



## Council 28 June 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 Fires at Lackford and Haverhill Transfer Stations**

- (a) We have unfortunately suffered two fires at transfer stations in recent weeks. A fire at the Lackford transfer station, which handles blue bin (recyclable) waste, on 2 May 2011 completely destroyed the storage shed. A separate fire at the Haverhill transfer station, which handles black bin (residual) waste from St Edmundsbury on 5 June 2011 partially damaged the storage shed. Whilst presenting some operational challenges in finding temporary alternative tipping arrangements, there has been no impact to our residents waste collection service.

##### **1.2 Cleansing Review**

- (a) The Cleansing Review, in partnership with Forest Heath District Council (FHDC), continues to progress well. New sweeping and cleansing routes have been developed and rural channel sweeping is now being delivered using a single vehicle and member of staff working across the Borough and FHDC. The review is helping both Councils to deliver effective cleansing services more efficiently.

##### **1.3 Suffolk Waste Partnership Projects**

- (a) In conjunction with our partners in the Suffolk Waste Partnership, we are working on a number of significant projects that will shape waste collection and disposal in the County for many years to come. In conjunction with the Energy from Waste facility that is being planned to handle residual waste, we are working on projects to determine the location of

transfer stations, the bulk haulage of waste to treatment facilities, the sorting of recyclable waste and the processing of organic waste.

#### 1.4 **2010/2011 Figures for Fly Tipping and Abandoned Vehicles**

- (a) Figures released at the end of the year 2010/2011 reveal that the number of reported fly tipping incidents in the Borough have reduced by 20% compared to the previous year. The figures for reported incidents of abandoned vehicles also show a significant decline, reducing by over 27% compared to the previous year.

#### 1.5 **Review of English Waste Policy**

- (a) The Government has been conducting a Review of Waste Policy in England since the autumn of 2010. The Borough Council, in conjunction with our partners at FHDC, submitted a full response to the consultation associated with this review in October 2010.
- (b) There has been significant speculation in the media about the potential impact of this review to waste collection and at the time of writing the outcomes are about to be announced.
- (c) At the Council meeting I will briefly cover the results of this review and their potential impact to us here in West Suffolk.

### 2. **Environmental Sustainability**

#### 2.1 **Council's Annual Environmental Performance**

- (a) The Council has prepared its annual performance report for the year ending March 2011.
- (b) Overall, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from buildings have decreased by 12.20% since 2008 to 2,217 tonnes and by 22% compared to 2009. There were several factors which led to this year's building energy performance:-
  - (i) the coldest December in 100 years, officially recognised as such by the Met Office;
  - (ii) significantly improved performance of the ground source heat pumps and the Building Management System serving West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds, where building energy consumption dropped dramatically from 1.66MWh to 0.52MWh, a reduction of 68% compared to its first year of operation. This equates to a financial saving on energy between 2009 and 2010 reporting years of approximately £27,000;
  - (iii) reduced gas and electricity use at Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre; and
  - (iv) corrections caused by estimated billing. This has meant that the baseline and emissions for previous years have been revised accordingly to reflect more accurate data.
- (c) Water use has increased by 3.75% since last year. The trend does not reflect our planned arrangements put in place during 2010. These included:-
  - (i) instigating meter reading to detect anomalies;
  - (ii) undertaking water audits of each supply carried out by Anglian Water; and
  - (iii) designing in water efficiency measures into new buildings.

- (d) We will be targeting our major points of water use to see what improvements we can make.
- (e) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions arising from our business transport have fallen by over 91 tonnes (6.4%) to 1,337 tonnes since 2009 and by 64 tonnes (4.6%) since 2008. Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) fleet emissions have reduced by 3% over the last three years and whilst this appears to be a modest reduction it has been achieved despite increasing service demand.
- (f) We have taken a more focussed approach to changing the travel culture in the Council by establishing a staff business mileage reduction plan, with a 10% reduction target for 2010. Staff business mileage has reduced by 13% since 2009 which equates to a financial saving of around £26,000. This work has been recognised nationally in the Energy Saving Trust's Fleet Hero Awards when the Council was runner up in the Business Mileage Management category and awarded the Motorvate Member of the Year.
- (g) During the year, we established a pilot initiative called the *'Supply Chain Network'* to provide support and advice to suppliers not only to the Borough Council but also three other Suffolk Local Authorities. The project was supported by Resource Efficiency East and funded by the East of England Development Agency and European Union grant.

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