

Leadership &
Cabinet Office
1st Floor South
Civic Centre 3
High Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2TG



Tel: [REDACTED]

david.sheard@kirklees.gov.uk
www.kirklees.gov.uk

Dr Therese Coffey MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

Our ref: DS181/WA/JB

18 August 2017

Dear Minister

Re: Letter received 01 August, Kirklees Council's Recycling Rate

Thank you for your letter.

I would be happy to provide you and your colleagues with further information on the current position on recycling rates and waste management at Kirklees Council.

I would like to invite you and [REDACTED] to visit us here. At this meeting we can provide a presentation with key officers and Council Members, explaining the challenges we face as a Council and the good work we have been doing to provide the best outcome for the resources we have.

As you point out, we have a relatively low recycling rate, but this for me only tells half the story:

We have a traditionally low landfill rate and over the last few Quarters only sent 1% of our waste to landfill. We also have an R1 compliant Energy from Waste facility – as such we Recover a significant amount of energy alongside this outstanding landfill rate. This is also done under the best value PFI contract in the country, which presents its own challenges.

We have also invested in sustainable outlets for difficult waste that, for example, recycle our bottom ash and the metals within it, but this unfairly cannot be counted within the recycling rate currently.

We have also refreshed our waste policy framework and bucked the national trend of falling recycling rates and waste growth to actually reduce our overall volumes whilst at the same time increasing recycling in Kirklees for 2016/17 to 30.1%, an improvement of 1.6% since the previous year, as stated in your letter.

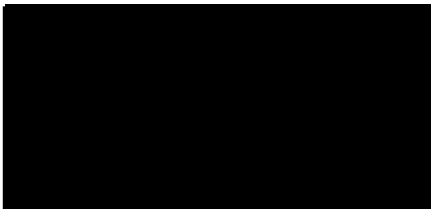
We also have no garden or food waste collection service and compare favourably with others when this is stripped out of the reported recycling figures – comparing apples with apples.

We were pleased to be one of the first Councils to be awarded a grant associated with WRAP's Collection Consistency Framework Trial and look forward to the work ahead to understand what further improvements are possible and the cost of these.

However, our ambitions are likely to come at a cost and also at a time when Kirklees is facing a disproportionate level of austerity, and will be exiting a PFI contract in the near future that will result in several million pounds being added to our disposal bill through the return to market and loss of PFI credits.

We hope you are able to visit us in Kirklees and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Cllr David Sheard
Leader of Kirklees Council

cc

