Harnessing the biosynthetic machinery of living cells is a common approach used for producing a broad range of useful chemicals. Here, we divert inherent metabolic routes in L. lactis to produce (3R)-acetoin and the derived 2,3 butanediol isomers. Efficient production of (3R)-acetoin was accomplished using a strain where the competing lactate, acetate and ethanol forming pathways had been blocked. By introducing different alcohol dehydrogenases into this strain, either EcBdh from Enterobacter cloacae or SadB from Achromobacter xylosoxidans, it was possible to achieve high-yield production of m-BDO or R-BDO respectively. To achieve biosustainable production of these chemicals from dairy waste, we transformed the above strains with the lactose plasmid pLP712. This enabled efficient production of (3R)-acetoin, m-BDO and R-BDO from processed whey waste, with titers of 27, 51, and 32.1g/L respectively. The corresponding yields obtained were 0.42, 0.47 and 0.40 g/g lactose, which is 82%, 89%, and 76% of maximum theoretical yield respectively. These results clearly demonstrate that L. lactis is an excellent choice as a cell factory for transforming lactose containing dairy waste into value added chemicals.