

Merseyside Recycling  
& Waste Authority

# ANNUAL REPORT



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY



# Welcome to the MRWA Annual Report

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This is our statement of what we have achieved over the last year or so and how we have addressed any challenges that came our way. The document follows the format of the last few years in that it is written and produced in-house and is meant as a non-printed electronic document to cut down on waste paper.

Onto business, and our Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) is now well underway and performing as we hoped it would. Merseyside and Halton's residual waste is sent to an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Teeside which uses our waste to generate electricity for the national grid and high pressure steam for local industrial use. There were some technical issues at one point during the year, but overall we helped to generate enough electricity to power approximately 60,000 homes - a great achievement.

Elsewhere the Waste Management and Recycling Contract (WMRC) continues to provide Merseyside householders with a network of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). The HWRCs achieved a 70% recycling rate which contributed to an overall recycling level for Merseyside of 37.79% - a decrease compared with the previous year's 38.9%. While this slight drop is disappointing it's worth pointing out that we have actually recycled more material than last year - overall waste figures have risen, which means the recycling percentage has decreased.

The contract with Veolia also provides the Materials Recovery Facilities at Bidston and Gillmoss which ensures that waste is transported efficiently from waste transfer stations to disposal points. By the end of 2018/19 the Authority managed 441,774 tonnes of residual waste.

Our behavioural change work with the public remains crucially important to help reduce waste levels. The MRWA & Veolia Community Fund continues to provide financial assistance to groups and charities across the region in helping promote waste re-use and prevention initiatives locally.

The Recycle Right campaign is using direct engagement through events, radio and newspaper advertising and digital and outdoor media to help people to recycle the right things in the right place.

Education through visits to our two Recycling Discovery Centres in Bidston and Gillmoss, and the Southport Eco Centre, as well as talks in the community, are all tasked with raising awareness of waste as a precious resource and not something to just be tossed away. Last year we engaged with over 18,000 people.

Like most local UK authorities financial limitations remain challenging. We are continually working with partners across the City Region to improve waste management in this time of climate emergencies and rapid global and environmental change. At the same time we are constantly reviewing our services with a view to achieving maximum efficiency for the taxpayers of Merseyside.

We hope you enjoy reading through our Annual Report and find it interesting and useful.

**Cllr Tony Concepcion - Chair**

**Carl Beer - Chief Executive**



# Introduction

**"To contribute to the economic, environmental and social well-being of Merseyside by promoting the best use of resources and ensuring that waste is sustainably managed."**

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## Our Corporate Aims

### Deliverability

How we will meet our statutory duties by procuring and managing our waste contracts and other operational activities.

### Sustainability

How we intend to promote and deliver sustainable waste management through the Waste Hierarchy in Merseyside.

### Partnership and Governance

How we work with partners transparently to deliver good working relationships.

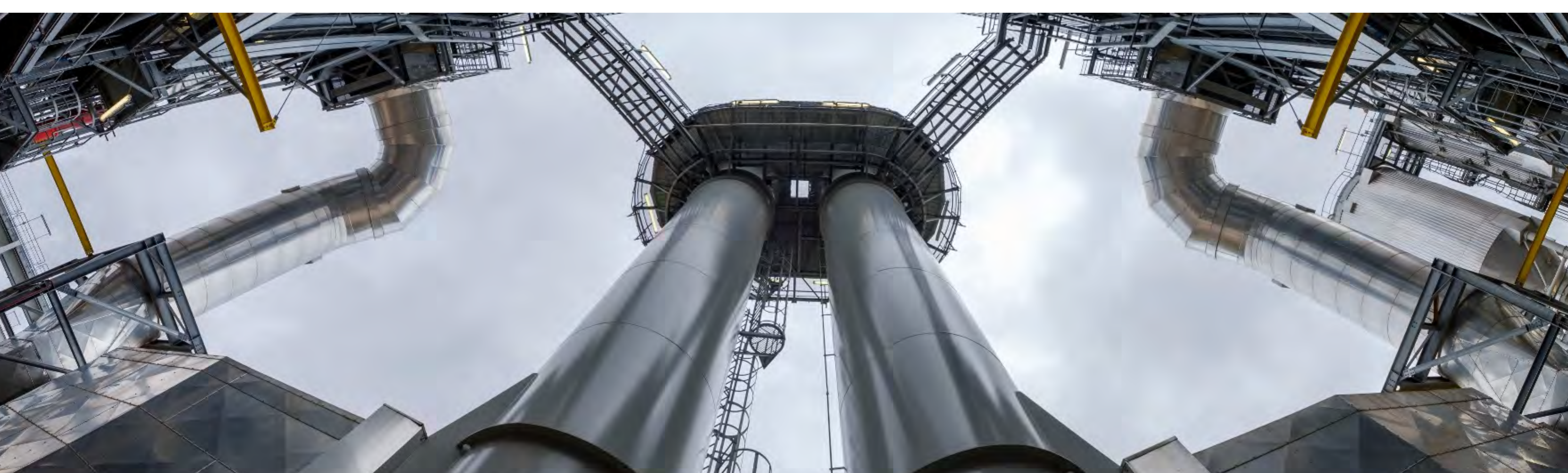
### Accountability

What standards we should set ourselves to ensure good corporate governance.

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Our Corporate Plan, Budget and Service Delivery Plans are approved by our Members annually and reports back to Members to confirm the success of outcomes for the year.

The following pages of this Annual Report summarise how effective the Authority has been in achieving its planned outcomes.





# Deliverability

## Contracts



37.79%	Liverpool City Region household waste recycled
441,774	total tonnes of residual waste managed
70%	materials recycled at Recycling Centres

The network of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), two Materials Recycling Facilities (MRFs), and four Waste Transfer Stations is operated for the Authority by Veolia under the Waste Management and Recycling Contract. The HWRCs are particularly important as they are used directly by the public to access recycling facilities for household waste. During the year the public brought 182,859 tonnes of household waste to Merseyside and Halton's HWRCs, which had a recycling performance of 70%.

The performance of the HWRCs makes a strong contribution towards Merseyside’s overall recycling rate which is 37.79% for the year. Although this is a fall from the previous year's 38.93% we actually recycled slightly more tonnage of material than we did in 2017/18.

The amount of waste produced per household in the region has increased from 624kg in 2017/18 to 633 kg in 2018/19.

District Councils delivered 346,755 tonnes of non-recyclable waste directly to the Authority through their residual household waste collection services. Additional amounts of non-recycled waste at the HWRCs and MRFs meant the Authority handled 441,774 tonnes of residual waste in the year gone.

The Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) provides the Authority with access to an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Teesside (see above) and a Rail Transfer Loading Station (RTLS) in Kirkby. The majority of the Authority’s residual household waste is now dealt with through the RTLS and EfW. Last year saw 404,795 tonnes of waste delivered to the facility, which produced enough energy to power approximately 60,000 homes.



# Data and Performance

General Data Protection Regulation 2016 has been embedded into the relevant policy and procedures to ensure compliance with the new Data Protection Act 2018. All staff have been provided with training and ongoing advice is available from our GDPR Officers. Privacy notices are in place and can be viewed on our website.

We have increased the range of software available to help realise time efficiency savings allowing the team to support other staff with their projects. Our Data Hub has been developed with the introduction of a Data Request System which enables the team to provide quality data responses to a range of queries internally and externally.

Waste Data Flow returns and Contractual verification were undertaken in a timely manner and Internal Audits received High or Substantial Assurance.



# Education and Engagement



Last year, we engaged with 18,371 people through schools, charities and community groups as part of the Authority’s Waste Education Programme. The programme aims to inform people about recycling, re-use, waste prevention and the journey of household recycling and black bag bin waste.

As well as our own outreach sessions we work with our partners and contractors to help deliver education through five Education Centres, namely:

- Bidston Recycling Discovery Centre
- Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre
- Kirkby Rail Transfer Loading Station Visitor Centre
- Wilton EfW Visitor Centre
- Southport Eco Centre

Around two thirds of the 18,371 engagements took place at the Recycling Discovery Centre at Gillmoss in Liverpool. Here visitors can see how recycling and waste management happens on a day to day basis through the on-site Materials Recovery Facility which sorts a significant portion of kerbside household recycling in the Liverpool City Region.



## Looking after landfill

We manage seven former landfill sites to ensure that their long term environmental impact is minimised and meets all environmental standards and obligations.

At each of the former sites (including Bidston Moss, pictured) there is a range of equipment designed to monitor and mitigate the impacts of gas and leachate into the local environment. We test the levels of emissions and regularly review the effectiveness of the control systems across the sites.

This year we reviewed the way in which the contracts for the management and maintenance of the Closed Landfill sites is undertaken to ensure that the sites continue to be managed in the most efficient way, and our Environmental Monitoring System (EMS) remains accredited to the ISO14001 standard.

## Health and Safety

During 2017/18 we reviewed our approach to Health and Safety management. The successful EMS system, along with HSE guidance, provided a model for managing Health and Safety which has proved successful and helps to ensure that the Authority's approach is comprehensive.

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# Managing 7 former landfill sites





# Sustainability

## Waste Strategy

In December 2018, the government published the 'Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England'. This is the first comprehensive update of national municipal waste management policy for over a decade. The Strategy offers a renewed impetus for the Authority and the Liverpool City Region, to review its approach to the strategically important challenges and opportunities that the Strategy advocates in its Circular Economy of production, consumption and management of waste.

The Authority hosts the Liverpool City Region Circular Economy Club and plans to deliver a programme of activities and events for its members through the online hub – [www.linkedin.com/groups/8685207/profile](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/8685207/profile).

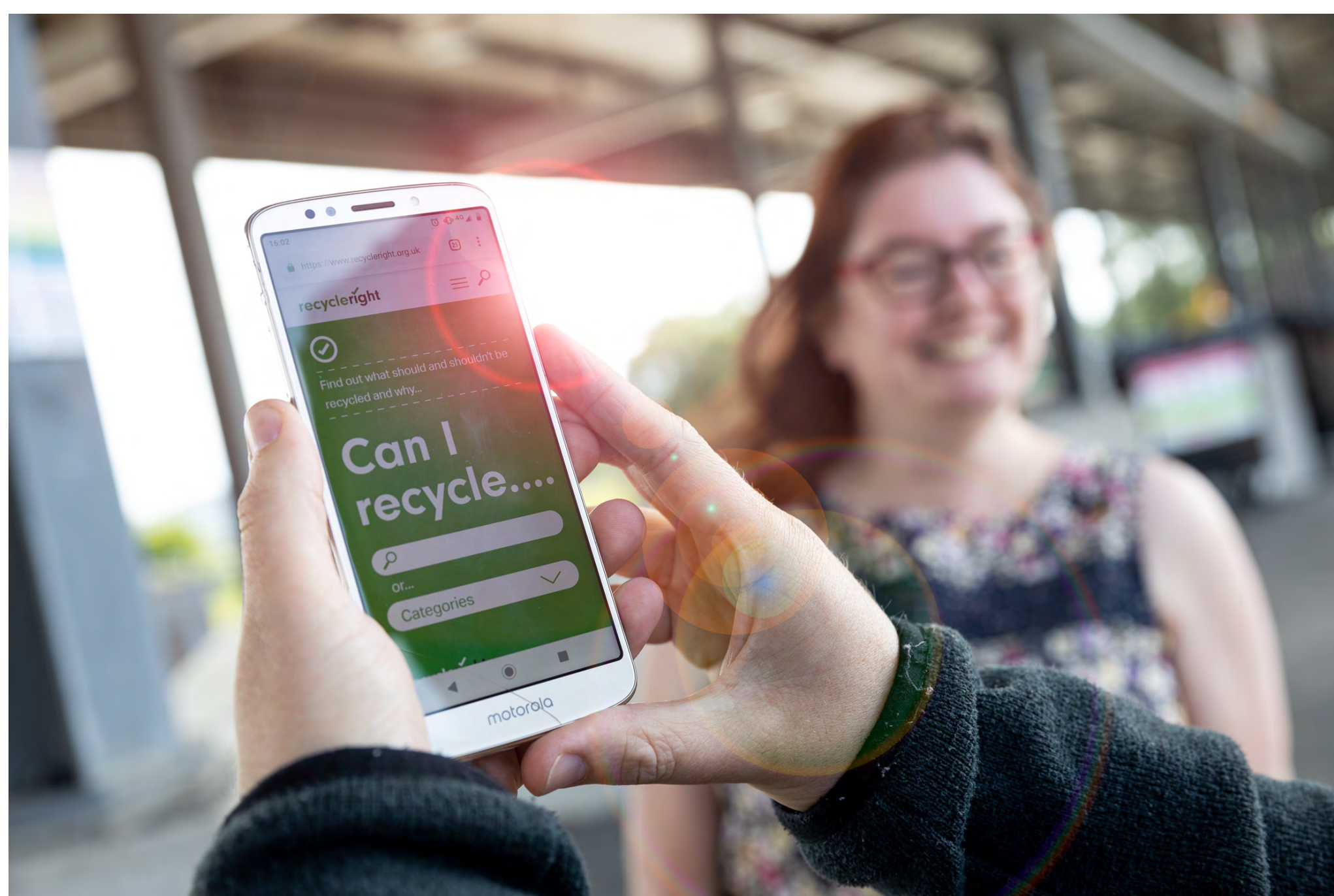


CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
C L U B  
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

## Behavioural Change

We are continuing to work with local communities to encourage waste reduction and prevention to help move waste further up the waste hierarchy.

The Behavioural Change Programme (BCP) provides a rigorous approach to targeting initiatives so that they achieve a measurable outcome. The BCP has brought together activities from across the Authority to encourage waste prevention, re-use, recycling and education and awareness.



recycleright

## Recycle Right

Recycle Right is a campaign to help tackle householder confusion about recycling and reducing 'contamination' in recycling collections. It provides advice across all of the district councils in the Liverpool City Region. This 'one stop shop' approach about what to recycle and where and what to put in which bin and why means that no matter where you live in the region the same advice applies.

The campaign has developed a range of ways to help residents recycle more and recycle better including a website [www.recycleright.org.uk](http://www.recycleright.org.uk); daily messages and recycling tips via its Twitter and Facebook channels @GoRecycleRight; and a handy guide which can be downloaded from the website.



# Community projects funded to the tune of £115,000

Fourteen community groups from Merseyside and Halton received funding to help boost recycling, re-use and waste prevention in the region.

The £115,000 was from the MRWA and Veolia Community Fund 2018/19, which has been running annually since 2006. Projects included the reduction of food waste through cookery clubs and growing local produce, re-using and upcycling unwanted furniture, creative sewing classes to encourage textiles re-use, creating a school garden green space with used plastic bottles, and refurbishing and redistributing furniture, clothes and tools.

A.C.E. Active Community Enterprise – ACE Place

B 4 Biodiversity – Ford Lane Community Garden

Changing Communities – ReStore St Helens

Emmaus Merseyside – Waste Driven

Faiths4Change – Northwood Communitree 4aRts (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Resources)

Friends of Bebington Central Library – Sew Friendly

Granby Toxteth Development Trust – Reusing in L1578 and Beyond

Halton Play Council – Pop up Scrapstore

The HoneyRose Foundation – Crafting and Education for Reuse and Recycling of Waste Wood

The Let’s Cook Project – Let’s Cook in Merseyside

Lord Derby Academy – The Plastic Bottle Vertical Garden

Pioneer People Wirral – Inside Art & Upcycle Project

St Joseph’s Hospice – The Cardboard Box and Textile Challenge

Wirral Change – The Innovation for Waste Project

673

tonnes of waste  
diverted

860

people trained

26,643

people engaged

50,533

volunteered  
hours



# Partnership and Governance



Our strategy is to work with other stakeholders to ensure our governance is fit for purpose now and into the future as we work more closely with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

We aim to work with partners to develop closer working relationships that lead to unified and transparent governance arrangements.

We plan to work across the City Region on collaborative projects reviewing the cost effectiveness of services.

To achieve these aims we have:

- developed options to achieve efficiency savings in MRWA services
- worked with District Councils on options for joint working arrangements
- developed options for closer integration of resource management into Combined Authority strategies
- re-examined the potential for changes to the Levy apportionment mechanism to reflect even better the - investments made by the constituent District Councils
- developed options for closer partnership between the Authority and the Councils.



# Accountability

## Governance and Performance

The Authority's governance arrangements are reviewed on an ongoing basis through the Primary Assurance Group (PAG) each year. The PAG reviews the way the Authority plans to achieve its corporate objectives, through the performance management framework and the service delivery plan, identifying whether there are areas of concern for Members and planning for future reviews and improvements.

The review of governance is set out in an Annual Governance Statement approved by Members at the first meeting after the year end. No significant issues were identified through the review.

## Financial Management

The Authority spent £74.1M in 2018/19, 94% of which was on contracts to manage waste and statutory services. The Authority's income from the Levy in the same period was £71.5M, the first increase for eight years and part of a medium term financial strategy to ensure that the Levy and the Authority's expenditure are in balance.

The balance of the funding came from the General Fund. A gap between expenditure and funding continues into 2019/20 despite another increase in the overall Levy. A further Levy increase is inevitable to enable funding to be at sustainable levels.

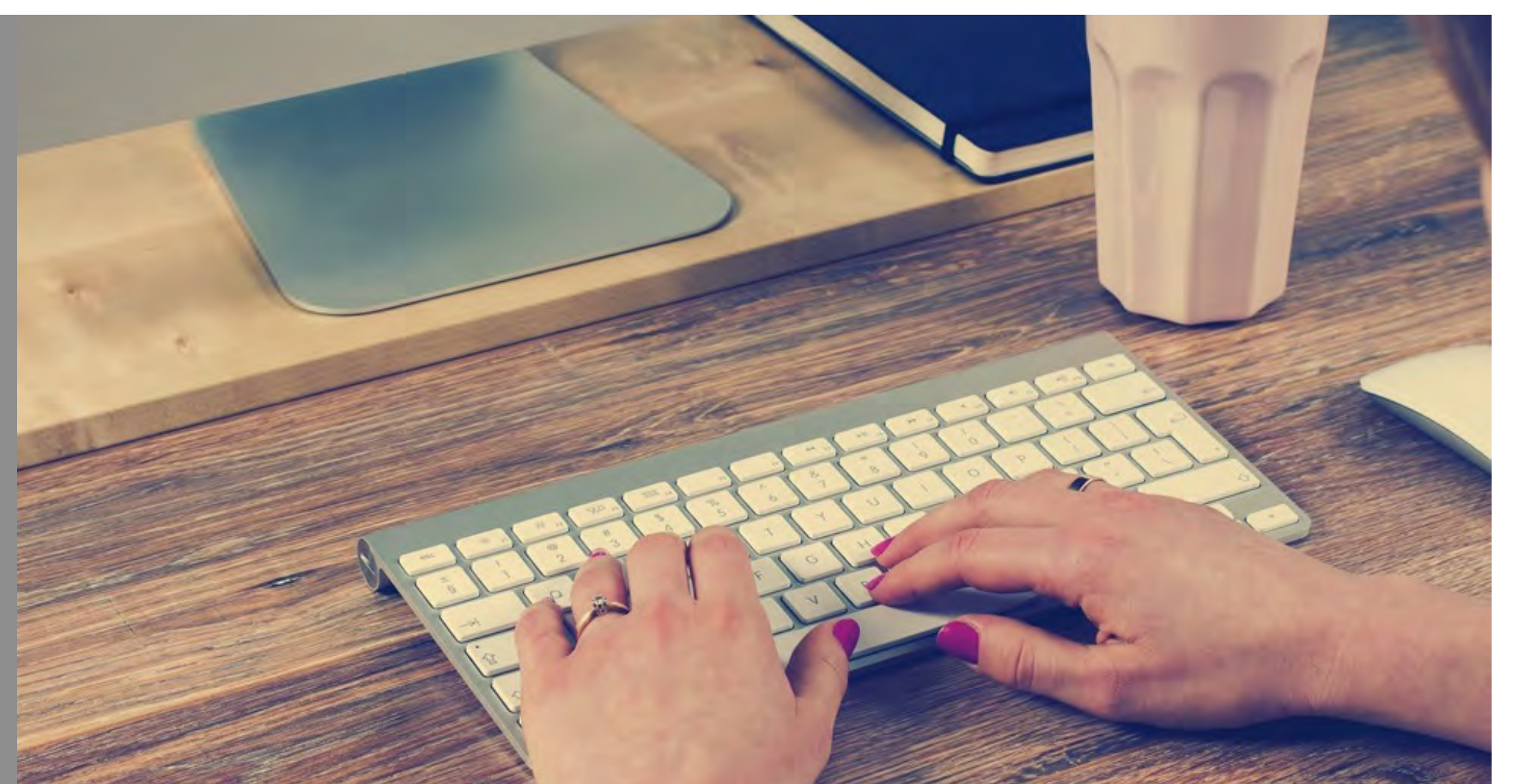
## Business Services

The Business Services section provides the Authority with an effective and efficient administration. The section ensure skills, knowledge and training needs are understood and that the Authority has a staffing establishment that is informed and fit for purpose.

In February 2019, we were accredited by Health@Work in February 2019 demonstrating our commitment to the health & wellbeing of our staff.

**"MRWA received reaccreditation and attained levels above the minimum criteria, demonstrating that as an organisation they take the health of their employees seriously and understand that its people are the biggest asset to the organisation."**

**Kevin Yip, Senior Consultant,  
Health @ Work**





# Going Forward

## How can you help?

With a fully embedded network of Recycling Centres, Materials Recovery Facilities and an Energy from Waste plant, we are well placed to manage the region's household waste for many years to come. However, this doesn't mean our work is finished - in fact, if anything, the hard work to reduce waste levels is still in its infancy.

From a recycling point of view all the Districts have excellent kerbside collection systems, so have a look at your council's website or [www.recyclerightorg.uk](http://www.recyclerightorg.uk), find out what you can and can't recycle and see when your collection day is. Remember to Recycle Right; it's important for us to keep contamination levels low as it helps recycling and ultimately saves money - we need the right thing in the right bin.

All residents can access our 14 Recycling Centres. They accept a wide range of material for recycling including: wood, rubble, large plastics, electrical items, cardboard and carpets. Where you have items that are too big to bring to our sites then contact your local council or charity who may offer a bulky waste collection service.

Working together with the residents of Merseyside is the only way we can help to cut levels of waste. As mentioned earlier in this document waste levels per household have increased. Whether this is down to people buying more things than they need, or cheaper items that don't last, we need to chip away at this figure. Recycling and recovery are exciting technologies, but ultimately we want people to create less waste in the first place so it doesn't have to be managed.

Our own messages of waste prevention are simple - don't buy what you don't need, purchase durable long-lasting goods, repair what can be repaired and give your unwanted items to other people. The more we do this the less waste we have to deal with.

If we all pull together at the same time and in the same direction then we can help make Merseyside a place where nothing is wasted.

## Further information

For more information about what you can and can't recycle go to:  
[www.recycleright.org.uk](http://www.recycleright.org.uk)

If you are a business or organisation interested in the circular re-use of materials how about joining the Liverpool City Region Circular Economy Club -

[www.linkedin.com/groups/8685207/profile](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/8685207/profile)

This Annual Report is only a snapshot of what we do. For more information about MRWA go to:

[www.merseysidewda.gov.uk](http://www.merseysidewda.gov.uk)

All information was correct at the time of publishing.



# Merseyside - a place where nothing is wasted



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MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

**recycle**right