

MEETING: CABINET MEMBER - ENVIRONMENTAL
DATE: Wednesday 18 November 2009
TIME: 12.00 noon
VENUE: Town Hall, Southport (This meeting will also be video conferenced to the Town Hall, Bootle)

Councillor

DECISION MAKER: Tattersall
SUBSTITUTE: Brodie - Browne

SPOKESPERSONS: P Hardy D Jones

SUBSTITUTES: Friel Ibbs

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser
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The Cabinet is responsible for making what are known as Key Decisions, which will be notified on the Forward Plan. Items marked with an * on the agenda involve Key Decisions

A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution, is: -

- any Executive decision that is not in the Annual Revenue Budget and Capital Programme approved by the Council and which requires a gross budget expenditure, saving or virement of more than £100,000 or more than 2% of a Departmental budget, whichever is the greater
- any Executive decision where the outcome will have a significant impact on a significant number of people living or working in two or more Wards

If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.

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A G E N D A

Items marked with an * involve key decisions

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Subject/Author(s)</u>	<u>Wards Affected</u>	
1.	Apologies for Absence		
2.	Declarations of Interest Members and Officers are requested to give notice of any personal or prejudicial interest and the nature of that interest, relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the relevant Code of Conduct.		
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 2009		(Pages 5 - 10)
4.	The Development Of Low Carbon Economy In Response To Climate Change Joint report of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environmental Services and Planning and Economic Regeneration Director	All Wards	(Pages 11 - 22)
5.	Environmental Protection Department - Half Year Performance Report 2009/10 Report of the Environmental Protection Director	All Wards	(Pages 23 - 44)
6.	Revenue And Capital Expenditure Monitoring To 30 September 2009 Joint report of the Environmental Protection Director and the Finance and Information Services Director	All Wards	(Pages 45 - 52)
7.	Food Waste Collection Promotion Report of the Environmental Protection Director	All Wards	(Pages 53 - 56)
8.	Low Emissions Strategies Report of the Environmental Protection Director	All Wards	(Pages 57 - 62)
9.	The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002	All Wards	(Pages 63 - 68)

Report of the Environmental Protection Director

**10. Environmental Services Initiative -
Worklessness**

Derby; Ford;
Linacre;
Litherland;
Netherton and
Orrell; St. Oswald;

(Pages 69 -
76)

Report of the Environmental Protection Director

11. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider passing the following resolution:

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act. The Public Interest Test has been applied and favours exclusion of the information from the Press and Public.

12. Commercial Waste Service Charges

All Wards

(Pages 77 -
82)

Report of the Environmental Protection Director

THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER, 2009.

CABINET MEMBER - ENVIRONMENTAL

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Tattersall

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor D. Jones

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P. Hardy

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

54. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2009

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member held on 23 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

55. HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE FLEXIBLE WARRANT SCHEME

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director on the latest health and safety enforcement innovation using flexible Warrants (the Warrants) and outlining an example of how the system would work for the 'Digital Rollout'; and indicating that a decision on this matter was required as Warrants were being trialled in Merseyside and Cheshire and would allow officers from other regulatory bodies to carry out health and safety regulation in Sefton Council enforced premises and also allow Sefton's officers to enforce in other local authority areas.

The report indicated that the Warrants were particularly useful where a project was being carried out across a number of Authorities, or on a regional basis when flexibility may be required because of the need for immediate enforcement action; that the Warrants were also useful if a business being investigated was working across two or more Authorities, as the investigation could take place unhindered by boundary jurisdiction issues; and identified the objectives of the scheme as:

- to increase the flexibility and responsiveness of health and safety regulators to situations of significant risk;
- to increase communication between health and safety regulators; and

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- to facilitate the collective use of resources and target them to the areas of greatest risk.

The report also identified how a Flexible Warrant Scheme would be established; and that the first scheme in the North West was to ensure aerial installers, in the run up to and the short time after digital switch over in November, were carrying out installations in a safe manner, including the safe use of ladders or access platforms and the secure installation of TV aerials and dishes. Following the scheme, an assessment would be carried out on its success or failure and recommendations would be considered for further projects of a similar nature in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the use of and involvement in the Flexible Warrant Scheme by the Environmental Protection Department be approved.

56. TENDERS FOR THE PROVISION OF CLEAR PLASTIC SACKS

Further to Minute No. 114 of the 6 May 2009, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director advising of the outcome of the evaluation of tenders for the provision of clear plastic sacks and seeking approval to award the contract in this matter; and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to comply with the Contract Procedure Rules of the Constitution.

RESOLVED:

That the tender in the sum of £155,000 submitted from BPI Recycled Product, Derbyshire for the provision of clear plastic day coded refuse sacks and clear plastic litter bin sacks be approved.

57. CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS 2009/10

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director seeking approval of the proposed refuse and recycling collection arrangements for the Christmas and New Year 2009/10 period, together with the methods for communicating the revised collection arrangements.

RESOLVED:

That the arrangements for refuse and recycling collections over the Christmas and New Year 2009/10 period, together with the methods for communicating such arrangements, be approved.

58. SEFTON TRADING STANDARDS ALCOHOL SURVEY OF YOUNG PEOPLE - AUGUST 2009

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director on the alcohol survey (the Survey) of young people carried out by the Trading Standards North West (TSNW); and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to seek reconsideration of the alcohol sales enforcement strategy by the Public Health Partnership (PHP) in the light of the findings of the Survey.

The report indicated that in 2005 and 2007, TSNW commissioned Ci Research (Ci) to conduct a survey of young people and alcohol use; that the findings of these surveys were used to help inform a strategy for dealing with the sale of alcohol to young people who were underage; that in early 2009 TSNW commissioned Ci to conduct a similar survey to monitor any changes in behaviour and to provide further insight into the sale of alcohol and tobacco; and that the primary objective of the research was to identify how and where youngsters obtained alcohol in order to effectively plan intelligence led campaigns.

The report indicated that the report compiled by Ci was divided into six parts, namely sample profile, alcohol consumption, purchasing alcohol, general attitudes and behaviour, understanding of legislation and smoking behaviour; and analysed and commented on the survey outcomes.

The report concluded that the results demonstrated the need for continued investment in the underage enforcement programme operated by Trading Standards and the initiatives commissioned by the PHP Alcohol Related Crime Sub-Group; that the results also highlighted the worrying increase in supply of alcohol by over 18's and parents/adults and the use of 'fake' identification; but however, this could also be interpreted as a measure of the success of current proactive enforcement practices.

A copy of the Survey was attached as an appendix to the report.

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the report on the Sefton alcohol survey of young people, be noted;
- (2) the Public Health Partnership Alcohol Related Crime Sub Group be requested to reconsider its enforcement strategy in consideration of the findings of the research; and
- (3) in light of her interest in this subject, the report be submitted to the Cabinet Member – Communities for information.

59. SEFTON TRADING STANDARDS ALCOHOL SURVEY OF YOUNG PEOPLE - "OPERATION SOFT DRINK : PHASE 2 - BUY BOOZE, THEY LOSE"

Further to Minute No. 106 of 12 March 2008, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director on the

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outcome of 'Operation Soft Drink: Phase 2 – Buy Booze, They Lose' (the Operation), a strategic intervention tackling the incidence of underage alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Sefton that was commissioned by the Public Health Partnership Alcohol Strategy Group (PHPASG); and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to obtain endorsement for further similar interventions.

The report indicated that the Operation was designed to retain the strongest elements of the original Operation Soft Drink but extended both in terms of its duration and scope to provide support to a range of Local Strategic Partnership objectives; how the Operation was publicised; detailed the evaluation framework of the Operation; and the key outcomes from the separate strands of the Operation.

The report concluded that the Sefton Tracker Survey clearly demonstrated significant reductions in the negative perceptions of underage drinking, groups of teenagers hanging about the street and people being drunk or rowdy in public places; that whilst this positive trend could not singularly be attributed to the activity occurring during the Operation, the targeting of specific interventions directed to address these three perceptions within hotspot areas could be assumed to be a contributory factor in this recorded improvement.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report on 'Operation Soft Drink: Phase 2 – Buy Booze, They Lose' be noted; and
- (2) the continued partnership work within the Public Health Partnership Alcohol Strategy Group and Alcohol-Related Crime Sub-Group for addressing the issues of underage alcohol purchase/consumption and alcohol-related nuisance, disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour be approved.

60. TRADING STANDARDS - COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER "ISSUE 17"

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director which advised on the seventeenth issue on the Trading Standards – Community Newsletter.

The report identified the aims of the newsletter, detailed the articles contained within it (relating to the creation of Sefton's new Approved Trader Scheme; Cold Calling Zones; the Digital Switchover, Teenager Alcohol Survey results; and Best Bar None) and how and where they would be published and distributed.

The report concluded by indicating that the newsletter would increase awareness of 'self help' for consumers and that 'self regulation' by business would eventually lead to the service being able to assist those in

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greatest need, and enhance equal opportunity of access to the service and promote social inclusion.

Attached to the report was a copy of the seventeenth issue of the Community Newsletter.

RESOLVED:

That the publication and distribution of the seventeenth issue of the Trading Standards Community Newsletter be approved.

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REPORT TO: Cabinet Member – Environmental
Cabinet Member – Regeneration
Cabinet Member – Technical Services
Cabinet

DATE: 18th November 2009
18th November 2009
23rd November 2009
25th November 2009

SUBJECT: The Development of Low Carbon Economy in response to Climate Change

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Alan Moore - Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environmental Services
Andy Wallis - Planning and Economic Regeneration Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Mark Long - 3471
Dave Packard - 2100
Mo Kundi - 3447
Neil Ash – 3473

**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To advise Members of the likely impact of current and planned climate change legislation and regulations, the implications of developing a low carbon economy in Sefton, and make recommendations for the strategic management of change.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

Current and planned climate change legislation will impose requirements on local authorities, which requires a pro-active and co-ordinated approach to tackle climate change, which can only be achieved by changing current modus operandi across almost all economic sectors and moving to the development of a low carbon economy.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Cabinet Members for Environmental, Regeneration and Technical Services :-

1. Note the report, and that

Cabinet:-

2. Recommend to Sefton Borough Partnership that the coordinated response to the Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy agenda is made a highest level community strategy objective in the drafting of the required Sustainable Community Strategy, and is practically delivered through the Economic Development and Sustainability Thematic Group of the Sefton Borough Partnership
3. That the low carbon economy development objective is asserted in the next revision of the Council's Corporate Plan
4. Nominate the Cabinet Member - Regeneration as the Low Carbon Economy Champion
5. Reconfirm the Cabinet Member - Environmental as the Climate Change (Adaptation)

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Champion

6. Nominate the Cabinet Member - Technical Services as the Corporate and Community Energy Champion
7. Recommend that the Economic Development and Sustainability Thematic Group of the Sefton Borough Partnership be a focus of coordinating wider community activity
8. Recommend that progress on developing and delivering a comprehensive Climate Change Response Strategy and Action Plan be overseen by the Cabinet Member Performance through the Council's performance management procedures
9. Request further progress reports

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: N/a

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: After the call in period

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Central Government legislation will impose a statutory duty on local authorities to take action to address the adverse impact of climate change. Not to act would result in Sefton being in breach of that statutory duty. In addition taking a pro-active and co-ordinated approach would enable Sefton to develop a low carbon economic base, thereby creating new job opportunities.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial: There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: N/A

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Risk Assessment: N/A

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Technical Services, Environmental Services, Leisure and Tourism, Legal

FD212 – The Finance and IS Director has been consulted, and his comments have been incorporated in this report.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	/		
2	Creating Safe Communities	/		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	/		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	/		
5	Environmental Sustainability	/		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	/		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	/		
8	Children and Young People	/		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

'Actions with regard to Climate Change within Sefton' – Cabinet Member Environmental, 17th December 2008

'Actions towards compliance with National Indicator 188 – Adaptation to Climate Change' – 8th May 2009

'Adaptation to Climate Change on the Sefton Coast' – Cabinet Member Environmental, 29th July 2009; Cabinet, 6th August 2009

'The Economic Impact of EU and UK Climate Change legislation on Liverpool and the Liverpool City Region' – TMP/Regeneris Consulting, June 2009

'The UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy' – DBIS/DECC, July 2009

'Changing Work in a Changing Climate: Adaptation to climate change in the UK – new research on implications for employment' – TUC, April 2009

'Creating Green Jobs: developing local low-carbon economies' – LGA, January 2009

'Low Carbon Economy: exploring low carbon projects throughout the region' – NWDA, November 2008

'Final Impact Assessment on the Order to implement the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme', - DECC, October 2009

'Consumer Power: How the public thinks lower-carbon behaviour could be made mainstream' – IPPR, September 2009

Position paper for SBP Board – Climate Change, October 2009

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 There is mounting concern in government that targets for reducing CO₂ emissions are not being met.
- 1.2 The UK government is committed to reducing carbon emissions, establishing the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in October 2008 to co-ordinate the commitments, and passing the Climate Change Act in November 2008, which set out a framework for moving the UK to a low carbon economy and established legally binding targets to reduce carbon emissions by 80% on 1990 levels by 2050, and 34% by 2020.
- 1.3 DECC and the Department for Business Innovation & Skills (DBIS) launched the UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy and the Low Carbon Transition Plan in July 2009. A quote from the Strategy puts the task into perspective:

“To meet Britain’s climate change targets – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 – each unit of economic output in Britain will need to be produced using on average one tenth of the carbon dioxide emitted today. This simple but compelling fact is going to transform our whole economy. It will change our industrial landscape, the supply chains of our businesses and the way we all live and work.”

- 1.4 Local authorities will be expected to play a major role in tackling climate change by introducing low carbon policies and practices in housing, transport, regeneration, environmental protection, planning and other key services, as well as through day-to-day activities. Local authorities are also expected to play an important role in raising awareness and influencing behaviour change more widely by working with its partners and stakeholders.
- 1.6 This report sets out the legal and policy framework impacting Sefton, then identifies priorities for action to minimise the transition costs to a low carbon economy, and to maximise the benefits. A briefing note on the background to climate change legislation is included as Appendix A for members who want to refresh their knowledge on current and forthcoming requirements.

2.0 The Impact of Climate Change Legislation on Merseyside

- 2.1 In June 2009 The Mersey Partnership commissioned a report from Regeneris Consulting called ‘The Economic Impact of EU and UK Climate Change Legislation on Liverpool and the Liverpool City Region’.
- 2.2 The report highlighted the facts that the LCR currently has below national and regional average CO₂ emissions, and does not have too much heavy industry that needs major structural change to adapt. It does have considerable natural assets for renewable energy generation, already having several on-shore and off-shore wind turbines, and having undertaken research to harness the power from the tidal ranges of the Mersey and Dee estuaries.
- 2.3 There is a thriving environmental technologies sector (ETS) employing over 9,000 people (1.5% of total employment), generating wealth in excess of £1.1 billion. The TMP report states there could be a further 6,000 to 15,000 ETS jobs available to the LCR by 2015. Of the estimated 400 firms in the LCR engaged in ETS the most significant opportunities are in –
 - ❑ Waste Management and Recycling (currently 3,800 jobs in 210 firms) – scope to diversify into Energy from Waste.
 - ❑ Renewable Energy (800 jobs in 41 firms) – scope to specialise in servicing off-shore wind and future tidal energy schemes.

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- ❑ Energy Management (800 jobs in 22 firms) – combined heat and power installation, energy efficient lighting, and insulation are all likely to benefit from need to be more energy efficient across all sectors.
- ❑ Microgeneration – 6 identified installers of microgeneration systems in the LCR, 2 of whom manufacture units. Not particularly well placed in this sector, although it is felt that opportunities lay in the installation of solar thermal and ground source heat pumps.

2.4 Sectors identified where it is expected to see employment growth when moving to a low carbon economy include:–

- ❑ Professional Services – architects, consultants and planners in relation to building design, specialist finance and legal skills.
- ❑ Management and Administration – billing, procurement and customer service for renewable energy and low carbon products and services.
- ❑ Construction and Maintenance – old building conversion and upgrading to meet new energy efficiency standards, and maintenance of renewable energy systems.
- ❑ Manufacturing – existing manufacturing base in products that reduce carbon emissions such as glazing, insulation and building control systems.
- ❑ Transport – sustainable transport systems will provide potential employment growth.
- ❑ Research & Development Skills – opportunities in pure and applied research that cut through limitations placed on change by current technology.

2.5 The report also identified 15 potential intervention areas:

- ❑ Tidal Energy Centre of Excellence
- ❑ Innovation & Technology Transfer
- ❑ Develop Off-Shore Wind Supply Chain
- ❑ Sector Development for Environmental Technologies
- ❑ Skills Capacity in Sustainable Construction
- ❑ Plan to achieve sustainable construction standards at low cost
- ❑ Energy efficiency in social rented housing
- ❑ Energy efficiency in private housing
- ❑ Expanded business support for energy efficiency
- ❑ Expand on-shore wind installations
- ❑ Expand use of biomass and energy from waste
- ❑ Low carbon transport city
- ❑ Low carbon port
- ❑ Low carbon airport
- ❑ Communication of report

2.6 The report proposed that local authorities work closely with businesses to ensure that the economic and employment potential of carbon reduction is fully encouraged, placing Merseyside at the forefront of low carbon market development.

2.7 On the basis of this report and the acceptance of its principal recommendations, the Merseyside local authorities and their public, private and voluntary sector partners signed up to a Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) in September 2009. Within the Economy policy of the MAA, Low Carbon Economy is named as one of four transformational actions with the strategic potential to drive the city region's economic renaissance.

3.0 Implications for Sefton

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- 3.1 Responding to climate change is both an urgent and an important policy for all tiers of government. Central government can lead through the creation of a legislative and policy environment in which decarbonisation becomes more attractive to carbon emitters. Sefton Council has a specific additional responsibility to lead by example, and to facilitate change where it is best placed to act:
- ❑ To raise awareness of the carbon reduction targets in the wider community
 - ❑ To reduce carbon emissions in its own estate
 - ❑ To facilitate low carbon solutions in service areas for which it is responsible
 - ❑ To provide incentives and support for individuals, communities, businesses and organisations to tackle their carbon footprint
 - ❑ To co-ordinate local area-based initiatives and maximise their effectiveness
 - ❑ To ensure synergy with other key policies for housing, transport, regeneration and sustainable communities.
- 3.2 Action is also needed to minimise the costs of climate change, in particular the cost of meeting the Carbon Reduction Commitment and Landfill Tax.
- 3.3 The Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC) is a new cap and trade scheme to be introduced from April 2010 that draws into an emissions trading scheme private and public sector organisations whose energy consumption is not as large as those covered by the EU's Energy Trading Scheme, and that fall outside the Climate Change Agreements. Local authorities will fall under the CRC.
- 3.4 The CRC will have a three-year transition phase during which allowances to emit CO₂ will be purchased via a simple auction at a fixed price of £12/tCO₂. The price of carbon is only likely to rise with the true price, based on the polluter pays principle, being £28 per tonne. Sefton will have to purchase allowances in the first year based on an energy bill (including water). The impact of the CRC will be very significant, the scale of which is currently being assessed. Parallels can be drawn with Landfill Tax, which was introduced initially at a low level, but over the years has increased significantly.
- 3.5 Other avoidable costs include the rising cost of energy. Indications are that both gas and electricity bills will increase by between 15 and 25% over the next ten years. Significant interventions will be needed to increase energy efficiency in homes and workplaces, in schools and public buildings, to restrain heating costs.
- 3.6 Sefton is already doing some excellent work in the areas of recycling and waste management, coastal and habitat protection, environmental education work with young people, and energy efficiency advice. However, given the scale of the challenge facing us, this is not sufficient. More needs to be done.

4.0 Actions Required to move towards a Low Carbon Economy

- 4.1 Additional activity is needed in the short, medium and long term:
- ❑ Short term – more research & intelligence; awareness raising & engagement; prepare for the CRC; policy; energy efficiency programme; skills development and employment; supply chain development; business support; and community engagement
 - ❑ Medium/long term – sustainable transport infrastructure; critical mass of demonstration projects; integration and co-ordination

Research & Intelligence

- 4.2 Sefton needs to fully assess the likely areas of opportunity and risk presented by transition to a low carbon economy. The forthcoming Local Economic Assessment provides a structured method for documenting the carbon footprint of Sefton's economy, and identifying priorities for action.

Awareness Raising and Engagement

- 4.3 Individuals are responsible for almost 50% of emissions. It is, therefore, not possible to cope with the impact of climate change if people are not convinced of the soundness of measures which will affect their cultural habits and perceived quality of life. Fostering education at all levels and raising awareness campaigns become essential. The key challenge is to change individual behaviour, which will require extensive social marketing and attitude shift in school, the community, at work and at home.

Policy

- 4.4 There is an ever increasing range of EU and UK legislation. Our MAA and LAA now have climate change targets incorporated into them. National Indicator 185 relates to reporting on CO₂ reductions in the local authority's own emissions; NI 186 to CO₂ reductions per capita in the community; and NI 188 aims to incorporate into local government services the management of climate change risks and opportunities, which must be assessed and prioritised, and an action plan created.
- 4.5 The Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (planning and climate change), and PPS 3 & 22 provide the framework to allow climate change issues to be fully taken into account in planning policy. Sefton's Local Development Framework Core Strategy will have energy policies that form the basis of energy planning frameworks.
- 4.6 All new buildings will have to be carbon neutral by 2016, and currently stamp duty is waived for zero-carbon homes. However, zero-carbon homes are presently virtually non-existent, but there will be many homes built between now and 2016. The LGA would like to see councils to require Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 in all new housing from 2010 as an interim measure to raise standards.

Carbon Reduction

- 4.7 The Carbon Reduction Commitment must lead to a reduction in CO₂ from buildings within the Council, workplaces, and the domestic housing stock across social and private rented sector plus owner occupied.
- 4.8 Energy efficiency measures will be extremely important as they can account for up to 40% of the required CO₂ reduction targets. If just home energy efficiency programmes are included there is currently £7 billion available between 2008-11 in the UK for programmes. These include:
- Energy supplier/generator obligations of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (£2.8 billion)
 - Community Energy Saving Programme (£350 million)
 - Additional Energy Efficiency Obligation (£560 million)
 - Warm Front (£874 million)
 - Decent Homes (£2.2 billion)
 - Social Housing Energy Saving Programme (£84 million)
 - Winter Fuel Payments for older people (£2.7 billion per year).
- 4.9 Sefton's Energy Team, Housing and Renewal, OneVision, Social Housing sector and others have been pro-active in developing an energy reduction plan that is attractive to funders. Currently, Sefton is a partner in a sub-regional bid to NW Operational Programme for a £22 million energy efficiency project. Sefton's contribution is likely to involve the installation of solar water heating systems. Efforts are being made to link this project with the utilities schemes under the Community Energy Saving Programme, reported to Cabinet on 29th November 2009. More information will be provided as part of the 'Funding Opportunities' report update to Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

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Skills development and local employment

- 4.10 Delivering major energy efficiency programmes runs the risk of being frustrated by the lack of skills and businesses in the Sefton area to undertake the volume of work. The development of a new skills base for a low carbon economy is therefore crucial. Without them contracts will be lost to outside businesses and there will not be opportunities for local people to get local jobs. Practical installation, maintenance, and repair skills will be needed for such activities as –
- ❑ domestic insulation and micro generation systems
 - ❑ small commercial and retail systems
 - ❑ ground source heat pump installations
 - ❑ combined heat & power installations
- 4.11 There is an important skills and recruitment gap which Sefton will address through its Employment & Skills Strategy, and sub-regionally through the Employment & Skills Board.
- 4.12 Sefton also has the expertise to engage with the local construction sector and promote adaptation to the new requirements in the marketplace. Action on construction supply chains will remove a significant obstacle to the roll-out of energy efficiency investments.

Supply Chains

- 4.13 The offshore and onshore wind energy industry will need a wide range of skills and firms to undertake the huge expansion of servicing and repair required. The supply chains involved with the maintenance and repair of wind farms is regarded by the TMP report as an area where Merseyside has an advantage. This should be the immediate focus of activity. Sefton led the Merseyside response to the discovery of oil and gas in Liverpool Bay fifteen years ago. Sefton can be amongst the leaders once again as it applies its supplier development expertise to the task of attracting fabricators and their first and second tier suppliers to a Merseyside onshore base.
- 4.14 Low carbon supply chains and sustainable procurement will become more and more important within both the Council and the wider economy. Basically, final price will be much more sensitive to distance travelled as distribution costs increase to reflect the true cost of carbon. At the same time, quality and specification will be more critical as legislation and regulations become more stringent.

Business support

- 4.15 Businesses need help and support to switch out their carbon fuels and find renewable alternatives; they also need help to minimise waste and make the best use of natural resources. Their markets will also change as customers become more demanding, and purchasers cascade more stringent environmental standards down the supply chain. Some work has already been undertaken with businesses on environmental management systems and meeting environmental standards. Much more remains to be done. The NWDA has recently renewed ENWORK's contract to supply support and advice to local companies, and Business Link has a key diagnostic and brokerage role. Officers are also investigating whether there is a need for additional complementary services better geared up to capturing local demand and delivering integrated solutions.

Community involvement

- 4.16 The most direct involvement of communities in the low carbon economy is when individuals and neighbourhoods take an active part in altering their energy use. The Low Carbon Communities Challenge fund 2010 – 2012, offers £10 million for up to 20 communities spread across the country. It is an action research fund designed to provide data for central government on how much local communities will actually be able to contribute towards the CO₂ reduction targets set

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for 2020 and 2050. Council officers are currently working up a potential bid with Formby Parish Council to be submitted towards the end of December.

Transport

- 4.17 Transport technologies, transport networks, transport management and user travel behaviour will all need to change to meet carbon reduction targets. Two policy choices mentioned in the TMP report are balancing the needs of freight with those of communities, and raising the profile of the logistics sector within local communities to make it more attractive for recruitment and skills.
- 4.18 The TMP report highlights development of a low carbon transport city, a low carbon port, and a low carbon airport, in all of which Sefton has an interest and a role. The report suggests in the medium term a breakthrough will be achieved in the production of electric vehicles with sufficient speed and distance between charges to make them more marketable. If this proves to be the case, then charging points in convenient locations must be provided.

Internal Council structures to co-ordinate and ensure delivery

- 4.19 The low carbon economy agenda cuts across departmental responsibilities, making it important that coordination of efforts takes place. Regeneration, environmental protection, technical services, education, health, communities, housing renewal and planning all have crucial roles to play. The agenda needs to be embedded in the LSP as a major strand of the Sustainable Communities Strategy, and as a major component of the new Local Economic Assessment requirement. In order to ensure that this agenda can be successfully delivered, it is proposed that:-
- ❑ The coordinated response to the Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy agenda is made a top level community strategy objective in the drafting of the required Sustainable Community Strategy and is practically delivered through the Economic Development and Sustainability thematic group of the Sefton Borough Partnership.
 - ❑ The low carbon economy development objective is asserted in the next revision of the Councils Corporate plan
 - ❑ The Cabinet Member Regeneration be nominated as the Low Carbon Economy Champion
 - ❑ The Cabinet Member Environmental be reconfirmed as the Climate Change (Adaptation) Champion
 - ❑ The Cabinet Member Technical Services be nominated as the Corporate and Community Energy Use Reduction Champion.
 - ❑ The Economic Development and Sustainability Group of Sefton Borough Partnership (on which the three Cabinet Members above participate) be a focus of coordinating wider community activity

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Appendix A – Background to UK policy on Low Carbon Economy

Why low carbon?

- A.1 The excessive emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere causes global warming. Carbon, in the form of carbon dioxide (CO₂), accounts for approximately 76% of total global emissions from the six greenhouse gases, with methane and nitrous oxide accounting for almost all of the remainder. The three main sources of CO₂ in all developed economies are emissions from power production, transport and buildings. Global CO₂ emissions are currently around 47 billion tonnes of carbon-dioxide-equivalent, but without the current global economic slowdown these were anticipated to exceed 50 billion tonnes. By 2020, it is expected that under normal economic growth conditions emissions will rise to between 55 and 60 billion tonnes. Current international proposals are planned to reduce emissions to around 49 billion tonnes.
- A.2 The most important study, the Stern Review 2006, on the Economics of Climate Change concluded that the costs of tackling climate change were around 1% of global GDP. This amounts to approximately £200 million for the Liverpool City Region (LCR). Not taking action could result in an average loss of between 5% and 10% of global GDP every year. To have a reasonable chance of cost-effectively limiting any rise in global average temperature to no more than 2°C, above which scientists regard as too dangerous to go, annual emissions should be reduced to below 44 billion tonnes by 2020, to well below 35 billion tonnes in 2030, and well below 20 billion tonnes by 2050.
- A.3 In terms of per capita CO₂ emissions, today's global average is around 7 tonnes of carbon-dioxide-equivalent per capita, but with big variations between countries. For example, the USA emits about 24 tonnes per capita, while India is below 2 tonnes per capita. By 2050, global population is projected to rise to 9 billion, so to meet the 2050 emission targets, average per capita emissions would have to be around 2 tonnes per capita.
- A.4 In the Liverpool City Region (LCR), CO₂ accounts for approximately 96% of greenhouse gas emissions. The industrial and commercial sectors account for almost half of total emissions, the domestic sector for a third, and transport the remaining fifth. The carbon footprint of the LCR in 2006 was 11.2 million tonnes of CO₂ or 7.6 tonnes per capita. Sefton, Liverpool and Wirral have CO₂ emissions of between 6 and 7 tonnes per capita, whereas Knowsley, St. Helens and particularly Halton have emissions of between 8 and 16 tonnes per capita.
- A.5 This differential is explained by the location of major industrial sites. Ineos Chlor (chemicals) and Pilkington (glass) in St. Helens, together with associated power suppliers account for 14% of emissions of the whole LCR, with Ineos Chlor in Runcorn using a similar amount of energy in its manufacturing processes to that of the whole of Liverpool. Public and private investment in a £400 million Energy from Waste plant, to be operational in 2013, will produce 20% of Ineos Chlor's energy needs from renewable sources, while reducing the need for landfill.
- A.6 Overall, the LCR has relatively low emission levels compared to the regional (8.6 tonnes per capita) and UK (8.7 tonnes per capita) average. This is largely explained by the relatively low economic activity rate within the LCR, having 7% fewer residents in employment than the UK average, indicating the close link between increased economic activity and increased emissions, a link that needs to be broken (decoupled) as an essential part of a low carbon economy.
- A.7 Amongst the key findings of the first annual report (October 2009) to Parliament by the Committee on Climate Change was that a step change in the pace of CO₂ reductions was needed. In the 5 years between 2003 and 2007 reductions averaged 0.5 %, but annual reductions of 2-3% would be required in the future. Economic recession is likely to have cut emissions in 2008 by 2%, but recession induced reductions must not be confused with underlying progress. Progress had to be made in 3 main areas – electricity generation,

commercial and residential buildings, and road transport.

What does a low carbon economy mean?

- A.8 A low carbon economy relates to both a local geographical economy where adaptation and mitigation measures counteracting climate change have both been undertaken successfully by all sections of the community, and to the economic sector for low carbon products and services that forms part of overall GDP or GVA.
- A.9 A local geographical low carbon economy is one where the manufacture, delivery and consumption of products and services are undertaken in ways that reduces net CO₂ emissions to the minimum possible. Consideration of net CO₂ emissions is important because it relates to the overall carbon footprint of products and services, where sourcing materials, purchasing, and transportation components are taken into account. It is vitally important that the local geographical economy also restructures to ensure that the economic infrastructure is in place to allow for the expansion of market share in low carbon products, services, and jobs, sometimes termed 'green jobs'.
- A.10 Transition to a low carbon economy raises significant challenges to the industrial workforce and their families. The Department for Business Innovation & Skills has stated that, "As with previous structural changes to the economy, the move to a low carbon economy will affect each business, worker and family differently. Previous economic structural shifts have had huge social impacts, with some workers and communities being left behind as industries are restructured by change."
- A.11 The Low Carbon Industrial Strategy has 3 basic principles –
- Long term strategic approach e.g. commitment to nuclear and renewable energy
 - Intervention to accelerate transition e.g. support for R & D in new low carbon technologies
 - Ensure companies and people are equipped to compete for the new demand created by climate change policies e.g. skills development, and supporting the development of supply chains
- A.12 The strategy also recognises the need to build on local and regional strengths in order to make the most of the future economic benefits. For this reason the strategy introduces the concept of 'low carbon economic areas'. The first of these will be located in the South-West of England focusing on the development of marine energy demonstration, servicing and manufacture. It will have a Wave Hub with up to £60 million funding attached.
- A.13 To meet government's energy generation targets of 15% from renewable sources by 2020 will require a massive increase in renewable electricity generation from the current 5% level to 30% in 2020. Offshore wind is expected to make up a large part of this increase. An increase of this size would bring economic opportunities. The Carbon Trust has calculated that the UK offshore wind industry alone will generate net economic benefit of £65 billion and create 220,000 jobs over the next 40 years. The Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) believe that with strong government support up to 70,000 long-term jobs could be created in the UK offshore wind industry.
- A.14 One of the reasons estimates vary so much is that it is not yet clear how many supply chain jobs will be located in the UK. Currently most components for the UK's off-shore wind farms are imported, with the only manufacturing done in the UK at Skykon's tower plant in Scotland. In 2008, Germany employed more people in the renewable electricity generation sector than in conventional carbon-intensive electricity generation, and has the engineering infrastructure, including the skills base, to immediately respond to both current and future demand. It is recognised amongst potential investors in this sector that the UK does not necessarily have the skills base, and other gearing, to attract the investment into any really significant manufacturing of components. This will make it more important to ensure jobs growth in those areas of the supply chain where we might have competitive advantage. These include consultancy, installation, operation, maintenance, legal and financial services.

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A.15 The transition to a low carbon economy is likely to mean –

- The creation of more jobs than are lost
- New markets for low carbon technology and therefore new jobs
- Markets created in one country will create jobs in other countries
- A stronger policy response makes net benefits more likely
- Low Carbon employment increases might be short-lived if not based on comparative advantage
- Many low carbon jobs will be created outside of manufacturing sectors

A.16 There is clearly a very significant prize at stake for economies that can move into low carbon products and services and one, which presents benefits for early movers.

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REPORT TO: CABINET MEMBER ENVIRONMENTAL

DATE: 18 November 2009

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT –
HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/10

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Peter Moore
Environmental Protection Director

CONTACT OFFICER: David Packard
Assistant Director
0151 934 4016

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To report Departmental progress against the 2009/10 Environmental Protection Department service plan.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

Corporate performance management procedures and good practice require that the Cabinet Portfolio holder reviews overall performance against the previously agreed Service Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

To note the performance of the Environmental Protection Department against its key performance indicators and planned activities.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Not relevant

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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

The Environmental Protection Department discharges a number of statutory duties on behalf of Sefton Council and its performance in these areas are under significant external scrutiny.

Financial:

The services of the Environmental Protection Department are being delivered within the available budget.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: Not relevant

Risk Assessment: Not relevant

Asset Management: Not relevant

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Finance Department

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CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People		√	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Environmental Protection Department Service Plan 2009/10

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Background

1. The Cabinet Member – Environmental agreed the 2009/10 Environmental Protection Department Service Plan in April 2009. Corporate performance management guidance and best practice requires that performance against key performance indicators and planned activities be reported to the responsible Cabinet Member for appraisal at the half and full year term.
2. This report includes the half-year return with respect to the Environmental Protection Department's contribution to the National Indicators (NI) in the Corporate Plan, which will be reported to Cabinet and Cabinet Member – Performance.
3. The key half-year performance against the 2009/10 Service Plan is outlined below around the areas nationally monitored by performance indicators and statutory returns.

Sustainable Waste Management (NI 191 Residual household waste per household, NI192. Household waste recycled and composted, Sefton LAA NI193 Municipal Waste Landfilled)

4. The Merseyside Waste Strategy requires the parallel tasks of Sefton delivering 40% front end recycling and composting rate in the medium term, whilst progressing the delivery of new waste management contracts for the operation of existing and new waste management facilities to replace landfill for unrecyclable material.
5. The Waste Management and Recycling Contract (WMRC) for managing the household waste recycling centres and waste transfer operations commenced in June 2009. The second, Resource Recovery Contract for the provision of residual waste disposal facilities to replace landfill for waste that cannot be readily recycled is currently at the detailed solution stage.
6. Sefton Council and Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) have agreed a joint LAA target to reduce the amount of municipal waste sent to landfill (NI 193). The three-year plan requires Sefton to at least sustain its recent recycling gains made under its alternating weekly service and for MWDA to improve recycling performance at the four Household Waste Recycling centres in Sefton. The WMRC requires a site investment plan and has financial incentives to improve Household Waste Recycling Centre recycling performance. The current NI 193 performance is around 58% against a target for 20010/11 of 55%.
7. Sefton's combined recycling and composting rate (NI192) for the six months up to October 2009 was ~ 42%, compared to 38% at the end of 2008/09. However, half-year figures are often in excess of end of year performance due to the contribution of garden waste recycling being significantly higher in the first half of the year.

8. Elected Members are currently involved in deliberations regarding the specification for the replacement recycling contract to commence in April 2011.
9. Sefton Council has been managing a £300,000 food waste prevention programme “Love Food Hate Waste” on behalf of the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership. The externally funded project has already attained a significant community profile.

Cleaner, Safer, Greener (NI 195 Improved street and environmental cleanliness, levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly tipping, NI 196 improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping)

10. Surveying to determine the cleanliness of roads and relevant land in accordance with the guidance provided for NI195 is taking place. As the outcome for this indicator is based on the full quantity of surveys (900) carried out over three periods annually, to take into account seasonal and local variations, a figure cannot be reported at the half-year point.
11. The indications at this stage are that certain aspects of local environmental quality (Graffiti NI195c), elements of which are beyond our direct control, are not on target. This concern has been previously highlighted to the Cabinet Member – Environmental and was referred to in the ‘Proposals for Cleansing Growth’ report to the Cabinet Member Environmental dated 19th November 2008 that was not supported in the budget setting process for 2009/10. The Department is working closely with colleagues in Community Safety to direct the resource available, via the Community Payback scheme operated by the Probation Service, to deal with incidents of graffiti and dog fouling.
12. The Department represents Sefton as a member of the Merseyside Cleaner Safer Greener Partnership, chaired by Keep Britain Tidy. The partnership has been developing a ‘responsible business agreement’, which is due to come to fruition, and will result in a partnership approach, across Merseyside, for the maintenance of the on-street furniture that is owned by a national media company.
13. The Department is currently managing interventions under the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, aimed at improving the opportunities for employment in targeted areas and StepClever (SLEGI) funding. These projects have been reported to the Cabinet Member – Environmental previously and include:
 - Environmental Hit Squads/Neighbourhood Area Teams
 - Arterial Route Cleaning
 - Enhanced Good Neighbour Skip Service
 - Enhanced Mechanical Sweeping
 - Waste Enforcement
 - Community Engagement

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14. Enforcement projects undertaken in the first half of 2009/10 include an ongoing dog fouling exercise named Operation Collar.
15. Following a review of the Litter Enforcement Policy, changes have been approved. As a result, litter enforcement action can now be taken by PCSO's and by other Departments.

Climate Change - NI 188 – Adaptation to Climate Change

16. Several Departments share contribution to the Corporate Climate Change agenda. The Environmental Protection Department is taking an overview of Climate Change related activities and Chairs an internal corporate group where these issues are progressed. The Environmental Protection Department is responsible for progressing the Local Strategic partnership LAA indicator NI 188 – Adaptation to Climate Change and is pursuing delivery through the Economic Development & Sustainability Thematic Group of Sefton Borough Partnership. Momentum towards the necessary input by statutory and allied partners to progress this complex issue is building. The partnership is on target to meet its interim LAA target by the end of 2009/10.

Protecting the Public, Environment and Animal Health through statutory compliance regimes. (NI 182 Satisfaction of business with Local Authority Regulation Services. NI 183 Impact of Local Authority regulatory services on the fair trade environment. NI 184 Food establishments in the area that are broadly compliant with food hygiene law. NI 190 Achievement in meeting standards for the control system for animal health).

Regulatory Reform

17. A key issue for the Department continues to be the changing national regulatory regimes under which the Council's Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Animal Health and Local Licensing enforcement regimes must work. The full medium-term implications of the changes to our regulatory service areas are not yet fully clear, but the Department is keeping a watching brief on developments and key issues are being reported to the Cabinet Member – Environmental and Regulatory and Licensing Committee as they arise.
18. Targeting of resources to the areas where intervention has the greatest community benefit is being pursued through risk based intervention programmes.
19. With pressure to always do more with the same or reducing resources, a regional stakeholder event was held in May, attended by 90% of North West Authorities, to agree the principles of joint project working for public protection purposes. Work on developing the activity plan and constitution is being co-ordinated by Sefton Council as chair of Trading Standards North West.

Performance against Statutory Intervention Programmes

20. Contact with businesses through intervention programmes influence the statutory NI182 result above. However, these work areas are also subject to separate statutory returns and audit by National Regulatory / Governmental Bodies. The headline results at the half year regarding completion of planned intervention programmes are:

- Trading Standards – 57%
- Food Hygiene – 48%
- Food Standards - 36 %
- Health & Safety – 50%
- Industrial Processes – 42%

Requests for Service

21. The Department responded to all 53,170 requests for service during the half year from residents and business, of which of 41,373 related to cleansing services. 89% of all service requests were either resolved or action had been initiated within 5 working days. For interest, the rounded up breakdown of service requests by subject area is listed below with comparative 2008/09, 2007/08 and 2006/07 demand. The first half of the financial year tends to be busier in reactive requests than the second half. The number of bulky item collection requests to the half-year point was 19,770.

Year	2009/10 pt	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Total	53,170	132,257	116,378	85,088
Cleansing	41,373	112,074	96,951	64,186
Environmental Health	10,566	17,878	17,406	18,646
Trading Standards	1,231	2,305	2,021	2,236
% Response in 5 working days	CL 88% EH/TS92%	CL 78% EH/TS94%	CL 68% EH/TS89%	89.5

Public Health /Crime Partnerships

22. The Environmental Protection Department plays an important role in the ongoing development of Sefton's Public Health Partnership, with representation on the Leadership, Planning and Delivery and Performance Management Groups, as well as on two of the six themed Sub-Groups (Alcohol and Smoking).

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23. Operationally, the work of the Licensing, Trading Standards and Commercial Sections supports the work of the sub-groups, in particular underage sales enforcement initiatives around cigarettes and alcohol, ensuring smoke free enclosed public places and nutritional food standards initiatives provide a significant contribution.
24. Three underage enforcement exercises have been carried out in the first half of the year; one for cigarettes and two for alcohol. The cigarette exercise resulted in three sales and the issue of three warnings. The two alcohol exercises resulted in two sales and the issue of two £80 Fixed Penalty Notices. The alcohol sales offenders also received a warning that their licence to sell alcohol could be reviewed should repeat offences take place.
25. Three further under age sales exercises are planned for the second half of the year.

Financial Management

26. The services of the Environmental Protection Department are being delivered within budget and no significant budgetary variances have been identified at the half-year point.

Sickness Management

27. Rolling annual sickness levels were 5.53%. This is made up of short-term sickness of 1.91% and long-term sickness of 3.62%. This level of sickness absence is above the 4% target, which is considered by many as an ambitious target given the all weather external / physical working requirements of the majority of the Department's workforce. The Department continues to actively manage sickness absence.

Senior Management Changes.

28. Bill Milburn (Environmental Protection Director) has been seconded to assist the Chief Executive in managing the response to the projected corporate budget deficit. Peter Moore (Assistant Director) has been seconded to the post of Environmental Protection Director for the duration of Bill Milburn's absence. Peter Moore's vacated Assistant Director position will not be back filled and his work will be reallocated to the Department's senior management team.



SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL



Sefton's *Performance Reporting and Information NeTwork (SPRINT)*

**Departmental Service Plan Monitoring
Environmental Protection**

Quarter 2 2009/10

Author: Performance and Partnerships
Print Date: 08/10/2009

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<u>Action</u>	<u>Authorising Officer</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Status</u>
DSP-EPD-AP-001: Undertake statutory regulatory compliance regimes and respond to requests for service from the public and business.	David Packard	Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target
<u>Progress Summary</u>				
<u>Period</u>	<u>Action Plan Status</u>	<u>% Complete</u>		
Quarter 2	On Target	50		
Quarter 1	On Target	25		
<u>Activities</u>				
Apply with statutory enforcement and compliance regimes for Food Safety, Food Standards, Health & Animal Health, Industrial processes, aminated land, Trading Standards, Licensing	At Q2 Food Hygiene 48% Food Standards 36% Trading Standards 57% Industrial Processes 42% At Q1 Food Hygiene 24% Food Standards 17% Trading Standards 8% Industrial Processes 16%		31-Mar-2010	On Target
Respond to all RFS within 5 days, Complete within 60 days	Q2 Total 53,170 RFS received = Cleansing 88%, Environmental Health, 92% Trading Standards 99% responded go in 5 days. 96% of all cases resolved within 60 days Q1 Total 27,004 RFS received = Cleansing 81%, Environmental Health 93%, Trading Standards 99% responded to in 5 days		31-Mar-2010	On Target
Respond to BERR regulatory reform agenda – Primary Authorities, Enterprise Act	New duties and responsibilities being embraced		31-Mar-2010	On Target
Support Regional Coordination Pilot – Public Protection Partnership / TSNW	Project has progressed as agreed with LBRO. Regional stakeholder event held in May attended by 90% of NW Authorities. Work progressing on devising the constitution for "Public Protection North West" - Sefton as Chair of Trading Standards North West is coordinating the regional approach.		31-Mar-2010	On Target

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Status</u>
Support the delivery of the private sector element of Sefton Council's Housing Strategy.	Corporate improvement action plan produced.	Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Undertake six underage enforcement exercises	3 Exercises undertaken.	Andrew Naisbitt	31-Mar-2010	On Target

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Action **Authorising Officer** **Lead Officer** **Deadline** **Status**

DSP-EPD-AP-002: Minimise municipal waste through Merseyside waste reduction programme, Maximise diversion of municipal waste from landfill through recycling and composting, Assist Merseyside with the delivery of new disposal capacity for waste that cannot be recycled /composted

David Packard
Jim Black
31-Mar-2010
On Target

Progress Summary

Period	Action Plan Status	% Complete
Quarter 2	On Target	50
Quarter 1	On Target	25

Activities

Comments	Lead Officer	Deadline	Status
Resource Recovery Contract delayed at ISDS stage. CEX involved in ongoing Merseyside wide cost impact deliberations.	David Packard	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Strategy Review Steering Group formed - Sefton fully participating, Timetable and risk management processes set up.	David Packard	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Options considered by Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet Member - Environmental. Agreed work activities ongoing with the other Merseyside Authorities with respect to possible negative impacts on the Waste Disposal Levy of one of the collection options.	Jim Black	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Sefton is Chair of the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership. A joint work programme has been devised and ratified. A £300k externally funded Merseyside wide waste prevention campaign "Love Food Hate Waste" is being lead by Sefton on behalf of the Waste Partnership.	David Packard	31-Mar-2010	On Target

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Status</u>
Waste Capital Infrastructure Grant – develop and deliver investment project	Essential improvements at waste transfer by-pass depot complete. Feasibility study for potential Southport depot relocation completed with "unviable" conclusion. Work around feasibility/costing of second option commenced.	Jim Black	31-Mar-2010	On Target

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Status</u>
Manage WNF & Stepclever environmental services interventions	Interventions ongoing relating to neighbourhood cleanliness and behavioural change -enhancing mainstream service provision, addressing whole neighbourhood cleansing gaps including graffiti, rat habitat and related infrastructure, engaging, educating and enforcing change in individual behaviour, perceptions and neighbourhood norms.	Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Undertake high profile waste, litter and dog fouling enforcement activities	Operation Collar dog fouling enforcement intervention undertaken. Litter enforcement policy reviewed and changes ratified making enforcement by PCSO and other Departments easier.	Steve Smith	31-Mar-2010	On Target

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Action **DSP-EPD-AP-004: Implement a community Climate Change Adaptation Plan and Corporate Environmental Management System** **Authorising Officer** David Packard **Lead Officer** Dave Poley **Deadline** 31-Mar-2010 **Status** On Target

Progress Summary

Period	Action Plan Status	% Complete
Quarter 2	On Target	50
Quarter 1	On Target	25

Activities

Reduce corporate management procedures and convention regime to reduce environmental impacts

Lead an interdepartmental EMS implementation group

Lead the development of a Community (LSP) Climate change adaptation plan (NI 188 Level 3)

Comments

Q2 EPD commissioned external audit for EMAS
 Q1 Report outlining proposals for introduction of EMS agreed by Cabinet member Environment. Work completed to bring EPD to readiness for application for EMAS accreditation.

Q2 - Ongoing meetings of departmental sustainability champions. New 5 level sustainable actions framework produced and approved.

Q2 Presentations made to each SBP Thematic Group. Well attended Partnership workshop held 1 October.
 Q1 Supporting evidence for compliance with stage 1 of NI188 submitted. Guidance and supporting information for other Council Departments and other LSP partners produced and circulated. Initial LSP workshop held

Status

Lead Officer Dave Poley **Deadline** 31-Mar-2010 **Status** On Target

Lead Officer Dave Poley **Deadline** 31-Mar-2010 **Status** On Target

Lead Officer Dave Poley **Deadline** 31-Mar-2010 **Status** On Target

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Status</u>
Manage 3 Air Quality Management areas and reduce air pollution levels to below NAQS standard	Updating and screening assessment (USA) submitted to DEFRA. The results of the USA have indicated that a detailed assessment will be required for further potential air quality management areas. Further assessment in existing air quality management areas underway. First phase of community consultation completed in line with approved work plan. Work on action plan by AQMA steering group commenced.	Dave Poley	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Raise community awareness and understanding of Sustainability issues	Presentation to schools and community groups continuing. Successful campaign linking schools and local libraries completed. New schools recycling league tables published. Evaluation of new school league tables being undertaken with school partners. On line Fairtrade directory updated. Further improvements underway to on line directory as hard copy cannot be produced due to spending freeze.	Dave Poley	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Report Annual Progress to elected Members on Environmental/ Corporate EMAS implementation	Q1 - Cabinet Member report submitted and approved. Further reports to be submitted during the course of the year.	Dave Poley	31-Mar-2010	On Target

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<u>Action</u>	<u>Authorising Officer</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Status</u>
DSP-EPD-AP-005: Support the development of Sefton Public Health Partnership and the delivery of specific interventions	Peter Moore	Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target
<u>Progress Summary</u>				
<u>Period</u>	<u>Action Plan Status</u>	<u>% Complete</u>		
Quarter 2	On Target	40		
Quarter 1	On Target	20		
<u>Progress</u>				
See activities for further details				
<u>Issues affecting current/future progress & corrective actions</u>				
<u>Activities</u>				
Completion of "Safe and Secure" Southport Town Centre		Peter Moore	30-Jun-2009	Completed
Completion of 2009/10 Best Bar None Awards		Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Lead a review of the Sefton Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy		Peter Moore	30-Sep-2009	Overdue
Support the delivery of Public Health Partnership Tobacco Control strategy		Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Status</u>
Support the development and delivery of Public Health Partnership Food strategies	The Department operates the Appetite for Life Award Scheme recognising pre-school Nurseries excelling in the provision of healthy, wholesome and safe food for the children in their care. In partnership with Sefton PCT, a Safer Food Better Business toolkit has been developed and is now being rolled-out to over 100 catering businesses in Sefton. Planning has commenced for a project exploring the use/misuse of cooking oils which has the dual aims of saving small businesses money and improving the nutritional quality of fried foods they produce.	Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Support the development of a NorthWest initiative to tackle Counterfeit Tobacco Products	Trading Standards Northwest was successful in obtaining £0.5 million to target the supply of illegal tobacco across the region as part of the strategic North of England tobacco Plan. Work to set up a regional enforcement team (to be based in Warrington) is currently underway. Progress reported to Cabinet Member - Environmental in September 2009	Andrew Naisbitt	31-Mar-2010	On Target

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Action **Authorising Officer** **Lead Officer** **Deadline** **Status**
DSP-EPD-AP-006: Direct and manage the activities of the Department Bill Milburn David Packard 31-Mar-2010 On Target

Progress Summary

Period	Action Plan Status	% Complete
Quarter 2	On Target	50
Quarter 1	On Target	20

Activities

Activities	Comments	Lead Officer	Deadline	Status
Complete equalities action plans for refuse collection, taxi licensing, public conveniences, management of Broad Street; Gypsy Caravan Site, domestic noise & Trading standards / Consumer Advice.	Delivery ongoing	David Packard	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Review emergency response readiness to likely and unforeseen events	Service contingency plans reviewed in light of Swine Flu pandemic	Dave Poley	31-Mar-2010	On Target
IP – undertake annual PDRP & regular 1:1 with all staff	PDRP meetings taking place as planned. The ongoing spending freeze has halted costed training programmes.	David Packard	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Manage financial position on a quarterly basis – reporting budget issues as necessary	Reported to portfolio holder - no significant variations.	Bill Milburn	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Reorganise EH service to provide dedicated private sector housing resource	Corporate reorganisation of Housing functions in progress	Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Review and update Departmental Health and Safety plan and Procedures		Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Undertake Equalities impact assessments for Enforcement and Gambling Act Licensing Policies	Planned for Q3/4	Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Undertake service review of Building Cleaning	Scheduled to be completed by March 2012.	Jim Black	31-Mar-2010	On Target

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Status</u>
Undertake Service Review of Corporate Vehicle Fleet Transport	Scheduled for completion before March 2012.	Jim Black	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Undertake twice monthly Departmental Management meetings and regular Section/team meetings	Meetings being held as planned - minutes of DMT published on the Intranet	Peter Moore	31-Mar-2010	On Target
Use of EFQM as a departmental diagnostic improvement tool	Ongoing use of inter authority benchmarking tools based on EFQM principals.	David Packard	31-Mar-2010	On Target

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Agenda Item 6

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member - Environmental
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Regeneration and Environmental)

DATE: 18 November 2009
5 January 2010

SUBJECT: **REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
MONITORING TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009**

WARDS AFFECTED: None directly affected

REPORT OF: P.J.Moore
Environmental Protection Director
P Edwards
Finance & IS Services Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Peter Moore
0151-934-4018

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To provide the Cabinet Member with the quarterly forecast position, based on information as at the 30 September 2009, in relation to the Portfolio's 2009/10 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

Cabinet Member accountability and in line with the corporate performance management process.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Member Environmental:

- a) Notes the progress on the Environmental Portfolio's revenue budgets that are subject to risk-based monitoring
- b) Note the progress made on the schemes within the portfolio's element(s) of the Council's Capital Programme.
- c) Indicates whether any comments about the overall performance of this Portfolio's Revenue Budget and schemes within the Capital Programme should be referred to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental).

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental)

- a) Notes the contents of this report and indicates whether any comments about the overall performance of their Portfolio's revenue budget should be referred to Cabinet.

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KEY DECISION: No.

FORWARD PLAN: Not appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Not appropriate.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

None.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None.

Financial:

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date Y/N				When?
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Agenda Item 6

Legal: Not appropriate.

Risk Assessment: The main risks concerns the failure to identify budget variances through the monitoring process which will make it difficult for the Council to manage its spending within available resources. The adopted risk-based approach to monitoring together with regular reporting should help manage this risk.

Asset Management: Not appropriate.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD 221 - The Finance and Information Services Director has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		✓	
5	Environmental Sustainability		✓	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People		✓	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

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1. Background/Issues for consideration

- 1.1 In accordance with Cabinet's overall approved process for monitoring the Council's budgets, each portfolio receives a quarterly report identifying risk-assessed controllable revenue and capital budget areas.
- 1.2 This report forms part of the Council's overall monitoring process by advising the Cabinet Member of the progress against this Portfolio's revenue budget risk areas and progress of actual expenditure against the capital programme for the period ending 30 September 2009. Where budget pressures have been identified, Service Directors have reviewed their departmental budgets for compensating savings. Departments have also been asked to consider whether or not all other budgets can be contained within the resources allocated by the Council for 2009/10.
- 1.3 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) meeting on 13 October 2009, a request was made to amend the format of the budget monitoring report. This proposal is being put forward to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for consideration and any amendments resulting from this will be reflected in future budget monitoring reports.

2. Revenue Budget

- 2.1 Details of this portfolio's budgets that are monitored and reported on the risk-assessed basis are shown in Annex A.
- 2.2 All other areas of the budget that are controlled by the Environmental Protection Director will be contained within the resources allocated by the Council for 2009/10.

3. Capital Programme

- 3.1 Attached at Annex B is the current Environmental capital programme. This programme takes account of slippage from 2008/09 and any revised requirements for individual schemes. Actual expenditure of £0.205m (col.4) has been achieved in the first six months of the year to September. This is approx. 14% of the total forecast expenditure for the year of £1.448m (cols. 4 and 5). Forecast expenditure for the remainder of the year is £1.243m (col.5).

Major schemes included within the programme include:-

1. CERMS 2007/08 – 2010/11 £0.899m
2. Public Conveniences Modernisation £0.900M
3. Waste Infrastructure Projects £1.160M

- 3.2 Completion of the Public Conveniences Modernisation programme is currently delayed as the Department is awaiting legal advice on land ownership issues.

- 3.3 Waste Infrastructure Projects, a feasibility study for relocating the Southport Depot has been completed, identifying that this is not a viable option within the resource available. Alternative options are currently being considered.

4. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member Environmental is asked to:-

- a) Note the progress on the Environmental Portfolio's revenue budgets that are subject to risk-based monitoring
- b) Note the progress made on the schemes within the portfolio's element(s) of the Council's Capital Programme.
- c) Indicate whether any comments about the overall performance of this Portfolio's Revenue Budget and schemes within the Capital Programme should be referred to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental).

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental)

- a) Notes the contents of this report and indicates whether any comments about the overall performance of this Portfolio's revenue budget should be referred to Cabinet.

Ref	Service	Budget	Full Year Budget £000	Budget to Date £000	Actual to Date £000	Variance to Date £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
D	Environmental							
1		Payroll Costs	12,533.0	6,044.5	5,859.0	-185.5	12,533.0	0.0
2		Commercial Waste External Income	-430.8	-215.4	-225.4	-10.0	-430.8	0.0
3		Dry Recyclable Collection Costs	2,453.0	1,226.5	1,110.9	-115.6	2,453.0	0.0
4		MWDA Recycling Credits	-1,896.6	-948.3	-1,183.9	-235.6	-1,896.6	0.0
5		Sales of Materials	-405.0	-202.5	-241.8	-39.3	-405.0	0.0

Proportion of budget reported upon	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000
all key areas of budget	14,986.0	-2,732.4
total budget	32,498.7	-14,570.2
Percentage of total budget reported	46.11%	18.75%

Comments on key areas of budget (including remedial action)

The employee budgets include an over provision following the agreement of the 2009/10 JNC pay award. The budgets have not been altered pending the officer led review of existing overspends and opportunities to address the overall overspend.

The 'Dry Recyclable Collection Costs' budget of £2,293,000 has been increased by £160,000 to £2,453,000 in order to fund anticipated 'incentive payments' that will have to be paid to the contractor if the tonnage collected exceeds the contract maximum of 15,000 tonnes. It is currently forecast that the tonnage collected will be approximately 19,000 tonnes. The actual payment due can only be calculated and paid at the year end, therefore actual to period costs will be less than the budget to period figure.

The income target for Recycling Credit has been increased, following a budget re-alignment process, to address anticipated expenditure across all recycling activity during 2009/10 including the above, the actual to period figure is affected by seasonal trends (garden waste).

The income achieved from Sales of materials is capped at 15,000 tonnes, income from sales beyond this threshold is retained by the Contractor.

Corporate savings of £64,700 and an unallocated front page saving of £90,000 contribute further pressure to the budget and as yet have not been identified within the detailed Departmental budget. These savings will need to be considered within the light of the overall budgetary pressures on the Department. Every effort will be made to mitigate the effect of the above pressures but this may mean that this can only be achieved with significant reductions in service provision.

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ANNEX B

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 - 2011/12

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
REF. NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	EXPEND TO 31.03.2009	EXPEND TO 30.09.09	IN 2009/10 FORECAST BALANCE	FUTURE EXPEND	TOTAL COST
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Sefton Coastline Sea Defence Work</u>						
1	Crosby Park to Formby Point Strategic Study	218.78	5.80	20.93	0.00	245.51
2	Coastal Monitoring	199.93	0.00	9.36	0.00	209.29
3	CERMS - 2007/08 - 2010/11	226.40	127.22	225.25	320.51	899.38
4	Adaptation to Climate Change on the Sefton Coast	0.00	0.00	100.00	105.00	205.00
5	Hightown Management Project -Design/tender Prep.	0.00	0.52	69.48	0.00	70.00
Total Sefton Coastline Sea Defence Work		645.11	133.54	425.02	425.51	1629.18
<u>Environmental</u>						
6	Public Convenience Modernisation	791.43	35.30	73.27	0.00	900.00
7	Air Pollution monitoring Equipment	16.48	3.67	26.15	0.00	46.30
8	Gypsy and Traveller Sites	176.94	4.36	38.60	0.00	219.90
9	Waste Infrastructure	0.00	28.04	577.14	555.00	1160.18
10	Inspection - Former Town Lane Landfill , S'port	0.00	0.00	103.40	0.00	103.40
Total Environmental		984.85	71.37	818.56	555.00	2429.78
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES		1629.96	204.91	1243.58	980.51	4058.96

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Agenda Item 7

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member - Environmental
DATE: 18 November 2009
SUBJECT: **FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PROMOTION**
WARDS AFFECTED: All
REPORT OF: Peter Moore
Environmental Protection Manager
CONTACT OFFICER: David Packard
0151 934 4016
**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform the Cabinet Member - Environmental of a successful external funding application to encourage uptake of the food waste collection service.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To seek approval to accept a £300,000 Grant from the Waste Resources Action Programme to encourage increased uptake of the weekly food waste collection service.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Member - Environmental agrees to accept the grant of £300,000 from the Waste Resources Action Programme and approves the procurement of food waste containers via established framework agreements.

KEY DECISION: No
FORWARD PLAN: Not appropriate
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Not appropriate

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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

To fund recycling promotion activities directly.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: Externally funded project.

Financial:

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources	300,000			
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When? March 2010			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	End of promotion project			

Legal: None

Risk Assessment: Sefton would be obliged to spend and reclaim the funding by March 2010.

Asset Management: Not relevant

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FINANCE FD 218 - The Finance and Information Services Director has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities		√	
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People		√	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Key findings of recent WRAP research on the nature, scale and causes of household food waste can be found at: http://www.wrap.org.uk/retail/food_waste/index.html

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Background.

1. Waste food makes up around 20% by weight of household waste in Merseyside. Local Authorities are being increasingly encouraged by the Government to collect food waste separately for controlled composting, to avoid the environmental / climate change harm of landfill disposal and to meet international targets relating to biodegradable waste disposal under the Landfill Directive. It has been suggested recently by Ministers that food waste may become a material that Councils will be legally obliged to separately collect in the medium term.
2. The Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is currently encouraging Local Authorities to expand existing, or set up new, separate food waste collection services and has made £2.5 million available in National Grants to assist this.
3. Sefton Council currently has an established “opt in” food waste collection service that is open to all residents. Residents need only ring Sefton Plus on 0845 140 0845 to receive the containers and instructions to participate. Currently some 30,000 households have opted into the service. The service collected 2,400 tonnes of food waste in 2008/09.
4. WRAP has previously stated that Sefton’s food waste collection service would deliver a far higher yield should every household be issued with the containers to participate. Research nationally has shown that far fewer households would “opt out” of participating, given the means to participate, compared to the number that take the trouble to actively “opt in” to the service. The cost associated with an opt out service, supplying and distributing food waste containers to every household, has so far prevented Sefton from following the advised route.
5. Given the opportunity of external funding, the Environmental Protection Department has made a bid to the WRAP food waste collection fund and has been provisionally allocated a £300,000 grant to encourage increased take up of its established weekly food waste collection service.
6. As the grant must be spent by the end of March 2010, existing framework agreements will be used for the procurement of food waste containers and ancillary materials.
7. It is intended that the grant be used to purchase and distribute 30,000 sets of food waste containers and instructions to households that have yet to request the containers to participate. This should encourage ongoing use of the service by a greater number of Sefton households.
8. WRAP will require data on the impact of the grant on food waste collection yield. This would be best managed by targeting the issue of containers to areas covered by discreet recycling collection rounds in order to monitor change in yield.
9. The recycling contractor is happy to support the service promotion and will gear up for the expected increased food waste yield. The additional service collection cost will be contained within the existing recycling services budget.
10. The cost of food waste processing is already accommodated in the Merseyside Waste Disposal Levy.

Agenda Item 8

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member Environmental

DATE: 18th November 2009

SUBJECT: **LOW EMISSIONS STRATEGIES**

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Peter Moore
Environmental Protection Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Gary Mahoney
Principal EMAP Officer ext 4300

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

The purpose of the report is to advise the Cabinet Member - Environmental of a Low Emissions Strategy (LES) for Sefton and a Low Emissions Strategies Partnership, of which Sefton is a founder member.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

An effective Low Emissions Strategy (LES) could contribute significantly towards the achievement of Sefton's Statutory Objectives for Air Quality, as such it is important to keep the Cabinet Member, Environmental, informed on progress.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Member - Environmental notes the report and the progress being made.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately following the expiry date of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

The only alternative option would be not to progress the work on LES. LES represents an innovative way of securing air quality improvements and reducing emissions of greenhouse gasses. The initiative will contribute to the achievement of Sefton's statutory objectives and national indicator targets and consequently the option not to progress work on LES was rejected.

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IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None.

Financial: None

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:

Risk Assessment: N/A

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Agenda Item 8

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	✓		
5	Environmental Sustainability	✓		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People		✓	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Low Emissions Strategies – Good Practice Guidance

Agenda Item 8

Background

1. Low Emissions Strategies (LES) provide a holistic approach to ensuring that new developments are designed with the minimum environmental impact. The term LES is used to mean a package of measures for mitigating air pollution and carbon dioxide emissions associated with the road transport impacts of new (or significantly altered) developments.
2. The primary aim of the LES is to accelerate the uptake of low emission fuels and technologies in and around a new development, thereby complementing other design and mitigation options, such as travel planning and the provision of public transport infrastructure. LES can also help with meeting carbon reduction targets.
3. During 2007/8 Sefton was awarded Beacon Status for their air quality monitoring programmes. One of the outcomes that the Beacon Councils produced during their Beacon year was the production of good practice guidance on LES. This is available at www.lowemissionstrategies.org. The guidance contains case studies and examples of actions that can be included in a LES. The guidance is soon to be included in DEFRA's Local Air Quality Management Guidance.
4. At the end of the Beacon Year, additional funding was secured from DEFRA and DCLG to continue the project and a LES Partnership (LESP) was established which included Sefton as one of the original members. The aim of the LESP is to support the adoption and implementation of LES by Local Authorities. An advisory group, encompassing both LES champions and 'critical friends' from Central Government, Local Government, consultancies, industry, academia and the NGO sector was also established to monitor the development of the project.
5. Fundamental to the partnership is a practical programme of work centred on a nationally funded performance improvement scheme. This work is overseen by a peer group of fifteen Local Authorities working together to support the local implementation of LES and to demonstrate good practice. A toolkit giving information on the types of alternative technologies that are available and providing a calculator to determine the emissions savings that can be achieved by various LES measures has also been commissioned.
6. As well as being an LESP board member, Sefton is part of the above Peer Group and is currently working to develop an LES for Sefton.

The Current Situation

7. As part of the Peer Group, Sefton receives around £10,000 worth of consultancy support, from the Centre of Excellence for Low Carbon Technology (CENEX), towards developing an LES. The support has been increased by obtaining some free support from the consultants Arup and two Students. One of the students is examining the economic implications of LES and the other the health implications. Arup are providing advice on developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) about LES.

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8. A Sefton working group has been established that includes officers from Environmental Protection, a Development Control Officer, Planning and Transportation Departments, the Strategic Transport Planning Unit and Environmental Regeneration.
9. The working group has met a number of times, initially to determine what would be appropriate to include in an LES for Sefton and subsequently refining this. The intention is to produce a Planning Guidance Note. This note will be submitted to Planning Committee and Cabinet Member, Environmental for formal approval as guidance for developers. The planning guidance note can be converted to an SPD once Planning's core strategy work has been completed. It is intended that the Sefton LES will encompass a range of other measures to reduce emissions from construction activities and taxis, for example.

Future Proposals

10. The LESP has secured further funding from DCLG to continue the development of LES within Local Authorities. It is intended that this money will be used to develop regional centres of excellence for the development of LES. Three regional centres will be established and £20,000 provided to support the development of LES in the region. Sefton is in a good position to bid to become a regional centre and consideration is currently being given to the content of a possible bid. Interest in developing LES across the Liverpool City Region has already been shown from the other Local Authorities situated in the area, plus Merseytravel and the LTP Support Unit.

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Agenda Item 9

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member – Environmental
Licensing and Regulatory Committee

DATE: 18 November 2009
23 November 2009

SUBJECT: **THE ROAD TRAFFIC (VEHICLE EMISSIONS)(FIXED PENALTY) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2002**

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Peter Moore
Environmental Protection Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Gary Mahoney 4300

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To seek approval of the Cabinet Member - Environment and Licensing & Regulatory Committee for the adoption of Section 6 of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions)(Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 to be better able to respond to concerns about air pollution, fumes and odours caused by stationary vehicles left with their engines idling.

Delegation of the powers to the Environmental Protection Director is requested.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The Council's current constitution requires both the Cabinet Member – Environmental and the Licensing and Regulatory Committee to approve the adoption of this legislation and delegation of the relevant powers in order for officers to utilise them.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Member - Environmental and Licensing and Regulatory Committee approve the adoption of Part 6 of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions)(Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 and the delegation of those powers, including the appointment of authorised persons, to the Environmental Protection Director.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately following the expiry date of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

The only alternative option is not to adopt Part 6. The result of this would be to leave the Authority in a position without legislative powers to deal with idling engines and any complaints that may arise.

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IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None.

Financial: There may be a small amount of income generated from fines but this will not be a significant figure.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: Due to the Council's current constitution, delegation is required from both the Cabinet Member – Environmental and the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

Risk Assessment: N/A

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

None.

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CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	✓		
5	Environmental Sustainability	✓		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People		✓	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions)(Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations

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Background

1. The Environmental Protection Department occasionally receives complaints about stationary vehicles being left with their engines running. In the past, complaints have been received about stationary vehicles whilst waiting at level crossing barriers, delivery vehicles, refrigerated vehicles and buses.
2. The running of engines whilst a vehicle is not moving is an inefficient use of fuel and results in the release of gases that have a negative effect on both climate change and public health. The general advice from motoring associations for fuel efficiency reasons is to turn off an engine if the vehicle is likely to be stationary for more than a couple of minutes.
3. Complaints about buses arise when engines are left idling for long periods, up to 30 minutes, while waiting at the terminus of their route or, in the case of school buses, whilst parked waiting for children to finish school. This issue was also raised as a matter of concern by members of the public during the recent consultation process associated with the declaration of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)
4. These incidents have been dealt with by a variety of means and, in the case of buses, include:
 - Writing to bus operators asking them to speak to drivers.
 - Working with Merseytravel to put 'switch off engine' signs at bus stops where routes terminate.
 - Working with Merseytravel and schools to insert clauses into contracts with operators supplying schools services to specify the maximum time before the end of the school day that buses can arrive and requiring engines to be switched off whilst waiting for children.
 - Undertaking joint site visits with a Community Constable where idling has been a problem.
5. The methods used have met with varying success, being more successful where the incident has been connected with school travel. However, the lack of an enforceable legal sanction has meant that, if persuasive methods fail, there is little else that can be done.

The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions)(Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002

6. These Regulations were introduced to support Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) and the achievement of the National Air Quality Strategy (NAQS) Objectives. The Regulations give Local Authorities the ability to undertake roadside emissions testing in AQMAs. Part 6, if adopted, is concerned with the stopping of engines when vehicles are stationary and applies anywhere in the Local Authority's area.
7. Part 6 of the Regulations introduces a 'Stationary Idling Offence' which means a contravention of, or failure to comply with, Regulation 98 Vehicle Construction and Use Regulations 1986 relating to the stopping of engines when stationary (other

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than owing to the necessities of traffic etc.) to prevent exhaust emissions. It is unlikely that these regulations will apply other than in cases where engines are left unnecessarily idling for long periods.

8. Local Authorities are given power to authorise 'any officer of the authority, or any other person, in any area of that Authority' to enforce the Regulations. Authorised officers may require the driver of any vehicle committing a Statutory Idling Offence to stop the running of the engine. Failure to comply with this request is an offence. Authorised officers can also be given powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices where a Stationary Idling Offence has been committed. The fixed penalty for a Stationary Idling Offence, or failing to comply with an officer's request, is £20 rising to £40 if the fine is not paid in the set time period.
9. An authorised person who believes a statutory idling offence has been committed can require the driver to disclose:
 - their name and address,
 - date of birth and, if the driver is not the person to whom the vehicle is registered,
 - the name of the registered keeper.Failure to provide this information may also be an offence.
10. As is the standard practice and culture of environmental enforcement, in line with the council's enforcement policy, the emphasis will be on encouragement and education to achieve the desired compliant behaviour ahead of the use punitive action. A fine would tend to be a last resort for repeat or persistent offenders who fail to respond to a request turn off engines and cause unnecessary pollution.

Adoption in Sefton

11. Adoption of Part 6 of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions)(Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 would give Environmental Protection Department officers the necessary legislative backing to pursue incidences of stationary vehicles leaving their engines running where persuasive methods have failed. Reference to a legal requirement will assist enforcement and increase the chance of persuasive methods succeeding.
12. It is proposed that powers to authorise officers be delegated to the Environmental Protection Director to enable him to authorise appropriate officers. The powers would therefore be used to strengthen the approach of Environmental Protection Department Officers when dealing with complaints about operators and drivers.

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REPORT TO: Cabinet Member - Environmental

DATE: 18th November 2009

SUBJECT: **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INITIATIVE - WORKLESSNESS**

WARDS AFFECTED: Linacre, Derby, St Oswalds, Netherton & Orrell, Ford and Litherland

REPORT OF: Peter Moore
Environmental Protection Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Gary Berwick – Cleansing Services Manager
0151 288 6134

**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To update the Cabinet Member - Environmental on the use of Working Neighbourhood Fund resources to help unemployed residents of South Sefton to return to a working environment.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

A project update is required at the half and full year terms.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Member - Environmental notes the content of this report.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: None

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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:
None.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: Nil

Financial: External funding via Area Based Grant (ABG).

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure		
Funded by:		
Sefton Capital Resources		
Specific Capital Resources		
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>		
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure		
Funded by:	WNF	WNF
Sefton funded Resources		
Funded from External Resources	ABG	ABG

Legal: N/A

Risk Assessment: NA/

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Extensive consultation has taken place with partners including Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) and Sefton @ Work.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People		√	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

None.

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Background:

1. In June 2008 the Environmental Protection Department was successful in securing funding from the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) and Housing Market Renewal 'Living Through Change' to undertake an Environmental Services initiative that had an emphasis on encouraging local people into training and employment within the service. The initiative supports economic development by enhancing specific areas within South Sefton and aims to deliver safer and cleaner neighbourhoods. The initiative enhances the work provided by core funded cleansing functions within South Sefton and helps to improve cleanliness, as assessed and reported in accordance with National Indicator 195.
2. The following underlying principles provide the focus for the framework of the environmental services initiative; to address worklessness via the provision of work experience and training for local people to enhance their prospects of sustained future employment, providing enhanced services appropriate to the needs of the local neighbourhood, improving cleanliness to encourage longer-term behavioural change, addressing gaps in core funded service provision and to work in partnership via structured links with the Lead RSL partners in the various neighbourhoods of South Sefton.
3. The Environmental Services initiative specifically contributes to the following key National Indicators;
 - NI 153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods
 - NI 163 Working age population qualified to at least NVQ level 2 or equivalent
 - NI 195 Improved street and environmental cleanliness
 And also contributes to;
 - NI 4 The percentage of people who think they can influence decisions in their locality
4. To measure progress against the above indicators a number of targets were established, as detailed in the table below;

	Targets to be Delivered	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
a	Trainees completing an 11 month placement and achieving an NVQ Level 2 qualification	0	10	8
b	People completing a 10 week 'taster' programme through Routeway and achieving an accreditation	12	32	32
c	People going on to further training, education or employment	6	34	32
d	Environmental educational interventions targeted towards children and young people	10	20	20
e	Community clean up days held and number of local residents involved	20	25	30
f	DLEQ surveys in the following areas; Linacre/Derby, Ford/Litherland, St Oswald Netherton and Orrell	1	2	2

5. The Cabinet Member, Environmental will recall that a number of milestones were also established to measure the general progress of the initiative, which included the production of project performance reports of this nature.

Neighbourhood Cleansing Teams - Trainees

6. One of the targets outlined above is to recruit local residents, who have been unemployed for between 6 months and 2 years, as trainees to work alongside experienced staff as a member of the team. This provides trainees with practical work experience and complements the training that is also provided as part of the 'trainee package'.
7. Trainees are employed on a fixed '11 month' term contract during which they work to obtain a National Vocational Qualification Level 2+ in Waste and Environmental aspects.
8. Trainees take part in the following activities; manual and mechanical street cleansing, graffiti removal and the clearance of fly tipping, especially in industrial areas of South Sefton.
9. The Neighbourhood Cleansing teams, of which there are six, and the Rat Action Team, comprise two full time staff and one trainee. Initially six trainee staff were employed, via the 'Routeway' programme, one per team, as agreed between the Cleansing section and 'Sefton at Work'. This approach enables a trainee to enjoy an equivalent rate of pay to existing staff, learning from them whilst carrying out the task and to also receive agreed 'off the job' training.
10. The trainees are actively encouraged to apply for posts within the Council during their fixed term period of employment. Job vacancies that arise internally within the Cleansing section are advertised by an attachment to payslips, which are given to staff on a weekly basis.
11. The department recognised the depth of the recession in early 2009, and via agreement with the funding body was able to engage a further 4 trainees; 1 office based trainee and 3 operational based trainees, taking the total to 10 trainees. Significantly above the agreed target of 6 trainees stated in the original grant offer in 2008.
12. To the end of September 2009, 16 trainees have been recruited to this program. Of these sixteen, six have already obtained a NVQ level 2 plus certificate, eight have gone onto other employment; either a longer fixed term post as a driver within the Neighbourhood Cleansing initiative or a permanent post within the Cleansing section. This is a glowing testament to the trainees themselves and to the input from Sefton at Work, who administer internal training, and from Asset Training the organisation contracted to provide off the job training and workplace NVQ 2+ assessments, for all trainees.
13. The prime object is to equip all trainees with the necessary skills, qualifications and work ethic to enable them to compete fairly in the local job market in the future. Especially if they have not secured employment by the time that their fixed-term employment as a 'trainee' comes to an end.

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14. The success of the operational 'trainee' training package has interested the Enforcement and Community Engagement teams based at Magdalen House, the team is currently assessing whether they can add trainees to their portfolio.

Neighbourhood Cleansing Teams – Taster Sessions

15. This aspect of the initiative also targets worklessness within South Sefton. The 'taster session package' comprises of eighty hours being spent with Neighbourhood Cleansing Teams, whilst they are actually out at work, in order to get a feel for this type of work activity. Once again this targets local residents who have been unemployed over 2 years. It requires an individual to commit to spending one day per week (8 hours) over 10 weeks to determine if this is an area of work that they are interested in.
16. The taster sessions offer unemployed residents the chance to sample work, one day per week, whilst not losing any entitlement to state benefits. The system allows the person to return to the work environment, shadowing the work of staff deployed on environmental improvement work within the South Sefton area.
17. The 'taster' sessions are held on Wednesdays, whilst trainees are on NVQ 2+ training activities, as this is the most practical opportunity and can be accommodated logistically. To date 16 local residents have been involved in the 'Taster Session' program. Six of these have gone onto further employment (have obtained a place as a 'trainee').
18. When taster sessions were initially introduced, mid 2008, Sefton@Work encountered difficulty in getting locally unemployed residents involved (to partake) in these sessions. However, by early 2009 due to the recession, more applicants have come forward, although still not to the level envisaged when the idea for this initiative was formed. On a positive note, a number of local residents, that have taken part in the 'taster' program, have secured fixed-term employment with the Council (within the Cleansing section of the Environmental Protection Department).

Environmental Services Initiative - Cleanliness and Behavioural Change

19. Whilst the above (sections 2 & 3) deal with the impact upon worklessness of the environmental services initiative it is clear that it also has an impact in relation to cleanliness.
20. The environmental services initiative provides additional resources, which not only allow training and employment opportunities, but also enable local neighbourhoods within the South Sefton area to benefit as a result of enhanced environmental activity. These additional teams/resources are used to improve the environmental aspects of South Sefton, therefore helping to make it a more attractive place to live, work, visit and/or invest in.
21. The activity of these teams significantly contributes to overall cleanliness within the South Sefton area. The initiative therefore helps the Council to achieve environmental improvements and the targets linked to the cleanliness indicator (NI 195).

22. In addition to funding Neighbourhood Cleansing Teams this initiative has also enabled the enhanced Good Neighbour skip service to continue to be provided. This is an extremely popular service, which again contributes to cleanliness. It provides other opportunities for local residents to dispose of domestic waste appropriately and helps to prevent anti-social behaviour (fly-tipping) within local neighbourhoods.
23. The Community Engagement Team provide a range of activities for engaging with communities and stakeholders to maintain and improve service providers' understanding of the community's needs, perceptions and expectations; They seek to improve understanding within the community of the services available and how to access them; to increase community input into decision making and shaping service provision; and to educate and encourage positive behavioural change. This service provides the direct link with Lead RSLs within each HMRI Neighbourhood and other partners. The work of this team contributes to NI 4 the percentage of people who think they can influence decisions in their locality.
24. Environmental Enforcement has also been enhanced via this initiative. Interventions take place across a range of environmental issues (e.g. waste, flytipping, litter, dog fouling etc.) to educate and enforce changes to individual behaviour within the residential and business communities to improve environmental conditions.
25. An integrated Pest management approach has been established which enables holistic intervention to pro-actively target hot spots of rat activity. The initiative funds a Rat Action Team which concentrates on removing harbourage, food sources, undertaking infrastructure improvements whilst also carrying out effective baiting of hot spot areas.
26. Additional mechanical sweeping resources are also available, via this initiative. The resources are used to enhance the frequency of mechanical sweeping for main roads/routes within the South Sefton area. Some of these resources are also used to complement the manual street cleansing activity that takes place within South Sefton, often targeting areas of most need.
27. The work carried out via this initiative is also helping to arrest decline in local neighbourhoods as a result of visual environmental improvements.
28. The initiative has also provided an opportunity for a number of agencies to working together for the benefit of local neighbourhoods and residents. The following organisations are associated with this initiative and contribute to the improvements that are being achieved, our thanks are offered to; Sefton at Work, Asset Training Ltd and Registered Social Landlords (One Vision Housing, Riverside, Plus Dane, Evolve and Breathe Plus Linacre One along with the Personnel Department (Central Learning & Development Unit and the Regeneration Directorate - Business Support Unit and of course all of the staff within the department that are directly or indirectly involved.

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