



Council 28 February 2012

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Report by Cllr Peter Stevens, Environment and Waste Management Portfolio

Portfolio includes:

- Conservation, Climate Change and Energy Action; and
- Environmental Sustainability and the Environmental Management System;
- Public Toilets;
- Street Names and Numbering;
- Street Scene, Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance; and
- Waste and Recycling.

1. Environmental Sustainability: Greener Business Grant

- 1.1 The Greener Business Grant offers small and medium sized enterprises across West Suffolk financial support up to £1,000 per business to carry out capital improvements which deliver energy efficiency improvements. The Council's Environmental Management Team manages the Grant.
- 1.2 Since March 2011, the grant scheme has achieved the following uptake and benefits:-

Applications received	14
Applications approved	11
Predicted lifetime CO ₂ emission savings	1,769 tonnes
Grant pot invested (based on grant approvals)	£6,680
Total value of works (as stated by applicants)	£62,900
Predicted lifetime cost savings	£244,000
Predicted average payback	5.84 years

- 1.3 Uptake has been lower than expected and may have been affected by a range of factors, including the economic downturn and local businesses nervousness to invest at this time. Recent changes to the marketing of the grant have seen an increase in interest.

2. Waste and Street Scene Services

2.1 Rural Action Plan funded Litter Picking Project

- (a) Through the support of the Rural Area Working Party, officers have offered rural parishes across St Edmundsbury free litter picking equipment. Almost 300 adult and children's litter pickers and bag hoops have been distributed as part of the scheme together with fluorescent waistcoats.

- (b) By distributing the equipment, our rural communities will have more flexibility to undertake litter picking at a time that suits them. We will, however, continue to support other picks on request, loaning out equipment and clearing the collected litter. The scheme will be launched to coincide with the various litter picking campaigns that are usually undertaken in March, such as the Suffolk Spring Clean Week.

2.2 Expansion of Domestic Waste Collection scheme at RAF Honington

- (a) We continue to work closely with personnel at RAF Honington as we roll-out our waste collection service to accommodation blocks at the base housing a large number of service personnel. An initial trial and education programme to encourage the occupiers of these blocks to recycle as much of their waste as possible has proved to be successful and further accommodation blocks are to be added to the scheme.
- (b) To further improve recycling on site, we have also had additional textiles, glass and media banks installed and have developed close working relationships with base personnel.

2.3 Extension to 'On the Go' Recycling

- (a) Two 'On the Go' Recycling bins have been in place in Bury St Edmunds town centre since March 2011. The units, which complement the litter bin network, allow the public to recycle the same materials as currently accepted through the blue bin scheme and also act as an educational message to passers-by.
- (b) In addition to being a principal commitment in the Government's Review of Waste Policy in England 2011, the units have also been well supported by the public. Four additional units are being funded from County Councilor locality budgets, and these will be installed by the end of February 2012.

2.4 Community Engagement: Presentations and Activities

- (a) Continuing our on-going education to the public, we have recently undertaken presentations on our general messages (what goes where, littering etc.) to pupils of Ixworth Primary School, Abbots Green Primary School and the Great Barton Cub Group. Our presence is well received and recycling games also make an enjoyable activity.
- (b) In addition, these engagements allow us to suggest follow-up activities, for example visiting the education centre at the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). Following the appointment of a new education officer at the MRF, Viridor are also to write to all schools within the Borough (as well as others across Suffolk) to invite them to see how our blue bin waste is sorted. They will also be offered subsidised transport using funds from the Suffolk Recycling Consortium. Visits can be arranged for any Members wishing to see the process.

2.5 Successful Prosecution of Fly Tipping Offence

- (a) On the 15 August 2011 our Enforcement Officer investigated a reported fly tip of plasterboard and insulation materials in the Rougham Hill area of Bury St Edmunds. Following a successful initial interview, the offender pleaded guilty on 13 December 2011 at the Bury St Edmunds Magistrates Court. The offender was fined £500, and was also ordered to meet the full costs incurred by the Council during the course of the investigation. The story was covered in the local media.