

Council Meeting – 9 September 2015

Joint Authority Questions and Responses:-

Transport

Could the Council's representative on the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee please give members an update on the implementation of 'Smart' ticketing on Metrolink, buses and trains in Greater Manchester?

(To be answered by Councillor Noel Bayley – Committee for Transport for Greater Manchester Transport representative)

Cllr Tim Pickstone

Response:

TfGM and technical delivery partner Atos have agreed to the mutual termination of a contract to design, build and operate the get me there smart ticketing scheme.

There is no impact on existing concessionary pass holders already using their cards. TfGM is assessing its approach to get me there to ensure that it is flexible and fit for the future. TfGM is looking closely at what customers want and how they expect their needs to change.

TfGM's commitment to introduce get me there has not changed and delivery of the get me there scheme will continue to progress with different suppliers.

Waste

Could the Council's spokesperson on Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority please give members an update on patterns of use of our local Household Waste Disposal Centres (Bury, Radcliffe, Lumms Lane) (any increases, decreases, changes in types of waste) since 1 October 2014?

Councillor Tim Pickstone

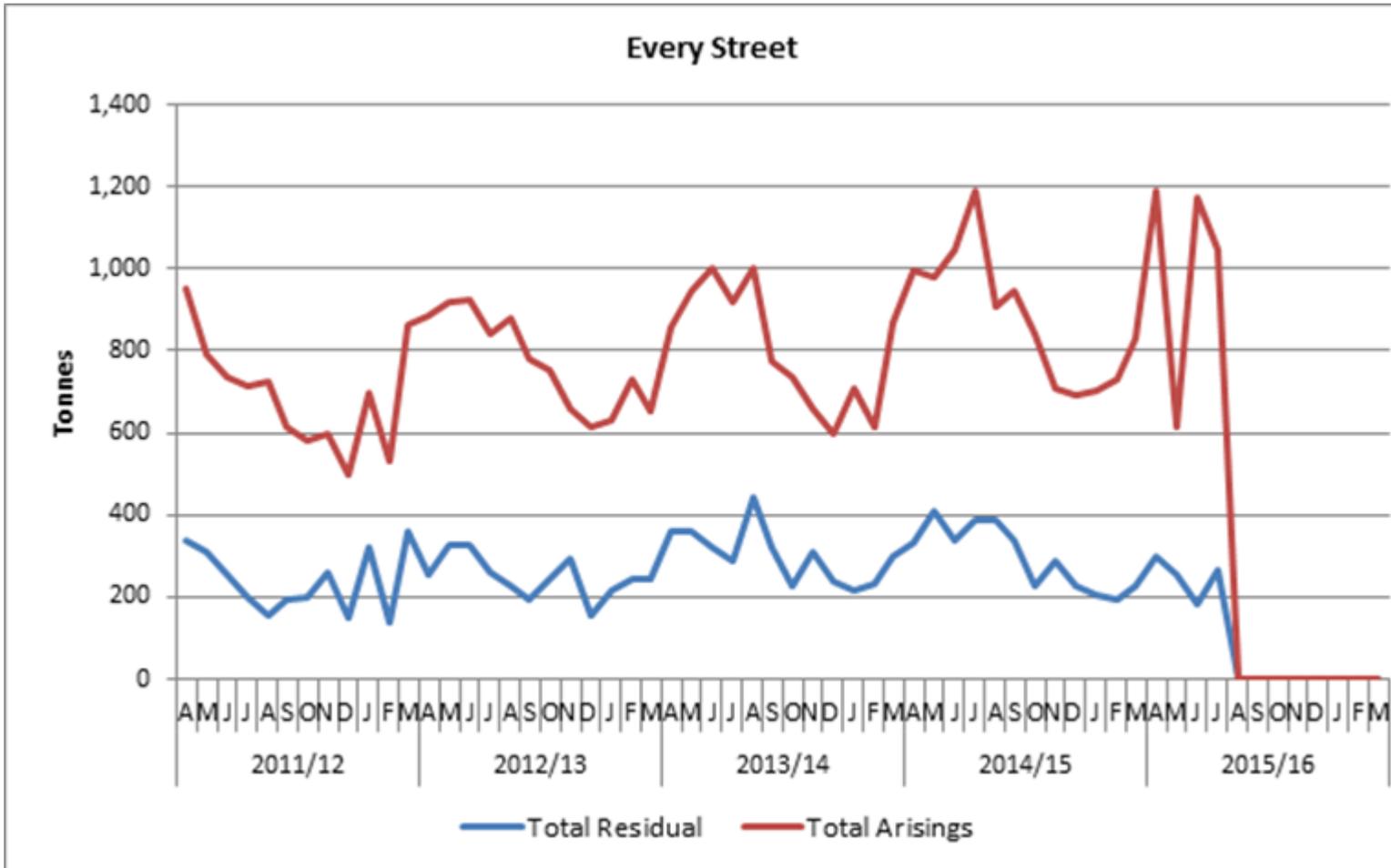
(To be answered by Councillor Quinn – GMWDA representative)

Response:

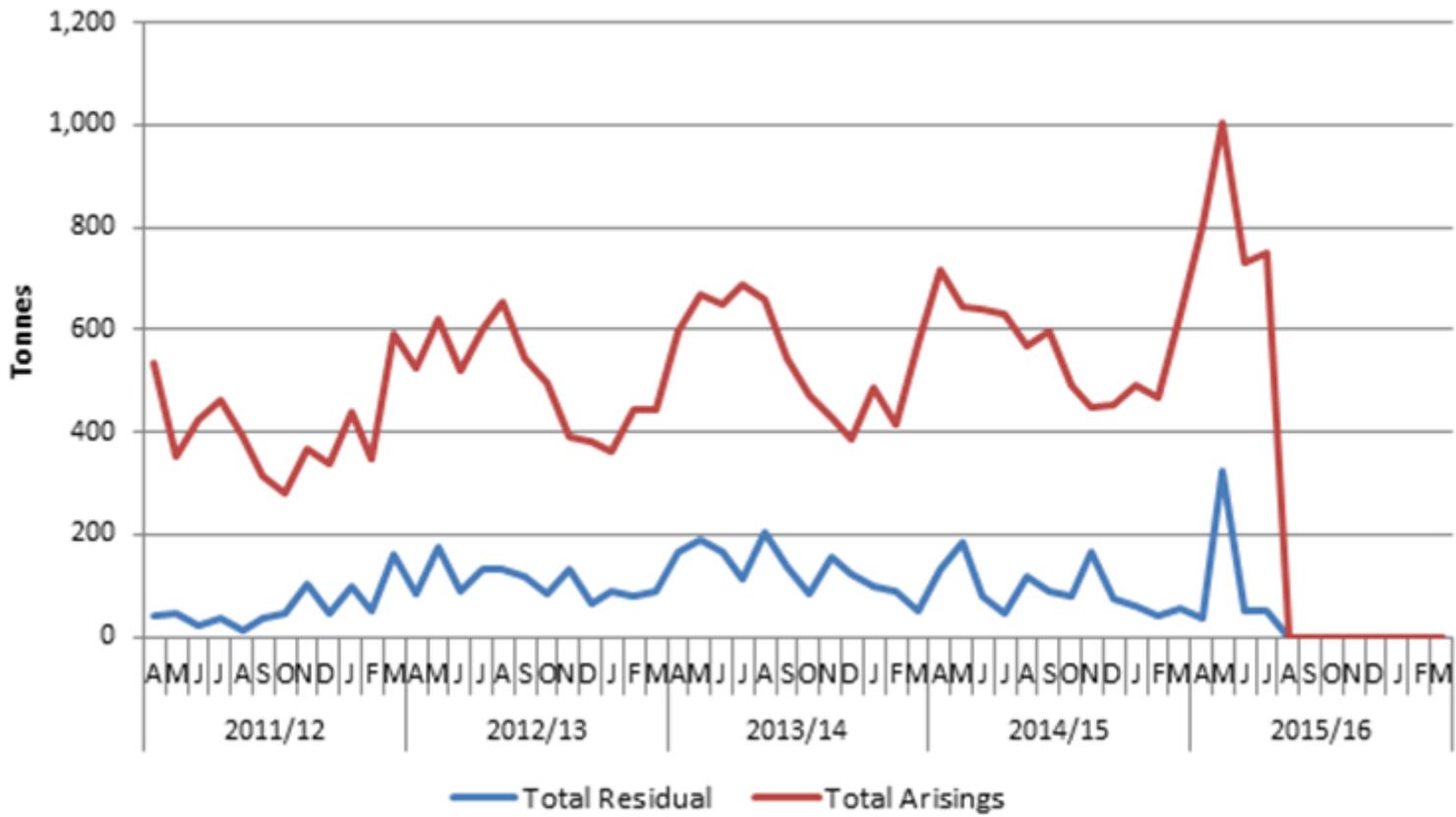
The only way of really depicting the patterns of uses is through these graphs which i'm happy to share with Councillor Pickstone.

These graphs show the waste flows for the requested sites plus Over Hulton, which is also within the proximity of Bury.

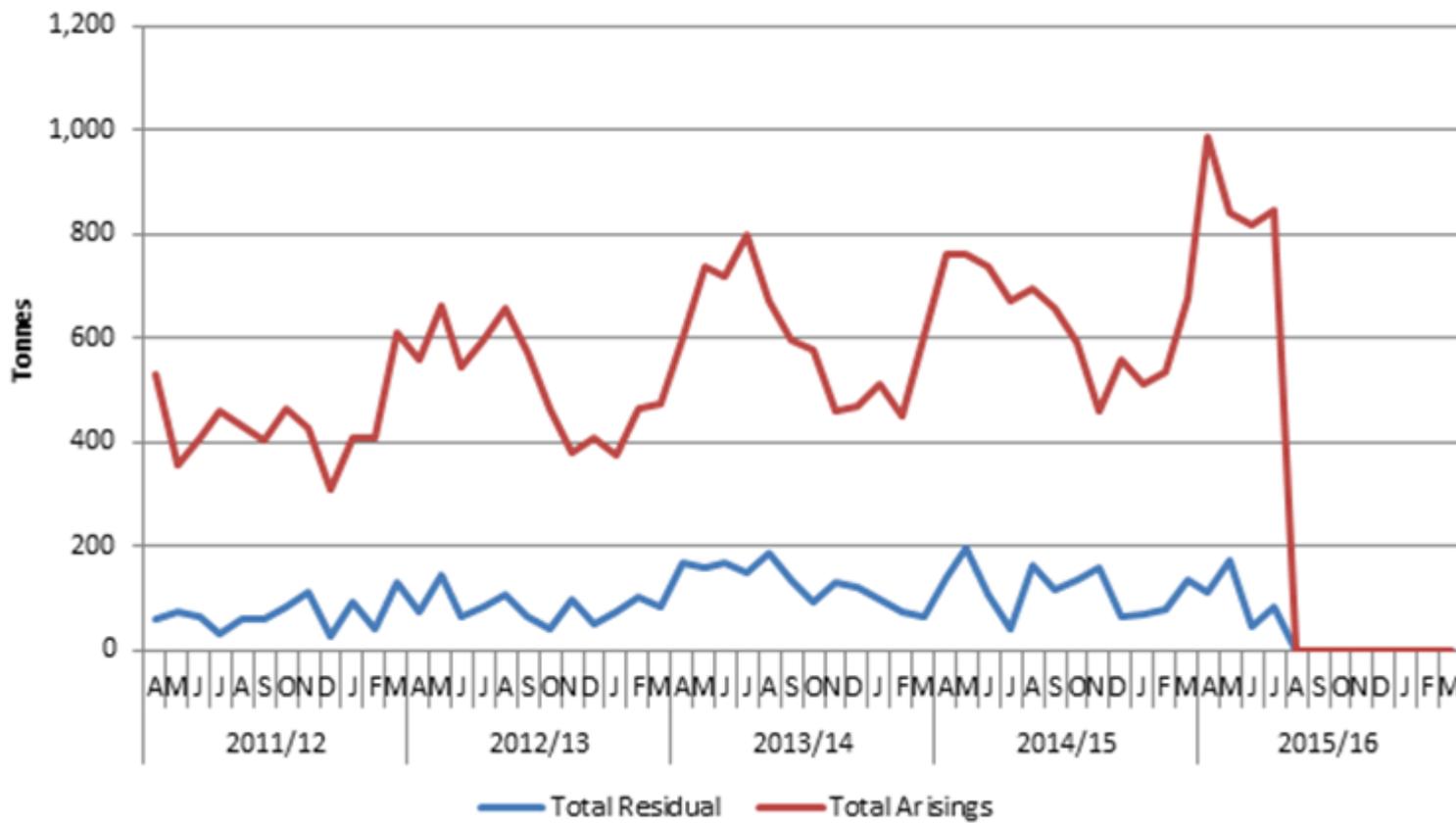
The Cemetery Road HWRC graphs appears to show a rise in residual waste this year, however, there is normally a seasonal peak around the May Bank Holidays, as can be seen during the previous three years. Residual waste at Every Street HWRC is lower this year compared to the same period last year. Lumns Lane and Over Hulton show a rise in overall arisings but not residual waste, so more material is going to the recycling and diversion outlets.

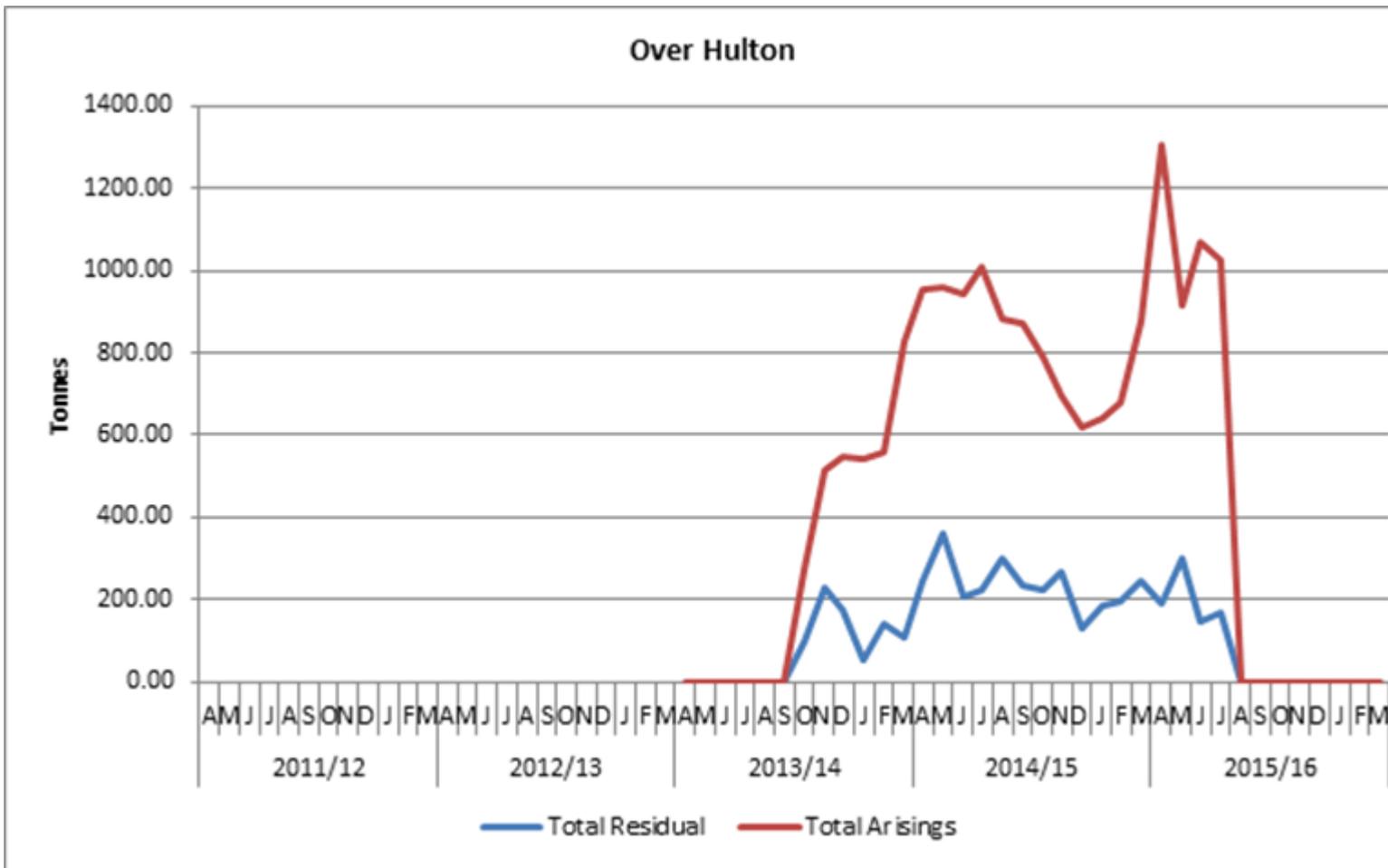


Cemetery Road



Lumns Lane





Police

Could the Council’s Representative to the Police and Crime Panel please update members on what actions the police and its partners are taking to tackle the issue of so-called ‘legal highs’ across Greater Manchester.

Councillor Mary D’Albert

(To be answered by Councillor Connolly– Police and Crime Panel spokesperson)

In recent months, the PCC Tony Lloyd has supported a Greater Manchester wide crackdown on legal highs.

Greater Manchester Police, trading Standards and other partners joined forces for a day action to target the sellers of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), which are also known as ‘legal highs’.

Operation Ramsey as the day of action was named was the first of its kind for GMP and tackles the growing concerns regarding NPSs. GMP have also produced two documents as part of their crackdown. One to support operation Ramsay, and the other is to be used as an awareness raising tool for professionals working with Young People.

Over 150 officers and partners from across Greater Manchester visited more than 100 premises as well as visiting areas associated with the use of NPSs.

It is extremely difficult to control NPSs using existing drugs legislation and new versions of substances develop at a fast rate in an attempt to avoid current controls. As a result of this, new policies to target these substances have been introduced, including 'temporary class drug orders' and the use of alternative legislation.

The government is currently exploring introducing a new law that would see a 'blanket ban' on legal highs. The law which is currently going through Parliament will prohibit the production, distribution, sale and supply of legal highs or new psychoactive substances, with offenders facing a maximum penalty of seven years.

GM Drug & Alcohol Leads are currently exploring a joint approach to NPSs and are looking to adopt a GM 'Early Warning System' to which partnerships have already signed up. Partnerships are also planning to host a series of workshop events aimed at raising awareness amongst professionals and the public.

NPSs have the same or similar effects as drugs such as cocaine or ecstasy for example, but are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Side effects can include heart palpitations, vomiting, dizziness, fainting, panic attacks and psychosis although specific effects are not always known. In many cases, they are designed to mimic class A drugs, but are structurally different, enough to avoid them being classified as illegal substances.