

WASTE POLICY UPDATE 02.08.18

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)	
<p>LCR Combined Authority portfolios A re-shuffle of portfolios followed the LCR Combined Authority AGM on 31.05.18. Link to LCR CA press release</p>	<p>Focus on inclusive growth, air quality and further devolution.</p>
<p>LCR Circular Economy Club The Club is being established to accelerate circular economy activities and collaboration across the city region. Its first meeting takes place on 03.09.18 at Mann Island, Liverpool. Link to LCR Circular Economy Club launch</p>	<p>Highlights circular economy potential in LCR.</p>
<p>Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) On 24.07.18 Government set out its approach to strengthening LEPs. Collaboration between LEPs and Mayoral Combined Authorities will be promoted around the development of Local Industrial Strategies (LIS). Government aims for all areas in England to have a LIS by early 2020. Link to paper</p>	<p>Local Industrial Strategy by 2020. Opportunity to accelerate circular economy activity.</p>
<p>Other LCR activity The LCR Combined Authority last met on 27.07.18 and the next meeting follows on 24.08.18. Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</p> <p>The LEP Board last met on 19.07.18 and the next meeting follow on 20.09.18. Link to LEP Board meeting papers</p>	
NATIONAL	
<p>Brexit Update:</p> <p>1) European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 The Act was published on 26.06.18 and ensures existing UK and EU laws continue to work in the UK after Brexit on 29.03.19. Section 16 of the Act legislates for the maintenance of environmental principles at Brexit, including the precautionary, preventative action and polluter pays principles. Link to the Act</p>	<p>Maintenance of EU environmental principles in UK law post Brexit.</p> <p>A new public authority to hold Government to account on environmental performance post Brexit.</p>

<p>2) UK proposals for future UK - EU relationship Government published a White Paper on the UK's future relationship with the EU on 12.07.18 but is under pressure at national and EU level to make changes. If implemented, the approach would see a close relationship between the UK and EU on environment and sustainability issues. Link to White Paper on future relationship</p> <p>3) UK – EU Withdrawal Agreement negotiations The next EU Summit follows in Austria on 20.09.18 where significant progress will be required to agree a Withdrawal Agreement by the target date of 19.10.18 and avoid the risk of a 'no deal' Brexit. On 24.07.18 Government published a White Paper on legislation required to implement the Withdrawal Agreement if and when agreed. Link to White Paper on Withdrawal Agreement legislation</p> <p>4) Local Government issues A BREXIT Ministerial Local Government Delivery Board first met on 19.07.18 and aims to ensure that Brexit issues facing communities across the country are addressed by Government. Link to Brexit Local Government Board</p>	<p>Uncertainty on the future UK – EU relationship.</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>National Audit Office Packaging Recycling Review The NAO review of the producer responsibility packaging recycling obligation reported on 23.07.18 and identified concerns over DEFRA / Environment Agency control of the system and the risk of contaminated material being exported for recycling. The report found no evidence that the system encourages producers to reduce packaging or improve its recyclability. Link to report</p>	<p>Encourages action to improve material quality and extend producer responsibility.</p> <p>Recommendations will influence the new DEFRA Resources & Waste Strategy.</p>
<p>National Infrastructure Assessment 2018 The report from the National Infrastructure Commission, published on 10.07.18, assesses infrastructure needs over the next 30 years including waste. Government is required to respond to the recommendations which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65% municipal waste recycling rate by 2030 with individual targets for LAs • 75% plastic packaging recycling rate by 2030 • Restrictions on the use of hard to recycle plastic packaging by 2025 • Separate food waste collection for households and businesses by 2025 • Consistent national standard of recycling for households and businesses by 2025 Link to report	<p>Encourages action to increase municipal waste recycling rates.</p> <p>Recommendations will influence the new DEFRA Resources & Waste Strategy.</p>

<p>Government Announcements on the Horizon:</p> <p>Resources and Waste Strategy expected later in 2018.</p> <p>HWRC Charging Review revised guidance delayed.</p> <p>Draft Environmental Principles & Governance after EU Exit Bill expected Autumn 2018. The legislation may also be used to implement a future Deposit Return Scheme. On 18.07.18 the Prime Minister confirmed that a new Environment Bill was planned to 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>Opportunities to develop UK circular economy and resources strategy post Brexit.</p> <p>Clarification of HWRC charging policy delayed.</p>
<p>Other National Activity</p> <p>£8m WEEE Fund Funding from the 2017 WEEE Compliance Fee was confirmed on 06.08.18 and will support WEEE reuse and recycling research, communications and local projects. Expressions of interest for local projects will be invited in September 2018. Link to WEEE Fund</p> <p>DEFRA response to WEEE Regulations consultation The May 2018 response proposes a mandatory Producer Balancing System to assure Local Authorities of free WEEE clearance from Designated Collection Facility, e.g. HWRCs. Link to response pdf 36 pages</p> <p>WRAP ‘Increasing Recycling in Urban Areas’ report Published on 19.06.18, the report focuses on measures to increase recycling from flats, including a case study from Liverpool. Link to report</p> <p>Recycle Now 2018 The new campaign toolkit aims to deliver recycling behavioural change through a ‘social norming’ approach.</p>	<p>Funding for local WEEE reuse and recycling projects.</p> <p>New communications and research to support recycling.</p>

<p>Link to Recycle Now 2018 resources</p> <p>WRAP ‘Understanding Plastic Packaging’ Factsheet Clarifies terminology to reduce confusion around different plastic packaging materials. Link to Factsheet pdf 13 pages</p> <p>‘Green Great Britain Week’ from 15.10.18 BEIS are coordinating the event which will promote the opportunities for businesses, civic society and the wider public from clean growth. Link to press release</p> <p>Litter Strategy for England – Annual report 2018 Published on 23.07.18 and updates on progress against the 36 commitments in the strategy. Link to report</p> <p>HSE Waste Sector fatalities Provisional data suggests the waste sector had the highest fatality rate of any industrial sector in the UK in 2017-18 at 10.26 fatalities for every 100,000 workers. Link to report pdf 16 pages</p> <p>Draft National Clean Air Strategy Published on 22.05.18 and out for consultation until 14.08.18. Link to Draft Strategy</p> <p>DEFRA 2018 Digest of Waste and Resource Statistics Link to report</p>	
<p>EU & INTERNATIONAL</p>	
<p>EU Circular Economy Package The EU Waste Framework Directive and Directives on Packaging, WEEE, Batteries, End of Life Vehicles and landfill have been amended with effect from 04.07.18. The new legislation will be incorporated into UK law at Brexit by the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018. Headline measures include new reuse and recycling targets for municipal waste of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% by 2025 • 60% by 2030 • 65% by 2035 	<p>Increased municipal waste reuse and recycling targets.</p> <p>Separate collection of more materials for recycling.</p> <p>Producers to meet greater share of municipal waste management costs.</p>

<p>Other measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening waste prevention • extending Producer Responsibility, and specifically for packaging waste by 31.12.24 • 65% recycling of all packaging waste by 31.12.25 and 70% by 31.12.30 • separate collection of textiles and household hazardous waste by 01.01.25 • separate collection of bio-waste (garden / food wastes) by 31.12.23 • restriction on landfilling of recyclable materials from 2030 • maximum of 10% municipal waste arisings landfilled by 2035 <p>Link to EU Directive 2018/851 (amends Waste Framework Directive) Link to OJEU Journal with all amended Waste Directives pdf 168 pages</p>	<p>Strong influence on the new DEFRA Resources and Waste Strategy.</p>
<p>EU Single Use Plastic (SUP) Ban proposals The European Commission has drafted a Directive targeting the 10 most common SUP found in EU marine litter. The proposals would ban or reduce their consumption and littering. Link to press release</p>	<p>Will influence UK proposals to tackle the impact of SUP.</p>
<p>China and EU MoU on Circular Economy Cooperation The MoU was signed on 16.07.18 at the 20th EU China Summit. It recognises the circular economy as a priority in EU - China cooperation and the importance of resource efficiency in meeting climate and sustainability targets. Link to the 20th EU China Summit</p>	<p>Closer circular economy collaboration with China.</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 02.08.18

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 Bans	Late 2018	To confirm	Consultation expected on proposals for banning some single use plastics, e.g. plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds.
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			
Household Waste Duty of Care (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Start 03.07.18 End 27.08.18	Districts	The consultation focuses on proposals to introduce a new fixed penalty notice (FPN) for household Duty of Care offences related to fly-tipping and considers draft guidance for householders and LAs.
RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS			
Call for Evidence on Tackling the Plastic Problem - Using the tax system or charges to address	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

single-use plastic waste (HMT) Link to consultation			significantly alongside the introduction of any taxes / charges on items.
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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