

North Yorkshire Council

Transport, Economy, Environment & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee

28 January 2026

Allerton Waste Recovery Park 2024-25 performance update

Report of the Corporate Director - Environment.

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members of the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) performance for the 2024-25 Contract Year.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report summarises the performance of Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) for the 2024-25 Contract Year compared against the previous year.
- 2.2 AWRP performance update reports providing detail about the project history and performance since operations commenced have been brought to previous Committee meetings on the following dates:
- 21 October 2021
 - 20 October 2022
 - 19 October 2023
 - 17 October 2024

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) has been operational since 1 March 2018 and consists of a Mechanical Treatment (MT) plant, an Anaerobic Digester (AD) and Energy from Waste (EfW) facility. The site also has offices and a Visitor and Education Centre where members of the public and groups can visit the facility to learn about management of waste. The facility can receive up to 320,000 tonnes of waste per annum in accordance with the Planning Permission.
- 3.2 The Contract requires provision of the following annual reports within 40 Business Days of the end of the previous Contract Year:
- an Annual Reconciliation Report
 - an Annual Waste Data Report
 - an Annual Energy Report
 - the Annual Service Report
 - the Environmental Report.

4.0 SUMMARY OF THE CONTRACT YEAR

- 4.1 2024-25 was a difficult year operationally for AWRP. Availability of the EfW was lower than the previous year and several unplanned periods of downtime meant that contingency diversion arrangements were put in place with Contract Waste being diverted to alternative treatment facilities or landfill sites. Whilst Mechanical Treatment plant availability increased when compared to the prior year, tonnage throughput was lower because of the need to manage EfW bunker levels.
- 4.2 AWRP had two planned maintenance outages during the Contract Year. The first was between 19 April – 15 May 2024 and the second started on 20 March 2025 and ran until 20 April 2025. There were some issues with the return to services following both planned outages and additional contingency diversions were required.
- 4.3 The Contractor has put a plan in place including significant investment into AWRP to improve future plant availability and performance. A representative from the Contractor is attending the meeting and will be able to take questions.
- 4.4 Throughout 2024-25, work continued with the Contractor to progress the changes required resulting from the Permit Variation for AWRP which was issued by the Environment Agency in September 2023. In December 2024, an Independent Technical Advisor was jointly appointed by NYC and AWRP SPV to assist with the Qualifying Change in Law (QCIL) process and validation of cost claims.
- 4.5 In June 2024, the Government issued a further consultation around the UK Emissions Trading Scheme and inclusion of EfW facilities from 2028. The consultation considered mechanisms for distributing costs including linking with the packaging changes and Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) scheme. NYC responded to the consultation in July 2024. An interim response was issued by Government in July 2025 focusing on the voluntary Monitoring, Reporting and Verification period due to start on 1 January 2026. More details on cost apportionment and carbon testing methodologies are expected in the final consultation response, however there is no indication from the ETS Authority about when this will be published.

5.0 CONTRACTUAL TARGETS – AUTHORITY REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 The table below shows the performance for the last two Contract Years against the Authority Requirements. Further details on performance are included in the sections below.

Target	Authority Req	2023-24	2024-25
Recycling/composting of Contract Waste	5%	1.78%	1.75%
Landfill diversion of Contract Waste	70%	94.86%	87.29%

6.0 CONTRACTUAL TARGETS – Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- 6.1 The table below summarises the 2024-25 performance against the KPIs set out in the Performance Framework.

KPI	KPI description	2023-24 Performance Failure points (PFPs)	2024-25 Performance Failure points (PFPs)
1	Contract Waste recycling (5% target)	212,000	215,000
9a	Max turnaround time Mechanical Treatment Facility (30 mins)	800	1,200
9b	Max turnaround time Energy from Waste facility (40 mins)	800	200
		213,600	216,400

7.0 RECYCLING PERFORMANCE – KPI 1

7.1 Recycling performance was 1.75% against a contractual target of 5% which was a slight reduction when compared to the prior year's outturn. The main reason for this were issues with the EfW availability and breakdown of one of the MT shredders in December 2024. This was replaced in early March 2025. Recycling markets remained challenging throughout the year with some operators being impacted by higher energy costs.

8.0 MT PERFORMANCE

8.1 The table below shows the performance of the MT for tonnage throughput and availability over the past two Contract Years.

	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Tonnage throughput	157,280	136,655	-13.11%
Availability (time)	75.65%	82.06%	6.41%

8.2 The MT had the highest availability performance since the contract started. There was less tonnage through the MT than the previous year due to issues with the EfW availability and the need to balance bunker levels.

8.3 The first half of the year saw steady performance overall when taking account of the planned maintenance outage and some small blockages.

8.4 MT performance over the last six months of the year was impacted by failure of the main shredder, the requirement to manage the EfW bunker levels, and a second planned maintenance outage that started in March 2025.

9.0 ENERGY FROM WASTE PERFORMANCE

9.1 AWRP had two planned maintenance outages during the Contract Year. The first was between 19 April – 15 May 2024 and the second started on 20 March 2025 and ran until 20 April. There were some issues with the return to services following both planned outages and additional contingency diversions were required.

9.2 The table below shows the performance of the EfW in relation to tonnage throughput and availability over the last two Contract Years.

	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Tonnage throughput	270,523	218,076	-19.39%
Availability (time)	86.87%	77.05%	-9.82%

9.3 In June 24, the EfW had its first month with 100% availability since the contract started, however from September onwards, there were a number of issues and breakdowns including several blockages, snapped or blocked ash extractor chains and a hopper flap detaching and falling into the grate on line 2 which negatively impacted availability. The most significant blockage was in the ram feeder in late September which kept the plant offline for 10 days.

9.4 The EfW was unavailable for c84 days during 2024-25. 30.5 days were due to planned outages and the remaining 53 days resulted from unplanned down time.

	2023-24		2024-25	
	Days	%	Days	%
Planned downtime (DT)	27	7.50%	30.5	8.29%
Unplanned DT – Other (including operational / system failures)	21	5.70%	53.3	14.61%
	48	13.2%	83.8	22.90%

10.0 AD PERFORMANCE

10.1 The table below shows tonnage throughput of the AD over the past two Contract Years.

	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Tonnage throughput	8,025	5,297	-34%

10.2 2024-25 was a difficult year again for the AD with the lowest tonnage throughput and electricity generation to date. The reduced throughput can be mainly attributed to availability of both the EfW and MT plant.

10.3 AD performance was also impacted by some mechanical issues (including a blocked S tube and a failure of the bursting disc in May 24) and issues with biology of waste in the digester reduced the amount of material that could be fed into the process.

11.0 LANDFILL DIVERSION PERFORMANCE

11.1 The table below shows the percentage of Contract Waste that was diverted away from landfill over the past two Contract Years.

	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Diversion from landfill %	94.86%	87.29%	-7.57%

11.2 Landfill diversion performance fell by just over 7.5% for the Contract Year which was directly linked to the availability issues with the EfW. The NYC team are working with the operator to try and get Contract Waste diverted to other waste treatment facilities rather than landfill sites where possible.

11.3 AWRP manages around 6,000 tonnes of Contract Waste per week. When contingency diversions are in place, it is difficult to place large amounts of tonnage in the short term into treatment facilities and if they have operational issues, treatment sites will switch off third party material first, so they often are unable to accept NYC/CYC waste at short notice.

11.4 May and October 24 were the only months where diversion performance fell below the 70% contractual target due to the planned maintenance outage and the ram feeder blockage, however, for the remainder of the year, diversion performance averaged 91.5%.

12.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

12.1 During 2024-25, Thalia reported 48 instances of non-compliance with the AWRP environmental Permit (all for the EFW). There were 26 reportable instances in 2023-24.

- 12.2 All but one of the breaches were categorised by the Environment Agency as having "no impact on human health, quality of life or the environment". Only one was categorised as having a "minor impact on human health, quality of life, or the environment". This event was a single, short-duration exceedance of dioxin/furan concentration above the Emission Limit Value. The Environment Agency agreed with Thalia's assessment that there was no clear root cause and no evidence of abatement system failure. Follow-up testing showed emissions well below the permit limit. The case was referred to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which raised no health concerns.
- 12.3 The Environment Agency operates a Compliance Classification Scheme where operators are rated based on compliance with their Environmental Permit. The 2024 rating for AWRP is band B.

13.0 VISITOR CENTRE

- 13.1 During 2024-25, the Visitor Centre welcomed over 1,300 visitors including school pupils from primary, secondary, independent, and special schools and local environmental groups. In addition to the visits, the AWRP Education officer interacted with over 1,700 people in schools across North Yorkshire (delivering assemblies and workshops), the Women's Institute and Scout groups.
- 13.2 A Halloween open day was held and over 55 people toured the facility and took part in recycling and upcycling crafts with North Yorkshire Recycling Officers and North Yorkshire Rotters. A successful Climate Change event was hosted at AWRP, which welcomed headteachers and school leaders from across North Yorkshire so that they could meet other professionals and improve their school's environmental credentials.
- 13.3 The Thalia website had over 2,750 visitors each month - with over 7,500 views of the Allerton Waste Recovery Park page during 2024-25. The pledge micro site recorded a carbon offset of 1,682kg since Services commenced.

14.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 Whilst there are no specific financial implications arising from the contents of this briefing note, the document refers to a contractual change process (Qualifying Change in Law or QCiL for short) linked to the Environmental Permit at AWRP. The Contractor has notified the Council that this could be a High Value Change (the threshold for this change under the Contract is £2m).
- 14.2 The waste team are working with the Independent Technical Advisor to establish the likely overall value of any changes required under the Contract and a further report would be brought to the Executive Member in the future detailing costs and funding provisions.

15.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 The AWRP Contract is 'self-monitoring' with the Contractor identifying on each monthly invoice, any performance failures relating to the prior month and applying performance deductions. The Contract contains various clauses relating to performance including any contractual breaches.
- 15.2 It is important to note that whilst the recycling performance has been below the Authority Requirements since the contract commenced, this is not considered a Persistent breach, as this is a KPI where a Performance Deduction can be (and is) applied.

15.3 The Authority continues to work with the Contractor on improvements in performance of AWRP including identifying alternative waste treatment outlets during contingency diversion periods rather than using landfill.

16.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

16.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this briefing note.

17.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

17.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this briefing note.

18.0 RECOMMENDATION

18.1 To note the contents of this report

APPENDICES: None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Prior TEEEOOSC AWRP report dates

- 21 October 2021
- 20 October 2022
- 19 October 2023
- 17 October 2024

Karl Battersby
Corporate Director – Environment
County Hall
Northallerton
22 December 2025

Report Author – Lisa Cooper – Commercial Manager, Waste
Presenter of Report – Lisa Cooper – Commercial Manager, Waste