

## OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP MEETING 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005

### REVISED REPORT ON THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

At its last meeting on the 7 April 2005, the Partnership considered a draft of a new Memorandum of Understanding (copy below) which incorporated the principles advocated by the County Leaders Group and County Chief Executives. It was agreed that constituent authorities would consider the draft and further comments would be considered at the meeting on the 30 June 2005.

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN DRAWN UP BETWEEN CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL, OXFORD CITY COUNCIL, OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL, VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL, TO PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF HOUSEHOLD OR MUNICIPAL WASTE IN OXFORDSHIRE.

It is UNDERSTOOD by all the signatories to this Memorandum that it does not impose on any of the participating authorities any financial or other commitment or derogation of any responsibility in respect of the waste management services they provide, and is not intended to be legally binding on the parties.

The signatories recognise that there may be financial, cultural, organisational, political and institutional barriers to an integrated, holistic, approach to the delivery of waste management services under the existing system, and all participating authorities will co-operate to eliminate these barriers or reduce their negative effects. Each Council agrees to a shared commitment to work together on waste management issues.

In particular, the signatories mutually recognise and accept the following main principles:-

- (1) that the process of waste collection and disposal is inextricably linked and that any changes in waste collection services impact on waste disposal services and vice versa;
- (2) that in considering future changes to waste management services, due consideration will be given to the effects of those decisions on the residents of Oxfordshire as a whole;
- (3) that there is an inherent need for all participating authorities to work towards the principle of unified (though not necessarily uniform) waste services in order to provide effective, efficient and sustainable services to Oxfordshire residents, and at the best possible value. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall prevent individual authorities varying the level and nature of services they provide and to maintain their identities for instance, through bin and vehicle branding.
- (4) That any strategy should aim to minimise the overall tax burden within the County and there should be a fair basis for the distribution of costs. Co-operative working should not **increase** any constituent council's waste costs to the disbenefit of others and all cost information should be shared openly and transparently between the six authorities. It is realised that the landfill tax recycling credit system may present difficulties, but it is hoped these may be resolved amicably. It is believed that financial savings should be achievable through co-operative working and need to be material.

- (5) that all participating authorities acknowledge the need to commit to a process of prior consultation and liaison when an individual authority is to give consideration to changes of policy on waste management issues, and due consideration must be given to representations from the other authorities on such issues;
- (6) that all participating authorities will commit both Member and officer time to any joint working arrangements resulting in planning for, and the furtherance of the aims of this Memorandum;
- (7) that all participating authorities recognise that the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership is the appropriate forum for the consideration of all the issues expressed in the principles set out in this Memorandum of Understanding.
- (8) that recommendations flowing from the Partnership will receive due consideration by all participating authorities and where necessary consultation and liaison will be undertaken as expressed in (5) above.

1. Signed..... Date.....  
 For and on behalf of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership.

1. Signed..... Date.....  
 For and on behalf of Cherwell District Council.

2. Signed..... Date.....  
 For and on behalf of Oxford City Council.

3. Signed..... Date.....  
 For and on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

4. Signed..... Date.....  
 For and on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council.

5. Signed..... Date.....  
 For and on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council.

6. Signed..... Date.....  
 For and on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council.

The following comments have been received: -

1. Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council – at the time of drafting of this report have indicated that this matter was still under consideration
2. South Oxfordshire District Council – will support and sign the amended version, however comment that perhaps it does not go far enough if we are to move forward.
3. The Vale of White Horse District Council – have agreed
  - i) that the revised Memorandum of Understanding largely meets the views of the Vale of White Horse District Council and can be supported, but that reference in the (previous) Memorandum of Understanding to an integrated holistic approach to waste management across Oxfordshire should be retained;
  - ii) that the term “political” be replaced with "corporate" in paragraph 4 of the Memorandum of Understanding since a corporate rather than political commitment is required;
  - iii) that the Memorandum of Understanding should be signed by the Chief Executives of the six authorities;
6. West Oxfordshire District Council – have agreed to endorse the revised MoU subject to:-
  - i) In para 4 that the words “...at the expense of others...” be replaced with “...to the disbenefit of others...”
  - ii) That in para 6 the words “...and other resources if required.” be deleted.