Paper No. WRWA 24-23

WESTERN RIVERSIDE WASTE AUTHORITY

MEETING	2nd October 2024
REPORT AUTHOR/DATE	Interim General Manager *(Contact Rachel Espinosa - Tel. 020 8871 2788)* 19th September 2024
SUBJECT	A Report outlining progress with operations and other matters since the previous meeting of the Authority.
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STATUS	Open
BACKGROUND PAPERS	

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This paper brings Members up to date on operational and other matters, which, in themselves, do not warrant the production of a separate paper. The majority of these matters are for Members' information, but where approval is sought, this is referred to in the report and summarised at the end. The specific matters covered in this report are:-

    a) Operations
    b) DIY Waste
    c) Performance Monitoring
    d) Simpler Recycling, Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) And Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Updates
    e) East London Joint Waste Plan
    f) MRF Sampling
    g) Reuse Initiatives
    h) WRWA Insurances
    i) Recruitment Update
    j) New Staff Code
    k) Constituent Council New Recycling Initiatives
    l) Items costing between £5,000 and £30,000

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Authority:

    a) Agree to continue with current arrangements for the receipt of DIY waste by residents arriving in cars at the Smugglers Way HWRC and report back to the February 2025 Committee meeting;
    b) Agree to delegate authority to the Interim General Manager, in consultation with the Chair, Interim Clerk and Treasurer to publicise the new Staff Policy and share with all staff ahead of 26th October 2024; and

    c) otherwise receive this report as information.

OPERATIONS

3. Since the last Authority meeting, operations at Cringle Dock have been running smoothly but Smugglers Way has been affected by two fires requiring the attendance of the London Fire Brigade. The first was a short-term closure (1.5 hours) due to a fire in the MRF bunker, at approximately 10.40am on Thursday 29th August. The MRF Bunker cannons were engaged, and the London Fire

Brigade was contacted. Three fire engines attended the site and it is believed the fire was caused by a battery placed in a dry mixed recycling load.

4. Borough Recycling Vehicles including Kensington and Chelsea Split back vehicles were diverted to Cringle Dock Transfer Station for the remainder of the day, with Borough Officers being notified at midday that General Waste and Detritus vehicles should return to Smugglers Way.

5. On 6th September 2024 at approximately 4.49pm, a fire was detected in line 1 infeed conveyor at the Smugglers Way MRF. The site was evacuated, the fire team responded, bunker cannons were engaged, and the London fire Brigade was contacted. Three engines attended and assisted in extinguishing the fire.

Replacement of Crane No. 1 – Smugglers Way

6. As reported at the last Committee meeting, it is a requirement of the WMSA that Cory replace both Smugglers Way cranes within the lifetime of the contract. The dismantling of Crane No. 1 commenced on 16th September 2024 with the replacement electric crane being installed from 7th October 2024.

7. At the time of writing, Authority officers do anticipate that the crane works will require the diversion of some Borough General Waste vehicles to Cringle Dock on Monday, 23rd and Tuesday, 24th September 2024. Authority officers are in discussions with Borough officers and contractors to ensure minimal disruption to crews/rounds as is possible.

RECEIPT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE (DIY TYPE WASTE)

8. At the February 2024 meeting of this Authority (Paper No. 24-04), officers updated Members on the requirement of the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023, which came into force on 31st December 2023.

Industrial (DIY) Waste delivered to the Transfer Station in a Van

9. As reported to the February meeting, new arrangements were introduced which have been running very smoothly with all deliveries by residents arriving in a van inspected on arrival, and the allowances applied.

Industrial (DIY) Waste delivered to the HWRC by car

10. Unlike some other authorities, prior to 31st December 2023, residents in the WRWA area had been permitted to drop off small quantities of DIY waste for free

if delivered in a car, an amount considered more generous than the amounts required by legislation.

11. Procedures in place required monitoring of HWRC usage by officers which would highlight those residents attending the Centre very regularly. Follow up queries with those residents would establish the nature of the waste they were delivering. Should they have been delivering significant quantities of DIY waste, they would be advised that they would be required to pay for any additional deliveries of DIY materials, but could continue to deliver unlimited amounts of Household Waste. This system ensured that businesses were deterred from dropping off their waste at the HWRC free of charge, as opposed to paying for disposing of it at the adjacent Smugglers Way Transfer Station.

12. At the February Committee meeting, Members approved that, rather than restrict residents to the levels determined by legislation, an amount less than had been permitted pre-31st December 2023, the Authority would continue with current arrangements for the receipt of DIY waste by residents arriving at the HWRC and request officers to report back to Members at the next Committee meeting, highlighting any increase in DIY type waste delivered to the HWRC, compared with the same period in 2023 in order to reconsider this approach if necessary.

13. It should be noted that:

- Authority officers do not require HWRC staff to inspect loads on arrival at the Centre as they believe it would slow down traffic moving through the Centre, and has the potential to create queues.

- Authority officers do not have Booking System software in place to monitor significant DIY waste deliveries from any one resident and it would be very time-consuming to monitor use of the allowances via the current systems.

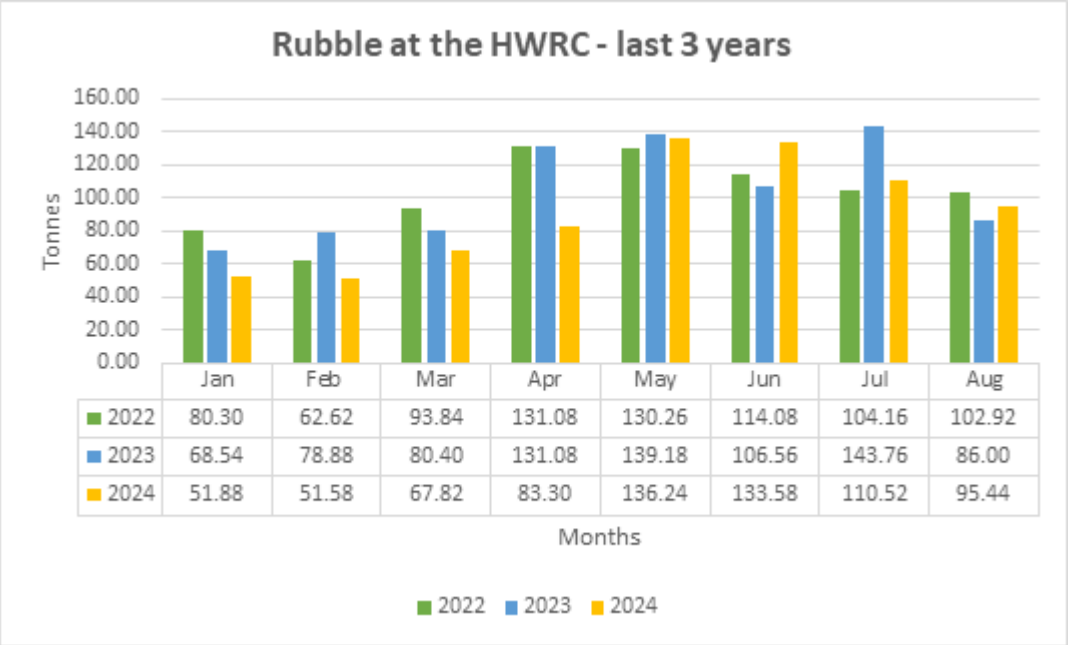
- The Centre does have controls over usage via the booking system and the height restriction which deters the use by businesses arriving in vans.

14. Members will find a comparison of DIY waste tonnages in comparable months in 2022, 2023 and 2024 below.

Hardcore and Rubble:

15. Whilst Hardcore and Rubble tonnage figures for the January to August 2023 period compared against the same period in 2022, saw a minimal increase of

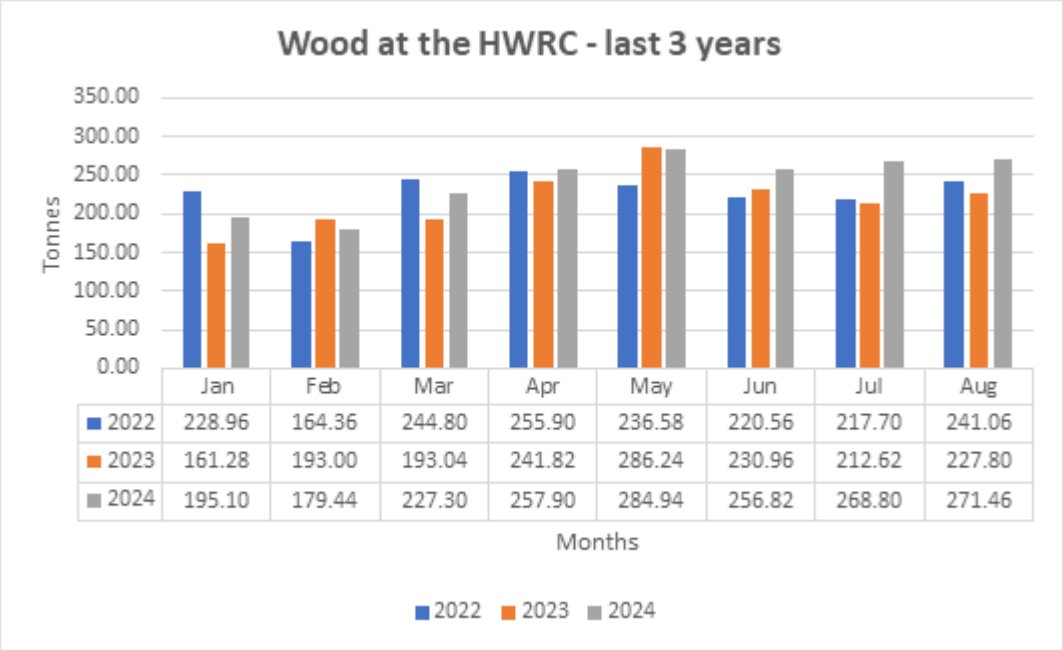
1.84%. Comparison of the tonnage for January to August 2023 against the same period in 2024, shows a 12.46% reduction in arisings.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
2022	80.30	62.62	93.84	131.08	130.26	114.08	104.16	102.92
2023	68.54	78.88	80.40	131.08	139.18	106.56	143.76	86.00
2024	51.88	51.58	67.82	83.30	136.24	133.58	110.52	95.44

Waste Wood:

16. Members will see that there has been an increase in Wood Waste tonnage. If we compare the tonnage for January to August 2022 against the same period in 2023, there was a 3.48% reduction in arisings. However, when comparing the same period in 2023 against 2024, there was an 11% increase in arisings.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
2022	228.96	164.36	244.80	255.90	236.58	220.56	217.70	241.06
2023	161.28	193.00	193.04	241.82	286.24	230.96	212.62	227.80
2024	195.10	179.44	227.30	257.90	284.94	256.82	268.80	271.46

17. If Members would prefer to take steps at this stage to reduce the risk of excessive delivery of DIY Waste by residents, then Authority officers can i) organise an

amendment to the current HWRC Booking Form to require residents to self declare whether they are bringing in Household or DIY type waste, or both and ii) introduce add-on software to the current Booking System software, which would ensure that residents would not be permitted to book in to drop off DIY waste, above an allowance set by Members equal to, or in excess of, allowances prescribed by Government.

18. Officers are of the opinion that the data provided in paragraphs 14 and 15 above does not demonstrate a need for any changes to the current system at present and recommend that the Authority agree to continue with current arrangements for the receipt of DIY waste by residents arriving in cars at the Smugglers Way HWRC and report any increase in tonnage figures for Hardcore and Rubble and Wood Waste to the February 2025 Authority meeting, once a full year's data is available, in order for Members to reconsider this approach if necessary.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Introduction

19. Tonnage tables are attached as an Appendix to this report. The modelling to forecast the outturn figures for 2024/25 compares performance against the corresponding period in the previous year. The tables shown set out the tonnages of General Waste and Co-Mingled (including co-mingled recycling contamination) delivered by each constituent council in the current financial year up to 31st August 2024, together with projected outturn tonnages, compared against those budgeted for and the previous financial year's outturn.

Points to Highlight

20. If the trend in the overall level of general waste arisings from the first five months of 2024/25 continues throughout the remainder of the financial year, there would be a 3.25% decrease in residual (general) waste compared to the outturn tonnage for 2023/24. Decreases against the 2023/24 outturn figures are currently predicted for three boroughs (Hammersmith & Fulham – 6.70%, Kensington and Chelsea – 7.76%, and Wandsworth – 3.38%) with Lambeth showing a marginal increase of 0.51%.

21. Forecast tonnages for Co-Mingled dry recyclables based on the first five months of 2024/25 show a mixed picture with increases for Hammersmith & Fulham (19.79%) and Wandsworth (10.14%). Conversely decreases could be seen for Kensington and Chelsea (-10.32%) and Lambeth (-18.71%).

22. Officers are working on new metrics to reflect new council services being delivered and a change in emphasis towards waste reduction, reuse and carbon emissions.

SIMPLER RECYCLING, DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS) AND EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) UPDATES

23. Officers attended Defra's Resources and Waste forum on 2nd September 2024, at which the new Government missions were introduced:
    a) Driving Economic Growth – including the Circular Economy
    b) Clean Energy Agenda - accelerating towards Net Zero
    c) Safe Streets – including tackling fly tipping, waste crime and promoting community cohesion.

24. It was confirmed that the new Government is pursuing the delivery of existing and planned packaging reforms through sector-based road maps. With regard to resources and waste, the Government will take an economy-wide approach to enable a Circular Economy. This includes from design to disposal, to increase the life of resources, reduce the amount of resources used and reduce the environmental impact of goods and services. A Circular Economy taskforce will be established across Government departments, industry, local authorities and academia.

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) Update

25. From October 2024, local authorities will be required to provide data to the pEPR Scheme Administrator for use to calculate 2026/27 payments for the 8 packaging material categories covered by the scheme: aluminum, fibre-based composites, glass, paper or board, plastic, steel, wood and 'other'.

26. Local authorities will be expected to use the Government's new digital service to:

    a) Receive payment information for the costs associated with their work in collecting and disposing of packaging waste
    b) Receive a breakdown of the basis on which their payment has been calculated
    c) Query and appeal any payments they think are inaccurate and submit evidence to support such claims.

27. In November, Chief Executives and Directors of waste collection and waste disposal authorities should receive an email with indicative one year payment estimates. Payments will be made towards the end of 2025.

EAST LONDON JOINT WASTE PLAN

28. The Authority received a letter in August 2024 from a group of East London Boroughs that are working together on an East London Joint Waste Plan. The letter indicated that between them the Boroughs have surplus capacity in their area against their GLA apportionment target for waste capacity and invited other London Boroughs, that may have an apportionment shortfall, to apply to have their needs met through the East London Joint Waste Plan.

29. Officers have liaised with colleagues in the WRWA Boroughs and received responses from Planning Policy colleagues in Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham indicating that the apportionment targets for their Boroughs are met through agreements on the use of the Powerday site (within the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation area) and that it is likely that there is insufficient evidence of unmet need across the WRWA area to justify inclusion in the East London Joint Waste Plan.

30. Responses were not received from Lambeth and Wandsworth Council planning colleagues and the deadline to respond to the East London Joint Waste Plan was 16th September 2024.

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITIES SAMPLING

31. From 1st October 2024, the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 come into force. The regulations require Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) to improve waste sampling and compositional analysis so that the necessary data to inform pEPR payments and monitor packaging targets is robust. Facilities in the scope of the regulations will be required to submit their first reports by January 2025.

REUSE INITIATIVES

32. The draft WRWA Strategy prioritises waste reduction. One way to contribute to that is for householders to borrow equipment, for example carpet cleaners, electric drills, that is only occasionally used, instead of buying it. The Library of Things is a successful scheme that provides such equipment at low prices for local residents to borrow.

33. There are several established schemes already in the WRWA area. The Authority has contacted the Library of Things to explore whether a further outlet could be sited at or near to the HWRC at Smugglers Way. A site visit is being arranged with operational staff from the Library of Things to test whether this would be feasible

and practical. A further report will be brought to the Board subject to the outcome of this meeting.

WRWA TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS LIABILITY INSURANCE

34. In response to a query from an Authority Member, the Authority can confirm that it does have insurance in place for Members to a value of £5m, through Zurich Insurance Company Ltd.

35. The cover is provided for claims made against the Authority or an "insured person" (a member), to cover:

    a) Company Reimbursement: the financial loss of the Authority that arises from a claim made against the Member, but only to the extent that the Authority has indemnified the Member and

    b) Liability for Fraud: the financial loss of the Authority that arises directly from any claim "in respect of any dishonest, fraudulent, criminal or malicious act or omission" committed by the Member.

36. The Full Policy document can of course be made available to Members, and Borough Insurance Advisors, on request.

RECRUITMENT

37. A recruitment process has been completed for the position of Education Officer. Four candidates were shortlisted for interview with Alice Stevens being appointed. She joined the Education Team on 11th September 2024.

38. Officers have now commenced the recruitment process for the newly created Data Analyst position and plan to commence recruitment to the vacant Administrative Assistant position in October 2024.

NEW AUTHORITY STAFF CODE

39. Unless required sooner, due to changes in legislation or other circumstances, the Authority's staff codes and procedures are reviewed on a quinquennial basis to ensure that:

    - all references are up to date;
    - they are in line with all current laws; and
    - they match the prevailing staff structure.

40. The Authority Codes and Policies are next due for review at the end of 2024 and will be presented to the January/February 2025 Committee Meeting for approval.

41. Due to legislative changes required by the Worker Protection (Amendment of Equality Act 2010) Act 2023, which will come into force on 26th October 2024, it has proved necessary to introduce a new Policy to cover Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. Officers, supported by Wandsworth Council's HR Team, are currently drafting a policy to be distributed to all staff. Officers will also ensure all staff receive training ahead of the 26th October 2024 deadline. As the introduction of this mandatory duty falls ahead of the next Committee meeting, officers request that the Interim General Manager, in consultation with the Chair, Interim Clerk and Treasurer be given authority to publicise the new Policy and share with all staff ahead of 26th October 2024.

CONSTITUENT COUNCIL NEW RECYCLING INITIATIVES

42. At the meeting of the Authority on 22nd September 2010 (Paper No. WRWA 669A) Members instructed the Clerk to write to each of the constituent councils to inform them that, in future, should they wish to make arrangements themselves to recycle any significant tonnage of waste then, in accordance with Section 48 of the Environment Protection Act 1990, they must, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify the Authority in writing. The Authority will then approve or object to any such proposal at its next available meeting. The Clerk wrote to the constituent councils, as instructed, on 27th October 2010.

43. The constituent councils have not formally notified the Authority of any new initiatives since the previous Authority meeting.

ITEMS COSTING BETWEEN £5,000 AND £30,000

44. The reportable items of expenditure authorised by officers under delegated powers within the band range of £5,000 to £30,000 since the last Authority meeting.

Shakespeare Martineau	Legal Advice - WMSA	£10,999.00
Carter Jonas	Cringle Project	£8,868.00
Corporation Of London	Hazardous Waste Collection Service	£8,222.00

Public Works Loan Board	Interest Payable	£18,450.00
Wilkes Head Eves	Land/Asset Evaluation 2023-24	£9,000.00
Cooperative Web	Website Accessibility Review	£ 7,194.00

COMMENTS OF THE TREASURER

45. Constituent boroughs are asked to make their own assessment in relation to the packaging extended producer responsibility payment to councils to be implemented from 2026/27.

46. All other proposals outlined here will be met from within existing approved budgets and any future impact will be included when setting the budget in February 2025. Costs associated with the crane and any other operational repairs and maintenance fall entirely to Cory under the contract.

R ESPINOSA
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

Western Riverside Administration Office
Smugglers Way
Wandsworth
SW18 1JS

19th September 2024

WRWA Performance Monitoring - 5 months

General Waste Delivered (Tonnes)	2022/23	2023/24	TO DATE 2024/25	FORECAST 2024/25	Annual Change Tonnes	Annual Change %
HF	52,852	51,793	21,091	48,321	-3,471	-6.70
KC	55,272	54,370	23,019	50,150	-4,221	-7.76
LA	87,083	87,112	36,722	87,559	447	0.51
WA	75,004	75,669	31,163	73,109	-2,560	-3.38
WRWA	6,958	7,444	3,836	8,264	820	11.02
Total	277,170	276,389	115,831	267,404	-8,985	-3.25
Change	-6,357	-781	-160,558	-8,985		
% Change	-2.24	-0.28	-58.09	-3.25		

Co-Mingled Waste Delivered (Tonnes)	2022/23	2023/24	TO DATE 2024/25	FORECAST 2024/25	Annual Change Tonnes	Annual Change %
HF	11,149	11,959	5,361	14,326	2,367	19.79
KC	13,962	13,611	5,517	12,206	-1,405	-10.32
LA	17,223	16,527	6,163	13,434	-3,092	-18.71
WA	19,343	19,667	8,735	21,662	1,995	10.14
WRWA	344	283	113	258	-25	-8.83
Total	62,022	62,047	25,890	61,887	-160	-0.26
Change	-7,061	26		-160		
% Change	-10.22	0.04	0.00	-0.26		

Co-Mingled Contamination (Tonnes)	2022/23	2023/24	TO DATE 2024/25	FORECAST 2024/25	Annual Change Tonnes	Annual Change %
HF	1,881	2,025	920	2,458	433	21.38
KC	1,716	1,463	559	1,237	-226	-15.45
LA	2,623	2,351	894	1,949	-402	-17.10
WA	2,450	2,660	1,214	3,010	350	13.16
WRWA	48	39	16	36	-3	-7.69
Total	8,720	8,538	3,602	8,689	151	1.77
Change	-1,516	-181		151		
% Change	-14.81	-2.08	0.00	1.77		

Co-Mingled Contamination (%)	2022/23	2023/24	TO DATE 2024/25	FORECAST 2024/25	Annual Change % Point
HF	16.88%	16.93%	17.16%	17.16%	0.22%
KC	12.29%	10.75%	10.13%	10.13%	-0.62%
LA	15.23%	14.23%	14.51%	14.51%	0.28%
WA	12.67%	13.52%	13.89%	13.89%	0.37%
WRWA	14.09%	13.82%	13.97%	13.97%	0.15%