

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 17 January 2024

Subject: Contracts Update – Part A

Report of: Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services & Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA 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 as well as an update on latest position on the English Resources and Waste Strategy.

Recommendations:

Members of the Committee are recommended to:

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

Contact Officers

Justin Lomax
Head of Contract Services
Waste and Resources Team
Justin.lomax@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Paul Morgan
Head of Commercial Services
Paul.morgan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

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 2 (April 2023 to September 2023) of the financial year 2023/24 (Contract year 5), 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, 2022/23:

OVERALL Combined Performance (WCA + HWRC)	2023 / 2024	2022 / 2023
Cumulative data (Year to date)		
Total arisings (t)	544,015	539,381
Recycling Rate*	48.94%	47.88%
Diversion Rate	100%	98.78%
HWRC Combined Performance		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste)*	58.33%	53.09%
Diversion (Household Waste)	98.81%	97.2%
WCA Recycling Collections		
Rejected Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	420	834
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled)	13.75%	13.45%

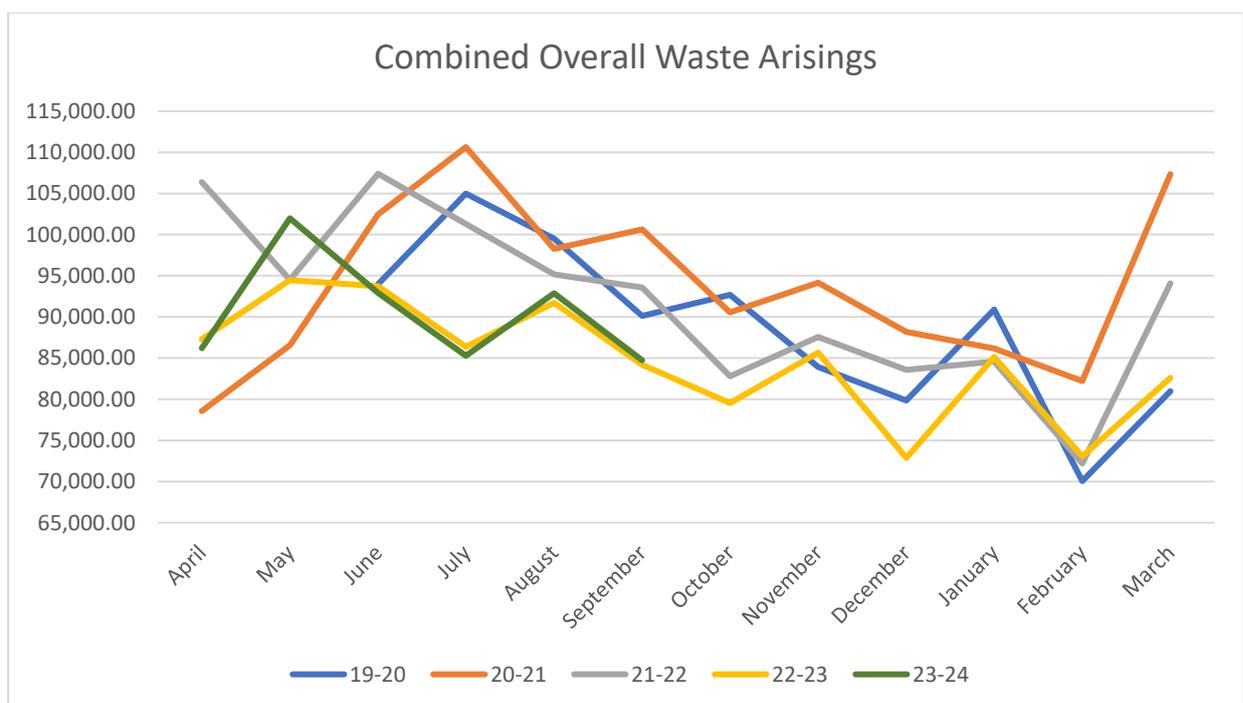
*This Recycling Rate relates only to tonnage handled through the Suez contracts. It is not the same as the nationally reported Waste Data Flow recycling rate that will include other WCA waste and recycling streams that do not flow through the 2 Suez contracts.

2.2 Total Waste Arisings

Total waste arisings for this period reached 544k tonnes(t), which was approaching 1% higher than for Quarter 2 of the previous year (2022/23).

The combined (overall) Contract Recycling rate was almost 49%, which has also increased, by just over 1% compared to the same period of last year. Across the HWRC network, the significant increase in the combined Recycling performance has been sustained, over 5% higher than this time last year, reaching over 58% for the first six months of the Contract year.

The graph below gives a comparison of the waste arisings for the previous 4 years of the Contracts with the year-to-date trend (green) line for 23/24 (noting that the blue line for 19/20 begins in June 19, reflecting the start date of the Contracts and the orange line for 20/21 reflecting quarter 1 Covid lockdown impacts). The trend line shows that, following the difference in May, the following four months have tracked the waste levels seen in the same period of the previous year, with a small increase in overall arisings (circa 5kt).



2.3 Landfill Diversion

During Quarter 2, continuing the trend over Quarter 1, we have had further good performance at both Energy Recovery Facilities (ERF) in Runcorn and Bolton TRF. As covered in the Quarter 1 report, improvement and optimisation works have facilitated 100% diversion of residual (non-recycled) materials away from landfill. It must be noted, however, planned maintenance for both facilities carried out during Quarter 3, will affect the ability to maintain these levels.

2.4 Contamination Levels

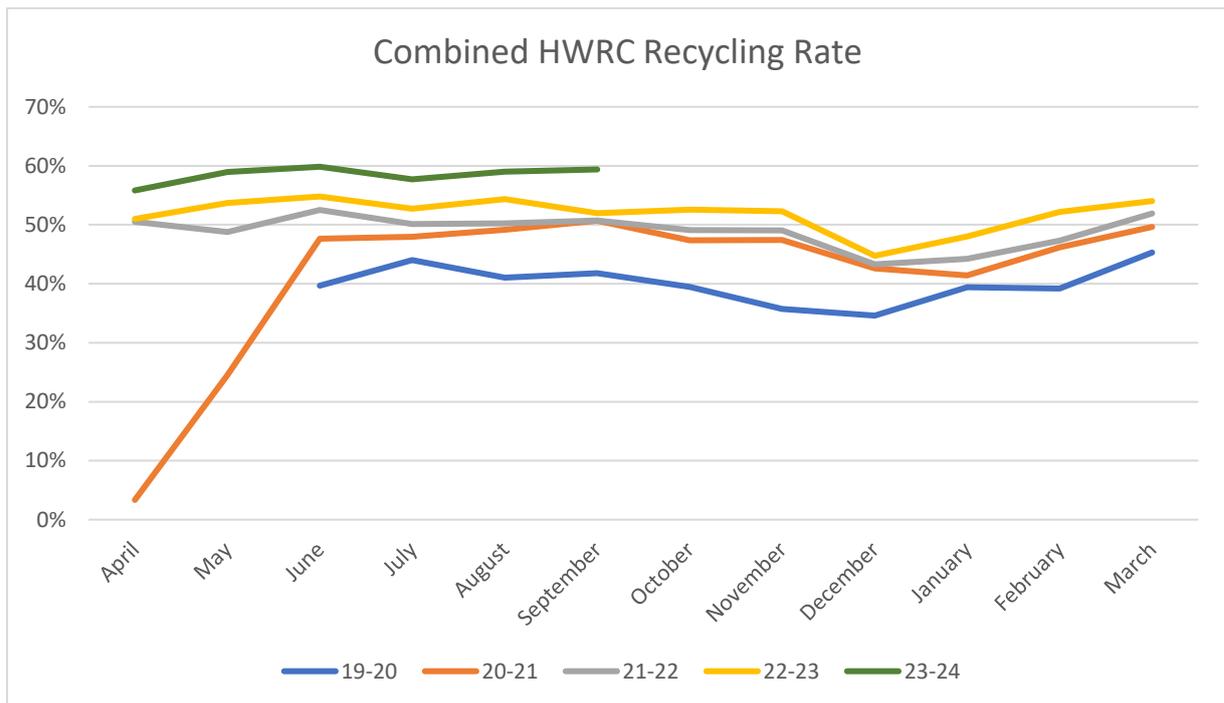
Contamination levels of kerbside collected recyclate, from unacceptable materials extracted by the MRF process, has risen slightly to 13.75% for Quarter 2. Additionally, 420t of materials had to be rejected at reception points due to excess unacceptable materials in the delivered loads.

2.5 Overall Combined Rates

In summary, the overall performance for Quarter 2 of Contract year 5, across both Contracts combined (incorporating both WCA and HWRC tonnages), achieved a recycling rate of circa 49%, with a landfill diversion rate of circa 100%.

2.6 HWRC Recycling Rate

For HWRCs across both Contracts (= 20 sites in total - WRMS has 9 sites, plus 11 in HWRCMS contract) the combined recycling rate for Quarter 2 of 23/24 was over 58%. The graph below gives a comparison of the combined recycling rates against the previous 4 Contract years to date. The trend for 23/24 (green line) shows the recycling rate across the HWRCs increased by over 5%, when compared to the same period last year. The graph below demonstrates that there has been a continued year on year increase in the recycling rates across the Contracts.



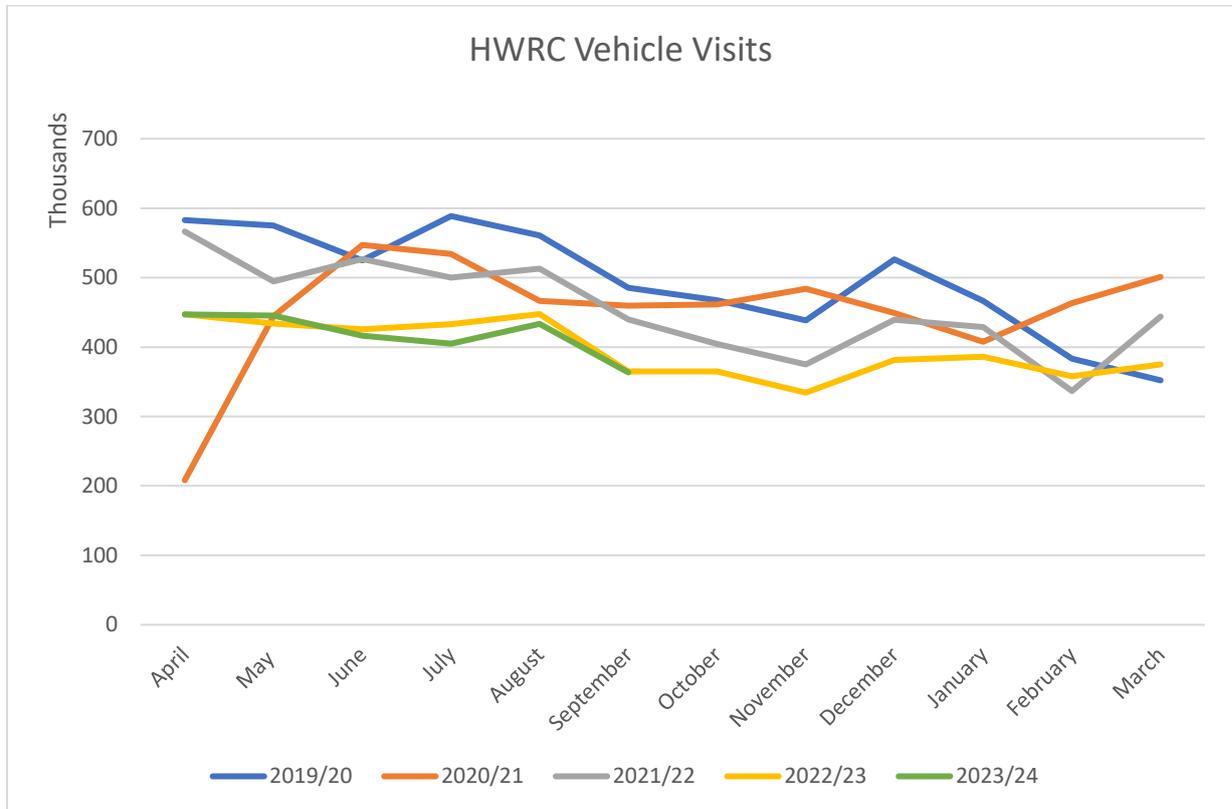
During Quarter 2 of 23/24 measures to maintain and increase recycling on the 20 HWRCs included the prevention of trade and cross-boundary waste via the ongoing Access Policy controls (meet and greet; ANPR system; van permit scheme). This has clearly had an impact on the numbers of site visits (see section 2.7) and the consequent delivered tonnage. Ongoing work from the Recycling Officers (employed by Suez in the Quarter 4 of 22/23), to specifically target the areas that will help promote and encourage recycling at the HWRC sites. The impact of these measures is being tracked and reported to monitor the outcomes.

For this 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, both operationally on site and in communications to residents.

2.7 HWRC Visit Levels

The graph below shows monthly HWRC visit levels up to Quarter 2 of Contract Year 5 (April 23 to September 23 - green line on graph), compared with the previous four years.

There were over 2.5million(M) visits in the period, however, the trend of lower visitor numbers has continued, with a circa 40k less vehicles attending site (-1.6%) than seen in the first 6 months of last year.



3. Health And Safety

Health and Safety statistics are provided in the Contractor Monthly Services Reports for each Contract and are scrutinised 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 first six months of Contract year 5 (April 2023 to September 2023), year to date position, unfortunately there have been 3 events reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013.

- 1) Location: Adswood HWRC - operative opening the front gate fell on a pothole causing grazes to his right hand, left forearm and injury to ribs. Pothole depth was circa 40mm. A temporary repair has been carried out and a full resurface has been programmed; and
- 2) Location: Longley Lane MRF. An operative sustained a cut and soft tissue damage to their finger during regular daily cleaning of MRF machinery. Suez has added an extra panel to block off this area to prevent reoccurrence.

Further to these incidents, we are also aware of an incident that has occurred in October that will fall under the RIDDOR category, for Quarter 3 reporting:

- 3) Location: Longley Lane MTR. It was reported a driver had twisted his ankle while closing the doors of a container on his RORO wagon. The driver was taken to Bolton hospital where an x-ray has shown a broken lower leg bone. An independent occupational health provider was immediately tasked to make contact with the employee to provide support to aid rehabilitation and return to work.

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	23-24 (Qtr 2)
RIDDORs	5	3	3	4	2

4. English Resources and Waste Strategy Update

Since the flurry of activity following the announcements around Simpler Recycling and the publication of government's response to the Consistency consultation progress has settled.

In November we attended the National Waste Collections Conference where some further information was forthcoming from various speakers. At this conference Defra confirmed:

- A lot of administrative and process work for the Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) was happening behind the scenes. The Shadow Scheme Administrator steering group meets for the first time after Christmas;
- The Recyclability Assessment Methodology will be completed in 2024. This is the methodology that will assess the characteristics of a packaging material and determine how much the producer will need to pay to cover its waste management costs;
- Illustrative base fees for the producers to be published in January.
- The payment model has been built and the first figure it produced was in the realms it was expected to be;
- The cost model is still in development;
- Street litter bin payments will come in 2nd scheme year (2026/27). There is not enough information on street litter bin waste quantities and compositions currently;
- The 'Effective and Efficient' project is creating Local Authority metrics and this workstream is scheduled to finish in spring 2024;
- Further information on the New Burdens capita to be announced "this year";
- Funding for the transition to weekly separate food waste collections to be announced 2024/25; and
- Ongoing food waste New Burdens funding to be announced after 2025/26.

4.1 Transitional Arrangements

An area of concern is the timing of the necessary regulations and supporting guidance. This impacts a number of areas including the application for Transitional Arrangements deferring the introduction of the food waste collection requirements for six of the nine GMCA authorities, the formalisation of the exemption for the collection of mixed organic waste and dry recycling. It is hoped these will reach the relevant documentation before a general election is announced.

4.2 MRF Regulations

Associated with the pEPR is a change to the Materials Facilities Regulations. These regulations specify how the operators of materials recycling facilities (MRFs) should sample incoming material to ascertain its composition. As a result many MRFs had to set up small sampling processes (GMCA's Longley Lane MRF s no exception). From 1 October 2024, more materials facilities will need to sample and report their waste and in a more detailed and more frequent manner. This will impact processes at Longley Lane and we await proposals from Suez on how the changes will be introduced.