

Environment Portfolio Report

1. Consumer Environment

Suffolk Waste Partnership – The Suffolk Waste Partnership, in conjunction with Viridor, undertook a detailed analysis of the dry recyclate material that is delivered to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The analysis concluded that levels of contamination in the kerbside recycling bins have increased. Historically contamination rates have been around 5% but in this recent analysis a rate of just over 9% was recorded. The breakdown of the contamination is approximately 3% sub 45mm material (e.g. bottle tops, shredded paper etc.), 2.5% food, 2% loose textiles, 1% glass and 1% electricals. As the contract and gate fee are impacted by the level of contamination and the quality of materials recovered, it is imperative that the SWP takes steps to address this issue.

The SWP is in the process of launching a Suffolk-wide educational campaign aimed at the importance of getting recycling right, which will include a leaflet being sent out to every household in Suffolk highlighting what can and can't go in your recycling bin. A new video is being launched online to further highlight the issues. The leaflet is also highlighting that anything smaller than 40mm, such as loose bottle tops or shredded paper, doesn't get recycled as it falls through the sorting process and goes to the incinerator. However, bottle tops can be recycled by simply washing and squashing plastic bottles and putting the tops back on. The leaflet and media campaign will be launched in November.

Eat Out Eat Well (EOEW) – This is a project that BMSDC in partnership with the Public Health team at Suffolk County Council have developed. It links to the Health and Wellbeing Board objectives around obesity and is intended to create a positive statement around healthier catering. It allows catering businesses to differentiate themselves by demonstrating that they offer healthy choices. The scheme has three levels of gold, silver and bronze. By the end of September, 41 EOEW awards had been made across Suffolk. 13 of those are in the BMSDC area, of which 7 are gold awards. We also have another 40 businesses in the BMSDC area currently interested in gaining the award and these will be assessed in due course by members of the Food and Safety team as part of the approach we have to adding value to our contact with businesses.

2. Business Environment

[involves the Open for Business Team (which includes Food and Safety and Licensing) and obviously has strong crossover links with the Business Growth and Increased Productivity Portfolio]

Better Business for All (BBfA) – This is the intended strategic approach to regulation across the New Anglia LEP, involving a partnership of all 16 local authorities in Norfolk and Suffolk, the LEP, the Growth Hub and the Norfolk and Suffolk Chambers of Commerce. BMSDC are leading and coordinating the programme which is supported by the new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy through their Regulatory Delivery

arm. The programme steering group met at the beginning of September and finalised an action plan, the headlines of which are:

1. Improving understanding of what businesses want.
2. Understanding of what businesses find most challenging.
3. Improving understanding of the business perspective by front line regulators.
4. Engaging all stakeholders with the BBfA project.
5. Sharing best practice.
6. Improving access to regulatory information for businesses.
7. Improving understanding of the local regulatory offer by front line staff.
8. Developing a communications plan.
9. Improving consistency across geographical borders.
10. Taking the fear out of businesses approaching regulators for advice.

The programme is cited in the Norfolk and Suffolk devolution agreement in the business support section. A briefing for the senior leaders of the partner organisations is currently being prepared.

The overall aims of the BBfA programme are very similar to the BMSDC Open for Business project but clearly on a larger scale.

3. Modern Built Environment

East Anglia One – We are now about to start landowner negotiations in order to begin delivering some of the landscaping, using funds achieved through the Section 106 agreement. Up-to-date information on this and the East Anglia Three project will soon be available directly from our own website.

David Burn