

BABERGH COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Christina Campbell Cabinet Member for Environment	Report Number: CMU13
To: Council	Date of meeting: 24 July 2018

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 The Environment Portfolio covers several distinct service areas. This report provides a snapshot and summary of recent work.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. Key Activities/Issues Over the Past three Months

Waste Service

Education and Promotional Events

- 3.1 Recycling Officers had a stand at the Hadleigh show again this year to promote our waste services and spoke with over 250 visitors discussing the benefits of composting, waste reduction and recycling. The reduction of plastics was a hot topic.

Suffolk Waste Partnership Projects

- 3.2 The procurement for the MRF (Sorting and Marketing of Mixed Dry Recyclables) contract went live on the 8th June 2018. Tenders will be received and evaluated over the coming months.
- 3.3 The Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) undertook a waste analysis in 2016 and found that Suffolk residents were throwing away over 52,000 tonnes of food waste each year. This avoidable waste is sent to our Energy from Waste facility costing the Suffolk taxpayer almost £4.5 million in disposal costs.
- 3.4 To tackle this huge cost, the SWP has been working with Norfolk County Council colleagues to devise a unique 2 county project which aims to reduce household food waste by 20% by 2025. This is a far reaching and challenging target but will see Suffolk play its part in supporting the national Courtauld 2025 initiative, of which the SWP is a signatory, led by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).
- 3.5 The Project has been designed as a multi-campaign initiative focusing on the positive benefits of reducing food waste and challenging the behaviours that cause it. We will work with local business and community groups as well as undertaking a host of different initiative with householders.

As many national and multi-national companies are also building food waste into their corporate strategies, our project also seeks to draw corporate investment into Suffolk, allowing us to raise the campaigns profile and realise new opportunities.

- 3.6 SWP Members approved the project Vision and 2 Year Action Plan in April 2018. Officers are now working to translate the Action Plan into specific ‘on the ground’ campaigns and it is hoped that once this process is complete, a full campaign launch will occur in Autumn 2018.”

Joint Waste Contract – Contract extension

- 3.7 Serco are continuing the work with on their service review and round reorganisation project. Members will receive a full briefing prior to any implementation of changes.

Garden Waste Service – Annual Growth

- 3.8 The table below shows the annual growth in our garden waste subscription service for Babergh (B) and Mid Suffolk (M)

	B	M	TOTAL
Apr-17	13226	13301	26527
May-17	13301	13451	26752
Jun-17	13378	13656	27034
Jul-17	13431	13790	27221
Aug-17	13516	13992	27508
Sep-17	13567	14034	27601
Oct-17	13582	14023	27605
Nov-17	13572	14010	27582
Dec-17	13563	13979	27542
Jan-18	13554	13981	27535
Feb-18	13541	14003	27544
Mar-18	13567	14063	27630
Apr-18	13777	14284	28061
May-18	13899	14484	28383

EU Circular Economy Package

- 3.9 On the 22nd May 2018 the European Council of Ministers adopted the Circular Economy Package. The EU Circular Economy package sets several binding targets including increased recycling rates and the separate collection of bio-waste (end of 2023) and textiles (start of 2025).
- 3.10 We will, working with the SWP, need to consider all these measures in due course once more is known about how the Package will be applied in the UK. However, to quote the article, “even though the UK is to leave the European Union, the government has signalled the Circular Economy measures will be adopted within UK legislation at a later date.” Further clarity will hopefully be supplied by the UK government when it publishes its new Resources and Waste Strategy later this year.

Changes to RPP and IAA revision.

- 3.11 We entered a series of negotiations with Suffolk County Council regarding their proposal to amend the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) to reduce the levels of Recycling Performance Payments (RPP) they make to the Suffolk Waste Collection Authorities. The IAA was agreed by all authorities for a 5-year period from May 2014 to May 2019.
- 3.12 We had, as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan, allowed for an overall budget impact of £250,000 for each authority from 2019/2020. The proposed changes to RPP from 2019/20 will also impact on the payments made for bring site recycling, SCC proposed to reduce the RPP payments for this recycling from £54.76 to £30.00 per tonne. Following discussions with SCC and the acknowledgment that both authorities pass on monies from bring banks to third parties, SCC will pay both BDC and MSDC a grant of £35,000 (based on 2016/17 third party payments) to mitigate the reduction in RPP.
- 3.13 The revised IAA will be presented to Cabinet in the Autumn of this year.

Sustainable Environment Service

Environmental Protection and Environmental Management

Solar PV Bulk Buy

- 3.14 Through its membership of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, BMSDC will be partnering with the other Suffolk local authorities and i-Choosr Ltd to deliver '**Solar Together Suffolk**', a group buying solar scheme open to all residents in Suffolk. The scheme aims to get the most competitive offer available on solar PV panel installations by consolidating the buying power of residents across the county. This is an "able-to-pay" solar panel buying scheme aimed predominantly at home-owners, but also open to small businesses and community groups, offering them both good value and a quality-assured, Council-backed solar PV scheme. The scheme will launch in July with a direct mail of at least 100,000 letters to targeted properties, together with media releases, bill-boards and posters in public buildings. Installations are planned to commence in October.

Electric Vehicle charge point – Hadleigh

- 3.15 A second EV charge point has been installed in our car park on Magdalen Road, Hadleigh, adding to the existing one in Sudbury. The unit is being operated on our behalf by EV Driver of Bentwaters. We fully anticipate that the unit will not be used very much in the short term, but from 2040 it will not be possible to purchase a combustion engine only vehicle and so the increase in hybrid and fully electric vehicles is set to rise exponentially in the coming years.

Electric Vehicle charge point - Highways England network funding

- 3.16 This is a BMSDC led project for a network of rapid EV charging points along the A12, A14 and A11 for which the work is currently out to tender. Bids will be received by July after which the prices will be scrutinised along with the fees from UK Power Networks for electrical connection. Highways England will be informed and funds allocated and instructions issued.

Battery Storage

- 3.17 Investigations are proceeding relating to battery storage at our leisure centres. Officers have spoken to some aggregators (the 'middle men' in this arena) and had reassurance that the size of units we are proposing would be of interest.

Streetlights – LED replacements

- 3.18 Work has been completed on replacing Council maintained Streetlights with LED lights in a number of locations. Around 20 are of a particular heritage design.

Litter Innovation Fund

- 3.19 Central Government gave local authorities the opportunity to bid for funding to combat roadside littering in 2018. The Project is supported by all 7 Suffolk local authorities. £10,000 funding was secured from Central Government and each authority also put in £500 and agreed to pledge officer time for monitoring the project.

- 3.20 The following actions were collectively agreed:

- Trial a new style and colour of bin at known hot spot areas – these bins were in addition to bins already in places like lay-bys – monitor use and litter
- Place additional wheelie bins in other locations (to see if it was the new style bin that made a difference or any bin) – monitor use and litter
- Monitor control lay-bys where nothing had changed
- Trial bin fill devices (fitted to the lids of wheelie bins and send a message to phone/computer when a bin is nearly full – we are trying to find out if the cost of the devices is outweighed by not having to visit bins so often if they do not need emptying
- Advertising campaign at petrol stations – targeting the pumps themselves
- Advertising campaign across the whole of Suffolk with each authority having a number of banners, signs and posters to deploy in key locations and known litter hotspots.

A full update will be provided for Members once the trial monitoring period is over in July.

Annual Litter Awareness Poster Competition

- 3.21 The winner of Babergh Council's annual Litter Awareness Poster competition was Cockfield School. Two Highly Commended awards also went to Tattingstone School. The awards are to be presented in early July. Cockfield School will now receive a special 'froggy' litter bin as a prize. The winning design will be displayed on the side of one of the Council's contractors' litter collection vehicles for the next year to encourage residents to bin their rubbish. As part of the project, pupils were asked to think about the impact that littering has on the environment and the knock-on effects for both people and animals. It is hoped that by engaging with children of this age group they will not become litter droppers of the future.

Planning Enforcement Service

- 3.22 A prosecution case for non-compliance with an Enforcement Notice by an Indian Restaurant and Takeaway in Hadleigh High Street has been withdrawn following the last-minute demolition of an unauthorised garage at the rear of the premises.

Heritage Service

- 3.23 Consultation is underway with the parishes and public of Great Waldingfield, Brent Eleigh and Naughton into draft Appraisals for the respective Conservation Areas. The appraisal documents will provide guidance when assessing proposed works in the Conservation Areas. Draft appraisals will also be prepared for consultation with Nayland, Thorington Street and East Bergholt. Formal council adoption of the finalised appraisal documents will be sought in due course.

Food and Safety Service

- 3.24 We have submitted our annual returns to both the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Health and Safety Executive.
- 3.25 The team participated in The FSA annual food safety week (week beginning 4th June) which was on the theme of 'the people that keep your food safe'. We used social media (Twitter) to publicise the team and the work we do as part of a national campaign.
- 3.26 The Food and Safety and Environmental Protection Teams have had an intern working for them through the Suffolk Intern Programme from the 11th of June.
- 3.27 The Food and Safety Team have carried out 227 routine food hygiene inspections across both authorities in the first quarter of 2018/19 from 788 scheduled for the full year.
- 3.28 Against the service standards set out in the Food and Safety team service plan, 84% of responses have met targets for the 52 recorded service requests and complaints received by the team. Those responses not meeting the service standard have been due largely to the complexity of the questions involved. It is the intention to incorporate this response measure in future performance reporting.
- 3.29 There are currently two food safety prosecutions in progress, one relating to a café with an initial hearing on the 10th of July 2018 and the second against a hotel with the prosecution file now with the legal services team for their action. In the first quarter of 2018/19 one Simple Caution has been administered by the Corporate Manager – Food and Safety for food hygiene offences by a market trader and another is scheduled for a food mobile operator.
- 3.30 Following the death of a seven-year-old child resulting from the poor management of an inflatable (bouncy castle) in 2016 and the subsequent conviction for manslaughter of the owners and the more recent tragedy in Norfolk, the Food and Safety Team will be writing to all those who may either operate a play inflatable (bouncy castles etc.) or hire them out giving advice on safe operation.

Licensing Service

- 3.31 The Licensing Team are now beginning to revise the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles document, that will take effect from January 2019 for a three-year period. This is a statutory requirement and technical piece of work which has been added to the forward plan and service plan. The district's main gambling activity relates to betting premises, gaming machines and small society lottery fundraising for local and national good causes.
- 3.32 Whilst each Council is a separate Licensing Authority and must consult/approve policy separately, this fourth revision Gambling Act policy is essentially the same content for both authorities. Adoption of policy is a matter reserved for full Council and a consultation period and relevant briefings will follow up until the Autumn.
- 3.33 Following a Westminster Briefing session attended earlier in the year, as central government are not now planning short-term/wholesale legislative reform in the taxi and private hire sectors, Mid Suffolk and Babergh will progress further policy and procedural alignment through its Licensing and Regulatory Committees. Whilst we already take sufficient safeguards we will look to make some further progress to link taxi and private hire transport functions with visitor economy support and also enhance safeguarding/wellbeing training for operators.
- 3.34 Generally licensing sectors are busy indicating good levels of local economic activity. We will also be sourcing and looking to arrange a licensing training update for Members in 18/19.

Building Control Service

- 3.35 The Suffolk wide collaborative working development plan is continuing on from the ground work laid down last year. Following work to identify key areas in the market place a proposal is being drawn up to present to Chief Executives of the Suffolk authorities to provide the necessary expertise and resource we need to promote and increase service resilience.
- 3.36 Work will soon be under way to implement our new ISO9001 quality management system. This is being done in conjunction with LABC and in-line with the review in to building control standards. Work is due to begin July.

The Hackitt review full report has now been published, there are some significant challenges ahead for us should the recommendations be employed in full and may lead to further collaborative working with our counterparts in Suffolk.