

RESOURCES & WASTE POLICY UPDATE 21.10.19

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	IMPLICATIONS
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (LCR)	
<p>Climate Emergency Following the LCR CA Climate Emergency Declaration earlier in 2019, strategic responses are in development to meet the LCR zero carbon 2040 target and more widely through the Local Industrial Strategy expected in March 2020. The first LCR Environmental Summit follows in November.</p>	<p>Climate emergency responses in development.</p>
<p>Business support The LCR has developed a £75 million package of business growth support to be delivered through Growth Platform, an initiative of LCR LEP. Link to LCR CA Growth Platform press release</p> <p>Plans are in development for the next International Business Festival proposed for 2020 which may have a greater focus on the social impact which businesses can deliver. Link to LCR CA IBF 2020 press release</p>	<p>Opportunity to promote resource efficiency and circular economy business models.</p>
<p>LCR CA and LEP meetings The LCR Combined Authority last met on 04.10.19 and the next meeting follows on 01.11.19. Link to LCR Combined Authority meeting papers</p> <p>The LEP Board last met on 19.09.19 and the next meeting follows on 21.11.19. Link to LEP Board meeting papers</p>	
NATIONAL	
<p>Resources & Waste Strategy (RAWS) Update:</p> <p>Environment Bill A new session of Parliament opened on 14.10.19 with the Queen's Speech summarising Government's legislative proposals, including an Environment Bill. The Bill was published the following day and includes new powers for DEFRA in line with the recycling consistency, extended producer responsibility (EPR) and deposit return scheme (DRS) proposals consulted on earlier in 2019. The Bill would also</p>	<p>Risk of UK political issues delaying implementation.</p> <p>Detailed proposals expected Spring 2020 for implementation from 2023.</p>

<p>introduce powers to set resource efficiency requirements, e.g. ability to repair, on specified products. Link to Environment Bill Link to updated Environmental Bill Policy Statement Link to Environment Bill press release Link to Theresa Villiers speech Link to Queen's Speech 14.10.19</p> <p>More detail on implementation and requirements on LAs would follow in secondary legislation, if the Bill passes Parliament, and after a second round of RAWs consultation expected Spring 2020.</p> <p>Inquiry on Environment Bill Following publication of the Bill, the Parliamentary Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee launched an inquiry into the effectiveness of the Bill. Link to EFRA Inquiry</p> <p>Inquiry on RAWs Implications for LAs On 05.09.19 the Parliamentary Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee published findings from its inquiry. These agreed with many of the RAWs objectives but were concerned Government was being too prescriptive over its requirements on LAs, e.g. collection frequency, and had not clarified how LAs would be funded to deliver these new burdens. Link to report</p> <p>Scottish Draft DRS Regulations The Scottish Government has drafted regulations to introduce a DRS scheme in Scotland. The scheme would target single use drinks containers made of plastic (PET), aluminium, steel or glass. A returnable deposit of 20p would be paid per item. Link to Draft Scottish DRS regs</p>	<p>Resource efficiency requirements on products, e.g. ability to repair.</p> <p>Household packaging waste costs transfer from LAs to Producers.</p> <p>Mandatory separate food waste collection.</p> <p>Consistent recycling collections for households & businesses.</p> <p>Deposit return scheme for drinks containers.</p> <p>Plastic packaging tax on businesses from 2022.</p>
<p>Brexit Update:</p> <p>Revised Brexit Deal Government has committed to Brexit by the 31.10.19 deadline and on 17.10.19 the EU and UK Government reached a new Brexit agreement. However, the UK Parliament did not approve the deal by the 'Benn Act' deadline of 19.10.19, so requiring the Prime Minister to request a further extension. Parliamentary debate on the deal and necessary legislation is ongoing ahead of the 31.10.19 deadline. Link to revised Brexit Deal</p>	<p>Continued uncertainty on the future UK – EU relationship.</p> <p>No Deal Brexit possible.</p> <p>Risk of weakened environmental standards through revised Brexit deal.</p>

<p>Link to EU (Withdrawal) (No.2) Act 2019 (the Benn Act) Link to European Council 17-18 October 2019</p> <p>Guidance An LGA Hub of Brexit guidance for LAs can be found at the link below. Link to LGA Brexit Advice Hub</p> <p>Various Government Brexit guidance links: Link to 'No Deal' Brexit Guidance papers Link to Guidance on Local Government Brexit Preparedness Link to LA 'Brexit Leads' press release Link to LA Brexit support press release</p>	
<p>New DEFRA Ministers A Cabinet re-shuffle followed Boris Johnson's appointment as Prime Minister on 24.07.19. Theresa Villiers has replaced Michael Gove as Secretary of State and on 10.09.19 Rebecca Pow took on responsibilities for resources and waste. Link to Theresa Villiers DEFRA Link to Rebecca Pow DEFRA</p>	
<p>Government Spending Round 2019 On 04.09.19 Government announced increased Departmental revenue spending plans for the year 2020-21. A longer term spending review had been anticipated and this is now expected during 2020. Next year, local government 'Core Spending Power' is set to increase by £2.9 billion with DEFRA receiving a 3.3% increase in funding. The next Budget is scheduled for 06.11.19. Link to Spending Round 2019 webpages</p>	<p>Longer term public spending plans unclear.</p>
<p>Other National Activity</p> <p>WEEE Reuse Funding £3 million funding for WCAs to collect small WEEE for reuse or recycling. Applications close 25.10.19. Link to Fund</p> <p>Green GB & NI Week delayed A week of activities to promote action on clean growth and climate change as part of Government's Year of Green Action. Delayed from Nov 2019 to early 2020 due to Brexit preparations.</p>	

<p>Link to campaign</p> <p>Guidance on Municipal Waste Incinerator Emissions and Health Impacts Updated 15.10.19 following further studies. Public Health England's risk assessment remains that modern, well run and regulated incinerators are not a significant risk to public health. Link to Guidance</p> <p>Government Response to Committee on Climate Change 2019 Report Progress on reducing emissions and preparing for climate change. Link to report</p> <p>Litter Strategy for England – Annual Report 2018-19 Progress on delivering the 2017 Strategy. Link to report</p> <p>EFRA Committee Plastic Food & Drink Packaging Inquiry Published 12.09.19, the final report calls for Government to reduce all single use packaging, not just plastic. Link to Inquiry</p> <p>Environmental Audit Committee Planetary Health Inquiry Published 17.09.19, the final report includes recommendations to improve sustainability of the food system. Link to Inquiry</p>	
<p>EU & INTERNATIONAL</p>	
<p>EU Urban Innovative Actions – 5th Call The 5th call for proposals closes 12.12.19 and includes the circular economy as a focus area. UK organisations may be able to apply depending on the Brexit situation at the time. Link to 5th Call</p>	<p>Funding for circular economy projects.</p>
<p>EU Eco-design & Energy Labelling Package On 01.10.19 the EU agreed measures on eco-design of electrical items to reduce waste and increase the ability to repair these items. Link to agreed measures</p>	<p>Circular economy design principles for electrical products.</p>

<p>EU Decision on Reuse / Recycling Calculations On 07.06.19 new calculation rules were published for EU waste reuse / recycling targets, including a change to the point at which recycling is measured (reprocessors). Applicability of the rules will in the UK will depend on Brexit arrangements. Rule changes may cause a dip in UK recycling performance. The UK ranks mid-table in the latest EU recycling statistics (2017). Link to EU Decision Link to EU Municipal Waste Statistics</p>	<p>Potential drop in recycling performance due to change in calculation.</p>
<p>EU End of Life Vehicles (ELVs) Directive Review A review of the Directive was launched in August 2019 with proposals expected by December 2020 to improve the environmental impact of this legislation. Link to EU Review</p>	<p>Increased reuse / recycling of ELVs.</p>
<p>International Waste Export Restrictions The Environment Agency and WRAP continue to monitor the UK export situation.</p>	<p>LAs to raise any operational concerns with EA ASAP.</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 21.10.19

CONSULTATION	DATES	RESPONSE	SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS
FUTURE CONSULTATIONS			
National Waste Prevention Programme	Autumn 2019	To confirm	Consultation expected on a new programme due in Spring 2020 following review of the 2013 programme. Likely to encourage more reuse at HWRCs and more support for community sector waste prevention activity.
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.
Recycling Consistency / Minimum Service Standards Guidance (possibly separate consultations)	Spring 2020	To confirm	To follow the 2019 recycling consistency consultation and consider proposals in more detail, including statutory guidance and minimum service standards for waste collection. Implementation from 2023.
Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	Spring 2020	To confirm	To follow the 2019 packaging EPR consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2023.
Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)	Spring 2020	To confirm	To follow the 2019 DRS consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2023.
Plastic Packaging Tax	Spring 2020	To confirm	To follow the 2019 tax consultation and consider the preferred approach in more detail. Implementation from 2022.
HWRC Service Standardisation / National Consistency	2020	To confirm	Possible consultation to be confirmed. May cover opening hours, accepted wastes, restrictions, charging.
Review of WEEE System	2020	To confirm	To improve the current system in line with EPR principles and improve cost recovery by Producers.
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 textiles, furniture,

			mattresses, carpets, car tyres, commercial fishing gear.
Other consultations expected in 2019 flowing from the Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 include:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory food waste reporting / food waste prevention targets for businesses • Waste Duty of Care and permitting improvements, plus mandatory digital recording of waste movements. 			
CURRENT CONSULTATIONS			
National Food Strategy Call for Evidence (DEFRA) Link to call for evidence	Opened 17.08.19 Closes 25.10.19	To confirm	Call for Evidence will support an Independent Review leading to a National Food Strategy by winter 2020 / 21. Expected to include the environmental / climate change impacts of the food system (including food waste).
Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2019 (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Opened 14.10.19 Closes 11.11.19	To confirm	Consultation on whether a compliance fee should be set to promote WEEE clearance from sites and which proposal should be supported.
RESPONSES MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS			
Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Submitted 13.05.19	Merseyside & Halton Waste Partnership (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 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected spring 2020. Link to Government Response
Consultation on Reforming the UK Packaging Producer Responsibility System (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Submitted 13.05.19	MHWP	The response supported EPR measures for packaging from 2023, including full net cost recovery by producers for costs incurred by LAs in the management of packaging waste. The new packaging system should be overseen by a single, publically accountable body. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected

			spring 2020. Link to Government Response
Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Submitted 13.05.19	MHWP	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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected spring 2020. Link to Government Response
Plastic Packaging Tax (HM Treasury) Link to consultation	Submitted 12.05.19	MHWP	The response supported proposals to introduce a tax on plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled plastic content by 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government Response 23.07.19. Further consultation expected by 2020. Link to Government Response
Consultation on Proposal to Extend the Single Use Plastic Bag Charge to all Retailers and Increase Minimum Charge to 10p (DEFRA) Link to consultation	Submitted 30.01.19	MHWP	The response supported extension of the charge and an increase to 10p from January 2020. Potential increased use of alternatives, e.g. paper bags, should be monitored. Income from the 10p charge should be invested in initiatives to reduce bag consumption at source. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting Government Response.
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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government have announced bans on these materials from April 2020.
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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government have approved a compliance fee approach for 2018 which supports site clearance.

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 non-statutory target (pooled target for MRWA & 5 Merseyside Districts) Individual LAs – No target
2020	Reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal waste (LACMW) landfilled to 10%	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory 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 – Non-statutory
2025	All plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable	Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England 2018: National – Non-statutory
2025	70% of all plastics packaging waste effectively recycled or composted	UK Plastics Pact 2018: National – Non-statutory
2030	Eliminate landfilling of food waste	Clean Growth Strategy 2017: National – Non-statutory
2030	Reduce the amount of LACMW landfilled to 2%	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory target

2030	Reduce total waste arisings from households by 8% based on 2011 levels	JRWMS: Merseyside – JRWMS non-statutory pooled target
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
2040	Zero carbon Liverpool City Region	LCR Metro Mayor LCR – Non-statutory
2042	Eliminate avoidable plastic waste	25 Year Environment Plan 2018: National – Non-statutory
2050	Zero avoidable waste and a doubling of resource productivity	Clean Growth Strategy 2017: National – Non-statutory
2050	Reduce carbon emissions by 100% of 1990 levels	Climate Change Act 2008 (amended 2019): National - Statutory

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