

Time to pause waste plans

A NINE page letter, supported by all seven north London councils, justifying an incinerator plan, might suggest panic (Alternatives for waste plant are "unrealistic", Enfield, Independent, April 29).

The councils describe particular waste technology as 'unproven, unreliable' and protest that it would be 'irresponsible to take such a reckless gamble with the delivery of essential services for north Londoners'. Yet in 2010 these same councils acclaimed a multi-billion pound investment planned on this very same technology as "an exemplar for modern sustainable waste management" and "the most deliverable and appropriate solution" for north London!

Nowhere does the letter mention the countless millions wasted and more still to be repaid and written off from that exercise's failure.

In 2015 the Pinkham Way Alliance examined the data and highlighted that the intended incinerator was too big for projected waste. A decade or so of declining waste levels has been followed by constant revisions to the geographic-reach and waste-types needed to fill the resulting capacity gap. The councils' plan, originally scoped on north London's municipal waste, has metamorphosed into one for London and beyond.

Thirteen years of North London Waste Plan preparation failed in its public hearing late last year and now requires a fundamental rewrite; north London's sixteen year municipal waste strategy expires this year; twelve years of a 50 per cent recycling target and yet these councils are barely achieving 30 per cent; while we face a climate crisis and an incinerator expected to pump out CO2 levels not so far removed from every other aspect combined - commerce, industry, travel and domestic heating - in Enfield borough.

Facing a very uncertain, very unstable future contemplating an irreversible, two generation long climate impacting, invest-



Karl Brown is concerned about plans to build a waste plant in Edmonton

ment, occurring in parallel with two separate incinerator-overarching waste plans which require writing, surely now is the perfect time to pause and reflect and work to bring the three needs into line, rather than beating chests of self-justification about another "flagship".

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Air Vice-Marshal Chris Elliot
Chef Executive, RAF Benevolent Fund

You could be a life saver

I'M writing to ask a favour from you in these very difficult times. I work closely with the blood cancer charity DKMS, who recruit blood stem cell donors to help people with blood cancer.

This charity is close to my heart. Last year, my six-year old nephew Finley was diagnosed with JMML (juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia), a rare and aggressive form of childhood