



## Council 25 February 2014

### 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 Street Sweepings**

1.1.1 As part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, St Edmundsbury has advertised a tender for the recycling of street sweepings. The tender document, which is part of a Suffolk-wide procurement, has asked for a contractor to collect sweepings from all local authority depots and recycle them. Recent legislation dictates that the biological waste can no longer be composted. A recent trial has shown that the majority of the aggregates can be washed and graded ready to be sold as a new product and the biological fraction (mostly leaves and twigs) sent to a biomass incinerator.

##### **1.2 Stop and Search**

1.2.1 The second round of Operation Tip-Off, Suffolk Waste Partnerships' anti-fly-tipping campaign, took place during the week of 27-31 January 2014. This multi-agency crackdown took place across the county with VOSA agents, Suffolk Police and council enforcement officers either at static locations or out on the road ensuring that businesses were complying with waste transportation regulations.

1.2.2 Operation Tip-Off has seen checks carried out on commercial vehicle, inspections of waste carrier licences and waste transfer documentation with those found to be transporting waste illegally facing a fixed penalty fine of £300.

1.2.3 Officers from St Edmundsbury Borough and Forest Heath District Councils conducted two mobile patrols during the week accompanying an officer from

the traffic unit of Suffolk Police. This covered each authority's areas looking and targeting any vehicles visibly carrying or suspected of carrying waste. During the week the total number of vehicles stopped across Suffolk and searched with regards to waste compliance issues was 89.

- 1.2.4 To coincide with the county-wide crackdown, Suffolk Waste Partnership has also produced 'Tripping up the Tippers', a video showing householders that they have a duty of care to ensure that their waste is disposed of legally. The video urges residents to check that anyone offering to take their waste away is legitimate and not a rogue trader looking to make easy money by fly-tipping waste. If a resident's waste ends up fly-tipped, and it cannot be proven that reasonable steps were taken to prevent 'the tipping', that household could be fined up to £5,000.

[www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/fly-tipping](http://www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/fly-tipping)

## **2. *Environmental Management***

### **2.1 *Domestic Energy Efficiency***

- 2.1.1 The Council's Environment Team has been working for several years with all Suffolk local authorities to develop targeted energy efficiency schemes to private homeowners, tenants and landlords across Suffolk. The way that energy efficiency measures are funded has changed in the last twelve months requiring a new approach involving local authorities working with energy sector partners to assist householders living in poorly insulated, colder homes.
- 2.1.2 A new Suffolk-wide programme, Suffolk Energy Action, will be a quality-assured scheme designed to help all Suffolk residents save money on their energy bills and encourage the reduction of carbon emissions through energy efficiency improvements. Suffolk Energy Action will provide assessments on the energy performance of homes, identify potential improvements, and provide options and advice for grant funding. Where appropriate, improvement measures such as loft and wall insulation will be support-funded by the Energy Companies Obligation.
- 2.1.3 Suffolk Energy Action will be launched in March 2014 and will be the primary local authority-endorsed programme for domestic energy efficiency services to residents in the Borough and across Suffolk.

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

### **3.1 *Lettings Update***

- 3.1.1 The year has started promisingly with a significant increase in enquiries, particularly for the larger industrial units at Bunting Road in Moreton Hall.
- 3.1.2 Work is now complete in the centre of town to fit out the former Specsavers unit at 59 Cornhill, which is set to become a large branch of Spicer Haart Estate Agents.
- 3.1.3 In Risbygate Street The Stamp Hut has closed but been immediately re-let to Keep on Crafting and enquiries are being received from large regional players interested in the recently vacated unit at 99.

3.1.4 Activity and most importantly confidence is returning to the Commercial property market which bodes well for the future.

#### **4. Rural Affairs**

##### **4.1 Rural Initiative Grants**

4.1.1 Since the last report the council has allocated £8,718 to the Bardwell Playing Field Association. This goes towards a scheme costing over £54,000 to purchase some additional land, add a new football pitch and cricket wicket and improve car parking provision. This is a well-used rural sports facility which the Council was happy to support.

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