

# OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

23 October 2009

## Local Area Agreement Street Cleanliness target

### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on work to achieve the Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2 target on street cleanliness.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 Under LAA1, which ended on 31 March 2009, Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) had two street cleaning targets. At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July it was acknowledged that these targets had not been met. The reasons for this and also a number of recommendations for improving future performance under LAA2 were also considered on 10<sup>th</sup> July. It was agreed that a further update report should be brought to today's meeting.
- 2.2 The street cleanliness target within LAA2, which runs from April 2008 until March 2011 is set out below.

Target	Description	08/09 target	08/09 performance	09/10 target	10/11 target	Current performance (April – Jul 09)
NI 195: Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)	To ensure that the percentage of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of litter and detritus that falls below an acceptable standard (below grade B) by March 2011 are 4% and 7% respectively, or less.	Litter 5% Detritus 9%	Litter 4.2% Detritus 15.4%	Litter 4% Detritus 8%	Litter 4% Detritus 7%	Litter 3 % Detritus 9 %

- 2.3 Whilst both Litter and Detritus levels are included within the LAA2 target. Performance Reward Grant (PRG) is only linked to performance against the Litter component of the target. The payment of PRG under LAA2 will be different to that under LAA1. Under LAA1 each target within the LAA had a PRG value attached to it. On achievement of the target, 50% of the associated PRG was paid to the thematic partnership that was responsible for its delivery, with the remaining 50% retained by the Public Service Board (PSB). The PSB subsequently invited bids from thematic partnerships for funding from the PRG that it

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retained.

- 2.4 Under LAA2 the total PRG available will be smaller. In Oxfordshire, up to £3.74 million will be available. This time, PRG will not be paid on achievement of individual targets. Reward will instead be based upon average performance across all LAA improvement targets agreed by local areas and government (there are 35 targets within the Oxfordshire LAA2). Reward will be payable from an average performance improvement of 60% against baseline targets. 40% is payable at this point, increasing on a sliding scale to 100% if all targets are met.
- 2.5 A contributory factor to the failure to reach the LAA1 street cleaning target was the quality of the performance monitoring information available. The NI 195 indicator is measured on a self assessment basis, based on inspections and gradings undertaken by district council officers. This introduces an element of subjectivity to the scoring, which OWP has sought to overcome by holding joint training days and a series of peer reviews. District officers now undertake an exchange visit with a neighbouring council, once every four months, to help ensure consistent scoring methodologies throughout the county. Additionally, all district councils have now begun NI 195 monitoring and reporting on a monthly basis, rather than on a four-monthly basis. This will improve the timeliness of performance information and allow trends to be spotted quicker. Monthly information will be available from all districts from this month onwards.

### **3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications**

- 3.1 The achievement of the LAA2 street cleaning target, along with the other LAA2 targets that the Environment and Waste Partnership is responsible for will contribute to raising the average performance score of Oxfordshire. This will help secure up to £3.74 million, which will be held by the PSB and be made available for projects that support the delivery of the Oxfordshire 2030 Sustainable Community Strategy. No PRG will be paid directly to thematic partnerships.

### **4 Areas Affected**

- 4.1 All Partner Councils are involved in the delivery of LAA2 targets.

### **5 Effect on Strategic Policies**

- 5.1 The LAA2 targets support a number of key policies within the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy on waste reduction and increased recycling & composting. Street cleanliness is a high local priority for district councils within OWP and contributes to the Oxfordshire 2030 pledge to keep the county clean and green.

### **6 Options or Alternatives**

- 6.1 PRG will be paid to the PSB. Under LAA1, thematic partnerships were then invited to bid for funding from the PRG. OWP submitted a bid, but was unsuccessful. However, the Environment Partnership was successful in obtaining £500,000 funding. The Environment and Waste Partnership may wish to engage with the PSB on developing priority areas for funding from future PRG and if applicable, consider a joint Environment and Waste application.

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### **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 That the report is noted and that improvements to the monitoring and reporting of NI 195 performance outlined in paragraph 2.5 are endorsed.

### **8 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 8.1 To ensure that the Local Area Agreement 2 target for street cleanliness is achieved.

### **9 Contact Officer**

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Background Papers: