

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 29 July 2008

Subject: Environment Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Mary Sartin Item: 6(d)

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.

Bobbingworth

As before, work on the site has again been hampered by the poor weather conditions so lorry movements on to the site have been restricted. In the 11 weeks since 28 April there have been an average of 91 movements per week (1006 in total) against a target of 350 per week. It is anticipated that another 1000 lorry movements will be required to provide the required amount of soil.

It is hoped that a source of soil of a suitable quality has now been identified, with sufficient quantity available to see this part of the project to its conclusion. If the weather patterns continue for the summer as they have to date then a decision may be taken to stockpile the soil on site ready for spreading out as and when the ground conditions are suitable to take vehicles over it.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener

Work is currently progressing on the setting up of the Rapid Response Unit as part of this initiative. Evaluations of possible vehicles are being made to find one appropriate for the role ready to get the unit out on the road as soon as possible.

Waste Management

With confirmed figures of 41.6% for recycling in 2007/08, I would once again congratulate our residents on their efforts to maintain and build upon the good work that they have done over the past years. I would, however, urge that we do not become complacent and would stress that the bar is always being raised. The pressure is on from Government to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill and we have to constantly look at ways of helping our residents bring to a minimum what goes into their wheelie bins.

At the time of writing, the first Waste Management Partnership Board has yet to meet but I hope that by the time of this Council meeting I will be able to report on some of the ideas which come out of this meeting.