

TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD
16 OCTOBER 2015

AUDIT REPORT – WASTE PFI REVIEW 2015
Senior Managers – re3 Councils

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the recent audit of the re3 joint Waste PFI.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Board notes the findings and actions as set out in the report (Annex 1) and agrees that a follow up audit be undertaken in 2016 (as suggested in recommendation 8) to review progress relative to the recommendations in the report.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Board is asked to note the findings and thereby accept the responsibility to ensure that the recommendations are appropriately actioned.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 5.1 The PFI was last audited two years ago. Then, as now, the audit was taken on behalf of all three Councils. The overriding conclusion of the audit is “substantial assurance”. There are again no high priority recommendations: just one medium priority and seven low priority recommendations, all of which have to be accepted.
- 5.2 As can be seen in the report a number of recommendations relate to matters of governance. Reports on progress in respect of these and other related matters outstanding from the last meeting of the Board are addressed elsewhere on the agenda. The last recommendation suggests a follow up in a year’s time to monitor progress.
- 5.3 The only medium term recommendation relates to the need to develop a Joint Strategic Waste Disposal Strategy. Whilst this is a priority, it cannot be completed until the needs and aspirations of the three Councils have been articulated through their Waste Collection Strategies.
- 5.4 It’s important to note that the responses reflect ‘target’ dates. Whilst every endeavour will be made to achieve these, progress will be largely resource dependent. Progress against targets will be reported to the Board.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

Unrestricted

- 6.1 No legal issues arise directly from the recommendations made in the audit report, the contents of which have, however, been noted.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The response to Recommendation 6 was discussed and agreed with the Strategic Waste Manager.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 None.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 There are none arising from the audit.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Not applicable.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

Audit Report 2015

Contacts for further information

Josie Wragg
Head of Community Services
Wokingham Borough Council
0118 974 6002
Josie.wragg@wokingham.gov.uk

Mark Smith
Head of Transportation and Street Care
Reading Borough Council
0118 937 2665
Mark.Smith@reading.gov.uk

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