

**TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD**  
**5 September 2013**

**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 (JWDB) of progress in terms of management of the joint Waste PFI contract since its last meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **That Members note the contents of this report.**
- 2.2 **That Members require officers to seek clarification of the intentions of FCC Environment as described at 3.5 below.**
- 2.3 **That Members endorse the development of an re3 Partnership Communications Strategy as described at 3.15 below.**

**3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Code of Conduct**

- 3.1 Officers have previously reported the work being undertaken by HM Treasury on the issue of operational savings within Private Finance Initiative (PFI) or Public Private Partnership (PPP) contracts.
- 3.2 On June 13<sup>th</sup>, a letter was sent from Defra to each relevant council introducing a Code of Conduct applicable to PFI and PPP operational contracts. The Code of Conduct is attached at Appendix 1 and is applicable to all such contracts 'across central and local government and the NHS'.
- 3.3 The stated purpose of the Code is to encourage a collaborative approach, between contracting parties, principally to the delivery of efficiencies and savings.
- 3.4 As Members will recall, officers have been in contact with colleagues at Defra. Officers understand that there have been some encouraging signs, including from some of the largest companies, that the waste management industry in general may be prepared to sign-up to the Code.
- 3.5 Officers recommend that enquiries be made with our PFI Contractor, FCC Environment, to ascertain whether they intend to sign-up. If FCC Environment signs the Code, the Councils may also wish to do so.

**Performance**

- 3.6 As Members will be aware, total waste arisings have been falling over recent years. The principal reason for the year on year reduction in waste seems most likely to have been caused by the economic situation which has prevailed since the global financial crisis in 2008.
- 3.7 Statistics relating to the re3 Partnership show that total waste (Kg/household) continued to fall between the years 2011/12 and 2012/13. In 2011/12 the re3

Partnership managed 618kg per household and in 2012/13 the partnership managed 607kg per household.

- 3.8 Officers have previously commented upon the likelihood that waste will 'level-off' at some point and potentially begin to increase back towards pre-2008 levels. The latter outcome is a distinct possibility in the event that household incomes begin to rise.
- 3.9 Recently, some concerns have been expressed (for example by the Association of Directors of Environment, Planning and Transport (ADEPT)) that the UK is indeed emerging from the period of waste reduction and should prepare for growth.
- 3.10 The re3 Partnership is keen to ensure that the councils are able to manage and address the potential for the overall tonnage of waste to increase.
- 3.11 An important factor in managing waste growth is the capacity for the councils to achieve two practical outcomes. Firstly, communicating with residents to persuade them of the benefits to avoiding the generation of waste. Secondly, communicating with residents to encourage them to recycle as much of their waste as they possibly can and to do so without the inclusion of non-recyclables (sometimes called contamination).
- 3.12 Both outcomes are important to the re3 councils and officers therefore recommend that the councils seek to develop a shared Communications Strategy.
- 3.13 There are some areas of related service, notably waste collection, where aspects of the service are different between the re3 councils. There are, however, far more areas in which the councils would wish to communicate with residents about waste with a common voice and mode of communication.
- 3.14 An example would be the issue of non-recyclables (contamination). Each council collects the same recyclables, has them processed at the same facility by the same contractor and is subject to the same market forces. Moreover, it is anticipated that the simple concept of the councils working together on such an issue would imbue the message with an additional degree of credibility.
- 3.15 It is therefore proposed that the re3 councils seek to develop a shared Communications Strategy which covers those areas where a partnership message to residents (based on the principles of the waste hierarchy) can be helpful in the medium-term (i.e. 3 to 5 years).

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

JWDB Reports for May 2013.

## **CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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