



Council **23 September 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 Successful Fly-tipping prosecutions

- 1.1.1 During August West Suffolk brought three successful prosecutions at Bury St Edmunds Magistrates Court against residents and a trader who illegally dumped their waste. 40 paint tins were dumped in Coney Weston after a Watton trader failed to check the credentials of the individual he paid to remove his waste. He was prosecuted for and found guilty of failing to comply with his Duty of Care resulting in a total fine of £1,162 including £612.50 towards council clear up costs.

1.2 Launch of Make Food Waste History Campaign

- 1.2.1 As part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, officers have been supporting the "Make Food Waste History" campaign. WRAP, the Government body for dealing with Waste and Resources, have calculated that the average family waste £700 of food every year. In addition to the environmental cost of producing waste for the bin, as a county we are also paying the financial cost for this waste to be disposed of. Helping householders to reduce food waste will save them money and make the food chain more sustainable. The quirky campaign is based around a YouTube video and gives householders tips on how to plan meals in advance, store food correctly, measure portion sizes and recycle any food that is wasted. The video currently has over 73 000 hits, of which 97% are from Suffolk. The online presence has been backed up with roadshows in each district to give face to face advice and tools such as measuring cups and shopping lists as incentives for taking part.

1.3 Tender for Glass Recycling

- 1.3.1 A tender for the collection of glass from bottle banks has been sent out in the Official Journal for the European Union. The tender is for a contract to continue and improve collections of glass from the existing locations of glass bells across Suffolk. Legislation passed this year to improve the quality of recyclables collected means that it is inadvisable for glass to be collected with other materials as it contaminates other material streams and reduces their quality. This legislation means that having a strong network of bring banks is as important as ever and the new contract will allow the Suffolk Waste Collection Authorities the opportunity to share in the profits made from selling the glass collected.

1.4 Community Action

- 1.4.1 Two schools in Bury St Edmunds were winners in a Suffolk wide competition to win specialized composting equipment. Pupils from Abbots Green and the Priory School both designed recycling guides to encourage staff and pupils to recycle as much waste as possible and won "hot bins" which compost food far faster than normal compost bins. They will monitor the usage and report back the results to the Suffolk Waste Partnership.
- 1.4.2 Over the last four months officers have also delivered assemblies to five schools in West Suffolk to encourage waste reduction and recycling both at school and at home.

1.5 Operations

- 1.5.1 The Local Government Association has used West Suffolk as a best practice case study for the work done on round reorganisation in 2010. The case study has been made into a short video clip which was presented at the National LGA conference held in London during July this year. West Suffolk was also referenced in their report "Transforming local public services – using technology and digital tools and approaches".

2. Environmental Management

2.1 Support to improve energy efficiency in privately owned accommodation

- 2.1.1 The Environment Team are currently fully engaged with delivering the Government's Green Deal Community Energy Fund. Following the announcement earlier this year that Suffolk had successfully been awarded over £5million from the fund the Suffolk local authorities have been working together to deliver the project. Grants of up to £6,000 are available for each household, with solid wall properties as the main priority, but the grant will support other insulation measures including heating and window upgrades. Bury St Edmunds was one of 3 pilot areas chosen to trial a street by street targeted energy efficiency campaign, going under the project name of Suffolk Energy Action.
- 2.1.2 In West Suffolk, we are currently having discussions with private rented-sector landlords of key rural estates to deliver housing upgrades through this scheme. The fund is available until March 2015 and the initial response has been positive about the proposition that we have developed.

3. Property and Asset Management

3.1 Lettings Update

- 3.1.1 The commercial market has remained steady since the previous update with new lets agreed on our final two previously available retail units in Bury. The Scout Group have relocated to Lake Avenue, freeing up space at the Guildhall to help facilitate the new heritage and exhibition centre, whilst a new accountancy branch is due to set up in Risbygate Street upon receipt of necessary planning permission.
- 3.1.2 In the private market Bills and Côte restaurants respectively have opened their doors to the public in the former Barclays bank building in Abbeygate Street whilst Mothersole builders continue their conversion of the former Collis & Sons jewellers to residential use.
- 3.1.3 ARCO have re-located and officially opened at Bunting Road following their refurbishment of the unit, whilst St Eds Haverhill industrial and retail stock remains fully let.

4. Rural Affairs

No update.

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