

## WASTE POLICY UPDATE 22.03.18

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
<b>LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)</b>	
<p><b>LCR Mayor Policy Announcements</b>            Mayor Rotheram announced <b>new LCR policy pledges</b> on 14.11.17 around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy from a Mersey tidal barrage</li> <li>• Making LCR the most digitally connected region in the UK</li> <li>• A skills revolution including degree level apprenticeships</li> <li>• Building 25,000 new homes by 2022 on brownfield sites and tackling homelessness</li> <li>• Creating a fully integrated, smart public transport system</li> <li>• Future devolution ambitions and integration of additional powers into the Combined Authority.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Link to policy pledges announcement</a></p>	<p><b>Modernisation of LCR infrastructure and skills base.</b></p>
<p><b>Other LCR activity</b></p> <p>The <b>International Business Festival 2018 returns to Liverpool between 12 – 28<sup>th</sup> June.</b>  <a href="#">Link to IBF 2018</a></p> <p>The LCR Combined Authority last met on 09.03.18 and the next meeting follows on 20.04.18.  <a href="#">Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</a></p> <p>The LEP Board last met on 18.01.18 and the next meeting follows on 22.03.18.  <a href="#">Link to LEP Board meeting papers</a></p>	<p><b>Opportunity to attract inward investment and promote innovation.</b></p>
<b>NATIONAL</b>	
<p><b>Spring Statement 2018</b>            The Chancellor presented the Statement on 13.03.18 and launched a <b>call for evidence on tackling single use plastics through the tax system</b> (see Consultations update below for more details). <b>£20 million will be made available for research</b> into ways to reduce the impact of plastics on the environment.  <a href="#">Link to Statement</a></p>	<p><b>Opportunity to encourage behavioural change on plastics.</b></p>

<p><b>Single Use Plastics</b> Other developments on tackling single use plastics and disposable cups include:</p> <p><b>WRAP Plastics Recycling Proposals</b> As part of the development of a new Resource and Waste Strategy, WRAP have been tasked with developing outline <b>proposals to improve plastics recycling and packaging</b>. Following stakeholder engagement WRAP circulated an open letter on 12.02.18 with suggestions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action by businesses to change how they design and use plastic packaging</li> <li>• Action by Government to reform the plastic packaging producer responsibility regulation</li> <li>• Action by local authorities and the recycling sector to increase the quantity and quality of plastic packaging collected for recycling; and</li> <li>• Action by citizens to change how they use and dispose of plastic packaging.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Link to WRAP Open Letter</a></p> <p><b>Government Response to Environment Audit Committee Report on Plastic Bottles</b> The response was published on 26.02.18 and confirmed Government plans to tackle plastic as part of a wider <b>review of the producer responsibility packaging waste system</b>. <a href="#">Link to Government Response</a></p> <p><b>Government Response to Environmental Audit Committee Report on Disposable Coffee Cups</b> The response was published on 05.03.18 and <b>rejected proposals for a 25p levy of disposable takeaway cups</b> in favour of voluntary measures to offer discounts to customers providing their own reusable cup. <a href="#">Link to Government Response</a></p>	<p><b>Action required by business and Government before LAs can collect more plastic packaging for recycling.</b></p>
<p><b>Review of Packaging Recycling Obligations</b> The National Audit Office review was announced 09.03.18 following the recent Environmental Audit Committee inquiries above <b>and will consider the Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) system and the effectiveness of Government's oversight</b> of it. <b>Findings are expected in Summer 2018</b>. <a href="#">Link to NAO review</a></p> <p>WRAP are also coordinating a series of cross-sector meetings in March on reform of the packaging waste system. Reform of the system is expected to be a theme of the new Resources and Waste Strategy expected later in 2018.</p>	<p><b>Packaging waste system under review. Opportunity for Producers to improve investment in LA collection / recycling infrastructure.</b></p>
<p><b>Separate Collection of Recyclables Duty</b> The <b>Environment Agency is contacting WCAs with low recycling rates</b> to check on their compliance with the separate collection duty in the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012.</p>	<p><b>WCAs to maintain up to date TEEP assessments.</b></p>

<p><b>UK Waste Statistics 2016</b>  2016 figures were published on 22.02.18 and the <b>UK achieved a waste from households recycling rate of 45.2%</b> including metals recovered from Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA). All UK countries increased their performance on 2015 with Wales achieving 57.3%, England 44.9%, Northern Ireland 43.0% and Scotland 42.8%.  <a href="#">Link to UK waste statistics</a></p>	<p><b>Risk of missing 50% 2020 EU / national target.</b></p>
<p><b>Brexit Negotiations</b>  <b>Provisional agreement has been reached on a transition period</b> following Brexit in March 2019, pending EU Members States approval at the European Council meeting over March 22–23. The Transition <b>would require the UK to continue to implement new EU legislation</b>, but without a formal role in shaping it. The period would end on 31.12.20 at the same time as the 2014–2020 EU budget.</p>	<p><b>UK waste policy in line with EU until at least 2020.</b></p>
<p><b>European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</b>  The Bill is continuing its progress through Parliament and is now being examined by the House of Lords. <b>Discussion continues on 26.03.18.</b>  <a href="#">Link to European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</a></p>	<p><b>Brings EU legislation into UK law at Brexit. Amendment of this legislation unlikely until after 2020.</b></p>
<p><b>Future Government Announcements</b></p> <p><b>HWRC Charging Review</b> revised guidance <b>delayed from end 2017 to possibly after the May elections.</b></p> <p><b>Resources and Waste Strategy</b> to focus on resource efficiency and productivity. <b>Consultation workshops to be announced with the Strategy expected later in 2018.</b></p> <p><b>Waste Management Plan for England</b> is <b>due for review in 2019</b> under EU law. A decision on whether to proceed with a review will follow when Brexit transition arrangements are confirmed.</p>	<p><b>Clarification of HWRC charging policy delayed.</b></p> <p><b>Opportunities to develop UK circular economy and resources strategy post Brexit.</b></p>
<p><b>EU &amp; INTERNATIONAL</b></p>	
<p><b>EU Circular Economy Package</b>  The legislative revisions of the Package are passing through approval processes in Brussels and are <b>expected to receive final approval by Member States in June 2018.</b>  <a href="#">Link to Draft EU Waste Framework Directive revision</a> (pdf 85 pages)  <a href="#">Link to EU Circular Economy Package</a></p>	<p><b>Stepped 5 yearly increase in reuse and recycling targets from 55% in 2025 to 65% by 2035.</b></p> <p><b>The DEFRA Resources and Waste Strategy is expected to reflect key aspects of the Package.</b></p>

<p><b>Chinese Waste Import Restrictions</b>  The Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection introduced <b>restrictions on a range of recyclable waste imports including plastics and paper</b> on 01.01.18 with restrictions on contamination applying from 01.03.18. The UK Government is monitoring the situation and impact on UK exporters and recycling markets.</p>	<p><b>Market values of some recyclables falling as end markets restricted.</b></p> <p><b>LAs to liaise with Environment Agency if any concerns.</b></p> <p><b>Encourages reduced recycling contamination and increased UK based materials reprocessing capacity.</b></p>
<p><b>Other EU &amp; International activity</b></p> <p><b>LCR Brussels Office</b>  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.  <a href="#">Link to LCR Brussels Office homepage</a></p>	

**CONSULTATION RESPONSES UPDATE 22.03.18**

CONSULTATION	DATES	RESPONSE	SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS
<b>FUTURE CONSULTATIONS</b>			
New Environmental Enforcement Agency	2018	To confirm	Consultation expected on the powers of a new body to ensure there are no gaps in environmental enforcement after Brexit.
<b>CURRENT CONSULTATIONS</b>			
Call for Evidence on Tackling the Plastic Problem - Using the tax system or charges to address single-use plastic waste (HMT) <a href="#">Link to consultation</a>	Start 13.03.18  End 18.05.18	To review consultation document	The call for evidence explores how changes to the tax system or charges could be used to reduce the amount of single-use plastics we waste by reducing unnecessary production, increasing reuse, and improving recycling.

Proposals to Tackle Crime, Poor Performance in the Waste Sector & a New Fixed Penalty for the Waste Duty of Care (DEFRA) <a href="#">Link to consultation</a>	Start 15.01.18  End 26.03.18	Districts	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.
<b>RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS</b>			
Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2017 (DEFRA) <a href="#">Link to consultation</a>	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"> <li>• DEFRA have set a fee in line with the MRWA response</li> </ul>
Call for Evidence on Voluntary and Economic Benefits to Reduce Littering of Drinks Containers and Promote Recycling (DEFRA) <a href="#">Link to consultation</a>	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"> <li>• DEFRA response expected in 2018 linked to 25 Year Environment Plan / Resources &amp; Waste Strategy</li> </ul>
'Building our Industrial Strategy' Green Paper (HM Govt) <a href="#">Link to consultation</a>	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"> <li>• The Industrial Strategy published 27.11.17 recognised a stronger role for the circular economy in line with the MRWA response.</li> </ul>

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

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