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<i>Date</i>	27 May 2016	<i>Email</i>	Chris.noble@hants.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Davie

Incinerator Bottom Ash and Recycling Rates

In my position as the interim Chair of Hampshire's waste partnership, Project Integra, I am writing to update you on an issue which I feel may be of interest to you, and which has the potential to increase the recognised level of recycling in our authorities, in England and in the UK.

For many years, Project Integra has been recovering energy and value from residual waste which cannot be sent for traditional recycling. I am writing in particular to Councils which, like Hampshire, have developed Energy Recovery Facilities (ERFs) as a vital alternative to landfill, and made a valuable contribution to the nation's energy supply.

You may be aware that these facilities produce a by-product, known as Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA), the constituent parts of which are recyclable – metals can be extracted and sent for reprocessing, and the remaining material can be used as a building aggregate. For example in Hampshire, this aggregate reduces the need for local quarrying and it has been used in local construction and maintenance projects.

Whilst individual local authorities in the UK do not have statutory recycling targets, the UK (like all EU Member States) has a target to recycle, reuse or compost 50% of waste from households by 2020. Recent stalling of the recycling rate in England means that this target is going to be extremely challenging, and may not be met. The size of the challenge is exacerbated by the current exclusion of recycled IBA from the UK's performance figures – the rationale given for this is that waste sent for treatment at an ERF is treated as

a recovery operation rather than a recycling one. However, others have recognised the valuable contribution of IBA recycling. For example:

- The Welsh Government allows Welsh LAs to include IBA recycling in their recycling performance figures
- A report commissioned by the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management in 2015 evidenced that other EU Member States, including Germany, France and Sweden, are allowing IBA recycling to be included in their recycling figures

In 2014-15, around 1.2m tonnes of IBA was recycled in England, some of which came from your authority. If IBA were included in recycling rate calculations, it would increase Hampshire's recycling rate by 11%, and England's official recycling rate by approximately 5 percentage points. This would dramatically improve the chances of meeting the EU target and would put us on a level playing field with the other Member States already mentioned.

I am seeking your support in presenting the following point of view to the relevant Government Ministers:

- The UK should be including all forms of IBA recycling in its calculation of the national recycling rate to ensure our performance is based on the same practice as other EU member States.
- There should be one standardised measure of recycling rate that is reported by the UK, individual countries of the UK, and individual local authorities, to allow for fair comparisons to be made.
- The UK should support the case for IBA recycling to be included in relevant calculations as part of a drive to simplify definitions and standardise waste and recycling performance measures across the EU as part of the recently announced legislative proposals known as the Circular Economy Package.

As part of our efforts to influence central Government, we are also working with a Hampshire MP, with the aim of securing a Parliamentary debate on this issue.

If your authority were able to express your support, in writing, for the three statements above, this will add further weight to our argument and show that there is a unified voice among Councils in England.

Please direct correspondence to:

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Pearson', with a long, sweeping underline stroke extending to the right.

Councillor Frank Pearson
Interim Chairman of Project Integra& Winchester City Council Environment,
Health & Wellbeing Portfolio Holder

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