



Council 27 September 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 Climate change and energy security – update

1.1.1 A summary of the work of the Council as part of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership was considered by Sustainable Development Working Party earlier in September 2012.

1.1.2 Some key highlights are set out below of the work:

- (a) The *Suffolk Environmental Business Advisor Service* provides support to small and medium sized businesses wishing to cut their energy use and improve business efficiency. Since 2008, over 300 Suffolk businesses have received audits, with 46 businesses supported in St Edmundsbury. This has identified potential annual savings across Suffolk in excess of £1.8 million, and 9,000 tonnes of CO₂; in St Edmundsbury, potential annual savings of £282,000 and 1,900 tonnes of CO₂ have been identified.
- (b) The *Greener Homes Do It Yourself Scheme* was aimed primarily, but not exclusively, at lower income households. The purpose of the project was to tackle poor insulation for households living above the benefit threshold but with no disposable income to invest in energy efficiency. The first phase of the scheme, which ran between 2008 and 2011, helped over 1,200 households across Suffolk, while the second phase has helped a further 540 households in West Suffolk.
- (c) *Local authority promotion of home insulation measures* – since 2008 over 2,300 properties with cavity-walled properties have been insulated, while 3,400 loft insulations have been carried out in St Edmundsbury.

2. Waste and Street Scene Services

2.1 Suffolk Waste Partnership Trial Textile Recycling Scheme

- 2.1.1 The Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) Trial Textiles Recycling Scheme launched successfully across Suffolk from 23 July. The scheme aims to reduce the 7,000 tonnes of textiles currently sent to landfill in Suffolk each year which costs taxpayers approximately £600,000 annually.
- 2.1.2 To aid its launch in St Edmundsbury officers undertook promotional road shows at both Nowton Park in Bury St Edmunds and East Town Park in Haverhill. Feedback received from residents both at these events and in general has been very positive, and up to the end of August approximately 125 tonnes of textiles had been collected across Suffolk.
- 2.1.3 We are continuing to encourage residents to support their local charity groups, and indeed have received anecdotal reports that some charities have noticed an increase in donations since the start of the SWP scheme.

2.2 Community Engagement

- 2.2.1 Officers recently took part in a vocational day at the Priory School in Bury St Edmunds. A waste awareness activity was carried out which aimed to develop teamwork and collective thinking for mixed aged students with special educational needs and complex learning difficulties.
- 2.2.2 Officers also recently attended an 'Impact Day' on the Vinefields in Bury St Edmunds to address waste, recycling and enforcement issues. This was part of an organised multi agency event to provide face to face information to the residents of the area.
- 2.2.3 Furthermore, in addition to the promotional textiles road show at East Town Park in Haverhill, officers also arranged for a free compost giveaway. The compost was funded by Suffolk County Council and the event was also facilitated with help from their 'Master Composter' volunteers.

2.3 Vehicle Procurement

- 2.3.1 The vehicles procured in partnership with Forest Heath District Council are now beginning to be delivered. So far three street sweepers and five refuse collection vehicles in the new orange livery have arrived and nine more are expected to be delivered over the coming months. Where possible the old vehicles are being sent to auction where, for St Edmundsbury, the proceeds raised will be transferred back into the vehicle and plant renewal fund.

2.4 Cost of Waste Collection per Household

- 2.4.1 The cost of collecting waste for each household in St Edmundsbury has fallen again for a third successive year. In 2011/12 the cost fell to £40.24 per household compared to £41.90 in 2010/11 (a fall of approximately 4%).