

**CABINET MEMBER – ENVIRONMENTAL
PORTFOLIO ISSUES – 17 DECEMBER 2009**

<p align="center">ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INITIATIVE - WORKLESSNESS</p>	<p>The Environmental Services Initiative is delivered by the Environmental Protection Department with funding from Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) and Housing Market Renewal Initiative. The intervention seeks to: address worklessness by providing work experience and training for local people (enhancing prospects of sustained future employment); providing enhanced neighbourhood cleansing services (including addressing gaps in core-funded service provision); encouraging longer-term behavioural change; and working with RSL partners.</p> <p>An integral part of the initiative is the recruitment of Trainees from Sefton neighbourhoods with the highest levels of worklessness. The Trainees are employed on fixed-term 11-month contracts working alongside experienced staff within neighbourhood cleansing teams (gaining practical work experience) during which time they also receive a structured training programme, including working towards a National Vocational Qualification Level 2+. In the first 18 months of the intervention 16 trainees have been recruited, of these 6 have already obtained a NVQ level 2+ certificate and 8 have gone onto other employment.</p>
<p align="center">WASTE COLLECTION COMMITMENT</p>	<p>The LGA and Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP advisors to the government on waste collection best practice) are encouraging Council's to make a public commitment to the delivery of quality waste collection services to residents. EPD has developed a statement of commitment which to guide the operation and further service development in Sefton that states: "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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"
<p align="center">FOOD WASTE COLLECTION</p>	<p>LAs are being increasingly encouraged by 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. Waste food makes up around 20% by weight of household waste in Merseyside. Approximately 30,000 households have opted-in to Sefton's weekly food waste collection service resulting in some 2,400 tonnes of food waste being collected in 2008/09. The Environmental Protection Department has now been awarded a £300,000 grant by WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) to encourage increased take-up of the service. The grant will procure 30,000 sets of food waste containers and ancillary materials to be provided to households who have not yet "opted-in" to collection service. The initiative should encourage ongoing use of the service by a greater number of Sefton households, diverting more waste from Landfill. Procurement and delivery is fully funded by the grant and the cost of food waste processing is already accommodated in the Merseyside Waste Disposal Levy.</p>