

**JOINT LCR ZERO WASTE STRATEGY**  
**WDA/0425**

**Recommendation**

That Members:

- 1) Members are asked to approve the Zero Waste Strategy for the Liverpool City Region (as at Appendix 1).
  
- 2) Members are asked to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Chair to sign the final version of the Zero Waste Strategy, noting that there may be some small, immaterial changes to content as part of the branding process.

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**JOINT LCR ZERO WASTE STRATEGY**  
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**Report of the Chief Executive**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report seeks Members approval of the Joint Liverpool City Region (LCR) Zero Waste Strategy and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Chair to finalise the public-facing version of the Strategy.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Authority adopted a motion to declare a climate emergency at its 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 special meeting and committed to produce an MRWA Zero Waste Strategy.
- 2.2 At the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 Authority meeting, Members approved a recommendation to prioritise collaboration on the development of a city region zero waste strategy.
- 2.3 Officers from the Authority worked in partnership with colleagues at District level to develop a high level LCR Zero Waste Strategic Framework. The Framework recognises that partnership working between authorities can maximise the benefits of zero waste action across the city region. The Framework was approved by the Authority at the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 meeting and was approved by all six LCR Districts by June 2023.
- 2.4 Following approval of the Framework, a draft Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy has been developed. If approved the Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy will update and replace the existing Resources Merseyside 2011 Strategy and extend its reach to all six LCR Districts.
- 2.5 Resources Merseyside (The Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside 2011-2041) was developed following review of the original Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside 2005. Resources Merseyside included strategic aims and objectives for example to promote behaviour change, reduce carbon emissions, maximise waste prevention, achieve high recycling rates and provide sufficient capacity for managing waste and resources which remain relevant today.

2.6 The Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy will be an update of the existing Resources Merseyside joint strategy. The update process was led by the LCR Waste and Resources Partnership and commenced in 2023 with consultancy support following approval of the LCR Zero Waste Strategic Framework.

2.7 The Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy retains the aims and objectives of Resources Merseyside and has no significant negative environmental effects. Therefore, a full Strategic Environmental Assessment was not required. This enabled an updated Strategy to be developed at significantly reduced cost and timescale compared with a full strategy review process.

2.8 Targets in the draft Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy are:

Reducing the total amount of our rubbish by 2040:

- Reducing the total amount of rubbish handled by the Partnership by a third over by 2040
- Reducing our black bag rubbish by 50% of 2019 levels by 2040 – a maximum of 155kg/person
- Recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2035

2.9 The Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy sets the strategic direction for the LCR Waste and Resources Partnership. It offers our collective ambition to achieve zero avoidable waste by 2040 and demonstrates the link between waste and achieving net zero carbon in the city region.

2.10 Development of the Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy comes at a time when the new Government has committed to moving towards a zero waste circular economy and developing a Circular Economy Strategy in 2025.

### **3. Strategic Themes and Outcomes**

3.1 The Authority's vision as set out in the updated Corporate Plan on this meeting agenda is "To lead the way towards zero waste across the Liverpool City Region."

3.2 The Joint Zero Waste Strategy as set out in appendix 1, follows the key themes and strategic outcomes outlined in the LCR Zero Waste Strategic Framework, which was approved in February 2023.

- 3.3 The three key themes are People, Planet and Economy. These represent the key pillars of sustainability (the triple bottom line) and ensure social value principles are recognised in our delivery of zero waste action. Strategic outcomes are identified under each key theme, they are:
- Governance
  - Social Value
  - Climate and carbon
  - Resource Efficiency
  - Green Jobs & Skills
  - Cost Efficiency
  - Circular Economy
- 3.4 Implementation of the Strategy across the City Region will support partnership working to develop and deliver services to minimise waste, increase reuse, repair and effectively and efficiently recycle and compost more material to reduce residual waste. A trajectory towards less waste and greater circularity of resource use (the circular economy) will support a reduction in the carbon emissions associated with high levels of resource consumption and residual waste (the linear economy).
- 3.5 The Strategy recognises the importance of joint working across the City Region including businesses, communities, schools and residents to understand attitudes and encourage positive change towards less wasteful behaviours.

#### **4. Moving Forward**

- 4.1 The Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy demonstrates the ambition and direction the LCR Waste and Resources Partnership is taking. The Strategy will be delivered through the Partnership work programme and individual partners strategies and plans.
- 4.2 Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority has developed a draft MRWA Zero Waste Strategy (subject to a separate report elsewhere on this Agenda). The MRWA Zero Waste Strategy follows the key themes of People, Planet and Economy and the seven strategic outcomes set out in the Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy. The MRWA Strategy outlines the strategic direction for the Authority and identifies how it will contribute to the targets and objectives in the Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy.

## 5. Risk Implications

Identified Risk	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Value	Mitigation
Failure to reduce residual waste volumes	3	5	15	Expanded education, campaigns and community engagement to change waste behaviours. Joint working with LCR Waste Partnership to implement expanded recycling services.
Failure to design future services to be fit for delivering zero waste and net zero carbon	2	4	8	The Strategy will drive the Partnership work programme and individual partners strategies and plans.
Failure to consistently communicate waste prevention and recycling messages to residents	2	3	6	Increased Partnership coordination through communications and engagement sub group.

## 6. HR Implications

6.1 None directly associated with this report.

## **7. Environmental Implications**

7.1 The development and delivery of a Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy is of vital importance to the Authority's response to the climate emergency and in improving the sustainability of waste management. The Strategy will lead our ambitions for a zero waste and net zero carbon future.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 A key outcome of the Strategy is to develop and deliver efficient and effective services through partnership working.

## **9. Legal Implications**

9.1 The Strategy supports the service development required to meet compliance with waste management changes introduced by the Environment Act 2021 and other legislation.

## **10. Conclusion**

10.1 Urgent action is required to tackle climate change which is exacerbated by high levels of residual waste. The Authority has a crucial role to play in preventing the waste of material resources, but this can only be achieved through partnership working across the Liverpool City Region. This Strategy shows how zero waste action can cut waste and carbon emissions to benefit our people, planet and economy.

10.2 It is recommended that Members:

- Members are asked to approve the Zero Waste Strategy for the Liverpool City Region (as at Appendix 1).
- Members are asked to delegate sign off on the final version of the Zero Waste Strategy to the Chief Executive and Chair, noting that there may be some small, immaterial changes to content as part of the branding process.

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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.