

CABINET MEMBER – ENVIRONMENTAL
PORTFOLIO ISSUES – September 2010

<p align="center">Waste Strategy Review Consultation</p>	<p>Elected Members will recall approving the revision of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in 2009. Following a member Issues and Options review for the revision of the mandatory strategy in the spring, mandatory public consultation is to begin on 5 October 2010. Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority is leading on the strategy review on behalf of the Merseyside district councils who share both individual and collective responsibility to produce a joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy with a 20 yr forward looking perspective. All 360 elected members from Merseyside Councils will be contacted as part of the consultation that will run until February 2011 where the issues will be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny committees of the respective Merseyside Councils. Public consultation will involve a Sefton road show, door knocking, focus groups as well as e consultation methods. Merseyside collectively spends approximately £100 million per year collecting and disposing of the 800,000 tonnes of municipal waste our residents produce. The Coalition Government has embarked on a fundamental review of Waste Policies. The Joint Strategy review will take the result of the National review into account prior to its completion towards the end of 2011.</p> <p>Cllr Kevin Cluskey has been reappointed as the Chair of Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, a position he has held since June 2006</p>
<p align="center">State of the Environment Report</p>	<p>Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service has produced a Merseyside State of the Environment Report that indicates the collective impact Merseyside has on the environment and highlights key areas of environmental challenge. The report should be a key source reference document for those in our community working on strategic issues that may impact on the environment. The report can be viewed at http://immediacy6/SMBcintranet60/PDF/epd_LCRStateofEnvironmentjune2010.pdf</p>
<p align="center">Eco Management and Audit scheme</p>	<p>The former sections of the Environmental Protection Department now in the Environmental and Technical Services and Operational Services Departments have been awarded Eco Management and Audit Scheme accreditation following external assessment. The scheme ensures compliance with environmental legislative requirements and embeds a monitoring and audit approach that reduces the negative environmental impacts of our activities, both helping the environment and bringing resource use cost efficiencies. The scheme will now be extended across all previously uncovered functions of the two new Departments.</p>
<p align="center">Local Air Quality Management Areas</p>	<p>Statutory air quality assessment work has confirmed that the Council declared Air Quality Management Areas at Millers Bridge, Crosby Road North and Princes Way must remain in place. Action to reduce the primarily traffic related pollution issues at these sites is ongoing. A report has been submitted to DEFRA under the statutory reporting requirements.</p>
<p align="center">School Crossing Service</p>	<p>So far this year the School Crossing service has attained a 98% coverage rate at all locations across the Borough. This is seen as a very significant achievement, especially as over 50% of all staff are aged 65 and over and are therefore statistically more susceptible to illness. The ongoing recruitment freeze has also caused operational problems for the service, but dispensation has now been</p>

	<p>granted to appoint to four vacant posts. Internal redeployment opportunities are being considered in the first instance.</p> <p>Medical evidence has shown that sensory abilities can start to deteriorate in elderly people, and as previously stated, the School Crossing Services recruits a large part of its workforce from more mature sections of the local communities. Therefore, in order to ensure the safety of both staff and residents alike, all Patrol staff within the service aged 65 and over undergo an annual medical screening check. So far this year 64 staff have been screened with all being passed fit to undertake crossing duties.</p>
<p>Sefton Security</p>	<p>A new server room, which fully meets the requirements of the latest BS5979 standards, has been constructed within the confines of the main Control Room at Sefton Security Headquarters. All computer capabilities within the service are now 'mirrored' in case of system failure, which effectively means that the whole service is as resilient as possible to any external problems which may arise in the future. Additional capacity has also been added to the IT systems which will allow for any service expansion in the future. The Control Room is also being expanded through internal remodeling to increase the size by an additional 45 square metres.</p> <p>Preliminary discussions have been held with a neighbouring authority about the possibility of monitoring their entire Public Space CCTV System. Such expansion would provide a perfect springboard to further increase the scope of services offered by Sefton Security across Merseyside and the North of England. Sefton Security now has the capacity and expertise to take advantage of additional service requests, which ultimately will reduce costs to Sefton Council. During the recent school holiday period Sefton Security provided additional mobile patrols across the Borough at the request of the Childrens Services 'Vandalism Group'. It would appear that this service has significantly reduced the level of damage and vandalism encountered on school premises during traditionally difficult times. Sefton Security has also recently been awarded two new contracts for security services to private sector organizations in Netherton and Knowsley.</p>
<p>Cleansing</p>	<p>Phase 1 of the previously agreed Cleansing Review is now almost complete. Major pieces of work have been undertaken focusing on new rounds for emptying litter bins, arrangements for sweeping trunk roads and main roads, and reviewing implications and procedures for dealing with accidents and/or road traffic incidents. These plans have also been developed with the full co-operation of Trade Unions and staff. Further reports to Cabinet Member and Area Committees are being compiled in order to share the detailed plans and seek feedback accordingly.</p>
<p>School Catering</p>	<p>The School Catering Service has recently reported on Sefton's performance against National Performance Indicators. In the three areas 'take up of lunch provision', namely primary school, special school and secondary school, Sefton now operates at a level above the national average. The Service continues to seek to expand provision wherever possible, and to this end has now been awarded the catering contract at Greenbank High School from September 2010.</p> <p>NI 52 – Take Up of School Lunches – is one of 198 local government indicators in the National Indicator Set (NIS), developed as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review in 2007. It assesses the change in healthy eating among children and young people by measuring school lunch take up. It also contributes to measuring progress against Public Service Agreement (PSA) 12, namely 'Improve the Health</p>

and Well-Being of Children and Young People’.

NI 52a – Take Up of Primary and Special School Lunches.

	Sefton	Nationally	Variance
2009/10	42.5%	41.4%	+1.1%

NI 52b - take up of secondary school lunches

	Sefton	Nationally	Variance
2009/10	44.8%	35.8%	+9%

**Specialist
Transport
Unit**

The Specialist Transport Unit has invested in a new management and operational software programme called ‘Cleric’. This bespoke software package is used extensively across the transport industry and allows for accurate service predictions, route optimisation, account handling and specific database management. It is currently utilised by organisations such as DHL and the North West Ambulance Service. The programme is currently being populated with a view to going live with the new system after the October half term holiday. It is envisaged that the data provided by the new system, coupled with the ability to be far more responsive in both servicing the needs of potential clients and reporting back to service initiators, will lead to substantial financial savings. Further reports will be brought to members as the implementation progresses.

In light of the implementation of the new operational system, Cleric, a restructure has taken place within the Specialist Transport Unit in order to generate the maximum advantages from the system. The Service will now have two distinct functions, namely operations and policy & planning, allowing management and staff to concentrate on specific business requirements as and when required. To further facilitate this process, and also to benefit from economies of scale, the Specialist Transport Unit policy & planning function is to be moved to Hawthorne Road Depot. This section will now deal with all borough-wide planning matters. The southern operational service is being moved from Cambridge Road Depot again to Hawthorne Road. The northern operational service will continue to be based at Forest Road Depot.

**Councillor D Tattersall
Cabinet Member Environmental**