

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

### Waste and Resources Recycling Committee

Date: 11 March 2026

Subject: Capital Programme and Asset Management Update

Report of: Michael Kelly, Head of Engineering and Asset Management,  
Waste and Resources Team

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#### Purpose of Report

To provide the Committee with updates on key capital projects and lifecycle projects during quarter 4 of 2025-26.

#### Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note and comment on matters set out within the report; and
2. Note the award of contracts will be in accordance with the Constitution and Contract Procedure Rules.

#### Contact Officers

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## **Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:**

Not applicable

## **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**

Not applicable

## **Background Papers**

Not applicable

## **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**

Not applicable

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Not applicable

# 1. Introduction

This report provides members with updates concerning the Waste and Resources asset portfolio. It includes progress summaries for significant projects conducted during the fourth quarter of 2025-26. The Engineering Team oversees the waste estate, which consists of three primary asset categories.

<b>Category A</b>	<b>WRMS Contract Facilities (Lot 1)</b> Lot 1 includes 28 separate waste reception facilities located at 11 different sites. <b>HWRMS Contract Facilities (Lot 2)</b> Lot 2 includes 11 separate Household Waste Recycling Centres.
<b>Category B</b>	<b>Buildings and Land</b> Category B includes all other Land and building premises separate to the WRMS and HWRMS estate.
<b>Category C</b>	<b>Closed Landfill Sites</b> Category C includes 4 previously operated dilute and disperse landfill sites that have since been closed and are subject to ongoing management requirements.

## 2. Category (A) Updates – Operational Waste Facilities

### 2.1. Reliance Street (HWRC)

1. **Background** – Redevelopment of the existing HWRC at Reliance Street in Newton Heath, is required, due to the current facility being beyond its economic life span and the restricted layout which does not encourage high-levels of recycling. A new improved HWRC will provide a larger facility giving more capacity to receive, manage and recycle commodities by providing 16 individual bulk containers to segregate materials like many of our other HWRC's across the region.

2. **Current Position** – Redevelopment activities commenced on Monday 8th September 2025, the HWRC was closed to the public on 30th June to facilitate a full site clearance and handover to our appointed contractor. During the past 6 months the main focus has been on the following activities:

- Site clearance and demolition of existing structures;
- Ground works and remediation to stabilise conditions for the new HWRC layout;

- Drainage and service installations; and
- Piling installation.

During this period, several unforeseen issues have arisen, which are mainly associated with ground conditions and the amount of soil requiring removal to accommodate the new HWRC layout. One of the key issues which delayed progress was the locations of existing load bearing piles associated with the former anaerobic digestion plant. The exact location and number of piles was unclear before work started due to low quality as-built records. All piles have now been reduced in height (cropped) or removed.

Other items which impacted the programme included:

- Location of existing services;
- High Voltage cable diversion;
- Existing Drainage system diversion;
- Construction of additional drainage chambers to accommodate the system diversion;
- Availability of the piling sub-contractor; and
- Northern slope risks, retaining structure and slope stability.

Activities for the next 6 months will focus on the following areas:

- Conclusion of the piling installations and ground remediation;
- Ground works preparation;
- Structural form work preparation;
- Installation of structural slabs, container bays and other structures;
- Installation of a new access road, road surfacing and safety requirements; and
- Establishment of a new Renew shop and staff welfare building.

Further update will be provided at the meeting and at future committee updates.

## **2.2. Over Hulton – Mechanical Recovery Facility (MRF)**

**1. Background** – GMCA plans to build a new materials recovery facility (MRF) facility at our former in-vessel composter (IVC) site in Over Hulton, Bolton. The plant will process dry mixed recyclables (DMR) including pots, tubs, trays (PTT's), flexible films, and tetra cartons, in line with the National Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS). Designed to handle up to 140,000 tonnes per year, the new facility increases capacity for anticipated population growth and evolving DMR collection policies.

Since that time, efforts have been directed toward clearly outlining site-specific requirements to confirm that the plant can be integrated within existing site constraints. This has included

preparing and submitting the planning application, as well as developing a plant specification and a procurement package for selecting a suitable plant supplier.

The plant specification and tender package were finalised and issued through the Chest Procurement Portal in September 2025. The tender process was designed under the new Procurement Act 2023 requirements, it aims for a robust technical solution emphasising whole life cost of the plant. The process is defined by 3 key stages leading to the appointment of a preferred supplier.

**2. Current Position** – Stage 1 was completed in late November. The project generated more initial interest than anticipated, resulting in the submission of several bid proposals. Each bid was thoroughly evaluated and scored independently by members of the Stage 1 review panel. Following individual assessment, bids were then collectively reviewed, and final scores were assigned after moderation. Overall, the submissions demonstrated strong quality, with varied interpretations of the project requirements. Several bidders did not advance to Stage 2 because they lacked strong UK references for projects of similar scale and complexity.

Two bidders were successful in Stage 1 and have now advanced to Stage 2. Both bidders have provided positive proposals, and both suppliers are well established with extensive experience in delivering MRF plants in the UK.

Stage 2 began in January, this phase involves a detailed examination of each proposal, with particular emphasis on analysing the whole life cost of each bid. Evaluating whole life costs is essential, as it encompasses both capital and operational expenses over the anticipated lifespan of the plant. Stage 2 is expected to conclude on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, after which we will proceed to Stage 3, focusing on reviewing and refining each bid through individual discussions with bidders. The timetable for Stages 2 and 3 extends through to June to the appointment of a preferred bidder and contract award.

We are currently anticipating completion in autumn 2027 subject to several unknown requirements. A planning application for the proposed development was submitted to Bolton Council in December; its determination is expected in April. We are also currently preparing an Environmental Permit application for submission to the Environment Agency.

### **Key tasks for 2026-27**

- Conclude procurement stage 2 and 3;
- Obtain planning permission;
- Permit application submission;
- Confirm all enabling and civil works required to achieve delivery;

- Confirm all other supporting works required to achieve delivery; and
- Review and define the education building requirements.

Further updates on progress and our programme will be provided at future committee meetings. Contract award will be approved by the GMCA Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the Constitution and Contract Procedure Rules.

The committee is requested to approve delegating the authority to award the contract to our preferred supplier to GMCA's Chief Finance Officer, in accordance with the constitution and contract procedure rules.

### **3. Category (B) Buildings and Land**

There are no significant updates against any Category B assets.

### **4. Category (C) Closed Landfill Sites**

There are no significant updates against any Category C assets.