

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 1 November 2011

Subject: Environment Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor John Knapman

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.

Waste Management

Waste and recycling collections have been much in the news following pronouncements by the Secretary of State that Government funding would be made available to restore “weekly collections”. The Leader and I have both taken the view that this Council already has a weekly collection of all key putrescible waste and therefore meet the Government’s aspirations. That said I have asked officers to explore, once the guidance from Government has been received, whether we can do anything more that might bring with it further Government support. A key component of the Government’s announcement was that funding would have to be associated with improved recycling. I am pleased to inform Members that as at quarter two (covering the period April to September incl.) the Council is recycling around 62% of its household waste, an excellent outcome and testament to the systems we have in place and the enthusiasm which our residents continue to show for recycling.

Environmental Health

Following meetings with our colleagues in Community Development, officers from Environment and Street Scene will be presenting basic food hygiene training during the forthcoming Festival of Healthy Living at Limes Farm.

In the last quarter officers have undertaken four targeted littering operations in Nazeing, Waltham Abbey, Buckhurst Hill and Ongar. The operation in Ongar received two pages of favourable press in a local paper.

Officers attended court on 4 Oct 2011 for the following:

- two litter offenders prosecuted, both fined £120 with £150 costs
- noise prosecution £200 fine with £150 costs and forfeiture of seized equipment.
- breach of an ASBO and noise prosecution, 16 week custodial sentence suspended for twelve months with £140 granted towards the Council’s prosecution costs.