

JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD
24 JUNE 2025
(10.00 - 11.55 am)

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

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

Wokingham Borough Council
Councillor Martin Alder
Councillor Katrin Harding

Apologies Councillor Mary Temperton

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
Pam Rowe-Jones, Wokingham Borough Council
Richard Bisset, Wokingham Borough Council
Chris Wheeler, Reading Borough Council

1. Election of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Karen Rowland be elected Chair of the Board for the municipal year 2025/26.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Helen Purnell be appointed Vice-Chair of the Board for the municipal year 2025/26.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

6. Progress report

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

The implementation of the Controlled Waste Regulations had resulted in a free allowance for disposal of DIY waste per household. At the request of members, officers had looked into expanding the range of items which could be recycled at the sites for items which were not classified as DIY waste. Officers had investigated the charging structures across other authorities and proposed a single price point approach to ensure clarity for the public and staff at the sites. If agreed, the pricing structure for non-DIY waste would be implemented from the end of September 2026. It was clarified that the free allowance per household for DIY waste would still apply.

The Flex Collect trial and funding was due to finish in March 2026. Officers offered to present a report to the next Board meeting to set out the learning from the trial and preparations for any similar future service. Members were reminded that they would also be required to make a decision on the service provided to the existing cohort of households on the trial.

The wording on third party services was now on the re3 website, and the three councils may wish to add something similar to their own websites.

The WRAP trial was awaiting a final contract sign off and this would be shared with Assistant Directors of each Council for approval.

Monika Bulmer, re3 Marketing and Communications officer presented the communications elements of the progress report and drew members' attention to the following areas.

The National Civic Amenity Conference was due to be held in Reading on 10 July 2025, organised by a national organisation to focus on best practice in the sector. Re3 would act as the event's cohost, and would be providing site visits before and after the event. The Chair of the Joint Waste Disposal Board would be invited to give a welcome speech, and re3 had been offered a speaking slot to showcase the current reuse activity.

A bid for funding for a behavioural change communication campaign had been successful and would be used to target food waste communications in the autumn. Communication activities were being finalised, and all materials from the programme would be available to all partners to use.

The pop up shop on 15 June had been the most successful event so far with 360 items sold, and 2.2 tonnes worth of items diverted from waste. Another event was hoped to be organised in September in Wokingham, if the right location could be found for the off-site event.

In response to questions on all elements of the report, the following points were noted:

- Residents would be informed of the non-DIY waste charges by social media campaigns, signage on site, and messages through the booking system.
- Members noted that the non-DIY waste charges likely remained cheaper for residents than booking a skip.
- It was suggested that small items such as toilet seats and single towel rails should be specified in the charging schedule.
- It was noted that the DIY waste items could not be reused. The charges would only apply to construction and demolition waste, and not to freestanding items such as bookcases.

- The intention behind a single price point was to keep the approach simple for residents and staff, and all efforts would be taken to minimise impact on staff at the sites.

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

- 1 Members note the contents of this report.
- 2 Members approve the expansion of the Recycling Centre 'DIY' charges, as described at 6.16, and instruct Officers to refine the proposed charging structure and implement this from September 2025.
- 3 Members request a final report on the FlexCollect trial be brought to the Joint Waste Disposal Board meeting in September, as described at 6.19.

7. **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 items 9, 10 and 11 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

8. **Strategy Report and Draft Waste Management Strategy**

Sarah Innes and Monika Bulmer presented the initial thoughts for the Waste Strategy and members discussed the proposals.

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

- 1 the contents of this report be noted
- 2 officers from each council be requested to work together to submit a final draft of the re3 Strategy to Members at the September Joint Waste Disposal Board meeting, as described at paragraphs 6.9 and 6.10
- 3 appropriate officers from each council be requested to outline and describe the process for public consultation of the re3 Strategy, as described at paragraph 6.11 (noting the potential requirement to extend the deadline for adoption)
- 4 Members agree to monitor the delivery of the adopted re3 Strategy at this Board and at the appropriate forum within each council, as described at 6.12

9. **re3 Contract Transition report**

Oliver Burt, re3 Project Director presented the re3 contract transition report.

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

- 1 the contents of this report be noted

- 2 a subsequent update report be submitted to the September 2025 meeting of the Joint Waste Disposal Board.

10. Financial monitoring report

Steve McDonald, re3 financial officer presented the financial monitoring report.

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

- 1 the Forecast financial position for the re3 partnership be noted as detailed at 6.1 to 5.10 of this report
- 2 the Passthrough Cost Reconciliation for FY24/25 be noted as detailed at 6.11

11. Date of the Next Board Meeting

18 September 2025, 10am (Reading Borough Council)

CHAIRMAN