

**Council**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment**

*Consider the future of the planet in everything we do*

**Carbon Management Programme**

This programme is progressing well with good engagement from across Council services. The baseline carbon footprint has been established and work is progressing to identify specific projects to reduce carbon emissions and costs which will be considered in the budget considerations for future years.

The Council also attended an Ideas Sharing Conference on 10<sup>th</sup> October which was extremely well attended. The council heard about a number of ideas and experiences which will be invaluable to our future achievement of carbon reduction. The finalised strategy and detailed implementation plan are on programme for completion at the beginning of March 2008.

**Recycling rate**

The recycling rate this time last year was 39% compared to 41.77% to date. This improvement has been largely achieved by the council's recycling team having a more active role in the community visiting schools, colleges, residents associations and holding road shows in the town centre and at special events. The recycling team have also given educational tours around the council's own Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF), where all the materials collected by the recycling collection teams are sorted and separated into the different material types.

*Safe clean neighbourhoods for people to live in*

**Refuse collections**

We have achieved a dramatic improvement in the number of missed collections, down from 4,835 this time last year to only 671 to date. With approximately 36,000 collections made each day (nearly 10 million a year) this figure is exceptional and has been accomplished through improvements implemented by the Waste Operations Officers and the introduction of the Customer Relations Management system managed by the new Call Centre.

**Ecton Lane Travellers Site**

Following the recent refurbishment any outstanding items requiring work are being undertaken by Mears. The target, subject to access, is to complete these by the end of November 2007. Three tenders have been received for long term management of the site. A report to Cabinet in December will recommend a preferred contractor to commence management of the site early in the new year.

The Countywide Traveller Needs Assessment is on programme to be completed by early December 2007. The results of this will provide evidence of need and inform the Local Development Scheme.

**Smoke Free Legislation**

This continues to be monitored and advice given to businesses. The levels of compliance remain high.

### **Health and Safety Awareness for Warehousing and Logistics Industry**

The Council hosted a planned all day event for local business to learn from National Exemplars in Industry. Speakers included senior staff from the Health and Safety Executive, Coca Cola Enterprises Limited, NYK Logistics, Eddie Stobart and DHL. The aim was to share best practise with a view to reducing injuries and, in turn, improve business efficiency for local facilities.

### **Integrated Housing IT System (IBS)**

The first phase of the IBS has been implemented within Housing and Property Maintenance and has been generally well received. Phase 2, which goes live on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008, will include all the associated repairs modules and will facilitate a move towards mobile working for frontline staff. This will allow for a fundamental overhaul of the way materials are collected and delivered and will considerably reduce the need for employees to come to the depot so that they can spend more time out delivering frontline services, whilst also reducing our carbon footprint.

### *Improve our town centre*

#### **Streetscene**

During half-term week 22-26<sup>th</sup> October we ran our second anti-litter campaign, following the earlier successful campaign in April this year. Penguin bins were once again introduced into the town centre before being loaned out to schools for the autumn/winter terms to ensure the anti-littering message continues to be passed onto the school children of the town.

#### **Community Clean-ups**

NBC have continued to work with community groups to ensure that eyesore areas have been cleared and the rubbish removed through Community Clean-ups.

#### **End of Life Vehicle Impound Scheme (ELVIS)**

NBC continue to be a major player in the Countywide partnership End of Life Vehicle Impound Scheme (ELVIS). This partnership now has both national and international recognition and similar schemes will be rolled out across the UK in the next 12 months. Due to the success of the ELVIS partnership, Northampton is to be one of the first towns to trial the new Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras and software, which have been developed to catch vehicles with no tax or insurance and has direct links with the DVLA.

#### **Sheep Street toilets**

We have now identified funding to keep open the Sheep Street toilets at least until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. Sheep Street toilets have once again been recognised as a 5 star facility, which is testament to the continued hard work of the staff.

Trini Crake  
November 2007