

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 13 March 2024

Subject: Contracts Update – Part A

Report of: Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services & Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial 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 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

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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 3 (April 2023 to December 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)	783,438	775,862
Recycling Rate*	47.39%	46.41%
Diversion Rate	100%	99.17%
HWRC Combined Performance		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste)*	57.53%	52.19%
Diversion (Household Waste)	98.80%	97.69%
WCA Recycling Collections		
Rejected Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	584	1,397
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled)	13.68%	14.47%

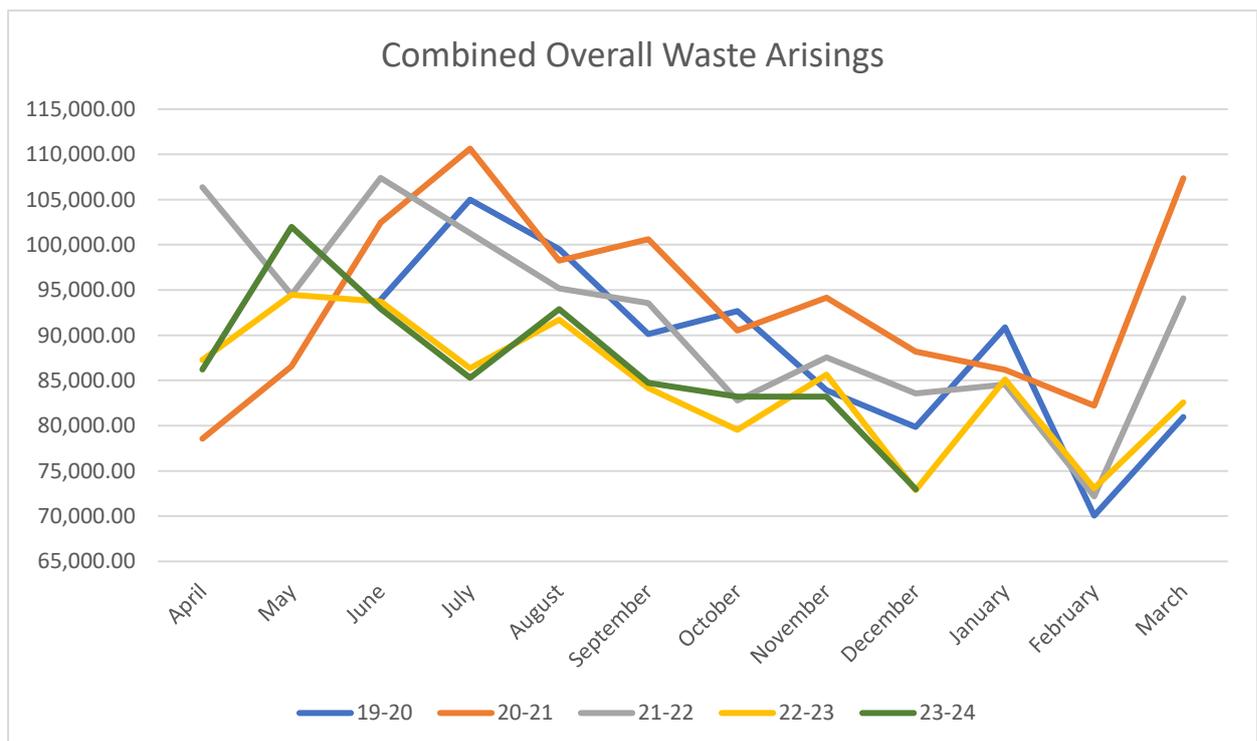
*This Recycling Rate relates only to tonnage handled through the Suez contracts. It is not the same as the nationally reported Waste Data Flow recycling rate that will include other WCA waste and recycling streams that do not flow through the 2 Suez contracts.

2.2 Total Waste Arisings

Total waste arisings for this period reached 783k tonnes(t), which was almost 1% higher than for Quarter 3 of the previous year (2022/23).

The combined (overall) Contract Recycling rate was over 47%, which has also increased by just under 1% compared to the same period of last year. Across the HWRC network, the significant increase in the combined Recycling performance has been sustained, staying over 5% higher than this time last year, reaching 57.5% for the first nine months of the Contract year.

The graph below gives a comparison of the waste arisings against 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 increase in May, the following four months tracked the waste levels seen in the same period of the previous year, until October, with a year on year increase that was counteracted by a slightly lower level in November. The December arisings returned to tracking the same as for last year. The result for the year to date (April to December 23) was an overall 1% increase in arisings (circa 7.5kt).



2.3 Landfill Diversion

During Quarters 1 to 3, the continuing good performance at both Energy Recovery Facilities (ERF) in Runcorn and Bolton, has meant we have had very high levels of diversion of residual (non-recycled) materials away from landfill, almost 100%, with a year on year increase of c.1% on the same period of the previous year.

2.4 Contamination Levels

Contamination levels of kerbside collected recyclate, from unacceptable materials extracted by the MRF process, has remained at 13.7%. Additionally, 584t of materials had to be rejected at reception points due to excess levels of unacceptable materials in the delivered loads, which is approaching 60% lower than for this time last year.

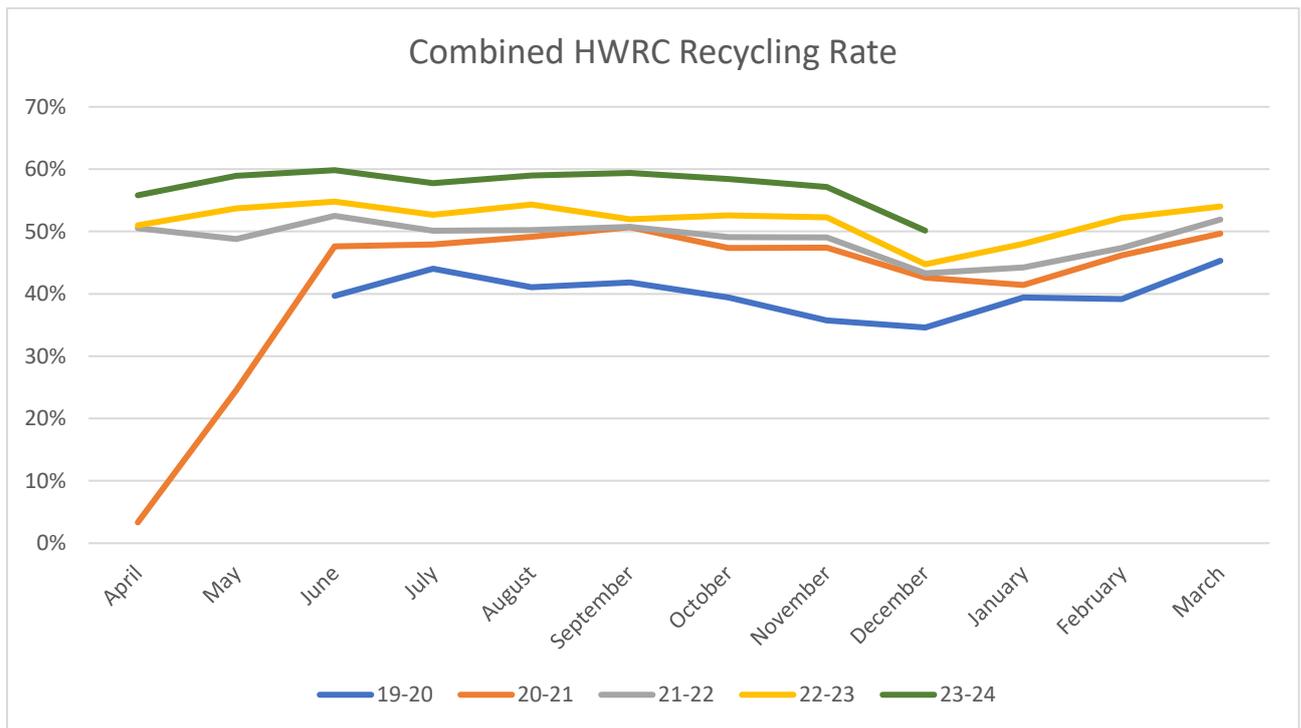
2.5 Overall Combined Rates

In summary, the overall performance to Quarter 3 of Contract year 5, across both Contracts combined (incorporating both WCA and HWRC tonnages), achieved a recycling rate of over 47%, with a landfill diversion rate of over 99%.

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 3 of 23/24 was 57.5%.

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.



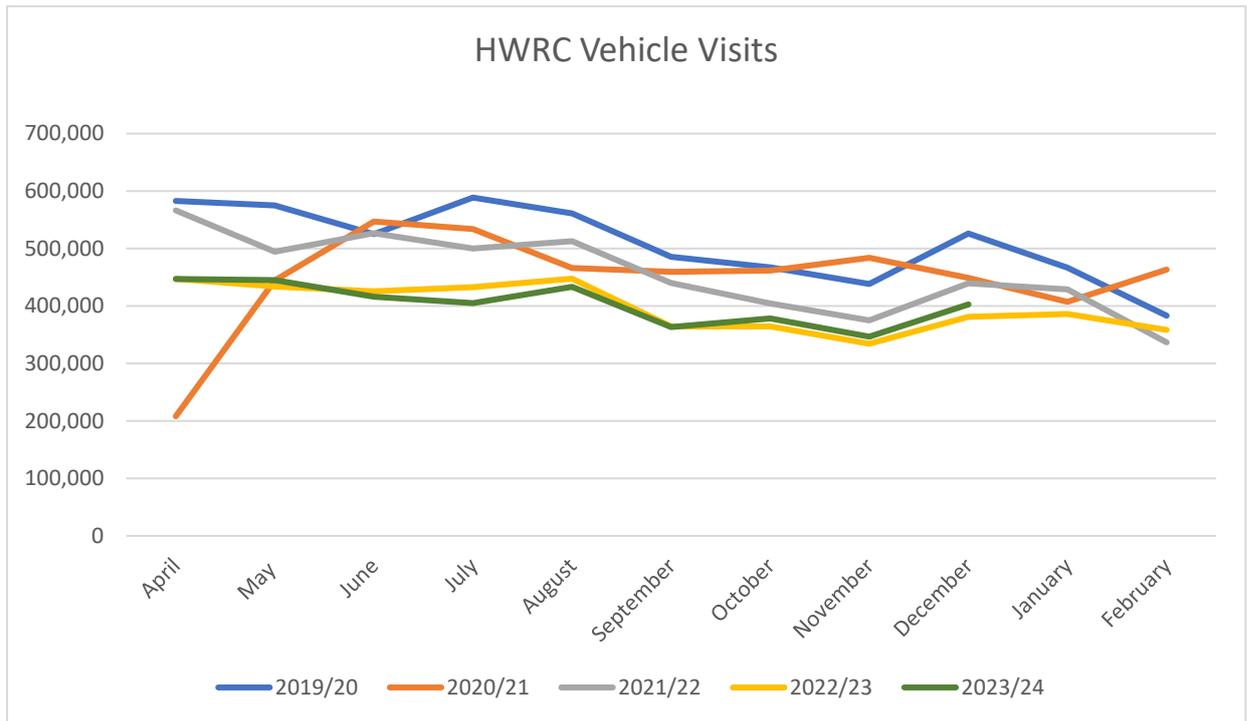
During Quarter 3 of 23/24 measures to maintain and increase recycling on the 20 HWRCs have continued, with the prevention of trade and cross-boundary waste via the ongoing Access Policy controls (meet and greet; ANPR system; van permit scheme) having a positive impact on the levels of arisings and recycling rate.

Despite the seasonal dip in the Recycling rate over the 3rd quarter of the year, the 23/24 Recycling rate to date remains consistently higher than all previous years, as well as during the previous Contract, with forecasts suggesting the year end rate should reach c.57%.

2.7 HWRC Visit Levels

The graph below shows monthly HWRC visit levels up to Quarter 3 of Contract Year 5 (April 23 to December 23 - green line on graph), compared with the previous four years.

There were over 3.6million (M) visits in the nine month period, with circa 6k more vehicles attending site than seen in this period 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 nine months of Contract year 5 (April 2023 to December 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: Adswold HWRC. An 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 of the entrance area has been carried out;

- 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;
- 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; and

Further to these incidents, we are also aware of an incident that has occurred in January that will fall under the RIDDOR category, for Quarter 4 reporting:

- 4) Location: Arkwright St TLS. A GMCA Contract Monitor was carrying out a site inspection when they slipped on ice generated from runoff of melting snow that had frozen overnight. The fall caused an injury to the elbow which was later found to be a hairline fracture. Suez have consequently adapted their induction procedures to cater more specifically for monitoring activities.

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 3)
RIDDORs	5	3	3	4	3

4. English Resources and Waste Strategy Update

There has been little outward facing progress on the implementation of aspects of the English Resources and Waste Strategy. For the extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging an interim steering group has been appointed. The purpose of the EPR scheme

administrator (SA) steering group is to bring together representatives of the value chain directly affected by the scheme, enabling their voices within the operational design, implementation, and strategic direction of the SA ahead of its appointment. The steering group contains members from relevant government departments and the Local Government Association (LGA) from all four home nations as well producer representatives, waste management companies and Non Government Organisations (NGO).

We await news on the publication of various regulations that will confirm whether the food waste transitional arrangements and changes to the Simpler Recycling requirements are being implemented, such as the exemption from the need to separately collect food waste if a mixed organics collection is in place.