



Council 19 June 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:

1.1 Greener Business Grant: update

(a) 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 Borough Council's Environmental Management Team manages the Grant.

(b) To date, the grant scheme has achieved the following uptake and benefits:-

Applications received	24
Applications approved	21
Predicted lifetime CO ₂ emission savings	2,829 tonnes
Grant pot invested (based on grant approvals)	£19,000
Total value of works (as stated by applicants)	£121,000
Predicted lifetime cost savings	£483,800
Predicted average payback*	5.4 years

* This excludes one application for rainwater harvesting where the payback will be longer compared to energy related applications.

(c) Recent changes to the marketing of the grant have seen an increase in interest.

1.2 Installing solar photovoltaics (PV) on Council property

- (a) The Borough Council has completed the installation of six solar PV schemes at the following Council premises:-
- (a) West Suffolk House;
 - (b) Nowton Park Visitor Centre;
 - (c) Homefield Road Depot, Haverhill;
 - (d) Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre;
 - (e) Haverhill Leisure Centre; and
 - (f) Haverhill offices.
- (b) With the exception of West Suffolk House and the Haverhill offices, where joint ventures operate with Suffolk County Council (SCC), all schemes have been fully funded by the Council.
- (c) The schemes were commissioned and registered in advance of the revised deadline for the Government's changes to the generation tariff. To date the schemes have performed as below (excluding Nowton Visitor Centre where figures are awaited):-

Solar PV generation for St Edmundsbury Borough Council - Period April-May 2012	
Value of tariff	£14,522
Value of energy saving	£3,368
Total value	£17,890
Estimated value of energy generated at Leisure Centres	£1,513
Estimated value of generation tariff and energy to SCC	£2,872
Estimated Value to SEBC allowing for contributions to partners	£13,505
CO ₂ saving (Kg)	22,022

Assumptions:

Unit cost of electricity assumed at 8p/kWh

FIT tariff assumed 34.5p/kWh

2. Waste and Street Scene Services

2.1 Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP): Trial Textile Recycling Scheme

- (a) Last year the Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) undertook a waste analysis to identify which potentially recyclable materials were still being sent to landfill. It provided very useful evidence that almost 7,000 tonnes of potentially recyclable textiles is being lost to landfill annually. SWP Members, therefore, decided that a scheme should be designed to capture as much of these materials as possible, and reduce the costs associated with the disposal of textiles to landfill.
- (b) Borough Council officers, in partnership with others across the County, have therefore designed a simple and effective collection scheme, whereby residents will be provided with specially designed textile recycling bags in early July 2012 that can be placed into their existing recycling bins for collection once a fortnight.
- (c) Officers have set a target for Suffolk to divert 2,600 tonnes from landfill; this will reduce the landfill tax burden on the Council Tax payer by approximately £220,000 across Suffolk.
- (d) All scheme information, press releases and other supporting media will, however, include a message asking residents to continue to support their local charity shops and recycling banks as our focus is clearly on diverting the textiles sent to landfill.

2.2 **Suffolk Spring Clean**

- (a) This year Creating the Greenest County's Suffolk Spring Clean took part from the 26 March to 8 April. Over this fortnight officers provided equipment for eight litter picks. So far this year, however, we have already supported 18 events (in addition to any events undertaken with the free litter picking equipment provided at the beginning of the year).

2.3 **Community Engagement**

- (a) Officers have recently undertaken a specific project with Sextons Manor Primary School supplying the pupils with 1,000 plastic bottles, courtesy of Viridor, which were used to construct an Eco greenhouse. In addition, officers have also attended and undertaken activities on waste and recycling at a Beaver Scout Colony in Horringer.
- (b) Officers also recently attended an 'Impact Day' in the Chalkstone Estate of Haverhill to address waste, recycling and enforcement issues. This was part of an organised multi agency event to provide information to the residents of the selected area. Officers were able to have graffiti and litter removed as well as educate residents on the correct materials accepted for recycling and composting, they also addressed several bin storage issues.

2.4 **Vehicle Procurement**

- (a) In partnership with Forest Heath District Council, we are renewing a number of refuse fleet vehicles as current vehicles have reached the end of their useful working lives. Thirteen Refuse Collection Vehicles and three Street Sweepers will be delivered over the coming months.
- (b) This joint procurement has provided better efficiency across both Councils, and a joint livery on the new vehicles will allow the residents across West Suffolk to more easily recognise our shared service.

2.5 **Expansion of Domestic Waste Collection scheme at RAF Honington**

- (a) Further accommodation blocks are intended to be added to the scheme over the coming weeks, however, more recently, in addition to having installed additional textile, glass and media banks, officers have also had a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) container installed on site. It is expected that this will be well used as the turnover of base personnel is high, and items such as televisions and irons are commonly disposed of in this environment.