

Briefing note for Cllr Tony Cummings, Bury Council meeting

8th September 2014

GMWDA Update

At the Annual General Meeting of the Authority on 7th July 2014 Councillor Catherine Piddington, Labour Member for Tameside Council, was unanimously appointed as the new Chair. Councillor Piddington took over the reins from Councillor Neil Swannick who stepped down earlier this year after 13 years in charge. Bury Council is represented on the Authority by myself and Councillor Alan Quinn. At the meeting I was appointed as Vice-Chair to the Authority and Chair of the Performance, Policy & Resources Committee and Councillor Quinn was appointed to Audit Committee.

At the meeting, Members considered the Authority's Annual Review for 2013/14 and in summary, it was reported that the 2013/14 Municipal Year had been a year of consolidation in working towards delivering the Authority's sustainable solution to the management of the conurbation's municipal waste. The Authority is recognised as a centre of excellence and continues to be invited to share its experience (nationally and internationally) and participate in shaping policy. The challenge for 2014/15 is to continue to deliver the Contract to specification, and at the same time maximising the value of the Contract by delivering efficiency savings, and ensuring that we use our influence to ensure our excellent solution is promoted more widely; hence resources are secured to shape future 'green' growth in the City Region.

The Authority approved its' Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 at its' Audit Committee on 30th May 2014, which Councillor Quinn attended. The Authority's External Auditors said that the Accounts were of good quality and praised the Authority for the plain English Explanatory Foreword contained within the Accounts and for completing them a month early. The Accounts have now been audited and were published on 30th July 2014.

Bury's recycling and composting combined figure, from WasteDataFlow (National Indicator 192) in 2010/11 was 24.3% and for 2013/14 is 43.0%. Currently Stockport and Trafford lead the nine Authorities, with recycling rates over the same period of 61% and 57% respectively. While we are not doing quite as well as Stockport and Trafford, improving our performance is good for the environment and has financial rewards.

The Thermal Power Station at Runcorn continues through its commissioning phase and it is anticipated that take over will take place in the autumn, which will boost landfill diversion to 75%.

Sales of Revive compost; a valuable resource made from green and food waste collected by Greater Manchester residents, continue to rise and 6,668 bags have been sold across Greater Manchester since it was launched last summer.

The LIFE+ Team successfully completed Phase 1 of the European Union funded Project with Phase 2 being launched following the Purdah period. The Getting Wasted app/game was launched on 27th February 2014 at the Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). The purpose of the game is to educate students about what they can recycle. The game was in the list of top ten educational apps, which was considered as a huge success.

In summary, by using our sustainable waste management facilities to their maximum potential and fully engaging the public in recycling, it is expected that Greater Manchester can achieve 50% recycling and 90% landfill diversion, which would be an achievement that everyone in Greater Manchester could be proud of. My message to Council is to get behind recycling and let's lead our community to do even better, so we can and become one of the best performing Local Authorities in Greater Manchester.