

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

### Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 12 March 2025  
Subject: Contracts Update  
Report of: Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, Waste and Resources Team

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#### 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:

The Committee is requested 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](mailto:Justin.lomax@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 Contract year 6 (2024/25) Quarter 3 (April to December 2024), 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 period (up to end of Quarter 3), with the same period of the previous year, 2023/24:

<b>OVERALL Combined Performance (WCA + HWRC)</b>	<b>2024 / 2025</b>	<b>2023 / 2024</b>
<b>Cumulative data (Year to date figures)</b>		
Total arisings (t)	783,631	783,450
Combined Recycling Rate*	48%	47%
Diversion Rate	99%	99%
<b>HWRC Combined Performance</b>		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste)*	63%	58%
Diversion (Household Waste)	99%	99%
<b>WCA Recycling Collections</b>		
Rejected Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	219	584
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled)	14%	14%

\*This Recycling Rate relates only to tonnage handled through the Suez contracts, from both WCA collections and delivered to HWRCs. It is not the same as the nationally reported Waste Data Flow recycling rate which includes other WCA waste and recycling streams that do not flow through Suez contracts.

## 2.2. Total Waste Arisings

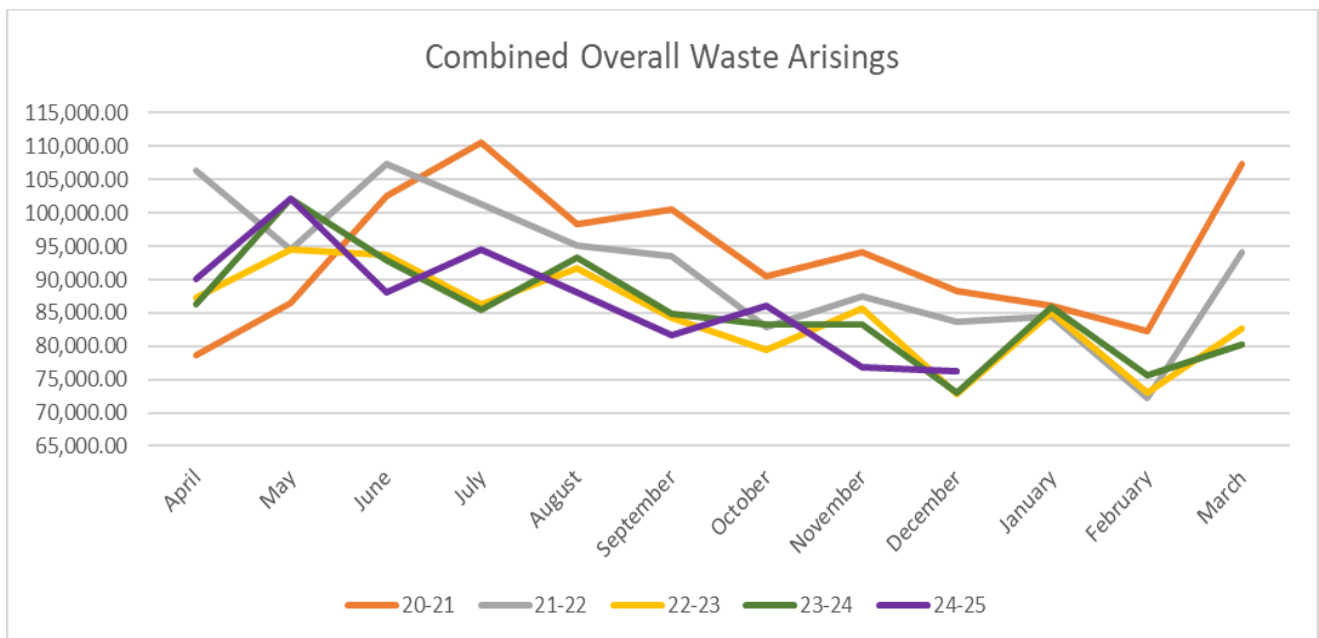
Total waste arisings for the first 9 months of this Contract year 6 (2024/25) was c.784k tonnes(t), which continues to be very close to levels in the same period of the previous year.

The combined (overall) Contract Recycling rate was c. 48%, which is slightly higher than in the first nine months of last year.

Across the HWRC network, the significant increase in the combined Recycling performance has been sustained, resulting in a rise of over 5% higher year on year, reaching almost 63%.

The graph below gives a 5-year comparison, with the previous 4 years of the Contracts against the year-to-date trend (purple line) for 24/25, (noting the April to July trend in 20/21, (orange line) reflects Covid lockdown impacts).

The trend for Contract Year 6 (purple line), April to December, against last year, shows a reverse pattern through June and July, as does the Quarter 3 period, however, the aggregate tonnage level has remained at a similar level to the same period of previous year.



## 2.3. Landfill Diversion

Tonnages, up to the end of Quarter 3 of Contract year 6, showed the continuing good performance at both Energy Recovery Facilities (ERF), in Runcorn and Bolton. As a result,

diversion continues to remain very high, with almost all (over 99%) of residual (non-recycled) materials diverted away from landfill.

## **2.4. Contamination Levels**

The contamination level of kerbside collected recyclate, from unacceptable materials extracted by the MRF process, was slightly higher than previous 6 months of the year, at c.14%, which was similar to this time last year. This meant that only 219t of materials had to be rejected at Contract reception points, due to excess levels of unacceptable materials in the delivered loads, which is significantly lower than at this point in the previous year (a 63% reduction). This extends the ongoing downward trend in non-target materials received in collections, since the Contracts started in 2019. This is a very positive position, whilst there is still room to continue to improve the accuracy of materials presented for recycling.

## **2.5. Overall Combined Rates**

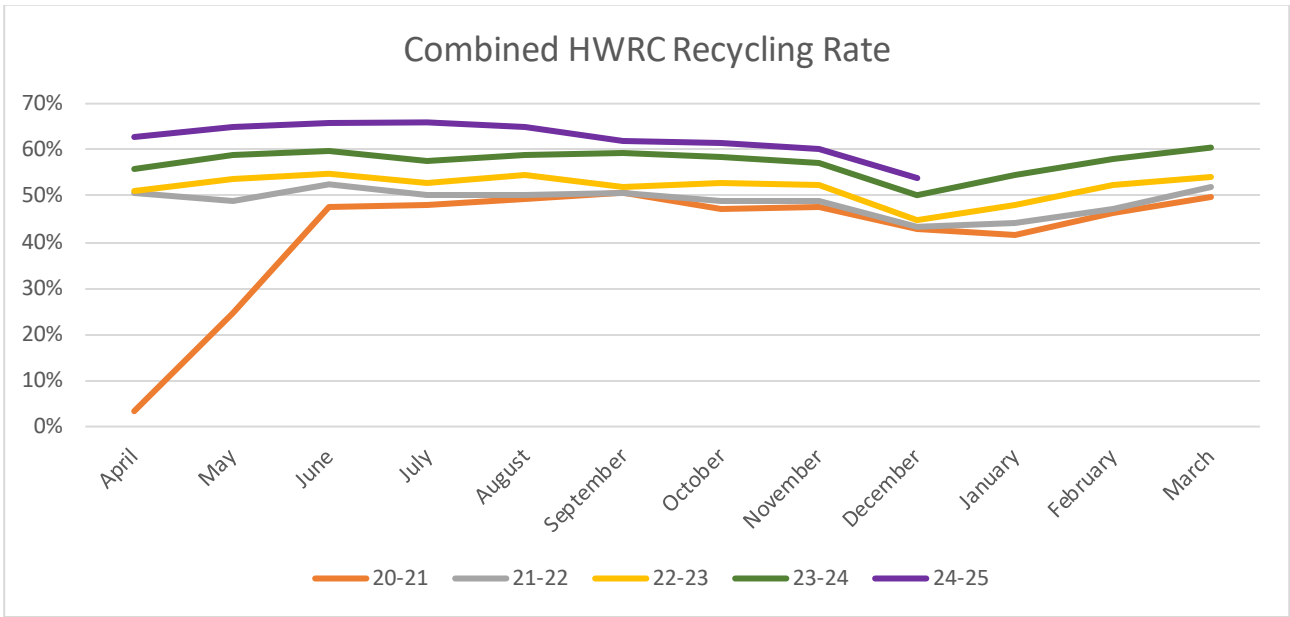
In summary, the overall performance for the first nine months of Contract year 6, combined for both Contracts (incorporating WCA and HWRC tonnages), achieved a recycling rate of almost 48%, with a landfill diversion rate of over 99%.

## **2.6. HWRC Recycling Rate**

At the 20 HWRCs, across both Contracts (WRMS has 9 sites, plus 11 in HWRCMS contract), the combined recycling rate up to the end of Quarter 3 of 24/25 was almost 63%.

Measures to maintain and increase recycling on the 20 HWRCs continue, combined 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 by lowering levels of arisings and improving segregation for recycling.

The graph below gives a comparison of the year-on-year combined HWRC recycling rates against the previous 4 Contract years to date. The trend for 24/25 (purple line) shows the recycling rate across the HWRCs increasing by over 5%, when compared to the same period last year. There has been a continued year-on-year increase in the recycling rates across the Contracts, since they commenced in 2019, meaning we continue to have an ongoing improvement each year, as well as against the previous Contract.

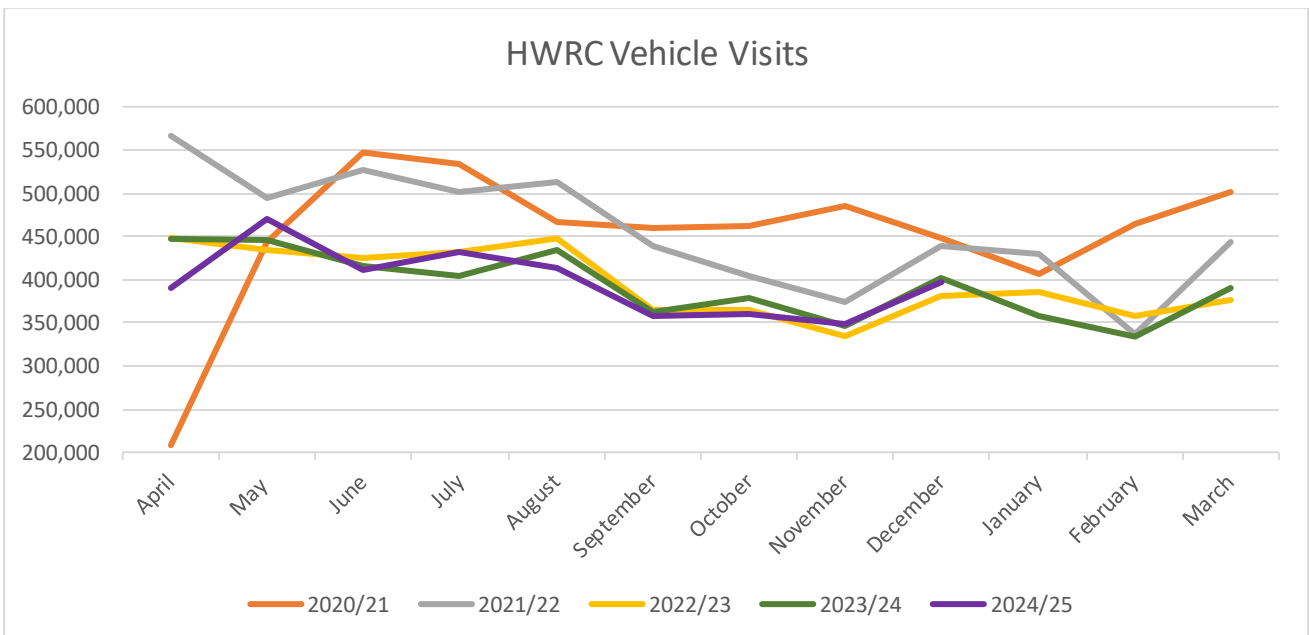


## 2.7. HWRC Visit Levels

The graph below shows monthly HWRC visit levels up to Quarter 3 of Contract Year 6 (April to December 24 – purple line on graph), compared with the previous four Contract years.

There were almost 4 million visits in this 9-month period – with the overall lower level of visits continuing across the 20 sites. Numbers have fallen significantly, due to the Access Policy measures preventing trade / commercial waste from illegally entering the system.

Additionally, efforts continue to reduce the amount of cross-boundary waste, entering Greater Manchester sites from neighbouring Authority areas.



### 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

Up to the end of Quarter 3 of Contract year 6 (April to December 2024), it is good news that there were no events reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013. Hopefully, this position will continue to be maintained.

#### 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	24-25* Qtr3 YTD
RIDDORs	5	3	3	4	4	0