

WASTE POLICY UPDATE 18.10.18

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)	
<p>LCR Circular Economy Club The Club aims to accelerate circular economy activities and collaboration across the city region and was launched on 03.09.18. Club membership is free. Link to LCR CEC</p>	<p>Promotes circular economy action in LCR.</p>
<p>LCR Local Industrial Strategy The Strategy will complement the national Industrial Strategy and identify opportunities to deliver inclusive and sustainable growth in the LCR. Opportunities are available for stakeholders to contribute to strategy development during Autumn 2018. A final Strategy is expected by Spring 2019. Link to LCR LEP news article Link to BEIS Guidance on Local Industrial Strategies</p>	<p>Local Industrial Strategy by Spring 2019.</p> <p>Opportunity to embed the circular economy into LCR development.</p>
<p>LCR Combined Authority Corporate Plan 2018 - 2020 Pending approval on 19.10.18, the Plan includes priorities on developing an inclusive economy and making LCR a greener and cleaner place to live. Actions include developing a Local Industrial Strategy, improving environmental sustainability, exploring the potential for the LCR to be zero carbon by 2040 and delivery of a series of 2019 Year of the Environment events.</p>	<p>Opportunities to embed the circular economy into LCR development.</p>
<p>Other LCR Developments:</p> <p>Materials Innovation Factory opens The R&D facility is a partnership between Liverpool University and Unilever. Research will focus on how advanced materials can help address future health and sustainability challenges. Link to MIF Opening article</p> <p>National Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund Bids in development involving the LCR include a hydrogen transport system for the city region and R&D on smart sustainable plastic packaging.</p> <p>NW Energy Hub The Hub, hosted by the LEP, is now resourced to provide advice and leadership on low carbon and renewable energy projects across the region.</p>	<p>Local research on improving materials sustainability.</p> <p>Successful funding bids may support LCR trials of hydrogen fuelled waste collection vehicles.</p>

<p>UN World Cities Day 31.10.18 This annual event aims to promote global collaboration in tackling the issues of urbanisation and sustainable development. This year's main event will take place in Liverpool. Link to World Cities Day 2018</p>	
<p>LCR CA and LEP meetings The LCR Combined Authority last met on 21.09.18 and the next meeting follows on 19.10.18. Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</p> <p>The LEP Board last met on 20.09.18 and the next meeting follow on 22.11.18. Link to LEP Board meeting papers</p>	
<p>NATIONAL</p>	
<p>Brexit Update:</p> <p>UK – EU Withdrawal Agreement negotiations EU leaders met to discuss Brexit at the European Council meeting in Brussels over 17-18 October 2018. No significant progress was made towards reaching agreement on the Irish border issue, but talks will continue. The next scheduled summit is 13-14 December 2018.</p> <p>'No Deal' Guidance Government are issuing Guidance on a range of issues to help organisations and the public prepare for the possibility of a 'no deal' Brexit. The latest tranche of Guidance was released on 12.10.18 and includes guidance on waste shipments between the UK and EU. Link to No Deal Brexit Guidance papers</p> <p>NAO Report on DEFRA Progress for Brexit On 12.09.18 the National Audit Office (NAO) published a report on DEFRA's progress on implementing EU exit. The Department is considered to have mobilised well but now needs to accelerate planning, particularly for the possibility that a negotiated withdrawal might not be reached. Link to NAO press release</p>	<p>Uncertainty on the future UK – EU relationship. Risk of a 'no deal' Brexit.</p> <p>Closer UK – EU waste and resources policy alignment with a 'softer' Brexit. Scope for increased divergence with a 'hard' or 'no deal' Brexit.</p>
<p>Civil Society Strategy The Strategy, published on 09.08.18, aims to strengthen the community sector's role in local decision making and public service commissioning. The Strategy advocates more responsible business and the generation of more social value from public spending. Link to Civil Society Strategy</p>	<p>Promotes closer working with the community sector and increased social value.</p>

<p>Government Announcements on the Horizon:</p> <p>Budget 2018 will be presented to Parliament on 29.10.18 and may include tax announcements to reduce single use plastics and potentially other measures aimed at promoting the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>Resources and Waste Strategy and associated consultations (see separate consultations update below) expected Autumn / late 2018.</p> <p>HWRC Charging Review revised guidance delayed to Autumn / late 2018.</p> <p>Draft Environmental Principles & Governance after EU Exit Bill expected Autumn / late 2018. On 18.07.18 the Prime Minister confirmed that a new Environment Bill would cover a wide range of issues.</p> <p>Waste Management Plan for England is due for review in 2019 under EU law. A decision on whether to proceed with a review will follow when Brexit arrangements are confirmed.</p> <p>National Clean Air Strategy – final version expected March 2019.</p>	<p>Potential for new taxes / charges to promote the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>Brexit issues could disrupt planned Government announcements.</p> <p>Opportunities to develop UK circular economy and resources strategy post Brexit.</p>
<p>Other National Activity</p> <p>MHCLG Guidance on HMO licensing and waste storage The Guidance was issued on 20.06.18 and came into effect on 01.10.18. Licences for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) must now include conditions on waste storage requirements. Link to MHCLG Guidance</p> <p>HSE Waste and Recycling Inspections The HSE has identified the waste and recycling industry as a priority sector for reducing workplace injuries and work-related ill health. Unannounced inspection visits are now taking place. Link to HSE press release</p> <p>WRAP UK Plastic Pact progress Progress on meeting the Pact's targets. Link to UK Plastics Pact</p> <p>Business Food Waste Pilot On 01.10.18 announced a £15 million scheme for launch in 2019/20 to address surplus food from retail and manufacturing. Link to announcement</p>	<p>Opportunity to improve HMO recycling provision and reduce littering / fly tipping.</p> <p>HSE spot checks at waste operations.</p> <p>Opportunities to improve resource efficiency.</p>

<p>Green Great Britain Week 15-19th October The week promotes Clean Growth and how everyone can contribute towards it and tackle climate change. Link to Green Great Britain & NI</p> <p>PAS 100 Compost Quality Standard revised The revised standard came into force on 19.09.18 to improve compost quality. Link to BSI PAS 100:2018</p> <p>BEIS Industrial Heat Recovery Support Programme Aims to support deployment of heat recovery technologies from industrial processes. Link to programme guidance and application forms</p> <p>WRAP 2018 Gate Fees Report The annual report analyses the gate fees charged for a range of waste treatment, recovery and disposal options used by LAs. Link to report</p>	
EU & INTERNATIONAL	
<p>New EU Environmental Standards for Waste Treatment On 17.08.18 new emissions and efficiency standards for waste treatment were announced. These provide the technical basis for setting permit conditions for waste facilities and aim to reduce emissions further, whilst also improving resource efficiency and improving site safety. Link to EU article</p>	Reduced waste facility emissions.
<p>IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C The report published on 08.10.18 identifies the benefits of limiting global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels compared with a 2.0C limit. The report details the rapid and far reaching transitions in policy and behaviour that would be required to achieve these benefits. Link to IPCC press release</p>	Accelerate action to minimise carbon emissions now to reduce serious impacts later.
<p>UN Environment Global Plastics Forum The Forum was launched on 25.09.18 and will encourage new commitments to reduce plastic waste and support the transition to a more circular economy. Link to UN Environment press release</p>	Promotes circular plastics economy.

<p>China Waste Import Restrictions The Environment Agency and WRAP continue to monitor the UK situation. A range of alternative non-China markets have been secured by exporters, but these may face restrictions in the coming months. Stockpiling is currently an exception, however some recyclables have been diverted to energy recovery. Permitted waste types for import to China will have reduced from 66 (end 2017) to 18 (end 2019).</p>	<p>Recycling income losses for LAs.</p> <p>Raise any operational concerns ASAP with the EA.</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 its services. See the link for more information. Link to LCR Brussels Office homepage</p>	

CONSULTATION RESPONSES UPDATE 18.10.18

CONSULTATION	DATES	RESPONSE	SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS
FUTURE CONSULTATIONS			
Environmental Principles Policy Statement	Late 2018	To confirm	Consultation expected following publication of the Draft Environmental Principles and Governance Bill in Autumn 2018.
Extended Producer Responsibility / Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers	Late 2018	To confirm	Consultations expected on (1) proposals for an Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme drawing in more funds for LA recycling services, and 2) establishing a DRS in England for used glass, plastic and metal drinks containers.
Single Use Plastics	Late 2018	To confirm	<p>Consultations expected on (1) proposals for banning some single use plastics, e.g. plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds, and (2) extending the single use plastic bag charge to all retailers and potential increasing the charge from 5p to 10p.</p> <p>An EU Single Use Plastics Directive is currently in development and may influence UK proposals.</p>

WEEE Regulations review	Late 2018	To confirm	Consultation expected on further changes to the WEEE Regulations including introduction of a mandatory Producer Balancing System to ensure free clearance of WEEE from LA sites.
EU review of End of Life Vehicles Directive	Late 2018 / 2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on a planned review of the Directive. Revisions to the Directive are required by end 2020.
CURRENT CONSULTATIONS			
WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2018 Link to consultation	Start 15.10.18 End 18.11.18	MRWA	Annual consultation on whether a compliance fee is required and which proposal should be supported. Appropriate fees can incentivise WEEE clearance from HWRCs and other Designated Collection Facilities.
RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS			
Call for Evidence on Tackling the Plastic Problem - Using the tax system or charges to address single-use plastic waste (HMT) Link to consultation	Submitted 18.05.18	MHWP	The response called for stronger incentives on producers to improve product design for reuse and recycling, and for the availability of affordable reusable alternatives to single use items to increase significantly alongside the introduction of any taxes / charges on items. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HM Treasury published a summary of responses on 18.08.18. Announcements on plastic tax / charge policies are expected to follow via the Budget announcement on 29.10.18.
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 have set a fee in line with the MRWA response.
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"> In February 2018 the Voluntary and Economic Incentives Working Group Report recommended further work and consultation before a DRS is introduced. On 28.03.18 DEFRA announced a consultation will follow in late 2018 on proposals for a national DRS.

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

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