

LCR STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP
WDA/08/22

Recommendation

That Members:

1. Note the establishment of the LCR Strategic Waste Partnership ('the Partnership').
2. Commit to the full engagement and cooperation of the Authority in the work of the Partnership
3. Request that the Partnership give high priority to the involvement of Members throughout the development and implementation of the Partnership and the LCR Zero Waste Strategy.
4. Request the CEX to report progress on this matter to subsequent meetings.

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Report of The Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report outlines the development to-date of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Strategic Waste Partnership and a Zero Waste Strategy. Members are invited to note the report and are recommended to call for priority to be given to Member involvement in the development and implementation of the Partnership and the LCR Zero Waste Strategy.

2. Background

- 2.1 In the MRWA Corporate Plan 2021-22, the Authority committed to reporting against the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) as a way of demonstrating the wider impact of our actions in addressing Sustainable Development, including, but not limited to, climate change, carbon reduction and various other environmental, economic and social value measures, (the 'Triple Bottom Line').
- 2.2 At the Authority meeting in June 2021 Members received a report (WDA/12/21) which examined our degree of alignment with the SDG's and highlighted that 'the development of a Zero Waste Strategy, with commensurate actions, is desperately needed to contribute to climate action and the wider sustainable management of resources'.
- 2.3 Waste and resources management is going through a period of significant change. Government is proposing to introduce a number of measures under The Environment Act 2021 to improve recycling collections, such as requiring a wider range of materials to be collected and weekly food waste collections.
- 2.4 All LCR Partner authorities have declared a Climate Emergency, the Environment Act 2021 is enacted and will result in legislation on consistent collections, food waste etc. Social Value is a core underpinning to any contract development and the industrialisation of reuse.
- 2.5 The LCR recognises the role waste and resources management has in achieving its climate action plan objectives and net zero carbon target, including waste and resource management as a theme in both the LCR Climate Action Plan and Pathways to Net Zero documents.

3. Progress

- 3.1 In response to pending pressure to change waste management practice, and in the light of cost and performance levels, in June 2021 authorities in the LCR formed a Strategic Waste Partnership and draft Terms of Reference. Officer Groups were formed to undertake a series of reviews.

- 3.2 The Mayor of Liverpool City Council invited the Authority's CEX to discuss her interest in the Circular Economy in Liverpool, and this grew into a discussion about a range of waste and resources issues.
- 3.3 The CEX then held further discussions with the MRWA Chairperson and the Mayor of Liverpool City Council about the need to ensure that the scope of a systematic examination of waste must include climate action, net zero carbon and social value from a circular (re-use) economy, the CEX was invited by the Mayor of Liverpool to brief the Mayors and Leaders Group on two occasions, to explore the scope for waste to play a part in climate, social value and green jobs in the City Region. The CEX also briefed the District CEX's Group.
- 3.4 Following the presentations and further discussion at the political level, Leaders invited the Mayor of Liverpool City Council to act as the political 'champion' amongst their group, for waste and resources management.
- 3.5 Since then, the Mayor of Liverpool City Council has redrafted the Partnership Terms of Reference to ensure MRWA is an equal partner, including that the MRWA CEX and the CEX of Wirral Council (on behalf of the District CEX's Group) be Joint Lead Officers, charged with the development of the Partnership and a Zero Waste Strategy for the LCR. Officer Groups have been formed to progress the work.
- 3.6 The Officer Groups are currently considering a draft Zero Waste Strategy Framework and Action Plan. It is hoped that the Officer Group will be able to share a fuller version with Members very soon.
- 3.7 The draft LCR Zero Waste Strategy Framework centres on three themes: People, Planet and Economy. An extract is shown below:

- ***Our People***

- ***improving how we work and make decisions together, setting ambitious targets for better managing the City Region's material resources.***
- ***ensuring our actions result in the best possible outcomes for the people and communities of the Liverpool City Region.***

- ***Our Planet***

- ***in a time of climate crisis, ensuring that reduction of the carbon and climate impact of our activities is at the heart of everything we do.***
- ***continuously and relentlessly working to achieve the optimum efficiency in the management of our precious resources.***

- ***Our Economy***

- ***making the money we spend work efficiently to achieve the Zero Waste ambitions.***

- *ensuring our actions work to benefit the development of increased skills and local jobs.*
- *developing a fully circular economy approach ensuring the sustainability of all we do.*

The Strategy and detailed Action Plan will set out the framework and specific actions that describe how we can all achieve our ambition of realising Zero Waste in the LCR by 2040.'

- 3.8 Officers are aware that the development of a LCR Zero Waste Strategy will require extensive consultation and engagement with elected members throughout its evolution, not least because members at both the collection and disposal authority level will, in due course, be required to take significant decisions related to the strategy, such as collection methodologies and treatment infrastructure, and those decisions can only properly be taken in light of a coherent and integrated plan which looks at 'whole system' impacts, value and cost.
- 3.9 The early involvement of members is vital in increasing the understanding of all aspects of resources and waste management issues. Many collection, treatment and disposal issues are complex and inextricably linked. There are many options in terms of wider resource management approaches. A programme of member involvement is needed to ensure that, when the time comes, members are well- placed and well-informed to take timely and effective decisions.
- 3.10 It is recommended that Members of this Authority request that the Partnership make it a high priority to develop a process for the inclusion and meaningful involvement of members throughout the evolution of the Partnership and the Zero Waste Strategy.

4. Risk Implications

Identified Risk	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Value	Mitigation
Failure to define and target wider sustainability outcomes in the context of Zero Waste in the LCR	2	4	8	Collaboration with Districts and LCRCA on Zero Waste Strategy and Climate Action Plans
Failure to design next generation of contracts to be fit for net zero carbon future and to deliver Zero Waste Strategy outcomes	3	4	12	Review of contracts to align with collection related decisions and for cost effectiveness
Failure to maximise sustainability	3	4	12	Review of Service Delivery Plans,

outcomes from MRWA operations				Contractual changes, infrastructure and assets for improvements in Zero Waste Strategy and Sustainability outcomes.
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5. HR Implications

5.1 None associated with this report

6. Environmental Implications

6.1 The development of a Zero Waste Strategy in concert with the District Councils, Combined Authority and other stakeholders is of vital importance to the Authority in taking sustainable waste management to the next level and in preparing our services and contracts for a zero net carbon future. Furthermore the Authority, working with Partners and stakeholders through a Zero Waste approach will be a key player in the wider social value and green jobs ambitions of the city region.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None directly associated with his report.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 None directly associated with this report.

9. Conclusion

The LCR Strategic Waste Partnership has been formed and has now started work on a Zero Waste Strategy for the city region. MRWA is an important partner. As the Partnership and the Zero Waste Strategy development evolves, it is crucial that members are engaged and informed as part of that process. Members of this Authority are asked to request the Partnership to afford the process of member involvement a high priority. The CEX is invited to report progress on this matter to subsequent Authority meetings.

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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil.