

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee - 20 July 2021

Subject: Recycling in Leisure Centres

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of recycling rates for Council owned leisure centres and to highlight the progress made through the pandemic from February 2020 (pre-pandemic) to May 2021. The report highlights the progress that has been made in generating a sustainable waste and recycling structure to achieve zero waste to landfill and increase recycling in all the leisure centres. This is one of the objectives set out in MCR Active's Leisure Facilities Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 in response to the Council's priorities for waste.

Recommendations

Members of the committee are invited to consider and comment on the information in this report.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
By reducing the large number of waste created at the leisure centres from going to landfill and being recycled, this will assist the city in becoming more sustainable and renewable.

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Providing leisure services which contribute positively to a establishing a sustainable waste and recycling culture can assist in unlocking the potential of our communities.

A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Low levels of waste going to landfill and high levels of waste being recycled at the leisure centres in the city will make them more sustainable and will ultimately assist in Manchester achieving zero-carbon targets.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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Background documents (available for public inspection): None

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of recycling rates for Council owned leisure centres, which are managed under contractual arrangements by MCR Active. The report highlights the progress that has been made through the pandemic from February 2020 (pre pandemic) to May 2021 in generating a sustainable waste and recycling structure to achieve zero waste to landfill and increase recycling in all the leisure centres.
- 1.2 Manchester City Council has established MCR Active as a not-for-profit organisation to oversee the delivery of the Council's Sport and Leisure Strategy. This includes taking responsibility for driving participation in sport and physical activity across Manchester and inspiring and encouraging everyone to lead a more active and healthier lifestyle.
- 1.3 Amongst other things, MCR Active is responsible for the contract management of 21 Council owned facilities, which are operated by GLL, a not-for-profit charitable social enterprise, as part of a unique collection of community and elite facilities along with National Centres of Excellence for sport performance.
- 1.4 Additionally, there are other contractual arrangements in place across the city, most notably at Wythenshawe Forum, which is operated by SLM under the leadership team at the Wythenshawe Forum Trust. There are also further non contractual arrangements in place for a range of other leisure facilities across the city with external providers, this is part of as a broader property/ lease agreement, but their contribution is not routinely monitored or captured in this report.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 As part of the commitments to the Council, MCR Active have developed a Leisure Facilities Sustainability Strategy, which follows the 15 actions set out in the Manchester Climate Change Plan (MCCP). Five key objectives have been identified for MCR Active, as follows:
 - Objective 1: Decarbonise our Buildings.
 - Objective 2: Efficient and Effective Supply Chain.
 - Objective 3: Influencing and Educating our Partners.
 - Objective 4: Create a Sustainable Waste and Recycling structure.
 - Objective 5: Create Sustainable Travel Plans.
- 2.2 The strategy sets out how the Council leisure operators will create a sustainable waste & recycling structure, which includes using a 'Waste Hierarchy' to support the MCCP strategy on sustainable waste management 'Buy less, Buy better, Buy local, Repair or Recycle.'
 - Prevention – using less materials, keep products longer.
 - Re-Use – Repair, refurbishment
 - Recycle – waste reused.

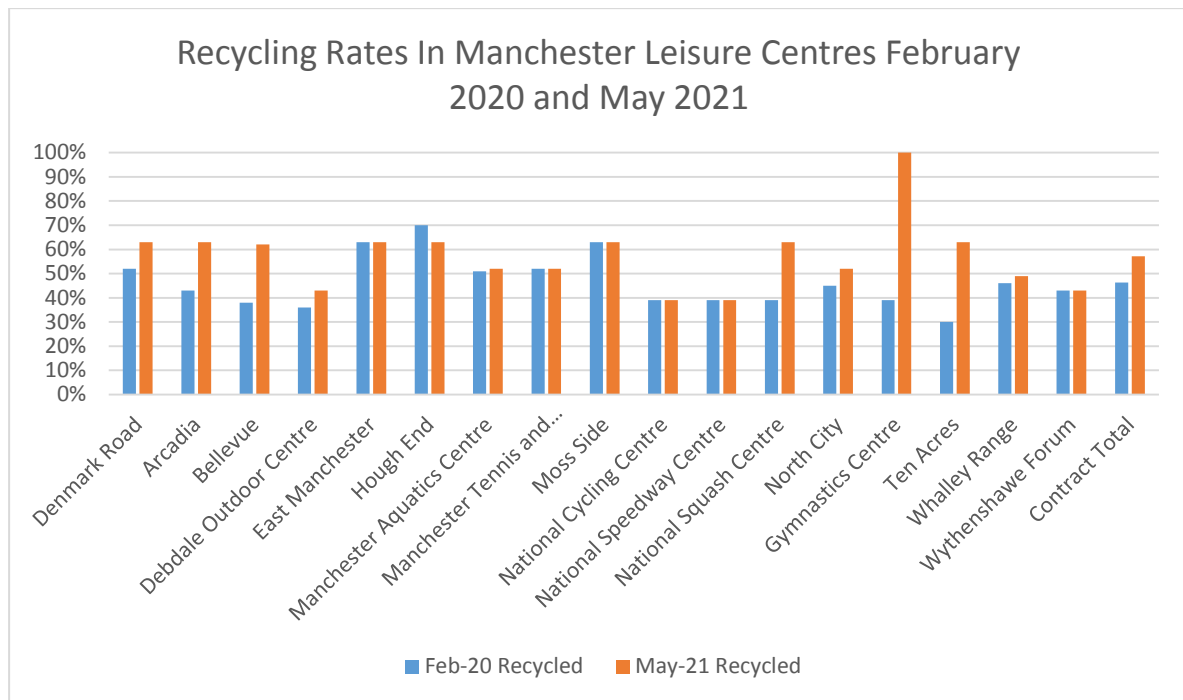
- Other Recovery – burnable waste/energy recovery
- Disposal – landfill

2.3 MCR Active have established quarterly monitoring reviews and are working alongside GLL and SLM, to analyse the levels of waste produced to determine the increase in the amounts being recycled each year and are ultimately working towards achieving zero waste going to landfill. The quarterly reviews focus on monitoring progress against the following objectives, which were established at the commencement of the contracts in 2018:

- Compliance with legal and statutory obligations.
- Work undertaken waste contractors to achieve a target of 'Zero Waste to Landfill' by 2020.
- Work with the waste management contractor to increase recycling rates to 50% by 2020.
- Change business practices or processes to minimise waste.
- Promote awareness to staff and customers through consultation and participation.
- Development of Waste Management Plans incorporated into Green Action Plans.
- Implementation of the waste hierarchy in providing suitable waste management options.
- Establish staff training programme on waste management linking to Waste and Recycling Strategy.
- Ensure the same level of commitment is demonstrated from strategic partners, particularly regarding subcontracted delivery of catering and vending.

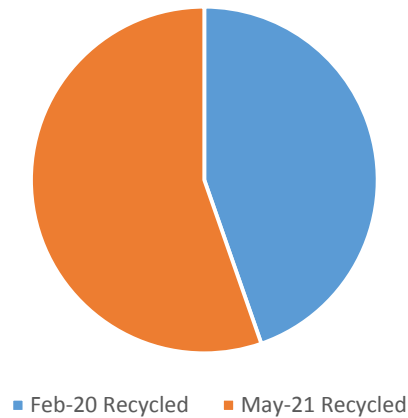
3.0 Recycling Rates

3.1 Both leisure operators utilise Bagnall and Morris (B and M) to collect the centres waste and recycling (GLL utilise Grundon who sub contract it to Bagnall and Morris). B and M produce an environmental report each month which shows the breakdown of the waste by type, and how it is disposed of. The report shows the proportion of waste which has been recycled, as well as a waste-to-energy facility (Refuse Derived Fuel or RDF from non-recyclable general waste). Below is a graph which shows the recycled waste collected from each centre for February 2020 (pre pandemic) and May 2021.



- 3.2 When analysing the data, Denmark Road, Arcadia, Belle Vue, Debdale Outdoor Centre, Manchester Aquatics Centre, the National Squash Centre, Northcity, Regional Gymnastics Centre and Ten Acres have all increased the number of recycled materials being collected from their facilities from February 2020 compared to May 2021, which highlights good progress.
- 3.3 East Manchester, Manchester Tennis and Football Centre, Moss Side, National Cycling Centre, National Speedway Centre and Wythenshawe Forum all saw their recycling rates remain largely static, and only Hough End Leisure Centre has seen a small decrease in the number of recycled materials being removed from the centre, however it is worth noting that Hough End does have one of the highest percentage rates of recycling of all the centres in the portfolio.
- 3.4 As a whole, the full contract has seen an increase in the average recycling rates from 46% in February 2020 to 57% in May 2021, this is set out in the graph below. This is incredibly positive, notably, the Regional Gymnastics Centre managed to move to 100% recycled waste collected with no waste at all going to landfill.

Full contract Recycling % Rates for February 2020 and May 2021



4.0 Plan for the 2021/22

- 4.1 MCR Active will continue to monitor the operators on waste & recycling rates and has established stretched targets for the operators for 2021/22. The target is 60% for the current year.
- 4.2 The operators will carry on receiving and analysing the monthly environmental reports from Bagnall and Morris and Grundon and ensuring that the centres are working towards reducing the amount of waste going to landfill long term with the long term vision for 100% recyclable waste being collected from the centres as outlined in the MCR Active's Leisure Facilities Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025.
- 4.3 The operators will work towards implementing the sustainable waste and recycling structure looking at diverting from landfill by prevention, re-using, recycling and RDF.
- 4.4 The operators will continue to work with suppliers who are committed to supporting the MCCP and work in sustainable ways. GLL committed to source local contractors to ensure minimal travel to and from Manchester (Three already in place including food and beverage, localised maintenance agreements, grounds maintenance).
- 4.5 The operators have committed to increasing staff, partners stakeholder & customers awareness around recycling by sharing the Facilities Environmental Plans and delivering engagement events on Sustainability. All GLL General Managers and Partnership team completed the MCC carbon reduction training programme in quarter one and individual centre commitments were established following this, each centre now has an Environmental Champion.
- 4.6 GLL are working towards zero single plastics across catering by the end of quarter two 2021. Working in partnership with England Squash and PSA they

have delivered the first 'single use plastics' free event at the National Squash Centre.

- 4.7 GLL have set staff working group who will responsible for review the Energy & Environmental Plans at the end of each year and setting targets for the following year.
- 4.8 MCR Active have set up a Leisure Sustainability board which will include wider representation from leisure operators delivering community services form Council assets such as Broadway Leisure Centre. This Board will ensure the aims set out in the Indoor Leisure Sustainability Action Pan are delivered for 2021/22 and seek to ensure those organisations who do not have contractual obligations are playing their full part in increasing recycling levels.