

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

20 January 2012

Consultation on refreshing the Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To agree a draft 5 year review and refresh of the Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) for public consultation.

2 Background

JMWMS Refresh Consultation

- 2.1 Oxfordshire Waste Partnership agreed a JMWMS in January 2007. The JMWMS commits to a five-yearly review to ensure that it remains current and its policies are relevant. A review has now been undertaken and a draft public consultation document developed. This is attached at appendix 1a. The review has evaluated the progress that has been made so far and outlines options for continual improvement across the county. Appendix 1b sets out a high level action plan to accompany the refreshed strategy document.
- 2.2 There have been a number of developments over the past 5 years that the JMWMS should take account of. These include legislative change in the form of the revised EU Waste Framework Directive, national policy developments resulting from the government's review of waste management policy and the development of new practices such as carbon accounting.
- 2.3 Financial drivers have also changed, with the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) to end in March 2013 and landfill tax escalating to £80 per tonne by 2014/15. The challenging conditions within the wider economy also have an influence. Economic conditions have in all likelihood had a bearing on the reduced waste levels recorded since 2007/08. They have also resulted in reduced public spending and the austerity measures currently being implemented by local government. The future plans set out within the JMWMS review consultation document have been developed with current economic conditions in mind.
- 2.4 The JMWMS review consultation document t shows that tremendous progress has been made during the first five years of implementation. In 2010/11 OWP recycled and composted 55% of household waste; meeting its 2020 target 9 years early. This was a target that in 2006/07, with a recycling rate of 33%, appeared very challenging. As well as recycling much more, Oxfordshire also landfills nearly 80,000 tonnes a year less than it did 5 years ago. This improved performance has been achieved through stronger partnership working resulting in new recycling and composting collection systems and new treatment facilities being developed.
- 2.5 Going forward, the theme of the JMWMS review is very much one of continuous improvement, with ongoing implementation of existing policies rather than any fundamental change of approach. One key change though is the development of new recycling targets. These reflect the improved performance of the last five years and attempt to set challenging but achievable targets to ensure continued improvement. The proposed targets are to:
- Recycle or compost 60% of household waste by 31st March 2015;
 - Recycle or compost 65% of household waste by 31st March 2020

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Recycle or compost 70% of household waste by 31st March 2025.
A recycling and composting rate of 60 – 62% is anticipated this year.

- 2.6 Since the publication of the 2007 JMWMS, OWP has also taken on a Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) role. A LEQ policy is set out within the JMWMS consultation document, which reads:

“Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will seek to improve local environmental quality through effective communications and enforcement activity.”

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 2.7 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was undertaken as part of the development of the original JMWMS in 2006. An SEA ensures that the environmental impacts of a strategy or programme are considered during its development and before it is adopted. The 2006 SEA identified, described and evaluated the likely significant effects of implementing the JMWMS, including the different treatment and disposal options available to manage residual waste and the implementation of new collection systems. It also considered reasonable alternatives or mitigation measures. The significant effects identified were taken into account in the preparation of the strategy.
- 2.8 As part of the five-year review and refresh of the JMWMS, the SEA has been revisited in order to monitor progress made against the mitigation measures set out in 2006. The revised JMWMS has also been assessed against the criteria in the SEA Directive. An assessment and screening process has found that the policies and approaches put forward as part of the five-year review will not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore do not need to be formally assessed through the SEA process. The broad objectives of the JMWMS have remained largely unchanged since 2006 meaning that a new SEA is considered unnecessary.
- Public consultation
- 2.9 Public consultation was undertaken in 2006 as part of the development of the JMWMS. This included a community panel exercise and a wider, questionnaire based, open public consultation. Statutory consultees were also consulted.
- 2.10 Public consultation will also be undertaken on the 5 year review. This time there are fewer key decisions to be taken as part of the strategy development. Decisions on collection and treatment systems were taken in 2006/07 and have since been implemented. The public consultation exercise will therefore be limited this time to a questionnaire based open public consultation exercise. This will predominantly be web based (through the OCC consultation portal), with paper versions available on request. A six-week consultation period is anticipated. Statutory consultees will also be approached (the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage).
- 2.11 The consultation document attached at appendix 1a, together with the draft action plan included at appendix 1b will be issued for public consultation. Once finalised and approved, an executive summary of appendix 1a will also be produced. The SEA work will be shared with statutory consultees and made available on request to the public.
- 2.12 An update on the public consultation findings will be brought to the next OWP meeting in March 2011.

3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 There are not anticipated to be any significant costs associated with the public consultation

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exercise, as it will largely be conducted online, using existing systems. However, any costs arising will be met by the existing OWP revenue budget. Officer time will be required to conduct the consultation exercise and analyse responses.

4 Areas Affected

4.1 The JMWMS review is countywide and affects all Partner Councils.

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

5.1 The JMWMS review and refresh covers each of the Strategic Policies within the adopted JMWMS. It suggests some amendment and refinement to existing policies and also some new policies. These are summarised below.

<u>Current adopted policy</u>	<u>Suggested change</u>
<p>Policy 3: Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will help households and individuals to reduce and manage their waste through the provision of advice and appropriate services.</p> <p>Policy 5: In accordance with regional policy, Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will seek to reduce the growth of municipal waste across the country to 0% per person per annum by 2012.</p>	<p>Combine Policies 3 and 5 to read: <i>“Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will implement the Waste Prevention Strategy in order to reduce the amount of household waste collected by a total of 130,000 tonnes between 2010 and 2020”</i></p> <p>This amended policy is now in keeping with the adopted waste prevention strategy target to reduce household waste by a total of 130,000 tonnes between 2010 and 2020 through waste prevention activities.</p>
<p>Policy 6: Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide an integrated system of collection and processing of household waste which will achieve, as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 31st March 2010: recycle or compost at least 40% of household waste; • By 31st March 2015: recycle or compost at least 45% of household waste; • By 31st March 2020: recycle or compost at least 55% of household waste. 	<p>Update with:</p> <p><i>Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will aim to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recycle or compost 60% of household waste by 31st March 2015;</i> • <i>Recycle or compost 65% of household waste by 31st March 2020</i> • <i>Recycle or compost 70% of household waste by 31st March 2025.</i>
<p>Policy 8: Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage householders and businesses to separate waste for recycling collections by providing targeted information and awareness raising.</p>	<p>Amend to read: <i>“Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage businesses to reduce and reuse waste and separate waste for recycling collections by providing targeted information and awareness raising.”</i></p> <p>The amended wording removes reference to “householders”, so that it now focuses only on business waste. Household waste recycling is covered by other policies (policies 3 to 6)</p>
<p>Policy 9: Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide a system for recovering value from residual waste in order to meet LATS targets.</p>	<p>Due to the abolition of LATS and the development of the EFW combine and reword to read:</p>

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Policy 10: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will ensure optimum use of landfill void.	<i>“Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide a system for recovering value from residual waste in order to minimise the amount sent to landfill. OWP will seek to landfill less than 5% of its non recyclable waste from 2015 onwards.”</i>
(New policy)	To reflect OWP’s ongoing role in LEQ issues, the following strategic policy is proposed: <i>“Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will seek to improve local environmental quality through effective communications and enforcement activity.”</i>

6 Options or Alternatives

6.1 Alterations to the JMWMS consultation document and action plan may be proposed.

7 Recommendations

7.1 That the JMWMS consultation document and draft action plan included at appendix 1a and 1b are approved for public consultation.

8 Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 To periodically review the options for the future delivery of services to meet the aims and objectives of the JMWMS.

9 Contact Officer

9.1 Author: Wayne Lewis Tel: 01295 221903

Email: Wayne.lewis@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Background Papers: Nil