

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member – Environmental
Cabinet Member – Technical Services

DATE: 29th September 2010
6th October 2010

SUBJECT: **ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES – SERVICE PLAN
2010/11**

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Peter Moore
Environmental & Technical Services Director

CONTACT OFFICER: David Packard
Assistant Director (Environment)
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Jerry McConkey
Assistant Director (Technical Services)
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**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

For the Cabinet Member – Environmental & Cabinet Member – Technical Service to approve the Environmental and Technical Services Department Service plan 2010/11

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To approve the 2010/11 Environmental and Technical Services Service Plan activities that fall under the Cabinet Member Environmental and Cabinet Member – Technical Services portfolios

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Cabinet Member – Environmental approves the elements of the Environmental and Technical Services service plan 2010/11 that fall within the Environmental portfolio

That the Cabinet Member - Technical Services approves the elements of the Environmental and Technical Services service plan that fall within the Technical services portfolio

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: N/A

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately following the expiry of the “call-in” period for this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Other priorities could have been made in the service plan.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Performance management framework

Financial:

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Funded by:				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:

The Service plan includes the delivery of statutory services

Risk Assessment:

Activity below the service plan levels in a number of areas could lead to the challenge of the Council failing in the delivery of its statutory duties.

Asset Management:

The Service plan covers the Council's Asset management activities.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

None

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

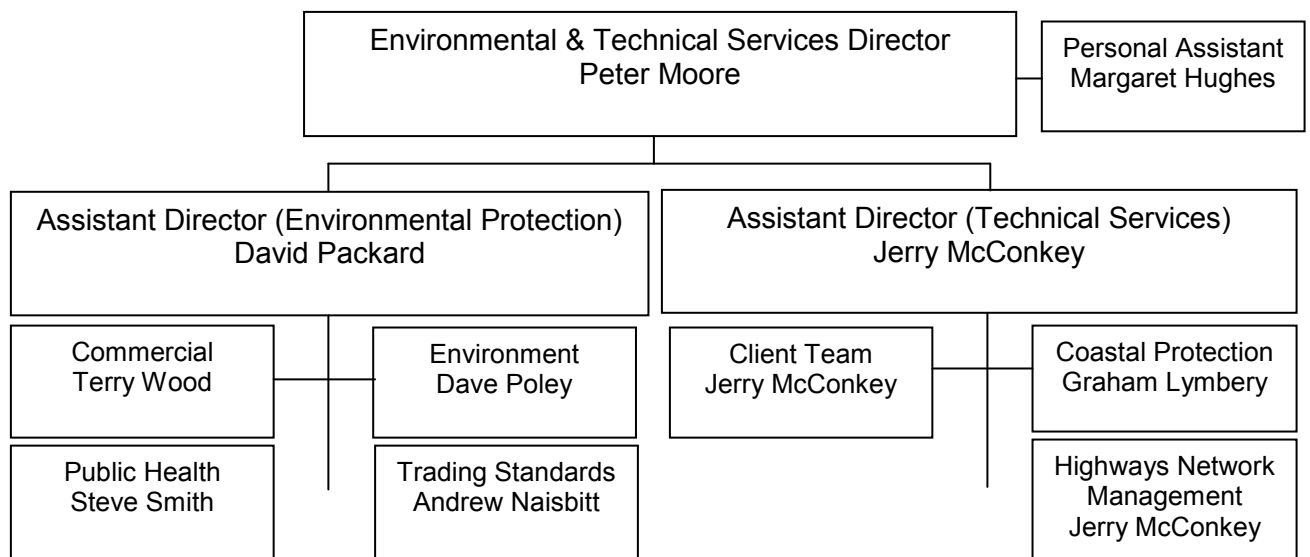
<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People	√		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Statutory service level guidance

Background

1. The Council's performance management procedures require that the Departmental service plan be approved by the relevant Cabinet Members under whose portfolios the services are provided.
2. Following corporate re-organisation resulting from the Major Service Review, a new Department has been formed involving the merger of parts of the former Environmental Protection Department and parts of the former Technical Services functions.
3. The Environmental and Technical Services Department Service Plan is appended for consideration and approval. Action plans 1,2 & 3 fall specifically under the Cabinet Member – Environmental portfolio and the Cabinet Member – Environmental is asked to approve these action plans. Some services provided by the Operational Services Department come under the Environmental portfolio and these will be the subject of a separate report of the Operational Services Director.
4. Action plans 4,5,6,7 & 8 fall under the Technical Services portfolio and likewise the Cabinet Member Technical Services is asked to approve these action plans. Some services delivered by the Economic Development and Planning Department also fall under the Technical Services portfolio and these will be the subject of a separate report by the Economic Development and Planning Director.
5. The Environmental and Technical Services Department is part of the Communities Directorate and delivers a range of regulatory, environmental protection and technical services aimed at “ensuring a safe, healthy and sustainable living environment”. The main functions of the Department are Environmental Health; Trading Standards; Highways Network Management; Licensing; Coastal Protection; and Technical Services Partnership Management/Monitoring.
6. These services are organised as follows:



Commercial

- Regulation of Food Safety & Food Standards, including inspections, sampling and complaint investigation;
- Regulation of Health & Safety at Work (shared responsibility with Health & Safety Executive), including inspections, complaint and accident investigations;
- Infectious Disease Control/Investigation (shared responsibility with Primary Care Trust and Health Protection Agency);
- Licensing - including sale of alcohol, provision of entertainment and late night refreshment; gambling activities; animal welfare (e.g. boarding; breeding, pet shops etc.); and a wide range of other premises or activity related licensing regimes.

Environment

- Regulation of pollution of air, water, land (shared responsibility with Environment Agency), including inspections, monitoring and complaint investigations;
- Noise pollution control, including complaint investigation;
- Contaminated land strategy - implementation/enforcement - including regulation of remediation/development in regeneration areas;
- Inspection of “Prescribed Industrial Processes” (identified industrial processes - shared responsibility with Environment Agency);
- Environmental monitoring - including air quality management,
- Planning Applications / Licences – consultations on environmental impact;
- Sustainability – including waste management/recycling strategy, climate change adaptation, environmental education etc.;

Public Health

- Public health enforcement including – statutory nuisances, drainage, water supply, filthy/verminous premises and flytipping/litter enforcement;
- Pest control – including complaint investigation, treatment (rats, mice, cockroaches, fleas, bedbugs treated free and wasps and ants treated for a charge) and enforcement;
- Dog Warden Service, including dangerous dog control, collection of strays, dog fouling education and enforcement, responsible dog ownership education;
- Community Engagement for Cleaner Neighbourhoods – working with Neighbourhood Cleansing Teams to improve customer engagement, community education/development, and partnership working.

Trading Standards

- Regulation of Fair Trading, including copyright infringements/counterfeiting, trade descriptions, age-restricted sales, product safety etc., through trader inspections, sampling and complaint investigation;

- Metrological (weights & measures) verification/inspection;
- Business education/partnerships;
- Civil and Criminal Law consumer advice and education;
- Animal Health including, inspection of feedstuffs, control of animal movement and animal health outbreak investigation (shared responsibility with DEFRA);
- Taxi Licensing.

Client / Partnership Management and Monitoring Team

- Professional Lead, policy development, management & commissioning of technical services delivered through Capita Symonds, including highways maintenance, street lighting, property management, engineering design, urban traffic control, architectural services, building maintenance, and drainage services;
- Corporate property asset and facilities management;
- Project Management of capital public realm and regeneration projects.

Coastal Protection Team

- Coastline and inland flood defence;
- Undertaking coastal studies identifying, planning and adapting to coastal change;
- Development and delivery of Shoreline Management Plans.

Highways Network Management

- Enforcement of Highways Act;
- Highways Licensing (e.g. skips, scaffolding, pavement cafes etc.)
- Co-ordination and regulation of Road works;
- Winter Maintenance (gritting etc.).

7. In total, the Department has approximately 170 staff and is responsible for revenue budgets in excess of £25m, together with significant Capital budgets. As well as programmed compliance regimes and projects, the service responds to around 50,000 public and business service requests each year. All services provided by the Department can be accessed through Sefton Plus 0845 140 0845 and the One-Stop Shops.

8. The principal current challenges for the Department include:

- Management of the Technical Services partnership contract with Capita Symonds, to achieve continuous improvement in terms of partnership relationships, value for money and service provision.

- Managing the Highways infrastructure to maximise safety and availability for users (particularly in light of the accelerated deterioration following consecutive severe weather winter periods) and in accordance with Local Transport Plan priorities relating to Safety, Accessibility, the Environment and Quality of Life.
- Delivering statutory regulatory services that meet national and local priorities, ensuring legal compliance, public and environmental protection and thriving businesses. This includes adapting those services to national, regional and local changes and opportunities for Environmental Health and Trading Standards statutory functions.
- Supporting and Project Managing the successful delivery of major infrastructure and public realm projects (e.g. Southport Cultural Centre and Southport Market).
- Supporting the Statutory Review of Merseyside Waste Management Strategy, to produce continued reductions in landfill through effective minimisation, reuse and recycling provisions, minimising the financial impact from increasing Landfill Taxation costs and the delivery of the re-shaped recycling service within Sefton;
- Formally reviewing the statutory local licensing policy and Hackney Carriage licence restriction.
- Responding to Coastal flood defence challenges and statutory flood management demands of the Pitt Review.
- Co-ordinating the corporate response to the Climate Change agenda and pursuing regionally adopted Sustainable Consumption and Production goals via EMAS and Sustainable Procurement.
- Supporting the rationalisation and improvement of the Council's accommodation.
- Managing the succession for £0.5m per annum WNF funded environmental services interventions due to end in March 2011.