

COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

20 March 2023

Meeting commenced: 2.00 p.m.
“ ended: 4.25 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Dickman - in the Chair
Councillors Barnes, Brabiner, Fletcher, Karen Garrido, Mullen,
Gina Reynolds and Walters.

Councillor Barbara Bentham - Lead Member for Environment,
Neighbourhoods and Community Safety*
Councillor David Lancaster - Executive Support, Environment,
Neighbourhoods and Community Safety*

OFFICERS: Mike Relph - Senior Democratic Services Officer
David Seager - Director Operational and Community Services*
David Robinson - Head of Service Streetscene and Parks*
Rachid Nakrachi - Operations Manager Waste and Recycling*

*Attended via Teams

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Boshell, Wain, Ward and Warner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 20 February 2023, were approved as a correct record.

4. GMCA Waste Contract Performance and Future Recycling Strategies

David Robinson gave a presentation which provided an update on the performance regarding the GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) Waste Contract and future waste recycling strategies, which highlighted the following issues/themes:

- **Greater Manchester Waste and Resources Performance Update**
- Suez Contracts
 - Waste and Resources Management Services (WRMS)
 - Household Waste recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS)
- Suez Contract - Targets
- Contract Performance Monitoring

- **Future Recycling Strategies**
- Waste Management Plan 2021
- English Resources and Waste Strategy 2021
- Proposals for separate food waste collections and implications
- Future waste management

Members raised issues, commented on, and noted them, as follows:

- (a) **Clarification was sought on the penalties imposed on Greater Manchester local authorities for not meeting agreed recycling targets.** This was provided in the context of the Greater Manchester model which Salford City Council was signed up to.
- (b) **How was the problem of recycled waste being mixed and therefore contaminated tackled?** A key issue in this regard was single use plastics which were currently not recyclable and there was ongoing “education” to raise awareness with residents.
- (c) **The £1.3m rebate in 2021/22 was welcomed.**
- (d) **Was there satisfaction that the GM (Greater Manchester) Waste Management Contract was meeting expectations, particularly in terms of the KPIs against which its performance was measured? Details and an analysis of these KPIs was also requested.** The contract was actively and intensely monitored at a GMCA level where there was a consensus it was meeting expectations. The content of the KPIs were commercially sensitive and as result their wider circulations was not possible, but this would be investigated.
- (e) **Clarification was sought on GM Renew Shops , particularly details on their operating policies, including pricing of goods, and how funding had been distributed?** This was duly provided and indicated monies were distributed between the GM Mayor’s Fund and several locally based community groups. Arrangements could be made to visit such a shop if required.
- (f) **Concerns were expressed that the recycling of single use plastics did not form part of the existing contract, as well as a suggestion respective manufacturers should be responsible for the recycling of packaging.** Currently there was a limited commercial market for recycling single use plastics, hence why it was not an element of the contract.
- (g) **Were there certain areas of Salford which were more prone to recycled waste being subject to contamination?** Yes, such areas had been identified and there was an active programme to tackle this through “education” of residents.
- (h) **Were there different recycling regimes for high rise premises.** No, they were the same as for low rise and traditional domestic premises, though high rise premise did create different challenges, particularly in recycling food waste.

- (i) **The ability to terminate the existing contract, the penalties which would be incurred as a result and the cost benefits and implications of this, were debated.**
- (j) **Was waste oil collected for recycling.** Currently this was not undertaken.
- (k) **What was the strategy for replacement of Salford City Council's current diesel "waste" fleet with electric vehicles?** This was scheduled over a period of time, any shortening of this would have major financial implications as well as issues around the availability and the ability to procure such vehicles in a shorter time span.
- (l) **Reference was made to an approach in other countries and areas of the UK where there were communal recycling points located in residential areas.**
- (m) **Was there any fire risk with batteries being disposed or irresponsibly?** This could be an issue particularly with lithium batteries disposed of in general waste, though the number of incidents had been small.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the presentation be noted.

(2) THAT, subject to any commercial confidentiality issues, the Panel being provided with details of the KPIs against which the GM Waste Contract is measured, together a Salford focused analysis of this be investigated.

(3) THAT possibility of the Panel visiting both (i) a GM Renew Shop and (ii) the GM comingled waste recycling facility (previously undertaken in August 2018), be noted.

5. PROPOSED LITTER AND FLYTIPPING TASK AND FINISH GROUP - DISCUSSION

A general discussion took place in which the Panel gave consideration the possibility and benefits of undertaking a task and group study on litter and fly-tipping, in which the following issues/themes were identified:

- Current provision and identification of any "gaps"
- Fly-tipping - statistics to quantify/identify size of problem in Salford and cost to Salford City Council, along with current enforcement and penalties etc.
- Delays in legal system preventing prosecutions.
- issues relating to HMOs
- roles of housing providers and other appropriate stakeholders
- role of Street Champions
- potential use of Community Payback
- encouraging local businesses to take responsibility for litter arising from their commercial activities

RESOLVED THAT further consideration be given to determine the remit of the task and finish group and all councillors with an interest be invited to participate

6. WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Members considered the Panel's Work Programme for 2022/23.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the Panel's Work Programme for 2022/23, be noted.

(2) THAT the following issues be considered for potential inclusion into the Panel's Work programme:

- School Meals Service - update on provision of kosher and halal options
- General policing issues including "County Lines" and rising supply of illegal drugs - GM Police and Crime Commissioner to be invited to attend future meeting

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday, 15 May 2023, commencing at 2.00 pm.