

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 16 February 2010

Subject: Environment Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Mary Sartin

Item: 6(d)

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted

Waste Management

Following the adverse weather conditions in December and January the running of the service has now returned to normal but, as I reported verbally in January, a review will be taking place of the service delivery during that period and will be reported back to the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Scrutiny Panel. As Chairman of the Waste Management Partnership Board, I have written to each of the teams involved with this service, including the Sita workforce, thanking them for their endeavours during this difficult period.

Our recycling performance for December is showing a figure of approximately 59% but it is thought that because of the problems of collections in January the figures will drop slightly for that month. That said, I am still hopeful that we will see an overall outturn for 2009/10 of over 50%.

Waste facility visit

I would remind members of the forthcoming visit to the in-vessel composting plant at Sandy, Beds. Although some members have already had the opportunity to visit one of these plants this will allow us to see the actual site where our own food and garden waste is taken for processing.

Details of the visit on 11 March were given in the 29 January Council' Bulletin and I would ask that anyone wishing to go let Stella Forster know as soon as possible.

Governance Arrangements for the Inter Authority Agreement

Following the completion of work in putting the Inter Authority Agreement in place discussions are now taking place regarding the future governance arrangements. At the last meeting of the Waste Management Advisory Board it was agreed that the proposal to disband the three Joint Waste Committees should be discussed at the next round of meetings and that one countywide member structure replace them and the Waste Advisory Board. I will report back further on the new structure when the final decisions have been taken.

Bobbingworth Tip

The works on site for this project have largely been completed, including the seeding of the site. I had hoped that the final closure report would have been ready to go to the March Cabinet meeting but this has had to be delayed until April due to cost consultants wanting to review all the recent expenditure. Although the contract may exceed the 'target price' the overall budget will not be exceeded.

As soon as the project has been signed off I will bring forward proposals for setting up a local site management committee. I know that Countrycare are keen to take forward their further plans for the site.

Roding Valley Management Committee

Work has been going on for some time to draw up a new Management Agreement between EFDC, Grange Farm Community Trust and Essex Wildlife Trust. At the meeting of the Committee held on 28 January further discussion took place on the draft agreement and it was felt that most parts of the agreement were now in place although some further discussion was required around the finances. It is hoped that the final document will have been agreed before the May Council meeting to allow for appointments to be made to the new structure.