

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 12 March 2025

Subject: Capital Programme and Asset Management Update

Report of: Michael Kelly, Head of Engineering and Asset Management,
Waste and Resources Team

Purpose of Report

To provide members with an update on key capital projects and lifecycle projects during quarter 4 of 2024-25.

Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note and comment on matters set out within the report; and
2. Delegate the finalisation of terms in the proposed extension agreement with Manchester City Council for 2 former landfill sites as set out in section 4.1 to the Executive Director, Waste and Resources in consultation with the GMCA Monitoring Officer.

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

1. Not applicable

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

Not applicable

Background Papers

Not applicable

Tracking/ Process

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

No

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?

No.

Bee Network Committee

Not applicable.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Not applicable.

1. Introduction

This report provides members with updates relating to the Waste and Resources team asset portfolio. Updates are provided for key projects undertaken in quarter 4 of 2024-25. The waste estate is managed by the Engineering Team and comprises of the following three assets categories.

1.1. Category A - Operational Waste Facilities

- WRMS Contract Facilities – Lot 1
(28) waste processing and reception facilities across 11 locations.
- WRMS Contract – Lot 2
(11) Household Waste Recycling Centres HWRC's.

1.2. Category B - Buildings and Land

- Land and building premises separate to operational locations.

1.3. Category C - Closed Landfill Sites

- 4 former dilute and disperse landfill sites now closed and requiring ongoing management.

2. Category (A) Updates – Operational Waste Facilities

2.1. Reliance Street HWRC

1. Background

Redevelopment of the existing HWRC at Reliance Street in Newton Heath, is required, due to the current facility being beyond its economic life span and the restricted layout which does not encourage high levels of recycling. A new improved HWRC will provide a larger facility giving more capacity to receive, manage and recycle commodities by providing 16 individual containers to segregate materials like many of our other HWRC's across the region. During 2023 and 2024 the focus has been to finalise ground investigation works and complete a design package with a specialist ground works consultant. Significant enabling works to remove the former Anaerobic Digestion (AD) tank were also undertaken in 2023. This was required to provide access for construction works to reduce operational impacts at the Mechanical Treatment and Reception (MTR) facility.

2. Current Position

All design requirements have now been finalised and specified, our procurement exercise to appoint a principal contractor went live on the Chest Procurement Portal on Friday the 14 February. Conclusion of procurement is forecast by the end of May meaning we would appoint a contractor to commence the works by the end of June 2025. We are currently targeting closure of the current HWRC by the end of June, the exact date is to be confirmed with the appointed contractor and Suez.

Delivery of the construction works are expected to take between 9-12 months, subject to the appointed contractor's programme. Further details regarding the appointment of a principal contractor, starting dates and works duration will be provided to a future meeting of the Committee.

2.2. Over Hulton – Mechanical Recovery Facility (MRF)

1. Background

The existing Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) located at Longley Lane, Sharston has been operational since 2013 and processes c.90ktpa – 100ktpa of kerbside collected dry, mixed recyclable materials. GMCA is now seeking to build a new MRF within our former in-vessel composter (IVC) building at Salford Road, Over Hulton. The new facility will allow us to receive more materials such as pots, tubs and trays (PTT's) along with flexible films and tetra cartons which local authorities are expected to collection and extract as part of the National Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS).

Over the past twelve months the following items of works have been achieved:

- Established working groups to oversee project delivery;
- Defined a base design for the proposed plant;
- Defined a concept design for the proposed plant;
- Identified a draft delivery programme to achieve delivery;
- Relocated TFR Groups mattress recycling facility from Salford Road to Arkwright Street along with the necessary preparation and clearance works at Arkwright Street to accommodate the relocation;
- Relocated all green waste from the Bio Transfer Loading Station (TLS) to our main transfer loading station. This also required work to upgrade the existing floor slab by installing a new slab within bays 1-3. A new leachate collection system was also installed to capture leachate run-off from green waste within bay 4;

- Green waste reception relocated to the main TLS;
- Suez vacation of the Bio-TLS and surrender of the operational lease, meaning the site has been returned to GMCA;
- Defined a master plan for the proposed MRF and wider site improvements to accommodate a new facility at Salford Road;
- Drafted a plant specification for the MRF;
- Ecology review;
- RIBA Stage 1 – Architectural Review;
- Reviewed planning and permitting requirements for the proposed MRF;
- Commenced internal demolition works to remove push walls and raise concrete plinths associated with the former in-vessel composting operation. Removal of now redundant leachate tanks; and
- 50% of the building has had an internal deep clean.

2. Current Position

Internal demolition works are ongoing to remove redundant structures to make way for the proposed plant layout. Additional deep cleaning will be undertaken in the building following demolition works.

Other key tasks scheduled include:

- Undertake a structural assessment of the building's structural components and external envelope;
- Finalise the plant specification;
- Apply for outline planning permission;
- Design and specification for internal floor repairs and drainage;
- External works design package;
- Revisit ecology to address previous recommendations;
- Prepare a full planning application;
- Review individual procurement packages and programme; and
- Progress education centre concept into a draft design and specification.

2.3. Fire System Review – Critical Assets

Incidents involving fire and ignition in the waste stream present a consistent risk to the waste portfolio and operatives. Near miss incidents involving fire, smoke and ignition are a regular occurrence. Capital costs to replace facilities such as Transfer Loading Stations (TLS) could be more than £10m, therefore protecting buildings, plant and equipment through appropriate detection and suppression systems is vital.

In 2023-2024 Suez and GMCA agreed to install additional thermal cameras at 10 locations focusing on critical assets such as Mechanical Treatment and Recovery (MTR) plants and TLS buildings. All installations were successfully installed to assist with early detection of ignition sources. This work formed part of a wider fire risk review by GMCA across the portfolio focusing on critical assets and plant. GMCA and Suez have now agreed to undertake a specific evaluation of our MTR facilities to review the existing fire detection and suppression systems as the current installations are more than 15 years old with a mix of systems each of different ages.

The expectation is that significant upgrading is required. A consultant has been appointed by Suez to undertake an initial review of the existing MTR systems at Bredbury, Cobden Street and Longley Lane. The review will also include Nash Roads TLS as the current building does not benefit from a detection and suppression system. The review will focus on the existing fire protection systems at each site to consider if current standards are being met.

The review will consider the following areas:

- Opportunities for improvements to reduce fire risk;
- Relevant British Standards and good practice guides relating to the provision of fire detection systems;
- The Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum Guidance – Reducing fire risk at waste sites; and
- Other best practice guidance such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidance.

Completion of the review is expected by the end of May 2025, updates will be provided on the initial findings and recommendations at a future committee meeting. It is likely that a proposal will be developed to share installation costs with Suez and the details and costings will flow from the review. Investment in upgraded systems will be subject to approval by the Committee at a future meeting.

3. Category (B) Buildings and Land

There are no significant updates against any Category B assets.

4. Category (C) Closed Landfill Sites

4.1. Barlow Hall and Cringle Road (Closed Landfills)

1. Background

Barlow Hall and Cringle Road closed landfill sites were both part of the former Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) portfolio from the early 1980's up until 2012-13. Both sites were landfilled by Manchester City Council (MCC) in the 1970's and formed part of a wider landfill portfolio inherited by GMWDA.

In 2012 GMWDA commenced a thorough review of its asset portfolio and landfill sites with a view to reducing risk for the Authority. This included discussions with MCC on returning Barlow Hall and Cringle Road to their ownership. In 2013 GMWDA and MCC formalised a transfer agreement over a 10-year handover period that would see both sites being fully transferred. The agreement set out mutual obligations for both sides to manage each site and costs were divided on a percentage basis year-on-year which would eventually be fully deferred to MCC across the 10-year period. This agreement ceased in 2023, and a 12 month extension was agreed with a further 12 month extension being agreed last year.

2. Further Extension Proposal

MCC are again seeking to retain the extension position for an additional 12 months which would see the Engineering Team continue to provide servicing and maintenance tasks at both sites. As per the previous extensions, MCC are responsible for all operational costs, and liabilities associated with each landfill site.

Dialogue with MCC is ongoing and we are hoping to formalise an extension through a Deed of Variation by the end of March 24. This will require finalisation of terms to be delegated to the Executive Director, Waste and Resources Team, in consultation with the GMCA's Monitoring Officer.