

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

30 November 2007

BREW BID

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider and approve in principle the submission of an OWP bid for Business Resource Efficiency & Waste (BREW) programme funding.

2 Background

- 2.1 The BREW Centre for Local Authorities is a pilot project funded through DEFRA's wider BREW Programme and is a consortium involving Oxfordshire County Council, the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) and the Local Government Association.

- 2.2 The aim of the BREW Centre is to support Local Authorities working with their local business community to improve business resource efficiency and improve their profitability.

The BREW Centre delivers:

- Funding for Local Authority Trailblazer projects which provide resource efficiency and waste reduction services or support to the local business community
- Case studies and guidance notes to raise awareness of successful business resource efficiency projects across England
- Networking events, designed to educate and enable Local Authority Officers to understand and utilise the support available in their area and promoting a move towards local Resource Management Strategies
- A conduit for other BREW Delivery Bodies such as Envirowise, NISP and the Carbon Trust to access local business communities via the Local Authority

- 2.3 A number of OWP partner authorities have received funding in previous years to support business waste projects, including Oxford City Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

- 2.4 The BREW team are now inviting further bids for the next round of funding, subject to securing Defra funding, on the following basis.

- Single authority bids up to £30,000 per year
- Partnership authority bids will receive £30,000 per authority e.g. five authorities working in partnership will receive £150,000 per year for their project
- Projects that span a one, two and three year period to enable Local Authorities to develop projects that will have a long term, sustainable impact on the local business community.

- 2.5 Each of the OWP partner authorities has some involvement with commercial waste ranging from providing advice to local companies on recycling and waste reduction, to the collection and disposal of their waste. Whilst some of the partners have received funding through the BREW centre previously, OWP has not submitted a joint project proposal.

- 2.6 It is therefore proposed that a bid combining commercial waste reduction and recycling advice and the expansion of commercial recycling services within the County is put forward on behalf of the OWP. This bid will benefit all authorities by helping business to become less

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

wasteful and more resource efficient and support those who require assistance in providing support to local firms. It will also support those authorities that currently collect commercial waste and need to divert this from landfill for both environmental and financial reasons. This bid will build upon the information that the County Council currently holds on commercial waste in Oxfordshire following its extensive commercial waste reduction programme.

3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 OWP can bid for up to £180,000 collectively to support any commercial waste project. Whilst there is no requirement for match funding, this is encouraged by the BREW Team and can be in the form of Officer time, and links to existing projects and work. It is therefore envisaged that some officer time from partner authorities will be put forward to support the bid, especially where the partner authority has a dedicated commercial waste officer.
- 3.2 It is important to note that in submitting a joint bid, partner authorities cannot submit individual bids as well; the BREW project will only support each local authority once.
- 3.3 The committee has previously noted that commercial waste collected by a local authority become municipal waste and therefore counts against the county's landfill allowances and potentially attracts Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) fines. It is therefore in the Partnership's interest to reduce the amount of commercial waste that it landfills.

4 Areas Affected

- 4.1 All Partner Authorities are affected by the matters within this report.

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

- 5.1 A joint BREW funding bid to help reduce and recycle commercial waste supports the following policies within our Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy:
Policy 1 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the efficient use of resources, reduce resource consumption and take responsibility for the wastes they produce.
Policy 8 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage householders and businesses to separate waste for recycling collections by providing targeted information and awareness raising campaigns.
Policy 14 - 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 OWP may choose not to put forward a bid for BREW funding. However, in doing so the partnership would forego the opportunity to benefit from external funding for an area of activity which partner authorities do not have their own funding to progress. Furthermore, the partnership would lose the opportunity to benefit from shared resources and opportunities from a joint project.

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

7 Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that:

- i. OWP approves the principle of submitting a partnership bid;
- ii. OWP delegates authority to the Officer Strategy Group to finalise the detail of the bid;
- iii. The finalised bid be approved by the OWP chairman ahead of submission.

8 Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 To work with local business to improve the efficient use of resources, reduce the impact of activities on resource consumption, which results in the production of municipal waste, and encourage them to take responsibility for the wastes they produce.

9 Contact Officer

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