

MERSEYSIDE WASTE STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Liverpool City Council

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

Metropolitan Borough of Wirral

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council

Introduction

The management of municipal solid waste is one of the most important and challenging environmental issues faced today. The change to more sustainable waste management systems, and its associated environmental, social and economic benefits, is supported by substantial legislation and detailed policies at European, national and regional level. The parties to this MOU have determined that joint working and collaboration towards common objectives is the most effective way to deliver against these challenges on behalf of the Merseyside region.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) replaces the 2005 Partnership MOU that has successfully delivered a number of its waste objectives and due to the passage of time no longer fully reflects the future aspirations of the Partnership.

Objectives

The Merseyside Strategic waste agenda is encapsulated in the Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (JRWMS) and has been formally adopted by all members of the Partnership. The JRWMS commits all partners to review the strategy every 5 years and therefore provides and will continue to provide the MOU objectives throughout the duration of this MOU.

Purpose of this MOU

The purpose of the MOU is to ensure co-ordinated delivery of the JRWMS. In doing so it:

- a) sets out in simple, non-legalistic terms, the way that the Partners will work together to promote the effective planning and delivery of municipal waste management services in Merseyside.
- b) recognises that the Partners have individual areas of competence particularly in respect of their statutory functions and the appropriate services for their communities.
- c) recognises that the Partners need to take a wider view of waste management than that of an individual WCA, or of the MWDA on its own.
- d) clarifies and records the responsibilities of the Partners individually and

collectively.

Status of Memorandum

This MOU is not a legal document. However, the MOU is to be considered as the strategic link between the Partners in the development and delivery of the Strategy. All signatories will use all reasonable endeavours to comply with the terms and spirit of the MOU. They will not be obliged to undertake participation or expenditure without their agreement as individual Partners. The Partnership is not a legal entity. Accordingly, it cannot employ staff or enter into any contract in its own right and would have to act through an agent, normally one of the Partners. The Partnership has no delegated or Executive Powers. The Partnership cannot reach any decisions that are binding on the Partners individually or collectively.

Duration of Memorandum

In order to deliver sustainable waste management, long term investment in services will be necessary. This investment must be matched by a firm commitment to abide by the terms of this agreement, and to implement the necessary service changes to achieve the JRWMS aims and objectives. Therefore, the terms of the MOU will reflect the duration of JRWMS which currently expires in 2041. This time period reflects the contractual arrangement entered into between the MWDA and its principal service providers and therefore the financial commitments the Partnership has made to the delivery of the current Strategy.

Changes to the Memorandum

Any proposed amendments to the MOU can be raised at an MWDA meeting and can be proposed by any Partner. Proposed changes will only formally be considered after consultation with all Partners in order that the views of all partners can be presented to MWDA. Changes to this agreement as a general principle should enhance the delivery of the goals and objectives of the Strategy without prejudicing any of the Partners.

Guiding Principles for Partnership Working Transparency

All Partners are committed to ensuring that the planning, development and implementation of the Strategy is as transparent as possible to all, including the public.

Consultation

All Partners recognise the importance of consultation and the need to consult as widely as possible with all stakeholders in Merseyside. All significant new initiatives, contracts and changes in working practices that impact on the delivery of waste services in Merseyside will be openly discussed between Partners.

Co-operation

Actions and decisions recommended by Partners should reflect the best interests of all council tax payers and take into consideration the implications for all Partners.

The Partners accept the need to work more closely together to provide more effective, sustainable and financially viable waste services and will explore the development of joint initiatives between partners, and with third parties where appropriate.

The Partners agree to collectively monitor and review the effectiveness of the Strategy adopted by Merseyside, as well as consider the options for the future delivery of services to meet the aims and objectives of the Strategy.

The Partners agree to work together in a spirit of mutual trust, support and respect, and to ensure that when difficulties arise they are addressed quickly, honestly and openly.

Target Setting

As part of the JRWMS each Partner including MWDA is committed to produce and maintain an action plan which sets out interim targets that when considered collectively seek to achieve the shared JRWMS Aims and Objectives. The principal Targets in the current iteration of the Strategy are:

50% recycling by 2020

Reduction of waste to Landfill to 10% by 2020 and 2% by 2030

Reduce the waste per Household below 1227kg by 2020 and 1180kg by 2030

Reduce the Carbon Emissions of Municipal Waste Management Services

Performance Information

The Partners already have in place a confidentiality agreement to provide and share information including financial information this will be maintained and statistics necessary to monitor and measure the effectiveness of any waste initiative and facilitate joint working will be provided by partners in a format which will be agreed from time to time.

Performance Reporting

Each individual Partner will provide a report and annual letter of assurance to the September MWDA Authority meeting detailing their performance against their own JRWMS action plan and will include any proposed revisions to action plans.

MWDA will report to all District Scrutiny Panels its performance against its action plan and overall Partnership performance and forecasts against the JRWMS Targets.

Funding

Each partner will be responsible for funding the delivery of their own action plan. In respect of MWDA as the successful implementation of the JRWMS and District action plans could have a tendency to generate greater than anticipated savings within MWDA budgets MWDA will create a Development Fund to invest these savings should they occur, in waste management services across the partnership should they arise. The distribution of these funds will be determined by MWDA after consultation with Districts but will be based upon the principal of equitable redistribution.

External Funding

The partners agree to share information about external funding opportunities and where appropriate work together to submit joint bids for funding.

Operational Arrangements for Partnership Working

The Merseyside Leaders/Chief Executives established the Senior Officers Working Group (SOWG), in consultation with the MWDA, to co-ordinate joint working on waste issues in Merseyside. This Group and it's sub groups have been and will continue to be responsible for the coordination and feedback into individual District Action plans, to produce an annual Partnership action plan and outturn report following MWDA September meeting. SOWG will also act as the principal forum for the cooperative working envisioned in this MOU and to facilitate the exchange of information necessary to promote joint working opportunities.

SIGNATORIES