

## **Joint Contract Authority Performance – Q2 2020/21** **2<sup>nd</sup> December 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.

### **Recycling performance – Q2 2020/21**

The first section of each dashboard reports on recycling performance. Performance is reported monthly, up to and including August 2020, the latest month for which data are available. Due to the timing of the Committee meeting, it has not been possible to include September data in this report.

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 August 2020 compared with that for the 12 months to August 2019.

It should be noted that the recycling rates shown in the performance dashboards should now more accurately reflect the true recycling rate for each authority. Previously the dashboards have shown an indicative recycling rate, based only on the tonnages of material collected. Calculating a recycling rate based on disposal tonnages rather than collected tonnages will provide a more accurate picture. Since the Q1 report, work has been carried out to develop an approach which now looks at disposal tonnages instead of tonnages collected. This has resulted in some reductions to the recycling rates presented in earlier reports.

### **Surrey-wide performance**

Surrey-wide performance is provided here for context.

This quarter saw the continued impact of the coronavirus pandemic on kerbside waste collection tonnages. Across Surrey as a whole, this has resulted in some significant increases in tonnages of all the main waste streams since April. This 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), the increasing trend in tonnages seen in Q1 has continued this quarter. Although tonnages in August were slightly lower than in the preceding months, the 12-month period to August has seen a year-on-year increase in tonnages of around 5.4%. However, there continue to be county-wide issues around the proportion of this material considered to be non-recyclable, and the difficulties with finding markets for the material have continued again this quarter. Garden waste tonnages have seen a downturn since Q1, when we had been seeing some very high tonnages, and are now showing a year-on-year decrease of around 2%. This has been impacted, however, by the fact that some authorities discontinued their garden waste collections for several weeks at the beginning of the pandemic. Food waste recycling tonnages have increased year-on-year by over 8%.

Tonnages of residual household waste, however, have also increased over the same period by around 7.5%.

#### Joint Contract authorities – general trends

In Q2 2020/21, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Joint Contract authorities has generally been in line with that for Surrey as a whole. Having seen significant tonnage increases from the main kerbside waste collections during the lockdown period in Q1, tonnages have remained relatively high in July and August, although August has seen a fall in tonnages of most materials relative to earlier months.

All WEEE and textiles collections were suspended in April and May, recommencing at the beginning of June. Although we do now have data up to August, the suspension of services will have impacted on the figures in the dashboards. 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 Q2 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 August 2020, DMR tonnages were up by around 10% compared with the previous year. Garden waste tonnages have also increased by around 10% year-on-year. The increase in food waste tonnages was only slightly lower, at around 9%. Residual waste tonnages were also up however, by over 6.5% year-on-year. The recycling rate has remained relatively stable again in the quarter to date.

#### Mole Valley

DMR tonnages were up by over 7% in the year to August 2020 compared with the previous 12-month period. Garden waste tonnages were also up over the same period, by close to 8%. Food waste tonnages were up by around 10% year-on-year. Residual waste tonnages were also up, by almost 6% year-on-year. The recycling rate has fallen since the end of Q1, although only slightly.

#### Surrey Heath

In the year to August 2020, DMR tonnages were up by close to 8% year-on-year. Food waste tonnages also increased over the period, but by a smaller amount, around 4%. As noted in the previous report, garden waste tonnages have seen a significantly year-on-year increase, of over 20%, mostly due to increased tonnages experienced during the Covid-19 lockdown period in spring 2020. Residual waste tonnages were also up year-on-year, by around 7%. The recycling rate has decreased slightly this quarter.

#### Woking

As noted in Q1, Woking have not seen the increasing trend in DMR tonnages in the year-to-date which has been observed in the other Joint Contract authorities. Although tonnages in the year-to-date were higher than in the same period of 2019/20, the year-on-year increase was not as pronounced as it was county-wide. Food waste tonnages, however, are still seeing an increase as they were in Q1, and were up by around 5% year-on-year. Garden

waste tonnages have also seen a year-on-year increase, of around 10%. Residual waste tonnages, however, were also up by around 10% year-on-year. The recycling rate has remained stable again this quarter.

### **SEP Joint Strategy performance – Q4 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 Q4 2019/20, and is based on data sourced from Waste Data Flow.

### **Next steps**

The next performance report will be presented at the February 2021 Partnering Board and Joint Committee meetings. It is expected that this will report on performance up to and including Q3 2020/21, although this will be dependent on whether data from Surrey County Council's waste contractor, SUEZ, are received by the deadline.

### **Recommendation**

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