



BARNSLEY

Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton C.B.E.,
Leader of the Council

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21 March 2016

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Minister for Environment
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP

Recycling in Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham

The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Waste Partnership (the BDR Partnership) are proud of the excellent improvement in their recycling rates, achieved with the support of their residents over the last 12 years.

From the inception of the BDR Waste Treatment Project, our aim has been to implement the principles of the waste hierarchy, whilst reducing the overall costs of waste management for our residents and achieving maximum diversion from landfill.

In July last year, working with our PFI partner 3SE, we successfully delivered a new waste treatment plant. This was both on time and to budget. The new facility is providing partners with the latest waste treatment technology that will ensure that this area of the country will meet the national 2030 landfill municipal waste target of 10% some 14 years early.

As part of this contract, DEFRA have provided £75m PFI credits to the scheme on the condition that key performance criteria are achieved, notably attaining an overall 50% recycling rate across the partnership.

This Partnership, along with many others across the country, commissioned this new treatment facility deploying the latest technology to ensure that the waste hierarchy is strategically incorporated within its standard operation. As a consequence of this two areas in particular serve to improve recycling levels, but do not comply with the current method of measuring recycling levels in England.

To the Partnership, this is both disappointing from a public relations perspective and means that it does not reflect a consistent approach to measurement of recycling with Europe. We therefore ask you to strongly reconsider the component elements used within the recycling percentage indicator.

The Partnership feels these small changes would enable the Partnership to potentially unlock further savings opportunities across the three authorities.

The Partnership would like DEFRA to consider including the following as recycling:-

- Incinerator Bottom Ash residues that are used in applications such as aggregate replacement for sub base road construction, bulk fill, concrete block manufacture or concrete grouting. This could add approximately 4% to the BDR Partnership recycling rate.
- To include as an 'input tonnage' leachate and fines derived from the waste refinement and drying processes that is subsequently used to produce the compost like output from the anaerobic digestion plant. This could add approximately 2% to the BDR Partnership recycling rate.

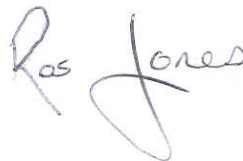
These proposed amendments could see an estimated increase in the plants overall recycling rate by circa 6% and significantly go beyond meeting the conditional 50% criteria for PFI Credits. Thus providing the BDR partnership sufficient capacity to model and implement further service changes that would assist in achieving the fiscal challenges. For example, introducing a charge for green waste could realise significant savings, but could be detrimental to the overall recycling rate. With these changes the Partnership would safely have the capacity within the recycling rate so as not to breach the key performance criteria of the PFI credits.

We request that the above is given due consideration and would like to understand if the Partnership are obliged to inform DEFRA about any such operational changes to the regime of collection services, or indeed any other aspect of recycling services such as materials collected at HWRCs or kerbside?

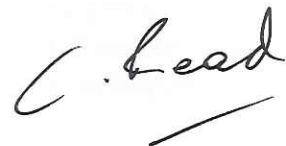
Yours sincerely



Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE
Leader Barnsley MBC



Ros Jones
Mayor Doncaster MBC



Cllr Chris Read
Leader Rotherham MBC