

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

### Waste and Resources Committee

Date: 2 July 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

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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 Contract year 6 (2024/25) year-end (April 2024 to March 2025), 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 year 6, for 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)	1,023,506	1,026,271
Combined Recycling Rate*	47%	46%
Diversion Rate	99%	99%
<b>HWRC Combined Performance</b>		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste)*	62%	58%
Diversion (Household Waste)	99%	99%
<b>WCA Recycling Collections</b>		
Rejected Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	309	678
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled)	14%	13%

\*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

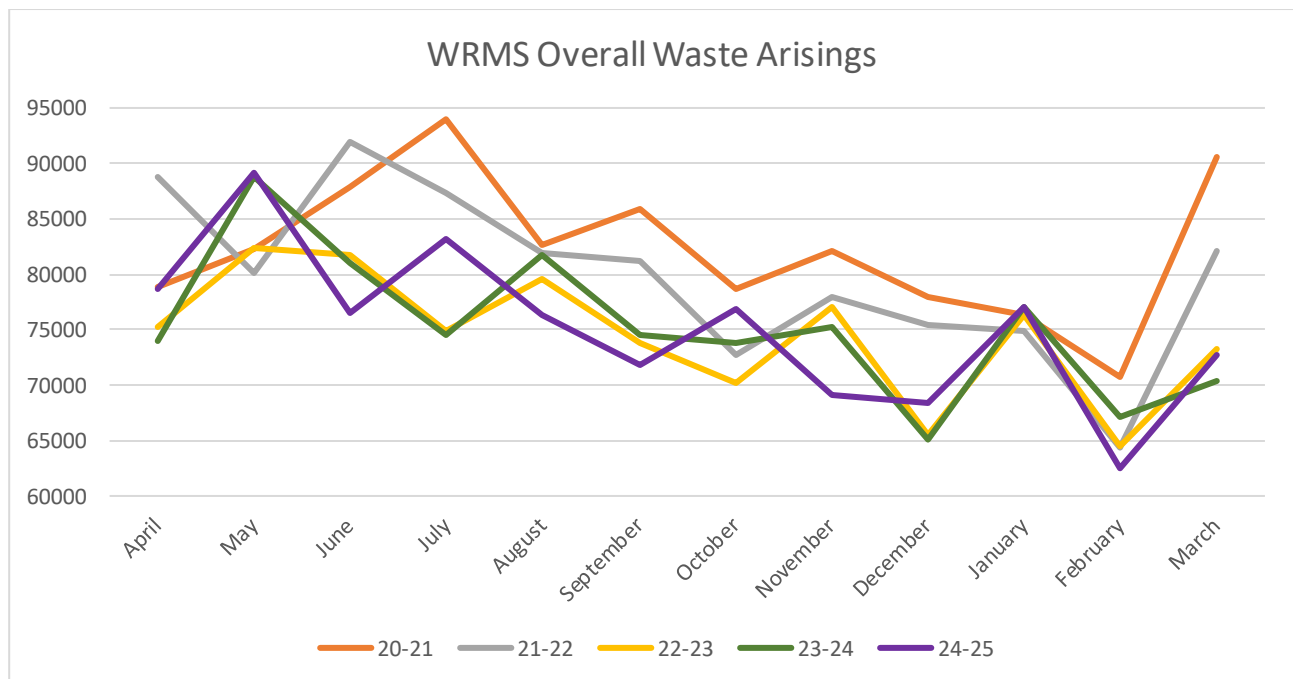
Total waste arisings for Contract year 6 (2024/25) was c.1.024M tonnes(t), which continues to be very close to levels in the same period of the previous year (less than 3kt lower).

The combined (overall) Contract Recycling rate was c. 47%, which is slightly higher than last year (less than 1% after rounding).

Across the HWRC network, the significant increase in the combined Recycling performance has been sustained, resulting in a rise of over 4% higher year on year, reaching a combined 62% (the highest level for the Contract to date).

The graph below gives a 5-year comparison, with the previous 4 years of the Contracts against the year 6 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 the previous year.



### **2.3. Landfill Diversion**

Tonnages for Contract year 6 showed the continuing good performance at both Energy Recovery Facilities (ERF), in Runcorn and Bolton. As a result, diversion continued 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 recycle, from materials accepted on reception but extracted by the mechanical MRF process, which was slightly (0.6%) higher than last year, at c.14%.

Only 309t of materials had to be rejected on delivery 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 54% reduction). This continues the ongoing downward trend in non-target materials received in kerbside collections. This is a very positive position, whilst scope remains to further improve the accuracy of materials presented for recycling.

### **2.5. Overall Combined Rates**

In summary, the overall performance for Contract year 6, combined for both Contracts (incorporating WCA and HWRC tonnages), achieved a recycling rate of almost 47%, with a landfill diversion rate of over 99%.

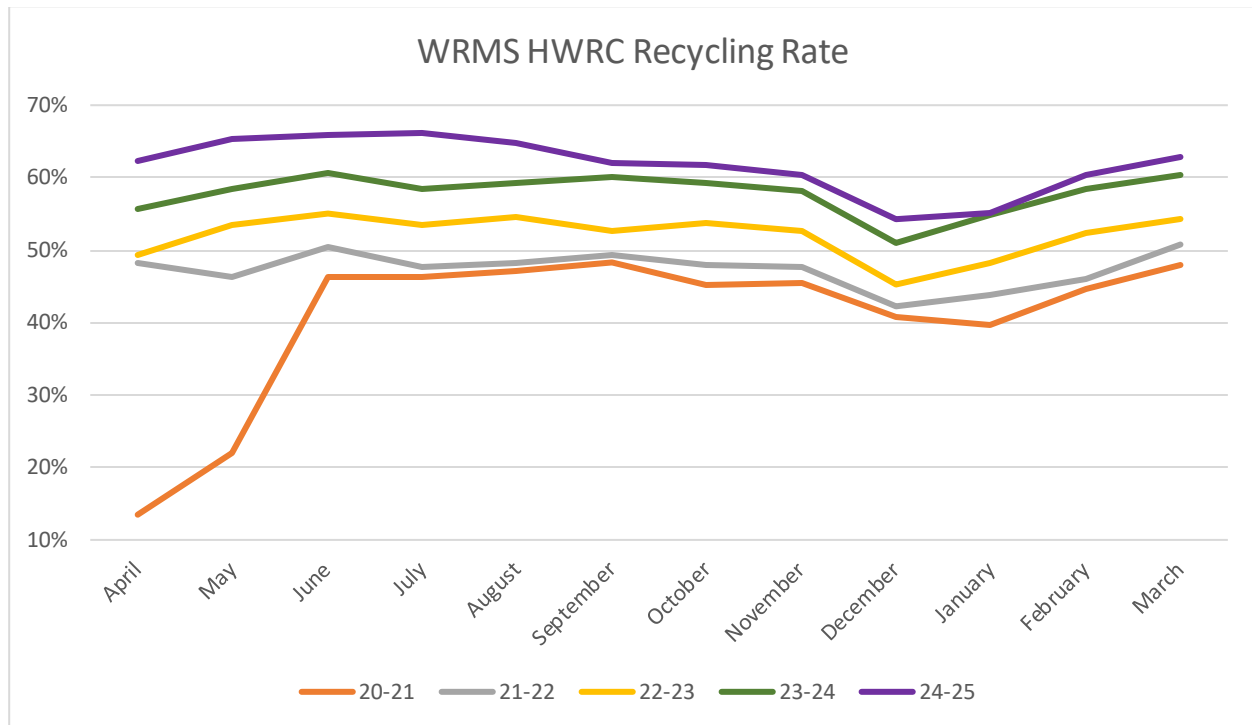
### **2.6. HWRC Recycling Rate**

At the 20 HWRCs, across both Contracts (WRMS has 9 sites, plus 11 in HWRCMS), the combined recycling rate for Contract Year 6, 24/25, was 62%.

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 overall levels of arisings whilst 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. The trend for 24/25 (purple line) shows the recycling rate across the HWRCs increasing by over 4%, when compared to the 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.

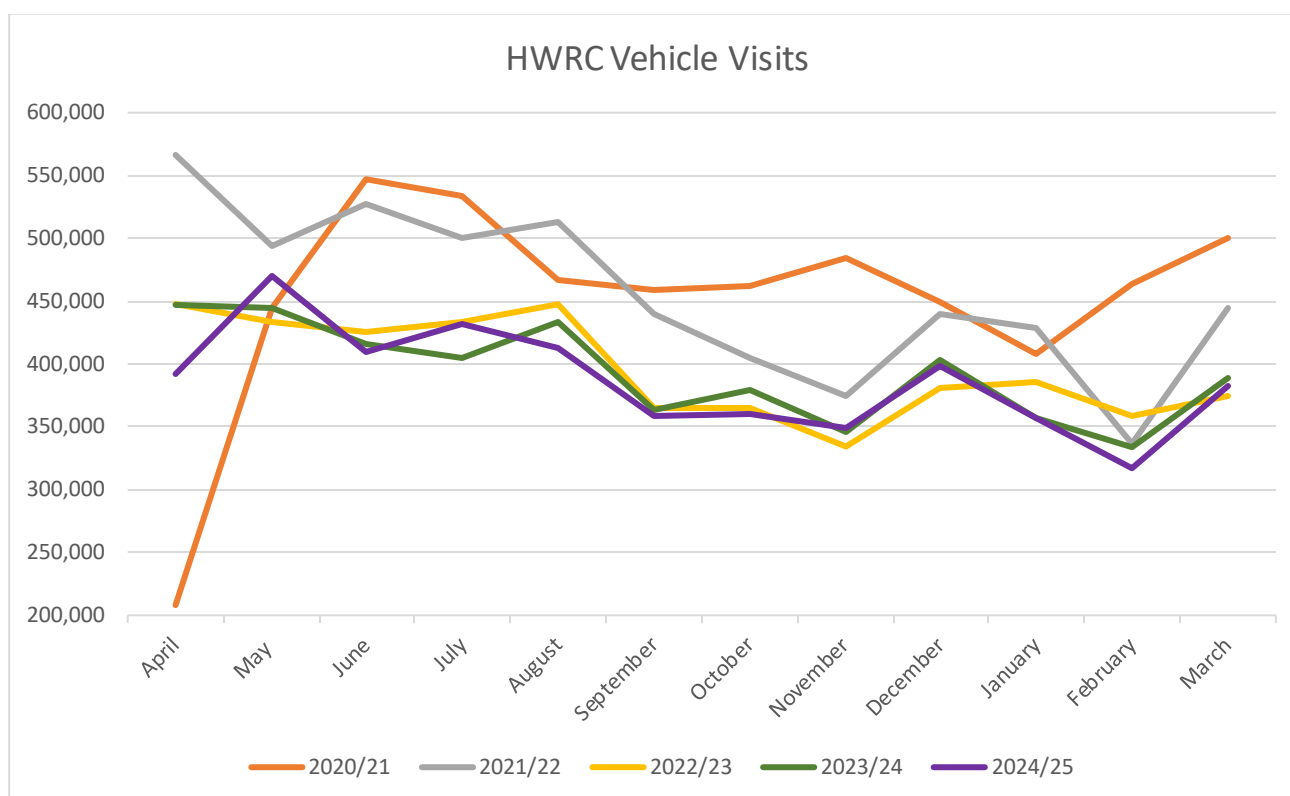


## 2.7. HWRC Visit Levels

The graph below shows monthly HWRC visit levels in Contract Year 6, compared with the previous four Contract years.

There were over 4.6 million visits in this period – with the overall level of visits continuing to reduce 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

Unfortunately, since the last report to the Committee, there have been 2 incidents reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013. Both occurred in quarter 4 of Contract year 6. Details are provided below:

1. **Location: Longley Lane MRF** - maintenance staff member had a deep cut to their left index finger - whilst repositioning sections of chain conveyor the finger was trapped.



First aid was given on site and then taken to hospital by another member of staff. There, scans showed potential tendon damage, which was then operated on and repaired a few days later. This injury has resulted in a lost time absence over seven days, making this reportable under RIDDOR. An independent occupational health provider was tasked to provide support to aid rehabilitation and a return to work.

2. **Location: Chichester Street HWRC** - MOP tripped over a barrier chain at container bay and was taken to hospital due to injuries. Investigation was underway at the time of writing this report.

### 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
RIDDORs	5	3	3	4	4	2