



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Paul Blantern, Chief Executive and  
Cllr Jim Harker O.B.E., Leader  
Northamptonshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northampton  
Northamptonshire  
NN1 1AT

28 February 2014

Dear colleagues,

### **Charges for Household Waste Recycling Centres**

It has been brought to our attention that Northamptonshire County Council is consulting on proposals for a public charge at its ten household waste and recycling centres (HWRCs) in a bid to cut costs.

It is our belief that this backdoor bin charge will both inconvenience local council tax paying residents and create perverse incentives. Charging for using recycling centres will increase the risk of fly-tipping, harming the local environment and diverting taxpayers' money to clean up the mess.

In addition, both DCLG and Defra have an interest in making it easy for people to recycle. A charge for using a household waste site (where for example electrical goods are collected separately for recycling) will mean that householders simply put such items in their residual waste bins, so they end up in landfill.

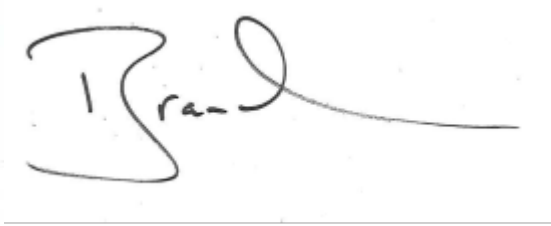
In terms of legislation, the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Section 51) states that local authorities have a duty to provide sites for the deposit of household waste. Where such sites are provided in fulfilment of this duty, waste must be accepted free of charge. We are interested to hear how Northamptonshire County Council squares its charging proposals with the requirements of the Act.

We firmly believe that Northamptonshire County Council's proposal to charge for HWRC provision runs against the interests of householders and government's environmental concerns and suggest it seriously revisits its thinking.





**Dan Rogerson MP**



**Brandon Lewis MP**