

**JOINT RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PROGRAMME  
FOR REFRESH 2015-16**

**WDA/30/15**

**Recommendation**

That:

1. Members note and agree the proposed programme of projects for the refresh of the Strategy as listed in Table 1 of paragraph 3.5 of this report.

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**FOR REFRESH 2015-16**  
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**Report of the Chief Executive**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To advise and seek Members' agreement on the scope of the budgeted work programme to refresh the Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (JRWMS).

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Under the provisions of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003, MRWA and the Merseyside Waste Collection Authorities are required to produce a joint Strategy for the management of municipal waste. The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside was first published in 2005. The obligation to have a Joint Strategy remains a statutory requirement for the Authority.
- 2.2 The Authority undertook a full review of the Strategy in 2010-11 and approved RESOURCES MERSEYSIDE: Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy in November 2011 (Report WDA 39/11).
- 2.3 The Strategy was adopted by all districts in Merseyside over a twelve month period and fully ratified in November 2012. As a matter of principle, there was a commitment to review the Strategy by the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership every five years or where a substantial change in legislation, policy or other circumstances merits a review outside that timescale. This will ensure the document remains fit for purpose and a strategic focus for the delivery of waste and resource management of Merseyside.
- 2.4 The programme of work proposed will ensure that a refresh of the Strategy will be completed and adopted by the Authority and districts no later than the fifth anniversary of adoption of the JRWMS in November 2017.

### **3. Current Position**

- 3.1 A review of the Strategy was included in the Authority's Service Delivery Plan and a specific objective in 2015/16 is to obtain 'Authority approval to the key phases of the review programme'. This report aims to meet this objective.
- 3.2 The proposed refresh plans to maintain the existing Strategy's long term aims and objectives but make minor revisions and updates. The focus will be on specific actions required collectively or individually by the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership over the next five year period between 2017- 2022 and to meet existing 2020 targets.
- 3.3 It is recommended to undertake a light touch review of the Strategy at this time as the EU Circular Economy package being developed is likely to radically alter targets with an increased emphasis and focus on re-use activity and waste prevention. A full review would increase the likelihood of requiring a new Strategic Environmental Assessment and widespread stakeholder consultation which would have significant financial and resource implications for the Authority.
- 3.4 A package of measures has been set against the approved Strategy Update budget allocation and forward budget proposed for 2016-17. The package is in-line with the Best Practice Guide for the Development of Municipal Waste Management Strategies (DEFRA 2005). The refresh will also take into account two major areas of developing policy and potential legislation which could have significant implications for waste and resource management in the medium to long term:
- A Circular economy package to be produced by the European Commission by the end of 2015;
  - The potential devolution of powers and funding to the Liverpool City Region including waste; and
  - Any review of the efficiency of waste services across the City Region to achieve financial savings.
- 3.5 The key elements of the work programme are set out in Table 1 overleaf:

Table 1: Proposed Work Programme

Work Packages	Procurement	Indicative Budget and Resources
<p><b>1. Waste Composition Analysis</b></p> <p><b>To be completed by March 2016.</b></p> <p>A two seasonal analysis at kerbside and HWRCs.</p>	<p>Tender process already underway to meet seasonal deadlines.</p>	<p>£85,000</p>
<p><b>2. Defining Output</b></p> <p><b>To be completed by October 2015.</b></p> <p>To set out the purpose of the strategy refresh process and define outputs. Likely outputs could include: minor revision/refocus of the strategy objectives; focus areas for the next five years and specific actions required collectively or individually by Partners.</p>	<p>Internal working.</p>	<p>Staff time</p>
<p><b>3. Legislative Review</b></p> <p><b>To be completed by December 2015.</b></p> <p>Identify changes since last review and key drivers for the next 5 years and issues to be addressed.</p> <p>This helps define options to be considered in the Issues and Options Assessment.</p>	<p>Internal working</p>	<p>Staff time</p>
<p><b>4. Issues and Options Assessment</b></p> <p><b>To be completed by March 2016</b></p> <p>Overall objective and assessment criteria will mirror and refine those in the previous Strategy review process. A wholesale revision is not recommended as it would increase the likelihood of the refresh requiring a new Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>	<p>External: Three quotes</p>	<p>Indicative between £12,000 and £18,000</p>

<p><b>Key tasks:</b></p> <p>Define options to be evaluated;</p> <p>Test options with Members and Officers;</p> <p>Refine options</p> <p>Evaluate using the assessment criteria</p> <p>Prepare draft evaluation and report back to stakeholders and prepare final option assessment.</p>		
<p><b>5. SEA Screening</b></p> <p><b>To be completed by: Autumn 2016.</b></p> <p>It is not intended to undertake a full SEA but to remain consistent with the Environmental Assessment of Programmes and Plans Regulations it is a requirement to undertake an SEA Screening process for any strategy that could have a significant impact on the environment.</p> <p>This process would accompany any update to the Strategy and commence as the draft contents are developed.</p> <p><b>Key tasks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice and support on the developing strategy refresh documents to ensure compliance with the Regulations;</li> <li>• Develop an SEA screening report which includes a comparison between principle changes from the 2012 Strategy and current update;</li> <li>• Issue as a consultation to Statutory consultees;</li> <li>• Receive feedback and generate a Determination report.</li> </ul>	<p>External: in line with award for issues and options.</p>	<p>Indicative costs</p> <p>£3,750-£4,000</p>

<p><b>6. Stakeholder Engagement</b></p> <p><b>To be completed by Autumn 2016.</b></p> <p>A full public consultation is considered disproportionate for this refresh. Facilitated individual workshops are proposed in line with previous review with officers, elected members and key stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Key tasks:</b></p> <p>3 workshops are proposed at each stage (giving a total of 9 workshops) which would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Context setting to present background and key issues and gain input;</li> <li>2. Definitions and input into the options</li> </ol> <p>(Potential for combined officers and Members workshop)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Feedback on options evaluations and understand stakeholders' priorities to help define actions.</li> </ol> <p>Joint Meetings of Directors/Senior Officers Groups recommended as method of engaging with officers.</p> <p>As part of this process a separate workshop will be held to assess the proposed actions against the WastEcoSmart Decision Support Framework.</p>	<p>External: three quotes</p> <p>Internal: WastEcoSmart workshop</p> <p>Internal: District Scrutiny.</p>	<p>£13-15,000</p>
<p><b>7. Drafting of Output Report and Adoption Process</b></p> <p>Output will be a short public facing summary to the process setting out the options and analysis and a series of actions based on options assessment and stakeholder feedback.</p> <p><b>To be completed by Autumn 2016</b></p> <p><b>Final draft report to be submitted to Authority for approval November 2016;</b></p> <p><b>Final draft report to be submitted to Districts</b></p>	<p>Internal: writing final Strategy with "critical friend" support from consultants appointed for the refresh</p> <p>Internal: communications : on-line web design of draft and final report</p>	<p>£500-£1000</p> <p>£3,000-£4,000</p>

for approval by November 2017.		
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<b>WORK PROGRAMMES</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>INDICATIVE COST</b>
<b>Waste Composition Issues and Options Assessment</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>£103,000</b>
<b>SEA Screening, Stakeholder Engagement and Drafting/Design of Final Report</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>£24,000</b>

#### 4. Risk Implications

<b>Identified Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood Rating</b>	<b>Consequence Rating</b>	<b>Risk Value</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Failure to refresh the JRWMS will lead to all partners decision making taken against a document which does not reflect current or impending regional, national and European policy and legislation.	1	4	4	Completion of JRWMS refresh.
Lack of project management or resources to oversee review or undertake internal work programmes which could lead to failure to keep within approved budgets and agreed timescales.	2	4	8	Ensure project management systems and plan in place overseen by EMT and senior level project steering group through SOWG.
Delay by any of the partner authorities in agreeing elements of the	2	4	8	Ensure appropriate member and officer engagement, communications and



refresh and ultimately failing to ratify the Strategy.				consultation processes in place.
Financial and resource requirements by partners not committed.	2	4	8	Manage costs and resources efficiently to keep pressures down. Gain Member and LA support and commitments and SOWG work plan.
Insufficient consultation with the Public.	1	3	3	This is a refresh and key stakeholders workshops will be undertaken. As the objectives of the adopted Strategy are to be maintained, it would be disproportionate to undertake a full public consultation.
Lack of commitment and consideration to the review process by Members and Officers in the Partnership so the refresh is not seen as a priority.	2	4	8	Raise awareness of the project and its significance with potential changes to EU targets, the benefits of the circular economy and potential devolution of waste issues to the City Region.

## 5. HR Implications

5.1 There are no HR implications associated with this report.

## 6. Environmental Implications

6.1 Key outputs of the refresh will be to ensure the future sustainable management of waste in the City Region. This will include carbon and natural resource savings and benefits that support the circular economy in the region.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 The expenditure allocated to the refresh of the Strategy was approved in the Authority's Revenue Budget approved in February 2015. Proposals identified in Table 1 for further funding will be considered as part of the budget for 2016/17. The outputs from the review will support the Partnership to develop further joint working and efficiency opportunities across the City Region.

## **8. Legal Implications**

- 8.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

## **9. Conclusion**

- 9.1 It remains a statutory requirement for MRWA and the waste collection authorities to have a joint strategy for the management of municipal waste.
- 9.2 RESOURCES Merseyside 2011-2041: the Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy was adopted by all districts in November 2012. The Strategy includes a commitment for review every five years.
- 9.3 It is proposed to undertake a budgeted work programme to complete the refresh of the Strategy by November 2017.
- 9.4 The tender for the Waste Composition Analysis has been issued to meet the timetable for a two seasonal analysis.
- 9.5 Key work packages where services will need to be procured are the Issues and Options Assessment, SEA Screening and Stakeholder Engagement and design of the on-line final report.
- 9.6 The remaining work packages will all be completed in-house subject to available resources. These are to define the scope of the refresh, a legislative review, drafting of the final Strategy report and communications.
- 9.7 The timetable proposed is for the draft Strategy to be submitted to Members for adoption in November 2016 and then to district partners for ratification during 2017 which should be completed no later than November 2017.

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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil.