

**TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD  
30 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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**JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD - PROJECT UPDATE  
(Report by the Project Director)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Joint Waste Disposal Board of progress since the last meeting of the Board on 18 June 2008.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **To note progress made since the last meeting on 18 June 2008.**

**3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Background**

- 3.1 The Joint Waste PFI Contract was signed with WRG on 31 October 2006. After a short mobilisation period, the service commenced on 4 December 2006, when WRG took on the management of the two Key Project Facilities in Bracknell and Reading.

**Operations**

- 3.2 Operationally, the contract has been running smoothly since the last JWDB in June.
- 3.3 Since that time, the Burghfield Landfill on the outskirts of Reading 're-opened' briefly enabling waste to be directly delivered. Reading Borough Council took advantage of the re-opening and, by delivering waste directly, achieved a saving on haulage costs.
- 3.4 The new MRF has recently begun to build up a stock of recyclables for commissioning. Once, commissioning is complete, in October or November, the facility will receive recyclables from all three councils.

**Finance and Performance**

- 3.5 Delays were experienced in receiving monthly performance information from WRG for the first quarter, meaning that this information was not available until mid-August.
- 3.6 The delay was due to technical problems with reports generated by the WRG weighbridge, which meant that when the reports were run, significant amounts of data were missing. The data had to be recaptured and the reports reconfigured.
- 3.7 WRG were not subject to any penalties for the delays, as the contract only stipulates that WRG must provide performance information on a quarterly basis. However, it is of mutual benefit to both parties for the information to be reported and agreed monthly.
- 3.8 WRG have assured the Councils that the problem has now been rectified, and are now reporting monthly data once more. The last 2 months data have been received within three weeks of month end.

- 3.9 A summary of individual Council performance against the contract and national indicators is appended to this report.
- 3.10 The PFI is currently projecting a combined under spend of £365,000 against the budget this year. This is primarily due to tonnages being lower than expected for the year to date, particularly landfill tonnages.
- 3.11 The restriction of Longshot Lane opening hours has seen a marked decrease in the amount of waste received at the site, and Smallmead has seen a marked increase. This resulted in Reading incurring additional HWRC related costs whilst Bracknell would experience HWRC related savings.
- 3.12 In order to address the imbalance, a weighted average has been applied to HWRC tonnes.
- 3.13 Work on the 2009/10 budget is underway between the Council Project Team and the Councils' own accountants.

### **Risk Register**

- 3.14 The councils Management Team have developed a Risk Register to identify and plan the management of areas of risk associated with the PFI contract.
- 3.15 The Risk Register is appended to this report for information.
- 3.16 The most significant, newly-recorded risk refers to the importance of working to avoid contamination in our deliveries of Mixed Dry Recyclables to the new MRF. It is recorded at line 25 on the Register.
- 3.17 Amendments have been made to a number of other risks and these are highlighted in light blue on the Register.

### **Joint Waste Authority**

- 3.18 At the last JWDB Members agreed to the submission, to DEFRA, of an Expression of Interest in the creation of a Joint Waste Authority for the re3 Councils.
- 3.19 The Expression of Interest was submitted in accordance with instructions from DEFRA. The re3 Councils now have until the end of March 2009 to debate the implications of a Joint Waste Authority and, if appropriate, to prepare and submit an application.
- 3.20 Members received a report on the pro's and con's of a Joint Waste Authority, at the June 2008 JWDB.
- 3.21 The re3 Project Manager and Chief Officer, Environment and Public Protection, BFBC are preparing a further, more detailed, briefing for Members which will be circulated in advance of the next JWDB (December 08) to enable the implications to be debated, and a recommendation made from the JWDB to the individual councils.
- 3.22 A Decision on whether to proceed with an application will need to be made by the re3 councils in advance of the formal application in March 2009.

## **Shared Waste Collection Services**

- 3.23 A number of the potential advantages of a Joint Waste Authority are specifically designed to assist local authorities in the sharing of services such as waste collection – in order to achieve savings, efficiencies and performance improvements.
- 3.24 The re3 Project Manager and officers from the re3 councils are working on a project to establish the likely savings that could be achieved from a partnership-wide shared collection service.
- 3.25 There are many factors to consider in the assessment of potential savings within waste collections across the re3 councils. Two of the partners utilise wheeled-bins and an alternate weekly collection system whilst the other does not. Two of the partners have an external contractor whilst the other does not.
- 3.26 If the project indicates that savings can be achieved locally via a particular delivery model, then the councils will be in a position to formally move towards a sharing arrangement if they so choose. The findings could also be used to assist in the formulation of a specification.
- 3.27 This is a necessary and timely piece of work because the Bracknell Forest collection contract expires during 2011 and the procurement of a new one will need to commence by the second half of 2009. The Board may collectively wish to include the facility for one or both of the other councils to join this contract at a later, specified date.
- 3.28 Officers will keep Members informed of progress via reports to the JWDB with the final assessment of potential savings being presented at the Summer (June/July) meeting in 2009.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Reports to Joint Waste Disposal Board, 12 December 2007

## **CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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