

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

20 January 2012

COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval to enter in to a funding agreement with ReMade South East for the delivery of a pilot food waste recycling collection service for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) in Oxford City.

2 Background

- 2.1 In October 2011 Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Oxford City Council (OxC), under the banner of Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) were awarded funding from ReMade South East to deliver a large scale food waste collection service to SMEs. The bid was supported by the year long food waste collection trial that OxC Trade Waste Services had conducted in order to establish demand amongst businesses, the most appropriate collection frequency, bin size and impact on other materials.
- 2.2 The £55,000 funding awarded allows OxC Trade Waste Services to provide a 3 month start up trial to at least 85 SMES in the hospitality industry. This will initially be carried out using a hired vehicle while a dedicated trade food waste collection vehicle with on-board bin weighing is on order. Eligible businesses will be provided with appropriately sized bins and a supply of liners, and offered a thrice weekly collection on days that suit their business need. This collection will be free for three months.
- 2.3 At the end of the 3 months, participating businesses will be given the option to pay for the service at commercial rates, keeping the bins provided under the trial. There is no obligation for the businesses to continue with food waste collections; however it is hoped that they will have seen savings as their volume of residual waste decreases.
- 2.4 OCC and OxC will work together throughout the trial to talk with different businesses types (cafes, restaurants, market stalls etc) about their experiences, the practicality of different bins and liners for their situation, and examine the impact on their recycling rates and residual waste arisings. Where appropriate, waste audits will be conducted to identify additional materials that can be removed from the residual stream, potentially leading to greater savings. These findings will form part of case studies and a report that will be submitted to ReMade on the practicalities of food waste collections for different business types. It is hoped that this report will be able to quantify savings for businesses.
- 2.5 OWP has provided advice and services to many businesses in the past through a number of initiatives and projects, resulting in lower waste and energy costs and increased compliance. Applying for the funding under the OWP brand demonstrated the continued commitment of the partnership to assisting local businesses to improve their environmental performance, as well as demonstrating the strength of the partnership between the councils.

3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 The funding provides £55,000 to fund free food waste collections to at least 85 SMEs for 3

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months. It requires £93,000 in match funding from the successful tenderer. This match funding has been fully costed, and a large proportion (the year long trial carried out 2010/11) has already been submitted and accepted by Remade. The remainder is accounted for through the purchase of the dedicated trade food waste collection vehicle with on board bin weighing. This has been procured by OxC, with delivery expected in March. Once payment for the vehicle has occurred, then the final match funding submission can occur. This final submission will exceed the £93,000 total required by the funders.

- 3.2 The project is currently being managed by the Commercial Waste Reduction Officer at Oxfordshire County Council in conjunction with the Trade Waste Officer at Oxford City Council. All time spent on the project is recorded and submitted either as match funding, or as a claim to recoup costs.
- 3.3 The agreement has been checked by the legal services team at Oxfordshire County Council.

4 Areas Affected

- 4.1 The service is offered to SMEs in the hospitality sector in Oxford City.

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

- 5.1 Providing assistance to businesses to help them reduce waste and recycle more is detailed under Policy 8 of the JMWMS. Offering a 3 month 'start up trial' of free food waste collections to 85 SMEs helps to overcome some of the barriers that may exist when trying to encourage hospitality businesses to separate their food for recycling. The trial will show them how they are able to increase their recycling rates and hopefully lower their overall waste management costs, helping them to become more competitive and potentially help lead to an improving economy in Oxfordshire.

6 Options or Alternatives

- 6.1 Instead of being presented as an OWP initiative, the project is rebranded as a partnership between Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 It is recommended that OWP agree to enter into the funding agreement with Remade South East and that Oxfordshire County Council (as OWP Host Authority) signs the agreement on behalf of OWP.

8 Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 The use of the OWP brand demonstrates the commitment amongst the partnership to assisting local businesses, as reflected in the JMWMS. Learning gathered through this project can be shared between all parties to aid commercial collections in other districts. A successful project delivered under the OWP branding may put us in a stronger position when applying for future funding.

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9 Contact Officer

9.1 Author: Rachel Burns Tel: 01865 815225

Email: rachel.burns@oxfordshire.gov.uk