

Writing A Waste Plan In Uncertain Times

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About us



2.6 million population
Lowest median pop age in E&W (30.4yrs)
Most densely populated in N England

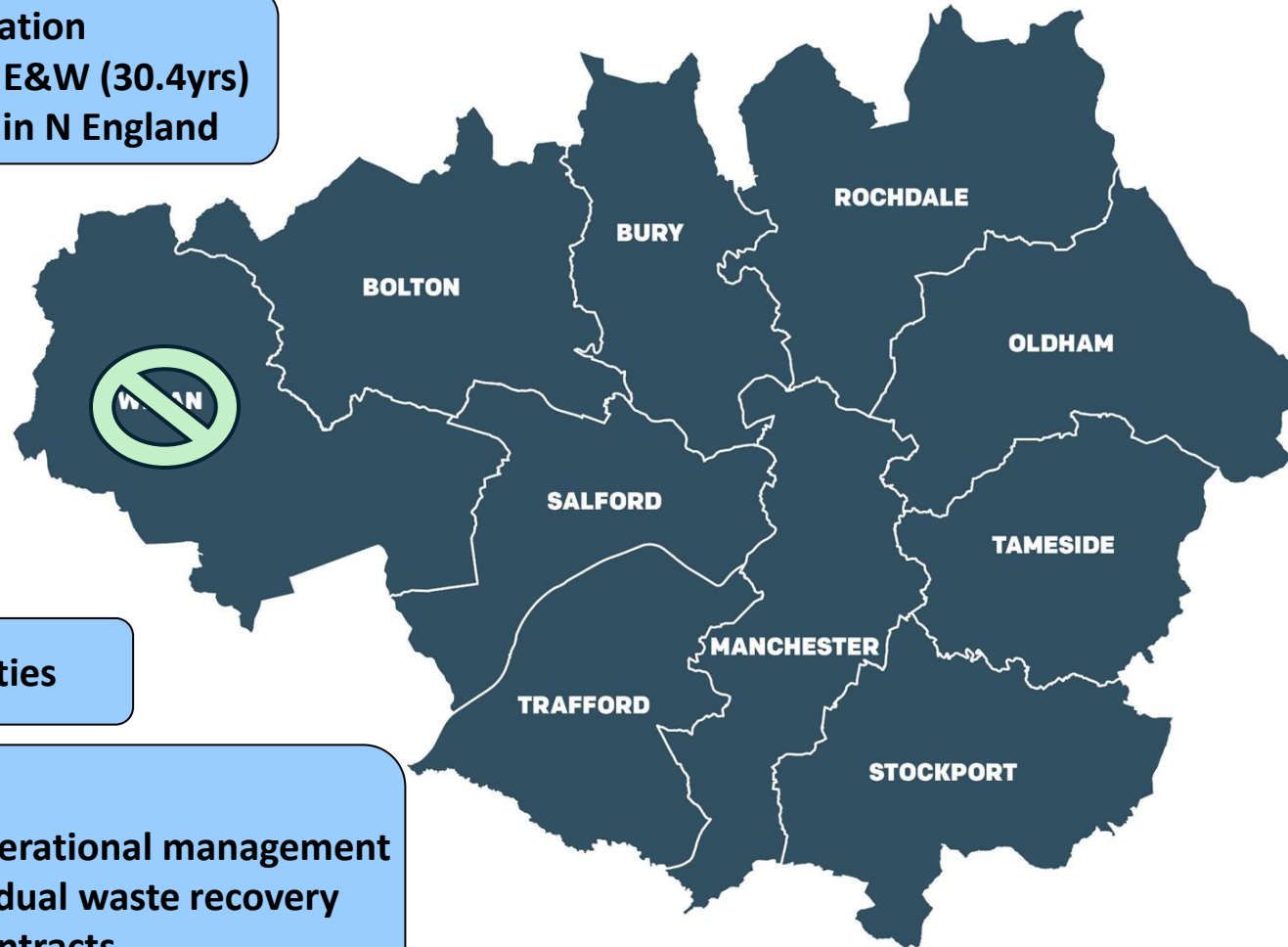
1+ million households

50% Detached/Semi
17% Flats
33% Terraced properties

Nine Collection Authorities

Main contracts:

- Suez for facility and operational management
- TPSCo for 325ktpa residual waste recovery
- Biowaste treatment contracts



1.03 million tonnes p.a.
of municipal waste
4% of UK's MSW

50.1% recycling performance

20 HWRCs (60+% recycling)
4 x MTRs with railheads
1 x TRF
4 x Bio TLS
8 x TLS
3 Renew shops & Hub
Closed landfills
Solar farm

How do we collect rubbish and resources?

The collection system for street level properties in GM



Container stream



Fibre stream



Biowaste stream



Non-recyclable stream

Bin colours, sizes and collection frequencies of bins varies across districts

What have we done?



Written a (n Interim) Waste Strategy Plan
covering the period 2026 - 2030

Why have we done that?

Previous Strategy expired and outdated

- Written in 2011 to run to 2025
- Reflected the PFI suite of facilities and processes
- Didn't reflect the modern way of living
- Did have targets:
 - 400kg residual waste per HH by 2025
 - 50% recycling by 2015, 60% by 2025
 - 90% landfill diversion by 2015



**Waste Management
Strategy**

Why have we done that?

Is a 10+ year duration Strategy meaningful?

- Go back 10 years would we have foretold Simpler Recycling, DRS, *p*EPR...?
- What will happen in the next 5 years let alone 10?
- Need to be as fleet of foot as we can be and not too tying

Why have we done that?

Alignment with other GMCA Strategies



Constraints? What constraints?

A few things hindering Plan development

- Money – like you, we're not awash!
- Policy and politics – locally, nationally and internationally
- Contracts – timing of key procurements
- (Un)Certainty – will DRS happen in 2027? Will ETS actually hit us in 2028 and how?

So, what is our Plan

Quite simple in reality

- Concise document – distilled down to a *Plan on a Page*
- No Strategic Environmental Assessment, options appraisal
- No mass consultation exercise

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- Informed by Officer and Member workshops

So, what is our Plan

Devised four Strategic Objectives

Develop & deliver innovative & inclusive services reflecting local challenges

- Data driven decision making
- Work with districts
- Innovation (AI, robotics etc.)
- Flexible facilities
- Add materials when markets allow
- Target WEEE, batteries...
- Service accessibility
- Contribute to GM Strategy objectives

Decarbonise household waste, services and infrastructure

- New MRF & new materials
- Target textiles
- Continue & build our behavioural change programme
- PV on assets to meet our needs
- Alternative fuels
- Lobby for extended EPR
- Explore CCS opportunities and/or increased fossil carbon recycling

To deliver social, environmental & economic value through our services

- Expand Renew network
- Continue to support projects with our Renew Community Fund
- Increase biodiversity
- Increase apprenticeships
- Continue charity support through the Renew Hub
- Source furniture from bulkies
- Continue to lead on SV from waste
- Generate high quality raw materials for business use

To ensure Greater Manchester's voice is heard on waste matters

- Continue to coordinate responses to Government
- Represent GM on national stages
- Engage directly with Defra, DESNZ, MHCLG, BEIS etc.
- Show leadership regionally, nationally and internationally
- Support directs in their work with planners on new developments
- Ensure inclusivity and equal access to services

What do you notice (or not notice)?

- Very little on new or developing core services
- A lot of actions to support services (use of AI, innovation, asset support)
- More engagement and using our voice
- Actions that are more community focussed or softer (supporting charities and community groups, Renew)

Biggest change since the last Strategy?



The advent of Social Value

- Main contracts procurement
- 15% of evaluation marks for Social Value (now 20%!)
- Invited proposals that met GM SV priorities – social, environmental and economic
- Got 54 commitments – some one-offs, others multi-year
- The star of the show...



Biggest change since the last Strategy?

The Renew service



Biggest change since the last Strategy?



Donations				
furniture				
upholstered furniture must have a fire safety tag attached				
✓ garden furniture bedside tables TV stands/TV units	chest of drawers wardrobes sideboards	sofas bed frames chairs		
toys				
children's toys must have a CE mark or UKCA mark				
✓ board games puzzles children's toys	books			
bric-a-brac & general				
glass items must have a kite mark				
✓ tea sets/plates vases/ornaments CDs/DVDs/USBs	picture frames dog crates/cat baskets garden ornaments	baskets mirrors picture frames		
collectables/vintage				
glass items must have a kite mark				
✓ hand crank sewing machines trunks (wooden or metal) crates/wooden boxes	musical instruments old signage dolls/games	taxidermy suitcases		
bikes & sports equipment				
✓ bikes scooters dartboards	exercise equipment (not electrical) tennis rackets/snooker cues/golf clubs			
diy				
✓ tools (hand held) wooden ladders/step ladders (weighting label) garden tools (hand held)				
items we cannot accept				
✗ electrical items petrol/diesel/gas powered items clothes, shoes and other textiles	mattresses crash helmets car seats/cots/high chairs/prams			



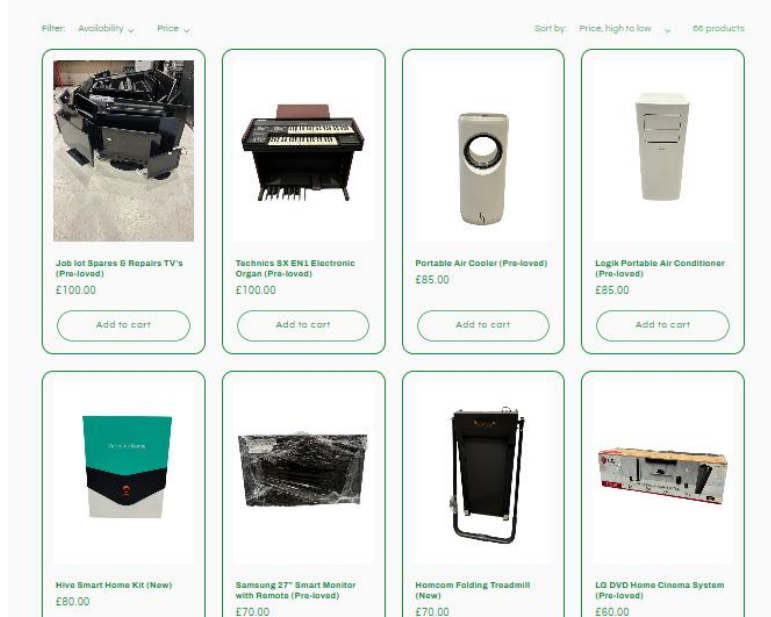
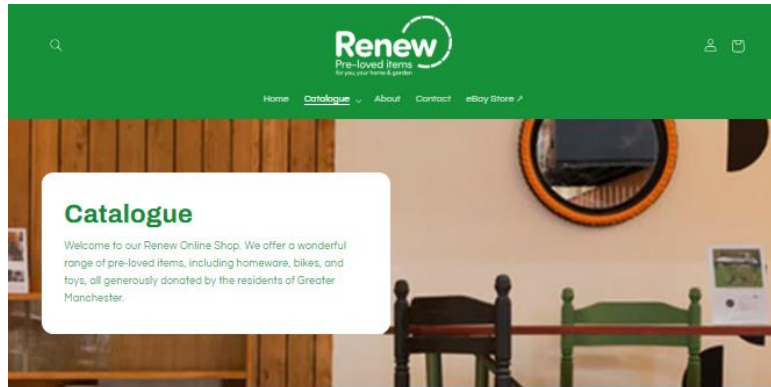
Currently three shops – another one planned

Key metrics – October 2021 – August 2025:

- 413,144 items sold (more donated)
- £2.204m gross income
- Average sold item weight 5.34kg but increasing
- Average income/t £819 but peak £1,085
- Buying – HWRC shops, pop-ups, Ebay, Shopify, online



Biggest change since the last Strategy?



Shop online

<https://renewgreatermanchester.com/>

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/str/renewgreatermanchester.com>

Back to the Plan – measuring progress



- Shift away from a multitude of targets – adopt those in the English 25-year Environment Plan
- More focussed on actions and tangible/visible achievements eg expanded Renew network, addition of materials, a supported social sector
- Multi-year action plan to deliver the Plan

So, what does this tell us?

- 10, 15, 20, 25-year strategies are not fit for purpose (discuss)
- Keep it simple, concise and digestible
- Unless it's urgent/important no harm in rolling it on to the next period
- Don't spread yourselves too thin or
- Over-commit with actions, reporting etc.
- Keep it simple
- In the future, comms are king