

Contracts update**SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on the Authority's waste treatment arrangements and procurements.

RECOMMENDATION(S) The Authority is asked to:

- 1) Note the information within this report.

1. Introduction

This report provides an update on WLWA's existing contracts and operations for managing west London's waste. This conforms to key strategic outcomes in the new draft joint strategy (JMWMS) 'Effective and efficient operations focused on where we want to be in the future', 'better transport', 'carbon neutral by 2030', and 'collaborative models in the sub-region and pan-London'.

2. West London Residual Waste Services contract

The contract is performing well. Performance against the contract targets is excellent, with landfill diversion for the year to date at 100% (target 96.1%) and recycling of residual waste at 5.5% (target 2.1%).

The pandemic has affected residual waste arisings in various ways, with more material being generated at the kerbside, as residents spend more time at home, but less coming from HRRCs due to them being closed over lockdown and social distancing generally resulting in lower usage since they re-opened. These two factors combined means that year to date contract waste is very close to the originally forecast level. However if current trends continue, residual waste will be higher than forecast, as described in the Budget Monitoring Report. Waste flows are being monitored weekly and projects to reduce residual waste are being accelerated.

WLWA and Suez are continuing to develop a wide-ranging programme of projects for improving the efficiency of the sites, including upgrades to waste loading and lifting equipment, speeding up traffic flows and improved fire suppression.

3. Viridor residual waste contract (Lakeside)

Lakeside ERF had its maintenance schedule disrupted as a result of the lockdown leading to some unscheduled maintenance and outages. Contingency arrangements worked well during the times when the facility was accepting less waste. Further scheduled maintenance is taking place during week commencing 7 September.

4. Food waste contract

The contract covers the collection and treatment of kerbside collected food waste from Transport Avenue, Southall Lane and Alperton Lane transfer stations to Bio Collectors (in Mitcham) for treatment by anaerobic digestion. The contractor has provided a good and reliable service throughout the pandemic. Over the last six week period, food waste arisings have been 6% higher than the previous year due to residents spending more time at home, and increased participation in the service.

5. Green waste and mixed organics contracts

CountryStyle Recycling Ltd contract (Lot 1) – This contract covers the collection and treatment of green waste. This contract continues to perform well and was extended following Authority approval earlier in the year (expiring on 30/04/22).

West London Composting Ltd contract (Lot 1 and Lot 2) – This contractor provides an excellent service for the collection and treatment of green waste and mixed organic waste. The Lot 1 contract is for the treatment of green waste and the Lot 2 contract is specific to mixed organic waste. This contract was also extended (expiring on 30/04/22) and the contractor continues to perform well.

Since the start of July, green waste tonnages from both the kerbside and from HRRCs have been lower than in previous years. This trend will be monitored and analysed going forwards.

6. Transport contracts

The transport contracts are:

- For transporting non-recyclable waste from HRRCs, provided by J Shorten & Sons Ltd
- For the removal of segregated materials from the HRRC sites in roll-on roll-off containers, provided by Suez transport.

Both contracts managed well during the disruption caused by re-opening HRRCs and continue to deliver a very good service.

7. Dry Recyclables

This contract covers the collection of Ealing Council's dry mixed recyclables from Greenford depot (Ealing) for processing at Viridor's MRF at Crayford. The contract began in June 2020. Other Boroughs are able to join this contract at a later date.

This contract is settling in well, and is comfortably handling the increase in material (10% above last year's levels), again caused by people spending more time at home.

8. Procurement Rules

Updated Procurement Rules are in development and will be presented at the December Authority Meeting for approval. The Procurement Rules will provide a summary of WLWA's procurement principles, rules and objectives. An internal Procurement Procedures document will provide detail on process and roles and is being developed in parallel.

9. Health and Safety

Contractors have taken major steps to reduce the risk of Coronavirus infection across their operations. Measures include social distancing on sites, routine cleaning and decontamination of plant and equipment and adjustment of shift patterns to keep groups of staff separate. Please refer to the Authority Risk Register for further information.

10. Financial Implications

The impacts of coronavirus have led to changes in waste flows, notably a 6% increase in all kerbside collected waste and a 9% decrease of waste from Borough HRRCs/transfer stations. The budget impact of these changes is currently forecast to be a £3.5m budget overspend for the waste transport and disposal budget, but with much of this being recovered from the Boroughs via the PAYT levy. This will result in Borough waste disposal budgets exceeding forecasts. Please refer to the budget monitoring report for more information. Tonnages are being monitored closely each week in order to inform the the budget forecasts which are updated monthly and shared with Environment Directors and Members.

Mitigations are in place for risks associated to a no-deal Brexit. Please refer to the Authority Risk Register for more information.

11. Staffing Implications

None.

12. Legal Implications

Whilst no legal issues are anticipated, the Coronavirus situation continues to evolve and WLWA is keeping up to date on the latest Government guidance and legislation, continuously adapting operations and seeking legal advice where necessary.

13. Joint Waste Management Strategy Implication - The contracts mentioned in this report meet the Authority's Joint Waste Management Strategy policies, as described in Section 1.

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