

## **Minutes of the Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee held on Wednesday 2 July 2025**

### **Present:**

|                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bury Council     | Councillor Alan Quinn (in the Chair) |
| Bury Council     | Councillor Gareth Staples-Jones      |
| 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           |
| Tameside Council | Councillor Laura Boyle               |
| Trafford Council | Councillor Dylan Butt                |

### **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 Finance                   | Lindsey Keech      |
| GMCA Environment               | Michelle Lynch     |
| GMCA Environment               | Sarah Mellor       |
| GMCA Governance & Scrutiny     | Kerry Bond         |

### **DISTRICT OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Bury Council | Daniella Dixon |
|--------------|----------------|

## **WRC 25/26 Apologies**

### **Resolved/-**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Richard Silverster (Bolton), Arnold Saunders (Salford), Paul Heilbron (Salford), Aasim Rashid (Rochdale), Jake Austin (Stockport), Liam Billington (Tameside), Sue Maitland (Trafford) and Steve Adshead (Trafford).

Apologies were also received and noted from Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer.

## **WRC 25/27 Appointment of Chair**

Nominations for the appointment of a Chair of the Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year were sought. Members noted that any appointment of Chair will require endorsement by the GMCA.

The nomination of Councillor Alan Quinn was moved and seconded. No other nominations were received.

### **Resolved/-**

1. Agreed to nominate Councillor Alan Quinn as Chair of the Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee for 2025/26 for approval by the GMCA.

## **COUNCILLOR QUINN IN THE CHAIR**

## **WRC 25/28 Appointment of Vice Chair**

Nominations for the appointment of a Vice Chair of the Committee for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year were sought. Members noted that any appointment of Vice Chair will require endorsement by the GMCA.

The nomination of Councillor Lee-Ann Igbon was moved and seconded. No other nominations were received.

**Resolved/-**

1. Agreed to nominate Councillor Lee-Ann Igbon as Vice Chair of the Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee for 2025/26 for approval by the GMCA.

**WRC 25/29 Membership of the GM Waste and Recycling Committee 2025/26**

**Resolved/-**

1. That the membership of the GM Waste & Recycling Committee for the 2025/26 municipal year be noted.

**WRC 25/30 Appointment to the Green City Region Partnership**

The Chair sought nominations to the Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership.

The nomination of Councillor Stephen Adshead was moved and seconded. No other nominations were received.

**Resolved/-**

1. To appoint Councillor Steve Adshead to the Green City Region Board for the 2025/26 municipal year be agreed.

**WRC 25/31 Members Code of Conduct**

Sarah Bennett, GMCA Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced a report reminding members of their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and the

requirement to complete an annual declaration of interest form. Members noted that once completed, their respective declarations of interest will be published on the GMCA website.

**Resolved/-**

1. That the GMCA's Member Code of Conduct at Appendix A of the report be noted.
2. To agree to complete and return the annual register of interest form at Appendix B of the report.

**WRC 25/32 Terms of Reference**

Sarah Bennett, GMCA Monitoring Officer introduced the report detailing the Terms of Reference for the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee.

**Resolved/-**

1. That the Terms of Reference at appendix 1 of the report be noted.

**WRC 25/33 Committee Work Programme**

David Taylor, Executive Director of Waste, GMCA, introduced a report that set out the Committee Work Programme for 2025/2026. Members were informed that the work programme is a live document and will be updated throughout the year.

Members requested that fly tipping be a standard agenda item, and that updates include the recycling of fly tipping, engagement, good practice across GM, cross border fly tipping and inclusion in the waste strategy.

Officers confirmed that as fly tipping isn't a GMCA function or responsibility that discussion will be held with district officers as holders of the information.

**Resolved/-**

1. That the Committee Work Programme for 2025/26 be agreed.
2. That discussion take place with district waste officers on fly tipping data/information to confirm whether this is something that can be reported at future meetings of this committee be agreed.

#### **WRC 25/34 Programme of Meetings 2025/26**

##### **Resolved/-**

1. That the programme of meetings for 2025/26 be noted.

#### **WRC 25/35 Chairs Announcements and Urgent Business**

##### **Resolved/-**

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

#### **WRC 25/36 Declarations of Interest**

##### **Resolved/-**

1. That Councillor Quinn declare an interest in Item WRC 25/42 SUEZ Social Value and Renew Programme Update, as a City of Trees board member be noted.

#### **WRC 25/37 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 March 2025**

##### **Resolved/-**

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2025 be approved as a correct record.

## **WRC 25/38 Contracts Update**

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report which provided an overview of the performance of the Waste and Resources Management Services (WRMS) and the Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS) contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019.

The report presented cumulative annual data, for the period up to the end of March 2025 (Quarter 4) of the financial year 2024/25 (Contract year 6), for the two Contracts held by Suez. An overview of the cumulative data, total waste arisings, and contamination levels, landfill diversion, HWRC recycling rate, overall recycling rate and HWRC visit levels were also provided.

The report outlined two events that had occurred over the last year that are reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

Officers confirmed that the GM Waste Strategy will include actions to assist GM to in reaching the mandated 65% recycling targets by 2035.

Members were advised that only polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans are included in the deposit return scheme commencing in October 2027.

Members enquired on the devolved nations recycling rates and whether lessons can be learned. Officers confirmed that Wales have the highest recycling rate at over 60%, though they do have a lower population and different collection processes in place compared to GM.

### **Resolved/-**

1. That the report be noted.

## **WRC 25/39 GM Waste Strategy Update**

David Taylor, Executive Director of Waste, GMCA, introduced a report providing the Committee with an update on the programme for development of the interim Greater Manchester Waste Strategy for 2026-2030, being produced to understand the impacts from the implementation of the various elements of the national Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS) on waste streams.

Following officer and member workshops several strategic objectives were identified to be delivered through the GM Waste Management Strategy by working collaboratively with partners, government, manufacturers, retailers, businesses, residents and non-governmental organisation to:

- Develop and deliver innovative and inclusive services that reflect local challenges such as population growth, demographic changes and housing stock.
- Decarbonise household waste, services and infrastructure.
- Use our services and the waste collected to deliver social, environmental and economic value; and
- Ensure Greater Manchester's voice continues to be heard and to influence the development of waste policy.

Several measurable actions are being developed to fulfil these objectives which will be monitored, measured, reported and refreshed over the life of the Strategy.

Public engagement and focus groups will take place over the summer to inform the development of the plan prior to publication of the final strategy in the autumn.

### **Resolved/-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Draft Interim Greater Manchester Waste Strategy for 2026-2030 be brought to the next meeting be agreed.

## **WRC 25/40 GMCA Waste and Resources Budget Outturn 2024/25**

Lindsey Keech, GMCA Head of Finance Capital and Treasury Management presented a report setting out the revenue and capital outturn for 2024/25 for the Waste and Resources Service.

The report highlighted the variance against the budget, including a waste disposal service expenditure underspend of £22m, resulting in £30m of reserves being returned to districts, higher than budgeted income from the sale of electricity, reduced tonnages across waste collection authorities (WCA's) & waste recycling centres (WRC's) and higher than budgeted income from the sale of recyclates. The variance on operational assets relates to delays to several programmes of works all of these will be reprofiled into 2025/26.

Members were advised that engagement continues and further information on the government response to consultation on the emissions trading scheme, inception date and whether local authority financial issues have been addressed will be available over the summer.

### **Resolved/-**

1. That the report be noted.

## **WRC 25/41 Sustainable Consumption and Production Programmes Update**

Michelle Lynch, GMCA Sustainable Consumption and Production Lead Programmes Manager, presented a report updating members on the progress of the Greater Manchester School Eco Grant Programme and gave a presentation highlighting a selection of successful projects.

Twenty-nine schools/colleges were awarded funding which seeks to kickstart small acts of positive climate action and sustainable behaviour change within the

education sector while increasing wider social benefits. The key objectives of the programme include:

1. Waste reduction and circular economy.
2. Climate education focused on sustainable lifestyles; and
3. Sustainable food and tackling food waste.

Participating schools and colleges will submit an interim report by September 2025, outlining progress, early outcomes, and any challenges encountered, with final reports in May 2026 which will capture the full impact of their projects. Case studies will be developed to illustrate good practice and share learning across Local Authorities and wider networks, along with promotion through the GM Green City website and social media channels to support wider engagement.

Members were advised that all districts received information about the programme and applications were received from all but Stockport. Communication for the next phase in October will be increased in those districts with a low application rate and across the website and social media platforms.

Members requested that officers liaise with them to obtain contacts for academies, dioceses etc and share future communications with the committee to enable wider dissemination.

Evaluation is being carried out and contact made with funding partners to evaluate whether the project can continue after funding ceases.

Members were advised that Manchester have a Keep Manchester Tidy team of officers, detail of work they carry out can be shared if required.

It was suggested that a GM Eco School Event be held following a successful Manchester Eco School Event recently.

Members confirmed that many schools operate projects such as Saturday litter picking and areas have schemes for example incredible edibles and suggested a

library of projects/schemes across GM be developed. Officers requested that information on such projects/schemes be shared.

Officers advised that a litter challenge is being launched in July, information will be shared with schools.

It was suggested that funding collaboration with districts will be investigated.

### **Resolved/-**

1. That the progress of the Greater Manchester School Eco Grant programme be noted.

### **WRC 25/42 SUEZ Social Value and Renew Programme Update**

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications & Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team spoke to a report and presentation providing individual council updates on the outcomes of the social value programme delivered by SUEZ during April 2024 and March 2025.

The SUEZ/GMCA waste management contracts prioritise creating social value from Greater Manchester's waste. SUEZ has developed and continues to deliver 54 social value commitments to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits across Greater Manchester which include creating apprenticeships, work placements and training opportunities, supporting schools by attending careers events and supporting universities with research projects.

SUEZ also have internal social value commitments including paying their staff the real living wage and are members of the GM Good Employment Charter. They also offer staff a range of accredited training and professional development opportunities as well as volunteering opportunities in the local community.

£23.3m, c73% of the £32.015m social value generated by GMCA's suppliers, detailed in GMCAs Social Value Annual Report for 2023-2024, was delivered by SUEZ through the waste management contracts.

Since 2021, over £1 million has been raised to support 90 VCFSE projects (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise) that assist financially vulnerable families and creates opportunities for residents to learn new skills and improves community cohesion. £500,000 has also been donated to the Greater Manchester's Mayors Charity which supports A Bed every Night scheme.

Officers agreed to circulate individual district reports to members.

Members were advised that the GM waste management contract is the only contract nationally that include the amount of social value being delivered by GM.

The 2019 contract negotiations included a 15% increase in social value that has been delivered.

Members requested that engagement be carried out with local religious institutes. Officers requested members share contacts to assist in engagement.

Officers confirmed that SUEZ have contacts in local prisons and carry out projects to assist in rehabilitation, two offenders released on temporary licence have been recruited by Suez. Items from the renew hub are taken into prisons where workshops are held to enhance offender skills to assist in gaining employment on release. Further information will be included in future reports

### **Resolved/-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That individual districts reports be circulated to members be agreed.

## **WRC 25/43 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 25/44 Contracts Update**

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report which provided an overview of the performance and commercial issues relating to the Waste and Resources Management Services (WRMS) and the Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS) contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019.

### **Resolved/-**

1. That the report be noted.