

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 29 July 2014

Subject: Environment

Portfolio Holder: Councillor W Breare-Hall

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.

Waste Management

I am pleased to inform Members that following the Cabinet decision of 19 May to award the next waste management contract to Biffa Municipal Limited the statutory 'cool down' period has ended. This means that we are now making the necessary arrangements to formally enter into a contract with Biffa and commence arrangements for mobilisation. Biffa will take over from Sita in November.

This is a complex contract delivering essential front line services to every resident in the district. My first priority now is to ensure that the transition to the new contractor is seamless and that our residents continue to receive the same high-level of service. The next phase will be the utilisation of the full range of enhanced services. My Portfolio Holder Advisory Group, which advised me throughout the procurement process, will be reconvened to keep an overview on the mobilisation process.

Flooding and Drainage

Following the successful purchase of replacement drainage CCTV equipment, officers will shortly embark on a programme of inspections of key Council owned drainage infrastructure. This builds on work undertaken a few years ago to survey and repair critical flood risk assets that are in the Council's ownership and which provide vital flood mitigation to properties and infrastructure. The results of these inspections will feed in to the risk based approach that the Council adopts to prioritise future investment.

Neighbourhoods

Miss Chrissie Holyoak was found guilty of six breaches of an Anti-social Behaviour Order which was imposed last year for repeatedly creating a statutory nuisance by playing loud music. The Judge at Chelmsford Crown Court imposed a ten week jail sentence suspended for one year.

Two cases of illegal street trading associated with the selling of Christmas trees at the roadside were heard at Court on 24th June. In the first case, Mr White was fined £167 with £500 costs, and in the second Mr King was fined £1800 with £884 costs. Mr White appeared at Court and pleaded guilty whilst Mr King failed to appear.

Mr Baptiste was recently convicted of fly-tipping in Caneland Court, Waltham Abbey, and received a fine of £167 with £150 costs.

Mr Reynolds was convicted of four counts of breach of duty of care and received a fine of £500 with £916 costs, £160 of which were a contribution to the clean up of the rubbish. Mr Reynolds had supplied rubbish for disposal to an unlicensed waste carrier but it was subsequently dumped in the vicinity of garages in Pyrles Lane, Loughton.