

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

26th MARCH 2010

A SHARED WAY FORWARD FOR OXFORDSHIRES WASTE

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to outline the role of the Environment Agency with respect to waste in Oxfordshire. It highlights aims and values shared with the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) to initiate discussion on a shared way forward for Oxfordshire's waste.

2 Background

- 2.1 See Appendix.

3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4 Areas Affected

- 4.1 Countywide

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

- 5.1 The work of the Environment Agency supports and impacts upon many of OWP's strategic objectives. A number of common aims are set out within the appendix.

6 Options or Alternatives

6.1

7 Recommendations

7.1

The OWP are asked to provide comment on the following points:

- Do the committee agree that this paper reflects their understanding of waste issues within Oxfordshire?
- Does the committee agree there is potential for joint working based on our shared challenges and aims for waste in Oxfordshire?
- Does the committee have any suggestions on how we work to do this?

8 Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 To strengthen partnership working between OWP councils and the Environment Agency.

9 Contact Officer

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Background Papers: Appendix 1

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The Challenge

The current economic climate adds to the pressure that is already on individuals, businesses and organisations to adapt to climate change in Oxfordshire. We all have a challenge ahead of us in terms of achieving our goals and encouraging householders, businesses and industry to manage waste in a sustainable way. In order to minimise waste to landfill and reduce green house gas emissions in Oxfordshire it is important we utilise our shared aims and values to promote consistent messages and provide leadership to the communities.

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Environment Agency Corporate Strategy – Creating a Better Place 2010 - 2015

Our vision is for 'a better place for people and wildlife'. Our strategy aims to create a better place by securing positive outcomes for people and wildlife, in five key areas. We will:

1. Act to reduce climate change and it's consequences
2. Protect and improve water, land and air
3. Work with people and communities to create better places
4. Work with businesses and other organisations to use resources wisely
5. Be the best we can

We have 10 supporting strategies underpinning our overall goals. These contain strategic aims for each work area. The strategic aims for waste management are shown in the table below and share many similarities with the core objectives of the OWP.

Climate change underpins all of our work. The waste sector need to adapt to cope with warmer climates and extreme weather which can affect waste decomposition rates in landfills, dust generation and the risk of pollution through damaged infrastructure.

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The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership core objectives share many similarities with Environment Agency aims for waste and resource management:

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership - Core Objectives	Environment Agency - Strategic aims for waste management
Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce waste first, then reuse, recycle & compost resources, recover value and, as a last resort, dispose of waste.	<p>Businesses and other organisations know what the most sustainable options are for managing waste and using resources wisely.</p> <p><i>We achieve this by providing advice & guidance and through our regulatory activities.</i></p> <p><i>We apply this at the point waste arises.</i></p>
Promote waste reduction, reuse & recycling initiatives to Oxfordshire communities to help everyone manage their own wastes.	
Manage wastes through seeking the most appropriate and sustainable solution that protects the environment, including minimising the transport of waste.	
Assist the development of markets, especially those that are local, for recovered materials.	
Meet or exceed performance required by statutory and locally agreed targets.	<p>Businesses and other organisations are resource efficient, minimise pollution and manage their waste responsibly.</p> <p><i>We achieve this by providing advice & guidance, through our regulatory activities and enforcement of environmental crime.</i></p> <p><i>We apply this throughout the whole waste management process - when waste arises, when it is collected and when it is treated or disposed of.</i></p>
Lobby Central Govt. and work with local businesses to improve the efficient use of resources, reduce the impact of activities on resource consumption, which results in the production of municipal waste, and encourage them to take responsibility for the wastes they produce.	
Enable customer satisfaction through delivery of effective and efficient services to Oxfordshire residents that minimise the overall tax burden at the best possible value.	
Work together through the provision of co-ordinated services and infrastructure for waste collection, treatment, transfer and disposal to maximise efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire.	
Ensure that waste facilities are suitably sized and distributed and that site identification is informed in accordance with the Minerals & Waste Development Framework and the Regional Spatial Strategy.	<p>The right waste and resource management infrastructure is in place.</p> <p><i>We achieve this by providing advice & guidance, and through our regulatory activities.</i></p> <p><i>We apply this at the point waste arises and when it is treated or disposed of.</i></p>
Develop flexible and comprehensive waste management services that are robust and deliverable throughout Oxfordshire now and in the long term.	

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Environment Agency role in Oxfordshire:

The Environment Agency has a role in each of the key stages of waste management in Oxfordshire:

