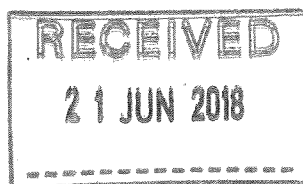


MAYOR OF LONDON



Cllr Richard Cornelius

Leader of the Council
London Borough of Barnet
North London Business Park
London Borough of Barnet
Oakleigh Road South
Barnet N11 1NP

Date: 19 JUN 2018

Dear Cllr Cornelius,

I am writing to you to express my great concern at a recent decision taken by your Council's Environment Committee (at their 5 June meeting) to withdraw its current food waste collection service to residents.

Given the recent publication of the London Environment Strategy (LES) and the requirement upon waste collection authorities within it regarding provision of food waste collection, the decision by Barnet to withdraw the service is premature. It is disappointing that my officers only found out about the decision by accident, not having been formally or informally consulted on the issue.

Waste management is a critical area of focus and of my ambition for London. The LES sets out stretching but achievable targets for the recycling of municipal and household waste. By 2025, I want waste collection authorities to be recycling at least 50 per cent Local Authority Controlled waste (which is a target shared with central government) to help achieve London's target of 65 per cent recycling of municipal waste.

The LES sets a minimum level of household recycling service that waste collection authorities are expected to offer by 2020 to their residents:

- All properties to receive a collection of the six core recyclable materials: paper, card, glass, cans, plastic bottles and mixed rigid plastics; and
- Kerbside collection of food waste for all properties with kerbside recycling (and flats where feasible)

It also sets a requirement on waste authorities to submit to me a Recycling Action Plan, demonstrating how the authority intends to deliver those recycling targets at a local level by 2020.

The LES and the policies and proposals on waste and recycling have been developed following an unprecedented process of evidence gathering, analysis, stakeholder consultation and dialogue. I note that Barnet did not respond during the public consultation on the issue of food waste collection, which was included in the waste policies and proposals.

MAYOR OF LONDON

The waste policies represent a trajectory that is the best environmental and economic solution for the city and at the borough level. Londoners also expect and deserve a consistency of service provision across the city. The evidence points to the impacts that food waste collection has on driving higher rates of recycling across the board.

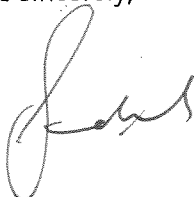
I understand that the authority is citing financial constraints and that food waste collection is often a difficult service to bed in and to drive and sustain performance. However, experience across London and indeed nationally, suggests that these problems can be overcome and can offer real value to the authority and to their residents.

Whilst I ultimately possess the backstop ability to direct authorities if I believe their actions to be detrimental to the delivery of the LES, I believe that collaboration and joint problem solving is the best way to proceed.

Given this, I request that the authority delays the implementation of its decision to withdraw the food waste collection service until we have had time to engage with you to explore the issue further and understand Barnet's reasoning, evidence and consultation process in arriving at the decision. I would like to see how you are proposing to meet the LES waste targets without a separate food waste service.

To that end, I would ask that your officers meet with my officers urgently to understand the current situation and how we might move forward together, utilising the support that is and can be made available through the joint borough-mayoral body of the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) and their Resource London programme.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Councillor Dean Cohen, Chair of the Environment Committee
Councillor Jamie Blake, Strategic Director of Environment