



Liverpool City Region - Zero Waste Strategy
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Screening Statement

31 January 2024

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1 Introduction

1.1 Screening Statement

This document presents the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening statement for the Zero Waste Strategy ('the Strategy' or 'ZWS') for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR) Waste & Resources Partnership (the Partnership).

The purpose of the SEA screening statement is to assess the requirement for a full SEA for the ZWS and is set out as follows:

- **Section 1 Introduction** - presents an overview of the screening statement, discusses the waste roles of the partnership, and illustrates the direct LCR area covered by the ZWS, describes how the ZWS fits in with existing waste reporting together with its proposed vision, mission statement and objectives.
- **Section 2 SEA screening process** – looks at the requirements and process for SEA screening and presents the screening assessment for the ZWS.
- **Section 3 SEA significance of effects** – determines the potential significance of the SEA environmental effects of the ZWS and the required statutory consultation.
- **Section 4 Conclusion** – the proposed determination on the SEA requirement for the ZWS.

1.2 Zero Waste Strategy

1.2.1 LCR waste responsibilities

The ZWS is being prepared by LCR, which is a partnership between Knowsley Borough Council, Liverpool City Council, Sefton Borough Council, St Helens Council and Wirral Council (the Merseyside Waste Collection Authorities), Halton Borough Council and the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA). Together the six city and boroughs and MRWA provide waste and recycling services for the 1.5 million people living in the Liverpool City Region (LCR).

The councils are responsible for collecting waste and recycling whilst the MRWA is responsible for managing the recyclables collected, waste transportation, treatment and disposal. The latter also applies to Halton Borough Council, set up via a separate arrangement. The Partnership is also active in promoting waste minimisation, reuse and recycling to preserve resources.

The LCR partner waste roles are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Authorities' responsibility for waste collection in the LCR

LCR Authority	Role	
	For waste	within LCR
Knowsley Borough Council	Waste Collection Authority (WCA)	Merseyside Waste Collection Authorities responsible for waste collection and recycling collection in their respective boroughs ¹
Liverpool City Council	Waste Collection Authority (WCA)	
Sefton Borough Council	Waste Collection Authority (WCA)	
St Helens Council	Waste Collection Authority (WCA)	
Wirral Council	Waste Collection Authority (WCA)	
Halton Borough Council	Waste Collection Authority (WCA) and Waste Disposal Authority (WDA)	Waste collection, recycling and disposal within the Halton Borough ²
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA)	Waste Disposal Authority (WDA)	Managing the recyclables collected, waste transportation, treatment and disposal for the Merseyside authorities

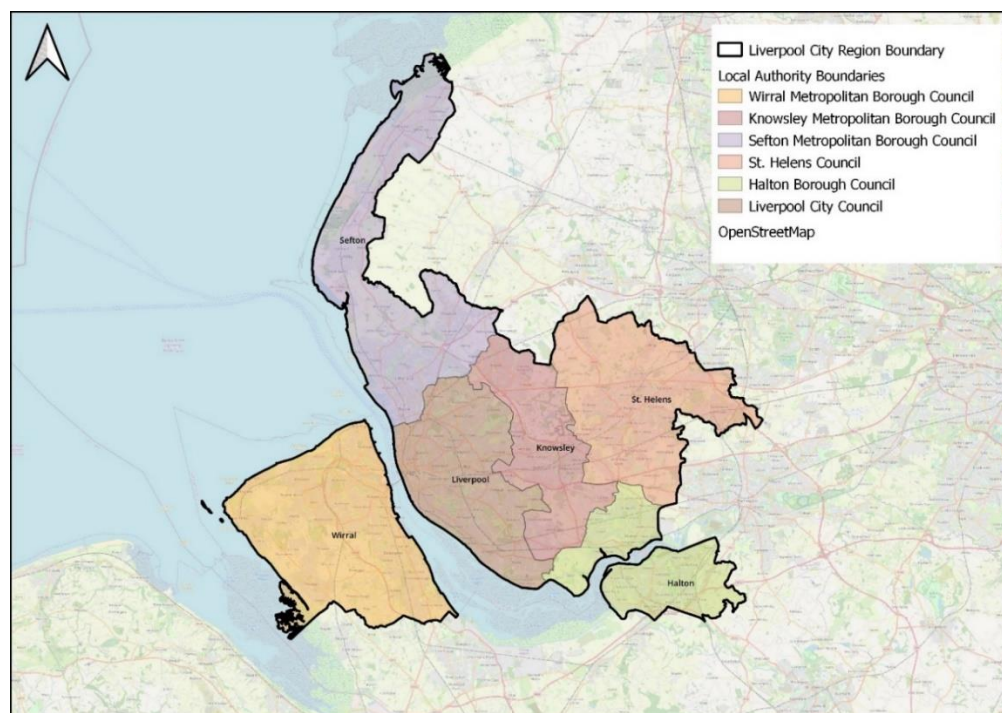
¹ St Helens also makes arrangements for the recycling of separately collected recyclables and food waste

² Halton has delegated defined aspects (but not all) of its Waste Disposal Authority functions to the MRWA to enable the MRWA to procure and administer waste contracts on behalf of Halton. A signed, legally binding Inter Authority Agreement defines the principles of the relationship between the MRWA and Halton.

1.2.2 LCR Area

The LCR area covered by the ZWS is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Liverpool City Region



1.3 ZWS report relationship

The ZWS has been aligned with and, where appropriate replace, existing LCR waste reports as illustrated in Figure 2 and explained below.

- **Resources Merseyside 2011-2041** – this Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy has underpinned the LCR waste works since 2011 and sets out the vision for achieving their waste responsibilities. This was accompanied by a full SEA.
- **LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework** – this overarching report, supplements Resources Merseyside. The strategic framework sets out the vision for the LCR 2040 ZWS including the themes of: circular business and material flow; share and rental models; reuse, repair and refill; comprehensive recycling system; biodiversity, growing and composting; green jobs and skills.
- **LCR Zero Waste Strategy** [the subject of this SEA Screening exercise]:
 - aligns with the existing overarching LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework by adopting the same approach for objectives as the Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework (same three themes and seven strategic outcomes).
 - refreshes and updates the Resources Merseyside 2011 – 2041 strategy and encompasses, where appropriate, the objectives from the Resources Merseyside 2011-2041 strategy (see Table 3).
 - takes into consideration commitment for the Environment and Climate Emergency Strategies of the Councils, the MRWA and the LCR Combined Authority to be net zero by 2040.
 - provides overarching direction for the individual waste strategies of the Partnership members.
- **Waste strategies of the individual councils** - will interface and align to the vision, mission statement and objectives and, where appropriate, feed into the ZWS.

The partner authorities will commit to undertaking a high-level review of the new ZWS in five-yearly intervals, the first one anticipated in 2029.

Figure 2: ZWS relationship to other LCR waste management programmes and plans

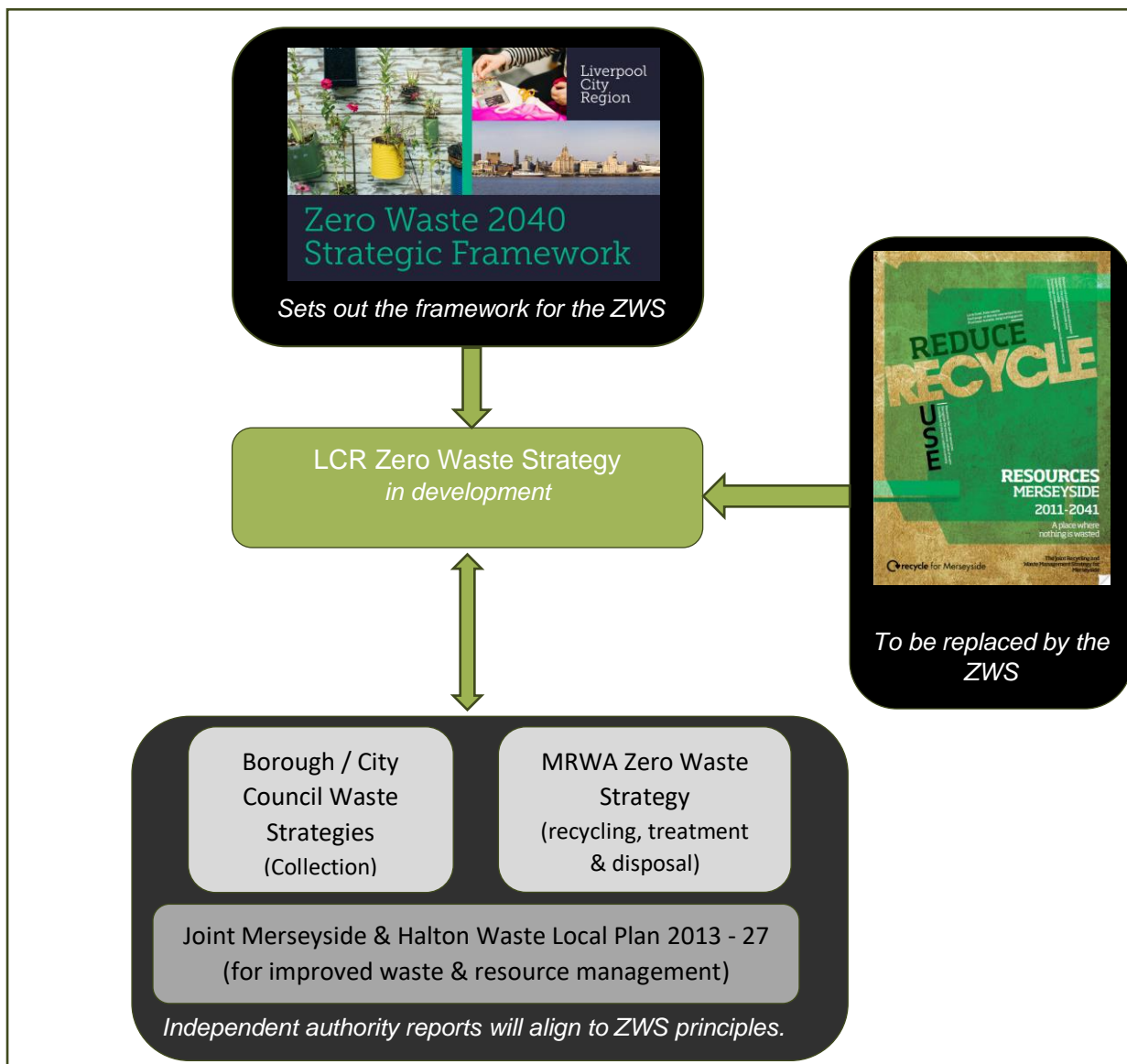


Table 2 presents the themes and strategic outcomes of the LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework that have been adopted by the ZWS and shows how the objectives of the Resources Merseyside 2011 – 2041 strategy have been incorporated into the ZWS, where appropriate.

Table 2: ZWS draft Objectives relative to the ZW 2040 Strategic Framework and the Resources Merseyside 2011-2041 Strategy

ZW 2040 Strategic Framework & Zero Waste Strategy		Resources Merseyside Corresponding Objective	Draft Zero Waste Strategy Objectives
Theme	Strategic Outcome		
People	Governance	Not applicable	1. To deliver the ZWS through co-ordinated action and a unified voice
	Social Value	6 - Promote behavioural/ cultural change that delivers the Strategy objectives	2. Promote behavioural change in residents and business via education and raising awareness of zero waste and circular economy
		Not applicable	3. Developing reuse capacity and maximising the social (community) value of reuse
		Not applicable	4. Reduce food waste
Planet	Climate & Carbon	1 - Reducing the climate change/carbon impacts of waste management 5 - Reduce the ecological footprint of waste management activities	5. Reduce the carbon impacts of waste management
		9 - Promote resource efficiency 10 - Provide sufficient capacity for waste management activity	6. Provide waste infrastructure that allows future flexibility
	Resource Efficiency	3 - Maximise landfill diversion/recovery of residual waste	7. Provide a whole system approach to waste management & waste reduction
Economy	Cost Efficiency	2: Maximise waste prevention	8. Maximise waste prevention
		8 - Achieve high recycling rates	9. Increase higher quality recycling to achieve national targets (65% by 2035)
		7 - Promote the use of renewable energy	10. Promote the use of renewable energy
		5 - Reduce the ecological footprint of waste management activities	11. Provide appropriate enforcement to protect the environment
	Green Jobs	Not applicable	12. Maximise opportunities for local green jobs
	Circular Economy	4 - Maximise sustainable activity associated with waste management 5 - Reduce the ecological footprint of waste management activities	13. Optimise sustainable economic activity
		6 - Promote behavioural/ cultural change that delivers the Strategy objectives)	

1.4 Vision, Mission Statement and Objectives

The vision and mission statement for the ZWS, agreed by the LCR partners, is:

Vision: A Liverpool City Region without waste

Mission Statement: We will work together to protect our environment by keeping materials in use for as long as possible, preventing waste, and encouraging reuse, repair, recycling and composting. We will educate and engage and deliver waste management practices that provide value for money for our communities.

The thirteen draft objectives of the ZWS are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Draft ZWS Objectives

Theme	Strategic Outcome	Objectives
People	Governance	1. To deliver the ZWS through co-ordinated action and a unified voice
	Social Value	2. Promote behavioural change in residents and business via education and raising awareness of zero waste and circular economy
		3. Developing reuse capacity and maximising the social (community) value of reuse
		4. Reduce food waste.
Planet	Climate & Carbon	5. Reduce the carbon impacts of waste management
	Resource Efficiency	6. Provide waste infrastructure that allows future flexibility
		7. Provide a whole system approach to waste management & waste reduction
Economy	Cost Efficiency	8. Maximise waste prevention
		9. Increase higher quality recycling to achieve national targets (65% by 2035)
		10. Promote the use of renewable energy
		11. Provide appropriate enforcement to protect the environment
	Green Jobs	12. Maximise opportunities for local green jobs
	Circular Economy	13. Optimise sustainable economic activity

1.5 Zero Waste Strategy Structure

The ZWS will be divided into the following broad sections, supplemented by an executive summary and glossary, as follows:

- **Background** - the LCR and the constituent councils, other partners, the LCR area, and the key issues and challenges
- **Introduction** – what is a waste strategy, LCR reporting relationships, what is in your bins
- **Context** – the region’s current waste management (existing residual and recycling collections, Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs), waste prevention including communication and legislative context (from waste hierarchy to local and national waste and climate change requirements)
- **Proposed strategy** - the vision, mission statement, objectives and priorities of the Partnership
- **The future** - looking at the LCR in the future, forecast on future waste, waste management infrastructure in the future, the impact of key legislative changes and where the strategy will take LCR
- **Actions for delivery** – proposed action plan to deliver the strategy

2 SEA Screening Process

2.1 SEA requirement

The requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment is legislated by the *Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EEC* (or SEA Directive) and Statutory Instrument (*The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument 2004 No.1633)*), which transposes the Directive into English law. There is also a practical guide that provides information and guidance on how to comply with the SEA requirements that was prepared by the UK Government; *Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: guidance: Practical guidance on applying Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (Directive 2001/41/EC)*.

The aim of SEA, as stated in Article 1 of the Directive: “*is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.*”

Municipal Waste Strategies fall within the indicative list of plans and programmes subject to SEA¹. However, an SEA is only required where the Municipal Waste Strategy is determined likely to have significant environmental effects. The key criterion is not, therefore, the size of area covered by the strategy, but the significance of the environmental effects.

2.2 SEA screening

Waste strategies are subject to SEA if they are determined likely to produce significant environmental effects, as detailed in Regulation 9(3): “*Where the responsible authority determines that the plan, programme or modification is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), it shall prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.*”²

Screening forms the first stage of the SEA process to determine whether an SEA is required for a plan or programme (strategy). The Practical Guide to SEA provides an eight-stage approach for screening the requirement for SEA as shown in Figure 3. Following the LCR ZWS through this eight-stage screening process, as shown in Table 4, indicates that the strategy does not require an SEA.

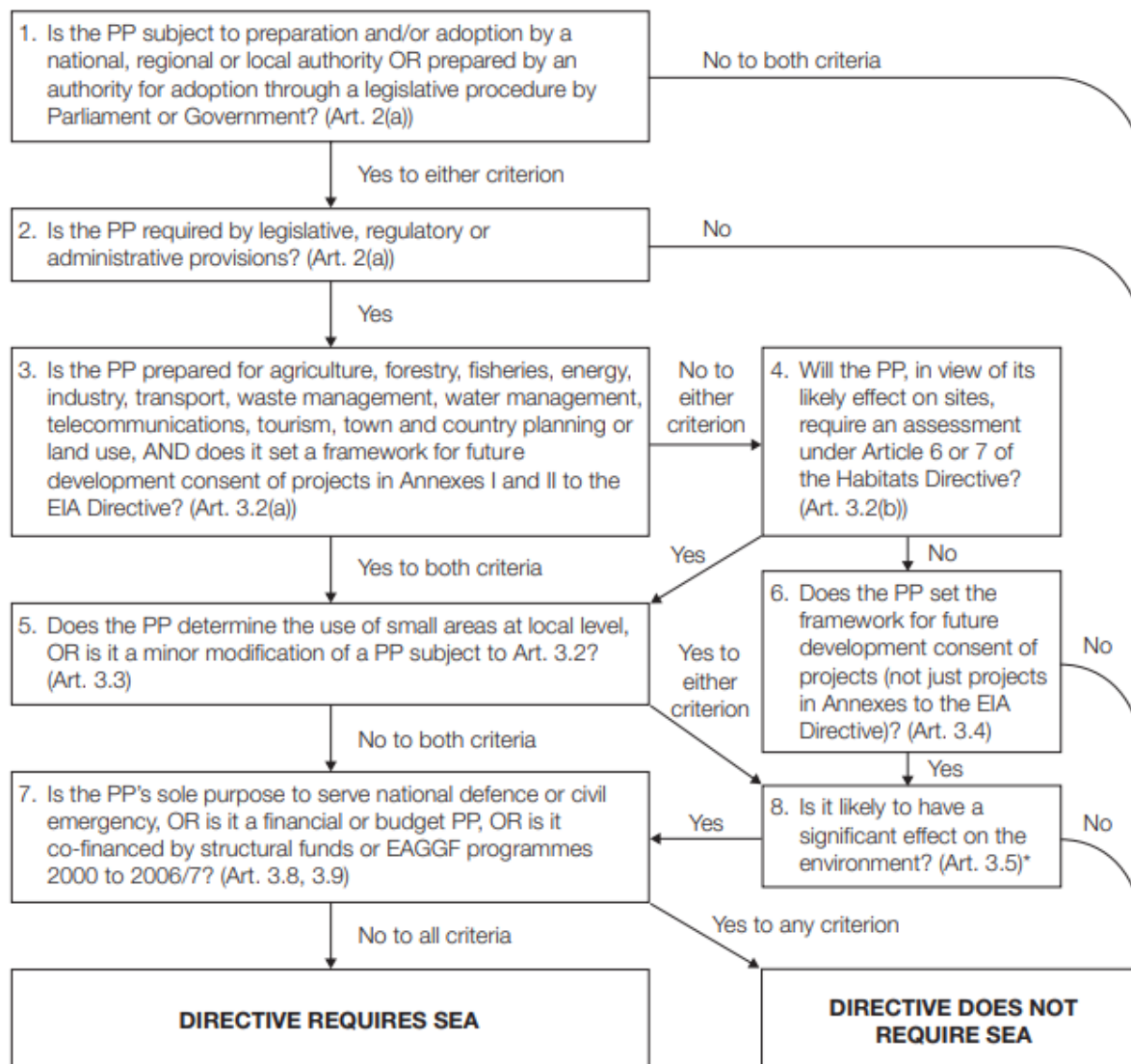
In accordance with the SEA regulations, a determination of the likely significant environmental effects of the strategy has also been undertaken, see Section 3.

¹ Practical guidance on applying Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (Directive 2001/41/EC).

² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004

Figure 3: Stages for screening in accordance with the SEA Directive for plans and programmes (PP)³

This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.



*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

³ A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive, 2005

Table 4: Screening assessment of the Liverpool City Region draft Zero Waste Strategy

No.	Screening Question	Screening Assessment	
1	Is the strategy subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority through legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Act 2(a))?	Yes	The ZWS is being prepared by a partnership of the six councils (Halton Borough Council, Knowsley Borough Council, Liverpool City Council, Sefton Borough Council, St Helens Council and Wirral Council) and the MRWA. It is intended to be adopted by all constituent Councils.
2	Is the strategy required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes	The ZWS is a legal requirement (under the Waste Emissions Trading Act (2002)) for the partnership as they constitute a two-tier council, with MRWA providing the disposal function and the councils the collection duties ⁴ . Halton as a Unitary Council, provides collection and disposal by separate arrangement.
3	Is the strategy prepared for agricultural, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport or waste management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land-use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Act 2(a))?	No	The ZWS is being prepared for waste management; with the focus on reduction, reuse, recycling and promoting a circular economy for waste. The ZWS <u>does not</u> set the framework for future development consent of projects. This is the subject of the Waste Local Plan, not the ZWS.
4	Will the strategy, in view of its likely effects on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Act 3.2 (b))?	No	It is considered that the ZWS <u>will not require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (Act 3.2 (b))</u> . The ZWS does not focus on individual sites, but provides broad goals for waste reduction and management within the LCR together with reuse and the circular economy. Specific sites or locations are out of scope of the ZWS.
5	Does the strategy determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a plan subject to Article 3.2? (Act 3.3)	No	The strategy <u>does not determine the use of areas at a local level</u> . It involves the <u>updating of a former plan</u> , Resources Merseyside 2011-2041, but not subject to Article 3.2, development consent.
6	Does the strategy set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Act 3.4)	No	This strategy does not set the framework for future development consent of projects as specified in Articles 3 and 4 from the EIA Directive.
7	Is the strategy's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget plan, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000-2006/7? (Act 3.8, 3.9)	No	The LCR ZWS does not serve the national defence or civil emergency, nor is it a financial or budget plan, nor is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000-2006/7.
8	Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Act 3.5)	No	It is considered that the LCR ZWS will not have a significant effect on the environment (see section 3.1).

⁴ There was a Government consultation on removing the duty to prepare a Joint Waste Strategy, as part of the 'Red Tape Challenge' whilst in coalition in 2013, but no response was issued, so it is presumed that the duty remains.

3 SEA Significance of Effects

3.1 Determination of SEA Significance of Effects

In accordance with the SEA Regulations and the approach taken for the screening for the determination of a SEA, the likely effects of the LCR ZWS have been considered against the SEA significance of effects criteria referred to in Article 3(5) of the SEA Directive⁵.

This consideration is presented in Table 5. It is concluded that it is unlikely that there will be significant environmental effects.

Table 5: Consideration of the significance of Environmental Effects of the LCR Zero Waste Strategy

SEA Environmental Effects Criteria		Discussion of predicted significance for LCR ZWS	Determination
1	The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to...		
a)	the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	<p>The ZWS will set out the broad framework for managing for waste in LCR until 2040. It will be generic, covering the area of the six constituent authorities allowing for potential national requirements such as Simpler Recycling, separate food waste collections and the collection of an expanded range of recyclable materials.</p> <p>The ZWS, and the appraisal of waste collection options, upon which it is based, will provide the basis to establish LCR's needs and objectives (environmental and legislative) with regards to national and regional waste management operations.</p> <p>The ZWS <u>will not</u> make any specific requirements for location, nature, size and operating conditions or allocate resources for waste management.</p> <p><u>It is considered that the ZWS will not have any significant environmental effect in relation to projects and other activities regarding location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</u></p>	ZWS will have no significant environmental effect
b)	the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	<p>The ZWS will set out the framework for managing for waste management in LCR until 2040. It will be generic, covering the area of the six constituent boroughs setting out the high level vision, aims, objectives and priorities for the partnership.</p> <p>The ZWS will be developed in line with the existing climate emergencies declared by the LCR and all the six boroughs' plans and their existing commitment to adopt the waste hierarchy and promote the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle as embraced by the Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plan which covers all 6 councils of the LCR. As such the ZWS will not influence other plans and programmes but will complement and build on the approach and goals already established.</p> <p><u>It is considered that the LCR ZWS will not have any significant environmental effect in relation to influencing other plans and programmes.</u></p>	No significant environmental effect in relation to influencing other plans and programmes

⁵ SEA Directive, 2001

SEA Environmental Effects Criteria		Discussion of predicted significance for LCR ZWS	Determination
c)	the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	<p>The ZWS will sit beneath the existing Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework, replace and incorporate the appropriate goals of Resources Merseyside and the Joint Merseyside and Halton Local Plan 2013-27 plans that already promote sustainable development for waste management and circular economy rather than amending them.</p> <p>It is considered that the <u>LCR ZWS is not likely to have any significant environmental effect in relation to integration of environmental considerations and the promotion of sustainable development.</u></p> <p>It will serve to reinforce the existing promotion of sustainable development principles of the Partnership, boroughs, the City Council, MRWA and national Government.</p>	No significant environmental effect in relation to the promotion of sustainable development
d)	environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	<p>The ZWS is a broad strategy designed to reinforce existing policies for the constituent authorities relating to the waste hierarchy and the circular economy. It is considered that there are <u>no significant environmental problems relevant to the ZWS and any influence will be positive.</u></p>	No significant environmental problems (any influence will be positive)
e)	the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection)	<p>The ZWS <u>will not directly influence the implementation of community legislation</u> on the environment. It will enhance and support approaches being taken on a local level within the boroughs.</p> <p>It is not considered that the LCR ZWS will have any significant environmental effect in relation to this criterion.</p>	No significant environmental effect in relation community legislation on environment
2	Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to...		
a)	The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	<p>It is considered that there will not be any <u>significant negative environmental effects</u> from the ZWS on LCR, regarding probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.</p> <p>The ZWS will set out a framework for waste management adopting the existing themes and strategic outcomes already established by the Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework, distinct from local plans and planning documents, with the goal of environmental improvement and positive environmental effects. It will not stipulate specific sites but provides an holistic waste management approach and principles to be applied as appropriate in the boroughs.</p>	No significant negative environmental effects

SEA Environmental Effects Criteria		Discussion of predicted significance for LCR ZWS	Determination
b)	The cumulative nature of the effects;	The ZWS is designed to improve environmental protection and reduce environmental impacts of waste management. It is being developed by the Partnership in accordance with the waste hierarchy and in the light of net zero policy and so any effects arising from the Strategy will be positive as they will be reinforcing existing effects from the Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plans 2013-27 and local policies. It is considered that there will be no significant negative cumulative environmental effects from the ZWS and any effects will be positive.	No significant negative cumulative environmental effects (any effects will be positive).
c)	The transboundary nature of the effects;	The ZWS is being developed in line with the Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework and LCR declaration of a climate emergency, which align to the UK government's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. The ZWS provides an evidence base for improved resource management aligning to existing documents and the approach being taken nationally ⁶ to reduce carbon and waste. It is therefore considered that the ZWS will <u>not have any significant transboundary effects</u> .	No significant transboundary effects
d)	The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The ZWS will provide an overarching document for waste management in LCR, it is not defining any specific requirements and <u>the ZWS is not likely to pose any risk to human health or the environment</u> . The aim of the strategy is to reduce environmental impacts and create a more sustainable service.	Not likely to <u>pose any risk to human health or the environment</u>
e)	The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The ZWS will cover an area of c.730km ² and approximately 1.5 million population. The strategy does not extend beyond the local plan boundaries of the respective boroughs. The aim of the strategy is to reduce environmental impacts and create a more sustainable service across the partnership area.	Positive sustainable effects within LCR boundaries.
f)	The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to- (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive landuse.	Due to the generic character of the ZWS, its non-site specific nature, and its goal to establish a generic framework for waste management, it is considered that <u>the ZWS will not have significant environmental effects on the value and vulnerability of LCR (due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or intensive landuse)</u> . The impacts of any waste related development on the locality will be explored through separate Local Planning documents.	No significant environmental effects on the value and vulnerability of LCR

⁶ Resource and Waste Strategy, 2018

SEA Environmental Effects Criteria		Discussion of predicted significance for LCR ZWS	Determination
g)	the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	<p>The ZWS will be enhancing existing policies within the Partnership and encouraging environmental performance. It will not be introducing any direct effects. It is therefore considered that <u>the ZWS will not have any significant environmental effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</u></p> <p>The impacts of any waste related development on the locality will be explored through separate Local Planning documents.</p>	No significant environmental effects on areas or landscapes with recognised national, Community or international protection status

3.2 SEA Consultation and Statement of Determination

In line with section 4 of the SEA regulations, Consultation Bodies must be consulted on screening determinations as to whether a SEA is needed for plans or programmes. The designated consultation bodies in England are:

- Natural England
- Historic England
- Environment Agency

It is planned to consult with the above consultation bodies on the Screening Statement for the LCR ZWS for the required 5-week period.

Any comments will be invited to be made in writing to:

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4 Conclusion

It is considered that the proposed Liverpool City Region Zero Waste Strategy will not cause any significant negative environmental effects as it sits within existing policy and strategy documents, is non site specific and is designed to make waste management more sustainable.

We therefore determine that a SEA is not required for the LCR ZWS.