MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF MOTION

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR NORRIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURAL RULE 15

TO BE PUT TO THE FULL MEETING OF THE MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY ON 27th NOVEMBER 2026

The Authority Notes:

1. That the Zero Waste Community Fund (managed in partnership with Veolia) has remained fixed at £165,000 per annum for several consecutive funding cycles. If the Fund had increased at the same rate as the annual levy, it would now be approximately £180,000.
2. That the demand for this funding regularly exceeds supply. For instance, the Authority previously received 56 competitive applications from community and voluntary groups, social enterprises, and not-for-profit organisations across the Liverpool City Region, leaving many high-quality initiatives un-funded due to budget constraints.
3. That according to the Authority's own Social Value Framework and Policy, the initial metrics established for the Zero Waste Community Fund, community engagement, and wider campaigns generated a total calculated social value figure of £2,557,289.58. This demonstrates an exceptional return on investment for every pound allocated to community-led waste reduction.

The Authority Believes:

1. Community-led initiatives—such as repair cafes, school workshops, textile upcycling, food waste cookery lessons, and community composting—are highly effective at driving the behavioural and cultural shifts needed to keep valuable resources out of the waste stream.
2. Empowering local groups directly supports the Authority's strategic goals to reduce household waste, lower carbon emissions, and boost reuse and recycling rates across the six districts of the Liverpool City Region.

3. In light of rising operational costs for voluntary organisations, the current maximum caps—up to £30,000 for multi-authority projects and between £1,000 and £8,000 for single-district schemes—limit the scale, reach, and long-term sustainability of grassroots ecological stewardship.

The Authority Resolves:

1. To request the Chief Executive to examine the possibility of increasing the Authority's allocation to the Zero Waste Community Fund in order to expand the scope and range of support offered across the Liverpool City Region. Proposals to be included within the 2027/28 budget report.

2. To examine the feasibility and process of how grants can be awarded over a longer period of time and report back to a future Authority meeting.