

**JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD**  
**19 SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**(10.00 - 10.51 am)**

Present: Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Helen Purnell (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Mary Temperton

Reading Borough Council  
Councillor Karen Rowland (Chair)  
Councillor Liz Terry

Wokingham Borough Council  
Councillor Jordan Montgomery

Officers Oliver Burt, re3 Strategic Waste Manager  
Monika Bulmer, re3 Marketing & Communications Officer  
Sarah Innes, re3 Performance Officer  
Damian James, Bracknell Forest Council  
Claire Pike, Bracknell Forest Council  
Richard Bisset, Wokingham Borough Council  
Chris Wheeler, Reading Borough Council

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Paul Fishwick, Wokingham Borough Council

**12. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**14. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**15. Progress Report**

Sarah Innes, Monitoring and Performance Officer for re3 presented the latest Progress report and drew members' attention to the following areas.

It has been the practice of the re3 Partnership to process plastic bottles and pots, tubs and trays in the UK. The contractor had recently advised that plastics could be sent into Europe for processing, making the most of market conditions. This would give flexibility for processing, as there was not going to be capacity in the UK for processing all of the UK's plastic. Recyclers in Europe would go through the same checks as the UK facilities.

It was noted that Flex Collect, who took the partnerships flexible plastic film were likely to be considering off takers in Western Europe.

A function on the check in app at the recycling centres would be enabled to allow certain visits of interest to be flagged. This was particularly relevant to the commercial vehicle permits and would be able to identify any abuse of the system. The data protection notice already stated that usage would be monitored and the disclaimed signed by users when they sign up for the scheme stated that any misuse of the system would be investigated. The data gathered would be used to help draft any relevant policies.

The trade waste service currently had a restriction of 100 users which had been introduced to ensure there was no negative impact on access for regular users into the sites. Between July 2023 and June 2024 39 businesses were removed from the scheme due to low usage or failing to confirm they wished to renew their permit upon expiry therefore it was recommended to the board that an admin fee be introduced to encourage traders to only apply if they intend to make sufficient use the scheme.

Monika Bulmer, re3 Marketing and Communications officer, briefed the board on the Reuse Strategy. At the boards March 2024 meeting a draft reuse and repair strategy had been presented. The final version had been included within the agenda. The strategy took into consideration feedback received by the board and the public consultation, of which 3000 residents had taken part. Following the feedback a priority that had been brought forward would be the donation of reusable items, pop up shops and other reuse activity would still continue.

The Annual Environmental Report for 2023-2024 had been published. Within the report it highlighted a successful year with a 95.3% landfill diversion rate and high customer satisfaction, with over 90% satisfaction at key recycling centres.

It was noted that the partnership had been shortlisted for three MRW National Recycling Awards in November 2024, this included award nominations for the Flex Collect project, the Re3Grow scheme and digital innovation.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- There were concerns about the environmental impact on plastics going to Europe and being transported on to other parts of the world.
- If there was no processor space for plastics in the UK, then it would have to be sent to Europe as the alternative options would likely be to send it to landfill or to burn it, which would have further carbon implications. The proposal within the report was seen as getting ahead of the game in respect of likely legislative changes especially as the UK does not have processing capacity. It was not expected that this was an imminent change.
- It was requested that further detail regarding locations, environmental and carbon impact be disclosed to ensure transparency to the board.
- GDPR was being followed for the retention of data in regard to the check in function being introduced on the app.

**RESOLVED that**

- i. Members note the contents of the report.
- ii. Members agree to the consideration of European offtake for plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, as described at 5.26 of the report.
- iii. Members approve the monitoring proposed for suspected trade abuse at the Recycling Centres, as described from 5.35 of the report.

- iv. Members approve the introduction of an admin fee for businesses who register to use the re3 Recycling Centre Trade Waste Service, as described at 5.37 of the report.
- v. Members endorse the final re3 Reuse Strategy set out in Appendix 6.

16. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** 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 item 7 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.

17. **Financial Monitoring Report**

Members received the Financial Monitoring Report.

**RESOLVED** that

- i. Members note the forecast financial position for the re3 Partnership as detailed at 5.1 to 5.8 of the report.
- ii. Members approve the proposed mitigations ((i) to reallocate, as WBC Grundon EfW tonnage, waste from BFC and RBC, and (ii) to redirect MRF reject waste from secondary processing, to Grundon as WBC waste) for the contractual tonnage shortfall, as described at paragraphs 5.9 to 5.28 of the report.
- iii. Members note that Officers will provide a detailed proposal on the Saving Options as described at 5.29 of the report, at the meeting of the JWDB in Spring 2025.

**CHAIR**