

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL –20TH JULY 2009

Agenda Item 8(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 22ND JUNE AND ENDING 20TH JULY 2009

Waste and Efficiency

1. Recycling Performance

I am pleased to report that Braintree's recycling and composting performance for 2008/9 was the third best in the County, with over 25,000 tonnes of all waste we collected being recycled. This gave us a new recycling performance of **45.04%**.

The amount of residual waste we took to landfill also dropped to 511kgs per kgs against our target of 531 kgs.

These results demonstrate how the Council's recycling initiatives and the cooperation and support we receive from our residents is having a significant impact on reducing waste to landfill.

2. Green Waste and Food Waste Collection

Again I am pleased to confirm that the Council will maintain a green waste collection service over the winter period from December to February. This has been made possible due to the financial support we receive through our partnership working with Essex County Council.

In addition, from 1st October 2009, the Council will be introducing an alternate weekly collection of food waste across the District. Residents will be supplied with a small kitchen caddy in which to store food waste prior to placing it in the green bin.

3 CUBE (Colchester, Chelmsford, Uttlesford, Braintree & ECC)

We are now at the stage where the five authorities have formally agreed the Terms of Reference to explore the potential for joint working on their waste and vehicle maintenance services. The Partnership intends to carry out a high level review of these services and will be engaging an external resource to undertake this work. ECC has contributed a substantial part of the budget to support this process. A report will be presented to the Clean & Green Programme Board later in the year.

4 Wheeled Bin Roll-Out

I attended a meeting with the Stour Valley South Parish Cluster Group on 25th June and a meeting with Residents of Croft Close, Braintree regarding the introduction of wheeled bins. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss their concerns and offer some reassurance regarding the roll-out.

Clean and Green

1. Sponsorship of Roundabouts

A formal Contract has been signed with Essex County Council and a company called Immediate Solutions to negotiate sponsorship on roundabouts. This will enable the Council to deliver a higher standard of maintenance and generally improve their appearance, whilst giving local businesses the opportunity to promote and raise awareness of their companies as part of 'Supporting Our Communities'.

2. Improving the Appearance of the District

The Horticultural Teams have been exceptionally busy over the last month planting out all of the summer bedding including hanging baskets and containers. I hope Members appreciate the appearance of the District as this plays a big part in making people feel proud of Braintree District

3 LGA Awards

You will have heard by now that John Morris, a Horticultural operative based at Witham Cemetery, received the LGA Lifetime Achievement Award last Thursday. This is in recognition of his long service with the Council, his contribution to maintaining high standards of maintenance at the Cemetery and also his charitable work. My congratulations and that of the Council should be noted. We have many unsung heroes within our work force, who also deserve to be recognised, but John stands out and he has brought praise to BDC that is well deserved.

4 Greenfields Community Housing Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Council is submitting a tender for the Greenfield's grounds maintenance Contract. The Contract is for a four year period commencing 1st January 2010. If we are successful in winning the contract, it will enable us to continue working in partnership with Greenfields, whilst delivering a uniform standard of maintenance across the District.

STREET MANAGEMENT

1. Cllr Mitchell and I attended the Parking Partnership Governance meeting held at Uttlesford District Council offices to review the progress of the Partnership. This is operating effectively and is being used as a model of best practice for other authorities to follow.
2. A second lift at George Yard car park has been refurbished and now is fully compliant with Fire Safety and DDA requirements. Work is continuing on the remaining lift.

CLIMATE CHANGE/ENERGY STRATEGY

1. We are currently consulting with Local Committees on our draft Climate Change Strategy and, at the end of August/early September, the document will go out to wider public consultation and we will consult with our partner organisations. The final draft document will be presented to Cabinet in December.

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

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