

**TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD
22 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**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 its last meeting on 23rd July 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note progress made since the last meeting on 23rd July 2009.
- 2.2 That Members indicate whether they would like Officers to investigate and provide costings for the application of council logo's to the partnership's bulk haulage vehicles.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Joint Working Agreement

- 3.1 At the September 2008 Joint Waste Disposal Board meeting, Members approved some amendments to the Joint Working Agreement between the councils.
- 3.2 The amendments have been reviewed by the BFBC Legal Services Team and Officers are scheduling the amendments into the appropriate programme for approval by each of the councils.

Finance and Performance

- 3.3 Officers have previously reported on the difficulties being experienced by WRG in reconciling information from the weighbridge at Smallmead with their corporate system. The difficulties resulted in tonnage data for the first quarter of 2009/10 being reported late by WRG.
- 3.4 At the time of writing this report, Officers are still working on the information from WRG and it is therefore intended that the specific financial and performance information will be tabled at the Joint Waste Disposal Board Meeting on September 22nd.

Risk Register

- 3.5 The councils Management Team have developed a Risk Register to identify and plan the management of areas of risk associated with the PFI contract.
- 3.6 The Risk Register is detailed as item 13 on this agenda. There are no newly identified risks or changes to the risk ratings of existing entries. The mitigations have been updated.

Lakeside

- 3.7 Requests from the operators of Lakeside for deliveries of waste from the re3 councils remain intermittent but commissioning of the EfW facility is continuing.
- 3.8 The re3 councils had hoped to be able to derive around 85% of the waste intended for EfW from Longshot Lane in Bracknell. Longshot Lane receives waste from Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough Councils only. That presents the partnership with a performance reporting problem in that Reading Borough Council will appear to be diverting very little from landfill in comparison with Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough Councils despite all three of them paying for their 'fair' share of the total EfW cost.
- 3.9 It was hoped that one of the aspects of creating a Joint Waste Authority (the pooling of targets) would facilitate a solution to this issue. Since we are now not pursuing, for the time being, an application to form a Joint Waste Authority, it will not help us with this issue.
- 3.10 Officers have asked WRG to assess the cost of hauling the Reading Borough Council waste from Smallmead in Reading to Lakeside EfW. This will result in more waste from Longshot Lane being transported to Sutton Courtenay Landfill but will at least result in an equitable split of the tonnage to EfW for each council. WRG feel that there may be some operational issues in terms of the separation of waste of waste for EfW and landfill within the busy transfer station at Smallmead
- 3.11 Officers have made contact with DEFRA to enquire, again, about the potential for some form of auditable solution which does not require the physical movement of waste.

Proposed Sutton Courtenay Energy from Waste Facility

- 3.12 Officers were recently contacted by the Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit (JSPU) in relation to the receipt, by Oxfordshire County Council, of a request to change the planning application for an Energy from Waste facility.
- 3.13 The facility is proposed by WRG and they were applying to Oxfordshire County Council to remove the possibility of waste being delivered by Berkshire councils from the planning application.
- 3.14 The re3 councils were concerned that the change of application for the EfW facility may have had implications for their use of the Sutton Courtenay landfill and composting facilities, operated by WRG.
- 3.15 Oxfordshire County Council have, via the JSPU, confirmed that the existing arrangements for the re3 councils will remain unchanged by the change in application for an EfW facility at Sutton Courtenay. The change of application will, however, mean that the re3 councils would not be able to use the proposed WRG EfW facility for any future reason or as a contingency.

Vehicle Livery

- 3.16 The councils have been considering ways in which their partnership with each other and the contractual association with WRG can be communicated to residents.

- 3.17 We wish to promote the understanding amongst residents and stakeholders that re3 is a representation of the councils and that services delivered under the re3 banner are done so by the councils, or organisations contracted by the councils, for residents of Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham.
- 3.18 If we can achieve that sort of recognition, it will inform residents and have a positive effect on the contractual relationship between the councils and WRG as contractor.
- 3.19 One way of articulating the message is via the vehicles which the councils operate and also those used by WRG in the delivery of the contract.
- 3.20 The vehicles can be a powerful tool in communicating direct messages (e.g. 'please recycle') and slightly more indirect messages (e.g. 'these councils are working together').
- 3.21 Reading Borough Council is in the process of updating the visuals on the side of its fleet of refuse freighters. The vehicles use a system which allows visuals to be replaced relatively easily during the life of the vehicle.
- 3.22 There are no cost implications at this time. It is hoped that the other partner councils will consider a similar system prior to the replacement of collection vehicles as appropriate
- 3.23 At the same time, WRG are procuring a vehicle to carry out the emptying of bottle banks across the re3 area. It is proposed that this vehicle include the three council logo's and that of WRG.
- 3.24 There is an opportunity for the retrospective application of the partnership logo's to the bulk haulage vehicles. These vehicles predominantly travel between Longshot Lane and Smallmead and between Smallmead and Sutton Courtenay (along the M4 and A34). If Members so desire, Officers will investigate this opportunity further – including any cost implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Joint Working Agreement Report and Appendix, September 2008

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