

**CABINET MEMBER – ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**PORTFOLIO ISSUES – 4 February 2010**

<p align="center"><b>REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION CHRISTMAS CATCH-UP</b></p>	<p>Over the Christmas period, as in most years, scheduled refuse and recycling collections were re-organised to allow for the loss of normal collection days due to Bank and Public Holidays. This re-organisation included the temporary suspension of Green Waste Collection in favour of providing weekly residual waste collections and temporarily changing the day of collections. Further disruption was experienced as a result of unusually severe weather, rendering road and pavement surfaces extremely hazardous, in the week prior to Christmas and in the first two weeks of 2010. The Refuse Collection and Recycling services continued to collect whenever and wherever it was safe to do so, with resources being applied as flexibly as possible to ensure that as much waste as possible was collected from residents. Further problems were encountered when weather conditions led to the closure of the Waste Transfer and Disposal sites preventing collection vehicles from being emptied. Officers worked with colleagues across Merseyside to manage the situation as well as possible and to ensure that further operational problems, clearing backlogs once the weather improved, were minimised. The Website, Contact Centre and corporate Severe Weather Group were updated on a daily and sometimes more frequent basis to ensure the public had the best information available. Two additional days were worked within Sefton (Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January) which together with the “when/where safe” activity over the Christmas/New Year period ensuring that Green Waste collections and the Alternate Weekly cycle could recommence on time and as planned on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January. The efforts of staff within these services merits congratulations for the manner in which the services operated in extremely testing circumstances.</p>
<p align="center"><b>OPERATION COLLAR</b></p>	<p>The outcomes of the first “pilot” phase of Operation Collar were reported to the Cabinet Member Environmental in January 2010. This exercise targeted key “hotspot” locations of dog fouling in the Southport area. Further phases have and will continue to be undertaken in other areas of the Borough. Locations are identified through a consideration of: Community Safety Area Partnership priorities; mapping of public perception and Service Request “hotspot” data; Dog Warden knowledge of fouling sites; and availability of Merseyside Police resources (determined by their operational commitments). The intervention involves one-to-one engagement with local dog walkers within targeted areas to identify whether they are: carrying “fouling bags”; aware of the Bag It, Tie It, Bin It campaign; and aware of the consequences if they allow their dog to foul and do not remove the fouling forthwith. Fixed Penalty Notices are also issued against any offenders observed who fail to remove the fouling forthwith. The intervention has proved extremely popular with the public and has been praised within local press Editorials as an excellent example of the Council listening to local people and as “<i>a tremendous response by Sefton Council...full marks to Sefton and our PCSOs</i>”. The initial phase targeted 23 locations and involved engagement with almost 1,000 dog walkers, 87% of whom were found to be carrying “fouling bags” with the intention of cleaning up after their dog – a positive finding of good dog ownership and responsible behaviour that will assist in challenging the irresponsible minority.</p>
<p align="center"><b>PUBLISHING SENTENCING OUTCOMES</b></p>	<p>Following the publication of national guidance on the publishing of sentencing outcomes, the Environmental Protection Department, in conjunction with Legal Services and Corporate Communications intend to publish sentencing outcomes from cases brought to court by the council, in-line with that guidance. To date Sefton Council has not publicised the results of prosecutions and has relied on the local press attending court to pick up the story, with mixed results. The guidance indicates that the publication of sentencing outcomes reassures the public, increases confidence in the Criminal Justice system, encourages witnesses to report offences and serves as a deterrent to potential offenders. The approach has been approved by the Cabinet Member Environmental and will be considered by Licensing &amp; Regulatory Committee at its February meeting.</p>

**Councillor D Tattersall**  
**Cabinet Member Environmental**