

Contracts and operations update

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Authority's various 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 continues to well. Performance against the contract targets is excellent, with landfill diversion for 2019/20 at 99.99% (target 96.1%) and recycling of residual waste at 5.71% (target 2.1%).

Wasteflows into the contract have increased and remained high since HRRCs re-opened after lockdown. The year-to-date contract waste inputs are currently 1.8% above forecast, and this difference is expected to increase in future months as the behavioural trend of higher household waste generation is projected to continue. Please see the Budget Monitoring Report for more information on the potential financial impacts of this trend.

WLWA and Suez are progressing a programme of projects for improving the efficiency of the transfer stations, including upgrades to waste loading and lifting equipment, improved fire suppression, extra tipping and bulky space, and speeding up vehicle movements. The waste compactors are due to be fully replaced at both transfer stations in 2021.

South Gloucestershire Environmental Health Authority have issued an Abatement Notice in regard to an ongoing noise issue from SERC that takes effect from the 9th October. Suez has been in constant contact with both the Parish Council and South Gloucestershire Environmental Health Authority regarding the noise issue. A presentation and time frame for the suggested rectification work have been produced and discussed with the South Gloucestershire Environmental Health team.

3. Viridor residual waste contract (Lakeside)

Lakeside ERF has been operating well since scheduled maintenance took place in September. There are no issues to report.

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.

Food waste was up to 6% higher than forecast during the first national lockdown, however in the past six weeks levels have dropped to the same as last year. This is likely a result of schools re-opening in September. It highlights the importance of the food waste projects (see the Projects Update) to increase participation in food waste services.

The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham is currently trialling separate food waste collections and is managing the collected material through this contract.

5. Green waste and mixed organics contracts

These contracts are:

- CountryStyle Recycling Ltd contract – green waste
- West London Composting Ltd contract – green waste and mixed organic waste.

Both contracts continue to perform well. Green and mixed organics waste inputs are back to a comparable level with previous years after an initial dip caused by the closure of HRRCs in the first lockdown.

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 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 performing 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. Abbey Road HRRC and WTS

Improvements continue to be made at the site which is managed by WLWA on behalf of Brent. Physical improvements include re-concreting of the lead road up to the transfer station and the planting/seeding of hedges and wild flowers to improve biodiversity and the site's look and feel.

The site continues to develop culturally, away from a tip and towards a resource hub. As part of this journey, an area has been developed for storing reusable items prior to re-sale and staff are focusing on high quality conversations with the public - including delivery on a survey of residents bringing non-recyclables to better understand their waste management behaviours. New signage is also being developed explaining what happens to customers' waste and recyclables.

Covid-19 controls were re-examined in light of increased prevalence of the virus. Controls were tightened, particularly around face coverings (both indoors and at key points outdoors), increased ventilation of rooms, reduced occupancy levels, and increased cleaning of surfaces. Slightly fewer vehicles are allowed on to the HRRC at any one time, however the number of booking slots has remained the same.

The site was recently inspected by the Environment Agency, which gave excellent feedback and described the Abbey Road as spearheading how such sites should be run.

9. Other West London HRRCs

Four out of six HRRCs are using a booking system for residents, procured by WLWA. This has led to effective control of visitor flow and reduced on-site queuing whilst also providing useful

data on how far visitors are travelling and what they are bringing. This new information helps us identify opportunities to optimise sites and identify issues with kerbside collection systems.

A number of joint (cross-Borough) improvement initiatives are currently being developed, please see the Projects Update for more information.

10. Health and Safety

In addition to the aforementioned review of Covid-19 controls, further work has been undertaken to strengthen the Health and Safety culture at Abbey Road. This includes the introduction of a new hazard reporting system where staff are encouraged to complete hazard reporting cards located around the site. The cards can be submitted anonymously in order to maximise participation.

Risk assessments continue to be reviewed and refined and further attention will be given to the waste transfer station risk assessments going forwards.

Health and Safety is a key topic in all meetings with contractors, and there are currently no significant incidents to report.

11. Financial Implications

The impacts of coronavirus have led to changes in waste flows, notably a significant increase in residual waste managed by the Authority. Please refer to the budget monitoring report (waste transfer and disposal line) for the current projected impact at year-end.

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

12. Staffing Implications

None.

13. 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.

14. 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.

Contact Officers	Tom Beagan, Head of Service Delivery tombeagan@westlondonwaste.gov.uk	01895 545516
	Sarah Ellis, Operations Manager, sarahellis@westlondonwaste.gov.uk	01895 545515