

**TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD
25 JUNE 2008**

**JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD – BUSINESS RESOURCE EFFICIENCY & WASTE
(BREW)
(Report by the Project Director)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Joint Waste Disposal Board of the successful application made on behalf of re3 by Wokingham Borough Council to BREW for a grant of £40k to develop a Business Waste Action Plan to complement the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy approved by the Board on 19th March and to update the Board on the progress of the project.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the successful application and the resulting work to be carried out under the grant as laid out below be noted.**
- 2.2 **That the progress of the project be noted.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 3.1 During early 2008 Wokingham's Income Generation Officer, Alison Munro, highlighted the opportunity to apply for a grant to BREW (Business Resource Efficiency & Waste) to assist in the reduction, reuse and recycling of business waste. Consultations took place with other re3 Officers on the option to put in a joint bid to BREW for funding. This was a timely opportunity to carry out research into business waste as it has become an important area of concern for Local Authorities, in line with the Waste Strategy for England 2007. This project will also dovetail with the re3 Draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy which has specific actions related to business waste and was endorsed on 19th March by the Waste Board.

4. Scope of Project

- 4.1 A research and feasibility project into waste and support needs of nearly 10,400 businesses across the re3 area. The information gathered will be used to formulate proposals that will enable re3 to contribute to a reduction in business waste to landfill across the area, with a particular focus on SME needs.

5. Key objectives of the project

- 5.1 To establish a comprehensive picture of business waste and advice support needs across the re3 Boroughs (Baseline data)
- 5.2 To develop feasible and innovative solutions that address the needs and issues identified by stage 1 of the project and which enable greater levels of business waste avoidance, reduction and recycling across the area, with potential impact beyond partner LA boundaries.

- 5.3 To produce a Business Waste Action Plan to be implemented by the *re3* Partnership as part of their Joint Municipal Waste Strategy
- 5.4 To contribute to the coordinated promotion of existing advice and support available to businesses on recycling and waste minimisation and related environmental issues.
- 5.5 Enhanced sharing of information between *re3* partners, businesses and other partner organisations.

6. Key outcomes of the project

- 6.1 *re3* LAs have a greater understanding of business waste needs within the local area and existing recycling/ waste minimisation provision.
- 6.2 Proposals worked up for feasible options, including social enterprise as well as private and public sector, to address identified need.
- 6.3 Business Waste action plan is incorporated into the *re3* Joint Municipal Waste Strategy, and potentially through targets in Local Area Agreements.
- 6.4 Businesses have a greater awareness of waste legislation, best practice, support and opportunities available to them.
- 6.5 Enhanced relationships between *re3* Partnership and local businesses on waste issues.
- 6.6 Enhanced coordination between *re3* Partner LAs and support services such as Business Link, Envirowise and other related organisations and networks such as Social Enterprise Berkshire and Connect Reading.

7. Project Update

- 7.1 Following a series of meetings the following project team was formed to deliver the project:

- *re3* Waste Officers and *re3* Project Manager
- Income Generation Officer WBC
- Economic Development Officer WBC
- Business Link (Government funded business support)

- 7.2 Partner Organisations

- Envirowise
- Connect Reading
- Social Enterprise Berkshire
- NISP South East (National Industrial Symbiosis Programme)
- Selected Consultant
- Businesses for *re3* area
- Economic Development Officers from *re3* Councils

- 7.3 Following the official offer from BREW and acceptance by WBC on behalf of *re3* of the grant 5 consultants were selected to bid for the work based on delivering similar projects. Submissions are due to be returned by 6th June with 2 or 3 to be selected to present their bids to the Project Team during week starting 16th June. Further progress on the project will be reported to future meetings.

8. Appended

- 8.1 BREW Bid
- 8.2 Project Specification

9. Financial

9.1 There are no budgetary implications to this project

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 BREW Agreement

10.2 Other project documents

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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