



Joint Contract Authority Performance – Quarter 3 2019/20

17 June 2020

Report Author: John Mackintosh

Introduction

This report provides a summary for the Joint Committee of the latest quarterly position on recycling performance for the four Joint Contract authorities. This is based on data sourced from the SEP waste data system. The Annexes to this paper show the latest available performance data for each of the four authorities. There is one performance dashboard for each authority.

Due to time constraints around the availability of data, it is still not possible to report recycling performance for the latest quarter, so this is reported a quarter in arrears. Work to reduce this time lag is ongoing, and will hopefully be complete by the time of the next Joint Committee meeting in September.

Recycling performance – Q3 2019/20

The first section of each dashboard reports on recycling performance. Performance is reported monthly, up to and including December 2019, the latest month for which data are available.

The report shows tonnages collected by type of material. The recycling rate is based on these as a percentage of total waste and recycling. All comparisons are based on performance for the 12 months to December 2019 compared with that for the 12 months to December 2018.

Surrey-wide performance

Surrey-wide performance is provided here for context.

Across Surrey as a whole, there has been a decreasing trend in tonnages collected of dry mixed recycling (DMR), with a year-on-year decrease of around 1.5%. There continue to be issues with the relatively high proportion of this material considered to be non-recyclable, due to difficulties with finding markets for the material. Garden waste tonnages have increased over the same period, by over 3.5%. Food waste recycling tonnages have increased by around 2%. Tonnages of residual household waste have seen very little change year-on-year.

Joint Contract authorities – general trends

Year-on-year comparisons of WEEE and textiles tonnages generally show reasonably large changes across most authorities. The disposal patterns for these materials vary, as containers at depots are collected as required rather than through daily tipping as with other materials. We are investigating how much of the variance can be explained by these disposal patterns, and how much is due to other factors, such as crew and resident behaviour.

With the exception of Mole Valley, fly-tipping tonnages have again increased noticeably in most authorities. As in the previous quarter, this can partly be explained by the fact that the figures now include tonnages collected from green spaces (e.g. parks). There is also evidence to suggest that fly-tipping was previously being under-reported.

Elmbridge

There has been an above average year-on-year decrease in DMR tonnages of around 2.5%. Garden waste tonnages however have increased by over 11%. Food waste tonnages have seen little change over the same period, whilst residual waste tonnages are down by over 1%. Having remained fairly stable since the beginning of 2019/20, the recycling rate has increased slightly in the latest quarter.

Mole Valley

DMR tonnages have seen little change year-on-year. There has been a reduction in rejected loads during the year, indicating that improvements in quality are being seen. Garden waste tonnages are up, by almost 15%. Food waste tonnages have also increased year-on-year, although only by just over 1%. Residual waste tonnages have remained very stable this quarter. The recycling rate has also seen very little change.

Surrey Heath

DMR tonnages have remained very stable year-on-year. Food waste tonnages, however, have seen an above average increase of over 4%. Garden waste tonnages have increased significantly year-on-year, by around 38%. As in the previous quarter, this is still largely a result of additional customers being able to sign up for this service, as the previous Biffa Waste Club was capped due to vehicle capacity. We should expect to see these tonnages continue to show an increase until this impact stabilises in the data. Residual waste tonnages are down by almost 3%. The recycling rate has remained very stable this quarter.

Woking

DMR tonnages have seen a greater than average year-on-year decrease, of over 4%. Work is still underway to improve collections from flats, although as previously noted, there are issues with some collections from communal properties. With the current constraints surrounding Covid-19, this work has been reduced in scale, although there is still ongoing engagement with residents through letters and phone calls rather than through visits as had originally been intended. Garden waste tonnages are also down year-on-year, by around 1%, although this is an improvement on the previous quarter. Food waste and residual waste tonnages have both remained fairly stable for a further quarter. The recycling rate continues to show a slight downward trend since the beginning of 2019/20.

SEP Joint Strategy performance – Q2 2019/20

Quarterly performance against the council specific measures in the SEP Joint Strategy has been shown on each dashboard for completeness. This is up to and including Q2 2019/20, and is based on data sourced from Waste Data Flow.

Recommendation

The Joint Committee are asked to discuss and comment on this report and the Annexes.

Next steps

The next performance report will be presented at the September Partnering Board and Joint Committee meetings. This will report on performance up to and including Q1 2020/21.