

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Waste and Resources Committee

Date: 8 October 2025

Subject: Contracts Update

Report of: Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, Waste and Resources Team

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. An update is also provided on the outcome of the Biowaste Treatment Framework and Call-Off contracts.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note and comment on performance of the Waste and Resource Management contracts set out in the report; and
2. Note the update on the outcome of the Biowaste Treatment Framework and Call-Off contracts.

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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

Bee Network 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 data for Contract year 7 (2025/26), Quarter 1 (April 2025 to June 2025), combined 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 provided for Quarter 1 of Contract year 7, alongside a comparison for the same period of the previous year, 2024/25:

OVERALL Combined Performance (WCA + HWRC)	2025 / 2026	2024 / 2025
Cumulative data (Year to date figures)	Qtr 1	Qtr 1
Total arisings (t)	268,377	280,230
Combined Recycling Rate*	48%	50%
Diversion Rate	99%	99%
HWRC Combined Performance		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste)*	64%	65%
Diversion (Household Waste)	100%	99%
WCA Recycling Collections		
Rejected Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	28	55
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled)	16%	15%

*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

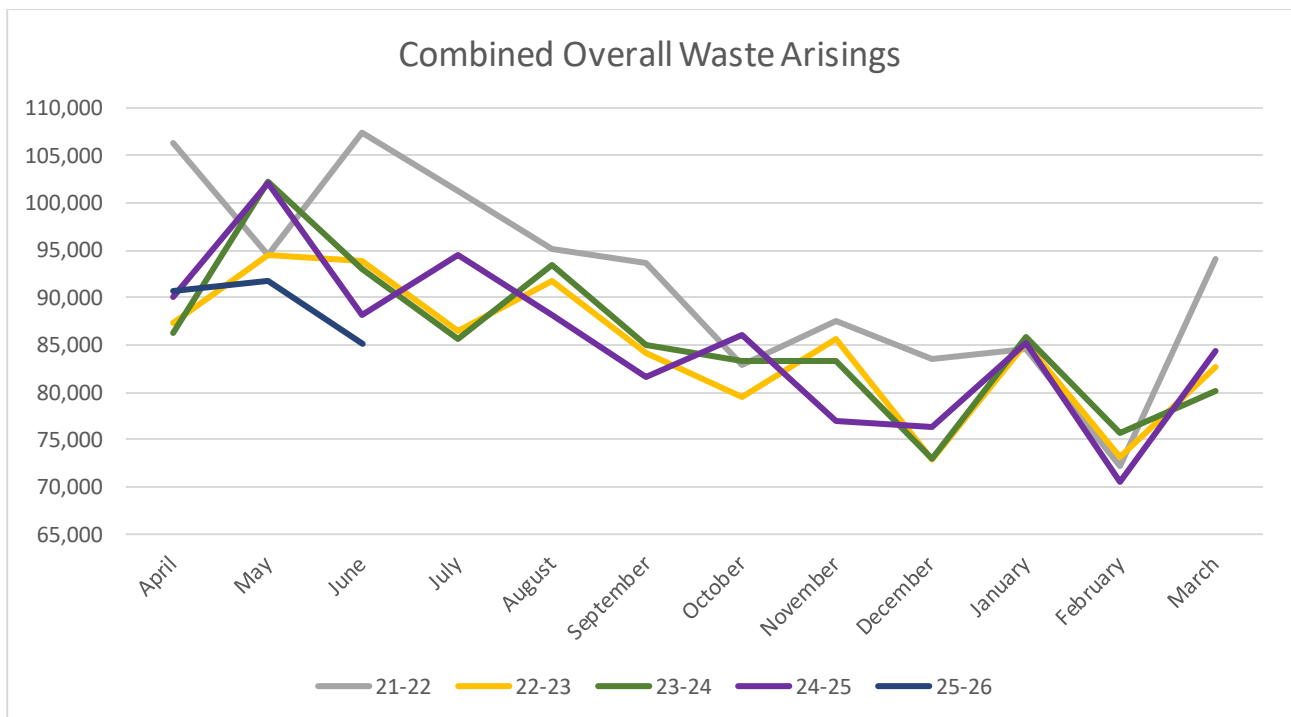
Total waste arisings for Contract year 7, Quarter 1 (2025/26) was c.270k tonnes(t), which is slightly lower than the levels in the same period of the previous year (c.12kt lower).

The combined (overall) Contract Recycling rate was c. 48%, which is slightly lower than for Quarter 1 of last year (down c.2%). This rate has been affected by a fall in biowaste tonnage (garden and food waste) which is likely to have been caused by the unusually dry and warm seasonal period over these 3 months.

Across the HWRC network, the high level of combined Recycling performance has been sustained, with a slight decrease (c.0.6%) resulting in a combined Recycling Rate of 64%.

The trend for Contract Year 7, Quarter 1, April to June, against the same period of last year shows a lower level of waste was received this year to date, without the seasonal peak previously seen around May. This is likely to be due to the warm and dry conditions experienced during these months this year, reducing garden waste tonnages.

The graph below gives a 5-year comparison, with the previous 4 years of the Contracts against the year 7 trend (dark blue line) for 25/26.



2.3. Landfill Diversion

Tonnages for Quarter 1, Contract year 7, showed the continuing good performance at both Energy Recovery Facilities (ERF), in Runcorn and Bolton. As a result, diversion from landfill continued to remain very high, with almost all (over 99%) of residual (non-recycled) materials diverted to thermal recovery and away from landfill. However, it must be noted that Runcorn ERF facility had its major planned outage over July and August, then Bolton TRF will be closed for the planned 6-month major upgrade works, from October 25 to March 26. Contingency options have been drawn up, but it is known that some increase in landfill will be inevitable. Talks with Suez have indicated that, despite the increases, these tonnages will remain within the contractual Landfill Cap levels.

2.4. Contamination Levels

The contamination level of kerbside collected recyclate, from materials accepted on reception but extracted by the mechanical MRF process, which has increased year on year by c.1%, to an overall c.16%.

However, of the materials that had to be rejected on delivery at Contract reception points, due to excess levels of unacceptable materials in the delivered loads, only 28t were lost, which is c.50% lower than at this point in the previous year. This continues the ongoing downward trend in non-target materials received in kerbside collections. This is a very positive position, whilst it remains essential to continue to improve the accuracy of materials presented for recycling.

2.5. Overall Combined Performance Rates

In summary, the overall performance for Quarter 1 of Contract year 7, combined for both Contracts (incorporating WCA and HWRC tonnages), achieved a recycling rate of almost 48%, with a landfill diversion rate of over 99%.

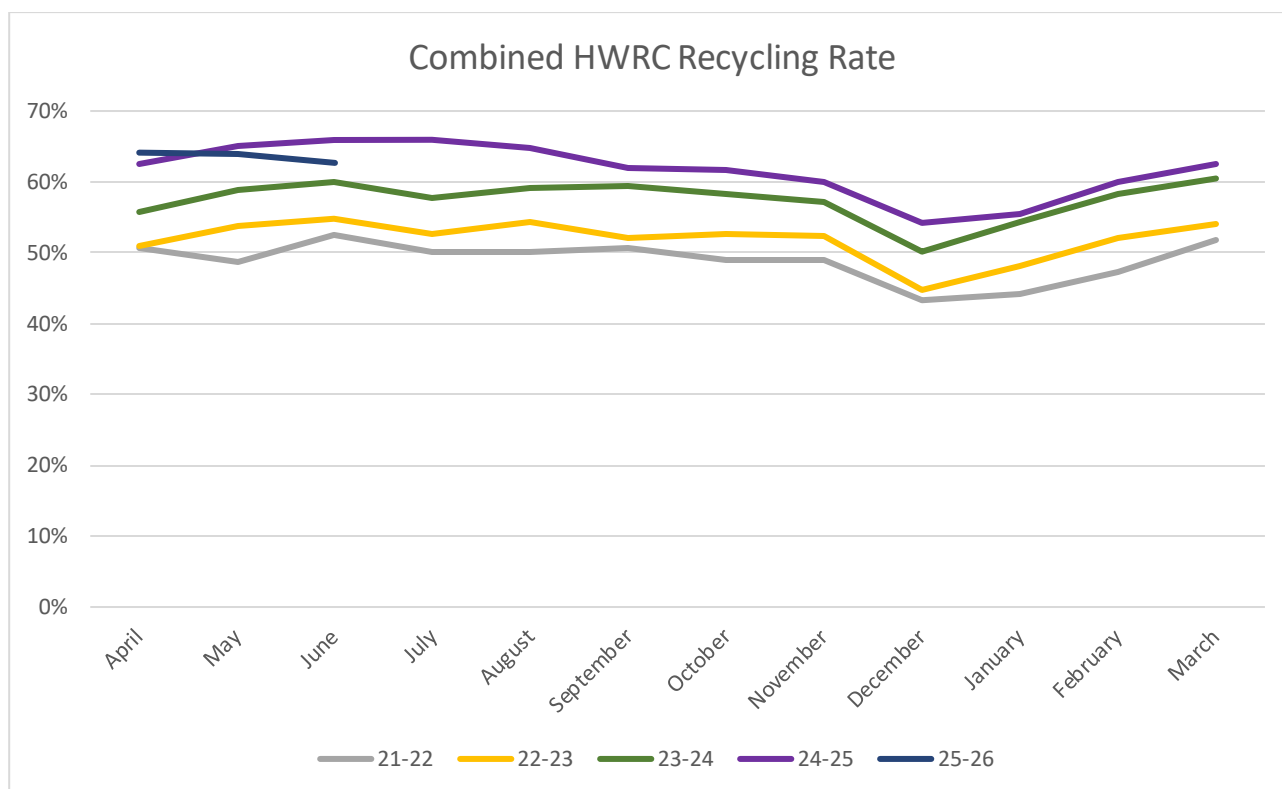
2.6. HWRC Recycling Rate

At the 20 HWRCs, across both Contracts (WRMS has 9 sites, plus 11 in HWRCMS), the combined recycling rate for Quarter 1, Contract Year 7, 25/26, was over 64%.

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.

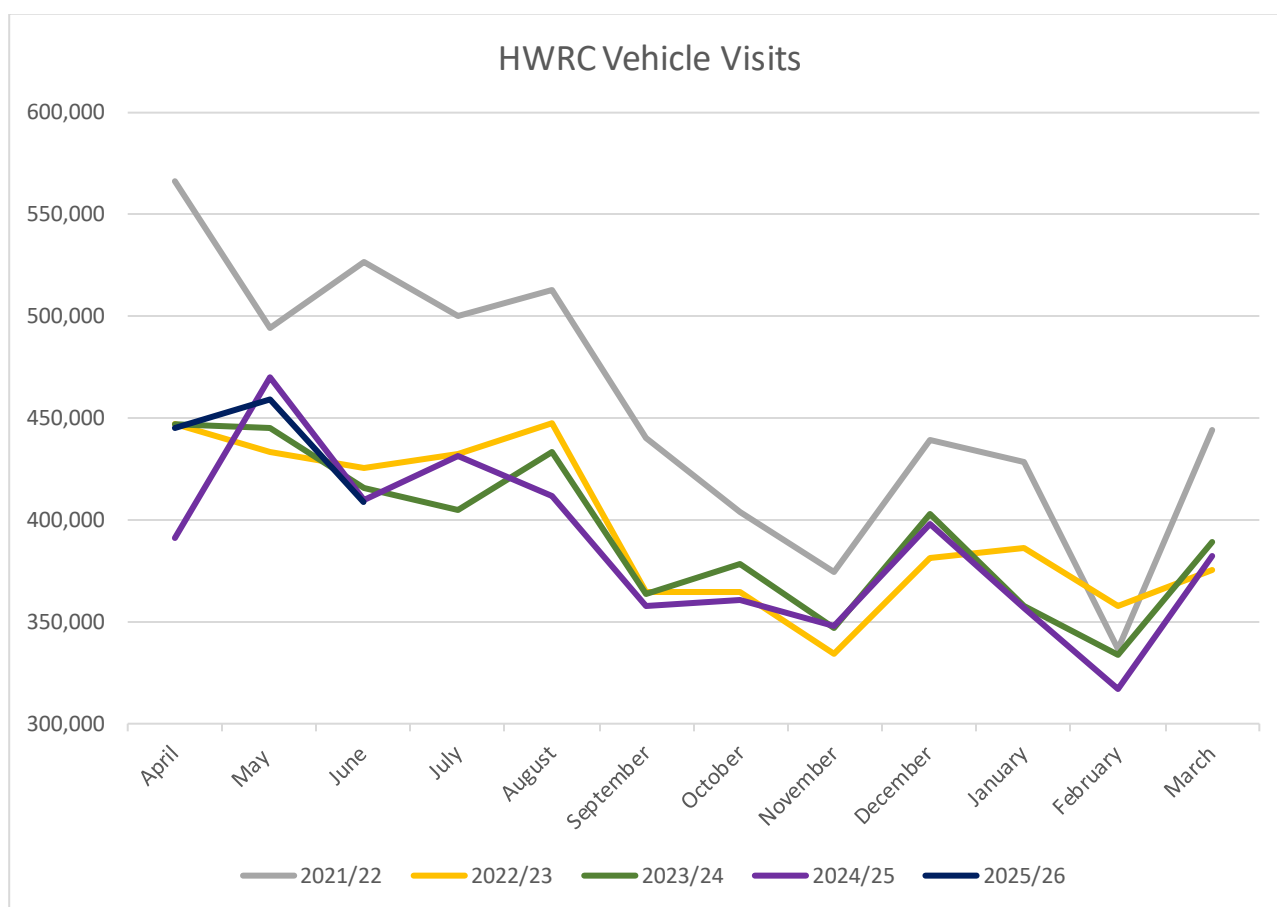
The graph below gives a rolling 5-year comparison of the combined HWRC recycling rates. The trend for 25/26 (dark blue line) shows the recycling rate across the HWRCs to Quarter 1 of this year. Whilst the level of recycling remains high, and above the Contract Target levels, Quarter 1 levels are currently slightly lower than the same period of last year. This is attributed to the dry and warm start to the year, reducing the usual levels of garden waste.



2.7. HWRC Visit Levels

The graph below shows monthly HWRC visit levels for Quarter 1 in Contract Year 7, compared with the previous four Contract years.

There were over 1.3 million visits in this period – with the overall level of visits across the 20 sites increasing slightly (c.1%). Since the Contracts began, overall visitor 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 has been an incident reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013. Details are provided below:

1. **Location:** Bredbury Park MTR - driver with a load of cardboard was walking around their vehicle and slipped and landed on their knee – received first aid on site, taken to hospital, and diagnosed with ligament damage.

RIDDOR was reported following 7 days of lost time absence.

The employee has since returned to work following recovery, on a phased return basis.

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	25-26 - YTD
RIDDORs	5	3	3	4	4	2	1

4. Biowaste Treatment Framework and Call-Off contracts

Members will recall that as part of GMCA's Biowaste Management Strategy reported to Committee in early 2024 it was planned to secure Biowaste treatment capacity from April 2026 for three years. This would be done by way of inviting suitably qualified contractors on to a Framework of suppliers and then run a mini-competition between those suppliers to provide capacity for 14 tonnage 'packages' of Biowaste.

4.1. The Biowaste Framework

In the spring the Framework was advertised and six contractors submitted information and proposed nine sites nationally. The contractors were evaluated on a pass/fail basis on a number of areas such as having the correct and adequate environmental permits and planning permissions in place. They also had to provide an indicative ceiling price for the

services they would provide (they could reduce this at the mini-competition stage but not increase it).

All six providers passed the evaluation and were added to the Framework. The providers were:

- Biffa Waste Services;
- Biowise Limited;
- Brosters Environmental Limited;
- Countrystyle/Envar Composting Limited;
- Resource Recycling Solutions Limited; and
- Ryedale Organics Limited.

4.2. The Call-Off Competition

In the early Summer the Framework contractors were invited to submit their 'gate fees' for each of the 14 'tonnage' packages. These Packages are split into eight A Packages – the baseline Biowaste tonnage generated all year round – and six B Packages accommodating the seasonal uplift in Biowaste tonnages.

Prior to the procurement GMCA analysed Biowaste arisings figures and reduced the guaranteed minimum tonnage of Biowaste that we would commit to the contractors. With the recent introduction of charging for the collection of garden waste in two of the districts a reduction of overall Biowaste tonnages is anticipated. To address this the guaranteed minimum amount of biowaste committed to the contractors was reduced.

All six contractors submitted prices for eight of the sites with a wide range of gate fees. To evaluate submissions both the gate fees and the haulage distance (converted into a £/tonne haulage cost) is also taken into consideration so as to ensure that GMCA pays the lowest combined price for the transfer and treatment of Biowaste. The evaluation also ensures that any single contractor cannot win more waste than it has capacity to treat.

4.3. The Call-Off Outcome

With six contractors on the Framework there was strong competition on price and any concerns we had about the market were allayed.

The outcome of the evaluation is that Ryedale Organics Limited (with a site located in Yorkshire) were awarded eight of the packages and Biowise Limited (across two sites – one in Crewe and the other in Hull) were awarded six of the packages.

In terms of the overall financial impact – the procurement is forecast to generate a small saving (however, this is dependent on the amount of Biowaste collected) as the blended gate fee compared to the current position is marginally lower.