

# ***Report to the Council***

**Subject: Environment Portfolio**

**Date: 25 September 2008**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mary Sartin**

**Item: 7(f)**

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## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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## **Waste Management**

The Essex Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, which was out for consultation earlier this year, has now been recommended by Cabinet for adoption by Council and appears later in this agenda.

The Innovation Forum set up as part of the new waste contract is now meeting regularly to work on moving the service forward. As part of the way forward, a consultation exercise is now underway to establish how residents currently view and use the service and to get their opinions on the three possible options set out as part of the questionnaire. The closing date for responses is 24 October and I would ask members to encourage their residents to take the time to respond.

As part of the way forward, work is now progressing to get recycling containers into as many flats as possible. There are approximately 300 blocks of flats within the District and around 100 of these now have facilities for dry recycling and glass bottles. Another 39 blocks have been surveyed and are awaiting the installation of containers. As well as flats we are also working on getting recycling containers into schools, 40 already having been set up and another 20 waiting for the containers.

The Audit Commission Inspection Report for the inspection which was carried out on the Waste Service in April has now been published. This will now go to the next Cabinet meeting before coming to Council.

## **Bobbingworth**

Progress on site is still slow due to the combination of weather conditions and the lack of suitable soil caused by the downturn in the building trade. Some steps are being taken on site to try and move things forward to allow Countrycare to get on with their planned work which will include tree planting.

## **Environment Issues**

The Carbon Trust has carried out an energy audit of some council premises including offices, Norway House and part of Limes Farm and a report is being produced on possible savings and ways of reducing our carbon footprint. An officer working party has been set up to produce a Climate Change Strategy and a workshop was held earlier in the year to look at what should be included and how this could be structured. A Green Fleet review is also due to be carried out. This will look at savings that can be made on our fuel usage for our fleet vehicles and other travelling as part of the running of the Council services.