

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2024 AT THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE

PRESENT:

Bolton Council	Councillor David Chadwick
Bolton Council	Councillor Richard Silvester
Bury Council	Councillor Alan Quinn (in the Chair)
Manchester CC	Councillor Shaukat Ali
Oldham Council	Councillor Pam Byrne
Rochdale Council	Councillor Patricia Ayrton
Salford CC	Councillor Arnold Saunders
Stockport Council	Councillor Dena Ryness
Tameside Council	Councillor Denise Ward
Trafford Council	Councillor Stephen Adshead
Trafford Council	Councillor Tom Ross

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA Deputy Monitoring Officer	Gwynne Williams
GMCA Waste & Resources	David Taylor
GMCA Waste & Resources	Justin Lomax
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michael Kelly
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michelle Whitfield
GMCA Waste & Resources	Paul Morgan
GMCA Environment	Sarah Mellor
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Kerry Bond
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Karen Chambers
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Demi Morris

DISTRICT OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bury Council
Rochdale Council

Daniela Dixon
Jo Oliver

WRC 23/35 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Lee-Ann Igbon (Manchester), Josh Charters (Oldham), David Lancaster (Salford) and Mark Roberts (Stockport).

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

WRC 23/36 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair opened with the sad news of the passing of former Rochdale Hornets legend Councillor Peter Rush following his many years of public service to Rochdale and Greater Manchester.

Members and officers observed a few moments silence as a mark of respect.

WRC 23/37 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.

RESOLVED/-

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

WRC 23/39 CONTRACTS UPDATE

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services and Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report which provided an overview on the performance of the Waste and Resource Management Services (WRMS) and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS) Contracts, and the latest position on the English Resources and Waste Strategy.

The report presented cumulative annual data, for the period up to the end of December 2023 for the two contracts held by Suez. An overview of the cumulative data, total waste arisings, contamination levels, landfill diversion, HWRC and overall recycling rates, and HWRC visit levels and tonnage rates were also provided.

The report outlined three events that had occurred between April and December 2023 that are reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

It was noted that there has been minimal progress on the implementation of the English Resources and Waste Strategy, DEFRA continue to hold monthly forums with local authorities and businesses to discuss extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging and the recycling regime. A Steering Group Scheme Administrator has been established bringing together representatives of the chain directly affected by the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme.

Members were advised that a response from the GMCA on the reform of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations consultation has been

submitted, this regulation would see local authorities paid for kerbside and bulk waste collections and is something that local authorities can opt out of if they prefer.

An outlet for recycling the single use vapes collected across GM facilities has been secured, details are being finalised but it has been confirmed that there will be no cost to GM. On 11 March the government published draft regulations on banning single use vapes from 1 April 2025.

Members thanked Cllr Mark Roberts for advising that Cheshire East are closing 3 of their four household waste recycling centres which could impact GM centres particular on the border areas with Cheshire East. Officers confirmed that more rigorous checks are in place in border areas which include postcode checks and that this situation will be monitored.

It was confirmed and noted that the GMCA does not manage, own or use the Pilsworth Landfill Site and therefore the current issues at the site are not the responsibility of GMCA.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the report be noted.

WRC 23/40 2024-25 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Michael Kelly, Head of Engineering and Asset Management, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report updating members on proposed capital projects and key lifecycle projects scheduled for 2024-25, including:

- Operational Waste Facilities upgrades and redundant asset removals.
- Waste estate decarbonisation headline overview, direct and wider impacts, and the proposals for solar installation review across 10 locations.

- Buildings and Land – Salford Road site Short-Term Operating Reserve facility installation works.
- Closed landfill sites works and lease agreements.

Members were advised of the request by Manchester City Council (MCC) to extend the agreement to return Barlow Hall and Cringle Road landfill sites back into their portfolio at the end of March 2024, for a further 12 months. This agreement would transfer all responsibilities, costs and liabilities, and other associated operational costs to MCC from April 2024 with the GMCA providing a maintenance service for the remaining 12 month period.

Officers confirmed that landfill sites across GM are naturally bio-diverse and offered to conduct a case study on this. Options have been considered across the waste estate portfolio but due to the hard/concrete surface area of sites it is difficult to bio-diversify these areas. The partnership between GMCA and the City of Trees to plant trees at two areas of former landfill at Bredbury and Chichester Street will have a positive impact on nature and bio-diversity on these 2 sites, with expansion at other smaller areas being considered for inclusion in the portfolio.

Suez, in partnership with a local organisation, plan to double the current number of installed beehives which would see 1m bees at the Trafford Nash Road site, if this project is successful, installation of hives at other locations will be explored.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the delegation to finalise the terms in the proposed extension agreement with Manchester City Council for two former landfill sites, as set out in section 4.2 of the report, to the Executive Director GMCA Waste and Resources in consultation with the GMCA Monitoring Officer be approved.
3. That the outcome of the solar installation review be brought to a future meeting be approved.
4. That a cases study on the nature and bio-diversity across the GM Waste portfolio be carried out and brought to a future meeting be approved.

5. That regular decarbonisation scheme update reports be brought to future meetings be approved.

GMCA 23/41 SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: BEHAVIOUR INSIGHTS

Sarah Mellor, GMCA Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production gave a presentation updating members on the results of wave 9 of the latest behaviour insights research study, including:

- Areas of concern
- How is the cost-of-living crisis affecting shopping behaviours
- Global environment issues
- Responsibility for tackling climate change
- Consumer attitudes
- Consumer behaviours
- Attitudes to food waste
- Responsibility for food waste
- Responsibility for carbon footprint
- Reactions to high carbon footprint products
- Segments- light contributors, inactive sceptics, focused achievers and educated non-doers, segment changes and segments in GMCA regions

Work on the GM 5-Year Environment Plan is ongoing and awaiting the input of carbon footpath data from ARUP, an update report will be brought to a future meeting.

A link into climate change leads in schools on this work stream was raised, officers confirmed that an education module is being commissioned in consultation with the department of education that can be used in everyday curriculum in all schools along with online resources. Work is also taking place with industries to create a corporate responsibility tool to include the production of modules to incorporate into secondary school lessons.

Members requested that communications to people, communities and local stores be targeted where required to ensure the public are aware of this work and the facilities available to them.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a GM 5-Year Environment Plan update report be brought to a future meeting be approved.

**GMCA 23/42 COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT BEHAVIOURAL
CHANGE PLAN 2024/25**

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications & Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team presented an update on the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications & Engagement Behaviour Change Plan 2024/25 priorities and activity plan for 2024/25, including:

- GM Repair Week
- Household Waste Recycling Centre Campaign
- R4GM Community Fund
- Keep Britain Tidy Waste Prevention Research

Officers confirmed that this year's R4GM Community Fund is open to new applicants only to ensure a fair chance to others that haven't previously received this funding.

Members suggested that comms include the cost-of-living crisis.

Officers are encouraging people that purchase from the renew shops to post on their social media platforms and tag R4GM to get comms out to a wider audience.

Applications to the R4GM Community Fund can be made between 8 April & 31 May 2024 via the R4GM or the Lancashire Wildlife Trust websites:

[Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund | Recycle for Greater Manchester Lancashire Environmental Fund - About \(lancsenfund.org.uk\)](#)

RESOLVED /-

1. That the report be noted.

GMCA 23/43 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 23/44 CONTRACTS UPDATE

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team updated members on the the performance and commercial issues relating to the Waste and Resources and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019.

RESOLVED/-

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

GMCA 23/45

PROVISION OF FUTURE WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES

Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report updating members on progress of the discussions to extend the WRMS and HWRCMS Contracts with Suez.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the progress of the discussions to extend the Waste and Resources Management Services and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services Contracts with Suez be noted.