

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

16 January 2009

PLASTIC BAG FREE TOWNS FUNDING

ITEM 14

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update on the issue of funds under the 2008/09 Plastic Bag Free Funding initiative, comprising £25,000 from the County Council and £7,700 from Oxfordshire Waste Partnership.

2 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 24th October 2008, the joint committee agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair be authorised to approve bids from applicants to become “plastic bag free” towns.
- 2.2 The first application window has now closed, and funds have been allocated to two towns: £2,000 to the Wallingford Plastic Bag Working Party and £2,070 to Sustainable Woodstock. Wallingford already have a cloth bag scheme, and want extra funding to sell the bags at a reduced price and therefore make them more attractive. Additional funding has been allocated to enable them to undertake attitudinal surveys within the town. Woodstock is a new volunteer group working closely with the local business organisation ‘Wake up to Woodstock’ and other groups. The funding will be used to set up a reusable cloth bag scheme.
- 2.3 A third proposal was received from the Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network, to set up localised reward voucher schemes, working with schools and businesses. Local business customers who use their own bags would be issued with vouchers which the schools would collect. The school collecting the most vouchers, and the business issuing the most, would get a financial contribution to an agreed environmental initiative. Scheme costs were between £14,700 and £24,200. OTCN has been asked for a more detailed cost breakdown and the bid will be considered for the next window in late January or early February.

3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 The two bids supported to date will be funded by the County Council. It has been agreed that OWP funds will be used once the County Council’s contribution of £25,000 has been allocated.

4 Areas Affected

- 4.1 The two bids supported to date cover Wallingford within the Vale of White Horse and Woodstock within the district of West Oxfordshire.

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

- 5.1 The Plastic Bag Free Funding initiative supports policy 1 of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy which states that OWP will “encourage the efficient use of resources, reduce resource consumption and take responsibility for the wastes they produce” and policy 3, which states that OWP will “help householders and individuals to reduce and manage their wastes through the provision of advice and appropriate services”.

6 Options or Alternatives

- 6.1 As this is the first funding initiative of its kind to be launched within Oxfordshire, comments or suggestions on the funding and bidding process are welcomed.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the report is noted.

8 Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 To promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives to Oxfordshire communities to help everyone manage their own wastes.

9 Contact Officer

- 9.1 Author: Eiles Robinson Tel: 01865 815908

Email: Eileen.robinson@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Background Papers: