

## CABINET MEMBER – ENVIRONMENTAL

### REPORT TO CABINET – 25 NOVEMBER 2010

#### OPERATIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

<b>School Crossing Service</b>	<p>The School Crossing Service has contributed to the continued success of the Flower Show and the Air Show by providing staff to assist with parking arrangements at each of the events. Some 40 Patrol Staff helped to ensure that congestion was kept to a minimum and visitors were able to access designated parking areas whilst keeping traffic flowing in surrounding areas.</p> <p>With effect from September 2010, Sefton, Liverpool, Knowsley, St Helens and Halton have implemented a standardised school year. All five authorities have agreed set holiday dates to allow for better work/life balance by enabling better forward planning by both parents and schools. This will have a positive effect on the School Crossing Patrol Service as all Patrol staff will now all work and all take leave at the same time. This will negate the need for additional payments to staff who cover more than one school where there has been a previous discrepancy in holiday dates</p>
<b>Building Cleaning</b>	<p>The Building Cleaning Service has been successful in retaining all School Cleaning Contracts for the academic year 2010/11. In addition, new business has been generated at a number of sites, including an additional school contract at All Saints High School. In an effort to further develop new business opportunities the Building Cleaning Service now offers a bespoke carpet cleaning operation which will be developed accordingly in the coming months.</p>
<b>Sefton Security</b>	<p>Following the recent demise of the construction company ROK, Sefton Security have provided an immediate manned security response at a number of sites at which ROK were operating. These include Lander Road School, Kew Woods School and Southport Market Hall. This procedure ensures that the site is secured and prevents the unauthorized removal of equipment, stock and materials from site until such time as the Council receives further advice from the appointed administrators.</p> <p>Sefton Security has generated substantial new business in recent weeks, including the installation of Electronic Access control systems at Freshfield Primary School and Cambridge Day Centre in Bootle and upgrades to the CCTV systems at Litherland High School and St.Oswalds School. We now also have the capability of viewing CCTV over a mobile telephone connection, known as 3G technology. We are confident that this application will prove invaluable in both residential and business monitoring functions. In addition, it allows us to easily move CCTV cameras to identified "Hot Spots" throughout the Borough on a temporary basis as and when required. The Service has also taken over all aspects of security provision at the "Old Gray Street School" in Bootle which has recently returned to the Councils property portfolio.</p>
<b>Catering Services</b>	<p>The future of the School Lunch Grant has now been finalised following the comprehensive spending review, and it has been agreed that funding will continue beyond the grant's expiry date of March 2011, as part of the expanded baseline budget for schools. However, the Grant will no longer be ring-fenced. In 2010/11, Sefton received £437,468, of which £260,802 was retained centrally to finance expenditure on healthy lunch provision. This central resource will now be distributed directly to schools. However, this is primarily a procedural change, as the schools will still need to fund the provision of the service, and with effect from 2011 they will now be invoiced directly for the full cost of the service.</p>

<p><b>Specialist Transport Unit</b></p>	<p>Both the Policy &amp; Planning function and the southern operational depot have relocated to Hawthorne Road Depot during the half term school holiday period. All southern services are now operated from Hawthorne Road Depot, and the Policy &amp; Planning Team is now able to concentrate resources on the implementation of the new planning software, Cleric.</p> <p>Discussions with all client departments and service user groups are being undertaken to assess specific requirements and service development opportunities in the coming months. Initial savings in service provision costs, identified via a route optimisation process, are due to be implemented, and further discussions will be held with contractors and service providers in order to reduce costs prior to the both the full scale implementation of a revised transport schedule, and the commencement of the re-tendering exercise for bus and taxi provision which will commence in January 2011.</p>
<p><b>Vehicle Fleet Management &amp; Maintenance</b></p>	<p>The Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for monitoring 'Operator Licence Holders' on behalf of the Traffic Commissioner. As such, the vehicle maintenance services at Hawthorne Road Depot are regularly subjected to external assessment. The latest Assessment has produced an outstanding rating for the services we offer. The 'Operator Licence Risk Score' is based on a percentage score related to the risks associated with operating the service. In both 'Road Worthiness' and 'Overall Traffic Score' the service scored in the top percentile between 1-10%, which are the best scores which can be achieved. The VOSA have rated the service as "as an excellent operator demonstrating excellent history of roadworthiness, based on both MOT Test history and roadside checks". Such praise at a national level will greatly assist in further developing the services offered at the Depot in coming months to generate additional revenues from expanded services such as Pre HGV Test Inspections, including roller brake, smoke emission and headlight aim tests, and service and repairs of HGV Vehicles.</p> <p>Both Hawthorne Road Depot and Forest Road Depot have received EMAS accreditation and are now able to demonstrate quality environmental management systems.</p>
<p><b>Cleansing</b></p>	<p>The Waste Management Service is working in conjunction with One Vision Housing (OVH) to trial co-mingled collections at both Irlam and Oxford Houses (high rise flats) for recyclable items. Irlam House is to have two 1100 euro bins secured in a bin gate located in the main car park area. Oxford House is also to have 2 1100 euro bins, but it has been agreed to have the bins sited in the bin room.</p> <p>Residents are to place the usual recyclable items into the bins, with the inclusion of cardboard (including food and cereal boxes), and plastic bottles. This trial will operate alongside the normal bin collections for the blocks, and it is hoped that if the uptake is good enough, the number of bins for residual waste will be reduced. This may then in turn lead to a planned reduction in the number collections required at the blocks. The co-mingled waste will be collected by a dedicated vehicle and transported to Bidston.</p> <p>From week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 the current waste collection routes across the Borough are being amended to allow for the introduction of new 'Zoned Collection Routes'. The collection fleets will be consolidated in specific areas, or 'zones', on a particular day, with there being eight zones across the Borough. Further details regarding the 'Zoned Collection Service', together with new collection calendars for 2011/2012, will be sent to all residents in the New Year. Members will receive advance notification of all information, once finalised, and prior to distribution.</p>

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

<p><b>Award and prize for Low Emission Zones</b></p>	<p>Sefton Council has won a Northwest Climate Leaders Award for Tackling Transport and Travel Emissions. The award was for the work that has been done to include Low Emissions Strategies principles into the developing Local Transportation Plan 3. This work has been undertaken as part of the Low Emissions Regional Groups Initiative, which is championed by Sefton. The entry was in the name of the Merseyside Transport Partnership, of which Sefton is a member, to reflect the pan Merseyside aspects of the work. The judges praised the broad nature of the partnership that was involved, the innovative nature of the work and the fact that it was supported by senior sub regional bodies, Merseyside Strategic Transportation Environment Group and the Local Transportation Plan Coordination group. As winners we were awarded £2000 to be spent on pursuing the initiative, developing work on securing alternative funding for low emissions technologies and disseminating what we have learnt.</p>
<p><b>Award and prize for Eco Centre</b></p>	<p>Sefton Council's Energy Team won a 'NW Climate Leaders Award' for the Eco Centre - Eco Educational Services. The judges were particularly impressed with the quality and range of educational support provided to schools and community and particularly that staff with limited resources have been able to keep developing the environmental educational programme. For example this year towards broader climate change adaptation and new displays for the visiting public. As well as the traditional certificate, the award also provides a £2000 grant, which is earmarked to underpin/augment the services offered.</p>
<p><b>Climate Change Funding</b></p>	<p>The UK Government has set a target to reduce CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050. Sefton Council via MEAS is to deliver a £100,000 externally funded capacity building programme for Merseyside to assist the development of skills to tackle climate change. The fund is to be spent or committed by June 2011. The funding from the North West Improvement and Efficiency Fund, part of a £9.75m coalition Government National allocation, will be used to build skills and capacity across a range of local authority responsibilities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the delivery of increased renewable energy supply through the activities of local authority planning departments</li> <li>• Help local authorities more broadly, including training for members, officers and other stakeholder on adaptation and other key areas of impact on climate change</li> <li>• Allow planning departments to promote better community engagement in the planning process, including on renewables.</li> </ul> <p>Resulting in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in the number of appropriate renewable energy schemes that receive planning permission in the North West</li> <li>• An increase in the percentage CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations</li> <li>• A reduction in the per capita CO2 emissions from local areas</li> <li>• An increase in the resilience of local areas and their readiness to respond to climate change</li> </ul>

**Councillor D Tattersall  
Cabinet Member Environmental**