

## JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD

### NOTICE OF MEETING

THURSDAY 7 JULY 2022

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Joint Waste Disposal Board on **Thursday 7 July 2022 at 9.30 am** in the Wokingham Borough Council. An agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Oliver Burt  
re3 Strategic Waste Manager and  
Project Director

#### Members of the Joint Waste Disposal Board

Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor John Harrison, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Tony Page, Reading Borough Council  
Councillor Karen Rowland, Reading Borough Council  
Councillor Clive Jones, Wokingham Borough Council  
Councillor Ian Shenton, Wokingham Borough Council

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#### EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS

**If you hear the alarm:**

- 1 Leave the building immediately**
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- 3 Use the stairs not the lifts**
- 4 Do not re-enter the building until told to do so**



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WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL





**JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD**  
**Thursday 7 July 2022 (9.30 am)**  
**Wokingham Borough Council.**

**AGENDA**

**Page No**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or affected interests in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

Any Member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter should withdraw from the meeting when the matter is under consideration and should notify the Democratic Services Officer in attendance that they are withdrawing as they have such an interest. If the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is not entered on the register of Members interests the Monitoring Officer must be notified of the interest within 28 days.

Any Member with an affected Interest in a matter must disclose the interest to the meeting. There is no requirement to withdraw from the meeting when the interest is only an affected interest, but the Monitoring Officer should be notified of the interest, if not previously notified of it, within 28 days of the meeting.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD**

5 - 8

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Joint Waste Disposal Board held on 3 March 2022.

**4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

To notify the Board of any items authorised by the Chairman on the grounds of urgency.

**5. RE3 PARTNERSHIP REPORT**

9 - 14

Followed by presentation from Rory Brien (FCC) and Jayne Rowley (re3)

**6. PROGRESS REPORT**

15 - 24

**7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

To consider the following motion:

That pursuant to Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulations 2012 and having regard to the public interest, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of items 8 & 9 which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

(3) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any

particular person.

*NB: No representations have been received in response to the notice under regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012*

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|-----|--|---------|
| 8.  | <b>FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT</b>       | 25 - 44 |
| 9.  | <b>BOOKING SYSTEM INFORMATION REPORT</b> | 45 - 58 |
| 10. | <b>DATE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING</b>    |         |
- To be discussed at the meeting on the 7 July.

**JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD  
3 MARCH 2022  
(9.30 - 11.00 am)**

Present: Bracknell Forest Borough Council  
Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE  
Councillor John Harrison

Reading Borough Council  
Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward  
Councillor Tony Page

Wokingham District Council  
Councillor Gregor Murray

Officers Oliver Burt, re3 Strategic Waste Manager  
Monika Bulmer, re3 Marketing & Communications Officer  
Sarah Innes, re3 Performance Officer  
Jayne Rowley, re3 Finance Officer  
Kevin Gibbs, Bracknell Forest Council  
Damian James, Bracknell Forest Council  
Andy Edwards, Reading Borough Council  
Richard Bisset, Wokingham Borough Council

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Parry Batth, Wokingham Borough Council

**56. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**57. Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Waste Disposal Board**

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Waste Disposal Board held on the 2 December 2022, be approved as a correct record.

**58. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**59. JWDB Progress Report March 2022**

The Board received a report on progress in the delivery of the re3 Joint Waste PFI Contract.

The report covered:

- re3 and Council Performance Statistics
- HWRC Trade Waste Service
- Data protection
- User Satisfaction
- Communications
- Reuse of Bicycles

Sarah Innes reported the performance statistics for all three Council the provisional

recycling rates for April 2021 – February 2022 were:

BFC – 56.4%

RBC – 51.4%

WBC – 54.2%

This was a decrease for all 3 councils on 0.3-0.4% compared to the figures within the report, quarter 4 was always the lowest performing quarter, however did not change the conclusions within the report which expected all Councils to be above 50% by the end of the year.

The limit of 100 registered businesses had been reached for trade waste, there were a handful of traders who visited on a regular basis, the majority of traders were inactive or infrequent users and therefore a user survey had been undertaken, there had been 15 respondents so far. Of those, 2 users said they had not visited in 2021, 4 users said that they had visited in 2021 quarterly. There had been comments from traders regarding the booking system which would be looked at. So far it had been concluded that Trade Users use the system infrequently therefore a trial was proposed that would allow traders to visit on a one off basis, all the documentation checks would still need to take place.

There were 30 users who had registered but had not used the scheme in the past year, who would be written too as there was currently a waiting list.

In 2018 a Data Protection policy had been written setting out guidelines for officers sharing personal data within the re3 partnership. This was an easy-to-read document which set out the principles to follow. This document had been reviewed and recirculated with staff.

A couple of years ago, there was a start up campaign in Wokingham called My Journey who had a single figure number of bikes to help people get around who needed it. Some bikes had also been sold via the pop-up shop and through Sue Ryder. There Officers would review the reuse of bikes and the terms under which they can be made available for other reuse interests as it was important to ensure that appropriate care is exercised in the case of bike reuse and handled appropriately. My journey still was in operation in Wokingham and fell under Councillor Bathth portfolio. Members in Bracknell Forest were looking at a Bicycle reuse scheme and would bring any proposals to the Board for consideration.

As a result of the Boards comments and questions, the following points were made:

- There was an issue in Reading with HMO landlords who needed to dispose of waste once tenants had moved out. They were unable to use Smallmead as they were not residents, the new scheme for Trade Waste would be open to them as long as their usage fit in with the site rules. Generic information to local business had been sent out, but it had specifically targeted landlords, but this could be looked at.
- The booking system used data held by the journey system and was only accessible by Sarah and the contractor.

**RESOLVED** that

- i. Members noted the contents of this report.

- ii. Members instruct Officers to develop and implement a trial, in which single deposits of trade waste can be accommodated at the re3 recycling centres, as described from 5.10 of the report.

60. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** that pursuant to Regulation 21 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulations 2000 and having regard to the public interest, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of item 7 & 8 which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

(3) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person.

61. **Contract Review Report**

The Board received the Contract Review Report which provided a strategic review of re3 shared waste PFI Contract for the re3 Joint Waste Disposal Board.

**RESOLVED** that

- i. Members note the contents of the re3 Contract Review.
- ii. That Members indicate their preference for how officers should approach preparing for decisions on future changes.

62. **Financial Report**

The Board received the Finance Report which briefed the re3 Joint Waste Disposal Board on the Partnership's current financial position and confirmed the second draft budget.

**RESOLVED** that

- i. Members note the Partnership's financial position for the year to date.
- ii. Members note the contents of this report.

63. **Date of the Next Board Meeting**

The next meeting would be held at 9.30am on 8 June 2022.

**CHAIRMAN**

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**TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD**  
**9<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

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## **Re3 WASTE PARTNERSHIP REPORT** **Report of the re3 Project Director**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This report accompanies presentations, made to the re3 Board by Officers and the Contractor, on the following items:

- Social Value delivered through the re3 contract
- Climate Change progress achieved
- Waste composition and potential financial benefits

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 That Members note the contents of this report and accompanying presentations.**

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

3.1 None for this report.

### **4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 The purpose of this report is to brief Members, in accompaniment to presentations to the re3 Board, in relation to three strategically important aspects of the councils' shared waste contract.

### **5 PROGRESS IN RELATION TO WASTE MANAGEMENT**

#### **Social Value**

5.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act came into force in 2013. It encourages public sector procuring organisations to seek a wider range of benefits through service provision. Specifically, local government has a duty to have regard for economic, social and environmental wellbeing through public service contracts. Since 2018, Social Value has been part of the evaluation process for large Government Contracts.

5.2 The concept of social value was not explicitly recognised during the award of the re3 contract. However, the service is largely focused on local provision and, with the support of the Contractor, FCC, it has been possible to evaluate the social value from the re3 Contract.

5.3 The Contractor has commissioned Thrive, a social value consultancy, to assist in quantifying the social value delivered through its contracts, including re3. The Thrive approach is fully aligned with the UK Government Social Value Model. As a result, the results can be confidently included within any statutory reporting.

5.4 The Contractor and Thrive worked together to select, from the Government model, the indicators that are applicable to the re3 contract. They are as follows:

- Tackling Economic Inequality

- Supply Chain Resilience
- Fighting Climate Change
- Wellbeing

- 5.5 In accordance with the Government rated values for the above example activities, Thrive and FCC calculated that the social value derived from the re3 Contract amounts to £18,911,007 per annum.
- 5.6 It represents a significant amount of inward investment, reflecting the shared nature of the contract and how the scale of working together can increase impacts.
- 5.7 The reporting of social value will be included in future reporting to the re3 Board. It may also be possible, as above, to utilise the Thrive and FCC calculations in assessing service changes and/or future developments within the re3 Contract.

**Climate Change**

- 5.8 At the re3 Board meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, officers reported that the re3 arrangements, over a 7-year period since 2015, had made considerable progress in reducing the climate impact of waste treatment.
- 5.9 Officers explained that further work would be undertaken, to incorporate important associated activities, such as haulage and energy usage. That work, with contributions from the Contractor, has now been progressed.
- 5.10 The updated information includes the use of oil and diesel average amount of CO<sub>2</sub>e (equivalent) emitted as a result of waste treatment in the re3 area has reduced from 117kg to 53kg (each per tonne of waste treated).
- 5.11 Table 1, below, shows how the combined activities and treatments contribute towards the overall climate change impact from managing, principally household, waste in the re3 area.

Table 1 - re3 CO2 Emmissions (kg/t)

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Recycling - Co2	821,463	766,014	741,979	769,397	754,621	785,098	878,133
Composted - Co2	235,481	295,222	229,655	217,306	225,227	223,865	231,054
Energy Recovery - Co2	1,533,030	1,555,541	1,882,646	1,640,358	1,691,299	1,857,388	1,556,676
Landfilled - Co2	20,309,790	16,828,278	9,765,432	13,473,672	9,963,145	7,662,259	4,659,573
Beneficial Use - Co2	11,228	8,131	2,139	1,820	1,580	1,266	1,708
Food Waste - Co2	0	0	0	0	46,125	71,949	179,143
Street Sweepings - Co2	172,997	312,295	332,499	329,373	366,306	322,554	275,294
Passthrough - Co2	305,379	266,931	220,486	201,646	117,708	80,516	95,716
<b>Total Waste Kg Co2e</b>	<b>23,389,369</b>	<b>20,032,412</b>	<b>13,174,836</b>	<b>16,633,572</b>	<b>13,166,010</b>	<b>11,004,895</b>	<b>7,877,295</b>
Fuel - Gas oil	396,255	386,503	336,373	336,248	333,006	312,849	367,059
Freight - Diesel	0	0	1,229,401	874,693	826,780	887,403	1,359,402
<b>Total Kg Co2e</b>	<b>23,785,624</b>	<b>20,418,915</b>	<b>14,740,610</b>	<b>17,844,512</b>	<b>14,325,796</b>	<b>12,205,147</b>	<b>9,603,756</b>
<hr/>							
<b>Total Co2 Kg Emmsions</b>							
<b>per Tonne of waste</b>	<b>117.80</b>	<b>103.47</b>	<b>81.11</b>	<b>100.02</b>	<b>80.40</b>	<b>66.69</b>	<b>53.43</b>

N.B. Diesel Figures for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 not available

- 5.12 The three councils have had some success, over many years, in reducing the amount of landfill utilised. That has been greatly helped, more recently, by the inclusion with the re3 arrangements of food waste processing – it’s influence can be seen from 2019 onwards.
- 5.13 Diverting more waste away from landfill and energy from waste (EFW) is achievable. This will require the councils to make their existing waste collections (for food and recyclables) even more effective.
- 5.14 The use of fuel has been added to the data in Table 1 since the last meeting. The level of haulage needed, in managing waste from the re3 area, will be challenging to address. The UK does not have enough waste treatment capacity – most importantly for recycling – at present. The re3 arrangements use very little non-UK treatment but moving waste around the country inevitably means using heavy good vehicles (HGV). This is an area for further consideration.
- 5.15 Officers will continue to monitor and report this information, so it can be used to support decision-making.

**Waste Composition and Potential Financial Benefits**

- 5.16 The re3 Project Team recently commissioned an analysis of the residual waste generated by residents in the re3 area. The analysis identifies the amounts of recyclable material that remain within waste for disposal, which is collected from residents. The results of the analysis are shown in Table 2, below.

Table 2 – Waste Composition Analysis Results (per council) and estimate of annual tonnage

Residual Waste Composition (%)					Tonnage 22/23			
Material	RBC	BFBC	WBC	Avg	RBC	BFBC	WBC	re3 Total
News & Pams	1.64	1.07	0.73	1.15	406	186	196	788
Mixed Paper	5.62	5.37	4.76	5.25	1,388	927	1,277	3,593
Card	5.58	2.12	3.39	3.69	1,378	366	908	2,652
Ali Cans	0.74	0.89	0.70	0.78	183	154	188	525
Steel Cans	1.03	0.64	0.36	0.67	255	110	96	461
PET Clear	2.20	4.41	1.41	2.67	543	762	378	1,684
PTT / Mixed Plastic	1.24	1.01	1.30	1.18	305	174	349	829
HDPE Clear	0.20	0.21	0.24	0.22	51	36	64	150
HDPE Jazz	0.23	0.19	0.18	0.20	57	33	48	138
Tetrapak	0.30	0.36	0.17	0.28	74	63	47	184
Metals (non cans)	0.93	2.62	2.76	2.11	231	452	741	1,424
Textiles	2.48	4.70	7.39	4.86	613	812	1,982	3,407
WEEE	2.18	2.05	2.01	2.08	539	354	539	1,432
Foil	0.42	0.39	0.20	0.34	103	67	54	224
Glass Bottles	5.31	5.08	4.62	5.01	1,312	878	1,240	3,430
Wood	0.91	1.88	1.38	1.39	224	325	370	919
Food Waste	27.43	19.16	20.71	22.43	6,779	3,309	5,553	15,641
Garden Waste	9.24	9.67	4.44	7.78	2,282	1,670	1,191	5,143
Nappies	6.70	10.23	6.98	7.97	1,656	1,768	1,871	5,295
Plastic Film / Bags	8.26	7.30	7.49	7.68	2,041	1,260	2,009	5,311
Other	17.36	20.65	28.76	22.26	4,289	3,568	7,713	15,569
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>17,274</b>	<b>26,814</b>	<b>68,798</b>

- 5.17 The left-hand block in the table above illustrates the different types of material within residual waste, and their relative proportions (as a % of overall weight). The right-hand block estimates the likely tonnage of each type, for 2022/23, based on the composition data.
- 5.18 The coloured rows (light-blue, pink and green), each represent a missed opportunity. In each case they are waste types which were present within residual waste, for disposal, even though they can be recycled via council collections or the HWRCs.
- 5.19 The bottom three, coloured, rows (grey) represent waste streams for which no current alternative to disposal exists. Further work will be undertaken to seek alternative treatments. In the case of 'Plastic Film/Bags' we know that it will become a requirement for this stream to be recycled by 2026/27.
- 5.20 There remain significant amounts of recyclable material available. Presented as in the table above, the overall amounts are as follows:

Category	RBC	BFC	WBC
Collectable from residents (t/pa)	14,217	8,684	13,660
Deliverable by residents (t/pa)	224	325	370
Collectable from or Deliverable by residents (t/pa)	2,282	1,670	1,191
<b>Total (t/pa)</b>	<b>16,724</b>	<b>10,678</b>	<b>15,221</b>

- 5.21 The re3 Project Team and Contractor, FCC, have undertaken further analysis of the composition data, to reflect the above results in a financial context.
- 5.22 The value to the councils, if all the above waste streams were recycled, and disposal costs were avoided, is assessed to be £3.31m.
- 5.23 The value to the councils, if some of the above waste streams, having been diverted from disposal, were sold at current market rates is assessed to be £1.69m.
- 5.24 Accordingly, the unrealised value for the re3 partnership, currently lost via residual waste, is assessed to be £5.00m per annum (£3.31m + £1.69m).
- 5.25 The re3 Project Team and Contractor will work with the respective council teams to support the greater capture of recycling, and to accurately target and measure savings.
- 5.26 A further composition analysis will be scheduled for 2023.

## 6 **ADVICE RECEIVED FROM ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY**

### Head of Legal Services

- 6.1 None for this report.

### Corporate Finance Business Partner

- 6.2 None for this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 None.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 None

Climate Impact Assessment

6.5 None.

**7 CONSULTATION**

7.1 Principal Groups Consulted

Not applicable.

7.2 Method of Consultation

Not applicable.

7.3 Representations Received

Not applicable.

Background Papers

None for this report

Contacts for further information

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**TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD**  
**16<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

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**PROGRESS REPORT**  
**Report of the re3 Project Director**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief the re3 Joint Waste Disposal Board on progress in the delivery of the re3 Joint Waste PFI Contract.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **That Members note the contents of this report.**

2.2 **That Members approve the recommendation at 5.20 to discontinue the reporting of Sainsbury’s bring bank tonnages and add a statement on the re3 website to highlight the separate nature of the council services.**

2.3 **That Members approve the recommendation at 5.31 to end the rigid plastics recycling trial and make the service a permanent arrangement at both recycling centres.**

**3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

3.1 None for this report.

**4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 The purpose of this report is to brief Members in relation to progress in delivery of the re3 Joint Waste PFI Contract.

**5 PROGRESS IN RELATION TO WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**Councillor and Stakeholder Briefing Sessions**

5.1 The re3 partnership is a significant and successful example of councils working together to provide services to residents.

5.2 The arrangements provided through the partnership are complex. For example:

- The shared facilities manage over 500,000 vehicles every year, receiving, sorting and hauling-onwards, to treatment or disposal, 175,000 tonnes of waste.
- There are 62 specific waste streams, managed through the re3 arrangements, and each sent to a specific destination and/or treatment.
- Market requirements for secondary materials, for recycling, often change daily. Nearly all of our waste remains in the UK, but some is exported to near-Europe.
- Economic factors and developments in packaging, mean that the content of waste is changing all the time.

5.3 In preparation for significant developments in waste over the next few years, the re3 Project Team is preparing some Member and Officer briefing sessions about the re3 shared arrangements. The sessions will be specific to each council, can be online or

in person, and will be arranged as convenient.

- 5.4 A further, online, session will be arranged for residents, in the autumn. It will be a chance for residents to hear about the shared arrangements, what happens to their waste and to ask questions.

**re3 and Council Performance Statistics**

- 5.5 The provisional recycling rates for 2021/22 are presented below alongside a comparison with 2020/21.

	2020/21	2021/22	Increase
BFC	43.5%	56.2%	12.7%
RBC	36.0%	51.5%	15.5%
WBC	49.5%	54.2%	4.7%

- 5.6 In Bracknell, there was a 33% reduction in kerbside residual waste following the introduction of three-weekly residual waste collections and the roll out of food waste caddies from March 2021. Of the reduced tonnage, about two thirds was diverted food waste. Some of the waste appears to have been diverted to the recycling centre and there was a 5% reduction in overall household waste arisings.

- 5.7 In Reading, there was a 34% reduction in kerbside residual waste following the introduction of smaller residual waste bins, and the roll out of food waste collections from February 2021. Of the reduced tonnage, just over half was diverted food waste. There was also an 8% increase in mixed dry recyclables, some waste was also diverted to the recycling centre and a 3% reduction in overall household waste arisings.

- 5.8 In Wokingham, there was an 8% reduction in kerbside residual waste. This probably reflects some return to normal following the first year of the pandemic; with more waste being received at the recycling centres. There was also a 2% reduction in the received tonnage of waste collected as ‘mixed dry recycling’ at the kerbside. Officers consider that a contributory factor may be the reduced moisture content, made possible through the introduction of waterproof bags. The waterproof bags enabled 100% of the waste to be processed via the MRF in 2021/22.

- 5.9 The provisional 2021/22 recycling rates for the re3 recycling centres are presented below alongside a comparison with 2020/21.

	2020/21	2021/22	Decrease
Longshot Lane	72.1%	68.5%	3.6%
Smallmead	76.3%	74.0%	2.3%

- 5.10 At Longshot Lane, there was a 24% increase in waste received, which included an 18% increase in recyclable waste, and a 41% increase in residual waste.

- 5.11 At Smallmead, there was a 35% increase in waste received, which included an 31% increase in recyclable waste, and a 48% increase in residual waste.

- 5.12 In 2020/21, recyclable waste received at the re3 recycling centres fell by 33% as a result of the pandemic, and residual waste fell by a similar amount – 37%. The greater increase in residual waste tonnages in 2021/22, may therefore be linked to the changes made at the kerbside.

- 5.13 The provisional recycling rates for April 2022 are presented below alongside a



comparison with quarter 1 of 2021/22.

	2020/21 (Qtr1)	2021/22 (April)
BFC	58.4%	56.5%
RBC	53.0%	51.7%
WBC	55.3%	56.5%

5.14 Members will observe that the April recycling rates for Bracknell and Reading, are below the quarter one figures for last year. Analysis shows that performance for April is actually slightly above the performance for April alone last year. However, the HWRC recycling rates were especially high in April, due to a smaller amount of residual waste being weighed out in this month. The Smallmead recycling centres was particularly high at 92%, and this will come down in the coming months. As a result it is probably too early at this stage to assess how performance in 2022/23 will compare to that from 2021/22.

**Supermarket Bring Banks**

5.15 The re3 Councils have a statutory duty to report Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW) via Waste Data Flow. LACMW is defined as any municipal waste which is collected under arrangements made by a local authority. This encompasses household waste, or similar, collected by the unitary authority directly or by formal or informal agreements with third parties.

5.16 Where a supermarket collects waste through its own private arrangements, the supermarket can voluntarily report data, and this can be included in Waste Data Flow returns as LACMW.

5.17 Over a number of years, the Sainsbury’s Supermarkets within the Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough areas have reported tonnages of glass, plastics, cans, paper and cardboard collected at recycling banks located at their stores. In 2020/21, Sainsbury’s bring banks contributed 0.76% to the Bracknell recycling rate and 0.62% to the Wokingham recycling rate.

5.18 Following notification in April that the off-taker (the company emptying the banks) for this material had changed, Officers sought updated information via council colleagues about the processing of this waste. In response it was confirmed that the plastics, cans, paper and cardboard collected at these banks is no longer recycled.

5.19 The bring bank arrangements at Sainsbury’s supermarkets are entirely separate to the kerbside or bring bank collections undertaken by the councils. The re3 Partnership has no control over how the Sainsbury’s waste is processed and no obligation to report this waste as LACMW.

5.20 Although the tonnage of recycled glass from this source outweighs the quantities of non-recycled materials, Officers recommend that we no longer include these tonnages in the Council statistics. If Members agree this recommendation, Officers will add a statement on the re3 website and re3cyclopedia app to ensure that residents are aware of the separation and to help prevent the recycling efforts of the re3 Partnership, and its residents, being undermined by the actions of a third party.

**re3Grow Compost**

5.21 Members will recall that 10,000 bags of 40L compost were ordered for sale at the Recycling Centre. The sales began in mid-March with more than 5,800 bags having been purchased by residents as of the end of May.

- 5.22 As Members will be aware, the Partnership also launched the Community re3Grow scheme on 13<sup>th</sup> of May. Through this scheme, local community groups are able to apply to receive free bags of compost to help promote environmental principles. In order to support improvement works in the re3 area, up to 5000 bags will be made available through this scheme in June, July and August.
- 5.23 The scheme has been advertised through a press release, newsletters and social media, as well as on the re3 website.
- 5.24 As of the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, 46 applications had been received. Officers will share details from the expression of interest forms with Members of the Joint Waste Disposal Board in early June so that decisions can be made about which applications to approve.
- 5.25 Officers look forward to receiving photos and data from the community groups who receive the re3Grow compost and will publish relevant information about the benefits of the scheme as it develops.

### **Rigid Plastics Recycling Trial**

- 5.26 Members will recall that a rigid plastics recycling trial commenced at both Recycling Centres in early July 2021. The purpose of the trial was to enable the costs and benefits of the service to be assessed.
- 5.27 At the meeting of the Joint Waste Disposal Board in December, Officers reported that the average cost per tonne in September and October stood at £133. Although this was below the cost of sending the same waste to landfill, Members agreed that the trial should be extended until June 2022, whilst Officers continued to work with the Contractor to ensure that transport of loads was efficient.
- 5.28 As no improvement was seen in the first few months of 2022, Officers requested that a joint meeting with the Offtaker and the Contractor take place in March. During this meeting, the offaker again confirmed that the weights could be further increased without compromising recyclability.
- 5.29 Officers are now confident that the cost of the recycling the plastics will remain consistently below the cost to send the same waste to landfill. Between January and April, the estimated cost was £134 per tonne, compared to £147 for landfill. During the course of the trial, no contamination payments have been requested and the reprocessor has confirmed that the material from re3 is of a high quality.
- 5.30 Residents have also continued to make good use of the service; with over 260 tonnes of rigid plastics having been sent for recycling in the nine months between July and March (inclusive).
- 5.31 Although a review of the transport arrangements will continue, it is recommended that Members request that this service now be made permanent. Our suggested target is to ensure that the cost of recycling rigid plastics is at least 15% below the cost of landfill.

### **Mixed Glass**

- 5.32 Members will recall that the re3 glass recycling banks began accepting mixed glass in November 2021. Machinery at the reprocessor sites separates the glass by colour, so that it can be recycled back into bottles and jars, without residents needing to separate the glass into multiple banks.

- 5.33 At the December meeting of the Joint Waste Disposal Board, Officers advised that the benefits were expected to include reduced numbers of overflows, options to optimise the collection schedules and more efficient transport.
- 5.34 A six-month review took place with the re3 Contractor in May 2022, to review the service. The data demonstrates the following:
- There were 38 overflows in the period between mid-November and mid-May. This compares to 67 overflows in the same period in 2018/19. (There were also significantly more overflows in the same period in 2020/21, but these were affected by higher tonnages experienced during the pandemic).
  - There were six initial sites that the Contractor identified where reduced collections are possible now that the risk of one bank overflowing, whilst others are partially empty, has been reduced. The councils are liaising with the Contractor about other sites where schedule changes may be possible. These will then be rolled out and monitored. Optimising the collection schedules has financial benefits for the councils and it may be possible to re-route the rounds to lead to environmental benefits also.
  - In April 2022, the glass trucks transported almost 2% more glass per load, than in the same month in 2021. Previously the vehicles had to return to the transfer station when a compartment in the vehicle became full. Now that separate compartments are not required, the transport has become more efficient.
- 5.35 It has been identified that there are a small number of sites where residents are continuing to separate their glass by colour. Feedback from the glass truck drivers indicates that some residents remain unaware of the recent changes. Although mixed glass stickers are already present on the banks, larger stickers will be produced for these sites, to reduce any confusion and to encourage mixing in the banks.

### **Communications**

- 5.36 On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, re3 launched the Community re3Grow Scheme, a joint venture between re3 and FCC Environment. Over the summer period, up to 5000 (40L) bags of re3Grow compost will be awarded to community groups in the re3 area for free. re3 will welcome expressions of interest from community groups who can demonstrate how the compost will be used for a community benefit. The provision of free compost is designed to promote recycling and community activities within the re3 area and a third of the bags will be available for allocation in each authority area over the course of June, July, and August. The lead members of the JWDB will decide which groups are awarded the bags.
- 5.37 re3 were made aware that there have been a few near misses at the HWRC's, due to children exiting cars whilst their guardians are using the facilities. We have planned some communications about safety on our sites, which we will be consistently promoting over summer.
- 5.38 Whilst engagement with residents who already follow our communication channels remains high, the re3 social media channels have not gained many new followers over the past quarter. In response to this, a targeted, paid advert has been created through Meta Business Suite, to advertise our page and services to the local re3 community. The advert will run for one month.
- 5.39 Filming for a planned series of educational videos about how recycling is sorted once it reaches our Smallmead facility is underway. The first video will focus on what happens to household recycling if it is contaminated with non-recyclable materials. The video will aim to educate residents about the consequences of contaminating

their recycling.

- 5.40 A new update was released to the re3yclopedia phone app at the end of May. The phone app now utilises a new barcode technology, that allows residents to scan their items to learn how to best recycle them. We have soft launched the update and are planning some more focused communications around the new app updates over the next quarter.
- 5.41 The MRF robot picker is now fully functional at the Smallmead facility. With the optimisation stage complete, the AI-driven waste picking robot is now fully technically and commercially operational, using computer vision to sort types of plastics and achieving purity with less than 1% contamination.

### **Council Objectives and Performance Information Review**

- 5.42 At the March re3 Board meeting, Members discussed the importance of corporate objectives being met through the delivery of the re3 contract.
- 5.43 The re3 Project Team has collated the existing corporate objectives of the three councils. They are shown at Appendix 1.
- 5.44 Appendix 1 also includes a list of other measurables, either related to statutory reporting or because it reflects an important business area for the partnership and shared arrangements.
- 5.45 At present, data and information about waste management can sometimes be requested and/or used in an ad hoc way by the councils. A more targeted approach would be beneficial – reflecting greater focus on objectively important areas of the business and to assist in directing resources appropriately. It is also important to ensure that performance information is given the same importance as financial information. Such approaches will be important in supporting the councils as legislative change emerges.
- 5.46 Accordingly, the re3 Project Team will undertake a review of performance information, supported by the Contractor. The purpose of the review will be to:
- a. Identify data collection, manipulation and sharing efficiencies.
  - b. Balancing the collection and use of information with genuine business needs.
  - c. Reducing the time burden of statutory reporting.
  - d. Move information processes towards emerging legislative requirements.

- 5.47 The re3 Project Team will share the results with the Board, at a subsequent meeting, for approval.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY**

### Head of Legal Services

- 6.1 None for this report.

### Corporate Finance Business Partner

- 6.2 None for this report.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 None.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 None

Climate Impact Assessment

6.5 None.

**7 CONSULTATION**

7.1 Principal Groups Consulted

Not applicable.

7.2 Method of Consultation

Not applicable.

7.3 Representations Received

Not applicable.

Background Papers

December 2021 re3 Board

Contacts for further information

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## re3 Joint Waste Disposal Board

Corporate Objectives (relevant, per council) as at re3 Board Meeting June 2022. Also listed are other performance-related information sources.

### Bracknell Forest Council

The [principal objectives](#) are listed on the BFC website.

	Description	Baseline 19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	Council Plan link
NI192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	42%	46%	50%	52%	5.2
NI192	Percentage of municipal waste land filled	18%	14%	10%	8%	5.2
L420	Levels of CO2 emissions directly attributable to the BFC estate	6,388t Co2e	6,085t Co2e	5,882t Co2e	5,679t Co2e	5.6

### Reading Borough Council

The [principal objectives](#) are listed on the RBC website.

Measure	Baseline	22/23	23/24	24/25
Food waste recycled (as percentage of total household waste)	13%	14%	15%	16%
Percentage of total household waste recycled	50%	51%	52%	53%
Carbon footprint (Reading) – reduction in carbon emissions (kilotonnes CO2)	49.3 (2019)	49.3 <sup>1</sup>	49.3	49.3

<sup>1</sup> The Reading Climate Emergency Strategy does not set interim carbon reduction targets prior to net zero by 2030. This figure is therefore based on the notional annual reduction required to reach net zero by 2030 assuming a straight-line reduction, which is unlikely to happen in reality. It should therefore be treated as indicative rather than as a specific target and will require national policy interventions and resources if it is to be achieved, as set out in Reading's climate emergency declaration.

Other relevant corporate objectives:

Initiative	Project
Driving social value through our contracts and procurement	Implement Social Value Strategy and reporting (internal training, link with external organisations and deployment of social value achieved)
Driving efficiency through contracts and procurement	Deliver a programme of work to ensure that we get the best value for money for the goods and services that we buy

## Wokingham Borough Council

The [principal objectives](#) are published on the WBC website.

A Clean and Green Borough	
We will work with our partners to	Reduce our waste, increase recycling and improve biodiversity.
What will success look like	Residents and businesses change their behaviours to do more to tackle climate change and the Council is seen as setting a positive example.
	Increased recycling and a reduction in general waste produced by each household.

Initiative	Project
Driving social value through our contracts and procurement	Implement Social Value Strategy and reporting (internal training, link with external organisations and deployment of social value achieved)

## Other Objectives or Required Measures

1. Information required for statutory reporting to Waste Data Flow (undertaken by the re3 Project Team and reflecting all waste movements and destinations).
2. Recycling Rate for the two Household Waste Recycling Centres.
3. Contamination and MRF Rejects.
4. Climate Change info (CO2 kg/t)
5. Composition of residual waste (and the associated financial implications)
6. Performance Mechanism information (contractual indicators)
7. Information required by Defra, to comply with the terms of the re3 partnership PFI support.

END.



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