

CABINET MEMBER - ENVIRONMENTAL

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Tattersall

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors P. Hardy and T. Jones

90. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

91. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

92. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2009

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member held on 11 February 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

**93. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT SERVICE
PLAN 2009 - 12**

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director seeking approval of his Department's Service Plan 2009-2012; and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to comply with the Corporate Performance Management procedure.

The report indicated that the three year overview highlighted expected external national policy and statutory drivers for change, together with the future financial pressures that would arise during such period; and detailed the main service issues that would require specific attention in the Service Plan.

The report concluded that the overview Service Plan was supported by more detailed annual Sectional Service Plans relating to :

- Commercial Section
- Trading Standards
- Public Health and Housing
- Environment
- Cleansing
- Building Cleaning
- Vehicle Fleet Management

and that half yearly reports relating to Departmental progress with respect to its contribution to the agreed Corporate Strategy and department goals would be submitted to the Cabinet Member - Environmental.

Attached as an annexe to the report was a copy of the Environmental Protection Department Service Plan 2009/10-2011/12.

RESOLVED:

That the Environmental Protection Department Service Plan 2009/10-2011/12 be approved.

94. PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director on the breadth of partnership working taking place involving the Environmental Protection Department; and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to seek endorsement for continuing such partnership approach, where appropriate, to add value to the work of the Department.

The report indicated that partnership working was an essential part of Modern Local Government delivery; that good partnership working, getting the right partners together and working to a shared agenda, would significantly increase the impact on the symptoms of a problem and could begin to tackle the causes of such problem; and that the Department's involvement in partnerships had led to significant amounts of external funding being allocated.

Annexe 1 to the report summarised the extent of external partnership working across the Department as a whole; the table acted as a partnership audit and demonstrated the innovative work being undertaken; and identified how the Department had successfully attracted extra resources to help to tackle some of the issues referred to.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Department's involvement in existing partnerships and their focus of activity be noted; and
- (2) the further pursuance of partnerships, where appropriate, to maximise the effectiveness of the work of the Department be approved.

95. ANIMAL FEED PLAN 2009/10

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director advising of the Animal Feed Plan 2009/10 (the Plan) required by the Food Standards Agency (FSA); and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to ensure effective animal feed control and encourage consistency of approvals across local authorities

and that the National Performance Framework for Trading Standards required that such initiatives be considered and approved by the Council's appropriate elected representatives.

The report indicated that Sefton's Plan set out the delivery arrangements for animal feed services provided by the Trading Standards Section; that it had been developed with detailed consideration of local needs, corporate objectives and reference to current legal requirements; and concluded by detailing the implications for the Department which included visiting 50 'agricultural' premises per annum and responding to feed alerts from the EU/FSA.

The Environmental Protection Director circulated the Trading Standards Animal Feed Plan 2009/10.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Animal Feed Plan 2009-10 report be noted; and
- (2) the Annual Feed Plan 2009/10 be approved.

96. A FRAMEWORK FOR THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE 2009/10

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director advising of the revised framework agreement between Sefton Council's Trading Standards Service and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for the delivery of animal health and welfare service provision; and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to ensure effective disease control and to encourage consistency of approach across local authorities. The National Performance Framework for Trading Standards (NPF) also required that such initiatives be considered and approved by the Council's elected representatives.

The report indicated that the Framework dealt mostly with farmed livestock, where the problems were seen as most serious but it also covered horses and touched on pets and wildlife; and that the Framework addressed the following strategic outcomes:

- A clear understanding of roles and responsibilities;
- A partnership approach;
- Promotion of animal health and welfare: prevention better than cure;
- A clearer understanding of costs and benefits of animal health and welfare; and
- Effective delivery and enforcement.

The report concluded by detailing the set of principles for local decision making; and the implications for the Department in implementing the proposals within the framework.

Attached as an annexe to the report was a copy of the Animal Welfare Service Delivery Plan 2009/10.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Welfare Service Delivery Plan 2009/10, as detailed within the report, be approved.

97. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT FEES AND CHARGES 2009/10

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director proposing an increase in fees and charges in 2009/10 for the range of services delivered by his Department; and indicating that a decision on this matter was required in order to achieve the income requirement of the department for 2009/10.

The report indicated that other than any areas specifically identified in the Council's budget proposals, the setting of fees and charges fell outside the budget setting framework and it was left to individual departments to determine any need for increases; that fees and charges were reviewed and adjusted to reflect current service delivery costs (including material costs such as pesticides, cleaning chemicals etc.), national guidelines and/or inflation; and that none of the fees and charges included within this report for services delivered by the department had been specifically identified in the Council's budget proposals for 2009/10.

DEFRA had not yet published LAPPC fees and charges and Sefton had no discretion in relation to such matters; and approval was sought to adopt such fees and charges once published by DEFRA.

Annexe A to the report provided details of the proposed increases in fees and charges.

The Environmental Protection Director advised the Cabinet Member that the Information Charges section of annexe A should be amended by the deletion of the last two lines relating to "For every hour after first hour" and "Per hour or part thereof".

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet be recommended to approve the proposed fees and charges for 2009/10 as detailed in annexe A of the report together with the LAPPC fees and charges for 2009/10 once announced by DEFRA.

98. "BUY WITH CONFIDENCE" - DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY ASSURED TRADER SCHEME IN SEFTON

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director advising of the 'Buy with Confidence' project being

developed by the Trading Standards Service; and indicating that a decision on this matter was required as Cabinet Member support was key to developing a more effective Assured Trader Scheme (the Scheme).

The report detailed the 'Buy with Confidence - Sefton' scheme, the aim of which was to develop a sustainable Assured Trader Scheme whose members had been audited by Sefton Trading Standards; the benefits of the scheme, one of which included the provision of a list of home maintenance traders to provide a quality service at a fair price; and the implications for the Department.

RESOLVED:

That the development of the 'Buy with Confidence' Assured Trader Scheme, as detailed within the report, be approved.

99. APPETITE FOR LIFE AWARD

Further to Minute No. 51 of 22 October 2008, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director on the progress of the 'Appetite for Life Award' for private day nurseries; and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to obtain approval of the approach as a way of improving nutritional quality of food provided for under 5's in this sector.

The report indicated that an initial survey showed that the awareness of nurseries in relation to nutrition could be improved; that in conjunction with partners Sefton Health Improvement Support Service (Sefton NHS), Sefton Early Years, Oral Health Team (Liverpool NHS) and the Heart of Mersey, a modular training programme was developed to assist nurseries covering:

- Nutrition
- Menu Planning & Practical Cookery
- Allergens
- Food Labelling
- Weaning
- Food Policies

and that following training nurseries were reassessed and the improvements found were extremely encouraging. To reward the efforts made, a presentation ceremony was arranged and Appetite for Life awards were presented to the successful nurseries.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the success of the Appetite for Life award be endorsed and the promotion of the award throughout the sector to attain further improvements be approved; and

- (2) the Environmental Protection Director and his staff be congratulated on their excellent work on the award.

100. PARTNERSHIP AWARD - FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director regarding an award received by the Council in recognition of the work, in partnership with TEG Environmental, to improve the food waste collection service; and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to acknowledge excellent partnership working.

The report detailed that contamination from glass bottles and cans was causing a problem in the food waste service, so much so that loads were in jeopardy of being rejected; the partnership activity undertaken to successfully resolve the contamination problem; and that the Council and TEG Environmental were awarded the Partnership Award at the Association for Organics Recycling Awards showcase for the integrated way that they resolved the contamination problem.

RESOLVED:

That the successful outcome achieved by both Sefton Council and TEG Environmental to reduce food waste contamination and improve the end product, which has resulted in formal recognition by the Association for Organics Recycling in presenting 'The Partnership Award' to both Sefton Council and TEG Environmental, be acknowledged.