

JOINT WASTE AUTHORITIES – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST & MAKING A PROPOSAL

Q. What's the process for authorities interested in establishing a JWA?

They should consider the Regulations and guidance as this will give them an idea of the issues that they will need to consider and the steps that they will need to take (e.g. consultation with residents on proposals). Authorities that are interested will also want to ensure that the business case for establishing a JWA has been made before embarking on the development of a proposal. Initially we asked interested authorities to formally express an interest to Defra by 23 July 2008 so that an indication of the level of possible interest in funding could be obtained.. A [template for expressing interest](#) is available on the Defra website.

Q. What criteria will proposals be assessed against?

The assessment of proposals for a joint waste authority will be based on whether they meet the requirements of the [Regulations](#) and the [statutory guidance](#).

Proposals should be able to demonstrate that the JWA would lead to improvement (or at least maintenance) of the level of performance against statutory obligations, the quality of waste management services delivered to residents at affordable cost, and responsiveness to local issues.

Q. I missed the original deadline for expressing an interest – am I too late?

This is not a problem. The purpose of the 23 July 2008 deadline was to enable us to gauge the initial level of interest to help us plan, and to begin informal discussions with interested authorities. Missing the deadline does not preclude local authorities submitting a formal proposal to the Secretary of State later.

Q. If I express an interest now does it commit me to submitting a formal proposal in 2008/09 or 2009/10?

The original invitation was to express an interest in submitting a proposal to the Secretary of State by 31 March 2009. This has now been extended to 31 July 2009. However this deadline is missed, the proposal could still be submitted at a later date (see also answer on further rounds below). Nor will those who express a formal interest at this stage be obliged to submit a formal proposal to the Secretary of State. This decision would be made on the back of an authority conducting its own business case.

Q. When will the first round take place?

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We anticipate all applications and all information enabling Defra to start the assessment process to have been received by 31 July 2009. But it should be noted that work on the business case for a JWA should have commenced long before that – we seek confirmation in the Expression of Interest form (Link) that the business case is being or is about to be produced.

Q. When do you anticipate the first JWAs will be up and running?

This is difficult to predict. It will depend, in part, on when the first round of applications takes place. We are currently anticipating the deadline for all applications and all information enabling Defra to start the assessment process to have been received to be 31 July 2009

Following submission of the proposals, it is likely to take 1 year to assess them and lay the relevant legislation, meaning that the first JWA could be established on 31 July 2010.

Q. The process for setting up a JWA seems rather slow

Experience with existing waste partnerships shows that the implementation can take at least twelve months. This is because JWAs need to address some complex issues such as staffing, financing and contracts. This is why we have been supporting and will continue to support the first groups of interested authorities through this process, with the aim that their experiences will make the process quicker and easier for any authorities that follow.