



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item/Paper</u>
Council	
22 July 2010	
	Public

PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORT

Mike Owen, Portfolio Holder: Economy & Waste

WASTE MANAGEMENT.

What has been achieved - the highlights

- The Environment Agency issued the environmental permit for Battlefield Energy from Waste facility on 21st June 2010.
- Purchase of the Faraday Drive site in Bridgnorth was completed on 29th April 2010. Subject to planning the site will be converted to form the Bridgnorth Integrated Waste Management Facility.
- A crucial agreement has been concluded with Network Rail which will now allow the completion of the works to Craven arms integrated waste management facility which will rationalise waste management operations in the South of the County.
- Kerbside plastic bottle collection and recycling has been successfully introduced in the Oswestry and North Shropshire areas. The next area to receive collections will be the Shrewsbury area (from 2nd August 2010), followed by South Shropshire (29th November 2010). Collections will commence in the Bridgnorth area once the Bridgnorth IWMF is commissioned. Over 40 roadshows have been staged by the Communications Team to raise awareness of plastic recycling.
- The Shropshire Community Recycling Project was successful in being awarded a £10,000 grant from the Lottery to raise recycling awareness in Community and Charity Groups and this is being delivered.
- The council supported Master Composters – (volunteer composters) attended over 50 events in the last 6 months to encourage home composting.
- Recycler the rapping robot visited 20 schools in Shropshire to deliver waste education and waste audits have been completed at 10 schools.
- Over 600 compost bins have been sold to the public through Council/Veolia scheme.
- The final report on the Anaerobic digester demonstrator plant in Ludlow has been completed and signed off by DEFRA releasing the last grant payment of £75,000 to Shropshire Council.

Key Issues

- The planning application for the Battlefield energy from waste facility will be considered on 26th July 2010.
- At the end of September 2010 the trial source separated food waste collection service in parts of South Shropshire ceases.
- The business plan for the joint venture anaerobic digester plant in Ludlow is being developed.
- The Government is due to review national waste policies and this may impact on service provision.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

What has been achieved the highlights

- The Official Opening of the £7.5M Shropshire Food Enterprise Centre by AWM and Shropshire Council two tenants have moved in and third tenant due to move in end of July
- Shropshire Business Enterprise Fund launched Nov 2009 already huge support to local businesses - 46 Start up grants £53,427 and 34 Booster grants £119,785 and 3 Retail grants £2 219 total of £175,431
- Market Town Revitalisation Programme approved by Cabinet 30/6/10 first major transformation project a £3.5M programme putting local councillors and town councillors at the heart of the new localism agenda. Part of the £13.7M economic development capital programme.
- New rural broadband scheme launched with AWM for South Shropshire.
- Shropshire Business Board leading work on Procurement, Promotion of Shropshire and new business mentoring scheme.
- Major assessment of the economy .“Spotlight on the Shropshire Economy” out for 12 week consultation.
- Annual Business Summit held with 120 businesses attending.
- Total of £200,000 of externally funded grants put into tourism industry.
- Tern Valley Business Park phase 2 near Market Drayton – entirely funded by Shropshire Council, infrastructure nearly completed. Sites for businesses to be marketed in autumn.
- Marches Environmental Technologies Network established with £500,000 of AWM funding to support environmental technology companies across our sub-region.
- New Strategic Board for Tourism established with Telford and Wrekin Council and new approach with area based destination partnerships first of which is “Destination Shrewsbury”.

Key Issues

- AWM to be abolished over next 18 months and establishment of new Local Enterprise Partnerships on a sub-regional basis.
- AWM review of all our contracted projects which will probably see claw back of various funds.
- Launch of new Regional Growth Fund which is a £1bn capital fund for Midlands and North.
- Business Link likely to be abolished so all business support supplied nationally via a web site so need for Council support to business even greater.
- Government decision to end LABGI funding which was aimed at economic development.
- Dependence of Shropshire economy on public sector employment 31% of jobs.
- 2010/11 unemployment expected to rise further due to public sector cuts and only slow and fragile private sector recovery.

PUBLIC PROTECTION REGULATORY SERVICES

What has been achieved the highlights

- A strategic and structural review of Regulatory Services has been concluded, reducing operating costs and prioritising the service.
- As part of our negotiation work refunds totalling £12,338 were obtained for three consumers following the mis-selling of furniture designed for disabled people.
- Funding has been secured to meet the costs of establishing 'Scores on the Doors'. Scores on the Doors is a public food hygiene rating system which provides members of the public with information to enable them to make informed choices about the premises from which they purchase food in the County and is a powerful tool to drive up standards in food businesses. The scheme will be launched later this year.
- The Primary Authority Scheme has been approved for Shropshire Council, permitting the council to enter into agreements with business to give advice and support of regulatory matters with an element of immunity from prosecution by other authorities if this advice is followed. We are in discussions with a number of food producers on signing these agreements.
- A new approach to age restricted alcohol sales at both off- and on-sales, to include a greater emphasis on education but with more realistic enforcement checks is being piloted in Ludlow
- Introduction of a charging policy agreed by Cabinet in June 2010 for the new regulations in respect of private water supplies which came into force January 2010.
- A joint strategy with the Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive has been set in motion in respect of preventing further recurrences of the King Pin tyre fire or similar.

Key Issues

- A Task and Finish Group of the Strategic Licensing Committee has been established to review Hackney Carriage and Private Hire policies and will report back in September.
- Proposals to remove the taxi zones within Shropshire and develop a common standard for taxis will be presented to Council later in the year.
- The recent announcement of the closing of the Food Standards Agency may place more responsibility for food safety and food standards on Shropshire Council.
- Discussions with Severn Trent Water will be initiated with regard to the process for transfer of private sewers and drains to them if proposed regulations are introduced.
- The development of Integrated Air Quality Strategy for Shropshire informing the Local Development Framework and Transport Planning will be consulted upon in November 2010.
- Project initiated to upgrade the Emstrey Crematorium to meet 2012 Defra requirements for the abatement of mercury emissions.