

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury on Thursday 12 October 2006 at 12.00 noon.

Present: Councillor Kieron Mallon (in the Chair) (CDC)

Councillors Roger Belson (OCC), Tony de Vere (VWHDC), David Dodds (SODC), Jean Fooks (Oxford City) and David Harvey (WODC).

Officers in

Attendance: Steven Bishop (VWHDC), Sharon Cosgrave (Oxford City), Richard Dudding (OCC), Phil Dunsdon (Oxford City), Eileen Edwards (CDC), Michael Jacques (SODC), Cath James (WODC), Ed Potter (CDC), Anna Robinson (SODC) and Steve Lodge (CDC Democratic Services Unit).

161 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2006 were received and the following amendments to the Minutes were proposed in respect of Minute 152 Oxford Waste Partnership – Draft Waste Strategy page 2 paragraph 4 second sentence to read “He also advised that WODC were minded to move to a fortnightly collection of residual waste and weekly collection of food waste and recyclables and he also urged OCC to provide treatment facilities for kitchen waste as soon as possible.”

RESOLVED that subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the meeting of 14 September 2006 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

162 MATTERS ARISING – COLLECTION OPTIONS

Councillor de Vere (VWHDC) referred to Minute 159 where he had requested an explanation as to why option (I) had been chosen instead of option (A) from the collections options as the difference between the two in financial terms was significant. He stated that it was important that this explanation were given so that in future he would be able to justify why this decision had been taken.

RESOLVED that an explanation setting out reasons option (I) had been chosen as opposed to option (A) from the collections options be available to all Members.

**Officer
Strategy
Group**

163 WASTE MANAGEMENT – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Partnership considered a report prepared by M Jacques (SODC) and S Bishop (VWHDC) on behalf of Oxfordshire Treasurers Association, who had been asked by the Leaders Group to draft proposals for the financial arrangements for the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership and these were now submitted for consideration, (a copy of which is attached as Annex 1 to the minutes.)

The Partnership now noted that the following three matters had been considered:

- (a) The accounting arrangements of the OWP (Section 1 – Governance)
- (b) The funding of the OWP (Section 1 – Governance).
- (c) How the costs of waste management might be shared in a way that drove behaviour to produce outcomes consistent with the Joint Waste Management Strategy (Section 2 – Waste Management costs.).

The Partnership noted the accounting arrangements set out in Appendix 2 to the report and noted the suggestion that a separate Audit Authority might be established, and agreed this would be sensible.

The Partnership then considered proposals for the funding for the OWP which suggested that a core fund should be set up which would be funded by a 50% contribution from OCC with 10% contributions from the other five local authority partnerships.

Following concerns expressed by Councillor Harvey and Cath James (WODC) as to the operation of the core funding, particularly with regard to the actual costs involved it was generally agreed that at this stage this level of detail could not be provided and that further work would be required. However this should not delay the progress of the formation of the Joint Committee. It was also stated that the annual setting for an OWP budget would act as a safeguard to Partners in relation to the amount of financial commitment involved.

Consideration was then given to the Waste Management Costs, which set out the principles that were to apply; revenue arrangements to 31 March 2009; revenue arrangements from 1 April 2009 and the creation of a new initiatives fund. In this connection Members noted various matters where further consideration would need to be undertaken and that there were still a number of details to be resolved.

The recommendations proposed had been formulated to encourage the delivery of the Oxfordshire Waste Strategy with a principle aim to keep residual waste to a minimum.

Councillor Harvey stated that although he understood and supported the principles which had resulted in the development of the waste management financial arrangements he felt that West Oxfordshire District Council would be reluctant to sign up to these until the full financial commitment for each local authority were known. It was stated that these figures would not be available until January or February 2007 but most Members felt that a legal agreement could be signed off in advance of this based in the financial principles laid out in the paper at Annex 1.

E Edwards (CDC) stated that although most of the new revenue arrangements did not come into effect until April 2009, recycling issues relating to recycling changes came into effect from 1 April 2007 and this would have a significant financial impact on Cherwell District Council and she therefore requested that transitional arrangements would be made in respect of this matter. The Partnership considered that further discussion should take place between Cherwell District Council and

Oxfordshire County Council to come to an agreement over this matter.

The Partnership noted the timetable which would allow the Waste Management financial arrangements and the principles to be reflected in the constitution of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership to be considered at the Leaders Group to be held on 24 October 2006.

RESOLVED that the Waste Management financial arrangements, as set out in Annex 1 to these Minutes be agreed for submission to the Leaders Group to be held on 24 October 2006.

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PRINCIPLES TO BE REFLECTED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership considered a report prepared by Anna Robinson (SODC) on principles to be reflected in the constitution of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (a copy of which is attached at Annex 2 to these Minutes.)

The Partnership were requested to consider and comment on the principles of the constitution in order that the proposals could be finalised by the lawyers of the Partnership Authorities so as to enable the Leaders Group to consider these at their meeting on 24 October 2006.

The proposals addressed related to the role and functions of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership and specific functions of the Partnership Organisation and covered the following:-

- (1) key principles of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership;
- (2) role and functions of the Committee;
- (3) dealing with disputes;
- (4) scrutiny;
- (5) role of Committee Members;
- (6) responsibility of the host authority;
- (7) responsibility of the accounting authority;
- (8) responsibilities of the employing authority;
- (9) funding arrangements;
- (10) role of Executive Officer;
- (11) role of Officer Strategy Group;
- (12) vision and objectives of the OWP.

In connection with Section 1 key principles of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership it was confirmed that comments already received would be taken into account when finalising the constitution.

In connection with Section 2 OWP Joint Committee (financial section i) it was agreed to replace the word "secure" with the word "request".

It was noted that further detail would need to be added to Section 4 (Scrutiny), before submission to the Leaders and Chief Executives and Anna Robinson agreed to liaise with the lawyers to finalise the drafting.

RESOLVED that subject to the amendments set out in Section 2 OWP Joint Committee (Financial Section) above the principles to be reflected in the constitution of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership be agreed.

**Anna
Robinson**

**Officer
Strategy
Group**

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the dates for the next meeting and for the following year would be circulated for agreement by Members.

E Edwards