

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE, HELD THURSDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 2019 AT GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY, CHURCHGATE HOUSE, OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER

PRESENT:

Councillor Alan Quinn	Bury
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar	Manchester
Councillor Yasmin Toor	Oldham
Councillor Ateeque Ur-Rehman	Oldham
Councillor Tom Besford	Rochdale
Councillor Robin Garrido	Salford
Councillor Helen Foster-Grime	Stockport
Councillor Paul Lally	Trafford
Councillor Judith Lloyd	Trafford

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Eamonn Boylann	GMCA Chief Executive
David Taylor	GMCA – Executive Director, Waste & Resources
Paul Morgan	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Sarah Mellor	GMCA – Environment Team
Justin Lomax	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Michelle Whitfield	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Paul Harris	GMCA – Governance & Scrutiny

WRC 19/35

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Shaukat Ali (Manchester), Roy Driver (Stockport), Susan Emmott (Rochdale), Allison Gwynne (Tameside), David Lancaster (Salford) and Adele Warren (Bolton).

WRC 19/36

URGENT BUSINESS

a. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

The Senior Governance Officer, GMCA sought nominations for the appointment of a Chair for the meeting.

A nomination for Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar to be appointed as Chair was moved and seconded. No other nominations were received.

RESOLVED/-

That in the absence of Councillor Gwynne, Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar was appointed as the Chair for the meeting.

COUNCILLOR RABNAWAZ AKBAR IN THE CHAIR

WRC 19/37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported by any Member in respect of any item on the agenda.

WRC 19/38 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting of the GM Waste & Recycling Committee, held on 12 September 2019 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 12 September 2019, be approved as a correct record.

WRC 19/39 WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

The Executive Director of Waste and Resources, introduced a report which advised Members of those proposed items for consideration at future meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED/-

That the contents of the Waste and Recycling Committee work programme be noted.

WRC 19/40 REGISTER OF GMCA KEY DECISIONS

The Senior Governance Officer, GMCA introduced a report which summarised those key decisions on the GMCA Key Decision Register, in relation to waste and recycling matters.

RESOLVED/-

That the contents of the Register of Key Decisions, as set out in the report, be noted.

WRC 19/41 WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT UPDATE

The Head of Contract Services, Waste & Resources, introduced a report which provided Members with an overview of the performance of the Waste and Resources Management Services (WRMS) and the Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS) Contracts. The report also provided updates on key issues currently affecting the waste management services during Period 2 of the new contracts. Details of health and safety matters and an update on facility modifications was also presented. A presentation was also provided.

Members noted that the performance of the new contracts is monitored on a monthly basis, in arrears and in consultation with Suez. The key performance categories for the contracts are set out in the table below:

Combined Contracts 1 & 2 Position	Jun & Jul 19
Total arisings	195,818t
Recycling	93,588t
Recycling Rate	47.8%
Landfill disposal	11,089t
Diversion Rate	94.34%
HWRC performance	
Recycling Rate (Household Waste)	41.7%
Diversion (Household Waste)	93.8%
Diversion (Total Arising, incl. rubble)	94.9%
Runcorn CHP	
RDF to Runcorn	120,061t
Steam Exported	68,631t
Electricity Exported (MWh)	43,640t
Raikes Lane TRF	
Electricity Exported (MWh)	-
Longley Lane MRF	
Kerbside Recycling Rejections	126t
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled)	17.8%

Following an enquiry from a Member regarding contamination rates at the MRF facility and kerbside recycling rejections, officers noted that contamination rates were slightly lower. More focus on communication on contamination of paper and card had taken place. Members noted the current market constraints and the demand for paper and card from cleaner streams. Currently, there was a 10 year low on pricing for paper and card.

A member noted that the Chinese market constraints to 0.5% contamination was challenging. He suggested that given the need to reduce our carbon footprint, more local

outsources, such as the facility in Trafford should be used. In response, officers noted that paper and card from GM is currently being treated at a facility in North Wales while the Trafford facility is under development. The Trafford facility will not be available until September 2020.

A Member asked if a briefing note be provided to inform Members of the details regarding changes to the access arrangements at HWRCs. In response, officer indicated that this was part of the existing Communications Plan and would be shared. Members also noted that the public Communications Plan will be published after the pre-election purdah period had ended. Some concern was raised that a communications campaign so close to the Christmas period might not get the attention needed.

RESOLVED/-

That the performance of Waste and Resources Management Services and the Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services contracts, as set out in the report, be noted.

WRC 19/42 BUDGET AND LEVY SETTING PROCESS

The Executive Director, Waste and Resources, introduced a report which provided an update for the Committee on the forecast budget outturn position for 2019/20, the proposed budget for 2020/21, the process to update the Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA) and the budget consultation process and timetable.

In response to an enquiry from a Member regarding financial planning and Brexit, officers noted that planning included the potential for delays at ports. Members noted that the potential for domestic markets to be developed would be explored, as will the implications of a no-deal Brexit and the World Trade Organisation tariffs.

A Member enquired if provision had been made in the budget for the Plastic Packaging Tax, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Consistent Collections which the government had recently consulted on. In response, officers noted that such activities would not be enshrined in legislation (if approved) until 2023 and as such they were not included in the proposed budget for 2020/21.

RESOLVED/-

That the update on the forecast budget outturn position for 2019/20, the proposed budget for 2020/21 and the process to update the Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA), as set out in the report, be noted.

WRC 19/43 COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE UPDATE

The Head of Communications and Behaviour Change introduced a report which provided an update to Members on the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications and Behavioural Change Strategy for 2020. The report also set out those proposed activities that will be delivered in the next municipal year. The 2020/21 Action Plan was appended to the report which detailed activities and associated timescales, Key Performance Indicators and budget costs.

With regard to the introduction of the three re-use shops at the household waste recycling centres, a Member enquired if there is an accessible directory of contacts that specialise in repairing goods that would otherwise go to landfill.

A Member recalled a recent visit to a Waste Recycling Education Centre and outlined how this facility can help younger people to educate the older generation on recycling matters. In response, officers noted that the Communications and Behaviour Change team was to be expanded in order to facilitate more educational trips to both the education centre and to schools across Greater Manchester. In terms of additional staffing, Members suggested that the proposed half of one full time equivalent post might not be sufficient for this work. In response, officers undertook to explore this matter further.

A Member recognised that behavioural change takes a long time to embed. He highlighted the importance in engaging with young people on this matter and on climate change.

Following an enquiry from a Member regarding the re-use shops, officers noted that they will be located at three of the Household Waste Recycling Centres. Members noted that a long communications plan lead up for the launch of these shops has been prepared.

In response to an enquiry from a member, officers noted that a trial was taking place for the recycling of carpets and mattresses. Following concerns from a Member, officers also noted that traders would not be able to use these facilities to dispose of trade waste and would instead be directed to weigh bridges.

RESOLVED/-

That the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications and Behavioural Change Strategy for 2020 and the associated action plan, as set out in the report.

The Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, GMCA introduced a report which provided an update on the work being undertaken with local authorities to join the movement to move Greater Manchester (GM) away from avoidable single use plastics by committing to the Public Sector Plastic Pact along with on-going work on the PlasticFreeGM campaign.

Following an enquiry from a Member, officers noted that there were plans in place to convene a further Plastic Free conference in 2020.

With regard to the Plastic Free GM Pledge, a Member undertook to speak with Manchester City Council in relation to their commitment to sign this Pledge.

A Member highlighted the need for a deposit return scheme for plastics in GM. In response, officers noted that work on this matter was continuing with Defra and WRAP.

RESOLVED/-

That the work being undertaken on the Public Sector Plastics Pact to eradicate single use plastics by 2024, along with on-going work on the PlasticFreeGM campaign, as set out in the report, be noted.

WRC 19/45 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Head of Engineering and Asset Management, GMCA Waste & Resources, introduced a report which provided Members with an update on all waste related assets including the current asset management plan and capital engineering projects. A presentation was also provided.

A Member enquired what interventions were in place to stop batteries being ingested in shredders at waste facilities. In response, officers noted that a risk assessment had been undertaken and that onsite observation takes place.

RESOLVED/-

That the update on the GMCA Waste and Resources Budget Outturn 2018/19, as set out in the report, be noted.

WRC 19/46 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED/-

The following future meeting dates for the Committee were noted:-

Thursday 16 January 2020, 2.00 pm

Thursday 12 March 2020, 2.00 pm

WRC 19/47 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED/-

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, member of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraphs 3 & 5, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

PART B

WRC 19/48 UPDATE ON WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The Head of Contract Management, GMCA Waste and Resources provided a report which updated the Committee on performance and commercial issues relating to the new Waste and Resources and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services contracts which commenced on 1st June 2019. Details of the close down of the run off contract with Viridor were also provided.

Members raised questions in relation to:-

- a) Pensions;
- b) Reserves;
- c) Staffing;
- d) Raikes Lane.

RESOLVED/-

That the performance details and key risks of the Waste Management contracts be noted, as set out in the report.

WRC 19/49 INTERIM SERVICES CONTRACT UPDATE

The Executive Director, Waste and Resources introduced a report which will updated the Committee on the commercial considerations of the Budget and Levy Setting Process including forecast outturn for 2018/19, process and indicative levy for 2019/20.

In response to an enquiry from a Member in relation to reserves, officers undertook to discuss the matter with the member concerned away from the meeting.

RESOLVED/-

That the forecast outturn for 2019/20 and the proposed budget and levy requirements for 2020/21, be noted.