

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 27 July 2010

Subject: Environment Portfolio

Item: 6(c)

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mary Sartin

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted

Bobbingworth Tip

On Wednesday, 7 July I visited Bobbingworth Tip along with our Assistant Director of Environment & Street Scene, Kim Durrani, Colin Thompson, Clerk of Bobbingworth, Moreton & the Lavers Parish Council, Darren Cole from Veolia and Paul Hewitt and Lee Savill from EFDC. We had the opportunity to walk the site and see the state of the ground and the growth of vegetation which has been planted since the groundwork was completed. The trees and shrubs which were planted by Countrycare with the help of volunteers are showing good levels of growth, with few losses so far. The rate of growth of grass is extremely slow due, mainly, to the long dry spell which we have experienced and in places it is very sparse.

There has been concern expressed that the public have not been able to gain access to the site yet but having seen the state of the ground it is clear that the grass needs time to become firmly established before too many people walk over it. This will continue to be monitored but any decision to open the site for public access is likely to be some months off.

Essex County Council has now agreed figures which should enable us to close the accounts for this project. A final report can then be brought to Cabinet, hopefully in September. As I have said before, we will then be in a position to set up a committee to oversee the future running of the site.

Waste Management

Although the figures are still to be audited by Essex County Council, I am very pleased to be able to announce that our recycling figures for the first quarter of 2010/11 have reached 61.53%.