



St Edmundsbury  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# B221

## Council 28 September 2010

### CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

#### ***Written report by Cllr Peter Stevens, Environment & Street Scene Portfolio***

**Portfolio includes:**

- Maintenance of the urban realm;
- Street naming and numbering;
- Grounds maintenance;
- Waste management and recycling;
- Abandoned vehicles;
- Cleansing;
- Environmental sustainability;
- Environmental management systems;
- Nature conservation;
- Climate change and energy action plan; and
- Public Toilets.

#### **1. Waste and Street Scene Services**

##### **1.1 Waste Collection Round Review**

- (a) The joint project with Forest Heath District Council to review waste collection rounds in the two districts occupied much of our time earlier in the year. This has optimised all our waste collection rounds based around different tipping locations for residual (black bin) waste and went live on the 28 June 2010.
- (b) Each stage of the project progressed well, culminating in successful communication to 78,000 households. The changes to bin collections generated a relatively low number of calls from the public as we received approximately 2,347 queries through the dedicated freephone number.
- (c) A reduction in vehicle mileage and overtime has already been achieved, which will result in tangible savings to our operational budgets.

##### **1.2 Partnership Working**

- (a) The partnership round review project has accelerated our partnership working and we are now also beginning to undertake further joint work as identified in the sections below.
- (b) Our experience of partnership working also continues to help other discussions on shared services as we are able to share our experience of working towards common policies and procedures.

### 1.3 **Composting of Street Sweepings**

- (a) The trial of composting street sweepings is proving successful. In the first three months that this has been operational 268 tonnes have been diverted from landfill, which is now contributing towards the recycling performance. In addition to this success, and having identified the positive implications, Forest Heath District Council has now also begun composting their street sweepings using the Borough Council's depot in Olding Road, Bury St Edmunds.

### 1.4 **Cleansing Review**

- (a) Both Councils have started the process of scoping a major new project to review our respective cleansing operations. Current practise and performance will be reviewed identifying how the service needs to be moved forward and what resource and equipment implications this may have to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

### 1.5 **Suffolk Waste Partnership: '*Suffolk Streets Ahead*'**

- (a) This scheme is an extension to the successful '*Seven Suffolk Streets*' project. It will be largely implemented by Suffolk County Council with support from each of the Local Authorities in Suffolk. Each Waste Collection Authority has selected a round area to engage with residents with advice on how to reduce their waste. The selected area in St Edmundsbury comprises predominantly of the Chimswell Estate in North West Haverhill.

## 2. **Environmental Sustainability**

### 2.1 **Environmental Performance**

- (a) The Council is committed to improving its environmental performance. As part of this commitment and to ensure external scrutiny, the Council has maintained certification to the international environmental standard, ISO14001, since July 2004. This standard is recognised by industry and commerce as well as in the public sector as marking out an organisation that is taking its environmental responsibilities seriously.
- (b) The re-certification takes place every three years and the Council underwent external audit during September 2010. Based on its findings the certification body, Bureau Veritas, was able to recommend re-certification.

## 3. **Public Toilets**

- 3.1 On 1 June 2010 Ocean Contract Cleaning Limited (Ocean) started the facilities management contract which includes the public toilets within the Borough. Also on this date the new staffing and attendance regime started and this has been strengthened by establishing a partnership with the rangers in the Abbey Gardens to secure the toilets nightly during the summer months. The recruitment of 2 part time staff for evening cleaning and weekend work at the Recreation Ground toilets in Haverhill has added to the service.