

Report to the Council

Subject: Environment Portfolio

Date: 17 December 2013

Portfolio Holder: Councillor W Breare-Hall

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.

Waste Management

The procurement process remains on schedule with the second round of competitive dialogue having been completed in early November. Officers are now dealing with clarification questions from the remaining contractors, ahead of them submitting the next set of tender documents on 23 December. Tender assessment will be conducted immediately after the Christmas and New Year break, with Cabinet receiving a report on 3 February 2014 recommending the three contractors who should proceed to the final stage of the process.

In my last report I made mention of a letter sent by a Government Minister regarding the collection of commingled recyclates. Further information has become available since then, although final guidance from Government is still awaited. I remain confident that we shall be able to maintain our current preferred collection methodology, but we shall be required, as part of the procurement process, to have considered the requirements of European Waste Directives and set down our reasoning for the decisions we eventually make.

Discussions with the County Council regarding funding provided through the Inter Authority Agreement continue. The Essex Waste Collection Authorities have sought legal guidance on the validity of the actions proposed by the County, which suggests that the County should, at the very least, reconsider their approach to their proposed reductions in funding. As suggested previously, I will keep Members informed as discussions continue.

Environmental Health & Neighbourhoods

Fly-tipping

Evidence gathered by the Council's Environment & Neighbourhood team led to the prosecution of Ultimate Lofts and Extensions Limited. The company was fined £500 and ordered to pay the Council's prosecution costs of £675 in Chelmsford Magistrates Court on 19 November 2013 after pleading guilty to failing in their duty of care, which led to some waste from their company being fly-tipped in Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood Common.

The Environment and Neighbourhoods team have asked for another article to be published in the Council's One Business briefing to remind companies of the need to comply with their duty of care, to both protect their business and keep waste out of the hands of potential fly-tippers.

Jamie Monisse, of The Square, Loughton, was fined £150 and ordered to pay the Council's prosecution costs of £451 in Chelmsford Magistrates Court on 19 November 2013, in

relation to the unlawful depositing of a wheelie bin and its contents in a garage area in Pyrles Lane, Loughton. The matter was investigated by an Environment & Neighbourhood Officer who visited the site and examined CCTV recordings provided by colleagues in the Safer Communities team.

The Environment & Neighbourhoods team continue to work closely with the Safer Communities team (Adrian Petty - CCTV Operations officer) in order to try and catch more offenders leaving waste in fly-tipping hot spots.

Mrs Cathy Aziba, who has been charged with a fly-tipping offence, has recently elected to have her case heard in the Crown Court. The case is set for 3 March 2014 for three days. CCTV recordings to the rear of The Broadway, Debden, allegedly identified a bed, armchair and other waste being removed from her property and deposited in the near vicinity.

Litter

Three fixed penalty notices have recently been offered to litter offenders, two resulting from pre-arranged patrols in Debden and one from reliable evidence from a member of the public who challenged somebody littering from a car near his property.

On 13 November, Officers participated in a litter pick event arranged by volunteers from McDonalds at Hastingwood, with children from St. John's School, Epping. Pupils put on plastic overalls and boots for a litter pick at Lower Swaines recreation ground in Epping.

The initiative was the idea of McDonalds franchisee Tony Fagg and included an art competition with the three winning pupils receiving awards and congratulations from the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Councillor Boyce. McDonalds organised the poster design competition with St John's School Art Department and provided WH Smith voucher prizes for the top entries. The winning entry with the logo "**Keep calm and bin it!**" will be reproduced in the Hastingwood restaurant and car park.

Councillor Boyce and his wife Jan, McDonalds Franchisee Tony Fagg and Richard Gardiner, the Council's Environment & Neighbourhood Manager, judged the design competition.

The Council is hoping to participate in a county-wide litter campaign in Spring 2014, in conjunction with Essex County Council, McDonalds and the Cleaner Essex Group (CEG). Essex County Council has agreed to match fund the financial contribution of all the Essex local authorities who participate. We are hoping to contribute £2000 to the campaign in addition to using our existing resources to advertise and enforce. The campaign seeks to make littering less sociably acceptable and raise the profile of litter offences and potential fines.