up to required standards and advised that not all facilities have thermal detection systems, but all have suppression systems.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. To note the latest cost estimate for the Reliance St HWRC redevelopment.
2. To approve the expenditure on thermal cameras as part of fire risk reduction measures.
3. To approve the expenditure on rail box weighting equipment.
4. To approve the expenditure on resurfacing works to the access road at the Every St, Bury site.
5. To agree that officers write to DEFRA to recommend an introduction of a deposit return scheme for vapes.

#### **GMCA 23/17            NATIONAL RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY**

Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team updated members on recent developments on the implementation of the English Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS) in relation to the deposit return scheme, extended producer responsibility for packaging and the consistency of collection of recycling.

Updates on the key RaWS updates included:

- The Deposit Return Scheme
- Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging
- Consistency of Collections
- Separate Weekly Food Waste Collections to all Households

Members were also updated on the latest position of the call for evidence to support the near elimination of Biodegradable Waste to Landfill and the DIY Waste Disposal Charges. GMCA officers have continued to work with DEFRA on the consultation and that an amended Controlled Waste Regulations will be published later this year.

Members enquired whether there will be scope to maintain the current offer of free household DIY waste disposal within the DEFRA regulations. Officers confirmed that this will be looked into when the regulations are published.

Members expressed concern over the lack of consistency in regard to the English Waste Strategy.

## **RESOLVED/**

1. To note the report.

### **GMCA 23/18          REVIEW OF THE HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE ACCESS POLICY AND VAN PERMIT SYSTEM**

Paul Morgan Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team detailed the findings of the review of the Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy and Van Permit System.

Members received updates including:

- Review of the HWRC access policy
  - Additional HWRC Access Restrictions Introduced
  - Impact of the HWRC Policy
  - Findings of the review
  - Vehicle types and visit threshold levels
  - Rubble limits
- Review of the HWRC Van Permit System
- Environmental Impacts of the Access Policy and Van Permit Scheme

- Communicating the proposed changes

Officers confirmed that residents are written to prior to be removed from the permit scheme account if they have only previously visited within one year, and that removal of dormant accounts is actioned due to General Data Protection Rules (GDPR).

Officers confirmed that there is no cross-site reference of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) details.

Offices agreed to investigate the implementation of a validation system for the renew shops.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. To note the findings of the reviews and the positive contributions the Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy and Van Permit System have made to the operation of the service.
2. To approve the revisions to the HWRC Access Policy and Van Permit Scheme terms and conditions as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

#### **GMCA 22/19            EXCLUSION OF THE 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.

## **GMCA 23/20            CONTRACTS UPDATE**

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, Waste and Resources Team introduced a report updates the Committee on performance and commercial issues relating to the Waste and Resources (WRCMS) and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS) Contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. To note the work programme in section 4 of the report, detailing the options appraisal for future service provision from April 2026.