

CABINET STATEMENT

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR KYRLE

The borough council's tree nursery has been set up and we have created two apprenticeship jobs to work at the site. The nursery will grow 160,000 trees locally over the next ten years. We will be producing over 17,000 trees in the first 12 months, which will be a mixture of species including Oak, Birch, Hawthorn, Cherry, Crab Apple, Lime and Hazel.

We are investing in our waste and recycling services with the new waste collection operation being rolled out across the borough. Residents in the borough will have received a letter from the council informing them if their waste collection day has changed, as we will be moving to a new way of collecting the borough's waste and recycling from 1st March.

This will enable the council to provide fortnightly glass and battery collections, which will help boost our recycling rates, as well as for the first time, food waste recycling services to residents living in flats. This service will be a phased roll out across the borough from 1st March this year.

We are also increasing our wildflower planting across the borough, which is great news as I know how our previous wild flower planting schemes have been very much appreciated by residents and visitors to the borough, as well as being good for insects and our wildlife.

We have also recently held two Climate Champions online engagement events with members of the public, both of which were well attended with a mix of residents from across the borough. These events are a great way to engage with our residents to help understand what issues they find are important to them, when thinking about Climate Change and the Environment. Public engagement is another key element of our Action Plan and although Covid has prevented us from engaging with our residents in a more community based setting, we felt that we should do what we can to re-start our engagement sessions by holding them online.

We are very much hoping to hold more of these events online, until we are able to once again meet with residents within our communities.