

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 23 MARCH 2022**

PRESENT:

Bury Council	Councillor Alan Quinn
Manchester CC	Councillor Tracey Rawlins
Manchester CC	Councillor Shaukat Ali
Oldham Council	Councillor Peter Davis
Oldham Council	Councillor Mohammed Alyas
Salford CC	Councillor David Lancaster
Tameside MBC	Councillor Allison Gwynne (In the Chair)
Trafford Council	Councillor Stephen Adshead
Trafford Council	Councillor Dylan Butt

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA Deputy Monitoring Officer	Gwynne Williams
GMCA Waste & Resources	David Taylor
GMCA Waste & Resources	Justin Lomax
GMCA Finance	Lindsey Keech
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michael Kelly
GMCA Waste & Resources	Paul Morgan
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michelle Whitfield
GMCA Environment	Sarah Mellor
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Kerry Bond
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Connell Hopkins-Tonge
Bury Council	Daniela Dixon
Trafford Council	Helen Ashcroft

WRC 51/21 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED/-

That apologies be received and noted from Councillors Nadim Muslim, Robin Garrido and Roy Driver, Eamonn Boylan and Steve Wilson.

WRC 52/21 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no chairs announcements or items of urgent business.

WRC 53/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

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

**WRC 54/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER
2021**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2021 be approved.

**WRC 55/21 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL
DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM**

RESOLVED /-

That Members noted their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and to complete an annual declaration of interest form and that the completed form would be published on the GMCA website be also noted.

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services and Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report providing an overview of 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.

It was reported that the data used was verified for quarter 3 (April to December) of the financial year 2021/22 (contract year 3), for the two contracts held by Suez and compared with the same period of 2020/21.

Highlights from the report included:

- The year-on-year comparison of total waste arising has increased by c.3%.
- A recycling rate of c.47% was achieved during April to December 2021, resulting in a rate of c.99% of material being diverted away from landfill disposal.
- Rejection levels at the Materials Recovery Facility from kerbside recycling has reduced to c.13%.
- The tonnage of collected loads rejected at the reception points has reduced by c.75%, around 5kt lower than the previous year.
- Since the last committee report, there has been 1 further RIDDOR incident, in quarter 2 of contract year 3. The last incident involved an operative scald injury following a vehicle overheating. The incident was investigated and was discounted as a RIDDOR incident due to a pre-disposed medical condition that affected the length of absence following the incident.
- The overall data shows that Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) visitor numbers have stayed below levels seen pre-covid with c.4.25m visits in quarter 1-3 of 2021/22, 10% less than the previous year.
- Tonnage levels continue to fall against pre-covid levels with over 20% less material than in 2019/20 being received at the HWRCs.

- Van Permit Scheme applications are around 700 per week with a 57% approval level.
- In an attempt to circumvent the van permit application process a number of vehicles adapted to have the carrying capacity of a van were identified. Numbers of van visits since the scheme was introduced have reduced substantially.
- Suez have proposed a trial from 1 May 2022 to 1 September 2022, to direct high sided vehicles to deliver household waste to one of the 18 HWRC identified, rather than using transfer loading stations, findings from this trial will be assessed and reported back to the October meeting of this committee with the potential to make this a long-term policy change.

Officers confirmed that campaigns are in place to target contamination rate issues and that work is underway to identify where the contamination originates.

Members were advised that a benchmarking exercise would take place at the end of the year, looking at best practice, the need to increase recycling levels, and comparison with other waste and combined authorities.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the matters set out in the report.
2. To approve the commencement of a trial, from 1 May 2022 to 1 September 2022, to allow high-sided vehicles to deliver household waste to identified Household Waste Recycling Centres rather than requiring them to use transfer loading stations.

WRC 57/21

BUDGET AND LEVY 2021/22 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2024/25

Lindsey Keech, Head of GMCA Finance Capital & Treasury Management presented a report updating Members on the budget and levy for 2021/22 and on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2024/25, delivered by a total levy requirement for 2022/23 and the MTFP proposed levy charges in 2024/25.

The table at section 2.4 of the report should read that the variance in paper and card is 3,156 and not 3,16.

The medium term financial plan forecast for future years indicated an increase of 3.4% in 2023/24 and 2.5% in 2024/25.

At the GMCA meeting in February 2022, Members agreed to return a minimum of £10m from reserves to districts, consideration to refund further amounts will be taken throughout the year.

It was confirmed that the decrease in paper and card recycling in March 2020 at section 2.3 and the resulting cost increase at section 2.4 of the report, is due to covid and the resulting increase in demand for old cardboard for use in home deliveries.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the forecast outturn for 2021/22.
2. To note the proposed 2023/24 trade waste rate of £118.30 to allow forward planning by districts.
3. To note the capital programme for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A.
4. To note the budget and levy for 2022/23 of £164.8m (1.5% increase).
5. To note the risk position set out in the balances strategy and reserves.

WRC 58/21 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Michael Kelly, Head of Engineering and Asset Management, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided an update and presentation on the implementation of the Asset Management Plan and key engineering projects, including:

Reliance Street Mechanical Treatment and Reception Facility: a new mechanical treatment and reception facility that is fully operational and is running at higher than expected daily tonnages, provisional options on an ongoing snagging defect on the

odour control system is being tested and reviewed, the situation is being monitored by the GMCA and Suez to minimise disruption to the facility.

Chichester Street Transfer Loading Station - Floor Replacement: the project was successful, options are being reviewed to replicate the solution at the Bredbury site.

Longley Lane Mechanical Treatment and Reception Facility: Following review of the mechanical biological treatment facilities in 2016/17, the Longley Lane facility is being replaced with a new simplified mechanical treatment and reception facility, site works to modify the plant began in October 2021 with completion scheduled for the end of May 2022.

Dunkirk Farm: In October 2021 a bid for the site was accepted resulting in a completed sale of the site in November 2021.

Members were advised that GMCA are undertaking a strategy review to look at options for a Materials Recovery Facility to potentially enable plastic tubs/pots/trays to be recycled in the future.

Officers confirmed that waste electrical items received at sites are split into two categories: white goods are assessed and will be re-used via the re-use hubs if suitable, if not, they are dismantled and precious metals and other materials are recovered for recycling as with all small electric items. Other options are being considered for possible kerbside collection of electrical goods.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the implementation of the asset management plan and key engineering projects update and presentation.

Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, GMCA Environment Team provided an overview of the 5 year Environment Plan and the theme of sustainable consumption and production that sits within the plan.

Members received an update on the four key priority areas of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Plan and the key components that underpin those priority areas, including:

- Circular economy principles: focussing on three key areas – sustainable product design; resource efficiency and sustainable procurement.
- Managing waste as sustainably as possible: key components within the plan - promoting the waste hierarchy, ensuring that as little waste is sent to landfill as possible; undertaking analysis of the implications to Greater Manchester in implementing England's Resource and Waste Strategy; and using innovation to tackle difficult waste streams which currently have limited sustainable end markets.
- Reducing food waste: working with public sector bodies; exploring a Good Food Charter to incorporate within the social value framework; working through Good Food GM; with stakeholders on the delivery on the Good Food Vision and R4GM and stakeholders on food waste campaigns.
- Moving to sustainable lifestyles: development of the [Green Cities](#) website; delivery of the communications plan to educate, raise awareness and develop campaigns engaging with GM citizens to encourage them to make more sustainable choices.

An example of a circular economy principle is the Northern Roots Project creating the UK's largest urban farm and country-park in Oldham, developed for and with local communities to create sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for those communities.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the update report and presentation.
2. To agree that an update report on the Sustainable Consumption and Production Implementation Plan be brought to the next meeting setting out progress against the Plan and how it is being delivered in Districts.
3. To agree that an update report on the 5-year Environment Plan Local Levers be brought to the next meeting.

WRC 60/21 COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PLAN UPDATE

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report updating Members on the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications & Behavioural Change Delivery Plan for 2021/22 and the joint SUEZ/Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) Communications and Engagement Plan.

Highlights from the report included:

- The R4GM home composting campaign, running since August 2021, offering 10% discounted composting products from [Get Composting](#).
- Promotion of the Renew shops across the web and social media channels to generate stock for the three shops, including electrical goods.
- The refit of the Longley Lane Education Centre was completed in September, delivery of educational sessions at the Material Recovery Facility continue to take place in person.
- National campaigns to reduce contamination and improve the quality of recycling.
- The van and trailer permit scheme was rolled out to residents on 1 December 2021, along with the launch of a new web page where residents can apply for their household recycling centre permit which has currently received c.94,000 visits.

- Joint Suez and R4GM Communications Engagement Plan.
- Key priorities of the Communications Plan for 2022/23.

The Chair commended the Communications and Behavioural Change Team on the Recycling Paper and Card Campaign in Tameside, which won an award for the strength of the campaign and reduced contamination by c.90%

It was confirmed that officers will be liaising with schools to discuss how participation at the education centre can be increased.

Members suggested that during Ramadan consideration should be given to food waste and recycling communication/promotion at mosques across the conurbation.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the progress against the communications and behavioural change plan.
2. To note the progress on the joint SUEZ and R4GM communications and engagement plan.
3. To note the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications & Behavioural Change Delivery Plan 2022/23 attached at Appendix A of the report.

WRC 61/21 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 on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs 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.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the contract updates and key risks set out in the report.
2. To delegate the decision on the performance framework for 2021/22 of both the Waste and Resources and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services Contracts to David Taylor, GMCA Executive Director, Waste and Resource in consultation with the Chair of the Waste and Recycling Committee as set out in section 3.0 of the report.

Signed by the Chair:

Date: