

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

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 3 November 2009

**Subject:** Environment Portfolio

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Mrs Mary Sartin      **Item:** 7(d)

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### **Recommending:**

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

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### **Waste Management Service**

The figures for the first month of the new waste service look very encouraging. The recycling level for the month of September, which includes three weeks of the new service is around 57%, and for the first three weeks of the new service alone, the level is just over 60%. This has taken our overall recycling level for the year to date to just over 47%, from a starting point of 43%. I hope, as time moves on, to see recycling levels approach and even exceed 50% for the municipal year as a whole. Equally encouraging is a substantial drop in the amount of waste going to landfill, with the first three weeks of the service showing a 28% reduction. I would like to thank the residents of the District for embracing the new service so wholeheartedly.

That is not to say that there are not still some difficulties with the new service. Whilst the numbers of calls into the Environment & Street Scene Directorate have reduced significantly, they remain higher than normal. There are particular difficulties with some households still awaiting their food and garden waste bin or a smaller bin. I would like to apologise to residents who have waited a long time, but this has been due to unprecedented high levels of workload and the logistical problems which inevitably arise when trying to distribute some 50,000 wheeled bins and caddies.

### **Inter Authority Agreement**

The Inter Authority Agreement has now been signed by all the Essex Districts (bar Colchester) and this, alongside the news that the Essex Waste Partnership had been awarded £100 million of PFI credits was celebrated at County Hall last week. The County Cabinet Member with responsibility for waste matters, Councillor Mrs Chapman, praised all of the districts for the invaluable work of their members and officers in developing and adopting the IAA and successfully obtaining unconditional PFI funding.