

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet **Date:** 28 April 2009
Subject: Environment Portfolio
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mary Sartin **Item:** 7 (f)

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.

Waste Management Service

As part of the consultation on the way forward for our waste management service carried out last year we offered the opportunity to win a prize to those residents who included contact details in their responses. Following the drawing of the five successful names I had the pleasure of presenting three of the recipients with their prizes in the middle of March. Each winner received a cheque for £100 and a home composting bin. Those who were unable to attend the presentation had their prizes delivered to their homes.

The most recent meeting of the Waste Management Partnership Board took place on 20 April when Board members were updated on the progress being made towards the implementation of the new food waste collection service. At the present time we are awaiting the return of tenders for the purchase of the necessary vehicles, wheeled bins and caddies. The process for this procurement exercise was agreed by Cabinet on 20 April. Sita members of the Board also updated us on the situation regarding street cleansing in the District. As members have been aware, street cleansing has not always been carried out as well as might have been hoped for in some areas of the District and this has been partly due to using schedules which have not always been appropriate for some parts of the District. Sita have now appointed a consultant to carry out a review of these schedules and to carry out some training for the operatives. It is hoped to have the new schedules in place in about four weeks time.

The minutes of the Waste Management Partnership Board will go to the next meeting of the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Panel on 23 June.

Also, at Cabinet it was agreed that the new service should begin in the week of the 7 September and that the service should be rolled out across the whole District at the same time. A considerable amount of work will be carried out before that date with roadshows being held across the District, officers attending town and parish council meetings and householders receiving written information in various formats. There will also be information in the summer edition of the Forester.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Initiative

Although we are not yet in a position to officially launch the new service I thought members would like to be aware that we now have our Environmental Response officer out and about in our new vehicle. He is working within the District dealing with small amounts of fly tipping, fly posting and graffiti.

Accreditation training still has to take place to allow officers who receive this training to issue fixed penalty notices.

Climate Change Strategy

Following the presentation of the draft Climate Change Strategy to the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Panel on 24 February the document was agreed by Cabinet on 20 April. The Strategy contains an action plan which, among other things will involve the various Directorates within the Council working towards reducing the levels of carbon dioxide emissions from our own operations as well as looking at ways to make our residents more aware of the implications of climate change.

The work on this Strategy was led by Lisa Ingwall, our Environment Co-ordinator, but involved officers from each Directorate who formed the Green Corporate Working Party.