

**OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE****30 MARCH 2007****OWP GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the development of the new governance arrangements for the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) and to seek approval to present a finalised Agreement to Partner Authorities for signing.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Following the last meeting of the OWP, a Partnership Agreement and Constitution (the Agreement), setting out how the OWP will operate as a constituted Joint Committee from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007, was submitted to each of the Partner Authorities for approval.
- 2.2 These governance arrangements have now been agreed by each Partner Authority and some final, minor amendments have been made to the Agreement to reflect comments by legal experts. A final version is attached at appendix 1.

**3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications**

- 3.1 Whilst approving the governance arrangements, it was noted by a number of Partner Authorities that the detailed financial arrangements (which are outlined in clause 16 of the Agreement) have yet to be finalised and agreed. This is a risk, but as the new financial arrangements may be amended up until October 2007 and do not take effect until April 2009, there is time for any outstanding issues to be resolved. These financial arrangements are considered in more detail under item 7 of today's agenda.
- 3.2 By signing the agreement, Partner Authorities commit to funding the OWP (as detailed in clause 15.5 of the Agreement). Oxfordshire County Council, as waste disposal authority, will contribute 50% of funding and each of the five waste collection authorities will contribute 10% each.

**4 Areas Affected**

- 4.1 The Partnership Agreement affects each of the Partner Authorities.

**5 Effect on Strategic Policies**

- 5.1 By helping to improve the way that the OWP functions, this Partnership Agreement has an indirect impact on each of the Strategic Policies within our Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. It directly 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".

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### **6 Options or Alternatives**

- 6.1 In principle it would be possible to revert to the existing Memorandum of Understanding or to propose a different approach to partnership, but this would be a major reversal of approach given the agreement of Leaders and of individual partner authorities to the new arrangements.

### **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Agreement be presented to Partner Authorities for signing, allowing the OWP to be constituted as a Joint Committee with effect from 1 April 2007.

### **8 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 8.1 To introduce clear governance arrangements for the OWP in order to improve partnership working.

### **9 Contact Officer**

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