



## **Council** **30 September 2013**

### **CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL**

#### ***Report by Cllr Peter Stevens*** ***Waste and Property Portfolio***

**Portfolio includes:**

- Rural Areas
- Waste
- Street Scene
- Grounds Maintenance
- Environmental Management
- Property and Asset Management

#### **1. Waste and Street Scene Services**

##### **1.1 Operation Tip Off in West Suffolk**

1.1.1 As part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership's successful bid for funding from the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), officers have held multi-agency stop and search events on the A11 in Mildenhall and the A14 in Bury St Edmunds. These events are designed to identify rogue traders transporting waste illegally as they are the most likely offenders to fly tip. Along with officers from the Police, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and support from the Environment Agency, officers stopped 19 commercial vehicles and helped to identify eight offenders to other agencies.

1.1.2 The Suffolk wide Tip Off campaign will continue into March 2014 with more stop and search events planned around the county this month. Whilst incidents of fly tipping across West Suffolk have fallen significantly in the last five years, it continues to persist.

##### **1.2 Bulky Waste Collections and Bin Deliveries**

1.2.1 In June 2013 we launched the start of the joint West Suffolk bulky waste and bin delivery service. Combining this service has led to savings in both staff time and fuel consumption as only one vehicle, rather than two, is now used. Collections are now based on postcode areas. This will also make it easier for customers to book their own collections in the future.

### **1.3 Plastics Recycling Campaign**

- 1.3.1 As part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, officers have been supporting the "Plastics know your place" campaign by liaising with local supermarkets to help spread the message about which plastics can be recycled and where. Shoppers in Waitrose will have no doubt seen the colourful shelf labels which have been strategically placed around the store to help remind shoppers which plastics can be recycled in their kerbside collection and which plastics should be taken to their local recycling centre. The campaign has been hugely successful, with early results indicating that plastics recycling has increased by up to 20%.
- 1.3.2 Over 80,000 'hits' of the Suffolk plastics campaign video on YouTube have been made since the campaign launch.

### **1.4 Fleet Management**

- 1.4.1 St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) has been awarded the Motorvate Silver award for Carbon Reduction within their fleet operations – an annual independent calculation and verification of our carbon footprint administered by the Energy Saving Trust and endorsed by the Department for Transport.
- 1.4.2 This measures total mileage for the grey fleet and company vehicles up to 3.5 tonne and found a 13.9% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, thus achieving Silver Award; an improvement from the previous Bronze Award.

## **2. Environmental Management**

### **2.1 Annual Environmental Performance Report 2012**

- 2.1.1 Since 2013 the Council has managed its Environmental Performance using an Environmental Management System. This is an effective approach which can deliver real environmental and cost-savings benefits. The Council has recently published its Annual Environmental Performance report covering the year ending 31 March 2013.
- 2.1.2 Areas where progress was made during 2012 include completing installation of solar panels on five Council owned buildings (first year energy value of £71,500), reducing business passenger mileage by 20% since 2010, assisting Abbeycroft Leisure Trust with financing energy and water efficiency improvements, retaining and extending green flag status to cover four of the Council's country parks and achieving independent recognition to the International Environmental standard ISO14001 for the ninth year running.

### **2.2 Domestic Energy Efficiency**

- 2.2.1 The UK has some of the leakiest and least efficient homes in Europe with fuel poverty a growing problem. The Council has been working with its partners in Suffolk to develop a co-ordinated programme of domestic energy efficiency measures utilising the Government's Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation which were launched earlier this year. We participated in a Department of Energy pilot of the Green Deal earlier this year and the experience of those participating including the local authorities and customers has been taken into account.

- 2.2.2 The Council has a strong reputation for partnership working in this field. Recent examples of where we have worked effectively with other Suffolk local authorities and the private sector on marketing energy efficiency schemes to the public include the 'Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People' campaign and the Suffolk 'Warm as Toast' scheme.

### **3. Property and Asset Management**

#### **3.1 Lettings Update**

- 3.1.1 Signs of increased economic activity are prevalent with a new letting agreed for 4,000 sq ft at 8 Bunting Road, Bury St Edmunds to an occupier relocating from near by and terms for the last remaining vacant retail unit in Risbygate street are nearing agreement. Discussions are advanced with a party to take 2,500 sq ft of space in a vacant unit on Hollands Road, Haverhill and a business which grew out of the Hollands Road Menta units has just agreed to take a new lease of 13 Hollands Road having occupied under a licence for the last six months.

#### **3.2 Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre**

- 3.2.1 Tenders have been invited for replacement flumes, leisure pool, external cladding, glazing and main entrance lobby all in accordance with the Councils' scheduled maintenance plan. The projected budget is £500,000k with a predicted site start of December 2013 and a completion of April 2014.

### **4. Rural Affairs**

#### **4.1 Village of the Year**

- 4.1.1 Councillors Cockle, Redhead, Mrs Rushen and Thorndyke formed the 2013 Village of the Year judging panel for the St Edmundsbury round (the overall competition is organised by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils). After a day of judging on 14 June 2013, the panel named Great Barton as the winner, with Ixworth coming second and Barrow third. Great Barton received £500 prize money from the Borough Council, together with an engraved rose bowl that was presented to the village by the Mayor of St Edmundsbury on 27 July 2013 during a village event.
- 4.1.2 Great Barton went through to the final, which was judged by Radio Suffolk DJs Lesley Dolphin and Rob Dunger, and were announced as the overall winner of the competition on 24 August 2013, with Wickham Market coming second and Brantham third. The judges were impressed with the villages 30-plus clubs, including those in computing and drama as well as its environmental work, new allotments and green initiatives at the Village Hall. Great Barton received a further £1,000 prize money plus a prize and certificate for wildlife conservation from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

#### **4.2 Rural Project Funding**

- 4.2.1 Capital funding has been allocated to two projects through the rural initiatives grants scheme. Bradfield St George has been awarded just over £626 to replace the coping stones, which will both improve the façade of the hall and prevent the issues of damp which has been a problem. Cowlinge Village Hall was also awarded £4,260 to completely replace the wooden flooring which had closed the hall due to health and safety concerns.