

**REPORT TO THE SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT
PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****18 March 2016****REPORT OF** - Tony Alder, Project Director, South Tyne and Wear Waste
Management Partnership**SUBJECT:** Energy from Waste Facility - Incinerator Bottom Ash

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Joint Executive Committee on the reprocessing of materials produced as Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) at the Partnership's Energy from Waste facility (EfW), and the potential impact of its reclassification within the waste hierarchy and data reporting requirements from 'material recovery' to 'material recycling'.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy highlights the Partnership's aims to achieve a 50% recycling/ composting target for household waste by 2020.
- 2.2 IBA is the by-product from the incineration of waste through the EfW process. It contains materials, such as metals, which are extracted and sent for reprocessing. The remaining IBA aggregate is used by the construction sector as a direct replacement for quarried stone.
- 2.3 In effect, metal materials collected through the Partnership's kerbside recycling collection services could be delivered to the same reprocessors as metals extracted from IBA - and be processed in same way. The IBA aggregate is directly 'recycled' into materials used by the construction sector. However, within the waste hierarchy and Waste DataFlow reporting requirements, the treatment of materials produced through IBA is classified as 'material recovery' and not 'material recycling'.

2.4 There is some ambiguity within the European Union (EU) regarding the classification of IBA, as some countries appear to include it in the calculation of recycling performance. This may be as a result of the transposition of EU regulations into national legislation, which is open to different interpretations by different nations.

2.6 In January 2016, the Joint Executive Committee wrote to Defra highlighting the issues around the classification of IBA within the waste hierarchy and the impact that this has on recycling performance and the achievement of European recycling targets.

3. INCINERATOR BOTTOM ASH

3.1 In 2014/15, household waste recycling performance across the Partnership was:

- Gateshead 35.9%
- South Tyneside 39.2%
- Sunderland 31.6%

3.2 The joint partnership team has calculated the impact on the 2014/15 recycling results if IBA produced from contract waste had been included as 'recycling'. If this were the case, recycling rates would rise to:

- Gateshead 47%
- South Tyneside 50%
- Sunderland 43%

3.3 The reclassification of IBA could, therefore, help the Partnership to close the gap in achieving the European 50% recycling/ composting target set for 2020.

4. UPDATE

4.1 No response to the Joint Executive Committee's letter to Defra has been received.

4.2 Media reports have suggested that increasing pressure from local authorities and the Department for Communities and Local Government has encouraged Defra to change its stance on the classification of IBA, and ask the European Commission for a ruling.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The Joint Executive Committee is requested to:

- i) Note the contents of this report; and
- ii) Agree to receive further updates regarding the reclassification of IBA, as appropriate.

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