

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. It conforms to key strategic outcomes in the 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

SERC was in planned shutdown for scheduled maintenance for three weeks at the beginning of March. Wasteflows were managed to keep levels at the transfer station within permitted requirements during this period.

The contract continues to perform 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 5.79% (target 2.1%). There may be some waste sent to landfill this month because of the SERC shutdown, but Suez is working to minimise this as far as possible.

Wasteflows into the contract have increased due to the impacts of the pandemic. It is expected that by the end of the year, contract waste accepted at the main transfer stations will be 0.6% higher than forecast. The budget monitoring report explains the financial impact of wasteflow changes.

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 currently being replaced.

The French waste and resources company Veolia bought a 29.9% stake in Suez in October and has announced its intention to acquire the rest. Suez has been publically critical about the takeover attempt. Veolia is a major provider of environmental services in the UK, and concerns have been raised that an acquisition might be a breach of competition rules in the UK and other countries. Officers are working to better understand the risks and opportunities associated with the potential acquisition.

3. Viridor residual waste contract (Lakeside)

Lakeside ERF has been operating well. As a result of the Serc shutdown the inputs to Lakeside were planned to be higher than usual this month.

Viridor Energy Limited has replaced Viridor Waste Management Limited as the parent company to Viridor's Energy business. The novation of the contract to the new parent company is currently in progress.

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 is up to 7% higher than the equivalent period last year which is a likely result of the lockdown in January/February (schools being closed and an increased number of residents working from home).

The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham food trial is operating well and the borough is pleased with the tonnage of material collected through the trial and processed through the Bio Collectors 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.

Operationally both contracts continue to perform well. Green and mixed organics waste inputs are 9% lower than the equivalent period last year despite HRRC's remaining open during the January/Feb 2021 lockdown.

There have been no contamination or operational issues to report.

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.

Over the January/February lockdown there has been an increase in contamination and rejected loads at the Crayford MRF (mainly attributable to food waste, black bag and textiles contamination). LB of Ealing has put in place a number of front end, onsite sorting measures at its Greenford transfer station to respond to the increase in contamination. Since these measures have been put in place Crayford has reported a significant improvement in the quality of material delivered for processing.

8. Abbey Road HRRC and WTS

Improvements continue to be made at the site which is managed by WLWA on behalf of Brent.

New signs explaining what happens to the materials taken to site have been installed in the HRRC. They show the journey from the resident discarding the item to it becoming a useful resource again, either through being made in to new products or by generating energy.

To increase the site's role in the circular economy, reuse partnerships have been arranged leading to the following actions:

- 34 bikes have been collected from Townmead (Richmond's HRRC) for refurb and reuse.
- 420kg of wooden furniture was sent to Petit Miracles for upcycling. They work with disabled, long-term unemployed and vulnerable people.

- About two dozen laptops have been passed on to a Restart group ready to be tested and refurbished for re-use.
- Hubbub’s Community Calling scheme for smartphones has launched.
- 380kg of pallets, tyres and toys were donated to Heathrow Primary School to build an outdoor playground (see photos).



Site staff have been working with staff at other HRRCs to identify improvement opportunities at their sites, such as upgrades to weighbridge software and joint sale of recyclables. Work is also underway to develop a waste performance data dashboard for all west London HRRCs.

9. Procurements

Please refer to the Procurements Update for more information about planned procurement work.

10. Health and Safety

At Abbey Road the new hazard reporting system, where staff are encouraged to complete hazard reporting cards located around the site, is working well.

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.

11. Financial Implications

The impacts of the pandemic have led to changes in waste flows, please refer to the budget monitoring report for more information.

12. Staffing Implications - None.

13. Legal Implications - Any specific legal issues are described in the body of this report.

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.

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