

CABINET MEMBER – ENVIRONMENTAL
Cabinet – 27 January 2011

OPERATIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

School Crossing Service	<p>As part as of the ongoing assessment of all crossing locations across the Borough in order to reduce the costs of the service, three sites have been identified which no longer meet the necessary criteria. The changes can relate to a number of factors, including underutilisation, changes in pedestrian desire lines, school intake levels from different geographical areas, and school closures. These crossings have been closed with staff being relocated to sites that were previously covered by temporary staff.</p>
Sefton Security	<p>Sefton Security has recently undergone a particularly rigorous assessment over a six week period against the new ISO 9001:2008 Quality System. This comprehensive process includes all services offered by Sefton Security, including all security activities, control room operations, the manned guarding service and the electronic installation team. Sefton Security scored highly in all areas and has been awarded the new ISO standard at the first attempt, across all areas of the service. This is seen as a fantastic achievement and one which provides an additional platform from which to further develop services and generate new business accordingly.</p> <p>Sefton Security are currently tendering for a range of new contracts to make best use of the additional monitoring capacity which now exists within the service due to the impending expansion of the control room functions. These tenders include one for Security work for the Liverpool Arch Diocese. Sefton Security currently undertake work for the Arch Diocese at several of their Social clubs, but are hopeful of being awarded the contract for some 70 clubs throughout Merseyside and into Manchester area. Sefton Security have also completed PQQ applications for several security contracts with neighbouring authorities including Blackburn and Darwin (CCTV monitoring), Edinburgh City Council (CCTV Monitoring) and Cumbria County Council (Lifeline monitoring).</p> <p>All existing contracts have all worked to schedule throughout the Christmas and New Year period, and despite the incredibly difficult weather conditions faced by the mobile patrol service during this period, Sefton Security was able to offer full cover across all contracts and services. In addition, the mobile patrols discovered water leaks in five schools across Sefton. These were immediately reported and fixed, which in all cases averted major water damage to the properties.</p> <p>In the early hours of the morning on 7th December 2010 the Control Room at Sefton Security was contacted by the Police who had major concerns for the safety of a missing 72 year old male. The man had been reported as missing by his family at 7.30pm the previous evening having been to the shops but he had failed to return home. His route had taken him along the canal in Bootle and there were serious concerns for his safety as the temperature by this time had dropped to minus 4 degrees. The Control Room staffs commenced a search using the public area CCTV system and within 20 minutes were able to locate an elderly gentleman on Strand Road. The Control Room Supervisor then guided the Police to the gentlemen and he was safely returned to his family.</p>

<p>Catering Services</p>	<p>The Winter term is traditionally the busiest period for the School Catering Service. However, this year was particularly challenging due to the demand for services, and with credit to staff across the whole service area, the School Catering Service were able to provide some 13,000 pupils with a healthy and nutritious Christmas Lunch.</p> <p>The contract for the Supply & Distribution of Frozen Food was recently re-tendered via TUCO Purchasing Ltd (TPL) - an inter-regional purchasing consortium of higher and further education institutions and Local Authorities, within the United Kingdom. The incumbent supplier was retained. However, the exercise realised additional savings to the existing contract of some 6.5%.</p>
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<p>Vehicle Fleet Management & Maintenance</p>	<p>The Vehicle Fleet Management and Maintenance Section has recently secured a contract to undertake pre-HGV inspections for a private sector fleet of 85 vehicles. Muniserv Vehicle Hire, who look after the Enterprise fleet, now send vehicles for Headlight, Smoke Emissions and Brake tests. Ongoing business development work has seen a number of additional companies expressing interest in the services offered, and it is expected that additional contracts will follow. All such additional works, undertaken at commercial rates, will benefit the Authority by reducing the cost of maintaining our own fleet. During the recent spell of bad weather, the Section was able to continue offering a 100% service on all core vehicle requirements to all Departments across the Borough.</p>
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<p>Cleansing</p>	<p>Despite the testing weather conditions over the Christmas period, and the inability to get refuse vehicles onto the roads in the north of the Borough, the waste collection staff worked particularly hard to ensure that all 'backlogged' waste was collected by Friday 7th January. This was certainly no mean feat given that immediately after New Year there were some delays of 2-3 hours as vehicles queued at the tip whilst waiting to dispose of collected waste.</p> <p>Against a national backdrop, highlighted in national news that large portions of the country were suffering from a four week delay in clearing a backlog of rubbish, here in Sefton we managed to clear all missed collections within one week. This was achieved through great efforts by all staff and by suspending some services for a few days, such as skip collection and CA's, and transferring night staff to daytime duties to supplement the waste collection operation. This achievement was also made more impressive given the effects of the incredibly low temperatures on vehicles and services at the north and south depots. Water had frozen in pipes, depot welfare facilities and toilets were out of action, and the vehicle fleet was impacted by a range of mechanical problems, including burst water hoses and frozen brake fluid. The vehicle maintenance section worked particularly hard to ensure that we were able to get the fleet onto the road in the shortest time possible.</p>
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ENVIRONMENTAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES

Flood and Water Management Act	<p>New statutory duties have been imposed on Sefton Council from April 2011 as a Lead Local Flood Authority. This requires Sefton to undertake flood risk assessments and coordinate defence activities. Flooding is a significant risk for Sefton given its long coast and extensive areas of low lying land with approximately 90% of its area relying on pumped drainage. Whilst mechanisms are well established for the management of flood risk from the sea and rivers the Act aims to manage flood risk from all sources including sewers, surface and groundwater. Recent flooding in Bootle and breach of the River Alt embankment demonstrate the importance of such work. The Capacity to undertake drainage activities was passed to Capita Symonds in the Major Service Review and the Client is currently without any capacity in this regard. The Government has identified that £121,000 non-ringfenced finance will be in next years support grant for this purpose. Given the Councils challenge to meet its budget for 2011/12 a request for the funding to be allocated for its intended purpose has not been made for 2011/12, but the issue of resources to discharge this statutory function will need to be addressed in due course.</p>
External Inspection	<p>Sefton Council has been selected as part of a Food Standards Agency audit programme focusing on imported animal feed controls. The aim of the statutory duty is to prevent contaminated feed from causing a health risk through the food chain. The Trading Standards Service carries out sampling of imported feed via the Port in line with the Cabinet Member endorsed Animal Feed Plan. The external inspection is to take place in early February 2011.</p>

Councillor D Tattersall
Cabinet Member Environmental