

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 February 2019

### **COUNCILLOR IAN DEVEREUX- CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

For the period 25 January to 11 February 2019

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

**Clinical Sharps.** For many years through our Waste Collection contract with Kier, this council has collected low volumes of clinical wastes from self-medicating residents. This was in parallel with an NHS service for those individuals prescribed medical sharps for self-administration of pharmaceuticals at home which saw many patients take their filled sharps containers back to their Health Centre or Pharmacy for collection by an NHS contractor. Late last year we were notified that the NHS was withdrawing from this long established and successful arrangement and that we would be responsible for taking it on. Since then our Team have worked closely with Norfolk Waste Partnership colleagues across the County to look at the best available options for continuing this vital service for those residents needing it. We have concluded that the best, cost-effective delivery solution for our residents is to replicate the additional sharps collection service arrangements through our current contract with Kier. Over coming weeks, we will be interacting with the current agencies involved and communicating with any individuals needing a doorstep step service to ensure that we understand and can meet their needs. Operationally, the collections will be undertaken within the Kier contract and we are also putting in place additional resources to manage overall operation of the service. I can confirm that the service will continue to be provided without charge. Officers and the NHS are finalising the timetable for the change but, we have agreed there will be a period of communication with all service users outlining the change in collections and offering reassurance that the new arrangements will meet their needs.

Together with our CSNN Enforcement Officer, I participated in the County-wide **SCRAP Fly-Tipping** campaign launched in Norwich on 31 January. Operating together as a multi-agency task force, all eight local authorities, coordinated through the Norfolk Waste Partnership are working in concert with the Environment Agency, The Norfolk Constabulary, the National Farmers' Union and the Country Land and Business Association. The campaign defines the scale, scope and nature of fly-tipping which costs our Council Tax Payers around £830,000 a year across the County. It spells out our individual personal responsibilities for disposing of our waste properly, for protecting our environment from fly-tipping and avoiding the consequential risk of unlimited fines.

The campaign provides guidance on how we can each play our part to prevent fly-tipping by using only authorised waste carriers to take our waste away; and by using the SCRAP code summarised as follows:

**S**SUSPECT all waste carriers until you know they are legitimate  
**C**CHECK your waste carrier Registration by phoning 03708 506506  
**R**EFUSE unexpected offers from non-registered waste carriers  
**A**SK what will happen to your rubbish and the disposal route  
**P**PAPERWORK should be obtained: eg invoice, waste transfer note.

Further details can be found on the Borough Council Website

**Joint Waste Collection Procurement.** Following a very rigorous process, Officers are nearing readiness to go out to Tender for the joint procurement of a new waste collection contract covering our Borough and North Norfolk and Breckland District Councils. This will provide benefits from maximising economies of scale and the efficient delivery of the range of individual services required. The level and volume of specialist detail demanded in the preparation of the tender documents is significant and subject to intense technical, commercial and legal scrutiny both within the three councils and through use of independent external agencies to meet the Local Government procurement requirements. I have decided therefore, that it is now appropriate for the Environment and Community Panel to receive an update and review of progress before the tenders are returned. This procurement is a considerable undertaking and a significant commitment for all three councils and will underpin operations for years to come.

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

Attendance at the Environment Agency Technical Group Meeting to consider long term Flood Risk Management of the Fens.

Provisional arrangements have been made to host the July A(C)RFCC (which oversees flood risks for the Great Ouse catchment area from west of Milton Keynes to Hunstanton) in King's Lynn. This will include a site visit to Hunstanton to support their consideration of the forthcoming publication of Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan, which was part funded the Committee.

## **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Anglian (Central) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (17 Jan)  
East of Ouse, Nar and Polver Internal Drainage Board (22 Jan)  
Environment & Community Panel (22 Jan)  
Council and associated briefing (24 Jan)  
Alive Leisure Trust Board- Business Continuity Group Meeting

Portfolio Meetings on Waste Management,  
Coastal Planning & Community Safety and Neighbourhood Nuisance  
Launch of SCRAP Fly Tipping Campaign  
Cabinet and associated Sifting and Briefing meetings  
Alive Leisure Trust Full Board (6 Feb)

Scheduled

Single Use Plastics Informal Working Group  
Corporate Performance Panel  
Alive Leisure Trust Full Board (20 Feb)