

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) - 8 July 2014		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Cllr Hardy	Communities & Environment	April - June 2014

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Environment Services

Dog Fouling Order

The replacement Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 2014 is now in place. This makes it an offence for a person in charge of a dog not to remove the faeces deposited by the dog forthwith. The order has been publicised around the borough and is now enforceable. The 2014 Order replaces the previous Order which was found to be ineffectually made and legally unenforceable.

The Council's five Environmental Enforcement Officers, 44 patrolling PCSO's and specific staff in Parks and Gardens and Coast and Countryside are empowered to issue fixed penalty notices for this offence.

Members or residents with information as to the identity of dog fouling offenders are requested to contact the Environmental Enforcement team via the Sefton Council contact centre **0845 140 0845**, or the "**Report It**" form on the website. Identified offenders will receive an enforcement intervention. Offenders will be issued with an FPN if the observer is willing to provide a statement and attend court to support Council enforcement action if the issue of the notice is challenged or not paid.

Additional "Self Funded" private sector Litter and Dog Fouling Enforcement

A "cost neutral" enforcement contractor, NSL, has been appointed for the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices for litter and dog fouling offences. The contractor is being paid from the revenue raised from fixed penalties. The contracted enforcement activity commenced on 4 June 2014 and by 15 June some 60 fixed penalty notices for litter offences had been issued. Fixed penalty notices have so far been issued in Dukes, Cambridge, Kew, Ainsdale, Harrington, Ravenmeols, Blundellsands, Molyneux and Church wards.

Extension of delegated authority to Police Community Support Officers

PCSO already have delegated authority to issue Fixed Penalty Notices on behalf of the Council for contravention of the dog fouling order. A request has been made by Merseyside Police to extend the delegation to cover littering, fly posting and graffiti. The delegation is being progressed.

District Heating Study Grant

£40,000 has been secured from the Department of Energy and Climate Change Heat Network Development Unit (DECC HNDU) (2/3rds) & LCR LEP (1/3rd). The funding will be used for a feasibility study into the possibility of providing a district heat network to One Vision Housing stock and Council stock in the Bootle area. Officers from Sefton and One Vision Housing are working together to prepare a tender to employ a consultant, to carry out the feasibility work during the summer.

A district heating system has the potential to supply homes and businesses with more energy efficient and cost effective heating and power. Council's across the LCR have been successful in securing funding including Liverpool, Knowsley and Halton. It is hoped that scheme's can be expanded and replicated across the borough in the future.

Sefton Collective Energy Switching

The second Liverpool City Region Collective Energy Switch ended on the 31st of March. Results show that the campaigns have had a significant and increasing impact. Whilst the number of people that registered is comparable to the number of residents who registered in the first switch, those that actually switched is a third higher, hence the impact has almost trebled. Results in Sefton were greater and showed that participation almost doubled and the savings were 3 times greater.

4,274 residents registered across the City region, with 1,058 from Sefton (2nd highest LA and notably 50 OVH tenants). Nearly 1 in 4 people who expressed an interest went on to switch and the City Region scheme as a whole saved 967 residents £204,927 between them. In Sefton 261 of those that registered went on to switch (most both fuels) and they achieved an average saving of £201 each. This means collectively **Sefton residents will save £52,749** as a result of this exercise. In the first switch 142 Sefton residents switched and saved £15,580 between them. We have retained the facility to assist local residents to switch at any time although the Collective exercises offer greater savings. It is envisaged that there will be a repeat of the exercise in time for the winter.

Green Summit

SCVS supported by Environment Services staff organised a Green Summit with key stakeholders to discuss key environmental issues including Energy, Green Economy, Sustainable Transport, Food and Green Spaces. The meeting held at the EcoCentre on 3 April was successful in raising profile and awareness and engaging Sefton Stakeholders into developing a new voluntary sector Environmental Network, increasing resilience and capacity of our communities to deliver environmental beneficial actions.

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Hightown Coast Protection Scheme – The damage to sand dunes reported in the last update is recovering well but will continue to be monitored until it has built back up again sufficiently to withstand normal storms.

Coast Road – following on from the flooding in 2012/13 the system has been investigated and capital money secured to address some of the shortcomings. Some manholes have already been installed to allow proper access to the system and the work will be completed over the next two months.

Derby Road – We have a number of damaged manholes on this critical route, works to replace them will be undertaken over the next three months and where possible co-ordinated with highways resurfacing works to limit any disruption.

Formby and Maghull – we are working with the Environment Agency to better understand the drainage systems serving Formby and Maghull and anticipate starting some more detailed works to understand the flood risk and options for addressing it later this year.

Seaforth and Maghull – we are currently undertaking some detailed investigations of the drainage systems in this area with a view to identifying work to manage flood risk. Following identification of potential schemes and presentation to the Cabinet Member we would then propose to seek external funding for them.

Conservation

- **International Hotel, Crosby Road South, Seaforth vacant and derelict Grade II Listed Building:**
The property has been sold and discussions are ongoing with the new owner to find a short and long term solution.
- **Kings Gardens, Southport:**
The grand opening of the refurbished gardens will take place in September 2014.
- **Damage to Historic Buildings - recent bad weather**
Following recent bad weather a number of sites have been surveyed and identified for works required to make them weather tight.
- **Merseyside Historic Environment Records**
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service opened the service on 1st April 2014 and will field enquiries concerning historical and archaeological records.
- **Thornton Stocks and Crosses and Interpretation Panel:**
The Conservation team are working with Thornton Parish Council in order to enable Heritage Lottery funding for the repair and refurbishment of Thornton Stocks and Crosses including an interpretation panel.

STREET SCENE

Plastic & Card Recycling

The Cleansing Services Section has successfully introduced a plastic and card recycling service across the Borough following the delivery of some 100,000 new bins to properties across the Borough. This follows the prior introduction of the service via the use of hessian sacks in some 19,000 properties at which the wheelie bin service cannot be utilised. Staff from the service worked with the three external delivery teams to ensure that the residents received the bins on time and as per the schedule which all households had received prior notice of. The service is proving to be both very popular and successful, and we have been advised by the MWRA that the recycling rate for the materials provided via the bins and the hessian sacks is some 98%. This means that only 2% of the material presented is either the wrong type of material, or is not recyclable. This compares very favourably with a Merseyside average rate of 87%.

Green 'Garden Waste' Collection Service

In addition to the introduction of the new recycling service above, the Cleansing Services Section has also successfully moved the operation of the Green AWC Collection service to a new weekend schedule. This current AWC service operates on a Tuesday to Friday, however, by utilising the new vehicle fleet over an additional two days, it has been possible to collect all of the green bins in the Borough on a fortnightly basis on a Saturday and a Monday. This operational change has required a number of new staff who have been appointed to deliver the service up to the point at which it ceases for the winter at the end of October. The service will then recommence in February 2015.