

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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 waste management service 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 political 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 harmonisation and co-ordination of services in order to provide effective, efficient and sustainable services to Oxfordshire residents, and at the best possible value. However individual Councils should be allowed to vary the level and nature of their services and to maintain their identities for instance, through bin 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 benefit 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 (5-10%);

- (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 and other resources if required, 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 theOxfordshire 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.