

Report to:	Cabinet Pre Agenda	Date of Meeting:	Thursday 22 June 2023
Subject:	Approval of Liverpool City Region Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework		
Report of:	Executive Director (People)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Locality Services Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	N	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The report seeks Cabinet approval to adopt the key principles set out in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework to minimise waste related carbon emissions through actions to prevent, reduce, recycle and re-use waste.

Recommendation(s): Cabinet is recommended to:

- (1) approve the principles set out in the LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework to reduce waste related carbon emissions; and
- (2) approve continued partnership working with Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) and the other LCR local authorities (LA's) to deliver action to meet our individual and collective climate targets

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Opportunities to prevent, reuse and recycle waste can significantly reduce waste and associated carbon emissions. With the right approach, these resources could be prevented in the first place, reused or recycled. Waste prevention and reuse projects can help to support local communities, save people money and help to tackle climate change. A focus on resources being returned to a local, circular economy will also create additional green jobs. Efforts must be focused on influencing behavioural change to reduce waste, avoid contamination, improve performance and protect society from the impacts of climate change.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Sefton Council is defined as a waste collection authority (WCA) with a legal duty to collect waste in its area but then consign this waste to the nominated waste disposal authority (WDA) in this case (MRWA) for processing and treatment. This relationship is set out in legislation. Sefton 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.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The costs of collecting recycling and residual waste are included within the Operational In-House Services' budget. The costs of disposing this waste is incurred by the MRWA and recharged back to the Council as part of the Waste Levy.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None</p>
<p>Legal Implications: The Council is required by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide collections of household waste. As a waste collection authority (WCA), Sefton has a legal duty to collect municipal solid waste generated by households and similar waste from commercial premises. Once collected the waste is delivered to the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), referred to as the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA). The Environment Act 2021 will place new requirements on LAs to collect a wider range of materials from households, including food, plastic pots, tubs and trays, and a wide range of other food containers and plastic films.</p>
<p>Equality Implications: The council provides enhanced kerbside collection arrangements for households where residents have difficulty in placing bins at the kerbside due to age, disability or impairment. These assisted collections ensure all residents receive a regular domestic waste collection from their property. The council also provides a household collection of clinical waste to residents who are referred to the council for assistance by their GP or healthcare professional. The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated.</p>
<p>Impact on Children and Young People: Yes The Strategy aims to improve recycling habits and meet our targets for set out in our climate emergency strategy.</p>
<p>Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will</p>

Have a positive impact	Y/ N
Have a neutral impact	Y/ N
Have a negative impact	Y/ N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y/ N

Waste and its collection and processing makes up 2% of the Council's carbon emissions. Sefton's waste is transported to an energy from waste plant in Teesside which incinerates waste to recover energy but also releases greenhouse gases. To meet our 2030 net zero aspirations we need to act to divert high carbon content waste from incineration through the introduction of food waste collections and expanding the range of plastics (made from fossil fuel) which can be recycled at the kerbside. 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.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The Council provides assisted collections to vulnerable residents.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Clean and safe neighbourhoods are essential for confident and resilient communities
Commission, broker and provide core services: Waste Collection is a core Council service
Place – leadership and influencer: The Council is demonstrating place leadership by working in partnership with MRWA
Drivers of change and reform: The Council has already committed to a Climate Emergency Strategy
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: A clean and tidy borough is essential to create the conditions for sustainable economic prosperity
Greater income for social investment: None
Cleaner Greener Clean and safe neighbourhoods are essential for confident and resilient communities

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7253/23..) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5453/23.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

LCR Local Authorities and Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting.

Contact Officer:	Andrea Watts
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2030
Email Address:	andrea.watts@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Merseyside Zero Waste 2040 Strategy

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Sefton declared a climate emergency in 2019 with the aim of achieving net zero carbon emissions from its activities by 2030. Sefton’s waste and its collection and processing makes up approximately 2% of the Borough’s total carbon emissions. Whilst waste is a relatively small contributor to the borough’s overall emissions when compared to transport (37%) and heating and power use in households and business (60%), these emissions must be reduced for the borough to deliver its Sefton Net Zero Carbon 2030 plan.

1.2 Each of the other LCR (LA’s) have their own individual climate action plans to achieve net zero by 2030 or 2040. The Combined Authority (CA) has produced its own strategy LCR Pathways to Net Zero.

1.3 The former Mayor of Liverpool was the LCR lead for waste on behalf of the Mayor and Leaders of the LCR LA’s. The Mayor is supported by the chief executive Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (WMBC).

1.4 The former Mayor of Liverpool tasked leaders and officers to accelerate the LCR’s actions to reduce waste related carbon emissions, identify opportunities to grow community-based networks to re-use items, introduce community composting and see waste as a resource which can support the delivery of social value.

1.5 LCR LA’s have a long history of collaborative working through the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership, working with MRWA to minimise waste, increase recycling and the implementing actions to try to reduce the cost of processing and disposal of waste.

1.6 In May 2021, the partnership refreshed its purpose to specifically address the challenges of implementing the changes to the waste management landscape set out in the Government’s Resources and Waste Strategy Bill which has now become new legislation (Environment Act 2021). The group also recognised the need to move away from simply looking at ways to reduce the cost of processing and disposing of waste to

specifically look at waste in a wider strategic context as a key element in delivering our ambition to achieve net zero.

1.7 The LCR Strategic Waste Management Partnership was established with the shared purpose to “collectively address the waste management issues facing the LCR including implications of new waste management legislation, housing growth, the environment and climate emergency and the financial pressures on regional waste management.

1.8 The Environment Act 2021 includes a mandate for additional materials to be collected from the kerbside for recycling – including food and an expanded range of plastics for example – however there are currently no regulations regarding implementation timelines.

1.9 In preparation for the impending changes, the partnership has commissioned a piece of consultancy work to model and evaluate a range of alternative collection systems which could be implemented to comply with the legal requirements to collect a wider range of recyclable materials from households. The work will model a range of options considering factors including cost, recycling performance, carbon emissions and likely public acceptability.

1.10 The results for the 2021 government consultation have not yet been published but we anticipate that they will form the basis of a range of regulations and guidance for waste and recycling collection, including:

- Mandatory range of materials to be collected at the kerbside
- Timeline for introduction of each material
- How the recycling should be collected (e.g., all dry recycling collected in one bin, or dual stream, or all separate)
- Frequency of collections

1.11 The partnership has also jointly funded a partnership manager to work across the LCR LA's and help co-ordinate and drive the implementation of the action plans which sit below the strategy.

1.12 In preparation for the changes required by the new Environment Act 2021, the partnership also commissioned a compositional analysis of the material in our domestic wheeled bins to provide baseline data for future decision making. This work involves emptying the contents of a statistically valid proportion of the purple bins and sorted the contents into the various materials found within for example food, sanitary, recyclable waste etc. and identified the following:

1. Food waste remains the major material present in kerbside residual (non-recycled) waste bins and is a significant source of carbon emissions.

2. Too much good recyclable material is put in the wrong bin. A significant amount of recycling material is placed in the residual bin, ending up being incinerated for energy recovery and increased carbon and financial impacts.

3. Materials that shouldn't be in the recycling collections is an issue. Significant levels of non-target or contaminant materials are collected by kerbside recycling services, although this may be made easier as national regulations are made.

4. At the Household Waste Recycling Centres, reusable and recyclable material is placed in residual waste skips leading to carbon and cost impacts from avoidable waste treatment. There is significant scope to improve the diversion of reusable and recyclable material from HWRC residual waste.

1.13 These findings show significant recyclable and organic material is not being captured through the current collection systems and is being transported for disposal creating avoidable transport and industrial carbon emissions.

1.14 Removing food waste from the grey (residual bin) and sending it for processing via anaerobic digestion would reduce the total amount of residual waste being sent to the Wilton Energy from Waste (EfW) in Redcar, Cleveland facility and reduce the amount of carbon emitted from the transportation of this waste by rail and its incineration.

1.15 The Environment Act 2021 signals that mandatory weekly food waste collections will be a requirement for all local authorities to introduce in the next 2-3 years. The LCR waste analysis data shows there is a huge amount of food waste in residual bins (~40%). Reducing this will require a combination of food waste prevention education and food waste collections.

1.16 On 20 December 2022 the Government contacted all local authorities requesting waste and other data for their area to inform the calculation to be used as the basis for new burdens funding to support the introduction of food waste collections. This is the clearest signal to date that local authorities will need to plan to introduce these collections now.

1.17 Tackling food waste is one of the immediate actions supporting the delivery of the LCR Zero Waste 40 Strategy. The group is working to:

- Prepare to start food waste collections as soon as possible, in order to avoid competitive disadvantage in procuring waste collection equipment including vehicles and caddies.
- Provide residents with the knowledge and skills to enable them to reduce food waste.
- Highlight the benefits of tackling food poverty through food waste prevention.
- Ensure all residents have access to either home composting or community composting.

1.18 In summary, the LCR Zero Waste 40 Strategy, provides the strategic link between the partnership work being undertaken across the LCR to tackle waste and our collective commitments to achieve our net zero ambitions.

1.19 Further reports will be provided to cabinet once the work to develop a full options appraisal for waste collections has been completed.