

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 13th July 2023
Subject: Contracts Update – Part A
Report of: Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, Waste and Resources Team

Purpose Of Report

To update the Committee on performance of the Waste and Resource Management Services and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services Contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019.

Recommendations:

Members of the Committee are recommended to:

1. Note and comment on the matters set out in the report.

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 in order 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: None

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background Papers

19/1/2019 - Waste Procurement, Corporate Issues and Reform Committee

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

Yes

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? N/A

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction

This report provides the Waste and Recycling Committee with an overview of performance of the Waste and Resources Management Services (WRMS) and the Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS) Contracts, with updates on key issues currently affecting the waste management services during this period.

2. Contract Performance

This report uses cumulative annual data, for the period up to the end of Quarter 4 (April 2022 to March 2023) of the financial year 2022/23 (Contract year 4), for the two Contracts held by Suez. This is the latest verified data available at the time of writing of the report.

2.1 Cumulative Data

Data is also provided for comparison with the current year to date, with the same period of the previous year, 2021/22:

Annual Performance – Cumulative data	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022
OVERALL Combined Performance (WCA + HWRC)		
Total arisings (t)	1,016,669	1,103,077
Recycling Rate*	45.57%	45.98%
Diversion Rate	99.48%	99.14%
HWRC Combined Performance		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste)	51.99%	49.28%
Diversion (Household Waste)	97.93%	97.45%
WCA Recycling Collections		
Rejected Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	1,901	2,498
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled)	14.53%	13.41%

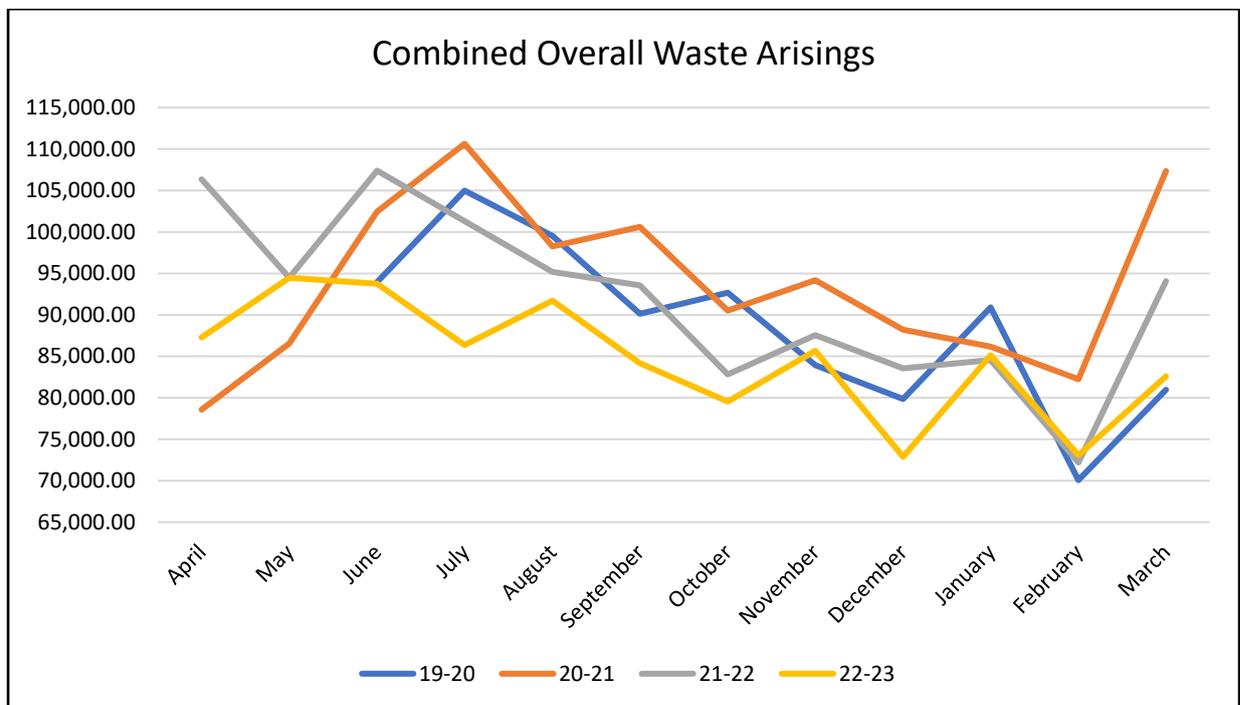
*This Recycling Rate relates only to tonnage handled through the Suez contracts. It is not the same as the nationally reported Waste Data Flow recycling rate that will include other WCA waste streams that do not flow through the 2 Suez contracts.

2.2 Total Waste Arisings

Total waste arisings for this period were just over 1 million tonnes(t), which was almost 8% lower than for the previous year (2021/22). The combined contract Recycling rate

was approaching 46%, but marginally lower than it was for the previous year. Despite a combined increase in recycling across the HWRC network (+2.7%), the overall figure was reduced by a slight drop (-1.6%) in WCA kerbside collected material, which is the larger proportion of the total tonnage.

The graph below gives a comparison of the waste arisings for the first 4 years of the Contracts (noting that the blue line for 19/20 begins in June 19 reflecting the start date of the Contracts). The trend for 22/23 (yellow line) shows the overall reduction in combined waste arisings, of nearly 8% (over 86kt), with seasonality tracking similarly to previous years from around August.



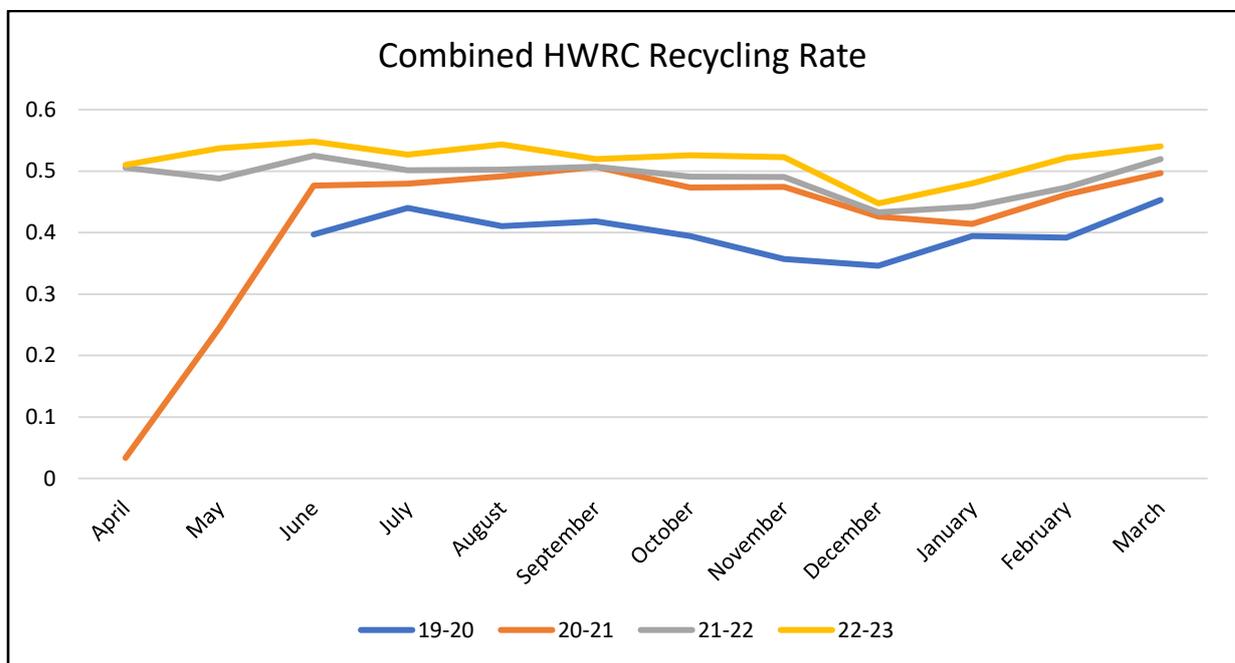
2.3 Landfill Diversion

During last summer, diversion was affected by the annual maintenance shutdowns at Runcorn Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facility (end of May to start of July 22) and Bolton TRF (October and November) but was mitigated with storage and use of third-party energy recovery outlets where necessary. Consequently, for the full year (22/23) the overall diversion from landfill has risen slightly, remaining at a very high rate with 99.5% of material diverted away from landfill disposal.

2.4 HWRC Recycling Rate

For HWRCs across both Contracts (= 20 sites - WRMS contract has 9 sites, plus 11 in HWRCMS contract) the combined recycling rate for 22/23 was c.52%.

The graph below gives a comparison of the combined recycling rates for the 4 Contract years to date. The trend for 22/23 (yellow line) shows, whilst the overall arisings reduced by 8% (over 86kt), the recycling rate across the HWRCs still increased by over 2.7% compared to the same period last year.



The graph demonstrates that there has been a continued year on year increase in the recycling rates across the Contracts.

During 22/23 measures to maintain and increase recycling on the 20 HWRCs included the prevention of trade and cross-boundary waste via the Access Policy controls (meet and greet; ANPR system; van permit scheme). Also, in the last quarter of 22/23, four Recycling Officers have been employed by Suez to specifically target the areas that will help promote and encourage recycling at the HWRC sites. The impact of their work is being tracked and reported to measure and monitor the outcomes.

For the fifth Contract year, 2023/24, further measures are to be implemented, including sampling of residual waste to analyse the composition and identify what recyclable

materials are still being inaccurately disposed of. This information will allow the targeting of the particular streams being lost into the residual waste, in communications to residents both on and off site.

2.5 Overall Combined Rates

In summary, the overall performance for Contract year 4, across both Contracts combined (incorporating both WCA and HWRC tonnages), achieved a recycling rate of c. 46%, with a landfill diversion rate of c.99.5%.

2.6 Contamination Levels

Contamination levels of kerbside collected recyclate, from unacceptable materials extracted by the MRF process, remained at c.14.5% for the year. Which, when compared to last year, shows there has been a small increase in incorrect material needing to be extracted from this stream.

For the loads collected for recycling, by Waste Collection Authorities (WCA), the rejected tonnage at the reception points across the Contract remained lower than last year, with c.24% less tonnage rejected overall (almost 600t lower than last year). Whilst this position continues to improve, recycling collections still had 1900t rejected due to contamination being above acceptable levels, requiring ongoing measures to reduce contamination and encourage accurate recycling by residents.

3. Health And Safety

Health and Safety statistics are provided in the Contractor Monthly Services Reports for each Contract and are considered at the monthly Suez Contract Management meeting.

3.1 Reporting Categories

Health and Safety data is reported in key categories, separating incidents involving the Contractor staff and operations, from those involving members of the public (MoP), plus a Near Miss category. Near miss, Incident and Notifiable Incident data is collected centrally and analysed to feed into local, regional and national lessons learned across the Contractor organisation and communicated to all staff.

3.2 RIDDORS

For the Contract year 4 (April 2022 to March 2023), end of year position, unfortunately there have been 4 events reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013.

- 1 Location: Reliance Street HWRC - 28-01-2023 - driver ascended the step of his vehicle, misplaced footing and fell to the floor. The employee sustained a knee and shoulder injury, which aggravated prior (non-work-related) injury. Consequently, the RIDDOR was triggered by the length of Lost Time Absence for recovery;
- 2 Location: Longley Lane MRF - 21-02-2023 - employee was using a pump truck to move a small waste container and slipped and fell to the floor, injuring their shoulder. Consequently, the RIDDOR was triggered by the length of Lost Time Absence for recovery;
- 3 Location: Longley Lane MRF - 27-02-2023 - operative was in the process of passing a handheld battery-operated grinder to a maintenance technician, in doing so the operative inadvertently started up the grinding wheel which made contact with the operatives right leg causing a laceration. A review of all grinders across the Contracts was taken and units with a similar safety switch have subsequently been replaced; and

In all three cases above, the contractor engaged an independent occupational health provider to contact the employees to provide support, aid rehabilitation and return to work.

- 4 Location: Raikes Lane EFW - 15/02/2022 - Dangerous Occurrence - Failure of recirculation line pipework causing uncontrolled release of saturated steam. Whilst conducting a routine inspection of the Turbine Hall following the restart of the Turbine Bypass Station a high-pressure steam leak was detected in the Turbine Hall. Following isolation of steam to the affected system the source of the leak was identified to be a failure on the discharge valve. Repairs and procedure review were carried out.

3.3 Year on Year Comparison

The table below shows a comparison of the number of RIDDOR incidents that have occurred by Contract year.

Year End	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
RIDDORs	5	3	3	4

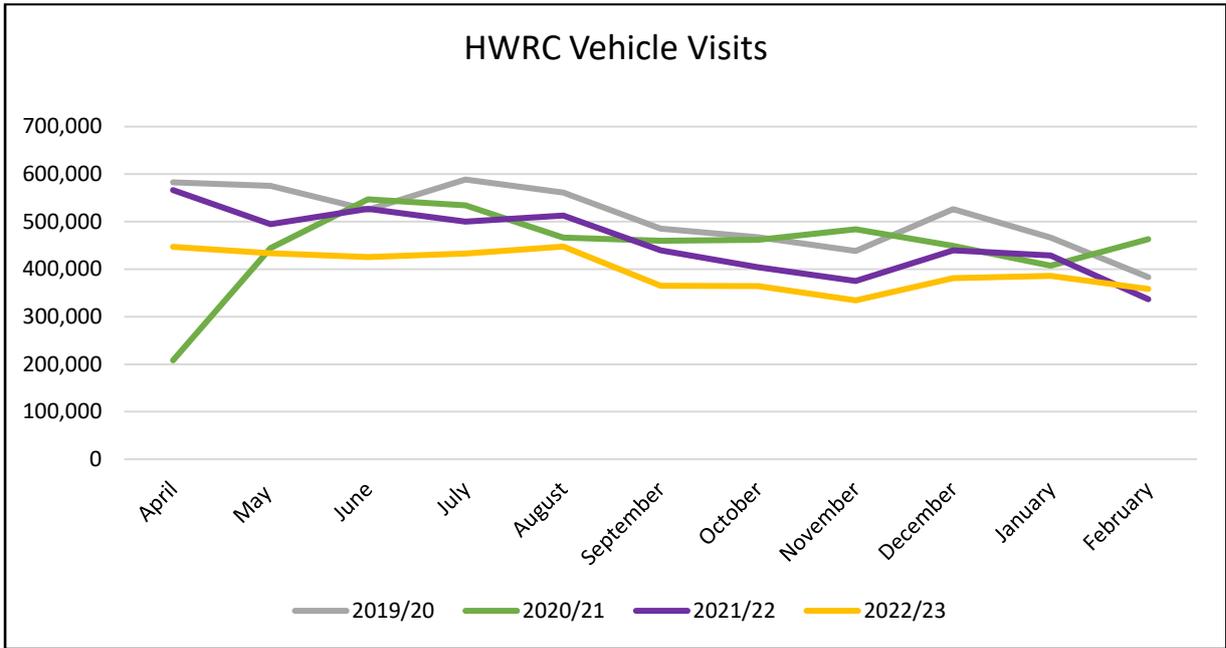
4. HWRC Overview

4.1 HWRC Visit Levels

The graph below shows monthly HWRC visit levels over Contract Year 4 (April 22 to March 23), (Blue line on graph), compared with the three previous years.

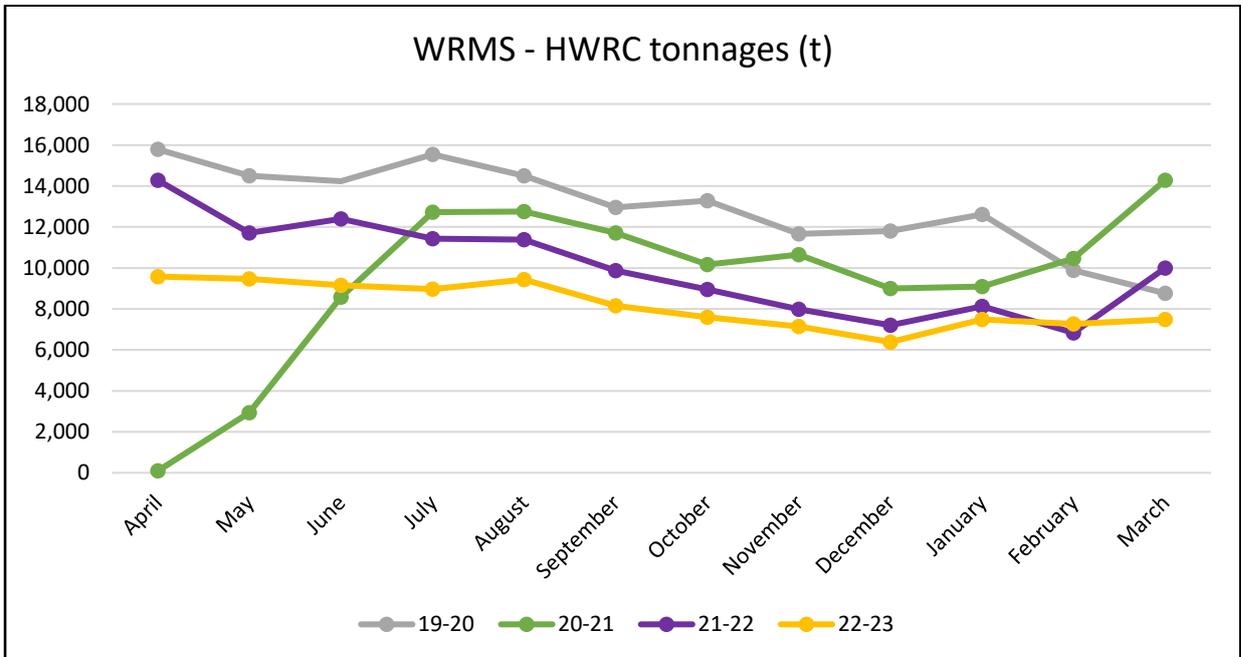
The trend of significant reductions in visitor numbers has continued, with c.13% lower throughput of traffic, when compared with 2021/22. It is notable that the trend line is also similar to the previous non-Covid affected years, showing seasonality has not changed, whilst the visitor level is lower (the exception was in March, with a marginally higher level than last year).

There were over 4.75 million(M) visits in the year, although this was over 0.7M less vehicles attending HWRCs than the previous year. This is also lower than the previous three years, including 2020/21 - when the Covid restrictions temporarily closed HWRC sites during Quarter 1 – showing the significant overall reduction in the 2022/23 visitors.



4.2 WRMS Contract HWRC Tonnage Levels

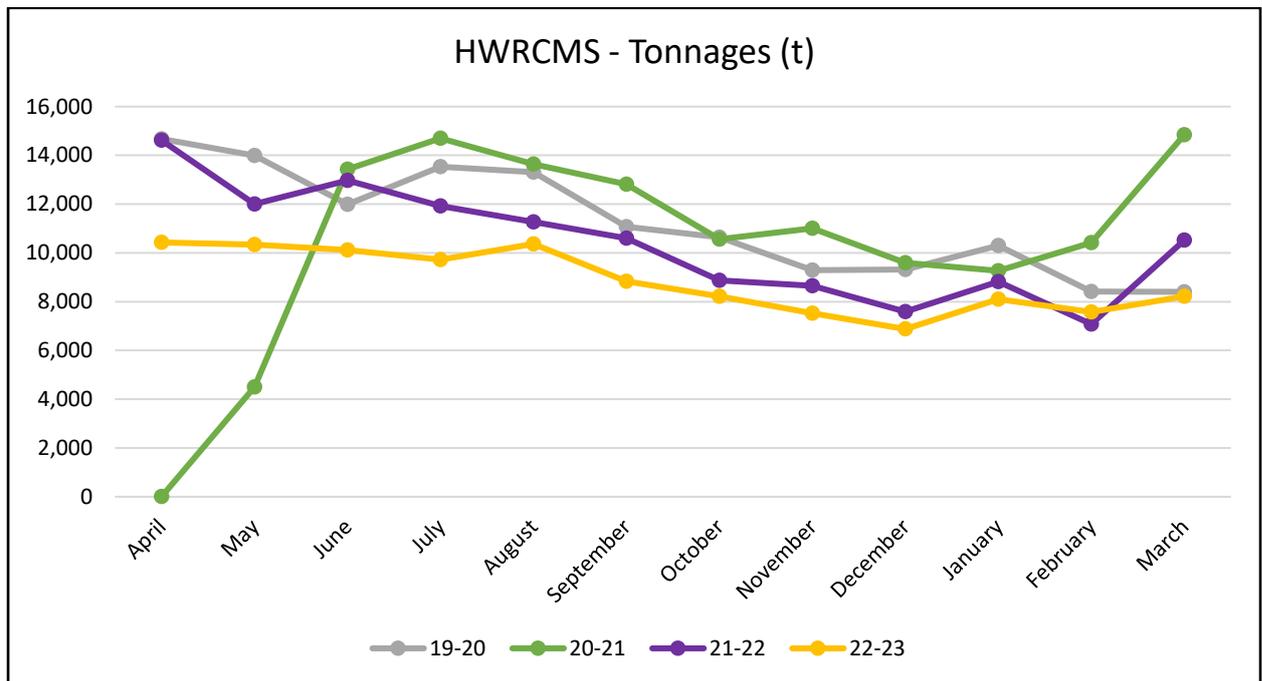
The graph below shows tonnages received at 9 HWRCs in the WRMS contract for 2022/23 (Yellow line), with a month-on-month comparison for the previous three years, noting that 2020/21 (Green line) data was significantly impacted by Covid restrictions.



In line with the reduced visitor levels, tonnage levels to date for 2022/23 also remained significantly below the previous year levels, with consistently less household material being received at HWRC sites.

4.3 HWRCMS Contract HWRC Tonnage Levels

The table below shows the tonnages received at the 11 HWRCs in the HWRCMS contract for the 2022/23 Contract year to date (Yellow line in graph below), with a month-on-month comparison for the previous three years. This year's trend for these standalone HWRC sites continues along a similar path to those seen on sites that are attached to the WRMS facility sites.



4.4 Overall Combined HWRC Tonnage Levels

Overall, the year-end figures for 2022/23, show that the household waste tonnages going through all the 20 HWRCs, across both Contracts, are c.17% lower than the arisings for same period last year. This equates to c.40k tonnes less material being delivered to the HWRC sites over this period.