

## OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

30 MARCH 2007

## NEW INITIATIVES FUND

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To consider some initial ideas on the development of allocation process for the OWP New Initiatives Fund.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 At the last meeting of the OWP it was agreed that the Officer Steering Group be tasked with preparing some “ground rules” for the New Initiatives fund, so that bids may be invited from April 2007. Some initial ideas are set out in this report.
- 2.2 The New Initiatives fund is featured in the Financial Principles within the OWP Partnership Agreement. These state that Oxfordshire County Council “will create a fund to help meet the capital or one-off costs of waste management initiatives. These would be new initiatives designed to meet the Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (OJMWMS) objectives, and in particular minimise residual waste requiring landfill or further treatment.”
- 2.3 The Partnership Agreement also states that “Partner Authorities agree to pay into this fund the reward grant...from the achievement of the PSA1 wastes target” (totalling £1.1 million) “...and any reward grant that becomes payable to them for the achievement of the LAA stretch target on non biodegradable municipal wastes”. This is expected to be approximately £600,000.
- 2.4 It is proposed that applications for funding from the New Initiatives fund should be made by completing a standard pro-forma to be developed by the Officer Strategy Group (OSG). “Bids” for funding will be evaluated by the OSG against a list of criteria set by the group and agreed by OWP.
- 2.5 Following evaluation, OSG will then make a recommendation to OWP as to whether the application for funding should be approved. Indicative timescales for assessing applications will also be set and agreed by OWP.
- 2.6 A list of criteria, against which bids might be assessed, is set out in table 1.

Table 1 New Initiatives fund assessment criteria

| <b>Issue</b>  | <b>Criteria</b>   |
|---|---|
| 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.<br>The application supports the implementation of the agreed JMWMS action plan(s). |

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|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Waste reduction                 | The application helps to reduce waste arisings.<br>The application does not lead to an increase in overall waste arisings.<br>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.<br>The application is for capital or “one off” costs associated with a new project, or with the extension of a current project.<br>The application is not made to off-set existing local authority expenditure.<br>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.  |

### 3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 The New Initiatives fund offers an opportunity for Partner Authorities to gain one-off funding for new or improved sustainable waste management services. The development of a robust application and assessment process should ensure that only suitable projects are supported.
- 3.2 The allocation process set out within this report suggests the development of a potentially competitive bidding process and issues regarding the equity of funding allocations may arise. Again, this risk can be mitigated by the development (and agreement upfront) of a clear application and assessment process. It can be further reduced by encouraging “partnership bids” from two or more of our Partner Authorities.

### 4 Areas Affected

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

### 5 Effect on Strategic Policies

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- 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 Members may choose not to develop the New Initiatives Fund, however, this does form part of the recently agreed OWP governance arrangements. An alternative would be to pass reward money from PSA1, plus any future LAA payments directly to Partner Authorities.

### **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 It is recommended that:
- OWP agrees to develop an allocation process for the New Initiatives fund that is based on paragraphs 2.4 – 2.6 herein;
  - OWP considers whether any amendments and additions are needed to the criteria set out in table 1.

### **8 Reasons for Recommendations**

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

### **9 Contact Officer**

- 9.1 Author: Wayne Lewis Tel: 01295 221903  
Email: [Wayne.lewis@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Wayne.lewis@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)