

## **Information Further to Ministerial Answers**

### **Information further to OAQ0900(LGPS) issued by Carwyn Jones, the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside, on 25 October 2006**

#### **To Carl Sargeant:**

In the Plenary meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006, Sue Essex AM, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services, undertook to ensure that you are provided with further details on the support that we are providing towards increasing regional waste collaborations.

As you are aware, the Assembly Government is actively promoting collaborative working through the 'Making the Connections' agenda as set out in 'Delivering Beyond Boundaries'.

To this end, the Assembly Government is funding, through Value Wales (procurement), four regional procurement consortia:

- Cardiff, Newport, Vale of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire
- Carmarthenshire (on behalf of the South West Wales Region of Local Authorities Bridgend, Carmarthen, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea)
- Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff
- Ceredigion and Powys

It is intended that this support for collaborative procurement initiatives will continue into the future. It is further intended to support the development of strategically important infrastructure for municipal waste through the Regional Capital Access Fund (RCAF), a capital fund of £16 million over the two years 2007-08 and 2008-09. My officials are currently preparing guidance on the RCAF to include eligibility and assessment criteria, application proformas etc.

In the Plenary session of 25 October you also asked for a statement on the progress of regional waste strategies across local authority areas. TAN21 (waste) identified that local authorities in conjunction with the National Assembly for Wales are expected to establish voluntary joint arrangements to prepare waste plans for three regions of Wales (north, south, east and south west). Three Regional Waste Groups were set up with funding from the Assembly Government; they published the first set of Regional Waste Plans at the end of 2003. The plans are now being revised following continued Assembly Government funding. Revised plans are due to be published at the end of 2007 following consultations in the summer. The development and revision of the Regional Waste Plans includes a Sustainable Waste Management Option appraisal of a number of different options for managing waste in each region.

I trust that this information is useful.