Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet Date: 26 July 2011

Subject: Environment Portfolio Holders Report

Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Knapman Item: 7(c)

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted

Waste

I mentioned in my last report our intention to undertake a public satisfaction survey as part of our consideration of what a future waste contract might look like. At the present time I am considering a range of options for the future including contract extensions with our current provider and retendering all or part of the service. The advice we shall receive from our consultants, WYG, on procurement and market options will be key to my final recommendations. I hope to be in a position to report back to Cabinet at its meeting in September. In the meantime I am holding back on the public consultation exercise to enable the school holiday period to pass so we can hopefully get a better response to the exercise. Officers will inform Members through the Bulletin of when the exercise is to commence.

Environmental Health

- 2. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is encouraging Local Authorities to introduce the hygiene rating system (scores on the doors) to their areas. Restaurants, takeaways, cafés, sandwich shops, pubs, hotels, supermarkets and other retail food outlets, as well as other businesses where consumers can eat or buy food, will be given a hygiene rating as part of the scheme.
- 3. There are six hygiene ratings on a simple numerical scale ranging from '0' (urgent improvement necessary) at the bottom to '5' (very good) at the top.
- 4. Consumers can access ratings at <u>food.gov.uk/ratings</u> and businesses will be encouraged to display stickers and certificates showing their rating at their premises.
- 5. The FSA is making funding for the introduction of the scheme available to local councils. We have recently been informed that our bid was successful and that we will be receiving approximately £11,000.

Bobbingworth Nature Reserve (former landfill site)

6. The former landfill site has been fully restored and the Chairman of the Council performed the opening ceremony on Friday the 15th of July. The site is now open for the members of the public and I am sure will be a valued asset for the

local community. I would like to thank, members of both District and Parish Councils, officers as well as the local community for the patience and support during the construction works.

Transfer of Private Sector Drainage to Utility Companies

7. Members will be aware through the Bulletin that responsibility for most private sewers is going to transfer from private owners to Water and Sewage companies from 1 October 2011. This is a significant change in the way these services are managed. Officers are in close discussion with Thames Water and I shall be providing more information as it becomes available.

Visit to a Transfer Station

8. I am aware that Members have expressed an interest in visiting a waste transfer station. As the transfer stations are operated by Waste Disposal Authorities officers are liaising with the County Council to arrange a visit to a suitable location. Information will be made available through the Bulletin once further details become available.