

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

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| REPORT OF | Councillor Anita Leech |
| 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 her portfolio.

1 ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Last month saw the Liverpool City Region’s ‘Year of Environment’ launched at the Floral Pavilion. Industry professionals, environmental action groups, council officials and local organisations marked the occasion to highlight a year of events.

Part of the borough’s planned involvement during the Year of the Environment will showcase Wirral’s natural assets and celebrate the valuable work done by so many to maintain and protect our borough.

Wirral plays a big role in improving the local environment across our region, and I was pleased at the event to highlight the creation of ‘139 eco schools and nurseries’ across the borough who are working individually and collaboratively to reduce their impact on the environment. In addition to curbing their environmental impact, these eco schools are also educating students on environmental issues. Other initiatives tackled waste prevention, managing food waste, air quality, climate change and other similar key priorities.

Wirral is home to some fantastic and hardworking community groups who work to keep our local environment one of the best. It’s important while we launch the start of the year, we also celebrate the work that has already taken place by these groups, while providing the opportunity for others to get involved.

For more information on Year of the Environment visit: yoe2019lcr.org.uk/

Members should also be aware of an ongoing consultation on a new flood wall at West Kirby. Our location as a peninsula inevitably means we have a greater risk of flooding than many areas and our responsibility to protect residents, businesses and the local environment from that risk is one we take very seriously. Find out more in the [Wirral Globe](#).

There are many memorial plaques and benches in this area which careful consideration will be given to in conjunction with the owners to relocate them.

On the same subject, I want to draw Members' attention to a helpful new website. The Flood Hub has been designed to be a one stop shop for flood information and resources to support householders, businesses and communities across the North West in becoming more flood resilient. Members can find the site [here](#).

We continue to crack-down on fly-tippers whose irresponsible and criminal behaviour damage the environment for all residents.

If Wirral residents are disposing of any waste, be that garden waste, old household items such as a sofa, mattress or washing machine or just extra bags of rubbish, they have a legal duty to check that the company they are using is a registered waste carrier.

Unlicensed waste carriers are more likely to cut corners and fly tip, which is why they can offer lower prices, unfairly undercutting legitimate businesses who take their environmental responsibilities seriously.

Not only are they avoiding their responsibility and charges for the proper disposal of waste, but by fly-tipping waste they are leaving an unsightly mess for residents and causing additional costs to the public purse or private landowners who are left with the cost and burden of clearing up after them.

Read more about one particular case in the [Wirral Globe](#).

Members will be aware we have suspended the enforcement programme for Trade Waste issues with businesses while we review our approach. I will keep Members fully informed as this issue is worked on and resolved. I also pledge to keep Members informed on the further work we are doing regarding the Public Space Protection Order, following the discussions at the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Finally, I would like to congratulate residents and Members across the borough for their outstanding work in a series of environmental action days and a special thanks to the constituency teams who organised the very successful events.

Environmental action days are always worthwhile, and these were no exception.

I would like to thank everyone who came along; it's a great start to our celebration across Wirral as part of the Liverpool City Region's Year of the Environment.

These events are always successful when everyone works together, and it was great to be a part of it and see the community coming out and getting involved.

I hope the success of these events can inspire others to make small environmental changes to their local area as together we can all make a big difference.