



JMWMS Supplementary Report Four: Partnership Information

Supplementary Report 4: Partnership Information

This Supplementary Report provides background information on the Merseyside Waste Partnership (MWP), which was established in 2005, comprising the following authorities:

- Knowsley MBC
- Liverpool City Council
- Sefton MBC
- St Helens MBC
- Wirral MBC
- Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

The Merseyside Waste Partnership (MWP) has been an informal but proactive grouping of the five districts and Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) working to co-ordinate activities in the delivery of the waste management service to the residents of Merseyside. There are potentially significant practical and economic benefits of joint and partnership working, through: economies of scale; reduced interface issues between collection and disposal; and the sharing of resources, where appropriate, to meet the challenges of sustainable waste management.

In 2006 the MWP expanded to include Halton Borough Council and Halton are now actively engaged in establishing waste management solutions with the MWP to deliver shared waste management systems.

There has been a gradual move, within MWP, towards more formal joint working. This move has been accelerating with the procurement activity of the long-term municipal waste recycling, treatment and disposal contracts underway. There are considerable economic and practical benefits to joint working particularly across the collection and disposal authorities and also between collection authorities and with other disposal authorities such as Halton, where facilities might be shared and economies of scale gained.

In 2005 the MWP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the partners which was a voluntary agreement committing the partners to closer joint working. The operational aspects of joint working are only partly considered within the MoU. These are addressed in more detail in two Inter Authority Agreements (IAA) documents which, unlike the MoU, has a legal status. One IAA is between each of the Merseyside Districts, and the MWDA, and the other IAA is between the MWDA and Halton Borough Council. The IAAs are currently undergoing finalisation and will support, through commitments to operate the service in a defined and coordinated manner, the procurement activities and ultimately the ability to deliver more efficiently and effectively the responsibilities of the Partners on behalf of the residents.

To support the work of the MWP a number of key groups have been established at both officer and member level to ensure effective communications and a consistent approach to information provision and decision-making. The work of these groups contributes to the transparency and accountability of the MWP.

The Merseyside's Council Leaders/Chief Executives recommended the establishment of the Senior Officers Working Group (SOWG) in consultation with the MWDA, to co-ordinate joint working on waste issues in Merseyside and develop recommendations for the JMWMS for Merseyside. There are also sub-groups addressing particular subjects e.g. recycling and performance, data, operations and joint communications.

The JMWMS's ongoing development is directed through the SOWG, reporting to, and taking guidance from Members of MWDA. This development includes tracking performance against the Implementation and Action Plan for the JMWMS, reviewing issues highlighted in the risk register and taking appropriate action to keep the JMWMS on track, as well as subjecting the Strategy itself to a comprehensive review every five years.

The implementation of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) will bring the Partnership closer together as Districts and the MWDA participate in the delivery of joint initiatives such as prevention and education.

The MWP is also undergoing further partnership development work designed to take the Partnership forward, consider efficiencies and benefits of closer and potentially more formal joint working.