

# Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Mayor Philip Glanville  
Local Government Association

Councillor Peter Fleming  
District Councils' Network

*By email*

19 March 2020

Dear Philip and Peter,

## **Waste Strategy: Implications for local authorities**

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee is grateful that you were able to give public evidence for its inquiry into the *Implications of the Waste Strategy for local authorities* during the last Parliament.

It is nine months since you appeared before the Committee and, in anticipation of the Government's formal response to our report, we wanted to ask whether the concerns you expressed in June 2019 have been addressed by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

In particular, I would be grateful if you could provide updates on the following:

- Whether DEFRA and MHCLG have improved how they are consulting with the Local Government Association (LGA), District Councils' Network (DCN) and other representative groups, as well as with individual local authorities, on the implementation of the Waste Strategy;
- Whether local authorities remain concerned that there will be insufficient flexibility for local authorities to determine what waste collection and disposal services are most appropriate for their communities;
- Whether local authorities now have confidence that all necessary funding will be provided by the Government to cover the costs associated with implementing any new services;
- Whether local authorities are now facing additional costs for shorter-term contracts or renegotiations arising from the Waste Strategy, as was speculated during our inquiry, and whether the Government is providing funding to cover these costs;
- Whether local authorities continue to have concerns around the Government's proposal to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme in 2023;
- Finally, and separately from the inquiry, what challenges there will be for local authorities in managing recycling and refuse collections during the present coronavirus pandemic, and

what additional support will be required from central Government.

I would be very grateful if you could respond to this letter by Monday 21 April.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Betts', with a stylized 'C' and 'B'.

**Clive Betts MP**  
**Chair, Communities and Local Government Committee**