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SOUTH LONDON WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

**A meeting of the SOUTH LONDON WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE
will be held at MERTON CIVIC CENTRE on 25 April 2023 at 6.30 pm**

Membership

Councillors:

Natasha Irons (Chair)
Billy Christie (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jason Cummings
Councillor Scott Roche
Councillor Ian Manders
Councillor John Sweeney
Councillor Barry Lewis
Councillor Christopher Woolmer

Co-opted members:

Substitute Members:

Councillor Alasdair Stewart
Councillor Robert Ward
Councillor Luke Taylor

Date: Tuesday 25 April 2023

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Merton Civic Centre



Published on:

This is a public meeting and attendance by the public is encouraged and welcomed.
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democratic.services@merton.gov.uk or telephone [020 8545 3616](tel:02085453616).

All Press contacts: communications@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 3181

South London Waste Partnership Joint Committee Agenda

25 April 2023

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Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

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Report to: South London Waste Partnership (SLWP) Joint Committee

Date: 25th April 2023

Author(s): Andrea Keys, Partnership Director

Report title: Contract Performance Report

Summary

This report provides Joint Committee with an update on the performance of the transfer, treatment, recycling and disposal services that are procured and managed by the South London Waste Partnership on behalf of the four London boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton. The services covered are as follows:

- I. Food and green waste services
- II. Household Reuse and Recycling Centre (HRRC) services, and
- III. Residual waste treatment services.

This report provides the quarter three performance data for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022.

Recommendations

The Joint Committee is asked to;

- note the contents of this report, and
- comment on any aspects of the performance of the Partnership's transfer, treatment, recycling and disposal contracts

Background Documents

Contract Performance Monitoring Reports have been presented to the SLWP Joint Committee since 22 July 2010. The most recent reports was presented at the meeting in January 2022 by the Partnership Director, Andrea Keys.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. **Food and green** - The following food and green contracts have been in operation since 1st September 2022 and will continue until no later than the 31st

March 2030. The food and green services are delivered via four contracts which are summarised as follows:

- I. Bio Collectors Ltd – receipt and treatment of food waste
- II. Olleco – collection and treatment of food waste
- III. Countrystyle Recycling – collection and treatment of green waste
- IV. SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK (SUEZ) – receipt, bulking, transportation and treatment of green and food waste

- 1.2. **Household Reuse and Recycling Centre (HRRC) services** - the HRRC service is operated by Veolia (ES) (UK) Ltd. The contract commenced on the 1st October 2015 and includes the management of the six HRRC sites in the SLWP region, the operation of the waste transfer station at Villiers Road, and the marketing of the recyclates collected at each of the HRRC sites. This service operates until the 31st March 2025. The Contract includes the option to extend these services up to the Long Stop Date of 15th September 2030.
- 1.3. **Residual waste treatment contract** - Viridor South London Limited ('Viridor SL') was awarded a contract for the treatment and disposal of residual waste in November 2012. To deliver the contract, Viridor designed, built and now operates an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) at the Beddington Lane site in Sutton. Following the construction and commissioning period, the ERF became fully operational in March 2019. The Contract has an initial term of 25 years and so will operate until the 3rd March 2044, with the potential to extend until a Long Stop Date of 5th November 2047.

2. Performance detail - Food and green

- 2.1. **Food and green waste receipt** - Under the SUEZ food and green waste contracts, the London Boroughs of Croydon, Merton and Sutton deliver kerbside-collected green waste and food waste into the SUEZ waste transfer station located in Merton. There is also the option for the three boroughs to deliver food waste directly to an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility located in the London Borough of Merton up to an agreed limit of 5,000 tonnes per year through the Bio Collectors contract.
- 2.2. The Royal Borough of Kingston delivers green and food waste into the Kingston Council owned Villiers Road waste transfer station.
- 2.3. **Food and green waste treatment** - Food waste is treated at three separate Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facilities. Up to 5,000 tonnes of food waste is treated via a direct delivery contract with Bio Collectors Ltd at their Anaerobic Digestion (AD) site in Merton, as detailed above. The food waste bulked at the SUEZ waste transfer station is hauled to and treated at the Severn Trent AD facility located in Surrey, and the food waste bulked at the Villiers Road waste transfer station is hauled to the Olleco AD facility that is located in Aylesbury.

- 2.4. Green waste is collected from the SUEZ transfer station and the Villiers Road transfer station and is hauled to and treated at the Laverstoke Park Farm, located at Overton in Basingstoke.
- 2.5. **Food and Green waste volumes** - Food and green waste tonnes have continued to decrease over the reporting period 1st April 2022 – 31st December 2022 when compared to the same period last year. There has been a 16% reduction in the total green waste collected at the kerbside and HRRCs combined, and an 11% drop in food waste collected at the kerbside. With regard to green waste, seasonal variations since 2016 have seen annual SLWP green waste tonnes fluctuate up and down by no more than +/-9%, so the 16% reduction in green waste tonnes in 2022 was exceptional. Summer 2022 was exceptionally dry, however warmer weather and dryer summers may become a more frequent trend. A reduction in the volume of food and green waste does impact recycling rates in all boroughs, however, this downward trend does support the waste hierarchy which prioritises waste reduction over recycling.
- 2.6. The following table presents a summary of the total green and food waste collected at both the kerbside and the HRRC sites from April to December 2022 and the difference in tonnes when compared to the same reporting period for the previous year April to December 2021:

Material Treated	Volumes Treated Q3 22/23	Variance against Q3 21/22	Variance expressed in Tonnes
Green waste	23,268	-16%	4,535
Food Waste	18,857	-11%	2,256

3. Performance detail - Household Reuse and Recycling Centres (HRRCs)

- 3.1. **HRRC Contract Performance Review:** The scope of the HRRC services can be summarised in three parts: the general management of the sites (including staffing, plant, equipment and site layouts); the transportation of materials; and the recycling, treatment and/or disposal of waste collected at the HRRC sites (excluding green and residual waste).
- 3.2. The contract specification focuses on three key performance categories; site user experience, health and safety, and material recycling.
- 3.3. **Site user experience** - Veolia started customer satisfaction surveys in July 2016 in order to monitor site user experience. Customer satisfaction questionnaires are undertaken at the six HRRC sites for two weeks in turn for each round. Surveys have continued since that date, with only a brief suspension and some precautionary measures adopted during the COVID pandemic. Questions were updated in January 2022 in order to seek feedback on booking forms introduced at three of the six sites and the fair use policies introduced at two of the sites. A summary dashboard is available to download from the SLWP website.

3.4. **Recycling Performance** – Each month the SLWP looks at materials recycled, recycling markets and the impact of the wider SLWP recycling services in order to better understand HRRC recycling rates and assess the Contractor’s performance. At the end of the reporting period (April – December 2022) the combined performance at the SLWP HRRC sites was 65%. Table 2a in Appendix A details the recycling performance by site and by month (please note the year end performance figure is based on the raw tonnage data, not an average of the recycling performance per month).

3.5. **Recycling Performance analysis** – Some examples of tonnage changes by material type when compared to the previous year are as follows:

HRRC Material	Tonnes Collected April –Dec 2022	Variance against April – Dec 2021	Variance expressed in Tonnes
Green	5,221	-20%	- 1,336
Residual	8,848	-7%	- 638
Wood	7,025	-4%	- 303
Soil	1,529	-13%	- 237
WEEE	1,426	-8%	- 127
Ferrous scrap metal	1,377	-5%	- 65
Glass	76	+32%	18
Paper	99	+26%	20
Card	1,062	+3%	31

3.6. All sites have seen a drop in total tonnes brought to the sites by residents when compared with the same period in the previous year. Kimpton Park Way in Sutton and Fishers Farm in Croydon have seen the greatest reduction in total tonnes at -22% and -14% respectively. Factory Lane and Garth Road tonnes remain the most consistent with only a -1% and -2% drop.

3.7. There was a 20% drop in green waste tonnes collected across the HRRC sites during the reporting period, slightly higher than the 16% overall reduction in green waste reported above at 2.5. This significant drop in green waste tonnes collected at the HRRC sites has resulted in a 1.6 percentage point reduction in Q3 SLWP HRRC recycling rate. Fishers Farm Croydon and Kimpton Park Way Sutton showed the largest drop with 26% and 27% less green waste tonnes, Garth Road in Merton with 18% less and Kingston with 15% less when compared to the same period last year.

3.8. Taking a longer view on the green waste trend, green waste tonnes at the HRRC have reduced by 64% since 2016/17 and there has been a steady increase in tonnage collected at the kerbside year on year, (again with the exception being the unusually dry summer and low tonnes in 2022). The percentage of material collected at the kerbside for the reporting period is as follows: Corydon 69%, Merton 78%, Kingston 78% and Sutton 88%.

3.9. Table 2b in Appendix A uses data from the last three years in order to compare performance April – December 2022 with the same period from the previous two years. The blue bars show the recycling performance to date for this

reporting April – December 2022. The yellow and blue bars show recycling performance for the same period in the previous two years.

3.10. **Reuse and Recycling Projects at the HRRCs**

3.11. Soil separation and recycling – The soil separation activity increases recycling rates as staff encourage and support residents to split out soil from rubble. The subsequent soil fraction is kept clean enough to be recycled and reused. In the reporting period a total of 1,528 tonnes of soil have been diverted at the six HRRC sites.

3.12. Reuse Shops – The reuse shop at Kimpton Park Way HRRC (Sutton) has been in operation since the HRRC contract first started in 2015 and the Fishers Farm HRRC Community Reuse Shop opened in November 2021. Both shops sell items that our residents no longer want or need. Residents bring unwanted items to any one of our Household Reuse and Recycling Centres and the operatives at each of the sites will collect and store anything that can be reused, including electrical items, bikes, bric-a-brac, furniture and toys. The Community Reuse Shop team will then collect suitable items and take them back to the reuse shops where they are fully checked to ensure they work properly and safely, and meet any legal requirements, such as fire labels.

3.13. Social Value – In December 2022 Veolia and their Community Reuse Shop partners hosted a free Xmas toy giveaway. Toys which had been donated by residents across the six SLWP HRRCs were checked to ensure they were complete and in safe working condition and were offered free of charge to residents across the partnership. The scheme was very well received and Veolia are now working on a summer-club toy giveaway project and other initiatives so this can function as a year round reuse project. In addition, Veolia have donated over 100 games toys and books to the Rotary Food Bank, and have invited a number of charities to the sites to collect presents and toys, including The Golden Hearted Charity. The Garth Road HRRC site also hosted an accompanied school visit for the Perseid School Merton.

3.14. 'Upcycle Workshops' – An Upcycle Classroom is located at the Kimpton Park HRRC site and the unit is being upgraded ready for public use. Veolia and the SLWP will be looking to work with local groups that can offer upcycling and reuse projects at this facility.

3.15. **Booking Forms** – A booking form system has been in place at the HRRC sites in Kingston, Merton and Sutton since 13th May 2020. Initially introduced to help manage visitor numbers at the sites and comply with Covid-19 restrictions, the booking forms proved popular with site staff and site users, so have been retained. Following feedback from residents and Joint Committee members, the SLWP procured a new online booking system that, amongst other features, this system sends a reminder text message or email to the customer ahead of their booked time slot, and enables customers to amend or cancel their booking slot, book multiple slots on the same day, and view the number of bookings that they have made to date. The new system delivered by Pentagul has been in use since early 2022 and has received positive feedback from residents.

3.16. **Assisted Tipping** – The site parking arrangements have been reconfigured at all sites to enable a larger bay to accommodate assisted tipping so that anyone needing help from site staff or a carer has plenty of room. When not in use for assisted tipping this larger parking bay can also be used for residents with bulky items or side access vehicles. For those sites operating a booking system, a new section has been added to the booking forms to enable customers to book assistance at the larger bay in advance.

3.17. **Rubble Charging at Kimpton Park Way (Sutton)** – The introduction of a charge for the disposal of rubble at Kimpton Park Way (Sutton) commenced in July 2021. This charge was introduced to recover the costs associated with the disposal of this waste type and to deter potential site abuse from trade and commercial businesses. Residents are advised of the rubble charge via the booking form, which also provides alternative options for disposal, such as via the trade person completing the work (if applicable) or via a bag disposal system, mini skip, grab lorry or other commercial waste service if completing the work themselves. A list of trade waste disposal sites is also available on the council website. Rubble tonnages have fallen by 81% during the Q3 reporting period when compared to the same period last year. This significant reduction is believed to be due to deterring trade visitors posing as residents and disposing of this waste free of charge. To date, there is no evidence to suggest there is a correlation between the implementation of this charge and a rise in fly tipping.

3.18. **Fair Use Policy** – Fair use policies have been introduced at the Kingston and Sutton HRRCs. The aim of these policies is to ensure that these HRRC sites are reserved for Kingston and Sutton residents, and only receive, process and pay for the recycling and disposal of household waste.

3.19. In Kingston, the fair use policy allows Kingston households, travelling by car, to book up to 20 visits per year. The fair use policy was introduced in April 2021 and, based on 2019/20 usage data, only impacts 3.2% of site users.

3.20. In Sutton the fair use policy allows Sutton households, travelling by car, to book up to 24 visits per year. The policy was introduced in July 2021 and reviewed in June 2022, and historical data indicates that for 99.9% of Sutton residents, the fair use policy will have no impact on their annual visits to the site.

4. **Residual Waste treatment Contract (Viridor South London Limited)**

4.1. Viridor South London has been delivering the services under the Residual Waste Treatment contract since 4th March 2019.

4.2. In the reporting period, 1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022, the SLWP boroughs delivered just over 145,500 tonnes of residual waste to Beddington. This is 12,197 tonnes (8%) less than the same period last year and it is also the lowest Q3 tonnage generated by the boroughs since 2010 when contract performance monitoring reporting to the Joint Committee commenced. Please see Appendix A table 1a for further details on residual waste tonnes.

- 4.3. **Landfill Diversion** - In the reporting period, 100% of the residual waste delivered by SLWP partner boroughs was diverted away from landfill. Please see Appendix A table 1b for further diversion data. There is a planned maintenance shutdown during April and May 2023 and so this diversion rate may reduce in 2023/24.
- 4.4. **Emissions** – The emissions from the Beddington ERF are sampled every 10 seconds, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The results are fed back to the ERF Control Room, so any potential issues are known about immediately and appropriate action can be taken. The results from the continuous emissions monitoring systems (CEMS) are reported to the Environment Agency (EA - the regulator for the facility) and uploaded by Viridor to a publicly-accessible website (www.beddingtonerf.info). The EA sets limits (based on 10-minute, 30-minute, and daily averages) for different types of emissions. The Beddington ERF has been designed to operate at the very highest international standards and, during normal operating conditions, emissions are well below the limits set by the EA.
- 4.5. The last Joint Committee reviewed the permit exceedances in the table below as reported by Viridor. Viridor have indicated that the likely cause of a number of exceedances are gas bottles going through the facility which, if they explode, can result in a spike in emissions. As discussed at recent committees, the increase in large nitrous oxide canisters has been particularly challenging and it is a national issue. Operational measures have been implemented, including; driver training, loader training, and waste 'blend' training to ensure a more homogeneous waste. A trial into the use of artificial intelligence in the bunker in order to detect gas bottles has now started and this will alert the plant operator of the presence of gas bottles in the bunker. The AI trial will be monitored and an update will be brought to the next Joint Committee.
- 4.6. Exceedances since the start of the reporting period 1st April 2022 are detailed below.

Date	Emission	Daily or half-hourly limit	Limit	Reading	Cause submitted by Viridor
03.05.22	Hydrogen Chloride (HCL)	Half-hourly	60mg/m ³	60.2mg/m ³	Technical issue with lime dosing equipment
16.05.22	Carbon Monoxide	Daily	50mg/m ³	77mg/m ³	Gas bottle
21.05.22	Carbon Monoxide	Daily	50mg/m ³	51mg/m ³	Over-fire in the boiler
21.05.22	Volatile Organic Compounds	Half-hourly	20mg/m ³	29.4mg/m ³	Gas bottle
13.06.22	Volatile Organic Compounds	Half-hourly	20mg/m ³	22.48mg/Nm ³	Over-fire in the boiler
27.06.2022	Volatile Organic Compounds	Half-hourly	20mg/m ⁴	35.28 mg/Nm ³	Overfire on the grate due to waste and explosion
15.09.2022	Volatile Organic Compounds	Half-hourly	20mg/m ⁴	22.32mg/Nm ³	Waste Feed temporarily stopped
23.12.2022	Hydrogen Chloride (HCL)	Half-hourly	60mg/m ³	76.60mg/m ³	Waste composition caused high HCl peak, despite the maximum lime dosing
09.03.2023	Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	Half-hourly	20mg/m ⁴	20.38 mg/Nm ³	Discharge on Line 1 was partly blocked on one side. Poor combustion and operation of one out of two burner resulted in VOC levels that went just over the ELV.

- 4.7. It is also noted that on 17th March 2023, there was an exceedance of the 30-minute average Emission Limit Value (ELV) for Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂). This

was caused by a failure of the ERF's lime dosing equipment. The failure was rectified quickly, but it did result in a single 30-minute average reading of 209mg/m³ (the 30-minute average ELV for SO₂ is 200mg/m³). Viridor have notified the Environment Agency (EA), as required by their Permit. It is likely that the EA will consider this exceedance to have taken place during a period of 'abnormal operation' and it will therefore not consider it to be a breach of the Permit.

- 4.8. **Transparency of Emissions data** - Viridor publish detailed emissions reports on the Beddington ERF Virtual Visitor Centre on a regular basis (<https://www.beddingtonerf.info/>). A link to the 'emissions data' can be found in the top right corner of the site's home page. An archive of reports dating back to 2019 is available for the public to view here. This is done to ensure local residents have access to detailed information about the performance of the plant. A detailed 'Guidance Note' is provided to help residents interpret the emissions reports accurately. We are not aware of any other energy from waste facility in the country that provides this level of openness and transparency.
- 4.9. It is important to note that the facility must operate in accordance with its Environmental Permit which is issued and regulated by the Environment Agency (EA). The site cannot operate without its permit from the EA and if the site is not compliant with its permit, the EA has the power to serve both enforcement and suspension notices. The SLWP will continue to work closely with Viridor and the EA to ensure the Beddington ERF is operating safely.
- 4.10. **Environmental Permit variation** – Viridor submitted an application to the Environment Agency (EA) seeking to increase the amount of waste that can be processed at the Beddington ERF. The application was duly made by the EA on the 10th November 2022 and a six week public consultation was launched. During the consultation period, local residents and stakeholders were able to review the technical information submitted by Viridor in support of the application (including newly modelled Air Quality Assessment and Human Health Risk Assessment), and share feedback with the EA directly. More than 500 responses to the consultation were received by the EA.
- 4.11. Next Steps – The EA have stated that they will consider all comments and feedback made in the consultation, and will summarise the key issues in a decision document explaining how and why a decision is reached. If the EA does decide to issue the permit variation, a second phase of consultation called "minded to issue" will be launched. The SLWP has requested an update from the EA on the likely timescales for a decision to be made on the application.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1. It is recommended that the Joint Waste Committee:
- a) Note the contents of this report, and
 - b) comment on any aspects of the performance of the Partnership's transfer, treatment, recycling and disposal contracts

6. **IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. LEGAL -There are no legal considerations arising directly out of the recommendation in this report.
- 6.2. FINANCE - There are no financial considerations arising directly out of the recommendation in this report.

7. **Appendices**

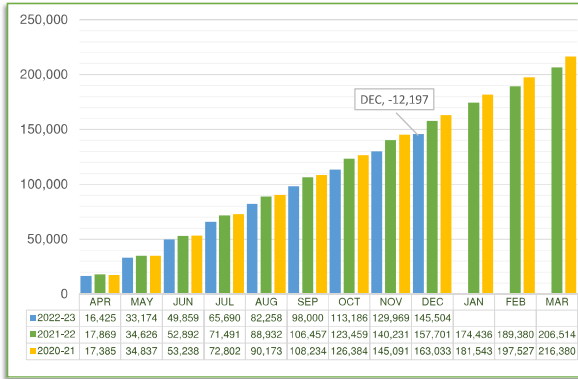
- 7.1. Appendix A provides data on the performance of the five jointly procured treatment and disposal contracts for the reporting period 1st April 2022 to the 31st December 2022.
- 7.2. Appendix B provides details of the Severn Trent Green Power - AD Facility

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SECTION 1: CONTRACT 1 - RESIDUAL WASTE DISPOSAL

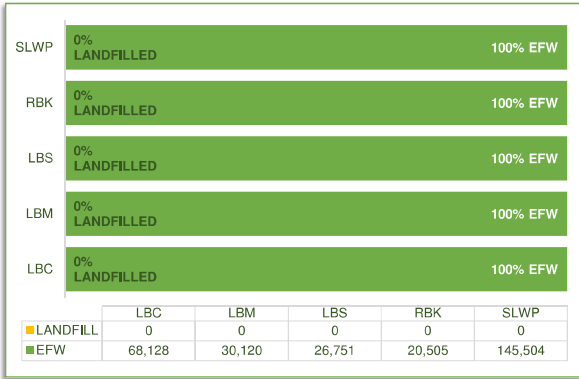
1a - TOTAL RESIDUAL WASTE GROWTH

CUMULATIVE RESIDUAL WASTE - CURRENT YEAR AGAINST 2 PREVIOUS YEARS



1b - DIVERSION FROM LANDFILL

TOTAL TONNES AND % OF WASTE SENT TO ENERGY RECOVERY



SECTION 2: HRRC RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

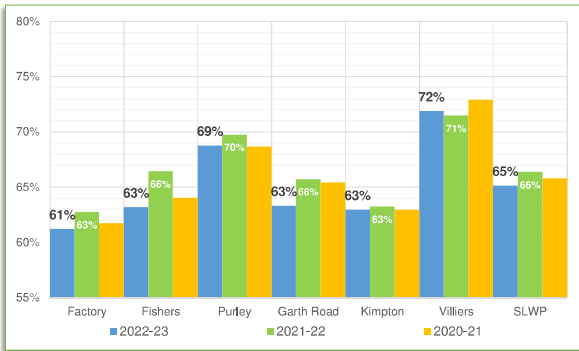
2a: HRRC RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

MONTHLY PERFORMANCE FOR EACH SITE AND SLWP AVERAGE

	FACTORY LANE	FISHERS FARM	PURLEY OAKS	GARTH ROAD	KIMPTON PARK WAY	VILLIERS ROAD	SLWP
APR	64%	63%	71%	65%	64%	73%	66%
MAY	64%	66%	71%	68%	63%	74%	68%
JUN	64%	66%	72%	64%	65%	75%	67%
JUL	61%	65%	71%	64%	67%	70%	66%
AUG	58%	64%	66%	61%	62%	72%	63%
SEP	63%	61%	70%	63%	65%	72%	66%
OCT	58%	65%	67%	61%	61%	71%	63%
NOV	61%	57%	66%	61%	61%	71%	63%
DEC	54%	55%	59%	60%	57%	66%	59%
JAN							
FEB							
MAR							
YTD	61%	63%	69%	63%	63%	72%	65%

2b: YEAR TO DATE RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

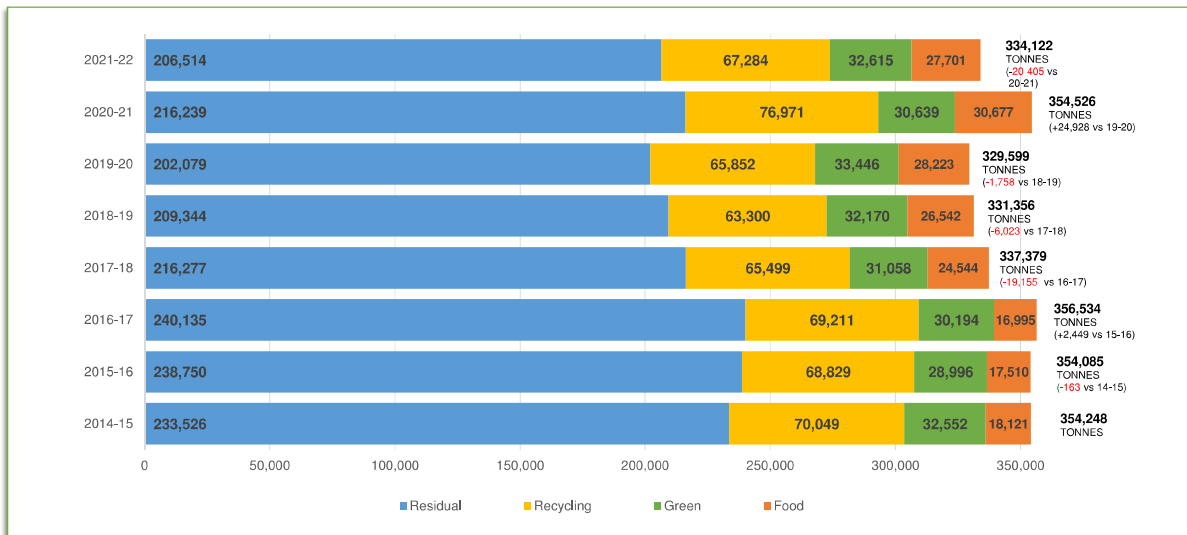
PERFORMANCE COMPARED TO LAST 2 YEARS



SECTION 3: WASTE ARISING

3a: TOTAL ANNUAL WASTE ARISING (INC. NON HOUSEHOLD WASTE)

2021-22 AND PREVIOUS LAST 7 YEARS



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CASE STUDY



Severn Trent Green Power West London AD Facility

West London Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility treats source segregated food waste from local authorities, commercial waste collectors and food producers/retailers.

Food waste is depackaged, macerated and then digested anaerobically in large sealed tanks. This process produces:

1. Biogas (methane and carbon dioxide): which is converted to renewable electricity in gas engines and exported to the National Grid to power local homes and businesses.

2. Digestate (a nutrient-rich liquid fertiliser): which is spread on local farmland reducing the use of fossil-fuel derived chemical fertilisers.

The excess heat which is produced as a by-product of the process is re-used to warm the digesters and to heat the pasteurisation process.

KEY FACTS

- Construction time: 9 months
- Commissioned: January 2014
- Achieved 100% power: March 2014
- Design power output: 2.4MWe (2 x Jenbacher 416 engines)
- Average power output: 97.1%
- Facility footprint: 2.6 hectares
- Waste input: solid & liquid, packaged and unpackaged food waste
- Digestion retention time: circa 75 days
- ABPR certified
- PAS110 certified
- Digesters: 4 x 4,200m³ tanks
- Digestate storage: 1 x 4,200m³ tank and 20,000m³ off-site lagoon



PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

- Average power output: 97.1%
- Plant availability to date: 100%
- Plant electrical parasitic load: 11%
- Average daily throughput: 145 tonnes solid waste, 90 tonnes liquid waste
- ABPR certified
- PAS110 certified
- Staff: 1 manager, 2 operators

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Diverts solid food waste from landfill
- Diverts liquid organic waste from water treatment works (saving energy)
- Captures 4.5 million m³ of methane every year – the same greenhouse gas impact as removing 71,000 cars from the road
- Generates enough renewable electricity to power over 4,800 homes
- Uses liquid waste and rainwater to minimise process water usage
- Low on-site energy consumption
- Constructed from 52% recycled aggregates
- Concrete hardstanding area minimised to reduce the carbon footprint
- Our digestate replaces fossil-fuel derived fertilisers on around 2,500 acres of farmland
- Waste heat from gas engines is recycled into the digestion and pasteurisation processes, optimising plant energy use

www.stgreenpower.co.uk
t: 01608 677 700

DESIGN BENEFITS

- Long retention times = more biogas produced, stable biology, reliable treatment service and low odour digestate product
- Robust depackaging system = highly effective, maximises plant recycling rate, reliable, able to process peak waste deliveries (10–20 tonnes/hr)
- Single stage depackaging process = low power usage, low maintenance
- Recessed reception bunker = biosecure, ABP best practice, increased temporary waste storage capacity
- Three days of food waste storage capacity pre-digestion = able to process peak waste deliveries
- No digestate dewatering = reduced energy usage, lower operating costs, maximised nutrient recycling to land
- Enclosed, odour-controlled waste reception building = low external odour
- Wet scrubber and biofilter on building ventilation system = low external odour
- One-way traffic system = improved site safety, quick turnaround times
- Two automated weighbridges; site entrance and site exit
- Concrete tanks cast in-situ for longevity

DIGESTATE STATISTICS

- NPK values (kg/m³): 5kg N (60–80% ammoniacal-N), 0.52 kg P₂O₅, 2.17 Kg K₂O
- 50,000 tonnes 'whole digestate' spread on local farmland each year



Report to: South London Waste Partnership (SLWP) Joint Waste Committee
Date: 25th April 2023
Author(s): Francesco Grieco, Head of Finance & Business Intelligence
Chair: Councillor Irons
Report title: South London Waste Partnership Budget Update Month 11 2022/23

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on the Partnership’s budget position for month 11 (February) of the 2022/23 financial year and the projected outturn for the financial year.
- 1.2 At month 11, the forecast outturn is an underspend of £11,882 against the total 2022/23 budget.

	Budget	Forecast	Variance
TOTAL	£1,329,000	£1,317,178	-£11,882
COST PER BOROUGH	£332,250	£329,294	-£2,956

2. Background

- 2.1 The Partnership sets its budget in December each year for the forthcoming financial year. Spend against budget is monitored monthly in order to respond to pressures and to allow budgets to be flexed where appropriate.

3. Financial Position commentary – Month 11

- 3.1 **Core Budget** - The table below refers to the budget position for the Core Partnership Team activities for month 11 (February) of the 2022/23 financial year. This budget covers core staff salaries, ad hoc advisor support on contract issues and / or variations and document management functions. The core staff activities include contract management and finance administration.

	Budget	Forecast	Variance
Core Partnership Team Activity	£792,000	£805,411	£13,411
Advisors and Corporate Support	£64,400	£65,389	-£11
Core Staff Resources	£708,000	£721,112	£13,112
Document Management	£19,600	£19,910	£310

3.2 The budget for the 'Core Partnership Team Activity' is forecasting an overspend of £13,411. This is due to an anticipated overspend of £13,112 in relation to interim staffing and a small overspend in relation to the SLWP document management systems.

3.3 **Improvement Projects** - The table below refers to the position of the 'Improvement Projects' budget for month 11 (February) of the 2022/23 financial year. Communication and contract improvement projects are forecasting an overall underspend of £31,993.

	Budget	Forecast	Variance
Communications and Improvement Projects	£167,000	£135,007	-£31,993
Contract Improvements	£20,000	£3,647	-£16,353
Communication Projects	£147,000	£131,360	-£15,640

3.4 **Strategy and Commissioning** - The table below refers to the budget position for the 'Strategy Development and Service Commissioning' budget for month 11 (February) of the 2022/23 financial year.

3.5 At month 11, this budget area is forecasting an overspend of £6,760. The budget exceedance for Intelligence Gathering Projects follows a higher than anticipated cost for all of our intelligence gathering exercises, especially labour intensive projects such as the waste composition analysis and survey work. In addition to a general increase in costs to deliver these projects, the scope of our waste composition analysis project was increased to include food waste sampling, and the scope was also widened for our carbon baseline project. The forecast overspend from Intelligence gathering activities has been managed through a reduction in the commissioning resource activities.

	Budget	Forecast	Variance
Strategy Development and Service Commissioning	£370,000	£376,760	£6,760
Intelligence Gathering	£170,000	£228,578	£58,578
Commissioning Resource	£200,000	£148,182	-£51,818

4. **Recommendations:**

4.1 To note the content of this report.

5. **Impacts and Implications**

5.1 Finance - Contained within report.



PART A REPORT

Report to: South London Waste Partnership (SLWP) Joint Committee

Date: 25th April 2023

Author(s): John Haynes, Communications Advisor

Report title: **Communications and engagement update**

Summary

This paper provides an update to Members of the South London Waste Partnership Joint Committee on communications and stakeholder engagement activities relating to the Partnership's residual waste treatment services; Household Reuse and Recycling Centre (HRRC) services; food and green waste treatment services; and marketing of recyclates.

This report focuses on activity that has taken place between January and March 2023.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of this report and comment on any aspects of communications and engagement activities relating to the residual waste treatment services; Household Reuse and Recycling Centre (HRRC) services; food and green waste treatment services; and marketing of recyclates.

1. THE SOUTH LONDON WASTE PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE

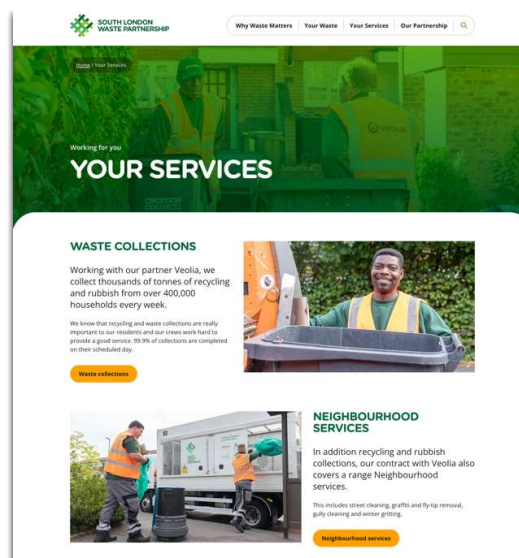
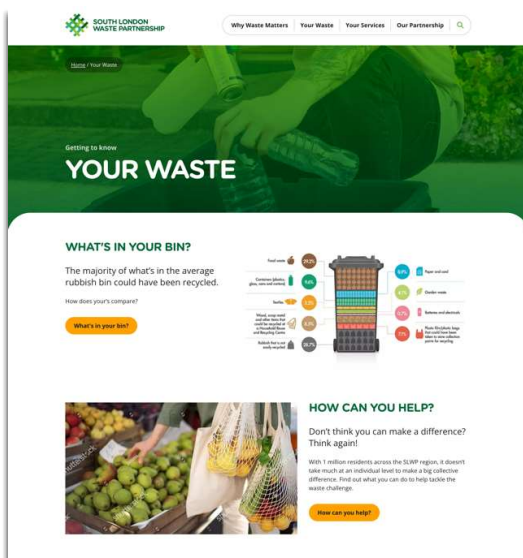
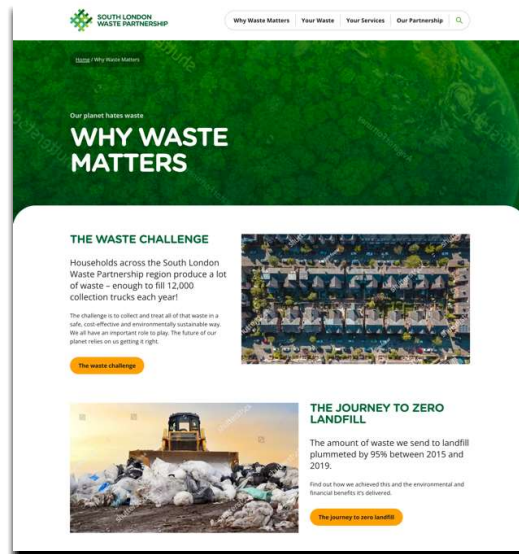
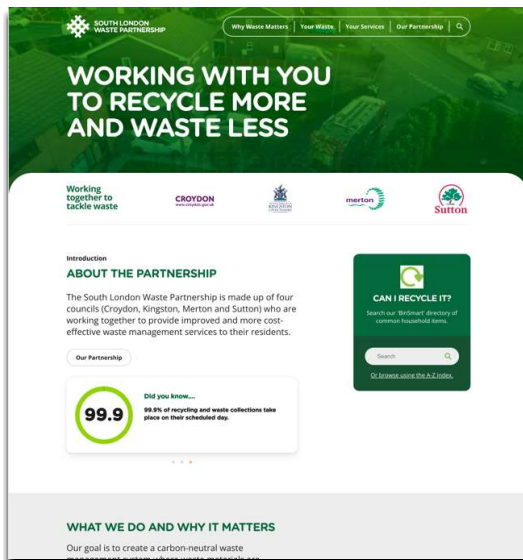
1.1 The construction of the new South London Waste Partnership website is now complete. The site is in the final stages of user testing and will go live imminently. The Partnership has worked with Huxley Digital on the design of the site. Huxley is a specialist in developing accessible websites for public sector clients and is a certified Crown Commercial Service Supplier.

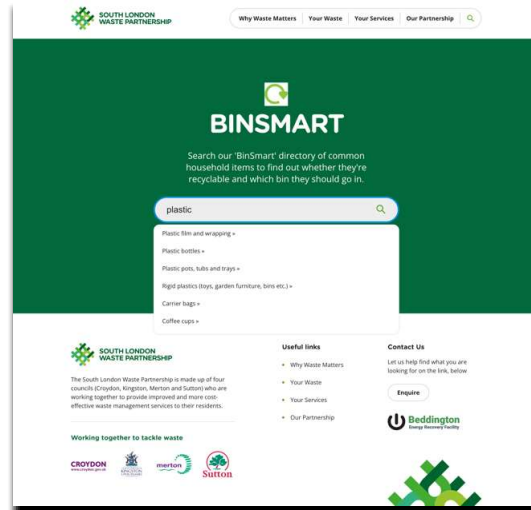
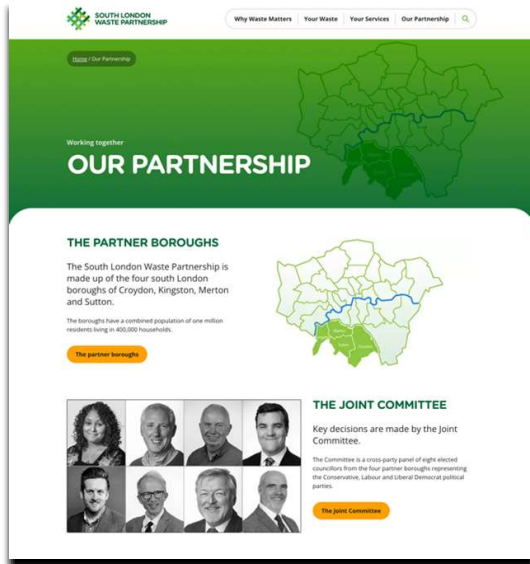
1.2 The new SLWP website (www.slwp.org.uk):

- Will meet the latest accessibility standards (WCAG 2.1 AA)
- Has been built on a responsive design, so works equally well on desktop, mobile and held-held devices

- Is hosted on a secure, fully-managed (24/7) and scalable hosting platform
- Has an updated design and refreshed content, to reflect the current responsibilities and priorities of the Partnership
- Includes an advanced search engine ('BinSmart') that allows residents to search or browse a directory of common household items and get advice on how to recycle or dispose of these items correctly. In time, this BinSart tool could replace the 'A-Z directories of recycling' that currently feature on each of the four partner boroughs' websites and become the go-to resource for residents wanting in-depth information about what they can and can't recycle and how to responsibly dispose of items that are not collected from the kerbside.

1.3 Below is a selection of screengrabs from the new website:





2. HOUSEHOLD REUSE AND RECYCLING CENTRES (HRRCs)

- 2.1 This contract is operated by Veolia on behalf of the Partnership boroughs.
- 2.2 Site user satisfaction - Site user satisfaction surveys continue to be conducted at the six HRRC sites on a rolling basis.
- 2.3 A summary of the findings from these surveys is reported to this Committee in the Contract Management Reports, and uploaded to the SLWP website.
- 2.4 Promotion of Community Reuse Shops – A short video promoting the Community Reuse Shops at Fishers Farm and Kimpton Park Way HRRCs has been produced by the Veolia Communication Team and shared with the borough communications teams. The video will be shown to Members at the Committee meeting.

3. BEDDINGTON ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY (ERF)

- 3.1 The Residual Waste Treatment Contract was awarded to Viridor in 2012. In order to fulfil the contract, Viridor has constructed a £205m state-of-the-art Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in Beddington, Sutton. Household waste from the four Partner boroughs that either cannot be recycled or has not been sorted for recycling is treated at the facility and used to generate electricity.
- 3.2 The SLWP Communications Advisor continues to work closely with Viridor to:

- Ensure Viridor are meeting their contractual requirements with regards to communications and stakeholder engagement around the operation of the Beddington ERF
 - Ensure local people understand why it is we need an ERF and provide reassurance around the safety of modern, well-run facilities such as this
 - Ensure the Partnership understands the views of local people with regards to waste treatment and ERF technologies in particular.
- 3.3 Permit variation application – On 10 November 2022, the Environment Agency (EA) launched a public consultation on an application by Viridor to vary the facility’s environmental permit. If approved by the EA, the variation will allow the facility to treat 10% more waste. The SLWP boroughs submitted a joint response to the consultation objecting to Viridor’s application. The consultation closed on 23 December 2022.
- 3.4 The EA has confirmed that they received more than 500 responses to the consultation. The EA is working through each of these responses to review the feedback given and assessing the technical documents submitted by Viridor. In January the EA confirmed that *if* they were ‘minded to issue’ then the next stage of consultation would not take place before mid-March 2023 and that consultation would last 6 weeks. On 24 March the SLWP received a further update from the EA stating that the next stage of the process would not take place until April. The SLWP remains in regular contact with the EA on this matter and will update the partner boroughs once further details are confirmed.
- 3.5 Emissions – the environmental performance of the Beddington ERF is reported to this Committee in the Contract Management Report. Viridor uploads Emissions Monitoring Reports to the Beddington ERF Virtual Visitor Centre (www.beddingtonerf.info) twice per month.
- 3.6 The SLWP Communications Advisor continues to work with Viridor to ensure local residents have access to timely and comprehensive information about the environmental performance of the facility via the Virtual Visitor Centre.
- 3.7 Gas bottle awareness campaign – January saw the launch of phase 2 of Viridor’s ‘Leave it Out!’ gas cannister campaign. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness that gas cannisters (and large nitrous oxide bottles in particular) should not be placed in rubbish bins or street litter bins. A more detailed summary of the campaign objectives was provided to the Committee in December 2022.
- 3.8 Phase 2 of the campaign saw adverts appear across the tram network (see below).
- 3.9 In March 2023, Viridor welcomed Sky News as part of the Leave it Out! campaign to support them in the filming on a special report

investigating the challenges and dangers of recreational nitrous oxide use.



Campaign artwork on the tram network



Sky News report into the challenges and dangers of recreational Nox use

- 3.10 On 27 March, the Government announced that possessing nitrous oxide is to be made a criminal offence for the first time. There will also be tighter controls on retailers to prevent the supply of nitrous oxide for misuse. The announcement was made by Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) on Sky News and was covered across all the main news channels. In their follow-up coverage, Sky News used footage from their visit to the Beddington ERF.
- 3.11 Westminster Roundtable Event on nitrous oxide mis-use – the roundtable event originally planned for January 2023 (but postponed due to train strikes) has been rearranged for 25 April 2023. SLWP representatives will attend the event hosted by Viridor. Also in attendance will be local MPs and representatives from the British Compressed Gas Association and ReSolve (the substance abuse charity). The round table event will be an opportunity to discuss the rapidly growing issue of recreational nitrous oxide use and the impact it is having on public health, street scene and waste treatment facilities. Local MPs will be asked to support a campaign to ban the retail sales of nitrous oxide and to ensure the new legislation being put forward by Government (see 3.12) is passed into law as quickly as possible.
- 3.12 Site visits – Viridor have welcomed the following groups to visit the Beddington ERF in recent months:
- Beddington Community Liaison Group
 - Kingston Academy School
 - Sustainable Merton
 - Chartered Institute of Waste Management

3.13 The following future dates have been agreed with Viridor as ‘open days’, which individuals can book on to and visit the site, including a tour of the facility itself (max 10 people per visit):

- Tuesday 20 June: 10:00am - 12:30pm
- Wednesday 23 August: 10:00am - 12:30pm
- Friday 8 September: 10:00am - 12:30pm
- Saturday 9 September: 10:00am - 12:30pm
- Thursday 30 November: 10:00am - 12:30pm

These dates will be publicised on the Beddington ERF website, SLWP website and via borough social media channels.

3.14 Beddington Community Benefit Fund – In February Viridor announced that it had distributed almost half a million pounds of funding (£498,207) to local groups since the Beddington Community Benefit Fund was established five years ago. The announcement attracted local and trade media coverage.

3.15 Recent beneficiaries include Maggies at the Royal Marsden in Sutton (a centre that provides practical and emotional support for anyone living with cancer), Startup Croydon (an inclusive business hub and charity) and Christina Peak (a local Beddington artist running a community-based mural project).

3.16 Any project, charity or organisation within a 2km radius of the Beddington ERF site boundary can apply for grants of up to £30,000 and projects anywhere within the four SLWP boroughs are eligible for up to £5,000. More details on eligibility criteria and an application form can be found at:
www.viridor.co.uk/about-us/our-communities/beddington-community/

4. Collections and street cleansing

4.1 Communication and engagement activities relating to recycling & waste collections and street cleansing are not formally under the remit of this Joint Committee. Nevertheless, this short summary of recent activity is provided to Members in order to provide a more complete picture of SLWP communication and engagement efforts.

4.2 Garden waste collection service promotion – Following on the from success of the 2022 campaign (which attracted more than 3,000 new subscriptions) the 2023 garden waste collection service promotion campaign will go live in April.

- Letters (similar to the ones below) will be sent to c.20,000 carefully targeted households (using a combination of LOAC demographic data, lapsed subscribers and roads where a high proportion of properties subscribe)



The direct-mail campaign will be supported by a targeted digital advertising campaign. This year, the digital assets used in recent years (see below) will be A/B tested against a new asset for 2023: a short promotional video showing how easy it is to use the garden waste recycling service rather than taking garden waste to the HRRC, which can be messy and time consuming. This new asset is designed to blend into the standard Facebook and Instagram newsfeeds and appear more 'organic'. The promotional film will be shown to Members at the Committee meeting.



Targets for the 2023 campaign are to:

- Increase garden waste subscriptions across the four SLWP boroughs by ~1,000, to reach 71,000 active subscribers within the calendar year
- Achieve a 5% conversion rate from targeted letters

4.3 Food waste recycling participation campaign (2022) results – the results of participation monitoring conducted during autumn 2023 have revealed that the food waste recycling participation campaign that was delivered to 50,000 targeted households in October 2022 is likely to have increased participation in food waste recycling by around 10%.

- 4.4 50,000 properties were targeted with a three-pronged intervention on their collection day:
- Free roll of 12 biodegradable liners posted through the door
 - Information leaflet providing details on how to recycle food waste, how to order replacement containers and the benefits of food waste recycling
 - A 'No food waste' sticker on the lid of the general rubbish bin



4.5 As part of the campaign, three phases of participation monitoring were conducted across two collection rounds in Sutton; one control round (SKREC9 Tuesday) and one round that had been included in the targeted campaign (SKREC5 Monday). Sutton rounds were chosen because rounds in Croydon, Kingston and Merton had already been monitored as part of the campaign in 2021.

4.6 Participation monitoring:

- Phase 1 – prior to the campaign (baseline)
- Phase 2 – three weeks after interventions (halfway through supply of free biodegradable liners that had been delivered as part of the campaign)
- Phase 3 – six weeks after interventions (supply of free biodegradable liners used up)

4.7 The participation monitoring showed that by phase 3, food waste recycling participation had increased by 10.32% in the target round compared to an increase of 1.69% in the control round.

4.8 3,076 food waste caddies were requested by properties in the campaign target areas, compared to 1,220 during the same period the previous year (a 152% increase).

4.9 The increase in container requests and results of the participation monitoring provide further evidence that the food waste recycling participation campaign is delivering a good return on investment. Planning is underway to run a similar campaign in summer 2023.

4.10 Food waste minimisation campaign - Recycling food waste is preferable to throwing it away, but not producing it in the first place is the best outcome.

4.11 To encourage residents to think more about reducing their food waste, 15,000 properties that had previously been targeted (in 2021) as part of the food waste recycling participation campaign described above received a sticker on their food waste caddy containing food waste tips and directing them to the Love Food Hate Waste website.



4.12 Evaluating the impact of this campaign is more challenging as it would require a detailed waste composition analysis of the properties targeted as part of the campaign. However, food waste tonnages for the SLWP as a whole have dipped slightly, which may indicate that residents are becoming more aware of food waste and taking actions to prevent it.

4.13 Increasing food waste recycling participation (i.e. put-out rate) combined with reducing food waste tonnages would be the ideal scenario for the boroughs, from both an environmental and financial perspective.

4.14 Veolia Year 7 (2023/24) Communications Plan – Work to draft and agree the Communications Action Plan for 2023/24 (Year 7) has been taking place since December, led by Veolia and supported by the SLWP Communications Advisor. The SLWP Borough Communications Leads have been closely involved, including two workshops to review and discuss the plan at various stages of its development.

4.15 The plan is now close to being finalised. A total of £236,000 will be invested on the following priorities:

- Collection crew communications – contamination and excess waste education and awareness process (tags, letters and door knocking)
- Street scene project targeting four hot-spots in each borough
- Food waste recycling participation campaign

- Flats recycling package for managing agents
- Garden waste collection service renewals and promotion
- Annual service newsletter and 2024 collection calendars
- Borough-specific projects
- School engagement and community events (including MRF tours)
- PR and social media support (pro-active and re-active)

4.16 Borough-specific support – the following support has been provided to the SLWP boroughs on more localised projects:

- Croydon - Online / telephone surveys and residents focus groups to help co-design the new waste collection and street cleaning service that will need to be commissioned for 2025
- Kingston - Member workshops to review findings of the co-design resident consultation project (waste collections service for 2025 onwards) and identify Member priorities.
Support for the transition of responsibility for garden waste renewals and promotion from Kingston Council to Veolia
- Merton - Communications support for the introduction of a new time-banded collection service for flats above shops
- Sutton - Member workshops to review findings of the co-design resident consultation project (waste collections and street cleansing services for 2025 onwards) and identify Member priorities.
Sutton High Street event to support the launch of the Great British Spring Clean

5. Legal impacts and implications

5.1 None

6. Communications

6.1 This report has been drafted by the Partnership's Communications Advisor, who works closely with the four SLWP boroughs and the partnership's commercial partners to ensure communications and engagements activities support the themes agreed in the SLWP Communications Strategy 2020-2022.

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of this report and comment on any aspects of communications and engagement activities relating to the Phase A and Phase B contracts.



PART A REPORT

Report to: South London Waste Partnership (SLWP) Joint Committee

Date: 25 April 2023

Author(s): Richard Seedhouse, Democratic Services Officer

Report title: **Meeting Procedure Rules**

Summary

This report asks the Committee to clarify the meeting procedure rules for permitting non-Committee members to speak on or ask questions about items on the meeting agenda.

1. Recommendations

That the Committee agrees to implement the following procedures to future meetings of the Committee:

- 1.1 To reinstate the invitation to speak on agenda items on the agenda packs.
 - 1.2 Members of the public and Councillors of SLWP Boroughs are permitted to speak on an item on the agenda provided that speech is limited to 3 minutes. It is noted that this right does not include a right of reply.
 - 1.3 That speakers participating in the meeting under 1.2 are restricted to a maximum of 2 speakers per each agenda item.
 - 1.4 Members of the public and Councillors from SLWP Boroughs are also able to ask a question about any agenda item provided this question is submitted in writing to the Committee Clerk.
 - 1.5 Questions should not be substantially the same as those asked in the previous 6 months.
 - 1.6 Questions are limited to one per person on each agenda item.
 - 1.7 Questions and/or requests to speak should be submitted 2 working days before the meeting.
 - 1.8 Questions and answers will be published in advance of the meeting
 - 1.9 Speakers can use their time to pose questions, but where answers cannot be provided immediately, orally, they may be provided in writing after the meeting.
 - 1.10 The South London Waste Partnership Joint Committee constitution, meeting procedures and information on how members of the public can engage with the Committee are included on the SLWP website.
-
- 2.1 To commission a more comprehensive piece of work on bringing the constitution up to date, which should consider options for remote attendance and participation, rotation and frequency of rotation of chairs, vice chairs and clerks across the boroughs, and any other elements the committee would like to review or clarify, to conclude in time for the renewal of agreements in 2025

2. Background and introduction

2.1 Requests to speak at this meeting, from non-Committee member Councillors have highlighted an inconsistency in the application of the meeting procedures for this Committee.

2.2 The July 2010 Constitution does not accommodate non-Committee members speaking or asking questions at this meeting. However, at a meeting in March 2015, the Committee agreed that a note would be included on the agenda front page inviting anyone who wished to speak on an item (on the meeting agenda) to register by no later than noon on the day of the meeting via the officer contact details shown and that speakers would be allowed to speak for 3 minutes.

2.3 According to the minutes since 2015, the Committee has not discussed or agreed any further amendments to the meeting procedures.

2.4 Over time, the note on the front page of the agenda has varied from the agreed phrasing detailed above, and has not been included at all over the last year.

2.5 Each Borough has their own procedures, timelines and limitations on asking questions at Council and Committee meetings. However, it is common practice to allow public participation to some extent.

2.6 The recommendations aim to balance the accessibility of the Committee to non-members with the needs of the Committee to conduct its business within the 3 hour limit of the meeting (R4.2 in the Meeting Procedure Rules) and for officers to respond to correspondence in a timely manner.

2.7 It is therefore proposed that a procedural note be drafted by officers and agreed by the Committee outlining the procedures listed in 1.1 – 1.10 of this report to be used by all 4 Boroughs hosting the Committee alongside the current Committee Constitution to enable public and Councillor participation as outlined above.

2.8 It is noted that the Committee Constitution, having been in place since 2010 would benefit from review by officers and the Committee in the future to bring it up to date with current practices.

2.9 The review is likely to take some time and require input from SLLP to ensure recommendations and renewed constitution is appropriate and in compliance with existing legislation. It would benefit from concluding in time for agreement renewals in 2025.

