

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

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**JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD – WASTE ACCEPTANCE POLICY  
(Report by the Project Director)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Joint Waste Disposal Board for a Waste Acceptance Policy to cover both Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That, subject to any amendments they may wish to make, Members approve the limits proposed (as detailed in the appended table).
- 2.2 That Members approve the proposed date upon which the Policy will commence.

**3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Policy**

- 3.1 It is both good, and common, practice for Waste Disposal Authorities to have a published Policy on the types and amounts of household waste that can be accepted at the HWRCs. This helps both the contractor and the councils to manage the HWRCs, gives guidance to residents on what can be taken to the sites and defines acceptable quantities.
- 3.2 The limits, described in the appended table, have been arrived at following discussions between WRG, as operators of the sites, and the councils.
- 3.3 In most cases, they are unlikely to cause any inconvenience but represent an upper ceiling on the amount of waste that can be deposited.
- 3.4 In addition to the limits on materials, the proposed Policy also includes the closure of the height barriers at both sites in accordance with the PFI contract.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the Policy be put in place from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009.
- 3.6 A review of the Policy will be included in the 2009/10 Work Programme for the Joint Waste Disposal Board (subject to agreement) in order that Members have an opportunity to consider the success of the policy.

**Principle**

- 3.7 Both operationally, to ensure that services remain available to residents, and in terms of overall costs, it is a useful exercise to agree and communicate the limits upon certain wastes that can be deposited by householders upon visiting the HWRC's at Smallmead and Longshot Lane.

- 3.8 Officers have sought, in liaison with the contractor, to reach a position which serves to discourage traders from abusing the sites whilst still retaining a practical and pragmatic position on the receipt of these wastes from household sources.
- 3.9 The Environmental Protection Act (1990) places upon waste disposal authorities a duty to provide facilities for the receipt of household waste from householders. The construction and operation of the two HWRC's is a significant element of the joint waste PFI and addresses the compliance, by the three councils, of the aforementioned duty,
- 3.10 The ingress of trade waste to the HWRC presents councils with a problem. Whilst wishing to support local businesses, the cost of receiving and disposing of 'trade waste' is an additional financial burden which is not supported by a duty upon the councils. When trade waste is deposited as household waste it adds to the overall cost of waste disposal and is therefore an additional element within council tax.
- 3.11 Because of the way in which the councils share performance data and costs for the HWRC's, it is important that there are equal conditions of access. If traders are directly or indirectly encouraged to visit one of the sites, there will be performance and financial implications to the councils contributing to that site.
- 3.12 Equally, an influx of traders at one of the sites will also affect the turnaround time for other, household, visitors.
- 3.13 The development of the new Smallmead facility was been carried-out with the specific intention of giving local traders a separate service from that offered to householders – similar to that which has been successful for years at Longshot Lane.
- 3.14 The limits proposed are one way of controlling the ingress of trade waste to the public (household focussed) element of the Smallmead and Longshot Lane facilities because they are set at levels which are more likely to match household, or DIY, requirements rather than the repeated requirements of a trader.
- 3.15 Both the councils and the contractor will investigate additional ways in which householders bringing household waste and traders bringing waste derived in the course of their business can be accommodated and served at the two HWRC's.

### **Publicity**

- 3.16 It will be important to ensure that all parties, both the councils and contractor, are coordinated in publicising the limits.
- 3.17 This has been successfully achieved in the past via the councils' websites but the councils will also need to utilise other sources of information for residents and patrons such as signage and leaflets.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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