



**Levelling Up, Housing
and Communities
Committee**

**Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen, Chair
District Councils' Network
18 Smith Square,
SW1P 3HZ**

13 May 2024

Dear Cllr Chapman-Allen,

I am writing to you, on behalf of my Committee, to ask what progress district councils have been able to make implementing the Government's Simpler Recycling plan.

In February the District Councils Network expressed public concern that two thirds of councils would not be able to meet the Government's deadline for introducing weekly food waste collections from 2026 and that the capital allocations for councils to cover weekly food waste collections would fail to meet the full cost of funding new vehicles and containers.

What progress has been made on implementing the Simpler Recycling plan since then, and what issues remain?

It is concerning that there is still expected to be a shortfall in the extra burdens funding to cover this policy. In 2019 our inquiry into the Implications of the Waste Strategy for Local Authorities heard that the Government would provide additional resource to meet any new net costs arising from its new waste policies but concluded that there was "deep scepticism from local authorities that sufficient funding will be provided."¹ We recommended that the Local Government Association and other council representatives should review the data that informs funding estimates and were told by the Government in its response in 2020 that it was working with the relevant organisations on this.² **What was the result of these conversations and why is there still a funding gap?**

We note that in order to comply with the Simpler Recycling plan many councils will need to procure new waste vehicles, bins and other infrastructure. The NAO has expressed concern that many local authorities will begin procurement at the same time putting pressure on the supply chains for lorries and bins.³ **Has this affected timelines and costs for meeting the Simpler Recycling plan, and what measures are, or should be, in place to manage this?**

Best wishes,

Mr Clive Betts MP
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

¹ Housing Communities and Local Government Committee, Nineteenth Report 2017-219, [Waste Strategy: Implications for local authorities](#), HC 2071, paras 86-7

² Housing Communities and Local Government Committee, [First Special Report 2019-21, Waste Strategy: Implications for local authorities: Government Response to the Committee's Nineteenth Report of Session 2017-19](#), HC 363, page 10

³ NAO, [Departmental Overview 2022-23 DLUHC](#), page 21