



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

B375

Council 14 December 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 Cleansing Review

In partnership with Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) we are working on a cleansing review whereby our street cleaning, channel and gulley sweeping, dog and litter bin provision and cleansing strategy, policies and methods are being reviewed. It is expected that the cleansing review will identify savings through a more integrated shared service delivery and generally improve cleansing efficiency. A consultation of parish and town councils started in December 2010.

1.2 Partnership Working

The completed round review and current cleansing review projects are accelerating our partnership working with FHDC. Savings have already been identified through sharing staff, equipment and working more effectively together.

1.3 Composting of Street Sweepings

The trial of composting street sweepings was successful and this operation is now in full service. From June to October 2010, the Borough Council diverted 526 tonnes from landfill. From August 2010 FHDC also began recycling and composting their street sweepings through our depot in Bury St Edmunds.

1.4 **Recycling and Composting the Bury St Edmunds Market Waste**

Following consultation with market trader representatives at the Market Traders Forum on the 12 October 2010 we went live with a trial to recycle and compost the majority of the Bury St Edmunds market waste on the 17 November 2010. This will allow us to recycle a significant percentage of the waste from the market and reduce waste disposal costs. Money saved will be used to fund further publicity and marketing for the market.

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

The Suffolk Waste Partnership's successful '*Seven Suffolk Streets*' project in March 2010 helped residents of the Abbots Green area in Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds reduce their residual waste by approximately 3.4kg per household over one fortnightly collection period. Following this success we have been supporting a similar, larger scale campaign called '*Suffolk Streets Ahead*' in the Chimswell Estate area of Haverhill.

The campaign's aim is to promote waste reduction through both minimising waste in the first instance and optimising the use of the recycling and compost bins. Residents, local schools, local businesses and community groups are also being encouraged to participate in the campaign in order to reduce reliance on landfill and improve the overall environmental impact of waste within their community.

1.6 **2009/2010 Performance**

On 4 November 2010, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) released the audited figures for 2009/2010. Our percentage of household waste recycled and composted was 50.07%. Our cost of collection per household actually fell from £46.99 in 2008/2009 to £44.44 in 2009/2010.

2. **Environmental Sustainability**

2.1 **Business support to improve resource efficiency and cut costs**

A new business resource efficiency grant received funding from the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership in November 2010. The grant, called the Business Carbon Cutter Grant, will support up to sixty small and medium sized businesses across the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) area, helping them to take practical action to cut energy bills and save money. The grant will be launched formally in the New Year and administered by the Borough Council on behalf of the project partners and the Local Strategic Partnership.

2.2 **Investing in renewable energy**

- (a) The Borough Council has carried out a review to establish the potential for investing in renewable energy generation to take advantage of a new national payment scheme for energy generation launched in April 2010.
- (b) A system of Feed-in Tariffs, as part of the Clean Energy Cashback Scheme, was introduced by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in April 2010 to give incentives to small scale, low carbon or renewable electricity generation. Investors will be paid for the electricity their system produces and electricity exported to grid in addition to the savings made by using any of the electricity on-site.

- (c) The introduction of Scheme in the UK has made installing smaller scale renewable electricity generation financially attractive. Tariff levels have been set to provide an expected return on investment, in real terms, of approximately 5% to 8% for well sited installations with payback periods on the capital cost of an installation of between 10 to 14 years with equipment having a minimum operating life of twenty five years in the case of solar photovoltaics (PV).
- (d) Based on the review, Cabinet has recommended to this meeting of Council that capital investment of up to £410,000 to install renewable energy generation at Council-owned buildings subject to final survey, tender and further investigation of other sources of funding. This investment is predicted to yield a minimum gross income of £873,950 producing a potential profit of £394,252 over the twenty-five year life of the Scheme. The installations will also help to save in the region of 1,100 tonnes of CO2 over the twenty-five year contract term.

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