



London Borough  
of Barnet

Cllr Richard Cornelius  
*Leader of the Council*

North London Business Park  
Oakleigh Road South  
London N11 1NP

Mayor Sadiq Khan  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

tel: 020 8359 2059  
fax: 0870 889 7464  
email: [leader@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:leader@barnet.gov.uk)  
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our reference: RC/kl

Dear Mayor Khan

Further to and as foreshadowed in our letter of August 8<sup>th</sup> I would like to address your assertion in your letter of August 2<sup>nd</sup> that our decision in relation to the cessation of food waste was fundamentally flawed and unlawful.

As a result of your assertion we have asked our lawyers to review all matters around that decision including the paper presented to committee, public questions, officer correspondence and the transcript of the meeting. Following that review we do not believe you are correct.

Officers identified the issue, the potential conflict between our decision and your aspirational strategy paper.

Your Waste Strategy was published on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May after the Environment Committee papers were published on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The publication of the Strategy was only two working days before the Committee meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Despite the very short time scales advice was sought and it was agreed the members would be briefed on the issue, the majority of members were briefed.

In any event all those voting in favour of the decision had been briefed, a clear majority of the committee, were aware of the Strategy, the issues of General Conformity and the potential conflict. I would also note that despite your assertion and the publicity around your intervention, the issue of lack of information at the meeting has only been raised by your letter in the more than two months since the meeting.

I say potential conflict as, as our lawyers have eloquently described in my earlier letter, the operational decision we were taking and your aspiration for 2025 have little to do with each other.

The resolution of the Committee was as follows:

*Service Change 2 - Stop all separate household food waste collections that the Strategic Director for Environment investigate over the next few months methods for people that want to recycle household food waste taking into account any cost. It was requested that options be considered at the next meeting.*

So it was not merely a matter of simply stopping the weekly food waste collections but officers have been asked to investigate other options.

However to avoid further wasted cost and another area of conflict we have decided that before the decision is implemented we will take a paper to a committee on the point so that the committee has the opportunity to reconsider the earlier decision putting the question beyond any doubt.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Cornelius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the first letter 'R'.

CLlr Richard Cornelius  
Leader of the Council