

Supplementary Council Agenda



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Council Tuesday, 29th September, 2009

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping
Room: Council Chamber
Time: 7.30 pm
Committee Secretary: Council Secretary: Ian Willett
Tel: 01992 564243 Email: iwillett@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

7. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER, CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET (Pages 3 - 6)

To receive the attached reports from the Environment Portfolio Holder and the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder on matters falling within their area of responsibility.

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Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 29 September 2009

Subject: Environment Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Mary Sartin

Item: 7(d)

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted

Waste Management Service

We have now had three full weeks of the new food and garden waste recycling service. As I reported to Cabinet on 7 September, office staff have had to cope with a substantial number of phone calls in the weeks leading up to the start of the new service and the same level of calls continued during the first two weeks following the start on 7 September. Many calls were general enquiries while others were expressing concerns around the service being offered and a third element were those requesting smaller bins or kerbside caddies instead of a wheeled bin. Those taking these calls have often been working under considerable pressure and I would once again like to express my thanks to them and also to those working from the Langston Road depot for all the work which they have done in getting this new service up and running. Although the number of calls has now reduced they remain much higher than normal but do now include more general matters.

Inter Authority Agreement

At the meeting of Council on 28 April 2009, the Leader of Council, Councillor Di Collins was asked to comment on the outcome of the funding allocations to waste collection authorities for the introduction of new services. The Leader provided a full response at that time (see Minute ref: 28/4/2009: 134), but also stated that I would report back to Members on the outcome of discussions with the County Council Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Tracy Chapman. That meeting took place on 25 August, the detail of which I set out below.

Councillor Mrs Chapman recognised and understood the concerns I had raised in my letter, but reiterated the fact that the allocation of revenue and capital funding was undertaken based on the schemes brought forward and the funding required by individual districts to deliver them. On that basis, there were bound to be some funding outcomes which appeared to be disproportionate when considered simply on a per capita basis. Councillor Mrs Chapman confirmed that she was very pleased with the open, honest and partnership based approach adopted by this Council throughout the negotiations, and that since the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) contained clauses for annual reviews, there would be opportunities in the future to review the funding of all waste collection authorities based on circumstances at that

time. These reviews would also enable consideration to be given to the re-provision of capital infrastructure such as vehicles, as and when that became necessary.

I considered the meeting to be a positive one and have concluded that, given the complexities of the funding process and the provision for annual review within the IAA, the Council should be satisfied with the overall outcome of the process.

I now look forward to working in partnership with the County Council and the Essex Districts/Boroughs in taking forward the IAA and the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Bobbingworth Tip

The final stage of work on the Bobbingworth site is now moving forward. The surface has been rotavated in preparation for seeding. The necessary planning consents for the installation of CCTV cameras have been granted and work on fencing is going ahead. All of this work should be completed in this calendar year with the final accounts being completed in January or February.

Street Scene

The Council's Environmental Response Unit has now been on the road for several weeks and has proved its worth already in the quick removal of smaller amounts of fly tipping, graffiti, etc.

Neighbourhood Officers have now completed their accreditation training and are out and about in the District. Councillor Mrs Smith, Councillor Mrs Collins and I joined them in different parts of the area on 22 September as they patrolled their patches. Although they are now able to issue fixed penalty notices the emphasis is very much on education to ensure that the District is kept as free from litter, graffiti and fly posting as possible.

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 29 September 2009

Subject: Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Brian Rolfe

Item: 7(h)

Recommending:

That the report of the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder be noted

Summer Holiday Programme

Before the next Council meeting, I will be showing you a short DVD of the vast range of holiday activities that the Community Services Sections provided throughout the summer holidays, but for now, will provide a couple of highlights.

I was invited to visit a selection of the extensive summer holiday activities provided by Community Services Sections during the summer, and was very impressed by the range of activities available to children and young people in the district. All of the activities that I saw were well organised and thoroughly enjoyed by the participants.

On most weeks throughout the summer, the programme attracted between 500 - 700 youngsters from 5 – 15 years, across activities ranging from outdoor adventure and hip hop dance, to Playschemes and the new Play in the Park sessions. I understand that in terms of attendances, that it was one of the most successful summers on record.

External Funding Secured

Staff in Community Services have also been working hard to secure external funding to add value to their core programmes, and the following funding has been secured over the last few months:

Museum

- Heritage Lottery Renaissance in the Regions Funding of £30k for the extension of the Museum's Touring Exhibitions Programme 2010/11

Sports Development

- Performance Reward Grant Funding of £21k towards the further development of an existing Youth Activity club on Ninefields Estate, Waltham Abbey
- £27k funding from the same pot for the provision of targeted trampolining sessions for primary age children with additional needs to encourage better attainment at school

- £8.5k funding from Sport Essex for delivery of a range of 'get back into sport' activities for people of all ages and abilities

Community Development

- £50k Big Lottery Playbuilders funding for the replacement of a playground in Westall Road, Loughton

In addition, the Museum has also been awarded with two national quality awards, for its' Education Outreach programme, and for being assessed by the British Tourist Board as a quality visitor attraction

Other Community Services Highlights

Part of the Arts team have been working on a project over the last 6 months called 'Make do and mend', which has involved adults with learning difficulties and disabilities; young people from disadvantaged areas and elderly people - including those in residential care. The project has been developed in conjunction with The London College of Fashion and has helped to break down barriers and fears between these very different groups, through focussing on a project making 'new clothes out of old'. It was based around the wartime shortages and the need to sometimes use utility items for clothing and how recycling of clothes is still used today.

The work produced by the many participants involved will be exhibited at the district Museum in a special display from 10 October.

Sports Development's Active Health Programme has also recently launched a range of resources to help 'older' local people improve their health and well being, including:

- An audio walking guide which is based on the successful Lifewalks routes and enables people to walk at their own convenience
- A seated exercise DVD for people to follow in the comfort of their own homes, and
- A seated exercise leaflet outlining the range of activities to improve mobility, strength and fitness

This programme is fully funded by Age Concern through the Big Lottery Fund, for 2 more years.

Waltham Abbey Sports Centre

Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting of the 3 September 2009, considered a call-in of the Cabinet decision with respect to the future of Sports Facilities in Waltham Abbey, and in particular, concerns around the potential gap in provision between the end of the Dual Use Agreement with King Harold School and any new Sports Hall being constructed at Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool. In the event, Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirmed the Cabinet's decisions. However, I am pleased to be able to report that following a constructive meeting with King Harold School, **the school has expressed a wish that the sports centre should remain available for community use from January next year. Council officers will be working closely with the school to assist them in any way possible.**