

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Executive Director Environment and Regeneration

**PORTFOLIO:** Environment and Urban Renewal

**SUBJECT:** Review of the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan

**WARD(S)** Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan provides the framework for waste related planning. This report is a review of the policies within the Joint Waste Local Plan and establishes whether they are still fit for purpose.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approves the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Waste Local Plan.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Local Plan for Halton currently comprises the adopted Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (2022) and the Joint Waste Plan (2013). The Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (JWLP) was adopted in July 2013 and since then has provided the local planning policy framework informing the determination of waste planning applications in the administrative areas covered by Halton Council, Knowsley Council, Liverpool City Council, Sefton Council, St. Helens Council and Wirral Council (the Plan Area).
- 3.2 The Review of the Merseyside and Halton JWLP June 2025 is an update to the JWLP adopted in 2013. The Waste Local Plan is supported by a Waste Needs Assessment (WNA), which was first published in 2011 and has been reviewed alongside the JWLP. This is to provide an up-to-date picture of the amount of waste produced and handled within the plan area as well as, future arisings and management needs.
- 3.3 This 2025 JWLP document reviews the original policies in the 2013 version to understand whether they are still fit for purpose and in line with Local and National Policy. The report concluded that the majority of the policies in the plan still remain fit for purpose. The report also found that over the last 10 years, 75 waste planning

applications have been determined, with 95% being approved. The 16 policies in the JWLP were used a total of 366 times when determining these applications.

- 3.4 The Council has been liaising with the partner authorities across the Liverpool City Region on the review of this document, but the review has been completed by officers of the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS).

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) does not address waste planning specifically; waste planning policies are laid out in the National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW). The NPPW is to be read alongside the NPPF, the National Waste Management Plan for England 2021 and the National Policy Statements (NPS) for wastewater and hazardous waste.
- 4.2 The NPPF has been updated several times since the 2013 JWLP plan was adopted, however there have been few changes relating specifically to waste planning.
- 4.3 New housing figures for the Liverpool City Region will affect the amount of waste generated in the future. For now, the JWLP provides sufficient capacity and the policy framework to address immediate needs but impacts of new housing numbers will need to be addressed in the next full review.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The review of the JWLP incurs no direct financial costs to the Council.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S**

##### **6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

Poor waste management can lead to health problems. The JWLP ensures that waste is managed, exposure to pollutants is limited and the quality of the environment is improved. This should all help improve health and wellbeing in the borough.

##### **6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

The JWLP promotion of clean, well-managed physical environments attracts investment, while helping to keep the workforce healthy. The JWLP also enables the development of new waste infrastructure, such as Energy from Waste Plants which creates job opportunities.

##### **6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

JWLPs help reduce litter and pollution in public areas, which are often used by children and young people. Also, encouraging sustainable ways of waste disposal helps reduce the impact of climate change. Promoting sustainability will benefit future generations.

#### **6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

Poor management of waste disproportionately affects low-income and deprived communities. JWLPs aim to reduce pollution and waste which also effects the most vulnerable.

#### **6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future**

JWLPs aim to improve waste management, reduce emissions, and promote sustainability. All of these practices will help combat climate change and work towards the Councils green targets.

#### **6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**

The JWLP helps protect vulnerable groups and helps people adapt to the impacts of climate change. It helps improve the general air quality within the region, which reduces health risks in the community.

### **7.0 Risk Analysis**

7.1 The original JWLP was adopted in 2013. Since then, there has been multiple updates to National Policy. If the JWLP does not align with national legislation, the council may be vulnerable to legal challenges and struggle to defend planning decisions. Having an up-to-date JWLP means the council can be confident when making decisions on waste related issues.

7.2 The risk of not having an up-to-date JWLP needs to be fully understood. Without a current JWLP, the Council has no certainty over where poor waste infrastructure schemes will be permitted; appeals against refusal of planning permission are more likely to be upheld in the developer's favour with the possibility of costs awarded against the Council. An up-to-date JWLP is needed to retain local control over decision making.

### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no direct equality or diversity issues raised in this report.

### **9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The JWLP provides an opportunity to shape and manage waste development and its impact on the Climate by encouraging the use of more sustainable and innovative technologies. This will help reduce the Council's carbon footprint and achieve net zero by 2040.

**10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2025)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
National Waste Management Plan for England 2021	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
National Policy Statements (NPS) for wastewater and hazardous waste	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP 2022)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor