



Joint Contract Authority Performance – Q1 2020/21
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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.

Recycling performance – Q1 2020/21

The first section of each dashboard reports on recycling performance. Performance is reported monthly, up to and including June 2020, 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 June 2020 compared with that for the 12 months to June 2019.

Surrey-wide performance

Surrey-wide performance is provided here for context.

This quarter saw the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on kerbside waste collection tonnages. Across Surrey as a whole, this resulted in some significant increases in tonnages of all the main waste streams during the quarter. This quarterly increase has in turn impacted on the long-term trend, which is reported here by comparing the latest 12-months with the preceding 12-month period.

For dry mixed recycling (DMR), where we had previously been seeing a decreasing trend in tonnages collected, the 12-month period to Q1 has seen a year-on-year increase of around 3.5%. However, there continue to be issues around the proportion of this material considered to be non-recyclable, and the difficulties with finding markets for the material have continued this quarter. Garden waste tonnages have increased over the same period, by 4.5%. Food waste recycling tonnages have increased by over 6%. Tonnages of residual household waste have also increased over the same period by around 5.5%.

Joint Contract authorities – general trends

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Joint Contract authorities has generally been in line with that for Surrey as a whole, and the main kerbside waste collections mostly saw significant tonnage increases in Q1 2020/21.

All WEEE and textiles collections were suspended in April and May, recommencing at the beginning of June. Tonnage data for these materials are unfortunately still not available at the present time. In general, year-on-year comparisons of WEEE and textiles tonnages have often tended to show reasonably large changes. This is largely due to there being variable disposal patterns for these materials, with containers at depots being collected as required rather than by way of daily tipping as is the case for other materials.

There is no clear pattern for fly-tipping tonnages. Both tonnages and incidents have been monitored in Q1 as part of the SEP Covid-19 contingency planning exercise, and we have seen significant variations in both week-on-week.

Elmbridge

In the year to Q1 2020/21, DMR tonnages were up by around 6.5% compared with the previous year. In Q1 alone, tonnages were up by 30% compared with the same quarter in 2019/20. Garden waste tonnages have increased by over 13% year-on-year, and food waste tonnages have also increased, by around 7%. Residual waste tonnages were also up however, by around 6% year-on-year. The recycling rate has remained relatively stable in the latest quarter.

Mole Valley

DMR tonnages were up by around 6% in the year to Q1 2020/21 compared with the previous 12-month period. Garden waste tonnages were also up significantly over the same period, by around 20%. Food waste tonnages were up by around 9% year-on-year; however, in Q1 alone, tonnages were around 20% higher than in Q1 2019/20. Residual waste tonnages were also up, by over 4% year-on-year. The recycling rate has seen very little change this quarter.

Surrey Heath

In the year to Q1 2020/21, DMR tonnages were up by around 5% year-on-year. Food waste tonnages saw a slightly higher increase over the same period, of around 6%. Garden waste tonnages have increased significantly year-on-year, by around 33%. This was partly due to increased tonnages experienced during the Covid-19 lockdown period, but also partly a result of the impact on historical tonnages of the old Biffa Waste Club, which effectively put a limit on the number of customers who were able to sign up for a garden waste service. Under the new contract, from February 2018 onwards additional customers were able to sign up for a service, and some of the effects of this increase are still visible in the data. We should expect to see this effect disappear from the data in the next quarter. Residual waste tonnages were also up year-on-year, by around 6%. The recycling rate has been rising steadily this quarter, although not significantly.

Woking

Although other Joint Contract authorities have seen an increasing trend in DMR tonnages this quarter, this has not been the case in Woking. Although tonnages in Q1 2020/21 alone were 16% higher than in Q1 2019/20, in the year to Q1 tonnages were largely unchanged from the previous year. Food waste tonnages, however, did see a marked increase, and were up by around 5.5% year-on-year. Garden waste tonnages have also seen a year-on-year increase, of over 15%. Residual waste tonnages were also up, by 7.5% year-on-year. The recycling rate has remained very stable this quarter.

SEP Joint Strategy performance – Q3 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 Q3 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 November/December Partnering Board and Joint Committee meetings. This will report on performance up to and including Q2 2020/21.