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From Joan Ruddock MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary – Climate Change, Biodiversity and Waste

Dear Chief Executive

APPLICATION FOR JOINT WASTE AUTHORITIES – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

You will be aware that the LGA wrote to you via an Alert on 6 February asking informally for indications of interest in becoming a Joint Waste Authority. I am now writing to draw your attention to the opening of the application process for becoming a Joint Waste Authority (JWA) and, if relevant, to ask you to indicate if your authority is interested in applying to become a JWA over the coming year via formally completing and returning a short expression of interest form (attached at Annex A) by 23 July.

Powers to create a JWA came into force in 2007. Supporting legislation, which covers what must be detailed in a proposal to the Secretary of State to become a JWA, is currently out for consultation and will be laid in the autumn. Formal developed proposals can be submitted to the Secretary of State from that moment onwards.

A JWA is a voluntary initiative. It provides another stronger partnership model for joint working on waste based around becoming a new legal entity with statutory basis. As such, it would be able to sign cross authority waste contracts and employ staff in its own right. In short, it offers the potential to deliver efficiencies through taking an integrated approach to the collection, disposal and street cleansing of waste. Groups of authorities will be able to transfer waste collection, disposal and street cleansing functions to the new JWA.

The process for becoming a JWA is as follows:

- a) Return a completed Expression of Interest letter to Defra by 23 July (see attached form). Though we appreciate that authorities may not follow this through to a full proposal, an early formal indication of interest is extremely important to us as it enables us to plan appropriate legislative and funded support.
- b) Conduct a Business Case. This is primarily for your own internal purposes but we would expect to see evidence at the proposal stage (c) that a business case had been developed.
- c) Submit to the Secretary of State a detailed proposal for becoming a JWA. Details of what needs to be included in the proposal will be set out in the autumn in final regulations and guidance,

- d) Assessment of proposal and creation of JWA, by order in Parliament, of successful proposals

We anticipate that it would take 6 months to develop a business case and a detailed proposal. The assessment phase is likely to take 3 months. We hope to have the first round of completed proposals with us by the end of this financial year.

You may be aware that the Department has allocated £500,000 for 2008/09 to support the development of proposals for joint waste authorities. It is anticipated that further funding will be allocated for the following two years. Precise details of how the funding will be distributed are still being developed and will be put on the Defra website when finalised. However, it is envisaged that a large proportion of the funding will be distributed between a small number of interested local authority partnerships that are committed to developing a proposal to establish a joint waste authority to support them in this work.

If your waste partnership is (or some authorities in it are) interested in becoming a Joint Waste Authority and submitting a formal proposal over the coming year, please complete and return by email the attached short expression of interest form by 23 July to Philip Walker: philip.walker@defra.gsi.gov.uk (tel: 020 7238 4376). I appreciate this is a tight deadline, but whilst failure to submit an EOI at this stage will not preclude submitting a formal proposal to the Secretary of State at a later date, it is extremely helpful in terms of planning the support and application process.

We look forward to hearing from you and, hopefully, working with your authority and its partner authorities. If you need clarification on any point relating to Joint Waste Authorities please contact Philip Walker or Nick Jackson (nick.b.jackson@defra.gsi.gov.uk; tel: 020 7238 6182).

As part of a robust stakeholder consultation process authorities should be aware Defra believes that any formal Expression of Interest should be made publicly available.

This letter and further details on the application process are now on the Defra website. A copy of this letter has also been sent by email to Local Authority waste officials.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Ruddock', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

JOAN RUDDOCK

annex A

DRAFT JOINT WASTE AUTHORITY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Please return this form only if you are interested in making an application in the coming year

1. What are the names of the local authorities that would potentially form the Joint Waste Authority?	
2. Which is the 'lead authority' for the purpose of the Expression of Interest?	
3. Which waste functions will the Expression of Interest cover? Please list from collection, disposal and street cleansing.	
4. Please describe the extent/type of relationship(s) with current partners* on waste collection, disposal and street cleansing * (ie. those who fully undertake or assist with undertaking these functions)	
5. Please confirm that you intend to produce a Business Case	
6. Please provide a contact name and details for the Expression of Interest from the lead authority	
7. Any other comments	

- I confirm that to the best of my knowledge this information is correct.
- I confirm all councils in the partnership wish to make this application.

Signed:

Name in full:

Chief Executive of

ON BEHALF OF ALL COUNCILS IN THE APPLICATION

Date:

This form should be returned :

- (preferably) by email to philip.walker@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- by fax 020 7238 4858 or
- by post to Philip Walker, Local Authority Waste Funding and Governance Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Area 6C, Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AL by **23 July 2008**.

As part of a robust stakeholder consultation process Local Authorities should be aware Defra believes that Expressions Of Interest should be made publicly available.