



Title: Joint Contract authority performance – Q2 2021/22

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Introduction

This report provides a summary for the Joint Contract Partnering Board of the latest quarterly position on recycling performance for the 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 Joint Contract authorities. There is one performance dashboard for each authority.

Recycling performance – Q2 2021/22

The first section of each dashboard reports on recycling performance. Performance is reported monthly, up to and including September 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 September 2021 compared with that for the 12 months to September 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 increase in collected tonnages for DMR and food this quarter compared to the same period in the previous year. While residual waste tonnages have also increased. 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 12-month period to September has seen a year-on-year increase in tonnages of 2.1%. The proportion of this material, which is then recycled, has also increased. Overall garden waste tonnages, including those

collected at the CRCs, have increased by 4.1% in the 12 months to September compared with the same period for the previous year. However, the move away from CRCs continues with an 5.8% increase in tonnages collected at the kerbside. Food waste recycling tonnages have increased year-on-year by 3.2%. Tonnages of residual household waste, however, have also increased over the same period, by 6.6%, although looking at kerbside tonnages in isolation, the increase was nearer to 3.4%.

We are continuing to see higher 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 Q2 2020/21, the joint contract areas have had issues collections due to the HGV driver shortage. This has led to the suspension of the garden waste service across the whole joint contract area. The other collections authorities in the county do not appear to have been impacted as severely. This has impacted the recycling rate of each of the joint contract areas.

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, with three of the four authorities seeing a decrease in tonnages from the previous year.

Elmbridge

In the year to September 2021, DMR tonnages were up by around 4.5% compared with the previous year. Food waste tonnages have also both increased, by around 1.3% year-on-year. Residual waste tonnages have also increased by 2.2% year-on-year. Conversely, garden waste is down by 5.7% largely due to the suspension in the service.

The monthly recycling rates have been 4% lower on average this quarter compared with the same period last year. The 12-month rolling rate also decreased this quarter to 53.9%

Mole Valley

DMR tonnages and food tonnages were up marginally by 1.6% and 1.3% respectively in the year to September 2021 compared with the previous 12-month period. However, there has been a reduction of 13.2% in the garden waste tonnages over the same period. The residual waste tonnages have also increased, by 2.6% year-on-year.

The long-term trend as indicated by the 12-month rolling average rate dropped from 56.6% to 55.7% largely as a result of the suspension of the garden waste service.

Surrey Heath

In the year to September 2021, DMR tonnages were down by 3.1% year-on-year, although this was below the average county-wide increase. Food waste tonnages increased over the period, by 1.2%. Garden waste tonnages have decreased by 3.3%, due to a suspension in the collection service. Additionally, residual waste tonnages were also up year-on-year however, by around 6.7%.

The 12-month rolling recycling rate fell to 60.1% in September.

Woking

DMR and food tonnages in the year to September 2021 were up 3.1% year-on-year. Food waste tonnages were also up, by over % on the previous year. Garden waste tonnages have seen a year-on-year decrease, of around 10%. This is largely due to the suspension of the garden waste service. Residual waste tonnages, however, were up by around 3.3% year-on-year.

Monthly recycling rates have been lower this quarter when compared to the same period in the previous year. The 12-month rolling average rate fell to 53.2%

SEP Joint Strategy performance – Q1 2021/22

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 Q1 2021/22 and is based on data sourced from Waste Data Flow.

Recommendation

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

Next steps

The next performance report will be presented in early 2022 Partnering Board meeting. It is expected that this will report on performance up to and including Q3 2020/21, for both recycling performance and operational performance; in both cases, this will be dependent on whether data are received by the deadline, from Surrey County Council's waste contractor, SUEZ, and from Amey respectively.