



Council 17 December 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 **Market Traders Agreements** - The markets team and a number of market traders have been reviewing the market licence regulations for market traders, the last regulations having been approved in 1996. The revised Market Licence Regulations were implemented on 26 November 2013 as agreed with the traders and are intended to increase consumer confidence and trade.
- 1.2 **Commercial Services – Waste and Street Scene** - As part of the development of the commercial services throughout West Suffolk:
- the Waste and Street Scene team attended the Parish Council conference at the Apex in October 2013 to promote the full range of services available
 - the Council's MOT testing facility at the Bury St Edmunds depot has been renewed and upgraded to enable larger vehicles to be tested. This will benefit council fleet operations and external customers too
- 1.3 **Fleet Management** - Display panels are currently being fitted to the new refuse collection as part of a Suffolk Waste Partnership promotion of textiles recycling. Panels have been fitted to two vehicles in the Bury St Edmunds area, with further panels to be fitted to vehicles in Haverhill. The eye catching design provides information to residents on how to receive extra bags to recycle their textiles if they do not have one when they need it.
- 1.4 **Recycling** - Work has been ongoing to improve the textiles recycling trial, increasing the tonnages collected and improving the quality of the material. Officers have identified several new locations for residents to pick up additional

textiles recycling bags, which will make it easier for residents to recycle their textiles.

2. *Environmental Management*

2.1 Domestic energy efficiency

2.1.1 The UK has some of the leakiest and least energy efficient homes in Europe with fuel poverty a growing problem. The Council has a strong reputation for partnership working in this field through our participation in the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership; with other Suffolk local authorities, charities such as Age UK Suffolk and the Rural Coffee Caravan along with the private sector we have launched this year's the Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People programme. This is the third year that the county-wide programme has been run which aims to alleviate the worst impacts of cold homes on residents and improve the energy efficiency of homes in the Borough and across Suffolk.

2.1.2 This programme forms part of a broader package of work undertaken by the Council to deal with domestic energy efficiency across the Borough; for example, we have recently facilitated external solid wall insulation of over 50 homes in Stanton working with a Suffolk-based insulation company. This work is valued at around £400,000 (approximately £8,000 per property) and has been undertaken at no cost to the residents or the Council by utilising the Energy Companies Obligation which requires utility companies to support home energy efficiency. This improvement to insulation levels should help to reduce household fuel bills and make the homes warmer and more comfortable for the residents.

3. *Property and Asset Management*

3.1 Lettings Update

3.1.1 Property Services have been pleased to work with Mark Cordell at 'Our Bury St Edmunds' (BID) to provide a pop up shop opportunity within the craft units at Elseys Yard to local artist Cate Hadley who has previously been providing the gallery services at the Apex. Coupled with an additional letting of 99 Risbygate Street to local business Kendall and Co, all of the units within this part of town are now currently occupied again.

3.2 Bury Leisure Centre

3.2.1 Tenders have been received for replacement flumes, Leisure pool and external cladding, glazing and main entrance lobby. Negotiations continue with tenderers with a predicted start early 2014 for a 20 week contract.

4. Rural Affairs

4.1 Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme

4.1.1 Since the last report the following funding has been awarded from the Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme:-

- Hengrave Village Hall has received £700 to assist with improvements to both the energy efficiency and heating of the hall.
- Cavendish Cricket Club have been awarded £3,020 towards a project which will see the refurbishment of the artificial wicket and the replacement of the practice net at the club. This is one element of a wider project which focuses on the development of young players.
- Great Barton Village Thanksgiving Fund have been awarded £5,000 for Phase 8 of the refurbishment of the Village Hall, the funding will contribute to a new foyer and improved access to this well used hall.

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