

## **RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE 22.05.19**

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
<b>LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)</b>	
<p><b>LCR Green Investment Fund</b>            On 27.02.19 the LCR Metro Mayor announced plans for a <b>£10 million Green Investment Fund</b> to support renewable energy projects and delivery of a zero-carbon city region by 2040. Progression of the Mersey tidal energy scheme to Outline Business Case stage was announced on 08.05.19 and plans for a <b>hydrogen</b> powered bus fleet and <b>refuelling depot</b> are also in development.  <a href="#">Link to LCRCA press release</a>  <a href="#">Link to LCRCA tidal energy press release</a>  <a href="#">Link to LCRCA hydrogen bus project press release</a></p>	<p><b>Potential funding for circular economy projects.</b></p> <p><b>Hydrogen fuel infrastructure can support reduced waste vehicle fleet emissions.</b></p>
<p><b>Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)</b>            Strategy development continues. The LCR Combined Authority (LCRCA) expects the final strategy to play a <b>key role in future LCR economic growth, environmental sustainability and community wellbeing.</b></p>	<p><b>LIS can draw investment into circular economy projects.</b></p>
<p><b>Social Value</b>            The LCRCA is claiming a national first through evaluating <b>social value</b> in production of the <b>LCR Spatial Development Strategy</b>. An <b>LCR conference</b> exploring how social value can inform policy development is planned for later this year.  <a href="#">Link to LCRCA press release</a></p>	<p><b>Strengthening role of social value in policy and strategy development.</b></p>
<p><b>LCR CA and LEP meetings</b>            The LCR Combined Authority last met on 16.05.19 and the next meeting follows on 18.07.19.  <a href="#">Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</a></p> <p>The LEP Board last met on 21.03.19 and the next meeting follows on 16.05.19.  <a href="#">Link to LEP Board meeting papers</a></p>	
<b>NATIONAL</b>	
<p><b>Committee on Climate Change ‘Net Zero’ Report</b>            On 02.05.19 the independent Committee on Climate Change report recommended Government adopt a <b>UK target to meet net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050</b>. This strengthens the existing 80%</p>	<p><b>Accelerated action on reducing carbon emissions.</b></p>

<p>emissions reduction (from 1990 levels) 2050 target. The report recommends biodegradable waste should not be landfilled after 2025 and the mandatory separation of remaining waste.  <a href="#">Link to report</a></p> <p>On 01.05.19 the UK Parliament passed a motion declaring an Environment and Climate Change Emergency which supported net zero emissions before 2050.  <a href="#">Link to Parliament debate</a></p>	<p><b>Accelerated shift up the waste hierarchy.</b></p>
<p><b>Brexit Update:</b></p> <p><b>Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration</b>  The 25.11.18 agreement has been rejected 3 times by the UK Parliament. Agreement was reached with the EU on 10.04.19 to extend the Brexit deadline to 31.10.19, in order to provide more time to reach agreement and avoid a 'no deal' Brexit. The UK will now participate in EU elections on 23.05.19.</p> <p><b>Withdrawal Agreement Bill</b>  Government have announced their intention to introduce the Withdrawal Agreement Bill to Parliament the week starting 03.06.19. This represents a latest attempt to break the deadlock following the end of talks between Government and Opposition on agreeing a compromise position. The Prime Minister has indicated that in the next few weeks she will announce a timetable for leaving office.  <a href="#">Link to Agreement and Declaration</a>  <a href="#">Link to GOV.UK Brexit pages</a></p> <p><b>Guidance</b>  On 05.04.19 Government issued Guidance on EU Exit secondary legislation with impacts on local government, including waste and environment. Government have previously issued a range of guidance on preparing for the possibility of a 'no deal' Brexit.  <a href="#">Link to EU Exit secondary legislation Guidance</a>  <a href="#">Link to 'No Deal' Brexit Guidance papers</a>  <a href="#">Link to Guidance on Local Government Brexit Preparedness</a></p>	<p><b>Continued uncertainty on the future UK – EU relationship.</b></p> <p><b>Possibility of a no deal Brexit.</b></p> <p><b>Closer UK – EU waste and resources policy alignment with a 'softer' Brexit. Potential increased divergence with a 'hard' or 'no deal' Brexit.</b></p>
<p><b>Draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill Inquiry</b>  The Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee has scrutinised the Bill and published its findings on 25.04.19. The Committee has expressed concerns on the Draft Bill, including a weakening of environmental principles, a lack of independence from Government of the proposed 'Office for Environmental Protection' and a risk that LAs could be held accountable for failings outside of their control.  <a href="#">Link to Inquiry</a></p>	<p><b>Major environment legislation affecting future waste and resource management.</b></p> <p><b>Majority of the Bill yet to be published.</b></p>

<p><b>Spring Statement 2019</b> The Chancellor delivered the Statement on 13.03.19 which included a commitment to advance the decarbonisation of gas supplies by <b>increasing the proportion of 'green' gas in the national gas grid.</b> <a href="#">Link to Spring Statement 2019</a></p>	<p><b>Supports food waste separate collection and anaerobic digestion to produce biogas.</b></p>
<p><b>WRAP Resource Action Fund</b> On 13.05.19 WRAP launched the <b>£18 million fund</b> to support resource efficiency projects, including action on <b>food, plastics, textiles, recycling infrastructure and litter.</b> Outline proposals for large scale (£200k - £1m) <b>food waste prevention projects</b> are invited by <b>01.07.19.</b> For smaller projects (£20k - £170k) the deadline is <b>11.07.19.</b> More funding calls are expected shortly. <a href="#">Link to Resource Action Fund</a></p>	<p><b>Funding for prevention, reuse and recycling projects.</b></p>
<p><b>'Step up to the Plate' Food Waste Pledge</b> On 13.05.19 Government's Food Waste Champion, Ben Elliot, hosted a gathering of leading food businesses and chefs to encourage them to make <b>food waste reduction pledges.</b> At the same event Michael Gove announced over <b>£6 million funding for food surplus re-distribution projects.</b> <a href="#">Link to pledge press release</a> <a href="#">Link to funding press release</a></p>	<p><b>Funding for food surplus re-distribution projects.</b></p>
<p><b>Single Use Plastic (SUP) Bans</b> On 22.05.19 Government confirmed that <b>bans on plastic straws, cotton buds and stirrers will come into force in April 2020</b> following consultation in 2018. The announcement follows EU adoption of the Single Use Plastics Directive the previous day which includes SUP bans. <a href="#">Link to press release</a> <a href="#">Link to Government Response</a></p>	<p><b>More single use plastic bans and restrictions expected to follow.</b></p>
<p><b>2019 WEEE Collection Targets</b> On 27.03.19, DEFRA confirmed an increased UK WEEE <b>collection target of 550,577 tonnes for producer compliance schemes in 2019.</b> In effect, schemes will need to collect an additional 58,000 tonnes of WEEE to meet the new target with an <b>increase in small mixed WEEE collections required</b> in particular.</p>	<p><b>Encourages Producers to invest in small WEEE collections and take back schemes.</b></p>
<p><b>Scottish Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Drinks Containers</b> On 08.05.19 the Scottish Government announced its intention to introduce a <b>DRS in 2020 for plastic PET, glass, aluminium and steel drinks containers below 3 litres volume</b> (except milk). A <b>20p deposit</b> would be applied to drinks in these containers which would be redeemable by returning the container to any retailer of these drinks. <a href="#">Link to press release</a></p>	<p><b>DEFRA prefer a UK wide DRS scheme and may be influenced by the Scottish approach.</b></p>

<p><b>Landfill Tax rates</b> The standard rate rose to £91.35/tonne from 01.04.19 and will increase to £94.15/tonne from 01.04.20. The lower rate moves to £2.90/tonne from 01.04.19 and £3.00/tonne from 01.04.20.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing landfill tax increases.</b></p>
<p><b>Other National Activity</b></p> <p><b>25 Year Environment Plan Progress Report</b> On 16.05.19 DEFRA published the first annual progress report on the Plan which identifies that 90% of actions have been delivered or are being progressed. <a href="#">Link to report</a> <a href="#">Link to press release</a></p> <p><b>Guidance on Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Incentives</b> Updated on 01.04.19 <a href="#">Link to updated Guidance</a></p>	
<p><b>EU &amp; INTERNATIONAL</b></p>	
<p><b>EU Single Use Plastics Directive</b> On 21.05.19 the European Council of Ministers approved the Directive which will ban selected single use plastics (SUPs), improve SUP product design, extend producer responsibility and set collection rates for plastic bottles. The full Directive text will be published shortly through the OJEU and then Member States will have 2 years to transpose legislation into national law. <a href="#">Link to European Commission press release</a></p>	<p><b>Legislation to reduce environmental impact of single use plastics.</b></p> <p><b>Application in UK will depend on Brexit arrangements.</b></p>
<p><b>EU Batteries Directive review</b> On 03.05.19 the European Commission published an evaluation of the Directive. Several member states failed to meet the 45% collection of portable batteries by 2016 target, including the UK (44%). <a href="#">Link to press release</a></p>	<p><b>Revision of the Directive and higher collection targets may follow.</b></p> <p><b>Application in UK will depend on Brexit arrangements.</b></p>
<p><b>EU Circular Economy Action Plan update</b> On 04.03.19 the European Commission published a progress update on the 2015 Plan, which identifies that all 54 actions in the Plan have been delivered or are in implementation. <a href="#">Link to press release</a></p>	<p><b>Good progress but further actions required. Application in UK will depend on Brexit arrangements.</b></p>

<p><b>EU Urban Innovative Actions – 5<sup>th</sup> Call</b>  The 5<sup>th</sup> call for proposals is expected to open in September 2019 and will include the circular economy as a topic. UK organisations may be able to apply depending on the Brexit situation at the time.  <a href="#">Link to 5th call proposals</a></p>	<p><b>Funding for circular economy projects.</b></p>
<p><b>EU Interreg North West Europe – 9<sup>th</sup> Call</b>  The call, published on 12.12.18, includes a focus on resource and materials efficiency and closes 14.06.19. UK organisations are currently eligible to apply.  <a href="#">Link to 9th call</a></p>	<p><b>Funding for resource efficiency projects.</b></p>
<p><b>International Waste Export Restrictions</b>  The Environment Agency and WRAP continue to monitor the UK export situation. On 10.05.19 international agreement was reached to add difficult to recycle non-hazardous plastic waste to Annex 2 of the Basel Convention with effect from 01.01.21. The new measures would require exporters of this material to secure permission from receiving countries in advance of material being sent out.  <a href="#">Link to Basel Convention</a></p>	<p><b>LAs to raise any operational concerns with EA ASAP.</b>   <b>Stronger controls on plastic waste exports.</b></p>
<p><b>Other EU &amp; International activity</b></p> <p><b>LCR Brussels Office</b>  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 22.05.19

CONSULTATION	DATES	RESPONSE	SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS
<b>FUTURE CONSULTATIONS</b>			
EU Circular Economy Package (CEP) Transposition	2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on transposition of revised EU Waste Directives from the CEP into UK law pending Brexit arrangements.
Environmental Principles Policy Statement	2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on the Statement which will be implemented through the Environmental Principles and Governance Bill.
Recycling Consistency	Late 2019 / early 2020	To confirm	To follow the current recycling consistency consultation and consider statutory guidance and minimum service standards for collection.
Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	Late 2019 / early 2020	To confirm	To follow the current packaging producer responsibility consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail.
New EPR Materials	By 2022 / 2025	To confirm	Consultations expected on introducing new EPR schemes. 2 materials consulted on by 2022, 5 by 2025. May include mattresses, carpets, furniture, textiles, car tyres, fishing nets.
Other consultations expected in 2019 flowing from the Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory food waste reporting / prevention targets for businesses</li> <li>• Standards for bio-based and biodegradable plastics</li> <li>• Waste Duty of Care, Permitting and mandatory digital recording of waste movements.</li> </ul>			
<b>CURRENT CONSULTATIONS (NONE)</b>			
<b>RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS</b>			
Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England (DEFRA) <a href="#">Link to consultation</a>	Submitted 13.05.19	MHWP	The response called for local flexibility in the list of materials to be collected for recycling to reflect materials with sustainable markets. MHWP would like to work with Government to understand the true costs and benefits of introducing food waste collections locally and also maintain the ability to charge for garden waste collections if Councils

			<p>wish. MHWP does not support the requirement for residual waste collections at least every 2 weeks and called for any new collection or recycling requirements expected from 2023 to be fully funded by Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting Government Response. Further consultation expected winter 2019-20</li> </ul>
<p>Consultation on Reforming the UK Packaging Producer Responsibility System (DEFRA)  <a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>	Submitted 13.05.19	MHWP	<p>The response supported extended producer responsibility measures for packaging from 2023, including full net cost recovery by producers of costs incurred by LAs in the management of packaging waste. The new packaging system should be overseen by a single, publically accountable body.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting Government Response. Further consultation expected winter 2019-20</li> </ul>
<p>Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA)  <a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>	Submitted 13.05.19	MHWP	<p>The response recognised the benefits of an ‘all in’ DRS in diverting material to recycling, but that there were concerns on the impact of loss of materials from kerbside collections. Any DRS introduced from 2023 should follow reform of the packaging producer responsibility system and ensure LAs are not financially disadvantaged as a result.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting Government Response</li> </ul>
<p>Plastic Packaging Tax (HM Treasury)  <a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>	Submitted 12.05.19	MHWP	<p>The response supported proposals to introduce a tax on plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled plastic content by 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting Government Response</li> </ul>
<p>Consultation on Proposal to Extend the Single Use Plastic Bag Charge to all Retailers and Increase Minimum Charge to 10p (DEFRA)  <a href="#">Link to consultation</a></p>	Submitted 30.01.19	MHWP	<p>The response supported extension of the charge and an increase to 10p. Potential increased use of alternatives, e.g. paper bags, should be monitored. Income from the 10p charge should be invested in waste prevention and reuse initiatives to reduce bag consumption at source.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting Government Response</li> </ul>
<p>Consultation on Proposals to Ban the Distribution / Sale of Plastic Straws, Plastic-Stemmed Cotton Buds and Plastic Drink Stirrers in England (DEFRA)</p>	Submitted 03.12.18	MHWP	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government have announced bans on these materials from</li> </ul>

<a href="#">Link to consultation</a>			April 2020
Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2018 (DEFRA) <a href="#">Link to consultation</a>	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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government have approved a compliance fee approach for 2018 which supports site clearance</li> </ul>

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	<b>EU Waste Framework Directive 2008 / The Waste (England &amp; Wales) Regulations 2011 / Joint Recycling &amp; Waste Management Strategy (JRWMS) for Merseyside 2011 - 2041:</b> EU – Statutory National - Statutory Merseyside – JRWMS target (pooled target for MRWA & 5 Districts) Individual LAs – No target
2020	Reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal waste (LACMW) landfilled to 10%	<b>JRWMS:</b> Merseyside – JRWMS target
2025	55% of municipal waste reused or recycled	<b>Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018:</b> EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2025	20% reduction in UK food and drink waste and carbon emissions compared with 2015	<b>Courtauld Commitment:</b> National - Aspirational
2025	All plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable	<b>Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England 2018:</b> National - Aspirational
2025	70% of all plastics packaging waste effectively	<b>UK Plastics Pact 2018:</b>

	<b>recycled or composted</b>	National - Aspirational
2030	<b>Eliminate landfilling of food waste</b>	<b>Clean Growth Strategy 2017:</b> National - Aspirational
2030	<b>Reduce the amount of LACMW landfilled to 2%</b>	<b>JRWMS:</b> Merseyside – JRWMS target
2030	<b>Reduce total waste arisings from households by 8% based on 2011 levels</b>	<b>JRWMS:</b> Merseyside – JRWMS target (for WDA & WCAs collectively)
2030	<b>60% of municipal waste reused or recycled</b>	<b>Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018:</b> EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2035	<b>65% of municipal waste reused or recycled</b>	<b>Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018:</b> EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2035	<b>Landfill of municipal waste limited to 10%</b>	<b>Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2018:</b> EU – Statutory National – adoption to be confirmed
2042	<b>Eliminate avoidable plastic waste</b>	<b>25 Year Environment Plan 2018:</b> National - Aspirational
2050	<b>Zero avoidable waste and a doubling of resource productivity</b>	<b>Clean Growth Strategy 2017:</b> National - Aspirational
2050	<b>Reduce carbon emissions by at least 80% of 1990 levels</b>	<b>Climate Change Act 2008:</b> National - Statutory

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