



London Borough
of Barnet

Cllr Richard Cornelius
Leader of the Council

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Mayor Sadiq Khan
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date:
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28th June 2018
RC/kl/

Dear Mayor Khan,

RE: Cessation of Barnet separate food waste collections

We note your letter dated 27th June 2018 regarding Barnet Council's decision to stop separate food waste collections. There was extensive discussion, including public questions, at the Environment Committee on the 5th June 2018 regarding changes to a variety of frontline services. We believe that all aspects of the proposals were fully discussed and that the decision was lawful.

As you have clearly highlighted in the LES the Waste Framework Directive waste hierarchy classes both Anaerobic Digestion and incineration with energy recovery as "other recovery" rather than recycling. Under our proposal, food waste will be incinerated which as your policy makes clear is equivalent to anaerobic digestion. Barnet's recycling performance is already making a meaningful contribution to the LES target of 50% recycling by 2025, as Barnet is within the top third recycling London authorities.

In your letter, you do not mention that your powers of direction can only be exercised to the extent that compliance by an authority with the requirements does not impose excessive additional cost of the authority. Complying with the outline directive within your letter would we believe result in excessive additional cost, as we have finalised the savings relating to this service change at £296,766 a year, in addition to the other benefits for the service. Should you decide to issue such a direction we will seek to challenge it.

We have suspended the cessation of the food waste service for six weeks. This will, however, incur additional costs of circa £35,000. When our discussions have been concluded we expect this money to be paid by the Mayor's Office.

Barnet officers have already met with their counterparts from the GLA and we have organised a follow up meeting.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Richard Cornelius
Leader of the Council