Report to the Council

Committee: **Cabinet** **Date: 29 March 2011**

Subject: **Environment Portfolio** **Item: 6(c)**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Mary Sartin**

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted

Waste

I would like to remind Members that a new door step textile collection service is being launched on the 1st of April. The current waste and recycling calendars have details of the scheme. There is no charge for this collection service and all income from the sale of items collected will be donated to the Chairman of Council's charities.

The visit to Sita's recycling plant at Barking took place on the 8th of March, and was very interesting and informative. The plant receives all of our dry recycling excluding glass. Whilst we were there a freighter of our Districts' recycling arrived at the plant and I would like to congratulate our residents for their diligence in separating out their recycling such that the quality of the material being handled was very high.

Environmental Health

The Department of Communities & Local Government, with the Food Standards Agency is re-launching the national food hygiene rating scheme, otherwise known as "scores on the doors". Under this scheme, food premises will be rated based on the outcome of inspections by Health Officers and the rating will be visible for users to see. This will provide useful information to those purchasing food or meals. I intend that we should embrace this scheme and introduce it within the District, and to that end I have asked officers to bring forward proposals to Cabinet as soon as possible.

Towards the beginning of March, the Council's pest control contractor, Santia, was taken into administration. As part of the administration, the business was taken over by Rentokil plc. As ever in such matters, this has caused difficulties with the continuity of service although temporary arrangements are in place until the end of this month. At its last meeting Cabinet resolved to continue to provide a pest control treatment service to our residents and we are now looking in detail at a number of options for the delivery and procurement of, a new service.