TITLE	**Approval of re3 Waste Strategy**
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 27 September 2018
WARD	None Specific;
DIRECTOR	Director of Locality and Customer Services - Josie Wragg
LEAD MEMBER	Executive Member for Environment, Leisure and Libraries - Norman Jorgensen

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

To adopt the re3 Waste Strategy approved by the re3 Joint Waste Board on 27th April 2018 which lays down specific actions. The EU Waste Framework Directive 2008 sets a new recycling and re-use target of 50% for certain waste materials from households and other origins similar to households to be achieved by 2020. This target has been transcribed into UK law and will remain after Brexit.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive:

1) adopts the re3 Strategy 2018-2020 as recommended by the re3 Joint Waste Disposal Board on 27th April 2018;

2) notes the outline objectives allocated to Wokingham within the Strategy in attachment 1 to the report and below in the Executive Summary .

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The re3 Strategy principally relates to the statutory waste disposal function of the re3 Partnership comprising of Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham Borough Councils. It is an important document because, once adopted, it will represent both:

(i) the specific performance targets for the individual re3 councils, and

(ii) the agreed consensus within the re3 Partnership in support of strategic development up to 2020.

The re3 Strategy aims align with those of the WBCs aspirations laid out in the January Executive Report, which approved the collection of food waste from 1st April 2019.

The re3 Strategy for 2018-2020 has two principal aims. They are:

• Reduce the net cost of waste
• Recycle 50% by 2020

<u>Wokingham specific targets as detailed below:</u>

- 52% overall recycling rate (with the introduction of food waste)

- 26% of the overall recycling deriving from the kerbside – garden waste, black boxes and food
- In addition 9% of total waste that goes to “energy from waste” is “incinerator bottom ash” although not allowed to be counted in our overall rate is actually recycled therefore should be noted within the Strategy

Both aims require enhanced collaboration between the statutory waste disposal function and the statutory waste collection function. However, while the re3 Board is constituted to manage the former, its composition (and the supporting officers) affords the individual partner authorities, and their respective relevant waste functions, with the capacity for genuine strategic partnership. This capacity for collaboration is a key opportunity and practical strength of the shared arrangements on waste.

The re3 Strategy objectives, which provide a focus for strategic activity over the range of issues affecting the re3 Partnership are as follows:

1. The re3 Strategy once again prioritises food waste (objectives A and H) because it is a waste management issue which has both direct and indirect financial outcomes for residents;
2. It includes a series of targets and indicators for each individual council (C1-C3);
3. It includes targets for the two re3 Recycling Centres and for the Material Recycling Facility (MRF);
4. Objectives (F, G, K and L) relate to the ongoing development of waste management facilities;
5. The strategy identifies the potential for the re3 Councils to work alongside the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in response to concerns about the amount of plastic waste, continue building on the recent campaign on the recycling of pots, tubs and trays, consistent engagement with residents, at local and partnership levels, is absolutely essential in achieving higher levels of recycling and efficient services.

Reducing the net cost of waste – It should be noted that by diverting waste from the most expensive forms of general waste disposal (energy from waste & landfill) to recycling we can deliver marginal savings of around £100 per tonne and at the same time add to our overall recycling rate. This in turn means that developing campaigns to achieve this can be cost effective. This is especially true of maximising existing services like the black boxes, green waste collection and the glass bank system, which this Strategy sets out to do.

BACKGROUND

In 2006 the WBC entered into a partnership with Bracknell Forest & Reading Councils to form re3 and let a 25 year PFI Contract for the disposal of the waste from the three Councils which will run until 2031 with FCC.

The partnership has been a great success with two excellent household waste recycling centres at (HWRCs) at Longshot Lane, Bracknell and Smallmead, Island Road, Reading. The Contract also provides a materials recycling facility (MRF) as Smallmead and two waste transfer stations at the two sites above.

The Contract was set up to primarily deal with waste disposal but as the Contract has progressed, it's been noted that both collection and disposal are intrinsically linked with each having an effect on the other. This is particularly the case when trying to improve recycling performance, which for Wokingham has remained static at around 40% since 2010/11.

In 2012 the Council introduced containment (80 blue bags per annum) for the first time and saw residual waste fall by 20% in 2012/13 and this restriction on household waste saw kerbside recycling rise by 30%. However, since that time and as mentioned above recycling has remained static over that period.

BUSINESS CASE (Including Options and Evidence of Need)

The re3 Strategy reviews the following strategic schemes and discussions:

• A brief analysis of the background to re3 performance since commencement of the re3 Contract in 2006/07.

• Background information about current discussions within the waste management industry, around new approaches to measuring waste performance. Traditionally this has been based on the mass (tonnes) of the waste being managed. However, other indices, such as the carbon impact of waste, are increasingly being mentioned as offering a more relevant perspective.

• The re3 Strategy introduces a means of illustrating the cost of waste (as our current most relevant perspective) alongside the tonnage.

• The relationship between policies on waste collection and waste management/ disposal, and vice versa. This is particularly important in ensuring that the impact of policy changes are fully understood and intended outcomes are delivered.

• Finally, the background information reviews the growing relevance of flats and multiple occupancy dwellings. As household numbers continue to rise across the re3 area, the proportion of such properties is growing. While high levels of performance are harder to achieve in these types of development, they cannot be overlooked. There is a continuing need for collaboration on best practice and operational solutions.

The introduction of food waste recycling will go a long way to achieving 50% to 52% recycling by 2020 by adding approx. 7% to our overall recycling figure which, as previously stated hovers around 40%. In addition to this we expect to add; 1.5% to 2% by increasing kerbside materials (pots, tubs, trays, foil and cartons added in February

2018), 0.5% to 1% by increasing glass banks by 25% across the borough to 50 by 2020 and 1.5% to 2% by reducing contamination in our kerbside recycling.

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)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	Revenue

Whilst there are no specific financial implications arising from the adoption of the re3 Strategy, the delivery of its objectives will be the subject of future decisions and the reports that support them will detail relevant businesses cases detailing specific financial outcomes. These will build on the understanding around the marginal saving of around £100 per tonne when diverting waste from disposal outlets to recycling.

Other Financial Information
None

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation
N/A

Resourcing and Timeline for Next Steps
This Strategy will be managed within current resources in Place Clienting and re3 colleagues will be implementing the Strategy

Timeline for Review and Evaluation
Outline consideration of options for future development reported to the re3 Board before the end of 2019.

List of Background Papers
None not included in report

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