

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 28 September 2010

Subject: Environment Portfolio Report

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Mary Sartin

Recommending: That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted

Essex Partnership for Flood Management

I attended the first formal meeting of this partnership on 15 September with Mr Durrani. The partnership has been formed as a result of the passing of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which makes Essex County Council the Lead Local Flood Authority for our area.

The Partnership will be responsible for the development of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which will be subject to full public consultation, the sharing of data with partner organisations and communicating to the public the risks of flooding within Essex and actions that can be taken to lessen the risks.

As an authority, EFDC has considerably more expertise in dealing with flooding issues than many of the other authorities in Essex and the information which we hold on flooding incidents and areas of potential flooding is being held up as an exemplar for other authorities. Our officers have done considerable work over the years on flood alleviation schemes and raising public awareness. However, it was suggested at the meeting that if any members know of areas which have flooded within the District or have potential to flood they could pass on this information to our officers to be added to any data already held.

I will arrange for the draft minutes of the meeting to be published in the Members' Bulletin.

MRF Visit

As those who were due to go on this visit will be aware the visit had to be cancelled at fairly short notice due to Sita having to close their site down. I would just like to assure members that during the closure our recyclable waste has been taken to other facilities and has been dealt with in exactly the same way as was the case at the Barking site.

A new date for this visit will be organised as soon as possible.

Fixed Penalty Notices

We are now working towards the implementation of the use of Fixed Penalty Notices. As you know, officers from the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Neighbourhood team have all gone through training and received their accreditation to allow them to issue these notices. It is intended that their use should begin from the end of November although the issuing of notices will still be very much as a last resort, the emphasis being very much on education in the first instance.

An initial press release was issued in August informing people that these would be being brought into use later in the year. Further press releases will be issued between now and the end of November. These will be augmented with adverts in the local press, on-line information websites and notices for Town and Parish Council noticeboards as well as further details on the Council's own webpage.

A list of offences for which penalty notices can be issued is included in the item on the webpage with the level of fine for each offence.