

Weekly Green Bin Collection

This Council Meeting recognises the extraordinary circumstances created by the Covid19 global pandemic and the necessity of a number of service changes to waste and recycling collections over the last 6 months.

This Council Meeting further recognises the response of Stockport's bin crews who have done an outstanding job in difficult circumstances. The workforce have shown commitment and flexibility, including the training of additional HGV drivers, which has enabled a service to continue throughout.

This Council Meeting also recognises the understanding and cooperation shown by Stockport residents during this period where there have been a number of changes to their usual waste and recycling schedules. The majority of Stockport residents have fully supported the bin collection crews and have been very appreciative of their continued service.

This Council Meeting notes that Stockport is a green and leafy Borough, with large semi-rural areas and that this Council is committed to enhancing the urban environment with a greening roads programme due to deliver an additional 2100 trees planted by the end of 2021.

This Council Meeting notes that according to recent ONS statistics 91% of Stockport properties have gardens or private outdoor space. Access to gardens and outdoor space has played an increasingly important role in many people's lives and helped to support their health and wellbeing during and since lockdown.

This Council Meeting further notes that the autumn leafing season is fast approaching and that leaf drop can cause a number of issues, hazards and inconveniences to residents, to vulnerable road users, pedestrians and cyclists. Allowing and encouraging residents to self-collect leaf drop means fewer leaves being blown or pushed onto roads and pavements.

The currently reduced green bin collection service, which has fallen from long established weekly to fortnightly collection has resulted in many residents having full green bins and additional leaves and other food or garden waste which remains uncollected. The current plans for a fortnightly green bin collection for the next six months is likely to be insufficient to meet many Stockport residents needs and while residents may make efforts to compost, this backlog is only likely to be exacerbated by autumnal leaf fall.

This Council Meeting therefore requests the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport;

- Pass on the thanks of Members to the staff and crews of TLC and Council Officers for their hard work during exceptional circumstances; and
- To reinstate a weekly green bin collection as soon as possible and during the October to December leafing season to assist residents, keep our green Borough safe and tidy and to prevent a backlog during the autumn, **subject to an operationally sufficient staffing level being maintained by TLC, especially in the event of a further increase in the Covid19 infection rate or a second wave.**

Proposed by: Cllr. Brian Bagnall

Seconded by: Cllr. Linda Holt