

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 21 January 2026

Subject: Procuring Legal Services and Technical Services Support

Report of: Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, Waste & Resources Team

Purpose of Report

To inform the Committee of the need to procure external support in the disciplines of Legal Services and Technical Services and to provide the delegation of award to the Group Chief Executive.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the report; and
2. To delegate the decision to award the support contracts to the Group Chief Financial Officer.

Contact Officers

Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, Waste & Resources Team

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers

Insert text

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation			
Equality and Inclusion					
Health					
Resilience and Adaptation					
Housing					
Economy					
Mobility and Connectivity					
Carbon, Nature and Environment					
Consumption and Production	G				
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		Advice provided will inform the Service's development of services to drive up recycling.			
Further Assessment(s):	N/A				
G	Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	A	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	R	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
				RR	Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment

Overall Score					
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation			
New Build residential	N/A				
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A				
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A				
Transport					
Active travel and public transport	N/A				
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A				
Access to amenities	N/A				
Vehicle procurement	N/A				
Land Use					
Land use	N/A				
No associated carbon impacts expected.	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.	

Risk Management

The procurement of advisers removes the risk of any challenge for inappropriately commissioned support and also provides additional specialist resources not available within the Team or GMCA.

Legal Considerations

The procurement will follow the GMCA procedures and will be compliant with the Procurement Act 2023.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The procurement itself will be managed within existing resources and any commissioned work will be funded from existing revenue budgets.

Financial Consequences – Capital

None.

Number of attachments to the report: None.

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background Papers

None.

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

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction/Background

The Waste & Resources Team manages a wide range of contracts and a diverse mix of operational and closed waste facilities. The Team is highly experienced and expert but does, from time to time, require the services of external advisers to support us on a project or query basis.

The Team is currently supported by legal and technical advisers (currently DLA Piper and WSP Ltd respectively) but the existing contracts with both organisations are coming to an end. To ensure a continuity of support the processes to reprocure support has begun and this report requests approval for a delegation to the Group Chief Executive to award the contracts following a successful evaluation process.

2. Our Requirements

2.1. In General

In both cases (legal and technical) the Team is seeking to procure a supplier that is multi-disciplinary and experienced in the support of large public sector contracts such as those managed by the Authority. The reason for this is to minimise the number of suppliers engaged and to ensure continuity and consistency across each of the organisations procured.

The Authority will retain the ability to commission support from alternative organisations outside the contract if the supplier doesn't have a particular specialism (and some requirements in waste management can be particularly niche) or capacity at the time the support is required.

2.2. Legal Support

Given the scale and breadth of coverage within the waste contracts, our experience previously suggests we do need a wide range of external expertise. Over the last few years we have sought advice on, for example, intellectual property, property matters, rail services, construction sector contracting, asset management, pensions, health and safety, governance, procurement, industrial relations, contract management, commercial matters, insurance, legal negotiation and litigation, advice on statutory powers and duties, management of signing and sealing processes where requested, employment matters and tax.

These areas are generally beyond the expertise of local authority legal teams and, as commercial organisations, they have greater capacity to respond to commissions at short notice and with urgency.

2.3. Technical Support

The scope of the technical support is broad. The core of the work that has been commissioned previously has been within engineering and asset management providing invaluable support and expertise to our internal team. WSP has also previously delivered projects relating to waste strategy, options appraisals and facility feasibility studies.

3. The Procurement Process

3.1. The Procurement Act 2023

1. The procurement process will follow the Open Procedure as detailed within the Procurement Act 2023. The Authority's Commercial Services team will support the Waste & Resources Team.
2. The Open Procedure is a single-stage process where any interested and eligible supplier can submit a tender in response to a call for competition. This can result in a large number of bidders but as our requirement is for a multi-disciplinary organisation with a track record in supporting large public sector contracts, the number of potential bidders is reduced.
3. A package of information including a background document, specification and bidder questionnaire is produced. Bidders will be required to demonstrate their relevant experience through the completion of a number of relevant case studies. Price will also be a key evaluation factor and this will be determined through the submission of a blended rate with work at different grades defined by the Authority.
4. A minimum of three Authority evaluators will review and score submissions before a moderation process to discuss those scores and to select the preferred supplier.
5. Social value will also feature as part of the bid to further bolster the Waste & Resources contribution to social value delivered by the Authority.

4. Timescales

4.1. Legal Support

The Waste & Resources Team is currently working towards a March/April 2026 deadline for award of legal support services.

4.2. Technical Support

The current contract for technical services support ends in late May 2026 and the procurement will aim for continuity. As WSP is currently deeply involved in the development of the new Salford Road materials recovery facility this work package will be omitted from the re-procurement.