

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20th JANUARY 2011**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES**

#### **LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (LEQ) PROJECT PLAN UPDATE**

##### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the current position of the Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) delivery plan for 2010/11. The plan aims to achieve a number of LEQ objectives in order to support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan.

##### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 18th of November 2009, Cabinet endorsed the LEQ Project Plan (Minute 28 refers). The latest version of the Project Plan is appended to this report.
- 2.2 As Members are aware the work of Technical Services is intrinsically linked to the second Corporate Objective "to create a clean, pleasant, safe and sustainable environment". Projects detailed in the LEQ plan are all aimed at helping Wirral to achieve the aforementioned objective.

The Living and Working Environment Partnership are responsible for co-ordinating the Delivery Plan actions. Six weekly meetings are chaired by Wirral Council Technical Services as the lead statutory body responsible for local environmental quality issues. The core aims of the partnership are to:

- Maintain and improve the standard of the local environment for residents and businesses through effective partnership working between key agencies and organisations
- Monitor, review, report and take corrective action for the improvement plans relating to the Living and Working Environment Partnership that set out to achieve the SCS and LAA Improvement Priorities
- Optimise the use of available partner resources to achieve Living and Working Environment objectives through effective working and communication between partner organisations and use of performance/management information
- Promote effective engagement and consultation with local communities and neighbourhoods to facilitate in particular the community and voluntary sector for the achievement of Living and Working Environment objectives.

### **3.0 PROGRESS DURING 2010/11**

#### **3.1 Recent NI195 results**

The second tranche of NI195 survey results have been compiled and submitted. They are (remembering that lower is better and the percentage score reflects the level of unacceptable transects) Litter 5%, Detritus 7%, Graffiti 3% and Flyposting 1%. The table below shows the combined scores so far against the targets for the whole year:

	Tranche 1 and 2 combined 2010/11	2010/11 Target
Litter	5%	7%
Detritus	10%	8%
Graffiti	3%	4%
Fly-Posting	1%	0.5%

#### **3.2 Beechwood Ballantyne Community Charter Launch**

Beechwood and Ballantyne has become the latest part of Wirral to adopt the Neighbourhood Management approach to revitalising the area while, in a further development, a Neighbourhood Environment Agreement has also been put together which sets out what standard of service residents can reasonably expect from those agencies responsible for environmental issues in the area.

The agreement was launched at the same time during a special celebration event staged in Beechwood on Saturday, September 18th. Among the highlights of the celebration were demonstrations of “free running” – or Parkour - and “free football” from some of the world’s finest exponents.

There was also demonstrations and information about Neighbourhood Management, carbon reduction, representatives from Mersey Fire and Rescue Service, the Council’s recycling team and an opportunity for local people to have their say in the future of Wirral Council services as part of the “Wirral’s Future: Be a part of it” consultation.

#### **3.3 Graffiti and Flyposting Removal Contract**

Wirral’s enhanced graffiti removal service has now been in operation since April 2008. Racist and offensive instances are being removed within 24 hours of referral. Any other occurrences are being removed within 7 working days, against an agreed service level agreement of 28 working days.

A new three year Graffiti and Flyposting Removal Contract has been awarded to Lairdside Community Trust Together (LCT). The new contract officially began on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010, although LCT Together was previously delivering the service and an active member of the Graffiti Steering Group.

The aforementioned Graffiti Steering Group meets every 4 to 6 weeks. Strength has been added through the partnership's recent expansion to include social housing landlords Wirral Partnership Homes, Beechwood & Ballantyne Community Housing Association and Riverside. Utility provider Scottish Power Energy Networks has also joined the collaboration which will see affected electricity sub-stations cleared of graffiti on a rolling programme. For more information Members are directed to the 'Graffiti Prevention and Removal Update' reviewed by Cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2009.

## **4.0 NEW INITIATIVES**

### **4.1 Merseyside Month of the Environment**

The Merseyside Cleaner Safer Greener Partnership will be co-ordinating 'Merseyside Month of Environment' in March 2011.

The Merseyside Cleaner Safer Greener Partnership (MCSGP) is a network of officers from each of the five Merseyside Local Authorities, Keep Britain Tidy and other land owners responsible for improving street scene and environmental quality across Merseyside. The Partnership tackles issues such as litter, detritus, graffiti, dog fouling, fly posting, & fly tipping.

The Local Authorities involved are Liverpool City Council, Knowsley Council, Sefton Council, St. Helens Council, Wirral Council, & Halton Borough Council. Other partners include the Highways Agency and Merseytravel.

The aim of this initiative is to encourage people across Merseyside to come together and get involved in environmental activities and to also recognise and promote existing activities/projects. The activities on Wirral will include:

- The School Environment Awards
- Older Peoples & Youth Parliament events
- Tidy Business Awards Annual Conference
- Environment Champions Annual Conference
- Numerous 'Big Tidy Ups' (including a Merseyside, simultaneous launch event).

### **4.2 Partnership Working with Biffa**

A number of new projects have been developed working in close partnership with Wirral's waste and street cleansing contractor Biffa . These projects include:

- July 2010 saw the first Resident's street cleaning focus group held in Wirral. A group of Residents were invited to accompany council officers and representatives from Biffa on an NI195 survey. A focus group was subsequently held to discuss the correlation between their perceptions of cleanliness and the prescribed scoring mechanism of the NI195 survey.
- 'Street Cleansing Forums' were launched in February 2010, the second event was held in May and the third is due to be held in February 2011.

These Forums give a voice to a representative group of Biffa's street cleansing operatives and allow them to have input into and help shape improvements in the service. A number of beneficial changes to working methods have been discussed during these Forums and undoubtedly contributed towards the improvements mentioned in section 3.1 above.

## **5.0 OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS IN DELIVERING LEQ DELIVERY PLAN PROJECTS**

5.1 Every detailed action contained within the LEQ project plan is given a target status of either red, amber or green, definitions below:

- Red – Project has overrun target time for completion.
- Amber – Project has experienced some delays but is still on schedule.
- Green – Project is continuing as targeted.

5.2 The LEQ action plan currently contains 15 activities, each broken down into detailed actions and next steps. All activities currently have a green status with the exception of one classed as amber (details are given below).

### **Develop Key Stage 2 education pack tackling the issue of litter (page 6 of LEQ action plan: Status Amber**

Current recruitment processes have been delayed as a result of the recent EVR process. An assessment is also being carried out regarding the post to avoid duplication of task across Technical Services as a department.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no specific implications under this heading.

## **7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no specific implications under this heading.

## **8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no specific implications under this heading.

## **9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

## **10.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no specific implications under this heading.

## **11.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 All activities detailed in this report supported the principals of the LA 21 Agenda, contributing positively to Wirral's Nottingham Declaration and Sustainability plans.

## **12.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are no specific implications under this heading.

## **13.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 There are no specific implications under this heading.

## **14.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT**

15.1 There are no specific implications under this heading.

## **16.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

16.1 There are no specific implications under this heading.

## **17.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

17.1 Committee is requested to note and endorse the progress made in delivering the LEQ Project Plan for 2010/11.

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