

**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

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

To fund recycling promotion activities directly.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** Externally funded project.

**Financial:**

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
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:**

<b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b>		<b><u>Positive Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Negative Impact</u></b>
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](http://www.wrap.org.uk/retail/food_waste/index.html)

## 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.