

RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE 13.12.18

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. Club membership is free and has reached 37 following its launch on 03.09.18. Link to LCR CEC</p>	<p>Promotes circular economy action in LCR.</p>
<p>Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) On 30.10.18 Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) published a Progress Statement with Government on their LIS development which will support and promote growth of the circular economy. The GM LIS will establish a Clean Growth Productivity Programme to support businesses on areas including material resource efficiency. Both the GMCA and LCR strategies are expected in March 2019. Link to Progress Statement Link to press release</p>	<p>Opportunity for the LCR LIS to address business materials resource efficiency and deliver circular economy benefits for the City Region.</p>
<p>LCR CA and LEP meetings The LCR Combined Authority last met on 16.11.18 and the next meeting follows on 14.12.18. Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</p> <p>The LEP Board last met on 22.11.18 and the next meeting follows on 24.01.19. Link to LEP Board meeting papers</p>	
NATIONAL	
<p>Brexit Update:</p> <p>Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration An Agreement and Declaration on the future relationship between the UK and EU were agreed in principle on 25.11.18 at a special European Council meeting. However, the Agreement faces significant opposition in the UK Parliament and the Parliamentary vote on the Agreement due on 11.12.18 was postponed. The deal, and Irish border issue, will be discussed again at the next European Council meeting on 13-14 December 2018. Link to Agreement and Declaration Link to Parliamentary Select Committee report on the Agreement</p>	<p>Uncertainty on the future UK – EU relationship. Increased risk of a chaotic Brexit.</p> <p>Closer UK – EU waste and resources policy alignment with a ‘softer’ Brexit. Potential increased divergence with a ‘hard’ or ‘no deal’ Brexit.</p>

<p>European Court of Justice Article 50 Ruling On 10.12.18 the Court ruled that the UK is free to revoke unilaterally its intention to withdraw from the EU and does not need agreement from the other 27 EU member states to do so. Link to ECJ Brexit ruling pdf 3 pages</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. Link to No Deal Brexit Guidance papers</p>	<p>Brexit focus delaying Government policy announcements including waste and resources.</p>
<p>Budget 2018 The Budget was presented to Parliament on 29.10.18. Measures included:</p> <p>Plastics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New tax on plastic packaging containing less than 30% recycled plastic to be introduced in April 2022 – subject to consultation. • Reform of the Packaging Producer Responsibility System (Extended Producer Responsibility) to increase business responsibility for the costs of managing packaging waste – subject to consultation. • Funding - £10 million for plastics R&D and £10 million to pioneer innovative approaches to boosting recycling and reducing litter, e.g. smart bins. <p>Food Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £15 million to charities and others to distribute surplus food. <p>Incineration Tax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current plans, but would consider introducing the tax in future if Government’s resources and waste ambitions are not being met. <p>Landfill Tax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard rate £91.35/tonne from 01.04.19 and £94.15/tonne from 01.04.20 • Lower rate £2.90/tonne from 01.04.19 and £3.00/tonne from 01.04.20. <p>Abandoned Waste Site Clearance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £10 million pilot for the Environment Agency to work with partners to clear the worst sites blighting local communities. <p>Link to Budget 2018 Link to Budget briefing on single use plastics</p>	<p>Increased business responsibility for costs of household packaging waste.</p> <p>Support for plastics recycling markets.</p> <p>No current plans for an incineration tax.</p>

<p>National Waste Statistics 2017-18 On 11.12.18 DEFRA released national waste statistics for 2017-18. England's waste arisings from households decreased from 411kg per person per year to 410kg. Over the same timescale England's recycling rate fell by 0.3% to 44.8%. Link to DEFRA Waste Statistics 2017-18</p>	<p>Reduced waste arisings.</p> <p>England reuse and recycling target of 50% by 2020. No statutory targets on LAs, but Merseyside Districts and MRWA have a pooled 50% recycling target by 2020 via the JRWMS.</p>
<p>Waste Crime Review The independent review of serious and organised waste crime was published on 14.11.18. Recommendations include establishing a Joint Unit for Waste Crime; measures to strengthen Environment Agency powers and legislation to more effectively prevent and disrupt waste crime; and to hold waste producers accountable for the end destination of their wastes. Link to review Link to press release</p>	<p>Encourages waste contractors to improve end destinations transparency.</p> <p>Stronger waste crime measures likely in new Resources and Waste Strategy.</p>
<p>Household Waste Duty of Care On 11.12.18 DEFRA updated guidance for local authorities on household waste duty of care fixed penalty notices. Link to Household Waste Duty of Care FPN Guidance Link to Government Response to Household Waste Duty of Care consultation</p>	<p>FPNs provide an alternative to prosecution for Duty of Care breaches.</p>
<p>Government Announcements on the Horizon:</p> <p>Resources and Waste Strategy) expected December 2018. The Strategy will be followed by a number of consultations expected January 2019 (see consultations update below).</p> <p>HWRC Charging Review revised guidance delayed to December 2018.</p> <p>Draft Environmental Principles & Governance after EU Exit Bill expected 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>Brexit issues are delaying planned Government announcements.</p> <p>Opportunities to develop UK circular economy and resources strategy post Brexit.</p>

<p>Other National Activity</p> <p>UK Plastics Pact Roadmap to 2025 The Roadmap, published on 15.11.18, promotes collaboration across the supply chain and identifies key actions to improve the sustainability of plastics. Link to Roadmap</p> <p>Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging funding On 05.12.18 BEIS announced £60 million funding from the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund for development of smart sustainable plastic packaging linked to the Bioeconomy Strategy (see below). Link to press release</p> <p>Bioeconomy Strategy 2018 – 2030 The Strategy aims to support a transition from fossil resources to renewable biological resources, e.g. oil based plastic packaging to bioplastics, and was published on 05.12.18. Link to Bioeconomy Strategy</p> <p>Municipal Waste Incineration Emissions and Infant Health Study This latest research, published 22.11.18, found no association between municipal waste incinerator proximity or emissions and infant health outcomes. Link to report</p> <p>Abandoned Vehicles Guidance On 30.11.18 DEFRA published updated guidance on LA responsibilities for abandoned vehicles. Link to Abandoned Vehicles Guidance</p> <p>DEFRA Group Strategy – Creating a Great Place for Living Overall strategy and vision for DEFRA’s work published 02.11.18. Link to Strategy</p>	<p>Opportunities to develop plastics circular economy and reduce resource consumption.</p> <p>Further research showing no link between municipal waste incinerator emissions and health.</p>
<p>EU & INTERNATIONAL</p>	
<p>China Waste Import Restrictions The Environment Agency and WRAP continue to monitor the UK situation.</p>	<p>Recycling income losses for LAs. Raise any operational concerns ASAP with the EA.</p>

<p>EC Notice on Waste Shipments and ‘No Deal’ Brexit On 08.11.18 the EC updated stakeholders across the EU on issues around UK withdrawal and EU waste law, including waste exports. Link to EC notice pdf 5 pages</p>	
<p>Other EU & International activity</p> <p>LCR Brussels Office The Brussels Office is part of the LCR Combined Authority and advises stakeholders on EU policy and funding issues and opportunities. All Districts and MRWA have access to its support services.</p>	

CONSULTATION RESPONSES UPDATE 13.12.18

CONSULTATION	DATES	RESPONSE	SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS
FUTURE CONSULTATIONS			
Environmental Principles Policy Statement	Late 2018 / 2019	To confirm	Consultation expected once the Draft Environmental Principles and Governance Bill is published.
Single Use Plastics	Late 2018 / 2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on extending the single use plastic bag charge to all retailers and potential increasing the charge from 5p to 10p.
Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Reform	Jan 2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on proposals for an EPR scheme for packaging.
Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drink Containers	Jan 2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on establishing a DRS in England for used drink containers.
Tax on Plastic Packaging Containing less than 30% Recycled Content	Jan 2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on introducing a plastic packaging recycled content tax by 2022.
Recycling Collections Consistency	To confirm	To confirm	Possible consultation on improving collections consistency potentially linked to packaging EPR.

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.
WEEE Regulations review	Spring 2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on introduction of a mandatory Producer Balancing System to ensure free clearance of WEEE from LA sites.
CURRENT CONSULTATIONS (NONE)			
RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS			
Consultation on Proposals to Ban the Distribution / Sale of Plastic Straws, Plastic-Stemmed Cotton Buds and Plastic Drink Stirrers in England (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Submitted 03.12.18	MHWP	The response supported introduction of a comprehensive ban at the earliest practical date. The ban can signal Government's intention to tackle single use plastic and set a direction of travel towards delivering more efficient use of resources through the circular economy.
Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2018 (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Submitted 16.11.18	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.
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 • Consultation on banning plastic straws, cotton buds and stirrers in Oct 2019 (see above). Government Response is awaited • Budget 2018 announced plans for EPR and increasing plastic packaging recycled content (see above).

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

TARGETS TRACKER

Year	Action	Requirement
2020	50% of waste from households prepared for re-use or recycled	EU Waste Framework Directive 2008 / The Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011 / Joint Recycling & Waste Management Strategy (JRWMS) for Merseyside 2011 - 2041: EU – Statutory National - Statutory Merseyside – JRWMS target (for WDA & WCAs collectively) Individual LAs – No target
2020	Reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal waste (LACMW) landfilled to 10%	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS target
2025	55% of municipal waste reused or recycled	Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018: EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2025	20% reduction in UK food and drink waste and carbon emissions compared with 2015	Courtauld Commitment: National - Aspirational
2025	70% of all plastics packaging waste effectively recycled or composted	UK Plastics Pact: National - Aspirational
2030	No landfilling of food waste	Clean Growth Strategy: National - Aspirational
2030	Reduce the amount of LACMW landfilled to 2%	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS target
2030	Reduce total waste arisings from households by 8% based on 2011 levels	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS target (for WDA & WCAs collectively)
2030	60% of municipal waste reused or recycled	Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018: EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed

2035	65% of municipal waste reused or recycled	Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018: EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2035	Landfill of municipal waste limited to 10%	Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018: EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2042	Eliminate avoidable plastic waste	25 Year Environment Plan: National - Aspirational
2050	Zero avoidable waste and a doubling of resource productivity	Clean Growth Strategy: National - Aspirational
2050	Reduce carbon emissions by at least 80% of 1990 levels	Climate Change Act 2008: National - Statutory

Glynn Stevenson
Waste Strategy Policy Officer
MRWA
0151 255 2526
glynn.stevenson@merseysidewda.gov.uk