

**Minutes of the Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee held on
Wednesday 21 January 2026**

Present:

Bolton Council	Councillor Richard Silvester
Bury Council	Councillor Alan Quinn (in the Chair)
Bury Council	Councillor Gareth Staples-Jones
Manchester CC	Councillor Lee-Ann Igbon
Oldham Council	Councillor Pam Byrne
Oldham Council	Councillor Ken Rustidge
Tameside Council	Councillor Laura Boyle
Trafford Council	Councillor Stephen Adshead
Trafford Council	Councillor Dylan Butt

Officers in Attendance:

GMCA Deputy Monitoring Officer	Sarah Bennett
GMCA Group Finance Officer	Steve Wilson
GMCA Waste & Resources	David Taylor
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michelle Whitfield
GMCA Waste & Resources	Justin Lomax
GMCA Waste & Resources	Paul Morgan
GMCA Finance	Lindsey Keech
GMCA Environment	Michelle Lynch
GMCA Environment	Sarah Mellor
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Kerry Bond

DISTRICT OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bury Council	Daniela Dixon
Salford CC	Rupert Casey
Tameside Council	Jo Oliver

WRC 26/01 Apologies

Resolved/-

To note the apologies for absence received from Councillors Shaukat Ali (Manchester), Aasim Rashid (Rochdale), Barbara Bentham (Salford), Sue Maitland (Trafford) and Liam Billington (Tameside).

Subs: Mohammed Arshad (Rochdale), Gina Reynolds (Salford)

Apologies were also noted from Anthony Johns (Rochdale)

WRC 26/02 Chairs Announcements and Urgent Business

The Chair informed members of a meeting he attended on 13 January with DESNZ and DEFRA Ministers, along with other councillors, to discuss the Emissions Trading Scheme. During the meeting, financial concerns were raised, emphasising that the associated costs should be borne by the producers of the goods.

A further letter has been issued to Ministers requesting a postponement of the scheme's planned implementation in 2028.

Resolved/-

1. That the update be noted.
2. It was noted that a further letter has been issued to Ministers requesting a postponement of the scheme's planned implementation in 2028.
3. That an update be brought to an appropriate future meeting.
4. That a briefing note be circulated to committee members be approved.

WRC 26/03 Declarations of Interest

Resolved/-

1. There were no declarations of interest reported.

WRC 26/04 Membership of the GM Waste & Recycling Committee 2025/26

Resolved/-

1. To note the substitute members of the Committee for 2025/6 appointed at the GMCA meeting held on Friday, 12 December 2025.

WRC 26/05 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 October 2026

Resolved/-

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2025 be approved as a correct record.

WRC 26/06 Contracts Update

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report which provided an overview on performance of the Waste and Resource Management Services and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019 and an update on the Green Gas Support Scheme.

The report presented cumulative annual data, for the period up to the end of September 2025, quarter 2 of the financial year 2025/26, for the two contracts held by Suez. An overview of the cumulative data, total waste arisings, contamination levels, landfill diversions, performance rates, HWRC recycling rates and HWRC visit levels were also provided.

The report outlined two events that had occurred since the previous report in October 2025 that is reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) and a year-on-year comparison of RIDDOR incidents since 2019.

Green Gas Support Scheme (GGSS) Update

The Waste and Resources team previously sought market interest in delivering two 100 kilo tonnes per annum (ktpa) treatment facilities using dry anaerobic digestion (AD) or in-vessel composting (IVC), with bidders required to secure suitable sites. The business case depended on eligibility for the Green Gas Support Scheme, which originally required facilities to be operational by 31 March 2028.

Feedback from market engagement highlighted two concerns:

- Limited availability of suitable development sites.
- Insufficient time to meet the 2028 operational deadline.

GMCA therefore paused the process and sought clarity from DESNZ on future funding. On 10 November, DESNZ announced an extension of the GGSS to 31 March 2030. Facilities must still register by 31 March 2028 but will now have until 2030 to become operational, with 13 years of support available.

Given this change, an update to the dry AD business case prepared by Walker Resource Management Ltd (WRM) is required, a further update will be brought to a future meeting of this committee.

Members were advised that Derbyshire County Council is considering the closure of its Household Waste Recycling Centre in Glossop, which may have implications for neighbouring Greater Manchester sites. Officers confirmed that bordering GM sites will continue to carry out resident checks and maintain a watching brief. Should the closure be formally agreed, a further report will be presented to a future meeting.

Resolved/-

1. That the performance of the Waste and Resource Management contracts be noted.
2. That an update of the business case for development of dry anaerobic digestion treatment technology to reflect the extension to the Green Gas Support Scheme to 31st March 2030 be approved.

WRC 26/07 2025/26 Budget Update and Budget and Levy Setting Process for 2026/27

Steve Wilson, GMCA Group Chief Finance Officer presented a report detailing the budget and levy for 2026/27 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2028/29, delivered by:

1. A total levy requirement for 2026/27 of £186.5m, which represents a 4% average increase over 2025/26. At a District level, the levy changes range from 2.2% to 3.6%; and
2. The MTFP then proposes levy charges of £192.0m in 2027/28 and £197.8m in 2028/29.

Officers confirmed that the £10m of reserves to Districts in 2026/27 is distributed on 2025/26 tonnage levels and in line with district contributions to waste budget.

Resolved/-

1. That the forecast outturn for 2025/26, and a proposal to return a further £10m of reserves to Districts from the forecast in-year underspend be noted.
2. That the proposed 2027/28 Trade Waste rate of £147.62 to allow forward planning by Districts be noted.
3. That the capital programme for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix A be noted.
4. That the budget and levy for 2026/27 of £186.5m (4% increase) be noted.
5. That the risk position set out in the Balances Strategy and the intention to return a further £10m of reserves to Districts in 2026/27 be noted.

WRC 26/08 Procuring Legal Services and Technical Services Support

Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided an update on 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 Finance Officer.

The Waste & Resources Team manages a broad range of contracts and a diverse mix of operational and closed waste facilities and occasionally requires external specialist advice on a project or query basis. The team is currently supported by legal and technical advisers, DLA Piper and WSP Ltd, with both contracts nearing their end, the reprocurement process has begun to ensure continuity of support. Seeking a multi-disciplinary supplier with proven experience in supporting large public sector contracts to minimise the number of suppliers engaged and maintain consistency across commissioned work, while retaining the option to procure expertise from alternative providers where required.

The procurement will be undertaken in line with the Procurement Act 2023, with an award of legal support services by March/April 2026 and technical services by May 2026.

Members asked whether GMCA partner expertise could be utilised to avoid siloed working and reduce reliance on private commissioning. Officers confirmed that cross-GM collaboration is being actively explored, with the waste team engaging GM Fire Service on shared technical needs and holding discussions with TfGM on transport-related expertise; they noted that opportunities for shared resourcing will continue to grow, though certain areas will still require external validation and specialists with some external support remaining necessary.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. To delegate the decision to award the support contracts to the Group Chief Finance Officer be agreed.

WRC 26/09 Sustainable Consumption and Production Programmes Update

Michelle Lynch, Lead Programmes Manager, Sustainable Consumption and Production, GMCA Environment Directorate talked to a presentation updating members on the progress of key programmes under the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Plan, with a particular focus on

School Programmes, the Sustainable Lifestyles Training Framework, the BeeGreenGM platform and the One Tonne Plastic Litter Campaign, including:

- One Tonne Plastic Challenge collected 3.7 tonnes across 96 neighbourhoods.
- Eco Refill Shops:
 - 45 schools engaged across GM.
 - Over 3,300 single-use containers saved.
 - Significant skills development and community impact.
- Eco Grants for Schools:
 - Programme overview, case studies and future plans
- Sustainable Lifestyles Training Framework:
 - Launch of Bee The Change interactive game (Jan 2026)
 - Refreshed Climate Awareness e-module (Feb 2026)
 - Single-use plastics module (Spring 2026)
- Climate Awareness – Sustainable Lifestyles Framework
 - A clear 3-level pathway for climate understanding across GM
- Bee The Change game platform entering final testing.

Members were advised that a project coming on board funded through Bloomberg, which aims to increase community involvement with a key focus area of working with older people across Greater Manchester.

Officers confirmed that the next phase includes mapping where children affected by income deprivation across Greater Manchester live and the most deprived areas to inform how we target and recommend projects in those areas for the next funding round.

Officers confirmed that groups, charities and organisations already doing valuable work including projects such as the Incredible Edibles Group in Oldham will be taken into consideration for funding as the project develops.

Members were advised that the potential opportunity in the business asset reuse online platform to link in with the local recycling centre will be explored.

Resolved/-

1. That the progress of the School Programmes, the Sustainable Lifestyles Training Framework, including the Bee the Change Game and Climate Awareness e-module, and the BeeGreenGM platform, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance sustainability, reduce waste, and promote circular economy practices across Greater Manchester be noted.

WRC 26/10 Administration of the Renew Community Fund

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, Communications & Engagement Team, GMCA presented a report detailing an assessment of options to change the way the Renew Community Fund is administered to provide more local support.

The fund, now in its fifth year and having supported 110 projects across Greater Manchester, is administered by Lancashire Wildlife Trust through Greater Manchester Environment Trust (GMET), with an annual administration cost of £32,000 funded by SUEZ. As the Fund continues to grow GMCA and SUEZ have reviewed alternative administration models to improve flexibility and community engagement. Several options were considered, including transferring administration to Grantscape, using the ActionFunder platform, managing the fund in-house, or adopting a blended approach. The recommended option is to use ActionFunder alongside a newly created GMCA Community Fund Officer post, enabling more responsive local engagement and improved support for community groups while maintaining low administrative costs. SUEZ has agreed to contribute approximately £20,000 annually toward the dedicated post, using savings from the previous administrative arrangement.

Resolved/-

1. That the proposed approach to adopt ActionFunder as the grant management platform and support the recruitment of a dedicated Community Fund Officer be approved.

WRC 26/11 Future Meeting Dates

Resolved/-

1. That the future meeting dates be noted.

WRC 26/12 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 25/13 Contracts Update

Resolved/-

1. That the contract updates and key risks set out in the report be noted.