

**TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD
19 MARCH 2008**

**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 the last meeting of the Board on 12 December 2007.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **To note progress made since the last meeting on 12 December 2007.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 3.1 The Joint Waste PFI Contract was signed with WRG on 31 October 2006. After a short mobilisation period, the service commenced on 4 December 2006, when WRG took on the management of the two Key Project Facilities in Bracknell and Reading.

Operations

- 3.2 The new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Island Road in Reading opened on January 11th 2008.
- 3.3 The HWRC opened a day later than was planned due to a handful of issues that arose from the final certification process.
- 3.4 The issues were such that the councils Independent Certifier was not prepared to certify the site for handover on the date of the inspection (Thursday 3rd January 2008).
- 3.5 The main issue related to the construction of an expansion joint in the concrete floor of the Transfer Station. The joint was exposed and correctional work undertaken such that the Independent Certifier was prepared to certify the building for handover at a subsequent inspection (Wednesday 9th January 2008).
- 3.6 Following the handover, the HWRC facility was made available to residents more than 2 months ahead of the contractual schedule.
- 3.7 Construction of Phase 2 at Smallmead is moving on at pace with the majority of the Material Reclamation Facility (MRF) building now in place.
- 3.8 Construction is due to commence at Longshot Lane on March 31st 2008. The site will be completely closed for a week from that date but will re-open on 7th April.
- 3.9 From 7th April onwards, the site will operate under new opening hours for the duration of the construction.

- 3.10 The hours will be as follows: 17:00-20:00 Monday to Friday, 08:00-20:00 at weekends.
- 3.11 During the construction period the site will have to close, on occasion at very short notice to enable the construction work to remain on target.
- 3.12 As an example, if the contractor experiences an unexpected delay whilst pouring concrete, it may significantly reduce the quality of construction finish for them to stop their work at the agreed time and open the CA Site. In such a scenario, the contractor will give the councils as much notice as possible to alert patrons. The councils project team has requested that the contractor propose a minimum notice period.
- 3.13 There will be a freephone number which has a recorded message giving the latest information on the site, including details of any closures. This number will be publicised and residents will be urged to call before making their journey.

Financial

- 3.14 Budget monitoring reports giving detail of the projected outturn for the year continue to be produced and are circulated to the relevant officers within the councils on a monthly basis. This arrangement is proving successful.
- 3.15 The projected overspend has decreased by over £180,000 since the last Board meeting. This is largely due to lower tonnages than were forecast in the third quarter, landfill tonnages being significantly low.
- 3.16 The latest projection for 2007/08 indicates a total overspend of just £16,437. A breakdown is attached.
- 3.17 The Council Project Team met with WRG to revise expected waste flows for 2008/09 to take account of factors such as seasonality and the construction programme. These waste flows will be reviewed on a quarterly basis.
- 3.18 The early completion of Smallmead HWRC in January saw a step up in the baseline fee to the Contractor, which was not expected this financial year. However, the potential impact of this increased payment has been offset against the lower tonnages experienced in the third quarter.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Reports to Joint Waste Disposal Board, 12 December 2007

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