

**Minutes of the Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee held on
Wednesday 22 January 2025**

Present:

Bolton Council	Councillor Richard Silvester
Bury Council	Councillor Alan Quinn (in the Chair)
Manchester CC	Councillor Lee-Ann Igbon
Manchester CC	Councillor Shaukat Ali
Oldham Council	Councillor Pam Byrne
Oldham Council	Councillor Ken Rustidge
Salford CC	Councillor Barbara Bentham
Stockport Council	Councillor Mark Roberts
Stockport Council	Councillor Dena Ryness
Trafford Council	Councillor Stephen Adshead

Officers in Attendance:

GMCA Deputy Monitoring Officer	Sarah Bennett
GMCA Waste & Resources	David Taylor
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michelle Whitfield
GMCA Waste & Resources	Justin Lomax
GMCA Waste & Resources	Lindsey Keech
GMCA Waste & Resources	Paul Morgan
GMCA Environment	Sarah Mellor
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Kerry Bond

DISTRICT OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bury Council	Cameron Goggins
Tameside Council	Jo Oliver

WRC 25/01 Apologies

Resolved/-

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Gareth Staple-Jones (Bury), Aasim Rashid (Rochdale), David Lancaster (Salford), Paul Heilbron (Salford), Laura Boyle (Tameside) and Dylan Butt (Trafford).

Apologies were also received and noted from Caroline Simpson (GMCA).

WRC 25/02 Chairs Announcements and Urgent Business

Resolved/-

1. There were no announcements or items of urgent business reported.

WRC 25/03 Declarations of Interest

Resolved/-

1. There were no Declarations of Interest reported.

WRC25/04 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 October 2024

Resolved/-

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2024 be approved as a correct record.

WRC 25/05 Membership of the GM Waste & Recycling Committee 2024/25

Resolved/-

To note that Councillor Laura Boyle (Tameside) was appointed to the Committee for 2024/5 at the GMCA meeting held on 13 December 2024, replacing Councillor Denise Ward.

WRC 25/06 Budget and Levy 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan to 2027/28

Lindsey Keech, Head of Finance Capital & Treasury Management, GMCA presented a report detailing the budget and levy for 2025/26 and on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2027/28 to be delivered by:

1. A total levy requirement for 2025/26 of £179.2m, which represents a 2.8% average increase over 2024/25. At a District level, the levy changes range from 2.2% to 3.6%; and
2. The MTFP then proposes levy charges of £192.2m in 2026/27 and £199.4m in 2027/28.

Officers confirmed that a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) will be built at Salford Rd due to the Longley Lane facility not having the capacity to deal with the recycling needs under the Simpler Recycling Scheme being introduced in 2027.

Resolved/-

1. That the forecast outturn for 2024/25, and a proposal to return a further £10m of reserves to Districts from the forecast in-year underspend be noted.
2. That the proposed 2026/27 Trade Waste rate of £141.94 to allow forward planning by Districts be noted.

3. That the capital programme for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix A be noted.
4. That the budget and levy for 2025/26 of £179.2m (2.8% increase) be noted.
5. That the risk position set out in the Balances Strategy and the intention to return a further £20m of reserves to Districts in 2025/26 be noted.

WRC 25/07 Contracts Update

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report which provided an overview on performance of the Waste and Resource Management Services and Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Management Services Contracts, the latest position on the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) and Carbon Capture and Storage.

The report presented cumulative annual data, for the period up to the end of September 2024 (Quarter 2) of the financial year 2024/25 (contract year 6), for the two contracts held by Suez including an overview of the cumulative data, HWRC combined performance and waste recycling collections rates.

No events reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) had occurred during April-September 2024.

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme and Carbon Capture and Storage is scheduled for implementation in January 2028 with the preceding two years to be used as a period to put in place and test the systems that will administer the scheme.

Discussion will take place with districts on the estimated financial impacts of the UK ETS scheme.

The operator at the Runcorn Energy from Waste Facility is in detailed discussions with the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero to implement a carbon capture and storage project which requires the approval of GMCA as a supplier of c.36% of waste to the facility.

Following discussions with Viridor, the operator of the EfW and main partner in the project, during 2024, GMCA's concerns over the technology and the impact the project may have on contracts and costs remain.

Questions and comments included:

Members suggested that Leaders be made aware of the possible impact of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and Carbon Capture and Storage on district finance, and that government be lobbied with the request to allow local authorities to act on carbon locally.

Officers confirmed they have written to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero highlighting GM concerns and have received confirmation that they, with Defra, are looking at the issues raised. Once clarity is received a report will be taken to GM Leaders with further detail on both UK ETS and Carbon Capture and Storage.

Members stressed the importance of local level campaigns on recycling of food waste. Officers confirmed that food waste is on the communications plans for next year.

Officers confirmed that sustainable consumption and production work is taking place with the textile industry, Suez are looking at financial alternatives and solutions to divert waste that would be eligible under the scheme.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.

WRC 25/07 R4GM Community Fund

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team talked to a report and presentation updating the terms and conditions of the Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund following a

review to ensure it is meeting the goals of reducing waste, increasing reuse, repair and recycling and that the outcomes were being measured effectively

Members were asked to consider the recommendation to update the aims and objectives, to rename the fund to Renew Greater Manchester Community Fund and to redevelop the application and scoring process to prioritise projects that are higher up the waste hierarchy from April 2025. As part of the review of the Community Fund, the team has spoken to other waste authorities who deliver similar schemes to learn specific best practices that may be useful in evolving and improving the GM Community Fund.

The update included:

- Key successes:
 - Manchester Library of Things
 - Heaton Repair Café
 - Green Sock Project
 - Humans MCR
 - Recycle IT Bolton
 - Flixton Primary School PTA
- Review of Project Outcomes
- Aims and objectives of the community fund
- Update of the Recycle for GM Community Fund from April 2025:
 - update the aims and objectives
 - rename the fund to Renew Greater Manchester Community Fund, and
 - to redevelop the application and scoring process

Comments and questions included:

Members requested that the communications plan targets communities that would benefit from the projects across GM.

It was suggested that an understanding of barriers to delivering projects be sought, along with discussions at GM and local level on what can be don't to assist people setting up projects and in what areas these would have most impact.

Members requested a mapping exercise take place on work and projects across GM that could be communicated to residents.

Members highlighted the need to address fly tipping and the recycling of bulky waste and suggested a working group be set up to investigate what is required to action the issue across GM and at local level.

Officers would discuss possible bulky waste collections with Suez and will promote in local areas.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the proposals to update the aims and objectives of the Community Fund, to change the name of the fund to Renew Greater Manchester Community Fund and to redevelop the application and scoring process to prioritise projects that are higher up the waste hierarchy to be implemented from April 2025 be agreed.

WRC 25/08 Strategy and Policy Update

Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided an update on the latest developments in implementing the Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS) proposals and implications for GMCA.

Packaging extended producer responsibility (pEPR) scheme has been developed that obliges producers of plastic, metal, glass, paper and card, composite fibres (cartons) and wood packing to pay towards the management of waste packaging. As a waste disposal authority, the GMCA would receive money to cover the costs of

recycling and recovering packaging delivered to it by the waste collection authorities or taken by the public to household waste recycling centres. Districts will receive money to cover the cost of collecting the packaging which will include an overhead to cover administrative and management costs, the 24/25 payment is estimated to be £22.673 million.

Following review of the notification letters the calculation methodology is far from clear and the GMCA has asked for further detail.

The development of the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) planned to go live in 2027 is being monitored to enable the impact it could have on the volumes of in-scope containers being collected at the kerbside and further sorted at our materials recovery facility.

Government announcements in November 2024 gave an update on the implementation of the Simpler Recycling regime that will ensure a consistent set of materials are collected through kerbside recycling schemes, this includes the exemption of the separate collection of food and garden waste as previously considered, residual waste collections frequency will be decided locally.

The phased timescale of collections is required to be in place by 31 March 2025 with separate food waste collections delayed until 2034.

Comments and questions included:

It is unknown how residents will recycle aluminium and plastic drink cans and bottles once the deposit return scheme (DRS) begins. Defra presume that 90% will be recycled via the scheme and not at kerbside which could reduce district recycling rates resulting in contractual claims for loss of income.

Due to the lack of national processing capacity for these items it is too early to advise whether the collection of pots, tubs, trays and soft plastics will offset potential losses due to the DRS.

Officers advised that the impact of the emissions trading scheme, the need for extended producer responsibility to be extended beyond packaging materials, markets for materials e.g. plastic films and the successor to the green gas support

scheme expiring in 2028 will be discussed with the Secretary of State at a conference being held on 23 January. Members requested that clarity on the English Waste Strategy also be addressed.

Members were advised that the 2026 deadline for weekly collection of food and garden waste from all properties still stands for the three authorities that don't have transitional arrangements. For the six authorities that do have transitional arrangements, they will not have to change their services until 2034.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.

WRC 25/08 Update on the Management of Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating

Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided members with an update on the management requirements for waste upholstered domestic seating (WUDS) that contain persistent organic pollutants (POPs) following the introduction of new compliance procedures in January 2023.

Local authorities are no longer able to send certain seating materials containing POPs to landfill due to the chemical substances that are known to stay intact and not breaking down. The new process for managing these materials includes, segregation of bulky waste collected at kerbside and the household waste recycling centres (HWRC) where separate skips are required for WUDS that contain POPs or being managed as if they do, and one for other bulky waste.

On 1 December 2024 the Environment Agency confirmed that these changes needed to be made immediately following the expiry of a regulatory position statement that provided a 2 year transition period to the new arrangements. GMCA is working closely with Suez and districts to find a solution to the management of this

process. The collection of this type of waste also applies to fly tipping, discussions are taking place with the Environment Agency around the issue this creates.

Comments and questions included:

Members were advised that the legislation was introduced due to the potential for certain chemicals to remain in the environment for many years. These substances have been found in ground water and rivers and this is suspected to be due to leaching from landfill sites. The new regulations are intended to prevent landfill of these materials, instead they must be destroyed through incineration.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.

WRC 25/09 Sustainable Consumption and Production Programmes Update

Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable, Consumption and Production, GMCA Environment Directorate provided a report on the progress of programmes and initiatives within the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production Action (SCP) Plan with a focus on Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles, the update included:

- Phase 2 of the Refill Schools Programme with 15 schools participating.
- Eco-School Fund – 56 applications were received with funding being released to successful applicants in February. Focus is on climate, education and sustainable lifestyle. Sponsorship is being sought from external partners to expand the projects. Applications for the next fund will be opened later in the year.
- Green Summit on 9 December launched the new Five-Year Environment Plan with 8 new themes to deliver the plan.
- Work is underway with Bee Net Zero to deliver the Circular Economy Business Platform.

- A Textiles Working Group has been established.

Questions and comments included:

Members asked whether a digital offer for future Green Summits will be made to enable those unable to attend in person, particularly children and young people, to contribute. Officers confirmed that a hybrid offer is being investigated for the next event scheduled for March 2026 along with other events held.

Members asked whether the Salford Textile Trail scheme will be expanded to other districts and if details of the trial could be shared when available.

Officers confirmed that analysis will be brought to a future meeting.

Data from a textile market testing exercise carried out in Merseyside will be shared with districts once received to look into the possibility of creating a GM wide scheme.

Councillor Tom Ross requested that thanks to all involved in the Green Summit be placed on record.

The launch of the 5-year Environment Plan was central to the summit with one of the key messages being how we can meet the 2038 target, with one of the aims being the transition to a circular economy, highlighting that communication to residents showing how they can impact on the aim being key.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.

WRC 25/10 Future Meeting Dates

Resolved/-

To note the future meeting dates for the Committee:

12 March 2025
9 July 2025
8 October 2025
21 January 2026
18 March 2026

WRC 25/11 Exclusion of 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 because 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 25/12 Contracts Update

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report updating members on performance and commercial issues relating to the Waste and Resource Management Services contracts.

Resolved/-

1. That the contract updates and key risks detailed in the report be noted.