

TITLE	Re3 Waste Strategy
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 30 June 2016
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Heather Thwaites, Director of Environment
LEAD MEMBER	Angus Ross, Executive Member for Environment

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Residents receive better value for money through both their Waste collection and disposal services.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive is recommended to:

- a) endorse the Re3 Strategy;
- b) note that a report on the Council's Waste Policy and Collection options will be brought forward for consideration in the Autumn

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Re3 Strategy is a framework for enhanced delivery for the Re3 Partnership comprising Wokingham, Bracknell Forest and Reading Borough Councils. The Strategy is intended to articulate the aspirations of the partnership, in consideration of the strategic challenges facing the waste services and the councils. There are four key themes around which the Strategy has been developed:

- Reduce the net cost of waste
- Recycle 50% by 2020
- Capacity
- Supportive Systems

The Strategy reflects a desire and necessity to work more collaboratively across the three Councils and also reflects the strong correlation between Waste collection and disposal hitherto managed more distinctively.

Background

During the last few months the Re3 Board has been working hard to develop an enhanced understanding of its role and function within the current financial climate. This Strategy is the culmination of the three Councils' determination to work more collaboratively and strategically to ensure greater value for money for residents in challenging financial times. Its main aspirations are to reduce the net cost of waste and improve performance to reach 50% recycling and re-use by 2020 (as required by the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011). Failure to meet this target could result in a fine of up to £0.5 million directly to Wokingham Borough Council.

Analysis of Issues

The Strategy describes the collaborative process by which data was gathered from all three Councils. The data leant itself to four themes:

1. Reduce the net cost of waste
This reflects the need of all three Councils to prioritise spend more impact fully within constrained budgets
2. Recycle 50% by 2020
This acknowledges the need to improve performance as recycling is financially as well as environmentally preferable to disposal
3. Capacity
Each of the three authorities will be experiencing population growth over the forthcoming years and this objective recognises the resultant increasing pressure on Re3 services.
4. Supportive Systems
This underpins how the partnership will work and the scope for sharing and increasing its efficiency and impact.

The 23 individual objectives are intended to either deliver a direct performance improvement or provide the basis for an informed policy decision by the partnership or individual council. Any financial investment that might arise in delivery of any of these objectives would be the subject of a further Executive decision. It is proposed that the strategy is renewed annually and monitoring of performance is undertaken quarterly by the Joint Waste Disposal Board.

Of particular note for Wokingham Borough Council is objective G3 where specific targets have been set for the Borough to increase recycling and reduce the contamination of kerbside recycling as its overall contribution to the collective targets.

In order to fully support the Council's ability to meet these objectives and whether the current collection arrangements are fit to enable this, it is proposed that options for future waste policy and collection options are brought forward for the Executive to consider in the Autumn. This is timely as consideration needs to be given to the current Waste collection contract which can be retendered or extended in 2019.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Should save as recycling is a more financially efficient		Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

The potential fine for Wokingham Borough Council for not meeting the 2020 recycling target could be up to £0.5 million per annum. Any financial investment that might arise in delivery of any of these objectives would be the subject of a further Executive decision.

Cross-Council Implications

None

List of Background Papers

Re3 Waste Strategy - 2016/17 (DRAFT)

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