

Report

UPDATED REPORT FOR THE SCUTINY BOARD WHICH INCLUDES PROGRESS MADE AT MEETING 20th JANUARY 2010 – UPDATES ARE IN RED.

MONITORING REPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009/2010

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Comments on Progress	Complete?
JUNE	WORK PROGRAMME PLUS ADDITIONS	-	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Resolved</u></p> <p>That the supplementary paper listing the reports from chief officers on key issues during the year be amended to include the additional items raised by Members, and that this form the basis of the committee's work programme for the current municipal year.</p>	
21ST SEP 2009	<p><u>Road Safety Update</u> (to include details of RTA's caused by alcohol misuse)</p>	Technical Services	<p>Progress report on delivering Corporate Priority 2.4: Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Minutes:</u></p> <p>The Director of Technical services submitted a report detailing the progress made in improving road safety and reducing the number of people injured on Wirral's roads, and the comprehensive programme of ongoing and proposed actions by the Council and its partners in respect of road safety, which aim to achieve the road safety objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and Wirral Local Area Agreement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Resolved –</u></p> <p>(1) That the Committee note the progress in improving road safety performance and analysis of casualty data outlined in this report;</p> <p>(2) That the Committee endorse the proposed Road Safety Action Plan for 2009/</p>	

**21ST SEP
2009**

Allotment Development

Technical Services

Minutes:

The Director of Regeneration reported upon the work of the Allotment Development Officer and other issues related to allotments provision and development. The report also included a petition requesting the provision of an allotment site on land near Gilroy Road, West Kirby.

The Allotment Development Officer made progress in a number of areas. Approximately 15 sites had been visited and assessed as potential new allotment sites and at the present time 5 of these were being considered:

- (i) The Warrens, Thingwall
- (ii) Sandringham Avenue, Hoylake
- (iii) Broadway, Greasby
- (iv) Gilroy Road, West Kirby
- (v) Mosslands Drive, Wallasey

Resolved (8:2) –

- (1) That the work of the Allotments Development Officer be noted.
- (2) That further reports be submitted to this Committee on possible allotment sites and any financial implications, and subject to further work by officers, endorses the development of the five sites currently being considered.
- (3) That officers look into the possible transfer of Sandringham Avenue and Wingate Allotments to the respective allotment societies as a community asset transfer.

Golf Courses Security

Regeneration

Minutes:

The Director of Regeneration submitted a report outlining the current arrangements for security on golf courses.

He reported that a major review of the Parks and Countryside Service, including golf, was currently being undertaken in the form of the Parks and Countryside Service Procurement Exercise (PACSPE) to explore service delivery options and developing a business case for undertaking a procurement exercise for the service. This would be the subject a further report to Cabinet, and could result in changes to the management of the municipal golf courses.

Resolved - that the report be noted.

**21ST SEP
2009**

Carbon Reduction Progress Update

Regeneration

Minutes:
The Director of Technical Services presented a report which updated Members on the various projects currently being undertaken by Technical Services to achieve the Corporate Objective to 'Reduce the Council's Carbon Footprint', as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Members were asked to note the progress made to date on the Project Plan (Appendix 1) and to endorse the further initiatives proposed.

Resolved –

1. That the Committee note and endorse the performance and progress of the various Council 'Carbon Footprint Reduction' projects to date undertaken by the Technical Services Department.
2. That the Committee supports the proposal to take advantage of the national climate change campaign "Act on CO2" detailed in section 4.2.2
3. That the Committee supports the proposals detailed in section 4.4.2 with regards to phase 4 of the IEEP

Interim Report Flood Working Group

Technical Services

The Director of Technical Services submitted a report providing an update on the progress made to date by the Wirral Flood Group and seeking the views of members regarding the constitution and future direction of the work of this group.

The Wirral Flood Group comprised the Elected Members Steering Group, relevant Council officers from those service areas with responsibility for addressing the recommendations set out in Sir Michael Pitt's report, plus representatives from the Environment Agency, United Utilities, and Wirral NHS. Its work to date included:

- The agreement of Terms of Reference for the Group (Appendix 1)
- The establishment of the collaborative cross-departmental and agency working on matters related to flooding.

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- The opportunity for each agency and organisations responsible for flood prevention and for the management of water in general to bring to a multi-agency audience their individual roles and responsibilities and current work plans
- The compilation of a specific list of Wirral's flooding "hot spots". This list is in its early stages and will remain a "live" document. It is intended for this document to be available to officers and Elected Members, and allow them up to date information on each identified "hot spot" and the current status of work to alleviate or prevent flooding in that location.
- The establishment of a Council, Environment Agency and United Utilities Operational Group which seeks to identify the cause of flooding at each hot spot, who is responsible and more importantly what is being done to reduce the risk of flooding at those locations.

The new Flood and Water Management Bill which was due to come into force in early 2010 would place a statutory responsibility on local authorities to lead on local flood risk management. County and unitary authorities would also be responsible for local flood risk assessment, mapping and planning in relation to ordinary watercourses, surface run-off and groundwater. They would also lead the production of local surface water management plans and the agreement of the associated programmes of work with all stakeholders.

As a result of these new responsibilities , there was a need to recruit some expertise in the area of flood management to fully understand the root cause of flooding and be in a position to carry out a Surface Water Management Plan for Wirral, which was a recommendation of Pitt report and also a statutory responsibility for local authorities in the new Flood and Water Bill. It was envisaged that with this expertise and the ongoing dialogue at both operational and Elected Member level all identified "hot spots" of flooding on Wirral would be addressed.

Through the development of a database capturing the causation of flooding at these "hot spots", the Group would be in a position to engage in a more meaningful manner with the residents and property owners who have been affected by these floods.

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In addition to this, the Health, Safety & Resilience Team was currently preparing a specific guidance document for property owners on advice they can take both proactively (purchasing sand bags, fitting air brick covers, ensuring road gullies are free from detritus, etc) and also containing the relevant contact emergency details of the agencies with a responsibility for a flooding response.

The Director reported that the alleviation of flooding was a complicated issue, with a range of European, Central Government and Regional directives and strategies requiring actions from most departments of the council and many external agencies. The establishment of the Wirral Flood Group had provided an opportunity for improved co-ordination to ensure that the various agencies were working together to alleviate flooding on Wirral. To date the Wirral Flood Group had been successfully chaired by the Health, Safety & Resilience Operations Manager, but as the work of the Group evolved and having regard to the joint Elected Member and officer representation from a constitutional perspective, Members' views were particularly welcomed on the future Chairperson arrangements for the Group.

There was a general discussion regarding the working arrangements for the Group and it was suggested that the membership should be extended to include community groups from the Greasby and Leasowe areas and other "hot spots" for flooding on Wirral.

Resolved – That the Committee:

- 1. Note the progress to date of the Wirral Flood Group;**
- 2. Endorse the proposal to recruit additional flood management expertise as part of the existing Technical Services' staffing establishment;**
- 3. That the Health, Safety and Resilience Operations Manager, continue to chair the Group and that the committee agree in principle to the involvement of community groups, subject to a further report to the next meeting on this issue.**

**18th NOV
2009**

Outstanding actions former Culture
Tourism and Leisure O&S Committee

Highway & Engineering Services Contract
– Six Month Update

Regeneration

Technical Services

Deferred until later meeting

The Director of Technical Services submitted a report updating Members on the progress of the new Highway and Engineering Services Contract after the first six months and seeking endorsement to report back to this committee in Summer 2010 with a formal Annual Contract Review, including the outcome of the proposed Gateway 5 Benefits Realisation Review described in the report.

The Director gave a verbal update outlining the Gateway Review process and the next phase in terms of benefits realisation, management and governance arrangements, and partnership working to assess various issues affecting the contract and develop a co-ordinated response. He gave a brief operational overview for the first six months of the contract indicating that progress had been good and work delivery for most of the works had been completed beyond expectations.

Mr Cameron Neil, Regional Manager for Colas, introduced Mr Jim Nimmo, Wirral Contract Manager, and his management team.

Mr Neil outlined the Colas Group structure, its vision to provide quality services in a streetscene partnership with the Council, management and governance arrangements, successes to date, and future investment in terms of people, fleet and a new depot.

Resolved – That the Committee:

- (1) Note the progress of the new Highway and Engineering Services Contract during the first six months as outlined in this report;**
- (2) Endorse the proposal for a formal Annual Contract Review report in Summer 2010, including the outcome of the proposed Gateway 5 Benefits Realisation Review described in the report.**
- (3) Request an update to a future meeting on the revenue implications referred to in paragraph 5.1 of this report.**

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2009

Local Environmental Quality Update

Technical Services

The Director of Technical Services submitted a progress report on the Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) delivery plan for 2009/10 which had been prepared and monitored by his department in partnership with Biffa Waste Services, Regeneration, Neighbourhood Management Projects and local housing associations.

The Director reported that overall, the actions contained within the delivery plan were very effective with regards to improving environmental quality for Wirral residents and contributed to the achievement of both the LAA and "Narrowing the Gap" local target. Wirral had achieved its LAA performance indicator "stretch target" for 2008/09 and had received a reward grant of £818,635. This indicator measured the cleanliness of streets and open spaces with regards to litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting.

The Director gave a brief update of the actions/projects detailed in the delivery plan including the proposed extension of the on-street recycling scheme to the West Kirby, Hoylake, New Brighton, Oxtton and Moreton areas of the borough.

Resolved – That the Committee note of the progress made in the LEQ 2009/10 delivery plan and endorse the proposed expansion of the on-street recycling receptacles detailed in section 4.2.5

Young People and Community Safety*

Regeneration

The Director of Regeneration presented a report providing an indication of the scale of young peoples' involvement in community safety issues, ranging from criminal activity to issues of anti social behaviour and the interventions available across Wirral to prevent their involvement in this type of behaviour.

The Director responded to range of issues raised by members:

- the effectiveness of Section 30 Dispersal Orders and the displacement of anti social behaviour problems into adjoining areas
- alcohol related problems and the reasons why this was a particular issue in certain areas compared to other areas with a low level of incidences

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- monitoring of both off licence and licensed premises
- support initiatives and re-offending rates

The Chair referred to the decision of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 November, that the issue of Young People and Community Safety be agreed as topic for joint scrutiny review with this committee.

Resolved –

(1) That the Committee note the contents of this report.

(2) That this Committee agree to carry out a joint scrutiny review of Young People and Community Safety with the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**20TH JAN
2010**

Waste Recycling/ Minimisation Update
(to include Recycling of Kitchen Waste)

Technical Services

The Director of Technical Services presented a report updating Members on the current position of the Recycling and Waste Minimisation Delivery Plan for 2009/10. The report also included Technical Services' response to the Kitchen Waste Collection Trial Scheme Notice of Motion under the section headed Future Considerations.

In response to the Notice of Motion, a Senior Officers Working Group (SOWG), representing all senior waste managers from all Merseyside authorities, would help each authority produce a business case for food waste treatment in the long term. It was recommended that Members await the outcome of this project, supported by the Waste Resource Action Programme, before any decisions to embark on kitchen waste trials are made. The report would be completed prior to the need for districts to respond to the MWDA on future kitchen waste requirements.

In line with current Government thinking that prevention was the most efficient way to manage waste (in both cost and environmental terms), Technical Services would explore waste prevention opportunities in a more detailed manner and report their findings to a future Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

Resolved – That the Committee:

(1) Note the progress made in the Recycling and Waste Minimisation Delivery Plan for 2009/10;

(2) Note the key dates regarding future waste management treatment options detailed in section 5.2.1 of the report;

(3) Request officers report back to Committee on the findings of the Merseyside Waste Partnership Options report on Food Waste Collections in time for the Council to make an informed decision on the future management of this element of Wirral's household waste stream.

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2010

Streetscene Environment Services
Contract – Third Annual Review

Technical Services

The Director of Technical Services reported upon the current position with the Environmental Streetscene Services Contract and the development of the service.

Since the contract was awarded to Biffa in June 2006, a close working partnership with the company had transformed Environmental Streetscene Services in Wirral and had resulted in a continuous improvement of service quality which was recognised and acknowledged in the most recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment. He set out the contract management framework and reported upon progress in relation to the following key work streams that had been agreed in January 2009 by the Waste Partnership Board, for implementation in 2009/10:-

- Garden Waste: Procurement of Treatment Facilities
- Street Cleansing and Enforcement: Improving Environmental Quality with particular focus on litter and detritus
- ERIC Service and Fly Tipping Removal
- CRM Springboard Project
- Compaction and Contamination

The Director introduced Gary Bowles and Mark Hodgkinson from Biffa's management team who gave a presentation on progress and key achievements.

Resolved – That the Committee note the progress of the contract during the past year outlined in the report.

Dog Control on Beaches

Regeneration

Report to consider the controls for dogs on amenity beaches – **Deferred until later meeting**

Outstanding actions former Culture
Tourism and Leisure O&S Committee

Regeneration

Deferred until later meeting

<p>8TH MAR 2010</p>	<p>Alcohol and Community Safety* (to include safety park lighting)</p> <p>Flood Working Group Progress Report</p> <p>Dog Control on Beaches</p> <p>Outstanding actions former Culture Tourism and Leisure O&S Committee</p> <p>Review of existing policy regarding Shop Display and Advertisement Board Licences</p> <p>Trading Standards Update Report</p>	<p>Regeneration</p> <p>Technical Services</p> <p>Regeneration</p> <p>Regeneration</p> <p>Technical Services</p> <p>Regeneration</p>	<p>Report upon the impact of alcohol on the community safety agenda.</p> <p>Progress report of the Member Working Group established to consider the Council's response to climate change and flooding issues, in particular in response to the recent Pitt Review</p> <p>Report to consider the controls for dogs on amenity beaches</p> <p>Report to consider existing policy regarding Shop Display and Advertisement Board Licences</p> <p>Report on the work of the Trading Standards division and related legislation</p>	
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Report 2

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME FOR COUNCIL EXCELLENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

Topic Description	Topic suggested by	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Completion Date
i.) Golf Courses Security– September meeting.	(Councillor J Williams)		
ii.) Recycling of Kitchen Waste - January meeting as part of the waste Recycling Update.	(Councillor Redfern)		
iii.) Interim report on the work of the Flood Working Group - September meeting.	(Councillor Moseley)		
iv.) The addition of safety park lighting under the Community Safety item for the March meeting	(Councillor Taylor).		
v.) Outstanding actions arising from the last meeting of the former Culture , Tourism and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee - September meeting.	(Councillor Hale)		
vi.) Ongoing Road Safety Updates to include details road traffic accidents which are caused by the misuse of alcohol.	(Councillor Mitchell).		
Joint scrutiny review of Young People and Community Safety with the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee – 18 th November 2009		

Topic Description	Topic suggested by	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Completion Date
Review of existing policy regarding Shop Display and Advertisement Board Licences	Councillor Harry Smith	Agreed by Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee – 20 th January 2010 to request an officer report for the meeting on 8 th March	
Review of Winter Maintenance Arrangements	Referral from Cabinet (minute 250 – 14/01/2010)	Agreed by Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee – 20 th January 2010 to be added to the work programme	
Trading Standards Update Report	Councillor Peter Reisdorf	Agreed by Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee – 20 th January 2010 to request an officer report for the meeting on 8 th March	

* These items are subject to consultation with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership