

MRWA ZERO WASTE STRATEGY
WDA/05/25

Recommendation

That Members:

- 1) Approve the content of the MRWA Zero Waste Strategy as set out in plain text format at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 2) Grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive to finalise a public facing, designed version of the MRWA Zero Waste Strategy.

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MRWA ZERO WASTE STRATEGY

WDA/0525

Report of the Chief Executive

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks Members approval of the content of the MRWA Zero Waste Strategy and delegated authority for finalising the public-facing designed version of the Strategy.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Authority adopted a motion to declare a climate emergency at its 18th October 2019 special meeting and committed to produce an MRWA Zero Waste Strategy.
- 2.2 At the 25th June 2021 Authority meeting, Members approved a recommendation to give the highest priority to collaborate 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 3rd 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. This adds detail to the Framework and will update the existing Resources Merseyside joint strategy. The draft Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy requires approval by MRWA and each of the six LCR Districts and is the subject of a separate report on this meeting agenda. Targets in the draft Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy are reflected in the draft MRWA Strategy and include:
 - Reduce the total amount of rubbish by a third by 2040
 - Reduce our black bag rubbish (residual waste) by 50% of 2019 levels by 2040

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

7th February 2025

- Recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035.
- 2.5 The MRWA Zero Waste Strategy sets the strategic direction for the Authority and identifies how it will contribute to the wider city region goals identified in the draft Joint LCR Zero Waste Strategy. It offers our commitment to achieving zero avoidable waste by 2040 and demonstrates the Authority's leadership in working towards a zero waste and net zero carbon city region.
- 2.6 Development of the Strategy aligns with the Government commitment 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." The MRWA Zero Waste Strategy will set the direction for delivering the vision and achieving the challenging targets we have set to reduce waste.
- 3.2 The Strategy identifies the three key themes of 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, together with a focus on Education, Food and Reuse as critical areas for increased action.
- 3.3 Implementation of the Strategy will support the development and delivery of 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).
- 3.4 The Strategy recognises the importance of working with residents and communities to understand attitudes and encourage positive change towards less wasteful behaviours. Accordingly, there is a strong focus on education, campaigns and community engagement to rethink resource use and encourage a reuse culture to reduce waste at source by as much as possible and achieve our zero waste.

4. Moving Forward

- 4.1 Members are asked to approve the content of the MRWA Zero Waste Strategy as set out in plain text format at Appendix 1 of this report..
- 4.2 Members are asked to grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive to finalise a public facing, designed version of the Strategy. The finalised Strategy will be shared with Members prior to publication of the Strategy.
- 4.3 The Strategy will drive the future direction of the Authority through the Corporate Plan and Service Delivery Plan. Progress on delivering the Zero Waste Strategy will be reported through the Authority's Annual Report.

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 contracts and services to be fit for delivering zero waste and net zero carbon	2	4	8	The Strategy will drive the Corporate Plan and Service Delivery Plan. The post-WMRC procurement will respond to the Strategy targets.

Failure to maximise resource efficiency benefits from current operations	3	3	9	Review of Service Delivery Plans, infrastructure and assets for improvements in resource efficiency outcomes.
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6. HR Implications

6.1 None directly associated with this report.

7. Environmental Implications

7.1 The development and delivery of a 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 and prepare our services and contracts for a zero waste and net zero carbon future.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications tied specifically to this report. A key outcome of the Strategy is to develop and deliver efficient and effective services.

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. 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:

- Approve the content of the Zero Waste Strategy as set out in plain text format at Appendix 1 of this report.
- Grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive to finalise a public facing, designed version of the Strategy.

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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.