

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member - Environmental
DATE: 16 December 2009
SUBJECT: **WASTE COLLECTION COMMITMENT**
WARDS AFFECTED: All
REPORT OF: Peter Moore
Environmental Protection Manager
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**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

For the Cabinet Member - Environmental to make a formal commitment for the Council to ensure the quality of waste collection services.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The Local Government Association and WRAP are encouraging Councils to make a public commitment to ensure the quality of waste collection services delivered to their residents. The commitment will act to guide the operation and further development of waste collection services in Sefton.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Member - Environmental makes a commitment, on behalf of the Council, to the residents of Sefton that:

“Sefton Council is committed to providing waste and recycling services which are good value for money and which meet the needs of residents. This means that the Council will:

- Explain clearly what service you can expect to receive
- Provide regular collection
- Provide a reliable collection service
- Consider any special requests that any individual households have
- Design our services and carry out collection in a way that does not produce litter
- Collect as many materials as we can for recycling and explain to you what happens to them
- Explain clearly what our service rules are and the reason for them
- Tell you in good time if we make changes to your services even temporarily
- Respond to complaints we receive about our service
- Tell our residents about our commitment to collecting waste”

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: Not appropriate

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Not appropriate

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Not to make the commitment.

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				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: None**Risk Assessment:** None**Asset Management:** Not relevant**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

None

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

Waste Collection Commitment – WRAP www.wrap.org.uk

Background.

1. Over the past few years there have been significant changes nationally to waste collection services to encourage increased recycling. National recycling rates have risen significantly as a result.
2. The Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), who advise the government as to best practice with regard to waste collection, have developed a generic waste collection commitment and is inviting all waste collection authorities to adopt the first set of principles to guide the operation and development of their waste collection services. The 'Waste Collection Commitment' can be seen at www.wrap.org.uk. As a recipient of WRAP funding, Sefton Council is being particularly encouraged to adopt the commitment.
3. The Local Government Association is also encouraging all waste collection authorities to formally make the public commitment to guide the quality of waste collection services and in particular to work to the ten key principles below.
4. The formal commitment is a public statement for pursuing generic good practice principles many of the specific elements of which Sefton Council already has in place in delivering and developing its waste collection services.
5. The adoption of the commitment by Sefton Council would give management, operational staff and residents a formal statement as to the guiding principles that both the direct and contracted waste collection services should abide by and be considered as services further develop.
6. The Cabinet Member – Environmental is requested to make the following commitment to the residents of Sefton on behalf of Sefton Council:

“Sefton Council is committed to providing waste and recycling services which are good value for money and which meet the needs of residents.

This means that we will:

- Explain clearly what service you can expect to receive
- Provide regular collection
- Provide a reliable collection service
- Consider any special requests that any individual households have
- Design our services and carry out collection in a way that does not produce litter
- Collect as many materials as we can for recycling and explain to you what happens to them
- Explain clearly what our service rules are and the reason for them
- Tell you in good time if we make changes to your services even temporarily
- Respond to complaints we receive about our service
- Tell our residents about our commitment to collecting waste”

Current supporting activities

7. Sefton Council currently provides best value waste collection services and is constantly exploring how the service can be economically improved. It is currently exploring how other materials such as cardboard and plastic bottles could be added to household recycling collection services.
8. The Council's service standards and waste collection policies are available on the Council's website. www.sefton.gov.uk.
9. The Council provides a twice-yearly recycling update newsletter to all homes that explains how to use recycling services and it provides a collection calendar to households on the wheelie bin service that details the grey week/green week pattern of collections. The specific collection calendar that applies to an individual address can also be viewed via a search on the councils website by entering the address via the following link www.sefton.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=4247 and then clicking on 'view calendar'.
10. Details of any temporary or permanent change to collection schedules or services are usually communicated directly to residents via an information letter, leaflet or sticker.
11. The service is fully supported by Sefton Plus whose staff are fully briefed with respect to the normal service and any unusual service changes.
12. Many other Councils have already formally adopted the waste collection commitment.