



Joint Contract Authority Performance – Q3 2020/21 4th March 2021

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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 – Q3 2020/21

The first section of each dashboard reports on recycling performance. Performance is reported monthly, up to and including November 2020, the latest month for which data are available. Due to the timing of the Committee meeting, it has not been possible to include December 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 November 2020 compared with that for the 12 months to November 2019.

It should be noted that although the first table in each dashboard shows the tonnages collected, the table below the charts then shows the disposal tonnages, which are used as the basis for calculating recycling rates. Disposal tonnages allow for material which is collected as recycling but which cannot be recycled, and which are then accounted for as residual waste. Disposal tonnages are therefore generally lower than collected tonnages for recycling, but higher than collected tonnages for residual waste. The exception to this is tonnages defined as “other recycling”, where disposal tonnages include recyclable material extracted at the disposal stage from material collected as leaf fall and road sweepings.

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 2020. 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 and Q2 has continued this quarter. The 12-month period to November has seen a year-on-year increase in tonnages of around 7.9%. 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 5.3% increase in the 12 months to November compared with the same period for the previous year. This is despite the closure of CRCs at the beginning of the pandemic, and the fact that some authorities discontinued their garden waste collections for several weeks during that time. Food waste recycling tonnages have increased year-on-year by 9.5%.

Tonnages of residual household waste, however, have also increased over the same period by around 11.9%.

Although we have seen significant increases in recycling tonnages since the start of the pandemic, the fact that there have also been similar increases in tonnages of residual waste means that recycling rates have seen very little change over the period.

Joint Contract authorities – general trends

In Q3 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. We have continued to see higher tonnages collected for the main kerbside waste streams, as we saw in Q1 and Q2, with August as a notable exception. Tonnages for the main waste streams in October and November remained high compared with the same period last year.

Collections of WEEE and textiles were severely disrupted during the lockdown period in Q1. However, in Q2 and Q3 we have seen a general increase in the amount of WEEE collected. 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 Q3 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 November 2020, DMR tonnages were up by around 14% compared with the previous year. Garden waste tonnages have also increased by around 15% year-on-year. The increase in food waste tonnages was lower, at around 8.6%. Residual waste tonnages were also up however, by almost 10% year-on-year. The recycling rate has remained relatively stable again in the quarter to date, although the long-term trend since April 2020, as shown by the 12-month rolling rate, has been upwards.

Mole Valley

DMR tonnages were up by over 9% in the year to November 2020 compared with the previous 12-month period. Garden waste tonnages were also up over the same period, by 12.7%. Food waste tonnages were also up by around 12% year-on-year. However, residual waste tonnages were also up, by almost 10% year-on-year.

The noticeable increase in “other recycling” disposal tonnages in October and November was partly due to the regular seasonal increase in the amount of recyclable material recovered from leaves and road sweepings, although in addition this included material from a number of roads which had not previously been swept. Although the recycling rate has remained relatively stable this quarter, the long-term trend as indicated by the rolling average rate for the last 12 months is showing an increasing trend.

Surrey Heath

In the year to November 2020, DMR tonnages were up by close to 11% year-on-year. Food waste tonnages also increased over the period, but by a smaller amount, around 5%. As noted in the previous report, garden waste tonnages have seen a significant year-on-year increase, of close to 30%, mostly due to increased tonnages experienced during the Covid-

19 lockdown period in spring 2020. Garden waste tonnages remained high well into the autumn, recovering from a slight drop in August. Residual waste tonnages were also up year-on-year however, by around 10%.

As for Mole Valley, there was a noticeable increase in “other recycling” disposal tonnages in October and November, mainly due to the regular seasonal increase in the amount of recyclable material recovered from leaves and road sweepings. The recycling rate has remained stable this quarter.

Woking

For DMR the picture in Q3 is very similar to that in Q2. Although there has been a slight increase in collected tonnages of 3% year-on-year, this is noticeably smaller than the increase for the other joint contract authorities and when compared county-wide. Food waste tonnages, however, are still seeing an increase as they were in Q2, and were up by 6.4% year-on-year. Garden waste tonnages have also seen a year-on-year increase, of around 15%. Residual waste tonnages, however, were also up by around 12% year-on-year. The recycling rate has increased slightly in the quarter to date. The long-term trend since April 2020, as shown by the 12-month rolling rate, has also been slightly upwards.

SEP Joint Strategy performance – Q2 2020/21

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 2020/21, 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 June/July 2021 Partnering Board and Joint Committee meetings. It is expected that this will report on performance up to and including Q4 2020/21, although this will be dependent on whether data from Surrey County Council’s waste contractor, SUEZ, are received by the deadline.