

JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD
24 APRIL 2025
(10.00 - 11.30 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 Martin Alder
Councillor Katrin Harding

Officers Oliver Burt, re3 Project Director
Monika Bulmer, re3 Marketing & Communications Officer
Sarah Innes, re3 Performance Officer
Steve McDonald, re3 Financial Officer
Damian James, Bracknell Forest Council
Claire Pike, Bracknell Forest Council
Steve Brown, Wokingham Borough Council
Richard Bisset, Wokingham Borough Council
Chris Wheeler, Reading Borough Council

29. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

30. Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Waste Disposal Board

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 February 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

31. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

32. Progress Report

Sarah Innes, re3 Monitoring and Performance Officer presented the progress report.

Members' attention was drawn to the issue of increased residual or non-recyclable waste being brought to the recycling centres, and it was recommended that a report be brought to the next meeting setting out proposals to encourage residents to recycle more and exploring the possible causes of more waste being brought to the recycling centres overall and its implications.

Officers had been considering how to promote third-party reuse schemes, as the Chair of the Joint Waste Disposal Board had been contacted by a provider. As a result of this, officers proposed a list of criteria which could be set for third-party reuse schemes to meet in order to be promoted by re3. Members were invited to consider the risks and benefits of promoting third-party providers, and to consider the appropriate due diligence checks which should be undertaken.

The installation of school uniform bins at recycling centres was anticipated to be a positive step to increase social value and maximise the use per item.

The electrical appliance reuse scheme had been paused to address issues around function testing, which had not been undertaken as expected. Officers were working to resolve the issues with the contractor, and to look at other options for the reuse of such items.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- The third-party provider in question operates collections on request. Residents can book a collection on their website when a collection is required.
- Members agreed that due diligence must be undertaken with any company wishing to benefit from Council promotion. It was clarified that the provider in question had been willing to provide officers with information, but the information may not meet with the standards expected by the councils.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- 1 the contents of this report be noted
- 2 a report be requested for the June meeting of the Joint Waste Disposal Board setting out proposals for reducing residual waste tonnages at the Recycling Centres, as described at paragraph 6.9 of the report.
- 3 the proposed route for Council promotion of third-party doorstep collections be endorsed, as described from 6.21.

33. **Communications Report**

Monika Bulmer, Marketing and Communications Officer presented the Communications report and highlighted the following areas for members' attention.

The re3 reread scheme had launched for residents in March 2025, and had been very well received. In the first month, 3000 books had been redistributed for use. The scheme had been promoted heavily on social media and had received excellent feedback. The scheme had been recognised in an upcoming "Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management".

The regrow community compost scheme was continuing into its fourth year, and popularity had been growing. Over 50 organisations had submitted expressions of interest for this year's distribution.

The reuse pop up shop event was popular and interest in the events are growing. A recent event in Reading had sold 160 items, equating to 1.2 tonnes diverted into reuse while raising funds for charity. The next event was to be held in June in Bracknell. Officers hoped that a similar event could be held in Wokingham in September if a suitable location could be found.

The report was noted.

34. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

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 and 10 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.

35. **Simpler Recycling Report**

Oliver Burt, re3 Project Director presented the Simpler Recycling report.

Members discussed the current position of each Council on the Simpler Recycling proposals.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- 1 the preferred option at 6.15 and the legal requirements and advice provided to members be noted
- 2 the contents of the report be noted, specifically the respective council positions which will be determined in their own democratic processes
- 3 the contents of the appended Communications Plan be noted, which will continue to be developed via consultation with the respective Communications Lead officers for the service

36. **re3 Engagement Report**

Oliver Burt, re3 Project Director presented the re3 engagement report and summarised the recent engagement with government.

Members discussed the correspondence received and discussed the next appropriate steps to take.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that

- 1 the contents of this report be noted
- 2 the plan to explore Options 1 to 3, in engagement with Government Departments, be supported
- 3 the proposal for engagement with the appropriate Government Departments described from 6.41 and 6.45 be supported

37. **Financial Management Report**

Steve McDonald, Finance Business Partner presented the financial monitoring report.

Members received the updated 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial positions.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- 1 the Year End financial position for the re3 partnership be noted as detailed at 5.1 to 5.8 of the report
- 2 the variances between the respective FY25/26 Council approved Budgets compared to the re3 proposed budget at 5.9 be noted

3 the cumulative RPIX figure for the 11 months to 28th Feb 2025 at 5.10 be noted

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

12 June 2025, 10am (Annual General Meeting) – Wokingham Borough Council

CHAIRMAN