

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES)

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013**

**Overview
& Scrutiny**



PRESENT: Councillor McKinley (in the Chair)

Councillor John Kelly (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Bennett, Booth, Gatherer, Lappin,
Weavers and Welsh.

Also Present: Councillor Hardy, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment and Councillor Maher, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Tourism

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence recorded.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

24. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 november 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

25. REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE AGAINST THE JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Committee received a presentation from Stuart Donaldson, the Waste Strategy Manager for Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority.

The following headlines were presented:-

- Context of the Strategy
- Merseyside Waste Partnership Profile
- The Waste Hierarchy
- Pie Chart of Residual Waste Composition for Merseyside 2010
- Short list of Strategy Objectives
- Menu of Delivery Options
- Sefton Council Action Plan
- Key Decision Points
- Joint Merseyside Waste Strategy Progress Delivery 2011/12

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) - TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013

The Committee also considered a report from the Director of Built Environment that detailed the progress of the Merseyside Waste Partnership against the delivery of the objectives of the Joint Municipal waste Management Strategy.

The reported stated that:-

1. All Merseyside Authorities had ratified the 30 year Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy "Resources Merseyside" that was developed following comprehensive resident and industry consultation. It was reported that the Strategy was designed to meet and support relevant European and national statutory drivers for Resource (Waste) Management, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy aspirations.
2. The aim of Resource Merseyside was reported as delivering waste management within the context of wider resource management and climate change by:
 - Recognising waste as a valuable resource
 - Minimising the environmental impact of waste management
 - Preventing the creation of waste on Merseyside in the first place
 - Increasing re-use, recycling, composting and the recovery of energy from waste
 - Reducing the amount of waste land filled
 - Raising awareness and promoting education in resource efficiency making it easier for everyone to contribute to sustainable waste management activities
 - Consuming less but producing more
 - Tackling climate change by the reduction of carbon emissions from waste management and support for our Low Carbon economy
 - Protecting and enhancing our environment
 - Using and generating renewable energy and fuels.
3. Collective action from all Merseyside Waste partners was required in order that the objectives of the Strategy are achieved in the most economic manner and future direct financial and environmental liabilities minimised.
4. An Annual Report detailing a review of performance had been published by the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority, attached as Appendix 2 to the report.
5. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee should continue to review the progress of the Merseyside Waste Partnership in delivering the key objectives of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

The Head of Environment emphasised the importance of the Committee in their role of scrutinising the progress of the Merseyside Waste

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) - TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013

Partnership in delivering the key objectives of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Members of the Committee raised concern regarding use of kitchen waste and requested what they could do to help achieve the target. It was reported that Members could promote the “Love Food Hate Waste” campaign in their Community’s by emphasising the message that by reducing food waste the average family could save £50/month.

Members of the Committee agreed that it would be most appropriate to scrutinise the progress of the Merseyside Waste Partnership in delivering the key objectives of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy on an annual basis at the time the Annual Report detailing performance is published.

RESOLVED: That:-

- (1) Stuart Donaldson, the Waste Strategy Manager for Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority be thanked for his informative presentation; and
- (2) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) Committee scrutinises progress in delivering the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy on an annual basis at the time the Annual Report is published.

26. SEFTON STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Committee received a presentation from Janet Atherton, Director of Public Health on Sefton’s Strategic Needs Assessment. The presentation outlined the following:-

What is the Sefton strategic needs assessment?:

- Sometimes called a “Joint Strategic Needs Assessment” it is about the current health & wellbeing of people in Sefton;
- Based on information and evidence from lots of different partners and used to identify potential priorities for services that could be developed;
- Contained information on a wide range of indicators: Population, Social & Place, Health Choices, Life expectancy, and Access to Services; and
- Lead to the development of a Health and Wellbeing Strategy, to be formally published by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 1st April 2013.

Developing the SSNA...:

- The development of the draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and the information contained within it, led to a number of emerging themes for Sefton. Including:
 - Finding different ways to support people early in diagnosis;

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) - TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013

- Improve primary care through the development of care close to home;
- Support and sustain local businesses to provide jobs;
- Plan changes in population in educational need;
- Plan for the expected rise in the older population;
- Provide better support carers;
- Improve the quality of life and health for all, with emphasis on those in more deprived areas;
- Conclusions were widely consulted upon across the Summer of 2012, with both specific groups, and generally, aimed to ensure people were given the opportunity to influence and create change that supported their community's wellbeing and health. Over 1000 people participated in this consultation and engagement;
- Upon completion, the findings of the consultation revealed a series of potential areas for development, and identified gaps that were apparent from the conclusions; and
- The consultation was also set against the need for Council budget savings - £50 million over next two years, on top of £64 million already saved. Other public and Third Sector Bodies also had a reduced resource context.

General conclusions of the consultation...:

- Communities of Sefton agreed that the emerging priorities were the right ones for Sefton;
- Majority of people agreed that their needs would be met within these priorities;
- Majority of people expressed how difficult the task was to identify and agree priorities; and
- People and communities found the processes engaging and inclusive.

And the perceived gaps were....:

- Physical and Environmental Preventative Services;
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) youth and adult support services;
- Mental Health Treatment Services (including young people and young offenders);
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services (including young people and young offenders); and
- End of Life Services.

What was said...Overall:

- Support vulnerable people especially in poorer areas;
- Combat social isolation;
- Protect vulnerable children and adults;
- Access to affordable, good quality housing;
- Primary health services to be local and accessible;
- More choice and control over way we live; and
- Work, training and volunteering opportunities leading to real jobs.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) - TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013

What was said on Regeneration and Environmental issues...:

- Access to affordable, good quality housing with support for care leavers and young parents;
- Provide help for local people to help keep their streets clean;
- Provide and maintain parks and green open spaces;
- The creation of training and volunteering that lead to real jobs for all young people; and
- Enhance transport links – especially East to West.

In terms of some specific issues arising from consultation and engagement events around the Borough:-

What was said...Bootle:

- Services of Children's Centres were valued and important and support vulnerable families. They were often a lifeline providing a safe supportive environment, working with a range of services;
- Create local jobs for local people (especially young people);
- Police foot patrols were critical in the areas where there has been recent gun crime;
- People were afraid to go out at night; and
- Need for support for carers.

What was said...Southport:

- Services from Children's Centres were important;
- Walk-in centres were valued, but there was a need for one in Southport;
- Inequality in mental health services in north and south of the borough – with more needed in Southport;
- Family Housing was required and concerns about private landlords; and
- Improve existing bus services and keep free bus passes.

What was said...Maghull:

- More sites to build family housing;
- Welfare rights & advice services critical;
- Walk-in centres were valued, and there was a need for one in Maghull;
- Older people living longer at home with services close by; and
- Some transport services finish at 6pm making it difficult to get back from social events or doctor's appointments.

What was said...Formby:

- More police foot patrols to deter anti-social behaviour;
- Parks provide a safe place for families but concerns over dog fouling;
- More Support for carers;
- Better recycling services; and
- Protect vulnerable people.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) - TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013

What was said...Crosby:

- Welfare rights and advice information critical;
- Meeting the needs of LGB & T people (adults and youths);
- Need to improve existing bus service, better links East to West
- People having a voice; and
- Older people living longer at home with services close by.

Development of Draft Strategy:

- Following analysis of the consultation information, the Health and Wellbeing Board pulled together a draft Strategy highlighting a series of Strategic Objectives;
- The draft was agreed at the Board's November meeting, and was now subject to a second round of consultation – which began immediately on decision and would complete in February 2013; and
- Plans were in place to reach as many people as possible to seek their views.

Health & Wellbeing Draft Strategic Objectives:

- There were 6 Strategic Objectives, based on the consultation findings and they were:-
 - Ensure all children had a positive start in life;
 - Support people early to prevent and treat avoidable illnesses and reduce inequalities in health;
 - Support older people and those with long term conditions and disabilities to remain independent and in their own homes;
 - Promote positive mental health and wellbeing;
 - Seek to address the wider social, environmental and economic issues that contribute to poor health and wellbeing; and
 - Build capacity and resilience to empower and strengthen communities.

CCG Commissioning intentions:

- Southport & Formby:
 - Childhood mental health;
 - Adult mental health;
 - Long-term conditions;
 - Obesity;
 - End of life;
 - Sexual health; and
 - Prevention.
- South Sefton:
 - Maternal Health;
 - Obesity;
 - Severe and enduring Mental Illness;
 - Health Check programme;
 - Child Health (Palliative / Neonates);
 - Dementia; and
 - Palliative care/ End of Life Care.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) - TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013

Next Steps:

- 12 week feedback and consultation exercise;
- Publication of Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Equality Analysis Report in April 2013 as well as action plan;
- Strategy would inform commissioning and planning cycles from April 2013 – March 2018;
- Annual reviews – continuous engagement process; and
- Health & Wellbeing Board holding commissioners to account to improve outcomes.

What we are seeking views on in the new consultation:

- Does the draft strategy provide a good description of the health and wellbeing issues in Sefton?;
- If people agree with the draft vision, promise and objectives?; and
- If people think that the strategy will achieve what it is setting out to do?
- If people have got any additional comments they wish to make about the Strategy?

The following observations were made by Members:-

- That the Regeneration and Environmental issues identified as a result of the consultation were not included within the 6 Strategic Objectives of the Health Wellbeing Board.
- Concerns that Dementia did not feature in the Clinical Commissioning Group intentions for Southport and Fromby yet Southport has an increasing population of elderly residents. It was highlighted that Dementia may well feature under the title “Long-term conditions”.
- Concerns that Life Expectancy differences did not feature in the Clinical Commissioning Group intentions for South Sefton. It was stated that health inequalities across the Borough still existed.
- That the Health and Wellbeing Strategy should link with and inform the Employment Strategy and the Economic Strategy.

RESOLVED: That:-

- (1) the Director of Public Health be thanked for the presentation on Sefton’s Strategic Needs Assessment; and
- (2) the Director of Public Health forward the observations raised above to the appropriate Officer.

27. SEFTON HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT (HECA) PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Built Environment detailing the requirement to prepare a new baseline Home Energy Conservation Act Plan.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) - TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013

It was reported that the HECA plan should set out the energy conservation measures and ambitious priorities that the Energy Conservation Authorities considered practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant reduction in the energy consumption of all tenures of residential accommodation in our communities.

It was further reported that due to the significant potential to attract external investment through Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation the Home Energy Conservation Act Plan represented a public declaration of intent and by acting immediately Sefton could be one of the earliest UK Local Authorities to publish its plan and thereby gain first mover advantage in attracting external investment into Sefton.

Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Hardy emphasised the importance of gaining first mover advantage in attracting external investment in Sefton and highlighted that the excellent progress made was positive.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Tourism, Councillor Maher explained that Green Deal should give homes and businesses the opportunity to make energy saving improvements and pay for some or all of the work done over time from expected savings on their energy bills. Councillor Maher reiterated the importance of gaining first mover advantage in attracting external investment in Sefton.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee recommends to Cabinet the approval of the Sefton Home Energy Conservation Act Plan to be published to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

28. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning that updated Members on the activities of the Cabinet Member's for the period December 2012 for the following following portfolio's that fall within the remit of this Committee:-

- Cabinet Member – Communities and Environment
- Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Tourism
- Cabinet Member – Transportation; and
- Cabinet Member – Children, Schools, Families and Leisure (Environmental)

Councillor Welsh raised concern regarding the public conveniences at Ainsdale beach and referred to the poor state of repair and cleanliness of them.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) - TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013

Councillor Welsh also referred to a letter Councillor Preece had received from a cleaning company offering to supply free cleaning products for a number of months. Councillor Welsh reported that Councillor Preece had referred the letter onto the appropriate Officer and had not received a response.

The Head of Direct Services reported that the issue was being investigated and a written response would be sent to Councillor Welsh.

Councillor Weavers referred to the replacement programme in relation to Litter Bins and requested if there was capacity for extra litter bins.

The Head of Direct Services responded by stating that the overall number of litter bins would remain the same however any existing litter bin replaced by a larger capacity litterbin would, subject to condition, be used to replace other unsuitable (concrete) litterbins to reduce any potential H&S risk.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member update reports be accepted.

29. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning in relation to the Committee's programme of work. A number of Key Decisions within the latest Key Decision Forward Plan fell under the remit of this Committee and Members were reminded of their right to pre-scrutinise such items.

The reported updated Members on the progress of the following Working Groups:-

- Employment Development and Development of Local Town centres and Economies Working Group; and
- NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Working Group.

RESOLVED: That:-

- (1) the Key Decision Forward Plan for period 1 February to 31 May 2013 be accepted;
- (2) progress, to date, of the Economic Development and Development of Local Town Centres and Economies Working Group be accepted;
- (3) Councillor Dutton replace Councillor Jones on the Economic Development and Development of Local Town Centres and Economies Working Group be agreed;

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) - TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2013

- (4) the Scoping Document of the Economic Development and Development of Local Town Centres and Economies Working Group, as detailed at Appendix 2 to the report, be agreed; and
- (5) progress, to date, of the NEETS (Not in Employment, Education or Training) Working Group be approved.