

## **Portfolio Holder Report – Council 11 December 2013**

### **By Cllr Mike Fairhurst – Operational Services**

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#### **Waste & Recycling Strategy & Management**

Changes to our normal service delivery during the Christmas and New year holiday period have been agreed. Customers have been advised of the revised refuse/recycling collection days through the recent edition of 'Serving You'.

- Bulky waste collection and garden waste collection services will be suspended for a two week period - Monday 23 December 2013 to Friday 3 January 2014. Collections return to normal week commencing Monday 6 January 2014.
- Glass Bank Collections – Recycling bring sites will be cleared up to 24 December, and then collections will commence again on Saturday 28 December 2013. Frequency of collections will be increased to ensure adequate capacity and to prevent a build up of glass in and around bottle banks over this period.

Full details will be circulated separately.

Work continues on possible improvements to the recycling of textiles in the borough.

#### **Streetcare**

The teams are working as normal in all areas and we are using some of our resources to clear fallen leaves. We are using our list of priority areas and hot spots (as advised by councillors) and we will also respond to requests to visit other areas as necessary.

#### **Open Spaces**

An order has been placed to the value of £31,708.00 for the supply of the new playground equipment in Bidbury Mead, and this will be enhanced by £22,500.00 of external funding. The provisional start date for the work is of Monday 6 January 2014. The anticipated contract length is 9 weeks – this is obviously weather dependent – experience in building at this time of the year is that the weather is a major factor in any delays. There will be a temporary loss of 2 or 3 parking spaces in the car park for the contractors compound. Relevant stakeholders will, as usual, be kept informed.

After researching the S106 money set aside for play equipment, the expenditure of the money will be decided at a meeting just before full council. I will issue a separate briefing note to all councillors as soon as possible after the meeting.

#### **Vehicle Workshop & Fleet Management**

We have just taken delivery of a new refuse vehicle which will replace the oldest refuse vehicle on our fleet. We currently replace these vehicles every 7 years but are considering whether we this can be extended to 8 or 10 years in future.

## **Sustainability**

The next Switch Hampshire domestic scheme will be launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> December – the day before full council - and registration will close on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Switch Hampshire is a quick and easy way for residents to find out if they could save money on gas or electric (or both) bills. The scheme is free and residents are under no obligation to switch; the more people who sign up for it the better the deal that can be negotiated, so please encourage residents to take advantage of this.

The Switch Hampshire Business Scheme has been extended until 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The scheme aims to help small and medium businesses get a better deal on their energy bills in what can be a complex process. The scheme is free and businesses are under no obligation to switch. Again, please encourage them to look seriously at a scheme that can save them money.

We are using the Havant GIS system in working with Scotia Gas Networks to look at areas that may not yet be connected to the gas network, and determine if they qualify under the Assisted Connections scheme. Scotia Gas Networks have initial data that suggests that there are over 3000 off-gas properties in Havant. This is another way in which Havant council can help save residents money through knowledge and advice.

We are awaiting a decision from the Department of Energy and Climate Change for a joint bid with East Hampshire District Council for £1 million under the Green Deal Communities fund to support roll out of the Green Deal locally. Though there has been a bad press for this initiative, it does provide a way for some people to reduce their use of energy, and so we are supporting it locally, at very little cost in officer time and no financial cost.