

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

26 March 2010

Food and Garden Waste Treatment Update

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the OWP on progress on the food waste project.

2 Progress

- 2.1 The Food Waste Treatment contract has now been signed and the project has moved to an implementation stage. Agrivert Ltd is the successful company with their variant bid to provide three food waste recycling plants within the County. Agrivert have reached financial close with their funders hence mitigating the last major risk to the project.
- 2.2 Food waste collections started in South Oxfordshire in June 2009. Feedback from all parties involved is positive with the collections going well. The food waste being collected is mostly free of contaminants. Cherwell started to roll out their fortnightly food and green waste collection in October and Oxford City started trialling their collection scheme in November.
- 2.3 All Waste Collection Authorities have now signed an agreement between the County and Districts regarding the delivery of food waste and provision of facilities. This document confirms each party's commitment to delivery of food waste, and acknowledges the implications of any deviation from these plans to either party.
- 2.4 The in vessel composting plant at Ardley formally opened in February. The second plant will be the anaerobic digester at Cassington, which is planned to open in August 2010. Depending on demand and subject to planning a third reception point for food waste will be delivered in South Oxfordshire in 2011. All household food waste collected in Oxfordshire is now being processing in the county.
- 2.5 The Waste Collection Authorities that do not already collect food waste are preparing to introduce food waste collections so by the end of this year every house in the county should have a food waste collection service.
- 2.6 The delivery of local food waste processing means there is a now an opportunity for trade food waste to be collected separately and diverted from landfill.

All Waste Collection Authorities, with the exception of Vale are utilising the new contract for the composting of their household green waste. It is anticipated that Vale will also use the contract from October 2010.

3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 As previously reported, shared commitment to this project is important as the contract requires the County Council to deliver minimum tonnages of food and food and garden waste to the facilities, with penalty payments incurred for failure to meet these.
- 3.2 A food waste agreement has been signed by all authorities which demonstrates the Partnership's commitment to the initiative.

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- 3.3 Food waste collection arrangements need to be carefully introduced and managed to ensure contamination levels are kept at a manageable level. If contamination levels are too high some food waste may have to be sent to landfill.

4 Areas Affected

- 4.1 County wide

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

- 5.1 The procurement of food waste processing capacity is in accordance with policy 6 of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, to increase recycling and composting.

6 Options or Alternatives

- 6.1 N/A

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 To note and support the progress made on the delivery of the food waste processing infrastructure.

8 Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 To demonstrate OWP support for the treatment of food waste within Oxfordshire.

9 Contact Officer

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