

Committee: Council

Date:

Title: Report of the Portfolio Holder for
Environmental Services

Tuesday, 9 October
2018

**Report
Author:** Councillor Susan Barker

Summary

1. This report summarises matters relevant to the Environmental Services portfolio.

Recommendations

2. None, this report is to note only

Financial Implications

3. None

Background Papers

4. None

Situation

Environmental Health

5. Since the Council meeting in July, Cabinet has put in place arrangements in preparation for the extension of mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). HMOs often have poorer standards than other privately rented properties and may have greater risks in terms of hazards, for example fire. A further report will be coming to Cabinet later in October.
6. Cabinet has also put in place arrangements for the use of fixed penalty notices for environmental offences including penalty charge sums. This will allow the council to take advantage of the expansion of powers permitting the use of fixed penalties to enforce against littering from vehicles, idling vehicles and smoking in vehicles when a person under 18 years is present. Penalty charges for other environmental offences have also been increased.

Planning

7. Cabinet also received a report on the Planning Peer Review which included detailed recommendations for changes in working practices to make more efficient use of resources, predominantly people engaged in the consideration and assessment of planning applications, including the support teams.

8. Following the close of the period for representations on the submission draft local plan, consideration is being given to how to best proceed taking into account, in particular, the position reached by the north Essex authorities following the examination of their Local Plans Section 1, and legal advice that we have received. There is a substantive report elsewhere on this agenda on this issue.

Street Services

9. The Interim Operations' Manager in Street Services has briefed Cabinet members on his initial assessment of operational priorities. He is focusing on ensuring that adequate numbers of drivers and loaders are available to complete collections of waste and recyclables on programme. He is also working with the Interim Waste and Recycling Officer to address those localities where participation rates in recycling lags, and to maintain the quality of recyclate so that it is as marketable as possible. A report on Waste Education was taken to Scrutiny in September for their comments.