MRWA SOCIAL VALUE AND REUSE FRAMEWORKS
WDA/22/26

Recommendation

That Members:

1. Approve the Social Value Framework and Policy attached at Appendix 1.
2. Approve the Reuse Strategic Framework attached at Appendix 2.
3. Grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairperson to finalise the documents for publication.

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Report of the Chief Executive

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek Members approval of the Social Value Framework and Policy, and the Reuse Strategic Framework. Together, these set the direction for embedding Social Value and Reuse within our future waste service delivery and procurements.

2. Background

2.1 Members approved the MRWA Zero Waste Strategy on 7th February 2025. The Strategy commits the Authority to reduce waste by as much as possible (zero avoidable waste) and identifies three key themes of People, Planet and Economy. The Strategy will deliver a stronger focus on social value, increased reuse of materials, growth of the circular economy through its seven strategic outcomes.

2.2 Social value is an important consideration to ensure a broader beneficial impact from public services. Adopting a social value policy can achieve wider benefits from service delivery spending, such as employment and training, community wellbeing and reducing carbon emissions. It can provide a clear framework for partners and service providers to enhance their community impact, while supporting wider strategies.

2.3 The MRWA Zero Waste Strategy includes reuse as one of three focus areas. It aims to embed and grow a reuse and repair culture and recognises the potentially significant social value of rethinking waste as a community resource. Recent MRWA research has identified system barriers and opportunities around reuse behaviours, visibility and community infrastructure in the Liverpool City Region.

2.4 Our activity to date, including reuse, has demonstrated some positive social value outcomes. However, delivery has largely developed through individual projects rather than being consistently designed into services and contracts.

2.5 At the 24th April 2026 Members presentation, officers presented initial proposals for a more structured social value and reuse approach. Members were supportive of the direction of travel and requested that Social Value and Reuse Frameworks be developed further for formal approval.

3. Proposed Approach

3.1 The proposed approach is to move from a project-based model of delivery to a system-based approach, where social value and reuse are embedded into the design and delivery of services.

3.2 The Draft MRWA Social Value Framework and Policy attached at appendix 1, establishes a consistent approach to embedding social value across the Authority's activities.

3.3 The Policy is structured around the themes of People, Planet and Economy and will be delivered through decision-making, commissioning and procurement. It will ensure measurable benefits for the Authority from integrating social value into our services.

3.4 The Draft MRWA Reuse Strategic Framework attached at appendix 2, establishes the Authority's strategic direction for reuse, including behaviour change, infrastructure development and partnership working.

3.5 The Framework addresses the reuse barriers we have identified and sets out the reuse outcomes our future service delivery will achieve. It recognises practical steps the Authority can lead or enable, ranging from support for reuse and repair at home to integrating reuse into service design and contracts.

3.6 Measurement and Governance: Social value and reuse outcomes will be measured through a defined set of indicators and managed through procurement and contract management processes to ensure transparency and accountability.

4. Strategic Alignment and Next Steps

4.1 The Social Value Framework and Policy and the Reuse Framework support delivery of the Authority's Corporate Plan and the MRWA Zero Waste Strategy and provide the policy and outcome basis for future waste service design and procurement.

4.2 Subject to approval, both Frameworks will be finalised and embedded into the development of Future Waste Services, including procurement

specifications and contract management arrangements. Progress will be reported through established governance processes.

5. Risk Implications

Identified Risk	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Value	Mitigation
Failure to embed social value consistently within services and align with procurement processes, leading to increased scrutiny	3	5	15	Ensure governance oversight in place. Develop and implement a social value framework aligned with our Zero Waste Strategy with measurable KPIs
Failure to reflect good practice and comply with evolving legislation	3	5	15	Embed social value and reuse principles and requirements into future service design
Failure to embed a reuse culture and reduce residual waste and carbon emissions	3	5	15	Agree a strategic direction for reuse identifying outcomes from future services and practical steps towards embedding reuse
Long term contracts without embedded	3	4	12	Include clear social value clauses, review and change processes in the

social value flexibility				contract to allow adjustment to evolving community needs
Lack of social value and reuse data and reporting mechanisms	3	4	12	Implement standardised reporting metrics

6. HR Implications

6.1 There are no direct HR implications associated with this report.

7. Environmental Implications

7.1 The Frameworks support environmental objectives including waste reduction, lower carbon emissions and improved resource efficiency.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 The Frameworks support compliance with relevant legislation including the Environment Act 2021 and Procurement Act 2023.

10. Conclusion

10.1 The MRWA Zero Waste Strategy themes of People, Planet and Economy require a stronger focus on social value and increased reuse of materials. These key components of the Strategy will be enabled through adoption of a Social Value Framework and Policy, and Reuse Strategic Framework.

10.2 It is recommended that Members approve the Social Value Framework and Policy attached at Appendix 1 and the Reuse Strategic Framework attached at Appendix 2.

10.3 It is recommended that Members delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairperson to finalise the documents for publication.

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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.