

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**9 FEBRUARY 2010**

### **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

#### **- PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the updated position.

#### **BACKGROUND**

3. Since the last update report to OSB, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met twice, on 7 and 25 January 2010.
4. On 7 January, the scrutiny panel agreed terms of reference for the next topic in its work programme - Recycling and Packaging Reduction. Information was also submitted to the meeting in respect of:
  - The Council's recent undertaking to participate in the national WRAP (Waste Reduction Action Programme) Waste Commitment. This involves the Council ensuring that a set of principles for good waste and recycling services are adhered to. The commitment aims to help local authorities improve residents' satisfaction with how waste and recycling are collected and, ultimately, increase recycling rates.

- An outline of how the Council, and other local authorities, have been involved in encouraging packaging reduction. The panel agreed that it would further explore this topic.
  - The position concerning the use of National Indicator (NI) 195 to measure levels of street cleanliness. The panel heard information from the Council's Section 195 Standards Officer on how the relevant information is collated and assessed and how results are used by Streetscene.
5. At its 25 January 2010 meeting, the Environment Scrutiny Panel considered a report on packaging reduction. Members were informed of the legislative background requiring producers to keep packaging to a minimum and the Council's involvement in enforcing the legislation. The panel has also agreed, if possible, to seek the views of a sample of major retailers on this topic and to ascertain what, if any, action they are taking in this area.

**COUNCILLOR BOB KERR**

**CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

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