

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Bernie Mooney</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Environment and Sustainability</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Mark Smith, Head Of Environment &amp; Regulation</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

**1. GARDEN WASTE**

To date, 37,800 households have subscribed to the garden waste kerbside collection service, with an average of 20 new customers still joining every day. This means that the Council will reach its 14/15 income target by the end of September. So far this subscription year (June to August), we have collected 90% of the tonnage that was presented over the same period in 2012/13 when the service was free.

The Garden Waste Commercial Manager is currently exploring alternative but convenient payment methods for residents who do not subscribe online, such as Pay Point and an automated telephone line used by Council Tax.

The tender for the treatment of the garden waste from Wirral and several other Merseyside districts has been awarded to White Moss Horticulture, based in Merseyside. The joint procurement exercise realised a £22k revenue saving for Wirral.

**2. STREET CLEANSING**

The Corporate Indicator for Local Environmental Quality for quarter 1 is currently over achieving scoring 97% against a target of 93%. In order to facilitate a more local and responsive service at constituency level, four neighbourhood teams, each consisting of a Caged Tipper, driver plus operative will be able to be deployed for up to 2 hours each week day by constituency managers to carry out cleansing works on the highway above and beyond the current frequencies. This could be ad hoc fly tip removal and cleansing work or regular programmed works.

**3. ALLEYWAY DUMPING**

The Waste Investigation Unit continues to work hard, referring evidence to the Environmental Enforcement team. Over 480 cases have been investigated since April. They have also reported that the proactive work is encouraging residents to remove their own fly tipped waste, such as building rubble through the use of private skip firms. Fifty fixed penalty notices have been issued where the location of the "offender" has been successfully identified. Five cases are due to be scheduled in court in October for non-payment of the fixed penalty notices.

#### **4. RECYCLING AND WASTE PREVENTION**

The Council's Eco School officer has been shortlisted for the national award of "Recycling Officer of the year", due to her commitment to helping Wirral schools and wider communities with their sustainability agendas and embedding environmental projects into the school curriculum. Wirral has by far the highest percentage of Eco Schools achieving "Green Flag" status in Britain. The winner will be announced at the LARAC awards ceremony in October.

The amount of collected household waste per person reduced from 395kg in 2012/13 to 378kg in 2013/14. The average for England was 423kg per person in 2012/13 (13/14 data not yet available), meaning Wirral continues to work effectively to minimise the amount of waste arising from households.

#### **5. EAT WELL WIRRAL AWARD FOR TAKEAWAYS THAT OFFER HEALTHY OPTIONS**

Wirral Council's Environmental Health and Public Health teams have joined forces to help tackle obesity and other diet related ill health in Wirral. In early 2015 Environmental Health will be launching an award to recognise businesses that already offer healthy options, and support others to enable them to offer healthy choices.

More and more people are eating out, food businesses have a greater impact on the lives of their customers and sometimes takeaway food can be unhealthy. Eat Well Wirral aims to encourage and support businesses to make very small and easy changes to the way they prepare and cook some foods, the types of ingredients they use and choices they offer to customers in order to make the food they serve healthier.

The benefits to the businesses will be:

- They will receive an award certificate to display on the premises
- Receive a window sticker to display the award to passers-by
- All successful businesses will be listed on our website
- We will actively promote the award through the press and other media
- They will have the right to advertise their award on their stationery/menus/ boards/ websites.

The Award scheme will be open to takeaway businesses only at this stage, for example fish and chip shops, Pizza/Kebab houses, Sandwich bars, Chinese takeaways and Indian/Bangladeshi takeaways.

The award will be split into three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Bronze will be awarded to businesses who have made very simple changes like slightly reducing the salt they use whereas Silver and Gold require further changes to their methods or ingredients.

The award framework has been completed and following consultation with a number businesses work is now being undertaken with marketing to design the final award and promotional material.

#### **6. 2014-2015 BUDGET OPTION TO TRANSFER BIRKENHEAD KENNELS TO THE CHARITY FRIENDS OF BIRKENHEAD**

Due to the legal work required there has been some delay in implementing this budget option which is now on target to transfer the kennelling service over to the charity Friends of Birkenhead Kennels (FOBK) by the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014. This delayed transfer will reduce the

savings for 2014-2015 but the shortfall will be met from within budget. This new partnership will deliver a direct annual saving of £40,000 through the transfer of four staff and service responsibilities. The new arrangements will also manage out the existing uncontrollable overspends which are associated with the staffing budget.

As advised previously the unique nature of this budget option has realised a number of challenges in which our traditional administrative methods for outsourcing and creating social enterprises have not faced before. However, significant progress continues to be made to ensure the transfer takes place at the earliest opportunity.