

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023 AT GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY**

**PRESENT:**

Bolton Council	Councillor David Chadwick
Bolton Council	Councillor Richard Silvester
Bury Council	Councillor Alan Quinn (in the Chair)
Manchester CC	Councillor Lee-Ann Igbon
Manchester CC	Councillor Shaukat Ali
Rochdale Council	Councillor Peter Rush
Salford CC	Councillor David Lancaster
Salford CC	Councillor Arnold Saunders
Stockport Council	Councillor Dena Ryness
Stockport Council	Councillor Mark Roberts
Trafford Council	Councillor Stephen Adshead
Trafford Council	Councillor Tom Ross

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA Chief Executive	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Waste & Resources	David Taylor
GMCA Deputy Monitoring Officer	Gwynne Williams
GMCA Waste & Resources	Justin Lomax
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michael Kelly
GMCA Waste & Resources	Paul Morgan
GMCA Environment	Michelle Lynch
GMCA Finance	Lindsey Keech
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michelle Whitfield
GMCA Environment	Sarah Mellor
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Kerry Bond

**DISTRICT OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bury Council

Daniela Dixon

**WRC 23/21 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Josh Charters (Oldham), Pam Byrne (Oldham), and Karl Bircher (Rochdale)

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

**WRC 23/22 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no announcements or items of urgent business reported.

**WRC 23/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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/-**

1. There were no Declarations of Interest reported.

**WRC 23/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the committee, held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were submitted.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## **WRC 23/25 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 Quarter 1 (April 2023 to June 2023) of the financial year 2023/24 (Contract year 5), for the two Contracts held by Suez. An overview of the cumulative data, total waste arisings, and contamination levels, landfill diversion, HWRC recycling rates and HWRC visit levels were also provided.

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

Members highlighted further concern about the contamination of the paper and card and other waste streams with disposable vapes. Members added that there is a serious risk of fire at the sites. Officers were made aware of a Home Office video of the risk of fire from the recycling of battery-operated products.

Members requested an overview of the impact of the introduction of the HWRC access restriction policy and van permit policy, in particular the vehicle length restriction of 5.3m.

Members supported officers in raising awareness of recycling across the city region. It was highlighted that more information could be made available to the public on

hard plastics. Officers stated that there would be a session with members, looking at what further products could potentially be collected for recycling and the costs and benefits. The outputs of this session would be used to inform whether an interim GM waste strategy is required.

Members noted the right direction of travel for recycling rates.

Members also complimented the staff at the Salford Road HWRC for their professionalism during visits to the site.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the report be noted.

**WRC 23/26      2023/24 BUDGET UPDATE AND BUDGET AND LEVY SETTING  
PROCESS FOR 2024/25 UNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOURAL  
CHANGE PLAN UPDATE**

Lindsay Keech, Head of Capital & Treasury Management, Finance GMCA, presented a report updating members on the forecast 2023/24 budget position as of quarter 1 and the timeline for setting the budget and levy for 2024/25.

The report highlighted the forecast revenue outturn for 2023/24 as of quarter 1. The forecast capital outturn for 2023/24 as at quarter 1, the medium-term financial plan to 2024/25 and the budget consultation and timeline.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the report be noted.

Michael Kelly, Head of Engineering and Asset Management, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided an update on current asset projects presented at the last committee.

The report presented an update on the Reliance St HWRC Redevelopment, fire risk reduction measures, rail container weighing equipment, Every Street – access road, and other Category A Asset Projects.

Members raised awareness of the capacity of complaints due to the size of resident bins within the local area and that larger families may need larger bins. Officers noted that discussions with SUEZ had led to an understanding that additional material such as pots, tubs and trays may need to be recycled going forward and that members would be updated as this progresses.

The issue of fire risk reduction measures was once again highlighted by members who felt that the safety of staff at HWRCs was paramount. Members asked for capital investment to help secure these sites and pledged further support for health and safety.

Members were advised that a whole scale fire safety review will take place.

Officers confirmed that the Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) review at Longley Lane and other facilities continues to look at capacity and availability and that an update will be brought to the January meeting.

Members thanked officers for the staff visit to a site in Bredbury.

Members raised the importance of climate change during this process and requested that future updates include carbon reduction and climate resilience measures within asset management.

Officers noted the threat of disposable vapes at the sites and the need to not be anti-vaping from a population health perspective. Members added that the introduction of a vape deposit return scheme could be a way of reducing the amount of vapes being disposed of inappropriately and littered.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the report and updates be noted.
2. To agree that a detailed update on the Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) review be brought to the January meeting.
3. To agree that future updates include carbon reduction and climate resilience measures within asset management.

**WRC 23/28      COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PLAN  
UPDATE**

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report seeking feedback on the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications & Engagement Behaviour Change Plan 2024/25.

The report highlighted the development of the R4GM Communications Plan, updates to the In the Loop campaign as well as the textiles and food waste contamination campaigns, the engagement sessions taking place at the education and visitor centres, and next steps.

Officers stated that there is a battery safety campaign to encourage people to recycle batteries correctly. Officers added that there are discussions with BBC producers about a 7-minute campaign film on how to correctly recycle batteries. Members requested that officers liaise with the designated officer at the Local Government Authority (LGA) on this issue.

Members agreed that communication is key for these campaigns and that influencers will be used to highlight key issues. Officers noted that an ethnographic study has taken place to see how members of the public access and use HWRCs and how this information can be used to develop policy strategy.

Officers noted the work taking place with SUEZ to support apprenticeships and traineeships alongside the GM Business Plan to decarbonise.

Members enquired about the performance of the Renew Shops. Officers stated that there are reports provided by SUEZ based on sale figures and targets. Officers stated that funds raised go into the Mayor's Charity and other community funds.

Members noted that providing pictorial information and in languages other than English for residents is critical as it allows for further inclusion. Members added that this could be added to a ward-level action plan on climate change, based on each neighbourhood and fed back into the Waste & Recycling Committee. Members highlighted the importance of the report being accessible for residents.

Members asked if there is a piece of work being undertaken to help cope with the policy changes that the National Resources and Waste Strategy will make once announcements are made. Officers confirmed that work is taking place on this and that officers continue to liaise with Defra.

Members noted the growing trend for sustainable fashion and the need for communication support around the future of fast fashion and recycling.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. To note the progress made in developing the communications plan.
2. To agree that a report providing further details on the performance of the Renew shops be brought to a future meeting.

**WRC 23/29**

**HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE ACCESS  
POLICY AND VAN PERMIT SYSTEM**

Paul Morgan Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided a clarification of the changes made to the Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy and Van Permit System approved by this Committee in July 2023.

Members received updates on how the policy revision of vehicles have had positive effects on reducing the delivery of commercial/trade waste to HWRCS, the ability of motorhomes and campervans to visit the sites and next steps.

Members asked officers for advice on how they can support waste disposal for residents who carry out community work. Officers confirmed that arrangements can be made to take this waste to transfer loading facilities and that community groups should liaise with districts to arrange this.

Officers stated that they were now confident with the proposals on aligning vehicle sizes and don't envisage further revisions. Any other vehicles that may have had any bespoke changes will be reviewed individually.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. To note and endorse the clarification of the changes made to the Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy and Van Permit System approved by this Committee in July 2023.
2. To agree that the enquiry response contact details be emailed to members.

**WRC 23/30**

**SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION  
UPDATE**



Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production and Michelle Lynch, Principal Environment Officer Sustainably Consumption and Production, GMCA Environment Team provided a report that updated Members on the progress of a number of key projects within the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production Action (SCP) Plan.

Members were updated on the 4 key priority areas of the SCP Plan:

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

Officers gave an update on progress of the 2019 Single Use Plastic Pact and the progress made towards Greater Manchester being single-use plastic free and key achievements, including:

- Plastic Free GM Campaign
- Green Carrier Bag Scheme
- Single Use Plastic Performance Toolkit
- Refill Destination Launch in September 2023
- Sustainability E-Module

Officers relayed information on the GM Green Summit that was held on Monday 2 October 2023 at the Lowry. Officers stated that there were over 1,500 people in attendance and over 2,000 people joining the summit online. Members welcomed the work that was done by officers for and at the Green Summit

Members asked whether there had been any analysis on budget reduction from pots, tubs and trays in possible deposit return schemes. Officers confirmed that analysis and work is ongoing with government and the industry.

Members noted the use of refillable cups and bottles to help give residents a cheaper refill price as well as supporting the reduction of waste in GM. Members

were advised that hygiene around this isn't an issue as clean cups are used when refills are requested.

Officers confirmed that refillable cup schemes are still in the early stages. Both members and officers felt that trial return schemes could be of use.

Officers stated that work on the preparation of various scenarios for the English Waste Strategy is ongoing in collaboration with district officers.

Members raised concerns about single-use plastics that are being used at Takeaways. Officers confirmed that these concerns will be taken to the Food Waste Task and Finish Group for discussion.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. To note the progress of the key areas of activities currently being undertaken.
2. To agree that a workshops between Members and Officers be created to determine the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production Action (SCP) Plan.
3. To agree that a deep dive on food waste consumption data will be brought to a future meeting.
4. To agree that members concern around single use plastics in takeaway food outlets be taken to the Food Waste Task and Finish Group for discussion.

#### **WRC 23/31                      WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND**

Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Environment Team provided a report that updated the committee on the Government's Waste Prevention Programme published in July 2023 and its potential implications for the GMCA.

The report highlighted DEFRA's publication on waste prevention programmes for England: Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste and the governments priorities to manage resources and waste, across three cross cutting themes:

- Designing out waste,
- Systems and services
- Data and information

These themes will be applied to seven key sectors that combined will generate c.80m tonnes of waste per annum.

Next steps include a public consultation on new policy. The Plan aligns well with GMCA actions, work in sectors and collaboration with industry and academia.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. To note the report and the government's strategic approach to waste prevention.

**GMCA 23/32            DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETING**

Thursday 18th January 10am-12noon

Thursday 14th March 10am-12noon

**RESOLVED /**

1. The dates and times for future meetings were noted.

**GMCA 23/33            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 23/34            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 contract updates and key risks set out in the report.
2. To note the work programme in section 4 detailing the options appraisal for future service provision from April 2026.
3. To return to the committee in January 2024 with a full report on outcomes.