

**OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE**

**30 November 2007**

**New Initiatives Fund Applications**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To consider applications for funding from the OWP New Initiatives Fund (NIF).

**2 Background**

- 2.1 On 25 May 2007, the OWP agreed to open the NIF to bids. The NIF forms part of the new financial arrangements set out within the OWP partnership agreement. It has been established to “help meet the capital or one-off costs of waste management initiatives. These would be new initiatives designed to meet OJMWS objectives, and in particular minimise residual waste requiring landfill or further treatment.”
- 2.2 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”.
- 2.3 The NIF currently contains half of the Performance Reward Grant (PRG) for the Public Service Agreement (PSA1). This amounts to £537,771.5. Half of this (£268,885) is capital and half revenue. The remaining 50% will be paid into the NIF in 2008//09. Reward grant payable for the achievement of the current Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets should be available to the NIF in 2009/10.
- 2.4 On 9<sup>th</sup> November the Officer Strategy Group assessed five NIF bids submitted by Vale of White Horse D.C. Table 1 provides a summary of the bids.

Table 1 Bid summaries

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Funding requested</b>	<b>OSG recommendation</b>	<b>Reason for recommendation</b>
Ecosacks - The purchase and distribution of biodegradable sacks to provide an additional method of containment for the existing garden waste collection service	£18,800	Do not fund	Garden waste service is already “charged for” by the council and part of councils existing revenue budget expenditure.
140L wheeled bins - The purchase of bins to provide an alternative method of containment for the existing scheme	£40,000	Do not fund	Garden waste service is already “charged for” by the council and part of councils existing revenue budget expenditure. Expensive (£133

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collecting garden waste and cardboard			per tonne of waste diverted).
Green boxes – purchase of additional boxes. Responding to the demand initiated during door knocking as part of the 'Recycle for Oxfordshire' campaign funded by WRAP.	£11,839	Do not support	Green box scheme part of Councils normal revenue budget. *The option of a loan from the NIF to be repaid in 2008/09 was declined by the Council.
Hessian sacks - To enhance the current service of 'Mini Recycling Centres' covering flats, etc, by providing bags for the storage of recyclable material within their dwelling prior to taking to the banks provided	£7,680	Support (subject to further information on anticipated levels of waste diversion/recycling)	New initiative to the Council, proven to have been successful in other areas (such as Cherwell).
Mini-recycling Centres - Provision of recycling facilities for plastics at centres servicing blocks of flats.	£25,791	Do not support	Poor value for money (10 tonnes collected at a cost of £2,579 per tonne).

- 2.5 These are the first applications received for the NIF and have provided a useful test of the NIF application and assessment process. The OSG will develop some improvement proposals, such as collectively agreeing strategic priorities for NIF funding and the sub-division of the fund into different bid categories. These proposals will be developed and presented to the committee in due course.

### 3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 The OSG recommends that an application for funding for Hessian sacks be approved. This will involve £7,680 of largely capital expenditure, broken down as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
2007/08	£2385	£90	2475
2008/09	£2475	£90	2565
2009/10	£2550	£90	2640

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### **4 Areas Affected**

- 4.1 Vale of White Horse District Council.

### **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”.
- 5.2 The application supported by the OSG supports objective 7 of the JMWMS, which states that “The OWP will ensure that recycling facilities and services are available to all residents”.

### **6 Options or Alternatives**

- 6.1 The committee may choose to either support or not to support any of the applications summarised in table 1.

### **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 That the bid by Vale of White horse District Council to the NIF for the purchase of Hessian sacks be supported subject to further information on anticipated recycling performance being provided.
- 7.2 That the other four bids are not supported.

### **8 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 8.1 Promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives to Oxfordshire communities to help everyone manage their own wastes.

### **9 Contact Officer**

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Background Papers: “New Initiatives Fund” Agenda item 7, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007