

**TO: EXECUTIVE
12 JUNE 2018**

**RE3 WASTE STRATEGY 2018-2020
Director: Environment, Culture and Communities**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Council along with Wokingham and Reading Councils have joined together to form re3 for the purposes of our waste disposal needs. The Partnership has through the Joint Waste Disposal Board (JWDB) agreed the draft Strategy as attached (Annex 1).
- 1.2 All three Councils adopted the first joint Strategy in 2016 to maximise the potential of the Partnership to reach its own targets and help the Councils achieve theirs. The Strategy has been revised and updated and all partners are being asked once again to endorse it.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Executive endorses the draft Strategy 2018-2020 as set out in Annex 1.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The PFI Contract binds the Partnership to achieve a 50% overall recycling rate for the facilities by the end of its term (31 October 2031). The Strategy seeks to help ensure that the target is met.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Executive could resolve not to endorse the Strategy as proposed by the JWDB.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The proposed Strategy builds on the former Strategy and has been endorsed by the JWDB as a draft. The new Strategy builds on past learning, local and national drivers, but mindful of the constraints, issues and opportunities.
- 5.2 The Strategy provides the continued direction for the Partnership over the coming years against which performance can be measured and reported. Whilst the ownership of the Strategy rests with the JWDB, each of the partner councils has a responsibility to deliver. The Strategy incorporates our local collection recycling targets as incorporated in the Council Plan 2015-2019. The local targets will only be achieved with the contribution of re3 and vice versa as well as the support of the community.
- 5.3 The Strategy document comprises of two parts. Part 1 looks back at the service demands and how they have been responded to. Part 2 looks forward and updates the current Objectives mindful of the achievements to date but also the challenges ahead.
- 5.4 As is outlined in Part 1 the Partnership has responded in several ways to changing demand over the period. It also touches on the potential shift in the national approach away from the current focus on weights to a system based on carbon impact. Such changes are however some way off, but there are potentially other

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changes coming in sooner in relation to plastic and glass recycling that could impact upon us as these tend to be the higher value end of the materials we collect.

- 5.5 Whilst such changes are at this stage speculative, Figure 3 makes clear that we are facing increased household growth. Figure 7 shows the direct link between the tonnages and disposal costs associated with landfill and recycling. Figure 8 breaks down the composition of waste and from this analysis it is clear that the two areas to consider targeting in order to improve recycling are nappies and food. As part 2 of the Strategy states (objective H) re3 are to make the facilities available to receive collected food waste from April 2019. Wokingham have already confirmed their intention to commence a weekly kerbside collection from this date hence why they are able to set themselves far higher recycling targets and be confident that they will achieve the national target. Food collection costs depend on several related factors and have to be considered on a council by council basis.
- 5.6 All partner councils are taking the draft through their respective process. Any comments made will be fed back to a future meeting of the JWDB when the draft will be finalised.

6 **ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 No significant legal issues arise from the matters discussed in this report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report which is for information and discussion. Given the current financial challenges the objectives within Annex 1 should be contained within existing budgets, any additional financial implications arising out of the implementation of this Strategy will need to be dealt with at the appropriate time.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Not applicable at this stage.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The Strategy seeks to minimise the loss of PFI credits in the unlikely event that the facilities should not meet the targets set for 2031. The Strategy will also help this Council continue towards meeting its recycling targets but it is now clear that along with many other councils the current arrangements are not likely to enable the Council to meet the national target by 2020.

7 **CONSULTATION**

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Not applicable at this stage.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Not applicable at this stage

Representations Received

Unrestricted

7.3 Not applicable at this stage

Background Papers

Re3 Waste Strategy report to Executive dated 18 July 2016

Contacts for further information

Steve Loudoun
Chief Officer: Environment & Public Protection
01344 352501
steve.loudoun@bracknell-forest.gov.uk