

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE**25 MAY 2007****NEW INITIATIVES FUND****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the development of the OWP New Initiatives Fund and to seek approval to open the fund for bidding.

2 Background

- 2.1 At its last meeting on 30th March 2007, the OWP agreed to develop an allocation process for the New Initiatives Fund that was based on the submission of a standard pro-forma to the Officer Strategy Group (OSG). OSG will then make a recommendation to OWP on whether "bids" should be supported.
- 2.2 A list of criteria against which bids could be assessed was also agreed by the OWP on 30th March 2007. These are reproduced at Appendix 1. The criteria ensure that bids support the policies of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and comply with the principles set out within the OWP Partnership Agreement.
- 2.3 Application forms, together with an evaluation procedure have now been developed by the Officer Strategy Group (OSG). The OSG has also set out an assessment process, which is detailed in paragraph 2.4 below. These will form an application pack (with clear guidelines) for bidders.
- 2.4 Applications for funding from the New Initiatives Fund should be submitted to the OWP Coordinator. Once an application has been received:
- The application will be circulated to OSG members;
 - The application will then be considered as an agenda item at the next meeting of the OSG (subject to the application being submitted to the OWP Coordinator one clear week ahead of an OSG meeting).

At the OSG meeting:

- OSG members may either choose to recommend to OWP that the application be approved; or,
- may seek clarification and/or additional information on any part of the application; or,
- may recommend that amendments are made to the application.

If amendments, clarification or additional information are requested by the OSG, then the application will be reconsidered at the next OSG meeting or at a future date agreed by both the OSG and the applicant.

When the application has then been considered for this second time, OSG may choose to recommend to OWP (in the form of a written report) that the application be either approved or rejected. In the event that OSG is unable to reach agreement on a recommendation, then the matter will still be referred to OWP by way of a written report.

- 2.5 Oxfordshire County Council, which acts as Accounting Authority for the OWP is developing accounting systems for the fund.

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 The OWP Partnership Agreement states that “Partner Authorities agree to pay into this fund the reward grant...from the achievement of the PSA1 wastes target ...and any reward grant that becomes payable to them for the achievement of the LAA stretch target on non biodegradable municipal wastes”.
- 3.2 The Performance Reward Grant (PRG) for the Public Service Agreement (PSA1) has now been claimed by Oxfordshire County Council. If the claim is agreed by Government, then half the grant will be paid in this financial year. Any remaining grant due will not be paid until 2008/09. Half of the PRG must be spent on capital items, the rest can be spent as revenue.
- 3.3 The full value of the PSA1 PRG is £1,075,543. This means that £537,771.5 will be available for the New Initiatives Fund in 2007/08. Half of this (£268,885) is capital and half revenue. A further £537,771.5 will be paid into the New Initiatives Fund in 2008/09 with the capital/revenue split maintained.
- 3.4 Reward grant payable for the achievement of the current Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets should be available to the New Initiatives Fund in 2009/10.

4 Areas Affected

- 4.1 The New Initiatives Fund is open to each Partner Authority.

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

- 5.1 Bids can be made to the New Initiatives Fund to support any of the strategic policies within the JMWMS. The fund itself 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 Amendments to the assessment process may be proposed.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the New Initiatives Fund opens for bidding on 15th June 2007

8 Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 To make effective and efficient use of our financial resources.

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

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Background Papers: "New Initiatives Fund" Agenda Item 9, OWP meeting, 30th March 2007.

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

Appendix 1 - New Initiatives Fund Assessment Criteria

Issue	Criteria
Waste stream	The application applies only to municipal waste.
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) objectives & policies	The application supports the objectives and policies of the JMWMS, particularly the reduction of waste sent to landfill. The application supports the implementation of the agreed JMWMS action plan(s).
Waste reduction	The application helps to reduce waste arisings. The application does not lead to an increase in overall waste arisings. The application does not place additional burdens on the collection or reception schemes of other OWP partners (unless previously agreed).
Landfill diversion	The application reduces the amount of BMW that requires treatment or landfill.
Partnership working	The application sets out how the potential for working in partnership with other OWP authorities and/or with other relevant agencies has been explored.
Business case & value for money	The application indicates a price per tonne of waste diverted from landfill. The application is for capital or "one off" costs associated with a new project, or with the extension of a current project. The application is not made to off-set existing local authority expenditure. The application indicates whether any match-funding will be provided from other sources.
Performance management	The application has clear objectives and contains relevant and quantifiable performance targets.
Consultation	The Application indicates whether any consultation has been carried out with service providers and service users.