

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Matthew Patrick
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Environment
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	David Armstrong – Corporate Director for Delivery Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

1 ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

I want to formally pass on my sincere thanks to the many thousands of local residents who took part in our consultation on proposals to implement a Public Space Protection Order.

From the start I made a commitment if any of the initial plans were overwhelmingly rejected by the public, they would not be taken forward in the final plan. When the consultation closed it was already clear the majority of Wirral residents do not want proposals for dog restrictions on small sections of beaches to go forward. As a result I confirmed that beach restrictions will not go ahead.

All other comments and representations we received about the ideas are being looked at and will be used to put together a final proposal. Proposals for sports pitches will be analysed on a pitch by pitch basis to ensure any future restrictions are right for residents.

The aim of any new rules that go forward will be to ensure that Wirral's beautiful open spaces can be enjoyed by everyone, including dog owners and their pets. Over the next few weeks, all the findings will be looked at in detail before a revised proposal is put together and considered at a meeting of the Cabinet in the near future.

You can read more in [Wirral View](#).

I also want to use my update to the Chamber to highlight a fantastic project our primary schools delivered over the summer months. 72 primary schools in our borough joined forces for a series of community eco events to tackle environmental issues in their local communities.

The 'Around the Wirral in 72 Schools' project was set up to show pupils they can really make a difference if they work together to protect the environment. Each school litter picked their way to their nearest neighbouring school, starting from

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College, Moreton and finishing with Brookhurst Primary School, Birkenhead on July 3.

£50 was also awarded to each school who took part to fund an eco-project of their choosing and they were encouraged to work in partnership with their eco school neighbours and share project ideas. More about this fantastic community initiative can be found in [Wirral View](#).

We continue our zero-tolerance approach to all forms of environmental crime. Recently, we have successfully prosecuted fly-tippers. I cannot understand why some people still think it is acceptable to illegally dump waste wherever they feel like it and I am pleased the person responsible in this case has been held accountable.

Fly-tipping is irresponsible and selfish and we have shown time and again we will use all powers at our disposal to robustly enforce environmental crimes.

We have also extended our contract to tackle litter-bugs in the area. The enforcement contract, which sees people served with Fixed Penalty Notices if they are seen dropping litter anywhere in the borough, has been in place since 2015. The new contract will see it extended to include the enforcement of other environmental offences, such as those covered under the 2007 Smokefree legislation – such as smoking in work places, including vehicles.

More in Wirral View on [litter enforcement](#) and [fly-tipping](#).

Finally, I have announced publicly recently that I have accepted a new job in London. Sadly, this means I cannot remain on the Council. I would like to use this report to note the exceptional work of officers in the Environment portfolio and across the Council.

Those I have worked with do Wirral proud and should be celebrated. They go above and beyond to make things right and serve the people of our borough.

I fully support the communities, officers and Councillors as they work to make the lives of the people in Wirral better. This is our shared aim and I wish everyone in that endeavour well.

Thank you all.