



## Joint Contract Authority performance – Quarter 1 2021/22 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Report Authors: Kingsley Lu and Will Gray**

### Introduction

This report provides a summary for the Joint Committee of the latest quarterly position on recycling performance for the four Joint Collection 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 2021/22

The first section of each dashboard reports on recycling performance. Performance is reported monthly, up to and including June 2021, 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 2021 compared with that for the 12 months to June 2020.

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.

There has been a slight reduction in collected tonnages for DMR, food and residual waste this quarter compared to the same period in the previous year. However, across Surrey as a whole, tonnages remain higher than pre pandemic levels. The impact is visible 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 the last year has stabilised. The 12-month period to June has seen a year-on-year increase in tonnages of 7.2%. The proportion of this material, which is then recycled, has also increased this quarter, with the material markets having recovered to some extent from last year. Overall garden waste tonnages, including those collected at the CRCs, have increased by 3.5% in the 12 months to June compared with the same period for the previous year. However, the move away from CRCs continues with an 8.4% increase in tonnages collected at the kerbside. Food waste recycling tonnages have increased year-on-year by 7.1%. Tonnages of residual household waste, however, have also increased over the same period, by 10%, although looking at kerbside tonnages in isolation, the increase was nearer to 5%.

Although we have seen increased kerbside tonnages this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic, this has affected both recycling and residual waste. Consequently, there has been only a marginal effect on the overall recycling rate, and most authorities have seen only a small change in their individual rates.

#### Joint Contract authorities – general trends

In Q1 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. The tonnages collected in the quarter were lower for DMR, food and residual when compared to the same period in previous year. Conversely, garden waste tonnages were higher overall for the quarter, particularly in June.

Year-on-year comparisons of WEEE and textiles tonnages often tend 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, however all authorities saw a decrease in tonnages from the previous year. Both tonnages and incidents have been monitored in Q1 as part of the SEP Covid-19 contingency planning exercise, and we continue to see significant variations in both week-on-week. In Elmbridge, there was a 39% year-on-year reduction in fly-tipping tonnages in the year to June 2021. We are investigating the possible reasons for this, although it is most likely due to how these tonnages are recorded at the weighbridge, as they are possibly being recorded as street-cleaning rather than fly-tipping, as is the case for Mole Valley.

#### Elmbridge

In the year to June 2021, DMR tonnages were up by around 9% compared with the previous year. Garden and food waste tonnages have also both increased, by around 6% year-on-year. Residual waste tonnages were also up however, by only 4.4% year-on-year.

The monthly recycling rates have been higher this quarter compared with the same period last year. The 12-month rolling rate has continued to increase steadily in the latest quarter, continuing the long-term upward trend that has been observed since April 2020.

#### Mole Valley

DMR tonnages were up by over 5% in the year to June 2021 compared with the previous 12-month period. There has been little change in the garden waste tonnages over the same period, while food waste tonnages were up by 6%. However, residual waste tonnages have also increased, by 5.5% year-on-year.

The long-term trend as indicated by the 12-month rolling average rate shows a stable rate of 56.5%.

#### Surrey Heath

In the year to June 2021, DMR tonnages were up by 1.2% year-on-year, although this was below the average county-wide increase. Food waste tonnages also increased over the period, by 3.6%, also below the average county-wide increase. Garden waste tonnages have again seen a higher-than-average year-on-year increase, of over to 11%. Residual waste tonnages were also up year-on-year however, by around 9%.

Although Surrey Heath have also seen a reduction in monthly recycling rates in Q1 alone, in contrast to the other Joint Contract authorities there has also been a reduction in the long-term trend, as indicated by the 12-month rolling average rate. This is at least partly due to an increase in tonnages of rejected loads.

### Woking

DMR tonnages in the year to March 2021 were up 2.7% year-on-year, lower than the average county-wide increase. Food waste tonnages were also up, by over 5% on the previous year. Garden waste tonnages have also seen a year-on-year increase, of around 5%. Residual waste tonnages, however, were up by around 7% year-on-year.

Monthly recycling rates have been higher this quarter when compared to the same period in the previous year. The long-term trend, as indicated by the 12-month rolling average rate since July 2020, continues to be gradually increasing.

### **SEP Joint Strategy performance – Q4 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 Q4 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 November 2021 Partnering Board and Joint Committee meeting. It is expected that this will report on performance up to and including Q2 2020/21, although this will be dependent on whether data from Surrey County Council's waste contractor, SUEZ, are received by the deadline.