

Briefing note for Councillor Quinn

GMWDA Update

Last Authority meeting Jen Hollamby
if applicable

A Special meeting of the Authority took place on 15th July 2016. Members considered a report on the European Referendum - Impact on Authority Plans, which provided Members with some potential impacts and sought agreement to refocus the Authority's planned lobbying strategy. A report on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Proposed Expansion of Functions, that explained that a decision had been taken by the GMCA to start a process of consultation on widening its range of functions from 1st April 2017, which would include the roles and responsibilities currently performed by the Authority. Members also received an update about the Recycling & Waste Management Contract (the Contract) Savings, which included a presentation provided by the Authority's Advisers who were in attendance at the meeting, which highlighted delivery options, commercial, technical and financial issues. Further reports on the subject would be considered again at the Authority's next meeting on 9th September 2016.

Contract Update

Contract performance is set out below for 2015/16 and 2016/17. The main focus of the Contract is defect rectification with the construction contractor Costain continuing to rectify tanks associated with the anaerobic digestion plant. Options for delivery of Contract savings are being developed and will be considered further by the Authority at the 9th September 2016 meeting.

Targets

2015/16

Contract performance monitoring figures for the year end position 2015/16, shows that nearly 50kt more Contract waste was delivered than in 2014/15. However, the landfill avoidance increased by almost 130kt on the previous year, giving the overall Contract diversion rate of 79.31% against the 74.99% target. This was substantively achieved with the diversion of material to the Runcorn Thermal Power Station (TPS) facility, as refuse derived fuel (RDF) through our 'shredding' initiative.

Recycling performance, however, remained behind target with an overall Contract rate of 40.85% against a target of 47.93%. Whilst District recycling tonnages are ahead of the target, Contractor rates are at less than half their target due to facility under performance (particularly with Mechanical & Biological Treatment facilities (MBT) grit and compost-like product not being recycled).

2016/17

During quarter 1 of 2016/17, waste growth continued to increase with 4% more waste received than in quarter 1 last year. Fortunately, landfill avoidance levels also improved. Overall diversion of Greater Manchester's waste was over 88% against the budgeted 83.2% target. Recycling rates improved, with growth for both District and Contractor, reaching a combined level of 44%, although this is still behind the annual target of 48.32%.

Communications Update

To encourage residents to recycle all they can, behavioural change campaigns for 2016/17 continue to be delivered by Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) in partnership with Bury Council. During May to July 2016 a Right Stuff Right Bin (RSRB) campaign was delivered to over 4,700 households in Prestwich, Tottington and Radcliffe. The aim of the campaign was to reduce contamination and increase recycling by 3%.

The campaign targeted contamination of recycling bins and encouraged residents to think about what items can and cannot be recycled through the use of a red, amber and green tagging system. **Green** = Recycling right, thank you, **Amber** = Warning, some items in the wrong bin and **Red** = Wrong stuff, wrong bin.

The campaign was supported by door-step engagement to offer advice to residents on correct recycling and to facilitate the ordering of missing recycling bins. Education assemblies and classroom sessions were also delivered to schools in the round areas reaching over 700 pupils. Overall, the campaign has been successful in reducing contamination with fewer red tags and more green tags issued towards the end of the campaign. Tonnages are being monitored year on year and early indications show an increase in recycling in the commingled waste stream of 8.5% (March to August 2016).

It is proposed that a further Right Stuff Right Bin (RSRB) campaign targeting flats in Radcliffe and Ramsbottom will be delivered early next year (January to March 2017). The campaign will be adapted from the RSRB household tagging system and instead will look to apply red, amber and green stickers to communal bins. This activity will be supported by doorstep engagement to give advice and guidance on recycling in flats and to deliver hessian recycling bags where needed.

The Authority is currently working on a long-term communications strategy (to 2020) focused on achieving improvements and greater efficiencies in household recycling, re-use and waste prevention. The strategy includes a new jointly funded £200k partnership with the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to deliver a two-year programme of support to help improve recycling rates and tackle waste prevention.