



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGULATORY,
COMPLIANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES)

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Bradshaw (in the Chair)
Councillor Byrom (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Bennett, Grace, Killen, McGinnity and
Page (Substitute Member for Councillor Carlin)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Lappin, Cabinet Member – Regulatory,
Compliance and Corporate Services

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carlin; Councillor
Robinson and his Substitute Councillor Thomas.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were received.

47. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2023 be confirmed as
a correct record.

48. ANNUAL ICT UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of
Corporate Resources and Customer Services that provided a summary of
the performance of the Managed Services ICT Contract over the last 12
months, currently outsourced to Agilisys. The report covered the following
areas: Agilisys Contract Performance against key performance indicators;
project delivery and security; and the wider work of the ICT Client team in
relation to ICT and Digital.

The report concluded that the current contract with Agilisys had performed
well and had delivered significant savings for the authority compared to the
previous contractual arrangement; and that the relationship between the
partners was good, with robust challenge where needed, with a shared
vision and approach to service improvement and risk, which had provided
significant benefits to the authority, particularly around security challenges.

ICT KPI Performance was attached to the report as Appendix A.

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Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- Methods by which the Council was kept updated on risks associated with cyber security.
- The need to be vigilant of phishing and impersonation attacks.
- Difficulties associated with obtaining sufficient evidence to prosecute those responsible for phishing and impersonation attacks.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the performance of the Managed Services ICT Contract over the last 12 months be noted.

49. AIR QUALITY UPDATE 2022

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) that updated on local air quality management activities/actions in Sefton during 2022.

The report indicated that Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) was introduced under the Environment Act 1995 and that evidence had shown that certain atmospheric pollutants were linked to poor health; that the Act placed a statutory duty on all Local Authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and produce a yearly Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) which provided a detailed account of air quality in its area; and that as a result of ongoing monitoring and assessment, air quality in the majority of Sefton had been shown to be of a good standard and levels were well within the National Air Quality Standard Objectives; but that there were however areas in the South of the Borough, where due to high levels of traffic, and other localised sources, levels of NO₂ were above or close to the national standard. Accordingly, Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) had been declared in the four locations at:

- Princess Way, Seaforth
- Millers Bridge, Bootle
- Crosby Road North and South Road Junction, Waterloo
- Hawthorne Road and Church Road Junction, Litherland

The report also provided information on:

- real time automatic monitoring stations; and the use of diffusion tubes to measure monthly NO₂ levels at 80 sites across the Borough
- particulate matter
- PM_{2.5} monitoring
- A summary of monitoring results in 2021

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- Actions to improve air quality which included Sefton Clean Air Plan Outline Business Case, Joint Sefton/ Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Emissions Enforcement Project, Low-Cost Sensor co-location project Sefton /JMU and the DEFRA grant funded behaviour change project
- Low cost AQ sensor Trial
- Traffic signal upgrade/incorporation of AQ sensors

The report concluded that air quality in the majority of Sefton was within NAQS, but that the main on-going priority in Sefton for the coming years was to fully understand the effects that the predicted increase in HGVs due to port expansion would have on air quality and how this could be mitigated; that the development of the Outline Business Case for a Sefton based CAZ under the overarching Clean Air Plan was complete and had demonstrated that a corridor HGV charging CAZ covering the A5036 and A565 could achieve significant air quality improvements within the CAZ boundary and wider borough; and the progression of the CAP scheme to the next stage, i.e. Full Business Case, would depend on a number of factors, which included key risks and constraints identified in the OBC work along with identification of a funding source.

Peter Moore, Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) and Helen Cumiskey, Strategic Infrastructure Planner gave a presentation that outlined:

- What the Air Quality Update Report Provided;
- Local Air Quality Management;
- Air Quality Management (AQMA);
- Location of AQMAs;
- AQ Monitoring Results – Automatic Sites;
- AQ Monitoring – Automatic Sites – Locations and Pollutants Monitored;
- Automatic Monitoring – NO₂ – Results and Trends;
- NO₂ 2021 Automatic Monitoring Results;
- NO₂ Diffusion Tube Monitoring;
- NO₂ Diffusion Tube Results 2021;
- PM₁₀ Results – Automatic Monitoring;
- PM_{2.5} Results – Automatic Monitoring;
- New National Standards Limit Value for PM_{2.5};
- Summary of AQ Monitoring Results;
- Actions to Improve AQ;
- Clean Air Plan (CAP) Outline Business Case (OBC) – Background/Rationale;
- OBC Considered Four HGV – Clean Air Zones (CAZ) Boundary Options – Focus on key port traffic routes & AQMA Locations;
- CAP OBC Overview;
- CAP OBC Strategic Objectives;
- CAP OBC – Case for Change/Key Outputs;

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- CAP OBC – Defining the Preferred Option;
- CAP OBC – Financial Considerations;
- CAP OBC – Summary & Conclusions;
- CAP OBC – Aligned Communication & Engagement Strategy;
- CAP OBC – Recommendations & Considerations;
- CAP OBC – Next Steps;
- Joint Sefton/Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Emissions Enforcement Project;
- Sefton/Liverpool John Moores Co-Location Study;
- DEFRA Grant Funded Educational Behaviour Change Project;
- Low-Cost Sensors School Streets/Traffic Light AQ Monitoring; and
- Conclusions.

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- Outcomes from the 2012 Port Access Steering Group, anticipations of increased traffic associated with the port, and how this would align with aspirations towards net carbon zero.
- Concerns regarding increasing numbers of HGVs on major routes accessing the port.
- Any developments with rail access to the port.
- A lack of a national strategy in the development of public transport.
- The contribution of older HGVs to pollution i.e. in terms of the number/proportion of HGVs that would be impacted by the charge.
- The charge to HGVs using the proposed Clean Air Zone.
- The need for a national strategy in encouraging the use of public transport, modernising HGVs, switching to cleaner fuels, and the requirement for technology to catch-up with aspirations.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report updating on local air quality management activities/actions in Sefton during 2022 be noted; and
- (2) Peter Moore and Helen Cumiskey be thanked for their informative presentation.

50. ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT – UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Further to Minute No. 35 of the meeting held on 11 January 2022, the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that updated on the implementation of recommendations contained in the final report of the Ethical Business Practices Working Group that was approved by the Council in February 2020; and to seeking approval for the cessation of further updates.

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The latest update of the Assistant Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (Strategic Support) on the recommendations were contained in the report; and it was the Assistant Director's view that all the recommendations contained in the Final Report had now been implemented. Accordingly, it was recommended that no further update reports be submitted to the Committee.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report updating on the implementation of recommendations contained in the final report of the Ethical Business Practices Working Group be noted; and
- (2) no further update reports be submitted to the Committee.

51. CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND COVID-19

Further to Minute No. 34 (3) of the meeting held on 10 January 2023, the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that advised of the deliberations of the informal meeting of the Committee held on 3 February 2023, in respect of Corporate Communications and Covid-19; and which sought formal approval of the recommendations made at the informal meeting.

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following matters:

- It was considered that the Council had reacted positively in disseminating information and advice to local communities during the pandemic and that Corporate Communications was essentially a profession.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be requested to approve the following recommendations:

That:

- (1) In respect of the need to connect with specific individuals, communities and groups across Sefton:
 - (a) the production of print-off information such as the Cost-of-Living flyer for elected members to distribute in their communities be supported and continued;
 - (b) the provision of elected members with regular e-shot updates on Council news stories and information be supported and continued;
 - (c) Sending press releases directly to elected members when

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they were sent to the media be supported and continued;

- (d) the use of local area Facebook groups through group administrators who since COVID were happy for the Council to continue to post on the groups rather than do it for the Council be supported and continued;
- (e) Investigating corporate use of messaging through Next Door network which people used to share local messages with neighbours and communities be continued and supported; and
- (f) Accessing and using any statistical ward-based intelligence that could inform the Council of localised preferences so that the Council can tailor messages and the way they are delivered be supported and continued;

(2) In respect of connecting better with young people across Sefton:

- (a) it was noted that feedback and research showed that young people were increasingly less likely to engage with traditional social media channels used by Sefton Council – Twitter/Facebook/Instagram. Therefore, the use of TikTok for that target age group be investigated; and
- (b) It was noted that young people were also more likely to access information through video which would require the Council making more engaging, better-quality videos for them to be shared through the Council's corporate communications channels. This concept be supported;

(3) In respect of recognising the level of people with restricted digital access:

- (a) the provision of regular e-shot updates (similar to those sent to elected members) to the Council's network of Community Gatekeepers who were in direct touch with their local communities or specific groups to spread important health and other messages such as financial reminders guidance be supported and continued;
- (b) the production of print-off information such as the Cost-of-Living flyer for elected members to distribute in their communities be supported and continued;
- (c) the provision of elected members with regular e-shot updates on Council news stories and information to disseminate to constituents be supported and continued; and

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- (d) the sending of press releases directly to elected members when they were sent to the media be supported and continued;
- (4) In respect of continuing improved Partnership working:
- (a) ongoing work through Sefton Health Information and Communications group and closer working with Sefton Partnership, including weekly updates be supported and continued;
 - (b) the use of the Sefton Health Info WhatsApp group to share updates and news with Sefton Health Information and Communications group members be supported and continued;
 - (c) the process of mutually alerting partners of messages and campaigns and sharing and boosting those messages through the appropriate channels available to the Council be supported and continued;
 - (d) Mutually sharing information in printed material and briefings be supported and continued; and
 - (e) the co-hosting Sefton Partnership health information on Sefton Council website be continued and supported;
- (5) In respect of relationships with colleagues:
- (a) it was noted that during the pandemic, the Communications team worked more closely with a broader range of departments and services and partner organisations and adapted the way it worked to ensure that each had its own Communications Officer acting like an agency Account Manager and providing the first point of call on proactive and reactive communications. This activity be supported and continued; and
- (6) In respect of relationships with media:
- (a) it was noted that using systems available to the Council to stay in contact with a broader range of local, regional and national media contacts who saw the Council as a proven reliable source of information about Sefton during COVID was successful. This activity be supported and continued;
 - (b) the promotion of Margaret Jones, Director of Public Health as a go-to source for Public Health matter articles, interviews and videos, as during the COVID-19 pandemic, be supported and continued; and

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- (c) the provision of an out-of-hours media contact service through a team on-call rota through budget continuation from April 2023 when current COVID funding ends be supported.

**52. WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23, SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS
AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2022/23; the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee or at an informal meeting; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and that updated on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- Training for Members on IT and cyber security in particular.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) further consideration be given to training on IT and cyber security in particular, during 2023/24;
- (3) the contents of the Key Decision Forward Plan for the period 1 March – 30 June 2023 be noted; and
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

**53. CABINET MEMBER REPORT - JANUARY 2023 - FEBRUARY
2023**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that included the most recent report from the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update report from the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be noted; and
- (2) Councillor Lappin be thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

54. THANKS TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Chair, Councillor Bradshaw advised that this evening's meeting was the final meeting of the 2022/23 municipal year and she thanked all Members and officers for their help and support during the year; and indicated that the cross-party collaboration of Members had resulted in a productive year for the Committee.