

Update Saturday 21 March 2020

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team

This service has already been significantly affected by staff self-isolations, and has now quickly moved to the second stage of its Business Continuity Plan to prioritise what's deliverable with the resources available and to support the Refuse Service where able. The current position is that the service is focusing on delivering:

Street Cleansing	
Litter Bin Emptying	✓ Only in highest footfall areas and priority locations to be determined by service
Fly-tipping/ Waste Removal	✓ Side waste in priority areas to be determined by service by housing type/ waste type ✓ Bin yard clearance ✓ Dead animals ✓ Asbestos via CEL or private contractor ✓ Rough Sleeper Waste (city-centre)
Needle Removal	✓ As required
Managed Area (Beeston/ Hunslet)	✓ Offer to be determined by service in consultation with partners
Offensive Graffiti	✓ As required
Environmental Enforcement	
Waste in gardens/ yards including commercial premises	✓ Public health risk/ noxious waste
Nuisance	✓ Focus on likely increase in nuisance activity (fires/ burning of waste/ pest control)
Bin yards	✓ Identification of bin yards to clear only

Until further notice the service will NOT be providing any other activities unless deemed urgent due to health and safety consideration. This includes bulky waste collections (a continued service via CEL will be maintained in council high-rise flats), mechanical sweeping (drivers will be utilised where available in Refuse), litter picking and all enforcement activities other than those listed above.

Refuse Service:

Thanks to an incredible effort from staff, the service has been able to operate at "business as usual" up to this point, fully crewing up and operating all routes/services. However, this is now impossible to maintain and so we are moving to Stage 1 of the service's Business Continuity Plan with immediate effect. This means we will prioritise all collections except brown bins/garden waste. The message to the public is:

Due to a staff shortage, we are currently prioritising the collection of black and green bins over brown bins.

However, brown bins can still be presented on the scheduled day, but if they have not been emptied that day, then they should be taken back in until the next collection day.

We would advise residents to increase composting, reduce gardening activities such as grass cutting and pruning, and use the household waste and recycling sites where brown bin waste is accepted for free.

Comms on this will appear shortly on the LCC website and social media. Good places for Members to visit for material they can easily share on social media are the [Leeds Recycles](#) and [Zero Waste Leeds](#) Facebook pages.

Please note that we will no longer be dealing with any requests/reports relating to non-collection of brown bins.

We are currently unsure what the impact of the measures announced in the last couple of days will have, in particular the closure of schools. It is therefore possible we will escalate a stage or two up the BCP quite quickly. If that becomes the case a separate email will be sent to all Members direct from the service to keep you as up to date as possible and to help communicate the message to residents.

It is worth pointing out that the ability to deliver a refuse service is not wholly linked to our staff availability, it is also reliant on availability of vehicles and places to take the waste to. As you would expect, we are working very closely with relevant parties and doing all we can to mitigate and delay further reductions in service.