

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.