

**CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009**

Agenda Item 9(i)

**CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Roger Walters**

**CABINET PORTFOLIO: Environment & Sustainability**

Portfolio covers:-

- Clean and Green Strategy
- Waste Strategy
- Environmental Strategy
- Climate Change/Energy Strategy
- Street Management (parking, signs, etc)
- Regulatory Functions (licensing, building control, environmental protection)
- Emergency Planning

**REPORT COVERS ACTIVITY DURING PERIOD COMMENCING April 13th AND ENDING 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

### **Waste and Efficiency**

1. The delivery of wheelie bins to 9000 properties in 32 rural villages is scheduled to start in August to start using them from 1<sup>st</sup> October. Staff have been working very hard over the last period to deal with any resident issues and to explain the changes. Once the roll out is complete we will be left with only 1035 of our 60,000 properties on black sacks.

Work is well underway in re routing the refuse and recycling collections across the District. This will mean a change of collection days for most properties from 1<sup>st</sup> October this year. The re-routing is part of the Waste Business Efficiency recommendations that will contribute to the Council saving £140k in the second half of the current financial year, but as importantly reducing vehicle journeys, less fuel and as a consequence reducing our carbon emissions.

2. Officers have commenced preliminary talks with neighbouring Councils on exploring opportunities for joint working to deliver high quality waste and recycling services. This a project will be governed by the new Clean and Green Programme Board.

Work has been going on to look at a trade recycling trial and a trial of working with Recycling and Re-use Initiative to avoid sending our special collections to land fill.

The Council's recycling and composting performance improved again last year. We recycled 45.64% of all household waste. (Target 44.5)

The amount of waste we sent to landfill also dropped with 504 kilograms per household being deposited compared to our target for the year of 531.

## Clean and Green

1. We have commenced a monthly programme of maintaining and improving the appearance of roundabouts in the District using sponsorship funding as part of a contract with ECC and an external marketing company.

Implemented new litter and mechanical sweeping routes to increase the frequency of cleaning which is making a notable improvement in the District cleanliness.

We have exceeded our targets for improving the street and environmental cleanliness across the District (Out-turn - Litter 93% Detritus 88% and Graffiti 98% clean.).

Re-furbished play areas completed at Rickstones in Witham and at Milton Avenue, Goldingham Drive and King George V playing field in Braintree.

Grant of £110k awarded by the Football Foundation for a new grass pitch and multi-use games area at Gt Notley Country Park. This will provide a modern facility for a whole range of sports activities at the County Park.

Road & path re-surfacing works carried out in Braintree & Halstead Cemeteries.

2. The Braintree Living Landscape group are conducting town walks and drives to identify areas of future development for tree and bulb planting following the success of bulb planting for this year.

Meetings are being held with Chelmsford BC & the local Primary Care Trust to discuss the donation of £40,000 worth of "Green Gyms" to be sited within the District.

## Street Management

1. The Parking Partnership commenced on 1st April, with Colchester acting as the host authority on behalf of Braintree and Uttlesford. Braintree's team of 10 are now part of a strong 30 plus staff providing the parking enforcement service. This will continue to develop throughout the year. The majority of residents will be unaffected by this, other than those who receive a parking ticket who should find the service more responsive and efficient.

A Countywide review of on-street Parking Enforcement is being undertaken. This will look at how services can be improved both from a financial perspective and what opportunities there are for Districts and Boroughs to work, similar to our own parking partnership.

## Climate Change/Energy Strategy

1. **Carbon Management Programme**  
Bid to CHIP fund to renovate old Braintree pool CHP plant for Halstead pool, for potential savings of 76tonnes & £13k per year - a good example of re-use in action if successful!

**Other initiatives completed include:-**

ICONS "energy saving corner" set up including advice and product area  
Completion of Town Hall insulation.

Staff awareness, carbon reduction screensaver has gone on all PCs.

Article in staff magazine re-connect on Green driving and car sharing.

Car share signage at Causeway House and Millennium Tower.

Staff Induction leaflet and a "carbon saving at work" DVD has been produced to inform new staff about their responsibilities for Carbon savings at work.

**Reducing district wide carbon emissions:**

Delivery of light bulbs to 61,000 households saving up to £1.2m per year.

A device known as ShowerSmart that makes some showers more water efficient is being offered free to those that apply, a mail out with a press release was done.

**2. Embedding Climate Change in key strategic document consultations:**

Discussions have taken place with Officers on ensuring Climate Change is reflected in the following documents: review of Business Continuity Plan, review of PPQ Environmental section for Procurement Hub, affordable Housing Strategy and the Procurement Strategy.

## **Emergency Planning**

1. Swine flu information & updates to officers & members.  
Update BDC website re flooding.  
Debrief over response to recent flooding.  
Updating Business continuity plans.  
Presentation to Feering Annual Assembly re Emergency Planning in association with ECC.

## **Regulatory Functions**

1. We are reviewing levels of income for Building Control as the down turn in building is having an effect
2. The pest control charges were introduced on April the 1<sup>st</sup> and we are monitoring service uptake and revenue.

**FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING:**

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