

WASTE POLICY UPDATE 18.01.18

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)	
<p>LCR Mayor Policy Announcements Mayor Rotheram announced new LCR policy pledges on 14.11.17 around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy from a Mersey tidal barrage • Making LCR the most digitally connected region in the UK • A skills revolution including degree level apprenticeships • Building 25,000 new homes by 2022 on brownfield sites and tackling homelessness • Creating a fully integrated, smart public transport system • Future devolution ambitions and integration of additional powers into the Combined Authority. <p>Link to policy pledges announcement</p>	<p>Modernisation of LCR infrastructure and skills base.</p>
<p>Mayoral Capacity Fund Budget 2017 announced a £12 million Mayoral Capacity Fund over the next 2 years to support City Region Mayors (including Liverpool City Region) boost their capacity and resources to deliver for their local area. Government to discuss scope for further devolution with Liverpool City Region.</p>	<p>Improved capacity to deliver LCR priorities.</p>
<p>Other LCR activity</p> <p>It is proposed that LCR will host a BEIS funded ‘Energy Hub for the North West’ from April 2018 to attract investment in energy projects across the region. Link to LCR Combined Authority report (see item 5)</p> <p>The LCR Combined Authority last met on 08.12.17 and the next meeting follows on 19.01.18. Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</p> <p>The LEP Board last met on 30.11.17. Link to LEP Board meeting papers</p>	<p>Demonstrates LCR leadership on energy issues.</p>

NATIONAL	
<p>25 Year Environment Plan The Plan published on 11.01.18 aims to improve the environment within a generation and deliver a 'Green Brexit'. The Plan signals long term commitments on a wide range of issues including resource efficiency. Waste measures focused on plastics including a new pledge to eliminate avoidable plastic waste by 2042. More detail on new waste initiatives is expected in the Resources and Waste Strategy due later in 2018. A summary of the 25 Year Environment Plan is attached. Link to 25 Year Environment Plan</p>	<p>Emerging policy around plastics, food waste, resource efficiency and extended producer responsibility.</p> <p>More detail to follow in the Resources and Waste Strategy.</p>
<p>Industrial Strategy White Paper Government published its vision for transforming the economy through innovation and improved skills, infrastructure and business productivity on 27.11.17. Clean growth (reduced carbon emissions), the circular economy and business resource productivity are all identified as key areas. The Strategy includes a commitment to achieve zero avoidable waste and a doubling of resource productivity by 2050. Link to Industrial Strategy</p>	<p>Waste and resource efficiency integrated into long term plans for modernising infrastructure and growing the economy.</p>
<p>From Waste To Resource Productivity report Work by the Government Chief Scientific Advisor published on 14.12.17 encourages a more modern waste and resources data regime, circular economy innovation and fairer sharing of financial and behavioural responsibility for waste. Also encourages smarter city region systems to deliver better waste and resource productivity. Link to report</p>	<p>Influential on direction of new Resources and Waste Strategy.</p>
<p>England Waste Statistics 2016-17 In 2016 England achieved a waste from households recycling rate of 44.9%, a slight increase from 2015. Arisings increased by 600,000 tonnes to 22.8 million tonnes or 412kg per person. Link to waste statistics released 05.12.17.</p>	<p>Rising waste arisings and risk of missing 50% 2020 EU / national target.</p>
<p>Autumn Budget 2017 The 22.11.17 Budget increased the standard rate of landfill tax to £88.95 in April 2018 and to £91.35 from April 2019. A Call for Evidence to be launched in early 2018 on how the tax system or charges could help to reduce the amount of single-use plastics waste. An additional £30 million over the next 4 years for the Environment Agency to tackle rising levels of waste crime. Link to Budget 2017</p>	<p>Continued rise in landfill tax rates and potential use of tax system to reduce single-use plastic waste.</p>

<p>Brexit Negotiations Following conclusion of Phase 1 of the talks in December 2017 on the principles of EU withdrawal, discussions are expected to commence at the end of January 2018 on the transition period and future UK – EU relationship following Brexit in March 2019. The EU wants the transition period to end in December 2020 coinciding with the conclusion of the 2014 – 2020 EU budget programme.</p>	<p>Uncertainty over the future UK–EU relationship and UK waste and resources policy.</p>
<p>European Union (Withdrawal) Bill The Bill continued its progress through Parliament on 16 -17th January 2018 and is now due to move to the House of Lords where challenges and proposed amendments are anticipated. Link to European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</p>	<p>Brings EU legislation into UK law at Brexit and allows Government to amend these laws after Brexit without Parliamentary debate.</p>
<p>Future Government Announcements</p> <p>HWRC Charging Review revised guidance delayed and now expected from WRAP in early 2018.</p> <p>Resources and Waste Strategy to focus on resource efficiency, extended producer responsibility and incentives to reduce waste and tackle litter. Expected later in 2018.</p>	<p>Clarification of HWRC charging policy delayed.</p> <p>Opportunities to develop UK circular economy and resources strategy post Brexit.</p>
<p>Other National Activity</p> <p>Environmental Audit Committee reports: Plastic Bottles - the 20.12.17 report calls for a deposit return scheme for plastic bottles. Link to report Disposable Packaging - the 22.12.17 report calls for a 25p levy on disposable coffee cups. Link to report</p> <p>WRAP Greater Consistency in Household Recycling Summary of pilot projects on the business case for adopting greater LA waste service consistency. Link to WRAP report (pdf 8 pages)</p> <p>WRAP Food Labelling Guidance Updated food labelling guidance providing simpler and more consistent consumer advice. Link to WRAP guidance</p> <p>WRAP Food Waste Reduction Fund The £500,000 fund launched on 21.12.17 supports re-distribution of surplus food to people in need. Link to Fund press release</p>	<p>Pressure on Government to introduce stronger measures to reduce single use plastic waste.</p>

EU & INTERNATIONAL	
<p>EU Circular Economy Package Provisional agreement on the legislative provisions of the package was reached by Member States and the EU institutions on 18.12.17, including revisions to EU reuse and recycling targets. Provisional municipal waste reuse and recycling targets are 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. Final agreed targets should be confirmed by March 2018 with the new legislation transposed into UK law before or at Brexit. Link to EU Circular Economy Package</p>	<p>Stepped 5 yearly increase in reuse and recycling targets reaching 65% by 2035.</p> <p>Calculation methodologies to be confirmed.</p> <p>Confirmation of revised legislation to follow.</p>
<p>EU Plastics Strategy The Strategy, published on 16.01.18, aims to reduce the consumption of single-use plastics and ensure that all plastic packaging on the EU market will be recyclable by 2030. The Strategy forms part of the EU Circular Economy package. Further details of the Plastics Strategy can be found at the link above.</p>	<p>Part of EU transition towards a more circular economy and a catalyst for recent UK action on plastics.</p>
<p>Chinese Waste Import Restrictions The Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection introduced restrictions on a range of recyclable waste imports including plastics and paper on 01.01.18. The UK Government is monitoring the situation and impact on UK exporters and recycling markets. Link to Michael Gove MP statement 08.01.18 Link to WRAP update 06.12.17 (pdf 7 pages) Link to Chinese Govt press release 05.01.18</p>	<p>DEFRA adopting a wait and see approach.</p> <p>Encourages reduced recycling contamination and increased UK based materials reprocessing capacity.</p>
<p>Other EU & International activity</p> <p>LCR Brussels Office The Brussels Office is funded by the LCR Combined Authority and all Districts and MRWA have access to the services it provides. See the link for more information. Link to LCR Brussels Office homepage</p>	

CONSULTATION RESPONSES UPDATE 18.01.18

CONSULTATION	DATES	RESPONSE	SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS
FUTURE CONSULTATIONS			
New Environmental Enforcement Agency	Early 2018	To confirm	Consultation expected on the powers of a new body to ensure there are no gaps in environmental enforcement after Brexit.
Reducing single use plastics waste	February 2018	To confirm	Call for evidence expected on how the tax system or charges could reduce the amount of single use plastics waste.
CURRENT CONSULTATIONS			
Proposals to Tackle Crime, Poor Performance in the Waste Sector & a New Fixed Penalty for the Waste Duty of Care (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Start 15.01.18 End 26.03.18	To review consultation	The consultation proposes measures to raise the competence of waste site operators, tighten the use of waste exemptions to prevent waste crime and improve householder awareness of their duty of care including powers to issue fixed penalties on householders not taking sufficient care in transferring their waste to an authorised person.
RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS			
Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2017 (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Submitted 30.11.17	MRWA	The response encouraged a compliance fee to be set at a level which incentivises Producer Compliance Schemes to clear WEEE from sites rather than achieving compliance by paying the fee alone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFRA decision expected early 2018
Call for Evidence on Voluntary and Economic Benefits to Reduce Littering of Drinks Containers and Promote Recycling (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Submitted 20.11.17	MRWA	The response encouraged setting up of pilot projects to gather evidence on the impacts of incentives on existing LA recycling services and costs, prior to any decision on implementing a national scheme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFRA response expected in 2018 linked to 25 Year Environment Plan / Resources & Waste Strategy
'Building our Industrial Strategy' Green Paper (HM Govt) Link to consultation	Submitted 13.04.17	MRWA	The response encouraged a stronger emphasis on the circular economy role in Industrial Strategy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Industrial Strategy published 27.11.17 recognised a stronger role for the circular economy in line with the MRWA response.

MHWP consultation responses can be found at the partnership website [here](#).

Glynn Stevenson
Waste Strategy Policy Officer
MRWA

0151 255 2526

glynn.stevenson@merseysidewda.gov.uk