

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 21 February 2017

**Subject:** Environment

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor W Breare-Hall

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## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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## **Waste Management**

### *Recycling scheme for the Civic Offices:*

In my last report I updated Members about the new recycling scheme for the Civic Offices. I am pleased to say that the scheme is now operating successfully across the Civic Offices, and Members are enjoying working out which items go in which bins.

### *DCLG funded recycling scheme for flats:*

I am pleased to report that good progress has been made in the project funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Following a survey of all blocks of flats in the District, officers have identified 100 blocks, containing 1400 individual flats, that could benefit from a Recycling Rewards scheme. The scheme will assist in reducing contamination and increasing recycling.

Promotional publicity packs are being developed for the Reward scheme and officers have reviewed similar schemes and publicity material from Braintree District Council and the London Borough of Camden. Their experiences will aid the development of the Epping Forest Scheme. We are currently liaising with the Chamber of Commerce who have shown great support for the project and we have looked at the "One Shops Local" organisation with a view to them forming part of the delivery method for the Recycling Rewards.

### *Review of recycling collection service:*

At the December Cabinet meeting it was agreed that a review would be undertaken to mitigate the increased costs of the waste collection service, especially the costs relating to recycling sacks. I have instructed that an Innovation Forum be established, under the terms of reference of the Waste Management Partnership Board, consisting of officers from the Council and staff from Biffa. The Forum will look at the options available for mitigating increased costs and will produce a full business case with cost benefit analysis. I shall then report back to Members and make recommendations for changes to the recycling collection service as appropriate.

### *Recycling of furniture and small electrical items:*

I am pleased to report that Biffa have now created a covered area at their depot in Waltham Cross for the temporary storage of reusable furniture and small electrical items collected

under the bulky waste collection service. These can subsequently be collected by Epping Forest Reuse.

In conjunction with Essex County Council, we are funding a publicity campaign to highlight the work of Epping Forest Reuse.

*Abandoned vehicles:*

Since September last year we have removed 67 abandoned vehicles from the road network across the District.

**Fly-tipping prosecutions**

Bee Services (UK) Limited of Woodside, Epping, has been given a £5,000 fine after waste from the company was fly-tipped on Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood, and Old House Lane, Roydon, in November 2015. The Director, Mr Bill Johal, paid £732.44 in court costs along with a victim surcharge of £170.

Mr Sam Russell, 24, was sentenced to a 12-month community order for 150 hours unpaid work after pleading guilty to fly-tipping 3 vanloads of waste in Hastingwood and 15 black sacks of rubbish in Wickham Bishops Road, Hatfield Peverel.