

**ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
22 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**WORKING GROUPS – PROGRESS REPORT
(Lead Working Group Members)**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress achieved to date by the Working Groups of the Panel reviewing collection, recycling and disposal of waste; street cleaning; road traffic casualties; and the housing strategy.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That this progress report be noted.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Waste Review Working Group

- 3.1 The Waste Review Working Group has now met on ten occasions, including a visit to the new Smallmead Material Recycling Facility at Reading, and its work is drawing to a conclusion. Having scoped the review in the light of an introductory session with the Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection, the Working Group has received indepth information in respect of the re3 waste and recycling partnership and the refuse and recycling collection services in Bracknell Forest. Other work has included a useful discussion with a representative of SITA, the Council's waste and recycling contractor, the receipt of the results of a bin analysis of the Council's town centre offices and consultation on a household waste and recycling collection service questionnaire for residents. The Working Group has also had meetings with an environmental planner to learn about planning policy in relation to waste and recycling and the Executive Member for the Environment to give her the opportunity to share her views one year on from assuming the portfolio and to identify any areas where she would welcome the Working Group's input. This review is an example of successful partnership working with the Town and Parish councils.
- 3.2 A review report will be drafted shortly and the Working Group will be invited to identify any further areas it wishes to investigate before concluding its review. It is anticipated that any remaining work may feature meeting representatives of a supermarket to discuss packaging policies and a waste reduction action organisation to gain its perspective on waste and recycling.

Street Cleaning Working Group

- 3.3 During its five meetings, this Working Group has received information from the Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection; received presentations in respect of the Council's street cleansing and grounds maintenance contracts; held discussions around best street cleaning practice at Town and Parish council level; and considered anti-littering promotional and educational activity in the light of littering research undertaken by an environmental campaigns organisation. It has also been consulted

on the departmental Environmental Amenity Action Plan 2008-2011 which seeks to achieve a reduction in the levels of dumping of waste and to improve street cleansing service delivery. The Working Group has now completed its work and a report resulting from the review has been drafted and is being considered by Members.

Road Traffic Casualties

- 3.4 Following the Panel's last meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Commission adopted the Working Group's report. The Executive accepted all the report's recommendations, and this response was considered by the Commission at its meeting on 17 July. The Working Group has therefore concluded.

Housing Strategy

- 3.5 The purpose of this Working Group is to respond to the consultation in respect of the Borough's draft Housing Strategy which will be agreed by the Executive at the end of 2008. The Working Group has met on two occasions to date to be briefed on the current working draft of the Housing Strategy, a substantive strategic document relating to housing priorities across the Borough, and consider in particular the use of the capital receipts generated as a result of the transfer of the Council's housing stock and the five priorities for action included in the current draft of the Strategy. A further meeting has been arranged for October to enable the Working Group to progress its work.

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