

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

**JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD – JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT
STRATEGY
(Report by the Project Director)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Joint Waste Disposal Board of progress in the development of a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for the re3 councils.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the current version of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy including the Action Plan be endorsed and recommended to the individual Councils for formal adoption.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 3.1 As a key part of their strategic planning processes, the Government expects all local authorities to produce or contribute to a Municipal Waste Management Strategy (MWMS).
- 3.2 The draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) for the re3 councils has previously been sent to Members. The Waste Strategy Action Plan is appended to this report.
- 3.3 A public consultation on the draft JMWMS was undertaken via the council websites of the re3 councils during August and September. Members at each of the councils were also invited to comment.
- 3.4 The JMWMS is presented to the JWDB for approval and endorsement. Once it has been endorsed it should be presented to each of the councils for formal adoption.
- 3.5 The JMWMS has been produced with the input of consultants (Enviros) following the successful bid for funding from DEFRA by Janet Dowlman

Content of Municipal Waste Management Strategy

- 3.6 The JMWMS for the re3 councils has been produced against a more fortunate background than many such documents at other councils. This is the case because, via the work on our joint waste PFI, we have already undertaken much of the strategic planning, and subsequent procurement, that it is envisaged will follow on from the development of a MWMS.

- 3.7 Far from sitting on our laurels, however, the intention of the document is, having first satisfied the basic requirements of a MWMS, to plot a course for the re3 councils to achieve statutory targets and the financial and environmental objectives of the PFI contract.
- 3.8 The JMWMS has to be both a working document for the councils and a public document for residents and stakeholders. With this dual role in mind, the JMWMS starts by explaining both what it is and what the re3 partnership is.
- 3.9 The JMWMS describes the environmental, legislative and financial influences on waste, some demographic information, current levels of performance in the three councils and the role of the PFI contract. Collectively these sections describe the context for the Action Plan.
- 3.10 The three councils undertook a consultation exercise in August and September of 2007. Unfortunately there were very few responses (7 in total) although Officers have taken the comments into consideration in subsequently revising the document.
- 3.11 One reason for the low response rate could be the size of the document. By necessity (and requirement from DEFRA) it's quite a long document and it's size may have been a disincentive to potential respondents.
- 3.12 The councils have taken this on board in developing the Action Plan (one, required, section of the JMWMS) as a stand alone appendix to the entire document which we intend to review and consult on annually.
- 3.13 The Waste Strategy and Action Plan have not yet been put in a designed format. Officers felt that it was better to ensure the tone and written content were appropriate and approved prior to addressing the aesthetics of the strategy document. Once it has finally been adopted, the councils could have a small number of copies produced in a format appropriate to represent the partnership and bound.

Action Plan

- 3.14 The Action Plan has been written to reflect the direction given to local authorities in the Government's Waste Strategy 2007 (which replaces the previous guidance – Waste Strategy 2000). New areas of specific focus are on subjects such as Climate Change, supporting businesses and the voluntary sector and partnerships.
- 3.15 The Action Plan is the section of the strategy in which the councils' objectives are identified and the steps we intend to take to achieve them are explained.
- 3.16 As stated above (at paragraph 3.11), Officers intend to review and consult on the Action Plan on an annual basis. Part of this process will be a report back to the Joint Waste Disposal Board on progress.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Reports to Joint Waste Disposal Board, 5 September 2007

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