

JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD
23 APRIL 2026
10:00AM-12:30PM

Present:

Councillor Karen Rowland, Reading Borough Council (Chair)
Councillor Martin Alder, Wokingham Borough Council
Councillor Katrin Harding, Wokingham Borough Council
Councillor Helen Purnell, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Ryan Frost, Bracknell Forest Council

1 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Liz Terry, Reading Borough Council.

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Waste Disposal Board

The minutes of the Joint Waste Disposal Board held on 5 February 2026 were approved as a correct record, subject to slight amends.

1 Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

1 Progress Report



If you require further information, please contact: Lois Miller
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WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Sarah Innes, re3 Monitoring and Performance Officer and Monika Bulmer, re3 Marketing and Communications Officer presented the Progress report.

Members were advised that provisional recycling figures for the period April to January showed a variance ranging between 0% and -1.8% compared with the same period in the previous year across the councils. Members acknowledged the presentation of funds raised to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and recognised both the importance of the service and the contribution made by residents through pop-up shop activity.

An update was noted on reuse initiatives, including the continuation and expansion of book reuse activity. It was reported that books were being redistributed through a range of partner organisations, Council events, and charities, reducing waste and supporting local communities. The commitment of staff and contractors to supporting these initiatives alongside their existing workload was acknowledged, and members were advised of forthcoming pop-up shop activity at the Reading Recycling Centre.

In response to members' questions, the following points were noted:

It was noted the provisional recycling performance figures and that officers would continue to monitor trends across the year.

- Members acknowledged the successful fundraising for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and the role of community participation in pop-up shop events.
- Members noted the continued development of reuse initiatives, including redistribution of books through charities and Council family events.
- Ideas were discussed for future consideration, including learning from other authorities on emergency response measures within waste services, noting existing contractor training and practices.
- Members were advised that reuse schemes and tonnages would continue to be monitored as the initiatives matured.

Having discussed the matter, it was **RESOLVED** that

- 1 the contents of this report be noted

1 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

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 items 10, 11 and 12 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.

1 **Financial Management Report**

Stephen MacDonald, Finance Business Partner, presented the financial management report.

Having discussed the report, it was **RESOLVED** that

1. Members note the Forecast financial position for FY26/27 as detailed in the report.
2. That Members note the FY26/27 Budget Pressure.
3. That Members note the Benchmarking exercise as detailed in the report.
4. That Members note the passthrough costs position as detailed in the report.
5. Members instead requested that the Project Director liaise with the Contractor to identify a bottle bank transition programme which recognises and best accommodates the councils' individual and collective requirements.
6. That Members support the proposed approach in regard to the potential overcharging of DIY waste as detailed in the report.

1 **Flexible Plastics Report**

Oliver Burt presented the Flexible Plastics report.

Having discussed the matter, members **RESOLVED** that

1. The contents of this report be noted.
2. Members indicate a preference for options, for sorting and onward processing, to be pursued to a Business Case
3. That Members indicate a preference for options, for roll-out and collection of flexible plastics, to be pursued as part of a Business Case

1 **Contract Transition Report**

Oliver Burt presented the re3 Contract Transition report.

Having discussed the matter, members **RESOLVED** that

1. The contents of this report be noted.
2. That Members endorse the design principles listed in the report.
3. That Members recommend the adoption of the design principles listed in the report, by each Council.
4. That Members recommend the respective re3 councils formally adopt the inter authority agreement (IAA) for the Outline Business Case phase for a new waste management contract.
5. That Members recommend the preparation of an re3 plan for its role in, and aspiration for, a regional collaboration on waste management.

1 **Risk Register**

1 Oliver Burt presented the re3 Risk Register report.

Having discussed the matter, members **RESOLVED** that

1. That Members note the contents of this report and specifically the risk actions identified at Appendix 1.

1 **Date of the Next Board Meeting**

Board members agreed the date of the next Joint Waste Disposal Board meeting will be on the 11th June 2026.

CHAIR