

Changes to bin collections

From 7 April the council is suspending brown bin garden waste collections to help focus on priority services.

This will help crews on bin lorries to observe social distancing guidelines during the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

In order to give crew members the space to stay two metres apart, the number of operatives in refuse lorry cabs will be reduced, meaning we'll need increased resources to carry out the collection of kerbside and communal general waste, food recycling and dry mixed recycling.

Council Leader Adam McVey said: "As a result of the current situation, non-statutory garden waste collections will be suspended until further notice, along with kerbside glass (blue box) collections, which were stopped earlier this month. We'll be in touch with households who have paid for this service about how we'll compensate them for the reduction in service once we know the extent of the disruption.

"We're working extremely hard to continue providing essential services to people living here, and our waste collection crews are doing a fantastic job. However, their health is of utmost importance so it's important that we adapt service provision to protect their safety.

"This latest change will allow us to keep collecting most bins while giving teams the space to practise social distancing, limiting the potential spread of the coronavirus. I want to reassure the public that we're doing everything we can to keep essential services running as close to normal as possible while looking out for the needs of the people who work for

us.”

Depute Leader Cammy Day said:“Like local authorities across the country we face unprecedented challenges and at times like these it’s necessary to make changes for the good of the city, and our employees.

“We know this will be of some inconvenience to those planning to be gardening during this period, but I would discourage people from putting grass and cuttings in the brown bins in the meantime, as contents will begin to compost meaning they may become too heavy for us to collect once the service is up and running again. You can, however, find tips and advice for home composting on Changeworks’ website.”

A third party company will help to collect mixed recycling and food recycling waste, and staff from cleansing teams are also reassigned.

Anyone with symptoms of Coronavirus is encouraged to follow the guidance on how to dispose of waste correctly to help protect the safety of bin collection crews.

Additional measures taken to safeguard waste and cleansing workers’ health have been the increased provision of hand sanitiser supplies, in addition to hot water handwashing points in a number of vehicles, the washing down of lorries at the end of shifts and efforts to encourage social distancing in depots.

The council will contact everyone who has registered for garden waste collections to update on arrangements by letter or email, depending on how they signed up.

During this period, you could set yourselves up with a compost bin if possible – tips and advice for home composting are available [on Changeworks’ website.](#)

If your brown bin is full then you are asked not to put more

garden waste in it as the contents will start to compost and could become too heavy to empty when services start again.

Further information on changes to bin collections and other services can be found on the Council [website](#).