

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

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 29 June 2010

**Subject:** Environment Portfolio

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Mrs Mary Sartin

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### **Recommending:**

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

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### **Waste Management**

1. New waste collections arrangements introduced in September last year continue to work well with overall recycling for 2009/10 of over 50%. The current monthly recycling rates are even higher and it is expected that the overall recycling rate for 2010/11 will be above the current Council target of 58%.
  2. The Council has ratified the Cabinet decision of the formation of two new member groups to oversee the Inter Authority Agreement and advise the Essex officer group on the management of waste service going forwards. These groups have now been formed and have commenced working.
  3. The meeting of the Safer Cleaner Greener Scrutiny Panel on 1 July 2010 will receive a report on the performance of the waste collection services during the 2009 Christmas holiday period.
  4. Officers are presently in active discussions with districts and the County regarding the formation of a regulatory services partnership (ELARS – Essex Local Authorities Regulatory Services Partnership). Whilst this is not around directly shared services it is hoped that it will provide extra efficiencies arising from areas such as:
    - shared knowledge
    - access to specific expertise
    - access to additional resources
    - shared intelligence
- Essex County Council is currently providing the support funding for a Partnership Co-ordinator post.
5. Following various discussions at Waste Partnership Board meetings and at officer level, agreement has now been reached with our contractor's, Sita, for the inclusion of foil and aerosols as part of our dry recycling collections. Although discussions have been going on for some time regarding this it was only at the end of May that Sita gave us formal confirmation that they were able to accept these items within the waste stream. Sacks for dry recycling which are beginning to appear in our outlets now include this information and further details will be included in the next

calendar which will be issued towards the end of August. Information will also appear on the Council's website. For residents putting these items into their recycling sacks the two important messages are that aluminium foil and foil containers must have been washed clean and that aerosols must be fully discharged.

### **Flood Alleviation**

The Flood and Water Management Act has obtained royal assent earlier this year. This act places new responsibilities on local authorities in respect of all forms of flooding. It also places requirements for cooperation between various agencies responsible for flooding. We are working closely with Essex County Council who have the leading role under the new legislation. The County Council intends to form a partnership across the county and I attended the opening partnership meeting on 27 May. The existing Task and Finish Panel will receive a report once more information becomes available.