

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

26 March 2010

New Initiatives Fund Bids

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present three New Initiative Fund (NIF) applications for approval.

2 Background

- 2.1 The NIF forms part of the OWP Financial Arrangements that are set out within the OWP Constitution. The NIF pools reward grant received for achieving Public Service Agreement (PSA) and more recently Local Area Agreement (LAA) stretch targets on recycling. The fund was established in April 2007 and has to date awarded some £822,145 for waste management projects and schemes delivered by Partner Councils.
- 2.2 OWP agreed an amendment to the NIF approval process in March 2009, when it was agreed that any bids in excess of £50,000 should be brought before the Joint Committee for approval. Bids below £50,000 should continue to be determined by the Chair in consultation with the Co-ordinator, with a period allowed for “call-in” by members of the Committee (Minute 49).
- 2.3 Three NIF bids in excess of £50,000 were considered at the Officer Strategy Group meeting on 5th March 2010. These bids are attached at **Appendices 1 to 3** and are summarised in table 1 below.

Table 1 NIF bids seeking funding

<u>Bid ref No.</u>	<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Funding sought</u>
NIF020	Vale of White Horse District Council	Introduction of food waste collections	£82,400
NIF021	South Oxfordshire District Council & Vale of White Horse District Council	Flats food waste & recycling scheme	£92,100
NIF022	Oxfordshire County Council	New Waste Recycling Centre	£200,000

A fourth bid considered at the OSG meeting, a pilot bring site for commercial waste recycling, sought £33,473 funding. This bid has since been approved by Cllr Tanner and circulated to members of the Joint Committee for comment/query. Funding for this bid will be awarded on 23rd March if there are no further issues raised by Joint Committee members by this date. A list of all NIF bids supported to date is given in **Appendix 4C**.

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3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 A NIF budget position is set out in **Appendix 4A** and summarised in **Appendix 4B**. **Appendix 4B** shows that if funding for the bids outlined in table 1 above is awarded then there would be a total of £397,719 remaining for allocation to projects (£106,454 revenue and £291,265 capital).
- 3.2 The payment of the LAA1 Performance Reward Grant (PRG) is made in two stages. The first stage payment of £259,412 (£77,824 revenue and £181,588 capital) is due in March 2010, with the second stage payment of an equivalent sum to be made in 2010/11. This creates a cash flow issue, which is also outlined in appendix 4B. Each of the bids outlined in table 1 can be funded once the first stage LAA1 payment is made later this month. However, ahead of receipt of the LAA PRG payment, approving all three bids within table 1 would result in the NIF being over-allocated. It is recommended that any approval made at today's meeting is made subject to the receipt of the first stage payment of the LAA1 PRG.

4 Areas Affected

- 4.1 Areas affected by the NIF bids seeking approval are Vale of White Horse District Council (bid ref no.s NIF020 and NIF021) and South Oxfordshire (bid ref no. NIF021). The proposed new Waste Recycling Centre to be constructed by Oxfordshire County Council (bid ref. no. NIF 022) is to be located near Kidlington, but will be available to residents from all areas of the county.

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

- 5.1 The NIF forms part of the Financial Arrangements Agreement, which is part of the OWP Constitution. The NIF was established to help meet the one-off or start up costs of new projects and schemes that help implement the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The NIF specifically supports policy 14, which states that "The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will develop methods of working together to improve the level of service through effective and efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire".

6 Options or Alternatives

- 6.1 Members may choose to award, partially award or refuse funding for the three bids listed in table 1.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the NIF bids listed in table 1 are awarded funding, subject to the receipt of the first stage payment of the LAA1 PRG for achievement of the recycling target.

8 Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 To develop the best overall waste management outcomes for Oxfordshire taxpayers and to develop incentivisation arrangements that help achieve this.

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Background Papers: