

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING  
COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 2023 AT THE MECHANICS  
INSTITUTE**

**PRESENT:**

Bolton Council	Councillor Martyn Cox (GMCA Portfolio Lead)
Bury Council	Councillor Alan Quinn (in the Chair)
Manchester CC	Councillor Lee-Ann Igbon
Oldham Council	Councillor Umar Nasheen
Oldham Council	Councillor Mohammed Alyas
Rochdale Council	Councillor Angela Brown
Rochdale Council	Councillor Mohammed Alyas
Salford CC	Councillor David Lancaster
Stockport Council	Councillor Mark Roberts
Stockport Council	Councillor Roy Driver
Tameside Council	Councillor Denise Ward
Trafford Council	Councillor Stephen Adshead

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA Deputy Monitoring Officer	Gwynne Williams
GMCA Waste & Resources	David Taylor
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michelle Whitfield
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Kerry Bond
Bury Council	Daniela Dixon
Tameside Council	Jo Oliver
Trafford Council	Helen Ashcroft

**WRC 22/39            APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED/-**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Shaukat Ali (Manchester) and Dave Morgan (Trafford).

Apologies were also received and noted from Paul Morgan and Justin Lomax, GMCA Waste & Resources Team.

**WRC 22/40            CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair advised members that due to retirement, this would be the last meeting for Councillors Roy Driver (Stockport) and Mohammed Alyas (Rochdale), he conveyed thanks for their valued input into the work of this committee and wished them all the best for their retirement.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. To agree that thanks for their valued input during their time on this Committee and best wishes for their retirement be conveyed to Councillors Roy Driver and Mohammed Alyas

**WRC 22/41            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED/-**

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

**WRC 22/42            MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the committee, held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were submitted.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18th January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**WRC 22/43                      CONTRACTS UPDATE**

David Taylor, Executive Director, 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 3 (April 2022 to December 2022) of the financial year 2022/23 (Contract year 4), for the two contracts held by Suez, along with comparison figures for the same time frame in 2021/22. An overview of the total waste arisings, landfill diversion, Waste Collection Authorities recycling rates, Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) recycling rate, overall recycling rates, contamination levels, tonnage rates and health and safety matters were also provided.

An update was also received on commercial matters, including, rail industrial action and the van permit scheme.

Officers confirmed that a report detailing the HWRC access policy and an analysis of the van permit scheme, detailing visit levels and registered vehicle types will be brought to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. To note the matters as set out in the report.
2. To agree that a report detailing the HWRC access policy and an analysis of the van permit scheme, detailing visit levels and registered vehicle types will be brought to the next meeting.

## **WRC 22/44 WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE**

David Taylor, Executive Director, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report updating members on recent developments on the implementation of the English Resources and Waste Strategy in relation to the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), extended producer responsibility for packaging and the consistency of collection of recycling, including food waste.

At the end of January 2023, the Governments response to the Deposit Return Scheme consultation was received and included:

- Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and steel and aluminium cans in the size range of 50ml-3l will be included as returnable but glass containers will not be included in the English scheme.
- Container labels will include a mark to identify as returnable through a DRS point.
- Deposit Management Organisation(s) (DMOs) will be appointed through an application process and will be responsible for managing the overall operation of the DRS, setting deposit levels, and meeting the collection targets. The DMO(s) will be an independent, not for profit and private organisation(s).
- Retailers selling in scope containers will be obligated to host a return point and will receive a handling fee to compensate them for costs incurred. Some retailers (e.g. micro-retailers) may apply for an exemption from hosting a return point.
- Government will pursue an additional permitted development right for reverse vending machines to remove planning delays.
- Local authorities and where relevant, waste operators, can separate out any containers in its waste and redeem the deposit on them, providing they meet the quality required for return; and
- Regulations to be in force by the end of 2023 and the DMO appointed by summer 2024. A commencement date for DRS of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 will be set.

Implications of the deposit return scheme for local authorities could potentially include the loss of PET bottles and steel and aluminium cans from kerbside recycling which could result in a reduction in the levels of recycling rates and income received. Timeframe for the introduction is currently unknown.

Extended producer responsibility is a charge for organisations that place packaging materials on the market according to the amount and type of packaging, creating a fund that is passed to local authorities for collection, sorting and recycling of these materials. The scheme is intended to come into effect in 2024/25, the scheme administrator, allocation methodologies on costings on this for both the organisation and the funding recipients, data and recording systems are yet to be confirmed.

The Consistency of Collections Framework will set out how Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) are expected to comply with the Environment Act which includes separate collection of a number of key materials. Separate collection of these items would require changing the current fleet of vehicles to resource recover vehicles, residents would receive recycling boxes which would be separated by operatives at the kerbside. The Environment Act does include a TEEP exemption, clarification of the guidance on this is to be confirmed in the coming months.

Members raised concerns on the lack of information and clarity received from Defra and the government to date on the information essential to make the decisions required.

Members requested clarification on the reasoning behind glass being excluded in collections for England.

Officers will continue to liaise with Defra and the Secretary of State for the release of information required to enable decisions regarding future waste collections to be discussed and agreed, any detail received will be disseminated to districts.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. To note the report.

2. To agree that officers confirm reasoning behind glass being excluded in collections for England.
3. That officers continue to press Defra and the Secretary of State for the release of information required.
4. That the Chair write to the Local Government Association for assistance on receiving information from Defra.

## **WRC 22/45 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Michael Kelly, Head of Engineering and Asset Management, GMCA Waste and Resources Team presented a report updating Members on the implementation of the asset management plan and key engineering projects.

The works to modify and repurpose redundant assets and functions across the portfolio between 2022-25 is continuing. Planning permission for the Reliance Street project was granted in January 2023, initial clearing works began in February prior to the removal of redundant plant and equipment over the next 3-4 months, ground condition investigations will take place before construction of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) begins over the summer.

Work continues with two projects at the Bredbury site with review of the potential asset use following the removal of the In-Vessel Composter and, the removal of redundant plant and equipment from the Mechanical Treatment and Reception Facility prior to the installation of a new dust filter in the processing hall.

A review will take place to identify where carbon can be reduced across all sites, following completion of the review, further actions will be forthcoming from 2023/24, regular updates on these projects will be brought to future meetings.

A 25-year lease at Salford Road was finalised with STOR Power Ltd in October 2022 with an annual income for rent of £42k.

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 2023, for a further 12 months. This agreement would transfer all responsibilities, costs and liabilities, and other associated operational costs to MCC from April 2023 with the GMCA providing a maintenance service for the remaining 12month period.

Officers confirmed that Category B – Buildings and Land and Category C – Closed Landfill Site updates will be included in future reviews.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. To note and comment on matters set out within the report; and
2. To delegate the finalisation of terms in the agreement with Manchester City Council for two former landfill sites, as set out in section 2.3 of the report, to the GMCA Executive Director of Waste and Resources in consultation with the GMCA Monitoring Officer.
3. To agree that a Construction Programme Update be brought to a future meeting.
4. To agree that a Decarbonisation Projects Update be brought to a future meeting.
5. To agree that Category B – Buildings and Land and Category C – Closed Landfill Site updates will be included in future reviews.

## **WRC 22/46 COMMUNICATIONS & BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PLAN UPDATE**

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications & Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team presented the report updating members on the Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) Communications & Behavioural Change Plan.

An update of the R4GM Community Fund Summary of Year 1 Funded Projects 2021 to 2022 included:

- Fund was open from April -May 2021
- Projects ran from September 2021 to September/December 2022
- 21 projects were funded

- Prevent, reuse, or recycle household waste, and reduce contamination, promote sustainable use of waste and resources, and generate wider social benefits for the communities of Greater Manchester.

The third year of the R4GM Community Fund opens on 3<sup>rd</sup> April until 29 May 2022, offering £220,000 of funding for projects which aim to reduce, repair, reuse or recycle household waste and will be managed by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust who administer the scheme on behalf of the GMCA and SUEZ UK.

The Chair suggested that members liaise with their district communications teams to publicise details of the R4GM Community Fund.

A Paper and Card Contamination Campaign began in May 2022, four officers were recruited to work on a targeted behavioural change campaign aimed to reduce contamination in paper and card recycling, working alongside council officers they targeted rounds where contamination is more persistent and causing load rejections due to high levels of contamination. The campaign initially focused their work in Bury, Rochdale, Trafford and Manchester and have recently started work in Salford.

Officers committed to engaging with colleagues to investigate the possibility of engaging with fast food outlets to educate on the environmental impacts of packaging used and whether recycling messaging on packaging would be an option.

Officers confirmed that a GM Repair Week will be held from 20-26 March 2023 with various activities across the conurbation.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. To note the progress made on the paper and card contamination campaign and the Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund.
2. To note the more detailed update on the Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund as outlined in Appendix A of the report.

**WRC 22/47**

**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 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.

**WRC 22/48**

**CONTRACTS UPDATE**

David Taylor, Executive Director, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report updating the Committee on 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. To note the contract updates and key risks as set out in the report; and
2. To approve the proposal to support Suez with MRF operations as set out at section 5 of the report.