

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Waste and Resources Committee

Date: 11 March 2026

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.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note and comment on performance of the Waste and Resource Management contracts 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

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 3 (April 2025 to December 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 3 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 3	Qtr 3
Total arisings (t)	776,216	783,747
Combined Recycling Rate*	46%	48%
Diversion Rate	99%	99%
HWRC Combined Performance		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste)*	62%	63%
Diversion (Household Waste)	99%	99%
WCA Recycling Collections		
Rejected Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	171	219
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled)	18%	17%

*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

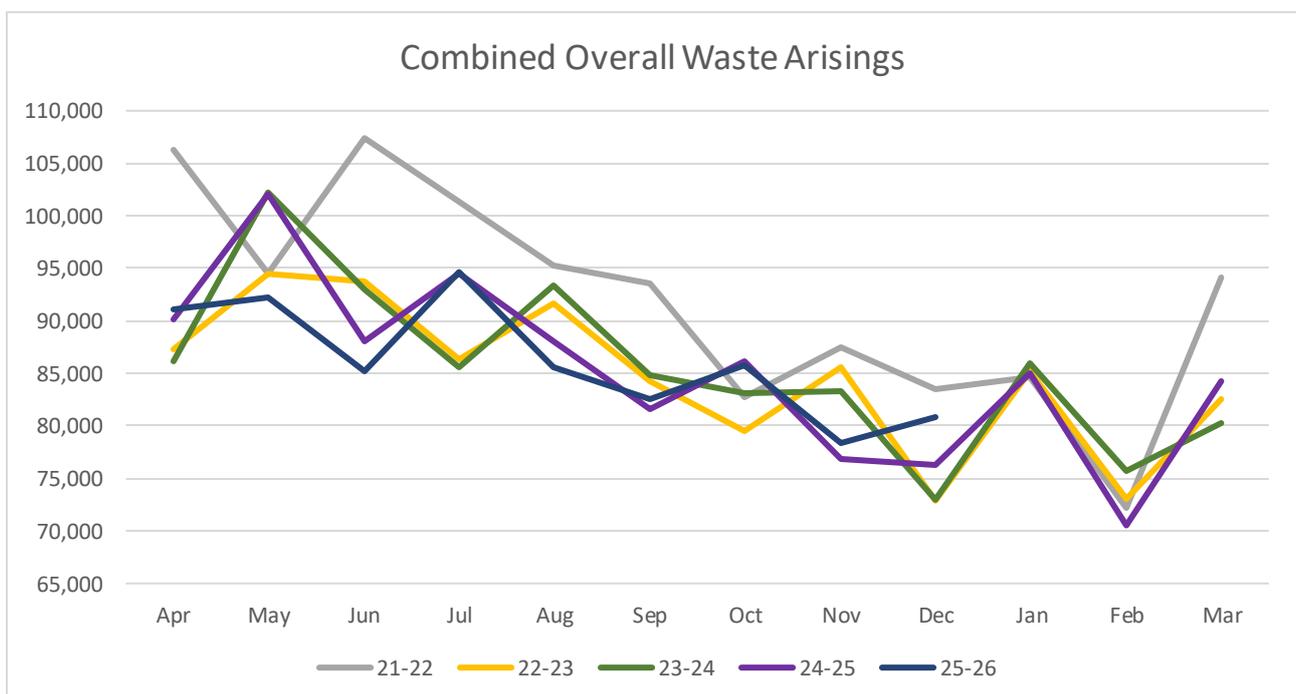
Total waste arising for Contract year 7, up to Quarter 3 (2025/26) was over 776k tonnes(t), which is slightly lower (-1%) than the levels in the same period of the previous year (c.7.5kt lower).

The combined (overall) Contract Recycling rate was c. 46%, which is nearly 1.3% lower than at Quarter 3 of last year. This rate has been particularly affected by lower biowaste tonnages (garden and food waste) in Quarter 1, which was due to the unusually dry and warm start to the summer season bringing lower amounts of garden waste than usual.

Across the HWRC network, the high level of combined Recycling performance has been sustained, with a slight decrease (c.0.8%) resulting in a combined Recycling Rate of 62%.

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.

The Contract Year 7, Quarter 3, April to December, trend shows a slightly lower level of waste for this year to date against the same period of last year, without the seasonal peak seen around May in the two previous years, due to the warm and dry conditions experienced during these months this year, reducing garden waste tonnages. The trend over the months in quarter 3 were close to last year until December, which was 6% higher for this year.



2.3. Landfill Diversion

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 tonnages for Quarter 3 of Contract year 7. Although the Runcom Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) had its planned major outage over July and August, contingency arrangements managed to maintain high levels of diversion. In October 2025, Bolton TRF went into the planned 6-month outage for major upgrade works, which is scheduled for completion in March 26. Contingency options are also in place for this period, but it is possible that there will be some requirement to increase the use of landfill. We are working with Suez to ensure that these tonnages will be kept 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, was at c.18%.

However, materials that had to be rejected on delivery at Contract reception points, due to excess levels of unacceptable materials in the delivered loads, meant c.170t were lost over the 9 months, which is c.22% lower than at this point last year. This continues the ongoing downward trend in non-target materials rejected in kerbside collections, which is still a positive position, whilst there is still room to improve the accuracy of materials presented for recycling.

2.5. Overall Combined Performance Rates

In summary, the overall performance for Quarter 3 of Contract year 7, combined for both Contracts (incorporating WCA and HWRC tonnages), achieved an overall recycling rate of over 46%, and a landfill diversion rate of over 99%.

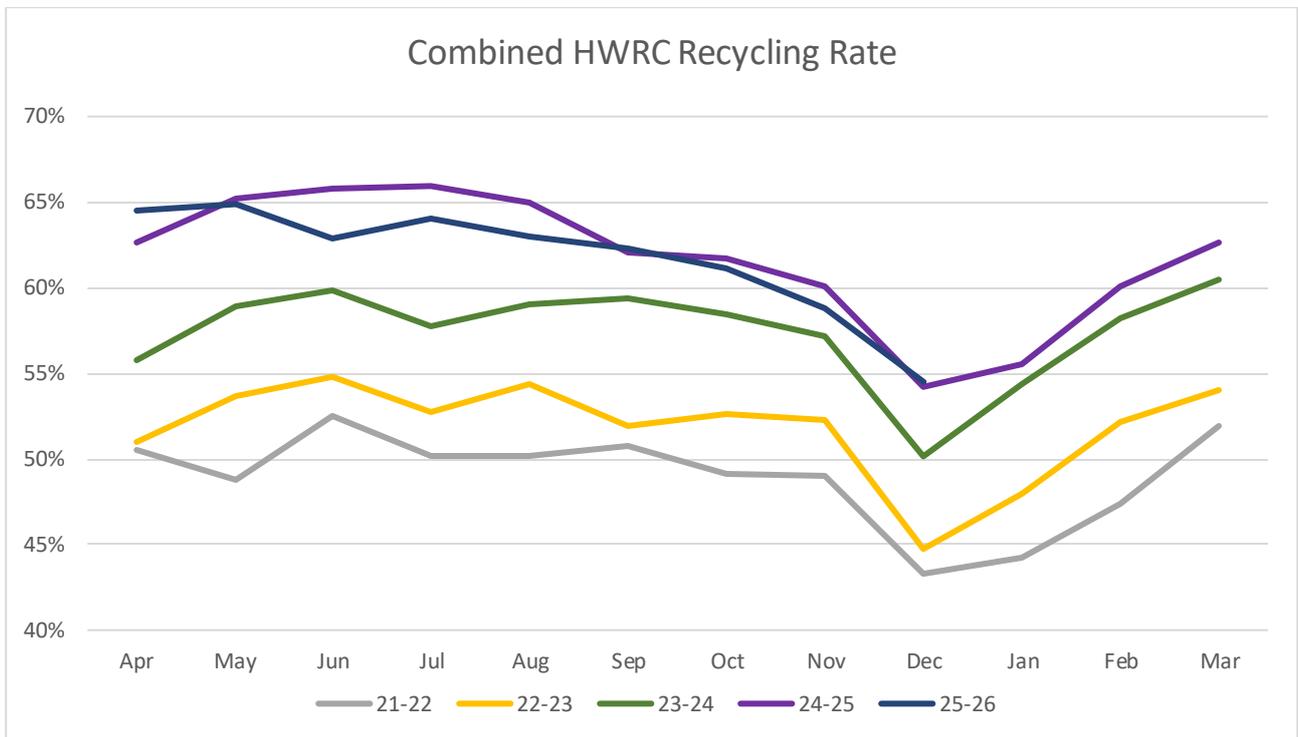
2.6. HWRC Recycling Rate

At the 20 HWRCs, across both Contracts (WRMS has 9 sites, plus 11 in HWRCMS), the combined recycling rate for Quarter 3, Contract Year 7, 25/26, was over 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.

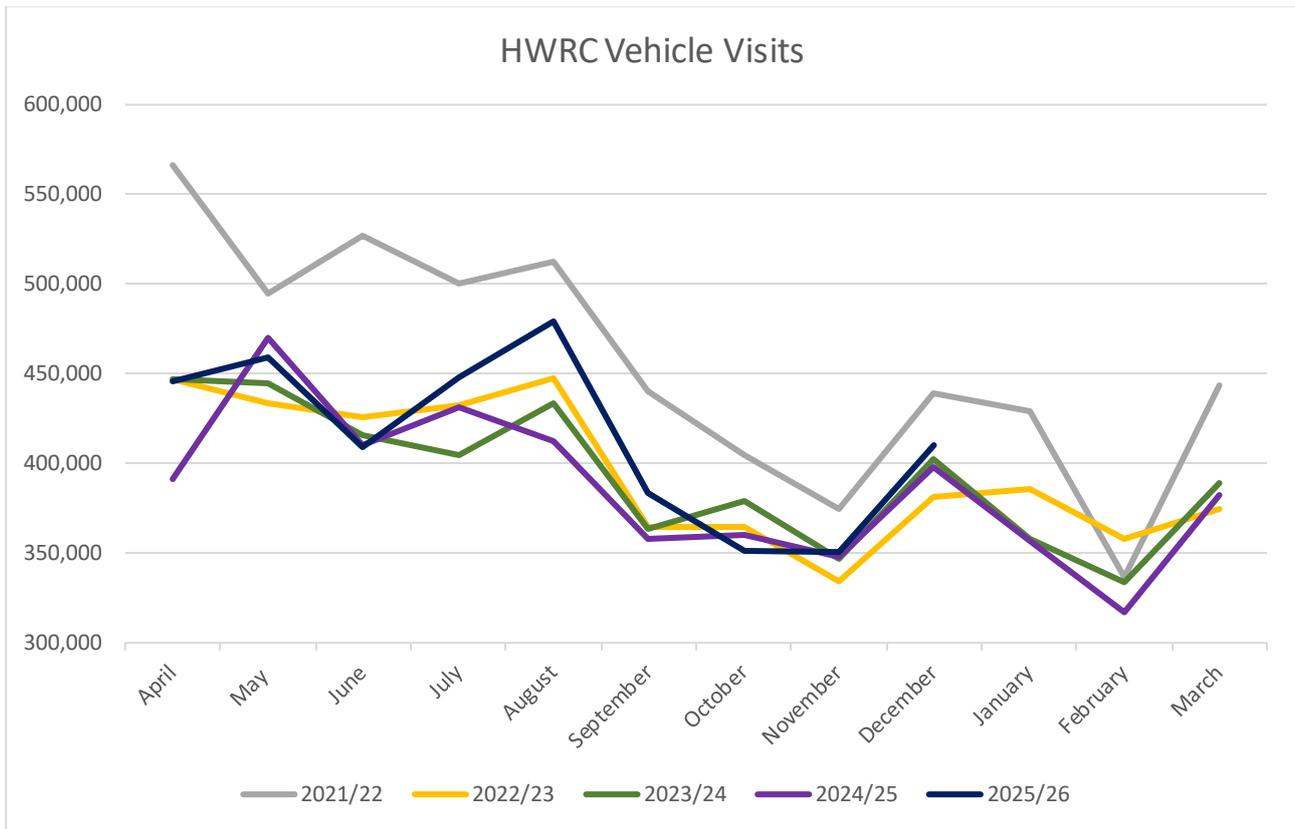
The graph below gives a rolling 5-year comparison of the combined HWRC recycling rates. The trend for 25/26 (dark blue line) shows the recycling rate across the HWRCs to Quarter 3 of this year. Whilst the level of recycling remains high, and above the Contract Target levels, Quarter 3 levels are currently 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 up to Quarter 3 of Contract Year 7, compared with the previous four Contract years.

There were over 3.7 million visits in this period – with the overall level of visits across the 20 sites increasing by over 3%. Overall visitor numbers have been falling since the start of the contracts, until this year. However, this has not been accompanied by a corresponding increase in tonnage levels, suggesting that overall, more visitors are delivering smaller amounts of waste to sites.



Additionally, efforts continue to reduce and prevent the amount of cross-boundary waste, entering Greater Manchester sites from neighbouring Authority areas. Meet and greet postcode checks are used at HWRCs along the borders with other District areas, along with communications to explain that the sites are for residents of the 9 Greater Manchester districts only.

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 two further incidents reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013.

The Committee was informed in the Quarter 2 update, that a medical screening process had detected 2 cases of Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS). Since then, in Quarter 3, an employee was also diagnosed with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. As with the previous cases, all recommendations and controls have been reviewed as a result of this diagnosis. Practices and procedures are in place to prevent the circumstances that are related to these conditions.

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	4