

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Councillor Adele Warren	Bolton
Councillor Alan Quinn (Chair)	Bury
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar	Manchester
Councillor Ateeque Ur-Rehman	Oldham
Councillor YasminToor	Oldham
Councillor Susan Emmott	Rochdale
Councillor Tom Besford	Rochdale
Councillor David Lancaster	Salford
Councillor Robin Garrido	Salford
Councillor Roy Driver	Stockport
Councillor Helen Foster Grimes	Stockport
Councillor Judith Lloyd	Trafford

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

David Taylor	GMCA – Executive Director, Waste & Resources
Paul Morgan	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Justin Lomax	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Lindsay Keech	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Michelle Whitfield	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Michael Kelly	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Gwynne Williams	GMCA – Deputy Monitoring Officer
Sarah Mellor	GMCA – Environment Team
Kerry Bond	GMCA – Governance & Scrutiny

WRC 20/46

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Alison Gwynne (Tameside) and Shaukat Ali (Manchester).

WRC 20/47

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no announcements or items of urgent business reported.

WRC 20/48

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported by any Member in respect of any item on the agenda.

WRC 20/49

MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM

RESOLVED/-

1. That Members noted their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct.
2. That members of the Committee complete the annual declaration of interest forms and return to the Governance and Scrutiny Officer as soon as possible for publication on the GMCA website be noted.

WRC 20/50

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2020

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 22 July 2020, be approved as a correct record subject to the addition of Councillor Judith Lloyd to the list of those in attendance.

WRC 20/51

CONTRACTS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report which provided the Committee with an update on performance of the Waste and Resource Management Services and Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Management Services Contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019.

It was reported that performance reporting provided used verified data to the end of June 2020, which is the Quarter 1 position for financial year 2020/21 of the Suez Contracts.

A progress update on the works at Chichester Street in Rochdale and Reliance Street in Manchester was provided alongside an update on the implementation of the Household Waste Recycling Centre Van Permit Proposal.

Data for Quarter 1 position for financial year 2020/21 was provided, below, to show the overall position for comparison to the previous year:

Annual Performance Comparison (Year end – April to June 2020)	2020 / 2021	2019 / 2020
OVERALL performance		
Total arisings (t)	267,834	271,795
Recycling Rate (%)	47.8%	52.9%
Diversion Rate (%)	97.7%	90.7%
HWRC performance		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste) %	34.3%	34.4%
Diversion (Total Arising, inc. rubble) %	98.6%	84.5%
Longley Lane MRF		
Rejection of Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	2594	126
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled) %	21.2%	19%

In summary, the overall performance for both contracts for Quarter 1 of financial year 2020/21 (April to June 20) gives a diversion rate approaching 98% and recycling rate of almost 48%.

At the July 2020 meeting Members resolved to approve the development of a project plan for a potential van permit scheme. Since that meeting the GMCA has discussed with Suez the brief for the development of a van permit system including a timeline for introduction and indicative cost.

As reported previously, vans comprise a relatively small proportion of total visits to the HWRCs but represent over 150,000 visits annually. It is evident that vans make up a significant proportion of the vehicles that are abusing the sites with trade waste. The restriction on the number of visits vans can make has reduced numbers but the van permit system will provide a greater degree of control over trade waste abuse at the HWRCs.

Under the scheme, a householder who owns a van will need to register the vehicle with the GMCA via a dedicated web portal. The figure below summarises the high-level application and operational process:

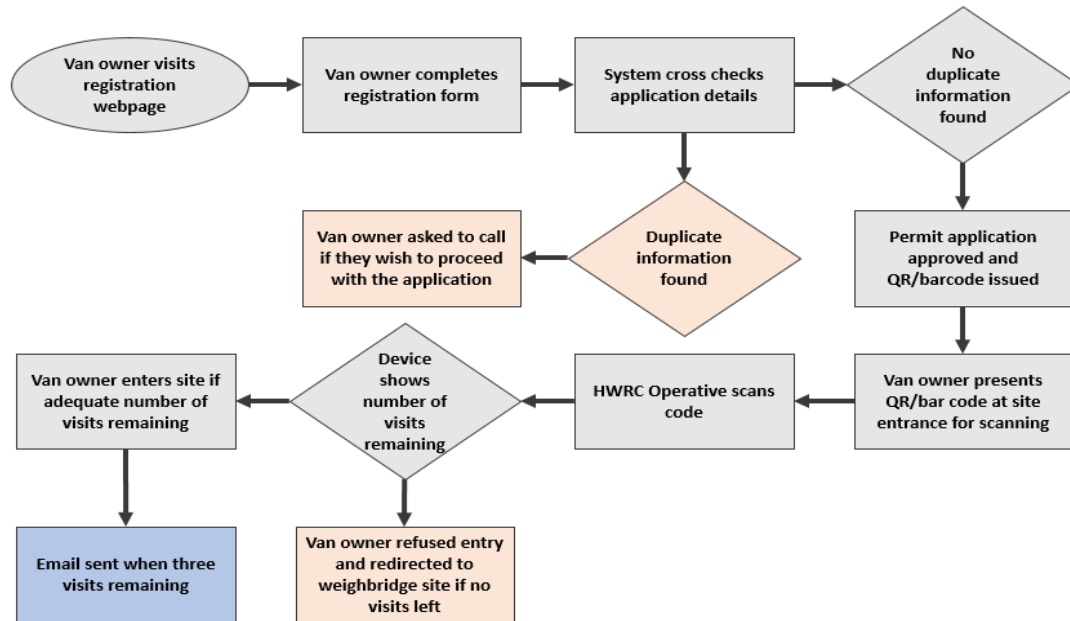


Figure 1: Van Permit Scheme Application and Operational Process

Suez has provided two options for the development and continued support of the system, which are detailed below:

1. To build and develop the service, one-off costs are estimated to be nearly £45k with £7k annual costs; and
2. A subscription service estimated at £3k for the initial build and £15k per annum to cover 20 HWRCs.

Following discussion, the development and subscription service was recommended. The initial estimate to go live is the beginning of February 2021 once development, testing and rollout to sites has been completed.

Members asked the following questions:

- a. If there is any Government funding available due to sites being closed during the Covid-19 national lockdown?
- b. What action is being undertaken to reduce contamination of kerbside waste?

Officers confirmed that an additional picking process has been introduced to ensure the waste is of an acceptable level.

- c. How are van permits being managed to ensure business owners don't use different vehicles to dispose of their trade waste?

Officers confirmed that this would be flagged up at the access point of the centre, via the database, and would be managed by Suez officers.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contract performance, health and safety, Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) performance, construction works, and other matters set out in the report be noted.
2. That the subscription service for the development, implementation, and maintenance of a Van Permit Scheme for the Household Waste Recycling Centre's be approved.
3. That officers be requested to investigate the availability of Government funding due to the closure of sites during the Covid-19 national lockdown.

WRC 20/52 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Head of Engineering and Asset Management, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided members with an update on the implementation of the asset management plan and current capital engineering projects, highlighting progress between April and September 2020. Waste and Resource assets are managed by the Engineering team and fall into the following categories.

(A) - Operational Waste Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRMS Contract Facilities - Lot1 28 waste processing and reception facilities across 11 locations. • WRMS Contract – Lot 2 11 Household Waste Recycling Centres
(B) - Buildings and Land
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes vacant land and building premises at 8 locations
(C) - Closed Landfill Sites
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Closed landfill sites managed by GMCA • 18 Closed landfill sites managed by POS Landcare

Members asked what measures are being taken to ensure lithium batteries aren't mixed with the waste for shredding. Officers advised that there hadn't been any recent incidents, and that GMCA officers are engaging with Manchester University on a new trial system to detect whether lithium batteries are mixed with waste.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

WRC 20/53 COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PLAN 2021/22

The Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided members with an update on the draft Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications

& Behavioural Change Delivery Plan 2021/22 proposals, in advance of the final plan being costed and included in the budget setting process for 2021/22. Details of the planned activities from April 2021 to March 2022 are set out in Appendix A of the report. The communications plan is split over 5 aims and these will continue to be central to the 2021/22 Plan:

- Reduce contamination and improve the quality and quantity of recycling;
- Encourage waste prevention;
- Raise awareness of recycling across Greater Manchester;
- Develop and promote the education service; and
- Increase recycling at the HWRCs.

Members requested that a breakdown of access to digital and social media advertisement statistics be made available.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report and appended Action Plan from April 2021 - March 2022 be noted.
2. That the Communications & Behavioural Change Delivery Plan 2021/22 be noted.
3. That a breakdown of digital and social media advertisement statistics be circulated to Members.

WRC 20/54 BUDGET UPDATE 2020/21 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2023/24

The Head of Finance, Waste and Resources Team provided an update on the forecast revenue outturn for 2020/21 and set out an updated strategy outlining major assumptions/risks which have been considered in producing the proposals.

RESOLVED/-

That the forecast revenue outturn for 2020/21 and the updated strategy be noted.

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, GMCA Environment Team, updating Members on recent Government publications and the work being carried out in preparation for the second round of public consultations on England's Resources and Waste Strategy.

Following the Government publication, on 18th December 2018, of the Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England, four consultations were released, on 18th February 2019. The second round of the consultation is expected between January – March next year, work is being commissioned to quantify the financial, resource and environmental impacts of the collection systems proposed, should they be placed in secondary legislation. Further modelling of possible scenarios continues to be undertaken so that an in-depth evidence based response to the second round of consultations can be developed.

- Consistent Collections;
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR);
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS); and
- Plastic Packaging Tax

Defra have released two further documents; the Strategy's Evaluation Plan and the Waste Management Plan, which includes a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) relating to the Plan.

The Evaluation Plan sets out how Defra intend to evaluate the impact England's Resources and Waste Strategy and focuses on the following principles as set out below:

- High quality, rigorous and robust;
- Independent of influence;
- Inclusive of stakeholders, not only as participants in the delivery phase but also in the development of the scoping and design phases;
- Transparent and open to scrutiny;
- Proportionate, both in terms of time and money;
- Flexible and appropriate for complex situations; and
- Inclusive of an economic evaluation, if appropriate.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) have also released 'A Framework to Greater Consistency in Household Recycling in England' which provides an understanding into the direction of the next round of public consultation in relation to consistent collections.

Upon setting secondary legislation there is now a duty to include a statutory review position when the legislation influences business. This means that a lot of the Strategy's commitments will be subject to a 'Post Implementation Review (PIR)' to establish whether:

- A measure has achieved its original objectives;
- These objectives remain appropriate;
- The measure is still required;
- It remains the best opinion for achieving those objectives; and
- Objectives could be achieved in a way which involves less onerous regularly provision to reduce burden on business and/or increase overall societal welfare

RESOLVED/-

1. That the principles set out in DEFRA's Resources and Waste Management Strategy: Evaluation Plan be noted.
2. That the proposed response to the Waste Management Plan for England consultation be approved.
3. That the on-going work in preparation for the second round of consultations on England's Resources and Waste Strategy be noted.

WRC 20/56 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED/-

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, member of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraphs 3 & 5, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

WRC 20/57 CONTRACTS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report that updated the Committee on performance and commercial issues relating to the Waste and Resources and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services Contracts that commenced on 1st June 2019.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contract updates and key risks set out in the report be noted.
2. That the establishment of the Suez Community Fund as a ring-fenced section of the Greater Manchester Environment Fund, as set out in section 6 of the report, be approved.

WRC 20/58 DATE AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED/-

That the following programme of meetings for the Committee for 2020/21 be agreed, following confirmation that these don't conflict with Local Authority Council meetings:

- 13 January 2021, 9.30am, Via Microsoft Teams
- 14 April 2021, 9.30am, Venue TBC