

Waste and Resources Recycling Committee

Date: 13 March 2024

Subject: 2024-25 Capital Programme and Asset Management Update – Part A

Report of: Michael Kelly, Head of Engineering and Asset Management,
Waste and Resources

Purpose of Report

To provide members with an update on proposed capital projects and key lifecycle projects scheduled for 2024-25.

Recommendations:

Members of the Committee are recommended to:

1. Note and comment on matters set out within the report; and
2. Delegate the finalisation of terms in the proposed extension agreement with Manchester City Council for 2 former landfill sites as set out in section 4.3 to the Executive Director, Waste and Resources in consultation with the GMCA Monitoring Officer.

Contact Officers

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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 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:

1 - Appendix A – Capital and Asset Management Works Programme 2024-25

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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

This report provides members with updates relating to the Waste and Resources team asset portfolio. Summaries are provided for key projects focusing on those scheduled in 2024-25. The waste estate portfolio is managed by the Engineering Team and comprises of the following three assets categories:

1.1 Category A - Operational Waste Facilities

- WRMS Contract Facilities – Lot 1
(28) waste processing and reception facilities across 11 locations.
- WRMS Contract – Lot 2
(11) Household Waste Recycling Centres HWRC's

1.2 Category B - Buildings and Land

- land and building premises separate to operational locations.

1.3 Category C - Closed Landfill Sites

- 4 former dilute and disperse landfill sites now closed and requiring ongoing management.

2. Category (A) Updates – Operational Waste Facilities

2.1 Reliance Street HWRC

Background - A modified HWRC is required at Reliance Street in North Manchester due to the existing facility being beyond its economic life span and the restricted layout which does not encourage high levels of recycling. A new improved HWRC will provide a larger facility giving more capacity to receive, manage and recycle commodities by providing 16 individual containers to segregate materials like many of our existing HWRC's across the region.

Current Position – Planning permission for the proposed new facility was obtained in January 2023 and since then critical enabling works to remove the former anaerobic digestion (AD) plant have been undertaken in 2023. Geotechnical reviews of existing ground conditions were also undertaken in the past year to inform our understanding of existing conditions and define a design specification for the project.

Our previous timescale and forecast to commence construction in summer 2023, was delayed by the enabling works and extended geotechnical reviews, meaning our target to commence on site before winter 2023 was delayed. We are now seeking to commence works on site this summer in 2024. Regular updates outlining progress will be provided at future committee meetings.

2.2 Welfare Building Upgrades – Cobden Street

The existing welfare building at our Cobden Street facility is now more than 30 years old, it was previously upgraded more than 10 years ago and now requires a significant modification to ensure it meets current welfare requirements for staff at Cobden Street.

The Engineering Team are working with Suez to review welfare requirements and it is expected that the existing building will need significant upgrades along with an extension to provide additional space and facilities. Options are currently being considered to extend the building which will require planning and building control approval.

2.3 Electrical Rewiring at Higher Swan Lane

Our Higher Swan Lane (HSL) location incorporates a maintenance depot to support contract delivery providing maintenance and repair facilities associated with transport and container repairs. The depot also provides office facilities for Suez as their central base to manage the contract.

The original maintenance building at HSL is a large open framed structure, constructed in the 1950's and now requires investment to ensure its continued operation. The proposed 2024-25 capital spend is required to commence with electrical upgrades to ensure the building's wiring meets current electrical standards. This work is part of a phased approach over the next 2-3 years to bring the building's electrical supply up to modern safety standards.

2.4 Redundant Assets

Background - Several asset functions are to be reviewed for repurposing, removal, or replacement following refurbishment of our Mechanical Treatment and Reception (MTR) Facilities. One significant area to address is our redundant Anaerobic digestion (AD) plants with all 4 now off-line and not required for the future operational needs. Addressing

redundant assets is an ongoing project which commenced in 2022, to date we have removed the following redundancies from the portfolio:

- 4 Combined Heat Power Engines (CHP's);
- Leachate collection system – Nash Road;
- Former TEG cages and In-Vessel-Composting (IVC) process – Bredbury;
- AD plant and equipment – Reliance Street;
- Process hall – Reliance Steet;
- MBT plant and equipment – Arkwright Street;
- Former TEG cages and In-Vessel-Composting (IVC) process – Salford Road;
- Odour control system (OCS) – Salford Road; and
- Odour control system (OCS) – Nash Road.

2024-25 Forecasted asset removals

- AD plant, equipment, and structures – Cobden Street
- Plant and equipment associated with former MBT– Bredbury
- AD plant structure (walls and ground slabs) – Reliance Street

Further updates will be provided at future committee meetings, please refer to appendix A for an indication of our forecasted work programme.

1.3 Waste Estate Decarbonisation

Alongside our redundant assets review we also want to define a decarbonisation plan for the waste estate. Previously we intended to undertake a decarbonisation review of the whole estate in 2023, unfortunately this was not addressed due to other workloads within the team.

However, we have undertaken an internal high-level review of the portfolio to identify how the estate can be decarbonised, this has identified two principals for us to focus on going forward, direct and wider impacts.

Direct impacts are areas where we believe carbon reductions can be implemented or off-set against the waste estate and wider impacts are polices and targets which can all influence our approach.

The following tables provide an indication of this approach.

Table 1.0 – Decarbonisation – Direct Impacts

Direct Impacts	
Salford Road Solar Farm	<p>Currently generates up to 2.1Mega Watts (MW) of electricity which is connected to local grid.</p> <p>This installation can also distribute energy to our proposed new MRF, which will significantly reduce carbon emissions from the facility during its operational lifespan.</p> <p>A 2.1MW output, is estimated to save 600 tonnes of carbon per year.</p>
Redundant Asset Removals	<p>Removing our redundant assets across the estate will help to reduce energy demands and in-turn reduce our carbon emissions.</p>
Solar installations	<p>Due to the nature of our estate GMCA has a good opportunity to provide a variety of solar installations which will help to reduce and offset our energy usage.</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Improving biodiversity across the estate can have a positive impact on carbon by helping to off-set our emissions to help improve plant and wildlife habitats.</p>
Energy usage	<p>Energy usage across our operational facilities is tracked and monitored by Suez, this data can be used to track our emissions across a longer period.</p>
Sustainable Infrastructure	<p>Machinery, plant, and equipment upgrades and replacements where feasible for more energy efficient alternatives. Recent applications by Suez include the installation of several electric vehicle (EV) charging points and the installation of LED lighting at various GMCA locations. Other areas for future consideration could include building fabric reviews, heating systems and energy optimisation reviews.</p>
Re-Use Hub and Renew Shops	<p>Already a well-established resource within the contract that repurposes unwanted items for resale through our 3 re-use shops. Repurposing unwanted items will have a positive impact on carbon emissions.</p>

Table 2.0 – Decarbonisation – Wider Impacts

Wider Impacts
Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS)
GMCA's 5 years environment plan
Suez - Environmental policies
UK Governments carbon capture targets (2050)
Districts – Waste collection policies
GMCA – Education and Communication

Further work is required to evolve our decarbonisation plans and we may need to engage with a specialist consultant to undertake a more detailed review focusing on direct impacts.

In addition, to identifying direct impacts we have recently taken steps to progress two of these areas:

- Solar installations – Last year we participated in a wider district solar feasibility review undertaken by Buro Happold. Our Salford Road, Overhulton site was offered as a template waste site for consideration in the review. Findings from the review were issued in January this year and the buildings at the location were recommended as suitable locations for roof mounted solar panels. Based on these initial findings we are currently in dialogue with Buro Happold to undertake specific review of the waste estate focusing on a selection of locations that we believe are best suited to solar installations.

Outcomes from this engagement will be presented at a future Committee meeting.

- Biodiversity – We have recently entered a partnership with City of Trees to plant approximately 800 trees at two of closed landfill sites.

Further updates on individual decarbonisation projects will be provided at future meetings.

1. Solar – Photovoltaics Installations

A capital allocation for 2024-25 has been made to allow for a small amount of solar PV installation subject to the findings from the Buro Happold feasibility review. Our intention is to phase solar installations across a 3 year period. Further updates on this project will be provided at future meetings.

3. Category (B) Updates - Buildings and Land

3.1 STOR Power Ltd – Salford Road

Background – GMCA has a lease agreement in place with STOR Power Ltd (SPL) our Salford Road site in Over Hulton for SPL to construct and operate a Short-Term Operating Reserve (STOR) facility on an area of land adjacent to our existing HWRC.

A previous committee report in March 2023 outlined the SPL proposal, which was supported and agreed by the Committee, since then SPL has commenced installation of the facility and works are now set to be completed by the end of May 2024. The lease agreement is now active on a 25-year term with SPL, all works have been implemented to date with no operational disruption to service at Salford Road.

4. Category (C) Updates - Closed Landfill Sites

4.1 Waithlands – New Access Road

A new ramped access road is required at Waithlands closed landfill site 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 drainage infrastructure associated with an existing culvert running beneath the site. Access is also required to manage the wider landscape and inclined slope along the river Roch as the current area is inaccessible.

A design for the ramp has been defined by a geotechnical consultant; we are targeting delivery in summer 2024 subject to a successful tender exercise. Enabling works to clear a pathway for the access ramp commenced in February ahead of the nesting bird season.

4.2 Barlow Hall and Cringle Road – Landfill Sites

Background - Barlow Hall and Cringle Road closed landfill sites were both part of the former Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) portfolio from the early 1980's up until 2012-13. Both sites were landfilled by Manchester City Council (MCC) in the 1970's and formed part of a wider landfill portfolio inherited by GMWDA.

In 2012 GMWDA commenced a thorough review of its asset portfolio and landfill sites with a view to reducing risk for the Authority. This included discussions with MCC on returning Barlow Hall and Cringle Road to their ownership. In 2013 GMWDA and MCC formalised a

transfer agreement over a 10-year handover period that would see both sites being fully transferred.

The agreement set out mutual obligations for both sides to manage each site and costs were divided on a percentage basis year-on-year and costs would eventually be fully deferred to MCC across the 10-year period. Last year this agreement ceased and GMCA entered into a 12 month extension agreement to maintain both sites. The extension was reported and approved at a previous Committee meeting in March 2023.

Further Extension Proposal - MCC are now wishing to retain the extension position for an additional 12 months which would see the Engineering Team continue to provide servicing and maintenance tasks associated with both sites, focusing on managing the Methane Stripping Plants (MSP's).

The additional extension is principally based on the previous agreement whereby all responsibilities, costs, and liability transfers to MCC. Transfer of accounts and responsibilities is an ongoing task between both parties. GMCA will also recoup all maintenance costs associated with each site along with a standing charge to cover our overheads.

Dialogue with MCC is ongoing and we are hoping to formalise an extension by a Deed of Variation the end of March 24. This will require finalisation of terms to be delegated to the Executive Director, Waste and Resources in consultation with the GMCA's Monitoring Officer.

5. 2024-25 Work Programme

The Capital and Asset Management Works Programme 2024-25 forecast position is provided within appendix A. This forecast covers key projects across all asset categories scheduled for 2024-25.