

# Supplementary Council Agenda



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

## ***Council Thursday, 28th June, 2007***

**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](mailto:iwillett@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

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

To receive reports from the Leader, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and members of the Cabinet on matters falling within their area of responsibility:

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- (e) Report of Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder - attached;
- (g) Report of Housing Portfolio Holder – supplement attached.

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## ***Report to the Council***

**Subject: Environmental Protection**

**Date: 28 June 2007**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs M Sartin**

**Item: 7(e)**

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### **Recommendation:**

**That the report of the Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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### **Bobbingworth Tip Remediation Project**

Work began on the importation of soil onto the site on 27 April. Between that date and 20 June, 1,365 lorries brought soil onto the site. The rate of work has been somewhat hampered by the very heavy rains which we have experienced during this period, the site being unsuitable for access by HGV's when the ground has been exceptionally wet.

A complaints line was set up before this work began and up to 20 June, 14 complaints have been logged. Of these, two were lorries parking on Fyfield Road before 8am, soil movement not being allowed before 8am. This practice has now been banned as it was perceived to be a Health and Safety risk to members of the public. Two others concerned breaches of the soil protocol, in that lorries were seen along Moreton Road travelling to the site before 8am and lorries were observed using Gainsborough Road which is not part of the accepted route. In the first instance CCTV camera images showed lorries arriving at the site before 8am and in the second confirmation was given by independent observers. On both occasions drivers were identified and reprimanded.

Hopefully, we will now have a period of more settled weather and, although we cannot make up the shortfall in terms of lost lorry movements, we will be able to maintain the agreed rate of movements per day.

### **Waste Management Contract**

Following the opening of the tenders received for this contract, four companies have been asked to attend the Waste Contract Appointments Panel on 5<sup>th</sup> July. The four companies are Veolia, Cory Environmental, Keir Street Services and Sita UK. All four have submitted tenders for the complete contract which had been broken down into four parts.

The Panel will receive officer reports and presentations from each of the companies. Following on from the deliberations of the Panel, a recommendation will go forward to Cabinet on 16 July with the Cabinet's recommendation going to full Council on 24 July.

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**Status report for Housing Portfolio Holder**

Date	Scheme or enquiry	Progress report / comment
	Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy	Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy implemented April 2007. A public copy is to be placed on the council's web-site. Information leaflets are being produced for the new types of Housing Assistance and these are also being advertised in the Forester magazine and on display boards in Civic Offices. Progress with meeting the objectives in the Strategy is to be reported at Scrutiny Panel in October 2007.
	HMO Licensing	New EHO started March 2007. Systems and application forms being finalised. Publishing requirements for Licensing planned September 2007. Inspections of HMOs falling within the definition for mandatory licensing have commenced. Process is involved and progress slower than anticipated.
	Empty Property Strategy	Progress with meeting the objectives in the Strategy is to be reported at Scrutiny Panel in October 2007. Audit Commission advised that private sector homes vacant for >6 months will be subject to detailed audit this year.
	P.L.A.C.E Scheme (Go-East funded joint initiative)	Some difficulties in finding suitable properties and owners wishing to participate (other partner LAs experiencing similar problems). On the positive side - Env Health is getting a much better understanding and a more accurate picture of the number of Empty Properties in the district.
	C.A.R.E. Business Plan	Business Plan produced and out for consultation. Consultation period ends 31 August 2007.
	Park Homes	New Model Standards still not introduced. Park homes in the process of being issued with updated licences on change of ownership. Some serious cases of harassment being reported from residents re an owner who now has two large park homes in the District. Env Health liaising with Safer Communities.
	Housing Act 2004	Requirements of the Housing Act 2004 with regard to full house inspections under the new inspection regime being carried out. Decent Homes information now being recorded on Env - Health database.

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