

**ENVIRONMENT AND SAFER COMMUNITIES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

At a meeting of this Panel held on
19 April 2011

**(Present) Councillor Banks (Chairman)
Councillors Beirne and Maloney**

(Not Present) Councillors Ayres, Deakin, Grice, Knowles and Sims

37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ayres, Deakin, Grice, Knowles and Sims

38 MINUTES

- * **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2011, be approved and signed.**

39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No Declarations of Interest from Members were made.

**40 MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY – JOINT MUNICIPAL
WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR MERSEYSIDE**

A presentation was made to the Panel by Mr Neil Ferries, Assistant Director (Strategy and Resources), Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, on the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) – Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside.

The presentation detailed the following:

- Current Position
- Current Strategy
- Review Timetable
- Waste Composition Analysis – Key Facts
- Future Waste Symposia
- Other issues:
 - National Strategy Review Waste Framework Directive
 - Private Finance Initiative Credits
 - Resource Recovery Contract Current Position
 - Financial Constraints
 - Joint Working Opportunities
 - Levy Mechanism
- Short list of Strategy Objectives
- District Council Action Plans
- Early Decision Impacts
- Practical Outcome
- MWDA Contribution/Issues
- Proposed Recycling Definition

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Members raised questions with regard to the presentation and agreed to support the objectives of the Strategy Review.

*** Resolved that:**

- (1) the report be noted;**
- (2) the Panel support the objectives laid out in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside; and**
- (3) Mr Neil Ferries, Assistant Director (Strategy and Resources), Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, be thanked for his attendance.**

Councillor Maloney declared a personal interest during discussion on the following item.

41 PRIDE IN ST. HELENS – SPOTLIGHT SCRUTINY REVIEW OF GROT SPOTS IN ST. HELENS – DRAFT REPORT

A draft report was submitted and outlined by Councillor Beirne on the Pride in St. Helens – Spotlight Scrutiny Review of Grot Spots in St. Helens.

At a meeting of the Panel held on 18 January 2011, the issue of Grot Spots in St. Helens was raised. It was agreed that a Task and Finish Group would be formed to carry out a spotlight review of Grot Spots in St. Helens. The Panel had requested the Task Group to focus on littering and flytipping in St. Helens to establish if St. Helens was performing well and to highlight what could be done to improve performance. The report detailed the background and scope, methodology, findings and recommendations and conclusions of the spotlight review.

Members discussed the report and requested that clarification be sought on paragraph 2.9 of the report to establish the actual number of calls received from residents regarding flytipping in 2010 and the report be updated accordingly.

Members also requested that further information be added to the report to include recommendations relating to the role of Private Landlords, signage throughout St. Helens and flytipping.

The Chairman of the Panel thanked all those who had contributed to the review.

*** Resolved that:**

- (1) the report be noted;**
- (2) clarification be sought in relation to paragraph 2.9 of the report to establish the actual number of calls received from residents regarding flytipping in 2010 and the report be updated accordingly;**
- (3) the report be amended to include recommendations relating to the role of Private Landlords, signage throughout St. Helens and flytipping; and**
- (4) the final report be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission prior to submission to Cabinet.**

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42 OPERATION SANTIAGO

A report was submitted to the Panel on Operation Santiago.

Operation Santiago had been introduced in 2009 to combat criminal activity and adopted a 'zero tolerance' policy to tackle crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour street drinking, drug activity and street trading offences within Town Centre daytime and early evening economy under the Merseyside Police 'Total Policing' philosophy.

Patrol activity was funded by Safer Communities and consisted of high Visible Policing foot patrol at identified hotspot locations and micro-beats.

The results had shown that the operation had been a success; figures revealed that only two people were victims of personal theft during December 2010 compared with twelve the year before.

In addition, the total number of crimes in the Town Centre during the month of December had reduced by 14% with a reported 42% reduction in theft from shops by the police in the same period. Reduction had also been evident in the theft of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles.

Attached to the report at Appendix 1 was the Pursewatch Christmas Campaign Communications Evaluation Summary Report.

The Scrutiny Link Officer reported that quarterly reports could be produced to monitor the outcomes of Operation Santiago which would be submitted to future meetings of the Panel.

Members commented that the Town Centre covered a wider area than Church Street, i.e., North Road, Duke Street and Westfield Street.

*** Resolved that the report be noted.**

43 INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT AND ACCOMMODATION STATUS

A report was submitted and outlined by the Scrutiny Link Officer which updated Members on the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and Accommodation Status, as requested at the meeting of the Panel held on 8 March 2011.

The report provided Members with a summary of local arrangements and a brief analysis of accommodation status and offending within the St. Helens IOM cohort.

It was reported that there was a clear link, both nationally and locally, between accommodation and offending behaviour and it remained an identified barrier to progress for a number of the St. Helens cohort and operationally for the IOM Team.

The analysis presented within the report was limited in terms of depth and scope due to the restricted access to personalised offender management data and would be valuable to examine Merseyside Probation Trust's capacity to look at the issue in more detail and provide analysis on all St. Helens IOM offenders and the accommodation pathway.

The Reducing Reoffending Board, a subgroup of St. Helens Community Safety Partnership continued to provide strategic governance of this key agenda an arena for improving the local pathways out of offending.

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* **Resolved that the report be noted.**

44 **CARBON ALLOWANCE TAX SCHEME**

A report was submitted to the Panel on Carbon Allowance Tax Scheme which updated Members on the changes to the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme.

The CRC scheme had been introduced as a direct result of the Climate Change Act approved in November 2008, with the aim of improving carbon management. The Act set out targets to reduce 80% of carbon emissions by 2050 and achieve a 34% reduction by 2020. The scheme originally was a 'Cap and Trade' scheme where organisations were required to buy carbon tax allowances to cover the amount of carbon used. The allowances were to be paid to the government then recycled back to participants based on performance. A league table was to be produced with a series of bonuses or penalties determined by:-

- how much was collected in the sale of allowances
- reduction in emissions against the baseline
- the position in the league table.

The Government announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review in December 2010 a fundamental change to the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (EES). Revenue raised from the CRC EES would be used to support the public finances, including spending on the environment, rather than recycled to participants. The league table would remain but for reputational purposes only.

The first sale of the carbon allowances confirmed at £12 per tonne would take place in July 2012, to be purchased retrospectively for the 2011/12 financial year. The original legislation stipulated a purchase at the start of the year requiring organisations to estimate the number of allowances they would use.

Under the original scheme local authorities could not charge schools for allowances, only penalties, requiring the authority to absorb the full cost of the allowances. In February 2011 the Department for Education stipulated that the carbon tax relating to schools would be allowable against the central part of the schools budget (Dedicated Schools Grant).

There were issues relating to PFI schools and Academies. The local authorities had no control over the procurement or usage of carbon by PFI schools but were responsible for paying the carbon tax. Passing on the carbon tax to Academies could only be done with their consent.

Organisations would not need to trade allowances, as they would only buy allowances for the carbon used. The Climate Change Act did include legal powers for a trading scheme therefore future phases could return to the original proposal, albeit in a more simplified format. Further guidance was awaited.

* **Resolved that the report be noted.**

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45 UPDATE ON SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2010/2011

A verbal report was made to the Panel by the Scrutiny Graduate, which updated Members on the Work Programme 2010/2011 for the Environment and Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Panel discussed the Scrutiny Review of Energy Management and Carbon Reduction in Council Buildings and a draft report would be submitted to a meeting of the Panel to be held in June 2011.

*** Resolved that the report be noted.**

**46 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER 3 2010/2011
– ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PORTFOLIO AND SAFER COMMUNITIES AND
YOUTH PORTFOLIO
(Reported to Cabinet on 23 February 2011)**

A report was submitted to the Panel which contained extracts from the Corporate Performance Management Report - Quarter 3 2010/2011 – Environmental Protection Portfolio and Safer Communities and Youth Portfolio.

The full report had been presented to a meeting of Cabinet held on 23 February 2011.

A Member sought clarification with regard to the projections at the end of 2010/2011 in relation to the satisfaction with Environmental Health and Trading Standards Services to establish why they were at risk of not meeting the 2010/2011 target.

*** Resolved that:**

- (1) the report be noted; and**
- (2) clarification be sought to establish why the projections at the end of 2010/2011 in relation to the satisfaction with Environmental Health and Trading Standards Services were at risk of not meeting the 2010/2011 target.**