

TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 23 March 2020	Ref No: 086
Type of Operational Decision:	
Executive Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/>
Status: for publication	
Title/Subject matter: Adjustments to the waste collection service in light of a reduction in availability of staff due to the coronavirus.	
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance – Is the decision:	
(i) within an Approved Budget	yes
(ii) in accordance with Council Policy	yes
Equality Impact Assessment [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? If yes – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]	
	no

Details of Operational Decision Taken [with reasons]:

The coronavirus is beginning to impact on the availability of staff to operate the waste collection service and it is anticipated that the situation will only worsen in the coming days and weeks.



A full service has been delivered to date but that is not thought likely to be possible this week, as more and more staff become unavailable. Last Friday was the last day of the 2 weekly brown bin cycle for all residents. That was completed only by bringing across Street Cleansing staff to assist and completing the last outstanding round on Saturday.

Given where we are, it is proposed to cancel the next full 2 weekly cycle of brown bin collections, focusing all efforts on the completion of the other waste streams. All residents would then go 4 weeks between brown bin collections. That allows the service to keep track of exactly where it stands with the brown bin service and is a simple message to communicate to residents at this stage. The situation regarding brown bins will be reviewed towards the end of next week. The above message will be communicated and explained to residents via the Council’s website, the intranet, social media and via email to those 32,000 households that subscribe to the Council’s bin alert service.

It is logical to sacrifice brown bins for one collection only at this stage given the time of year, with generally low temperatures and a general lack of gardening activity (notwithstanding that residents were out in their gardens over the weekend given the government guidance to stay at home), leaving sufficient capacity for food waste in the vast majority of brown bins. There are very few brown street food waste caddies in circulation now, with most residents having a brown wheeled bin. The collection of garden waste is not a priority at this difficult time. Residents will be encouraged to pile any excess garden waste in a corner of the garden, whilst leaving sufficient capacity in the brown bin for food waste.

The situation will be reviewed day to day, taking account of staff availability, but in principle blue and green bins will be the next bins to be disrupted, with grey bins being the last.

Demand for bulky waste collections has dropped significantly in the last week or so, with only 4 scheduled for last Thursday for example. All collections already booked will be honoured but new bookings for bulky waste collections are to be suspended with immediate effect, with the two man crew diverted to emptying bins.

Decision taken by:	Signature:	Date:
Neil Long, Assistant Director		23/03/2020
Executive Director or Chief/Senior Officer		23/03/2020
Members Consulted [see note 1 below]		
Cabinet Member/Chair		
Lead Member		
Opposition Spokesperson		

Notes

1. It is not generally a requirement to consult with any Members on Operational Decisions but where a Chief Officer considers it necessary to consult with the appropriate Cabinet Member and/or Lead Member, they must sign the form so as to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. The signature of the Opposition Spokesperson should be obtained to confirm that he/she has been consulted.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**