



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

B473

Council 1 March 2011

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 Fleet Hero Awards

- (a) The Borough Council's fleet management was recognised at a recent awards ceremony in London where the Council collected two awards. The Fleet Hero Awards are organised by the Energy Saving Trust and acknowledge where fleet management has a key role to play in carbon reduction and tackling climate change. We were awarded runner up for the 2011 Business Mileage Management Award, coming second to HMRC and our Fleet and Technical Manager won the Motorvate Member of the Year Award.
- (b) These awards recognise various initiatives including the extended use of pool cars, the West Suffolk House Green Travel Plan and free parking for staff with low emissions cars.

1.2 RAF Honington: Household Waste Collection Trial

- (a) A trial is about to begin at RAF Honington to start phasing in collections of household waste and recycling from Single Living Accommodation (SLA) blocks. Armed forces personnel living in these blocks are relatively transient therefore, in partnership with station officers, we are rolling-out a full programme of education to help maximise recycling. The expectation is to achieve significant rates of recycling before rolling out the initiative to other SLA blocks at the airbase.

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

- (a) The *'Suffolk Streets Ahead'* project has now been completed. From July to December 2010 9,333 households, 7 schools and 96 businesses across Suffolk were engaged to promote waste minimisation and recycling messages.
- (b) Residents contacted in the Chimswell Estate area in Haverhill had the highest response rate in Suffolk to the teams of door knockers (67%). Residents were prompted to make waste minimisation pledges and increase recycling. Since this initiative started the quality of recyclable material presented for collection in the blue bin has increased by 4%.

1.4 **Cleansing Review**

- (a) In partnership with Forest Heath District Council we have been working on a review of our cleansing operations to increase efficiency across the two Councils. Cleansing rotas are being redesigned and we are aiming to share assets in order to cut costs. A consultation of parish and town councils has been concluded and these are being reviewed to help inform the process of change. Subject to approval from members of the Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee we plan to begin rolling out changes from April 2011.

2. **Environmental Sustainability**

2.1 **Business resource efficiency grant launched**

- (a) A new business support grant, Business Carbon Cutters, was launched this month to help small and medium sized businesses to take practical action to cut energy bills and save money.
- (b) Eligible businesses across West Suffolk will be able to apply for up to £1,000 from Business Carbon Cutters to carry out work such as insulating their building, replacing heating controls and lighting or installing more energy efficient alternatives to existing equipment.
- (c) The grant is funded by West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership and managed by the Borough Council.

2.2 **Investigating decentralised energy in Bury St Edmunds**

- (a) £28,000 has been awarded by the Suffolk Innovation Fund to investigate options for local energy generation in Bury St Edmunds to provide heat and power to around 4,500 new homes and 80 hectares of employment land planned for Bury St Edmunds over the next 20 years.
- (b) Part of the study will look at district heating. Little used in the UK, but well established in many other western countries, this concept would centralise the heating and hot water supply, removing the need for individual boilers in each new house. This would reduce overall emissions for the area, increase energy affordability and reduce fuel poverty. This study, led by the Borough Council and partners, is planned to be completed by July 2011. The outcomes of the study will provide evidence to the Bury St Edmunds Masterplan, Vision 2031, and give informed direction to potential energy projects in the town.