

**TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD**  
**2 October 2012**

**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 since its last meeting on 12 July 2012.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note progress made since the last meeting on 12 July 2012.
- 2.2 That Members receive a further report on the impact of the Environment Agency guidance on Street Sweepings at a future JWDB meeting.
- 2.3 That Members give consideration to the request of the Contractor to amend the hours of access to 'overheight' vehicles as described at 3.14 to 3.16 in this report.

**3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**EA Guidance on Street Sweepings and Gully Emptyings**

- 3.1 As was reported at the Joint Waste Disposal Board meeting on 12 July 2012, the Environment Agency (EA) has issued guidance on the management of street sweepings and gully emptyings.
- 3.2 The re3 councils resolved to write to the EA in order to express our concern at the implications of the guidance. Copies were also sent to each of the Members of Parliament who represent the re3 area.
- 3.3 The councils are in receipt of a reply from the EA and it is attached at Appendix 1. While not exactly answering the queries raised in the council letter, the response leaves little scope for optimism at the present time.
- 3.4 Officers are aware that other local authorities and some representative bodies have also expressed their concerns about the implications of the guidance.
- 3.5 The original guidance described how the EA intended to revise the guidance towards in October 2012. The re3 councils should now await that revision before considering any further action.
- 3.6 In the meantime, we will continue discussions with our PFI Contractor on ways in which street sweepings might be pre-treated in order to comply with the prevailing EA guidance.
- 3.7 The re3 councils are, via a number of different officers, represented on various relevant bodies. Those officers should continue to report back on developments and seek to identify ways in which the impact of the guidance can be mitigated.
- 3.8 Officers will provide a further report on this issue once further detail, as described above, becomes available.

### **Contractor Rebrand**

- 3.9 As was reported at the Joint Waste Disposal Board meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July, our PFI Contractor has undergone a name-change as part of a rebranding exercise. Waste Recycling Group (WRG) Ltd, have become FCC Environment (UK) Ltd.
- 3.10 With advice from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services at Reading Borough Council, officers have written to the Interim Company Secretary at FCC Environment (UK) Ltd seeking final assurances that the re3 councils have been fully informed of any and all changes to the names of relevant companies.
- 3.11 Although officers have been informed that a reply is imminent, at the time of writing this report we have yet to receive a response from FCC Environment (UK) Ltd.

### **Mini-MRF and Retail Outlet**

- 3.12 Members will recall that officers have previously reported on this issue. In September 2011, officers reported feedback from the Contractor on our request for the consideration of what the two facilities would have cost had the Contractor provided them in accordance with their contractual undertakings. At the time, the information provided by the Contractor was insufficient and officers asked for further detail and consideration. Earlier this year the Contractor provided further information.
- 3.13 At a recent meeting, both parties reviewed the detail of the new information. While the information was helpful in some respects, both parties agreed that there were a number of mistakes in the financial data. The Contractor has agreed to review and resubmit its information.

### **Access to Household Waste Recycling Centre's (HWRC)**

- 3.14 The Contractor has requested a change to the period in which residents who have larger vehicles (and would not therefore fit under the height barrier) receive facilitated access to the HWRCs at Longshot Lane and Smallmead.
- 3.15 The Contractor would like to receive 'overheight' or larger vehicles between 4.00pm and 5.30pm. They are currently received between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at both sites.
- 3.16 The reasoning behind the request is that the later time would assist the facilities in accommodating such visitors. This is because activity at the sites is reduced later in the afternoon when most council refuse freighters have completed their schedule for the day. The later time should also prove to be more convenient to residents who have hired larger vehicles for DIY.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Board Reports 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012

## **CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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## **Appendix 1**

## Appendix 2