

Shirley Rodrigues
Deputy Mayor for Environment and
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John Hooton
Chief Executive
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Date: 3 September 2018
Email: john.hooton@barnet.gov.uk

Dear Deputy Mayor Rodrigues,

RE: Cessation of Barnet separate food waste collections

As Councillor Cornelius is on holiday, I am responding on his behalf.
We note your letter dated 21st August 2018.

Significant time and financial pressure has already been placed on Barnet by the intervention of the Mayor of London in this matter. The time delay in stopping food waste collection now also has implications for the recycling and waste round reorganisation which was approved at the same committee as the separate food waste cessation. The round reorganisation depends on the resources released from food waste collection being available. The delay is also causing uncertainty for all our staff involved.

To mitigate all this Barnet Council have decided to bring forward the date of the next Environment Committee, to 13th September 2018. The Committee will be asked to consider its position on the cessation of the separate food waste collections in light of the intervention by the Mayor of London and the London Environment Strategy. The papers for this committee will be published by Thursday 6th September, and will include consultation data which was sent to the Mayor's office, this letter and the letters between Councillor Cornelius, the Mayor and yourself. The papers will be published at:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=9477&Ver=4>.

We do not intend to carry out the work you set out in your "Proposed Statutory direction" with LWARB. We have already carried out food waste studies on methods to improve separate food waste collection participation, and sent the results to you. The Council has also carried out work as a member of the North London Waste Authority to understand the financial savings for various collection methods. It should be noted that although it is claimed such work would be free of charge for Barnet this is not the case. In the proposed Direction under point 6 it is stated "*The Council will make available all the necessary resources (including staff and their time) to participate in and undertake the FWSR*". My officers are already fully deployed in carrying out both the business as usual roles of running a core front line service, as well as delivering the work of achieving the Medium Term Financial Plan

(MTFP) savings, and the other areas of work agreed by the Environment Committee particularly those agreed on 5th June. Making any resources available would result in additional staff being required or a delay in other savings plans. Neither of these options are affordable to Barnet.

We further wish to reiterate our view as expressed in the letter to the Mayor of 8th August 2018 that the Mayor lacks the power to impose any such requirement upon Barnet in line with that set out in the proposed Direction.

The delayed cessation of the separate food waste service, and the knock-on implications to the recycling and waste round reorganisation are currently predicted to incur additional costs of circa £265,000. We expect this money to be paid by the Mayor's Office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hooton', with a small comma to the right.

John Hooton
Chief Executive