

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CORPORATE GOAL PROGRESS REPORT “HAVE HIGH STANDARDS OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACROSS WIRRAL”</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>INTERIM DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

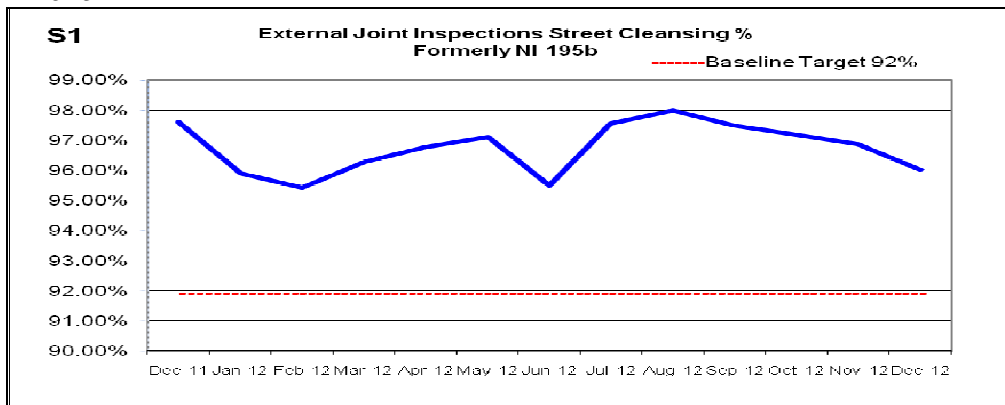
### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates Members on the current position of the Technical Services Delivery Plan (TS2) that supports the 2012/13 corporate goal, “*To have high standards of environmental quality across Wirral*”. The Plan aims to achieve a number of objectives in order to support the delivery of the Council’s Corporate Plan.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 30th of January 2012 this Committee endorsed the Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) Delivery Plan (Minute 66 refers).
- 2.2 Various key performance indicators (KPIs) are used to measure the LEQ throughout Wirral. The main KPI for this is the historic National Indicator 195 (NI195), measuring the litter and detritus across Wirral. This is intrinsically linked to the performance of the Biffa street cleansing contract. Chart 1 below shows the NI195 performance from December 2011 to December 2012.

**Chart 1:**



2.3 Wirral's Waste and Environmental Services Team use a system known as 'Flycapture' to measure their effectiveness in dealing with fly-tipping. 'Flycapture' is a web-based, fly-tipping database for England and Wales aimed at helping local authorities and the Environment Agency tackle fly-tipping. It is one of a number of measures to combat fly-tipping, which have been introduced to meet the requirements of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

Flycapture has been operational since April 2004 and since then local authorities have been submitting their monthly returns (including number of enforcement investigations, prosecutions etc.). Data is published annually by Defra on its website, available here: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/waste/flytipping-in-england-annual-statistics/>. Wirral's fly capture rating currently stands at 'Effective'.

2.4 Every action contained within the TS2 Delivery Plan is given a target status of red, amber, green, complete or suspended. Definitions are below:

- Red – Project has overrun its given target time.
- Amber – Project has experienced some delays but is still on schedule.
- Green – Project is continuing as targeted.
- Complete – Completed within current financial year.
- Suspended – Removed from work stream (explanation should be given).

The TS2 Delivery Plan currently contains three key projects/activities, each broken down into detailed actions and outputs. All projects currently have a RAG status of Green with one project 'Suspended'. One project (Environmental Streetscene service contract savings package) has also been completed during the year (2012/13) to date.

2.5 Reducing Levels of Dog Fouling Present in Wirral

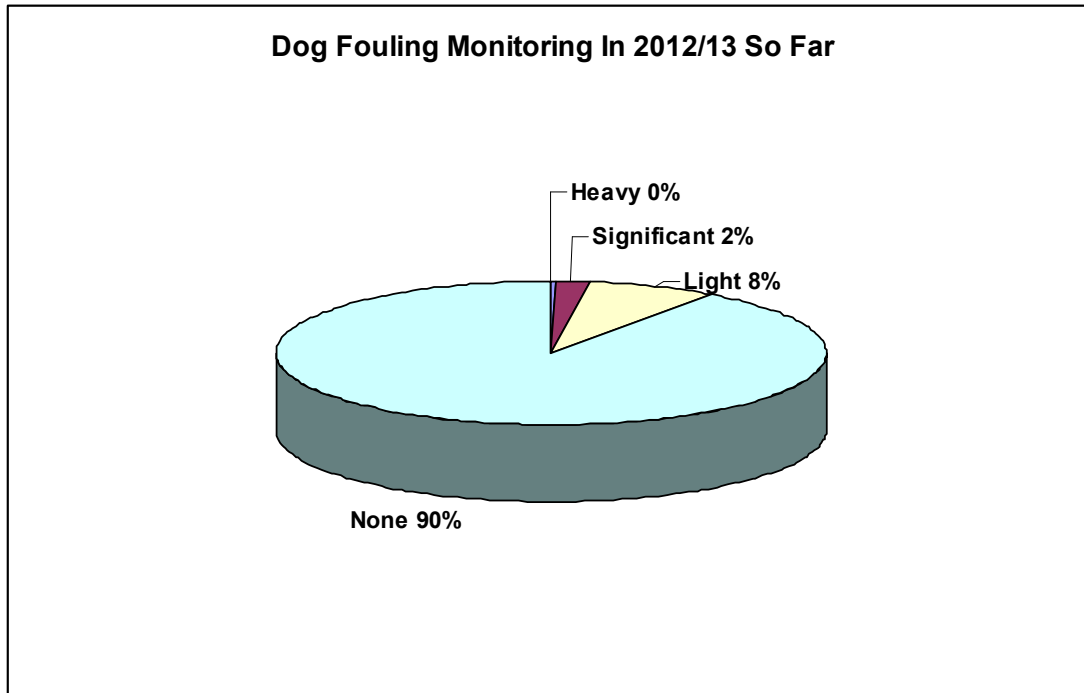
Wirral's Waste and Environmental Services Contract Management Team have been working closely with Biffa to review the existing methodology for the removal of dog fouling. This work focussed upon ensuring that contracted operatives were carrying out their work as efficiently and effectively as possible. Research into the development of new tools has also been initiated and is ongoing. Biffa have been working closely with their chosen litter pick provider to develop a tool that is more suited to the removal of dog fouling, whilst maintaining the functionality to pick up general litter. This development work is being carried out in conjunction with frontline operatives.

As a result of the enhanced focus on dog fouling removal techniques regular joint audits have noted a marked decrease in the number of surveyed 50m meter transects showing signs of dog fouling. These locations are monitored on the day of cleanse and clearly show that Biffa have taken the necessary steps to ensure the offending instances are removed to schedule. Chart 2 below shows the appropriate scores given to 1614 transects throughout 2012/13 up until the end of December 2012. The locations of any transects found to contain instances of dog fouling are now being shared with the dog fouling enforcement team for their records. The enforcement team will use this data to help target their enforcement visits.

In September 2012 Wirral's dog fouling steering group held its first 'Dog Lead' event in West Kirby. The Dog Lead action group is a chance for responsible dog owners across Wirral to become ambassadors and help promote correct and responsible behaviour to other dog owners in their area. Alongside the dog leaders themselves, the event was attended by the main teams that are involved in Wirral's dog fouling steering group –

from Environmental Health, the dog fouling enforcement team, Waste and Recycling, Parks and Countryside and Animal Control and Welfare.

**Chart 2:**



Actual Figures	
Heavy	4
Significant	33
Light	123
None	1454
Total	1614

## 2.6 Reducing the Number of Tyres Fly-Tipped Across Wirral

Wirral's highways enforcement team have been mounting a pro-active project to ensure all relevant traders across the borough have the correct systems in place (and correlating records) for the disposal of tyres.

Throughout 2012 highways enforcement officers have visited businesses and requested that they provide documentation to show how they were disposing of waste tyres and also of other, general, business waste. Visits have found that businesses are broadly compliant, the Environment Agency also inspects for tyres and oil, thus tyre and oil disposal paperwork is frequently on site/on display. The operation is proving to be most productive regarding trade waste with smaller mechanics and garages.

## 2.7 Tidy Business West Kirby Project

The Waste and Environmental Services' trade waste officer is currently delivering a project that aims to make West Kirby England's first ever 'tidy business town'. A feasibility study carried out in June 2012 showed that nearly 50% of businesses in the area were not legally compliant with waste regulations. It is envisaged that by March 2013 that number will be reduced to fewer than 10%. This has been achieved in the vast majority via ongoing education, rather than enforcement. Wirral's trade waste officer has worked tirelessly in the area to ensure this accolade can be bestowed on West Kirby, similar to Oxton being named England's first tidy business village in December 2009.

### **3.0 FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 Committee are invited to suggest further projects for inclusion in the 2013/14 Delivery Plan, in addition to those suggested below:

#### **3.1.1 School related litter reduction programme**

The waste and recycling team will utilise the skills and contacts of their eco-schools officer to produce and coordinate a programme of litter related education aimed at secondary schools. This proposal is very much in its embryonic stage, the format is yet to be decided in consultation with a representative number of Wirral's secondary schools. Reducing litter in the vicinity of local schools and nearby retail zones will be a primary aim of the project.

#### **3.1.2 Reducing fly-tipping in entries**

Officers of Technical Services propose to address the ongoing issue of household waste being fly-tipped in residential entries across. In the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 December 2012 over 796 tonnes of waste have been removed from residential entries by Wirral's street cleansing contractor (Biffa). Historical issues with abandoned wheeled bins and contamination of recycling bins place added strain on frontline cleansing resources.

Fly tipping in the aforementioned entries can pose considerable risk to public health and in many cases comprises of waste that could attract pests. Utilising the relevant skills and knowledge already existing and specific legislative powers currently used across various sections of the authority in a joined up approach will be imperative to the success of this project.

Due to the magnitude of the issue and the fact it is experienced throughout Merseyside it is likely that a wider partnership approach to addressing waste management issues in terraced housing will be sought. This joined up approach will be investigated via the recently revised Liverpool City Region Waste Partnership, led by Wirral officers.

#### **3.1.3 Street Litter Control Notices**

If street cleansing frequencies are reduced it is likely that a more proactive approach will be needed to address litter in secondary retail areas (shops local to residential areas). The Waste and Environmental Services Team's trade waste officer will be instrumental in delivering the education and enforcement relating the aforementioned street litter control notices. These notices are designed to encourage businesses to take responsibility for the area directly adjacent to their premises, a concept that is closely aligned to the core principles of Wirral's tidy business scheme.

3.2 Any future environmental quality progress will be reported via the relevant Cabinet Member. All elements of the existing TS2 plan specific to the Biffa contract will be reported to this Committee via the annual Environmental Streetscene Services Contract review.

### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

4.1 The Technical Services Departmental Management Team and the Environment Portfolio Holder monitor the Delivery Plan on a regular basis in order to identify and manage any potential risks.

4.2 One of the Chief Executive's budget options currently out to consultation relates to reducing the resourcing of the street cleansing services. If such a budget proposal is

accepted then this may have an adverse effect on future standards of Local Environmental Quality.

- 4.3 The specific issue of dog fouling reduction has formed part of a specific work stream in the TS2 plan. Any changes to cleansing frequency and alterations of dog fouling enforcement resources will have a negative impact on the amount of dog fouling present across Wirral and the length of time any instances remain in situ.

## **5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 Committee are invited to suggest further projects for inclusion in the 2013/14 Delivery Plan, in addition to those proposed in Section 3.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 All projects and work streams detailed in the associated Plan show the key partners involved.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 7.1 There are no specific implications under this heading.

## **8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 8.1 The school related litter reduction programme (3.2.1) will demand a substantial amount of resources to develop and deliver the programme. As such it is envisaged that Wirral's Eco Schools officer will devote a significant percentage of their time to the project.
- 8.2. Ensuring the success of the proposed project 'Reducing fly-tipping in entries' (3.2.2) will necessitate many hours spent on site monitoring waste levels and engagement form residents. The assistant recycling project officers will be tasked with much of this frontline work.
- 8.3 As previously mentioned in Section 3.2.3 the delivery of street litter control notices will be coordinated by Wirral Council's trade waste officer.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no implications as a result of this report.

## **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

## **11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no implications as a result of this report.

## **12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no planning and community safety implications as a result of this report.

### 13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Committee is requested to note and endorse:

- (1) the progress made in delivering TS2- '*Have high standards of environmental quality across Wirral*' Plan for 2012/13;
- (2) the projects highlighted in **Section 3** as part of Technical Services on-going work to protect environmental quality standards on the Wirral.

### 14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 To ensure the TS2 Delivery Plan progresses and proposed future projects have the full support of the committee.

#### REPORT AUTHOR:

**Fergus Adams**  
Waste and Recycling Contract Manager  
telephone: (0151) 606 2471  
email: [fergusadams@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:fergusadams@wirral.gov.uk)

### APPENDICES

Appendix A: TS2- *Have high standards of environmental quality across Wirral*.

### REFERENCE MATERIAL NA

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	20 January 2011
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	7 June 2011
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	30 January 2012

## Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

### Section 1: Your details

**EIA lead Officer:** Fergus Adams

**Email address:** fergusadams@wirral.gov.uk

**Head of Section:** Tara Dumas

**Chief Officer:**

**Department:** Technical Services

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2012

### Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

To assess the progress relating to the corporate goal "HAVE HIGH STANDARDS OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACROSS WIRRAL"

**Section 2b:** Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes / No

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Sustainable overview and scrutiny committee, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Please add hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website (see your **Departmental Equality Group Chair for appropriate hyperlink**)

.....<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/technical-services-0>

.....

**Section 3:** Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services**
- The workforce**
- Communities**
- Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 4:** Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council ..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advances equality of opportunity
- Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

- No** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)



**Section 5:**

**Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?**

**You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.**

**Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.**

<b>Which group(s) of people could be affected</b>	<b>Potential positive or negative impact</b>	<b>Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact</b>	<b>Lead person</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>

**Section 5a:**        **Where and how will the above actions be monitored?**

**Section 5b:**        **If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?**

**Section 6:** **What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?**

**Section 7:**        **Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?**

**Yes / No** – (please delete as appropriate)

**If ‘yes’ please continue to section 8.**

**If ‘no’ please state your reason(s) why:**

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

## **+Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?**

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for re-publishing.

## **Section 9: Have you remembered to:**

- a) **Add appropriate departmental hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published (section 2b)**
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 5)**
- c) **Send this EIA to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**