

Name of Project
Project Sponsor
Project Manager

Waste Pathfinder Project
 Alan Goodrum (*Chiltern District Council*)
 Martin Dickman (*Buckinghamshire County Council*)

1. Recommendation/For decision

Members are asked to NOTE the progress made to date

2. Project vision/objectives

The Waste Pathfinder Project is aiming to deliver a form of “Joint Waste Authority” (JWA) that is acceptable to all five authorities in Buckinghamshire by maintaining local democratic accountability whilst achieving the Pathfinder objectives of cost reduction, better use of capacity and improved service delivery.

3. Summary Progress and key highlight report

3.1 An officer group (Waste Pathfinder Officer Group, WPOG) has been set up to project manage the Waste Pathfinder Project process, which is currently meeting on a fortnightly basis. The WPOG membership currently includes:

- Lead waste officers from each authority
- Waste Partnership Officer
- Communications officer (BCC)
- Finance lead

The WPOG is also using consultants who attend occasional meetings to help guide the overall process and feed into subsequent member workshops. It is also planned to have change management consultancy support and a Human Resources lead officer to help advice in the management of employee issues.

3.2 A separate Project Board which is made up of Council Members, senior waste officers, partnership support officer and the CADEX lead on waste, Alan Goodrum, has been set up and the first meeting of this took place on 19th November.

3.3 The Waste Project developed five options for joint working in waste which are in effect possible stages of greater integration /joined up working that could be achieved over time (see summary diagram in Appendix 1). At the Members workshop on the 29th November, (n.b. no Wycombe Council Member was present at the Workshop) the various options were looked at in some detail and two clear outcomes were agreed:

- That only two of the options showing greater integration should be progressed directly to a full detailed business case. These are firstly an option looking at “getting the most out of what we have got” (a fully developed Bucks Joint Waste Committee) and secondly the option of a full Joint Waste Authority.
- More time will be allocated over the next 8 months to develop the detailed business case, although the reporting date back to the JIB in November 2008 will remain the same as before.

4. Timescales and key milestones

4.1 Within Project

Members of the WCB have reached agreement on a target to deliver a report to the JIB for autumn 2008 on a detailed business case for two options of closer two tier working. Regular progress reports will be made to the JIB.

4.2 Outside Project

Joint Waste Authorities: New powers to allow the establishment of a Joint Waste Authority are contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (part 11). This will see guidance and consultation released in spring 2008, with final guidance in autumn 2008.

5. Deliverables/quick wins

Via service integration it is expected in the medium to long term that there will be more efficient and aligned employee structures improving areas such as contract monitoring, education and communication, enforcement and client side services. It is envisioned that this integration could deliver some cashable savings. It is unlikely in the short term that any quick wins will release cashable savings although efficiencies could be found in minor reorganisation of staff in areas such as waste education. The WPOG are now exploring the potential for any quick wins in any of the above areas.

Further savings in the longer term may be achieved through a move to more joint contracts amongst the five authorities of Buckinghamshire. For the public it is expected that the project will help in delivering more harmonised service provision across the county.

6. Financial update

Members will recall that the JIB approved a £35,000 budget to help fund the Waste Pathfinder Project to cover such areas as facilitated workshops for officers and members of the Waste Committee for Bucks (WCB), administrative support and consultancy advice. To date £5,775 has been spent on workshops and consultancy support. It is forecast that the full budget will be spent up to the end of the financial year.

7. Member involvement

There are three levels in which Members are involved in the Waste Project. The Project Board along with the Members workshops provide political steer and direction. The Joint Waste Committee for Bucks has a role to then formally reject or approve any proposals before submission to JIB.

8. Related projects / Work streams

Built Environment, Back Office Support Services, CRM

9. Communications plan

A waste specific communications plan is being developed on the back of the generic Pathfinder communications plan.

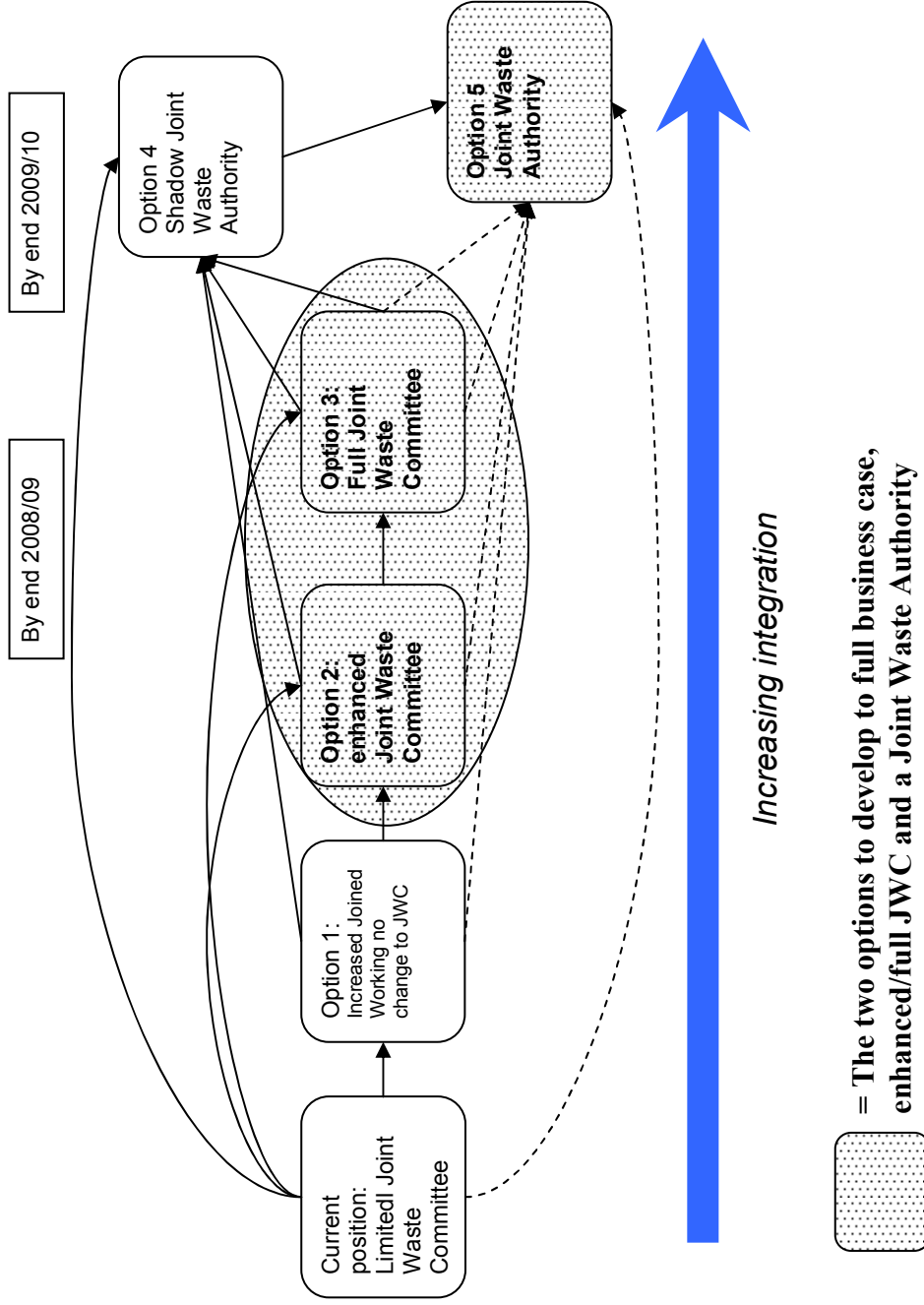
10. Key Risks and issues

Some of the potential areas of concern that have been identified are:

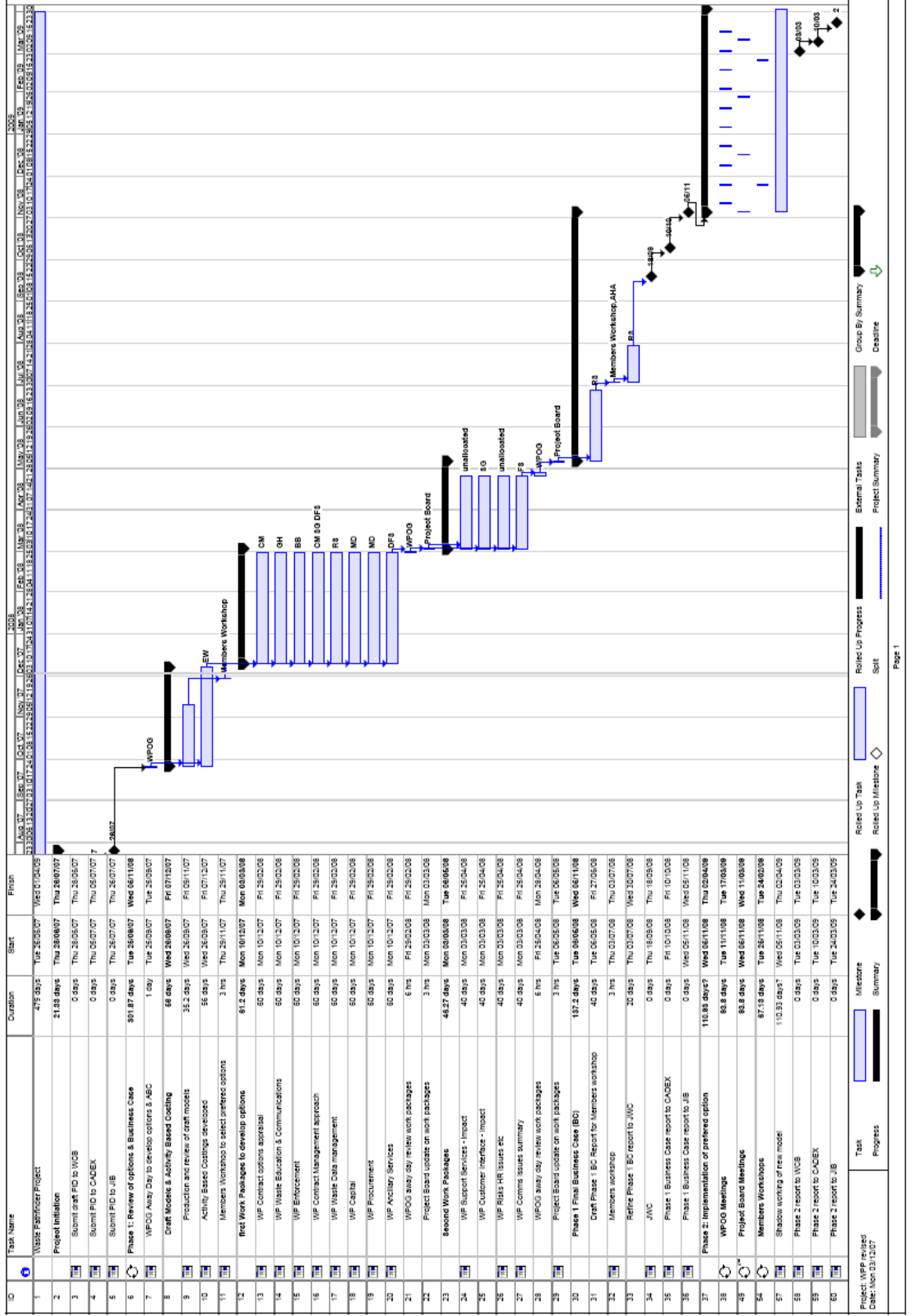
- The difficulties experienced with the Pathfinder recruitment policy, i.e. extended length of process and people moving from one Buckinghamshire authority to another.
- The difficulty for officers of delivering the Pathfinder Waste Project whilst managing the demands of the day job.
- Financial risk of Transfer of key functions to new body i.e. outsourcing of services
- Loss of key employees due to uncertainty of new structures
- Employees in new structure on different terms and conditions
- Reduction in posts
- TUPE issues/ Single Status
- Accommodation

Appendix H

Appendix 1:



Appendix H



Project: WFP related
Date: Mon 03/12/07

Task Progress

Milestone Summary

Roll Up Task

Roll Up Milestone

Split

External Tasks

Project Summary

Group By Summary

Deadline

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