



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

14th March 2023

Report Title:	LIVERPOOL CITY REGION'S ZERO WASTE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2040
Report of:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks Committee's endorsement of the adoption of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Zero Waste Strategic Framework 2040 (see Appendix 1), which will minimise waste-related carbon emissions through actions to prevent, reduce, recycle and re-use resources and will encourage a circular economy. The strategy will link into the LCR Pathway to Net Zero Strategy and Wirral's own target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2041 (through the Cool2 Climate Strategy for Wirral).

The strategic framework outlines the proposed LCR strategy and aims to provide a single LCR voice on all zero waste actions. The strategy will cover all material resources and waste issues for the LCR and, accordingly, takes a wide view to encompass both business waste and household waste.

The framework identifies the three key themes of people, planet and economy, which represent the key pillars of sustainability.

This report outlines progress in developing a Liverpool City Region Zero Waste Strategic Framework, in co-ordination with the LCR Strategic Waste Partnership and with the endorsement of the LCR Leaders and Chief Executives.

This report has implications for all wards. This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is recommended to endorse the Liverpool City Region Zero Waste Strategic Framework 2040, to reduce waste-related carbon emissions.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The framework outlines the proposed ambitious strategy, which is the LCR's collective response to maximising the impact of material resource use, to cut carbon emissions across the city region.
- 1.2 Implementation of the National Resources and Waste Strategy in the LCR means that the Council will need to transition towards greater circulation and decarbonisation of material resources in the Borough's economy, backed by infrastructure fit for the future and a shift away from wasteful behaviours by all.
- 1.3 The Zero Waste Strategy will assist in moving Wirral towards a low carbon, circular economy and to achieving the Council's joint zero waste and net zero carbon goals.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Council could choose to operate in isolation from the other LCR waste collection authorities, but this option would remove the opportunity to collaborate to share resources, opportunities and risk in dealing with a common goal to reduce waste and achieve our respective net zero targets.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency in 2019, with the aim of achieving net zero carbon emissions across Wirral by 2041. Resource use and waste is a significant contributing factor to reducing carbon emissions.
- 3.2 Each of the other LCR constituent authorities each have their own individual climate action plans to achieve net zero by either 2030 or 2040. The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) has produced a strategy for achieving net zero carbon – LCR Pathway to Net Zero.
- 3.3 LCR constituent authorities have a long history of collaborative working through the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership, working with Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority, to minimise waste, increase recycling and implement actions to try to reduce the cost of processing and disposal of waste.
- 3.4 In May 2021, the partnership refreshed and the LCR Strategic Waste Management Partnership was established, with a shared purpose to collectively address the waste management issues facing the LCR, including implications of the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy, new waste management legislation (Environment Act 2021), housing growth, the environment and climate emergency and the financial pressures on regional waste management. The 'LCR Strategic Waste Management Partnership' also recognised the need to move away from simply investigating ways to reduce the cost of processing and disposing of waste, to look at waste in a wider strategic context, as a key element in delivering a collective ambition to achieve net zero carbon.

- 3.5 The Council has worked to develop the LCR Zero Waste Strategic Framework 2040, with partners from the LCR Strategic Waste Management Partnership and endorsed from the LCR CA Leaders and Mayors on 1 August 2022.
- 3.6 The framework identifies the three key themes of people, planet and economy, which represent the key pillars of sustainability. Under each of these themes are a number of strategic outcomes, focusing on governance, social value, climate and carbon, resource efficiency, cost efficiency, green jobs and circular economy.
- 3.7 The partnership has also jointly-funded a Partnership Manager, to work with and across the LCR district authorities and help co-ordinate and drive the implementation of the action plan that will deliver the strategy.
- 3.8 The LCR Zero Waste Strategy Framework 2040 provides the strategic link between the partnership work being undertaken across the region to tackle waste, and collective commitments to achieve our net zero carbon ambitions.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial cost of collecting, transporting and disposing of waste is significant. The council spends £7.47m per annum collecting waste and a further £18.08m on processing and disposal through the levy paid to MRWA.
- 4.2 There will be financial implications due to the new strategy and these will be determined and mitigated as part of the joint strategy development process. It is understood that the Government will introduce new burdens funding to support the establishment of new refuse collection systems, however details and timescales for this are not known at present.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council is required by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide collections of household waste. As a waste collection authority, the Council has a legal duty to collect municipal solid waste generated by households. Once collected, the waste is delivered to the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority for treatment or disposal.
- 5.2 The Environment Act 2021 places new requirements on LAs to collect a wider range of materials from households, including food, plastic pots, tubs and trays, and other packaging. The LCR Partnership will consider these new requirements and guidance (once published from DEFRA) as part of the development of the strategy.
- 5.3 DEFRA released the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 on 31 January, which sets out new residual waste reduction targets. The LCR Partnership will consider these new targets as part of the development of the strategy.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The development of the Zero Waste Strategy will be supported by existing staff from within the Waste and Environmental Services Team, in partnership with colleagues from the LCR Strategic Waste Management Partnership.
- 6.2 All districts from the City Region have contributed resources from existing budget to recruit a Partnership Manager for two years (established in post in October 2022), to coordinate the implementation of the LCR Strategic Waste Management Partnership work plan, including the development of the LCR Zero Waste Strategy.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Not endorsing the Framework would remove the opportunity to collaborate with the Partnership; to share resources, opportunities and risk in dealing with a common goal to reduce waste and achieve our respective net zero targets.
- 7.2 Failure to reduce residual waste tonnages will mean that Wirral Council does not meet waste reduction and recycling targets set as part of the Environment Act 2021 and the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy.
- 7.3 Failure to reduce residual waste tonnages will lead to increased waste collection and disposal costs in the future.
- 7.4 The LCR Zero Waste Strategic Framework provides the basis on which the Partnership will develop a strategy to mitigate these risks, including a range of actions to focus on preventing and reducing waste.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 In developing the Zero Waste Strategy Framework, consultation has included the LCR Strategic Waste Management Partnership, LCR Combined Authority, LCR Climate Change Partnership and LCR Leaders and Chief Executives.
- 8.2 Public consultation will be carried out as part of the development of the LCR Zero Waste Strategy 2040 and Wirral's own Waste Management Strategy in 2023/24, to help determine the actions required to deliver the strategy.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 The recommendation to endorse the framework is neutral.
- 9.3 A full EIA will be carried out as part of the LCR Zero Waste Strategy 2040 and action plan development.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Resource use is a crucial part of addressing climate change and reducing carbon emissions. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, energy efficiency and a transition to renewable energy can only address 55% of carbon emissions. The remaining 45% comes from the way we produce, use and dispose of products. (Completing the picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change, The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, September 2021) Therefore it is vital that we address this and the LCR Zero Waste Strategy will play a key role.
- 10.2 Once collected, Wirral's waste is transported to an energy from waste plant in Teesside, which incinerates waste to recover energy. To meet 2041 Net Zero aspirations, we need to act to reduce waste at source, reuse and repair as much as possible and recycle to our full potential. Where waste cannot be prevented, the operation of well planned, efficient collection services, using modern, and wherever possible, non-fossil-based fuel sources for vehicles, is key to reducing transport related carbon emissions and improving air quality.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Transitioning to a circular City Region will create a wealth of green jobs and open up new opportunities for sustainable businesses. The Zero Waste Strategic Framework 2040 includes focus on green jobs and how we can:
- Promote investment with a focus on moving up the waste hierarchy.
 - Establish a reuse hub to promote reuse and repair activities.
 - Encourage the development of remanufacturing industry in the City Region.
 - Provide support for expanding rental/leasing services.
 - Attract investment in reuse and reprocessing capacity.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework

BACKGROUND PAPERS

LCR Pathway to Net Zero – LCR, 2 February 2022

Cool2 Climate Strategy – Cool Wirral Partnership, December 2019

LCR Leaders and CEX briefing – 1 August 2022

Environment Climate Emergency and Transport Committee workshop – 15 November 2022

Completing the Picture: How the Circular Economy Tackles Climate Change, Ellen MacArthur Foundation – September 2019

Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 – DEFRA, 31 January 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in accordance with section g of its Terms of Reference (g) in relation to waste and as waste collection authority, litter authority, including but not limited to dealing with litter, street cleansing, abandoned vehicles and dog fouling, and the Council's relationship with Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority (MRWA) as the joint waste disposal authority;

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date