



Waste collection pressures



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Fortnightly residual waste and recycling collections are continuing as normal for now but Hertsmere, like other authorities, is under pressure.

Waste services across the country are under considerable strain as they deal with shortages of drivers, the impact of Covid-19 and increased volume of domestic waste as more people are at home longer. Shortages of qualified HGV drivers in particular are affecting our ability to deliver our normal waste collection services.

Councillor Seamus Quilty, Environment Portfolio Holder at Hertsmere Borough Council, said: "As a result of several issues outside our direct control we simply do not have enough staff to run our waste and recycling collections as we would like. Our staff are working incredibly hard to maintain our normal collections.

"Our waste crews have worked increasingly long hours throughout the pandemic and kept waste collections running smoothly for our residents. The shortage of drivers is meaning we have not always been able to collect every bin on the scheduled collection day."

Residents are being advised to check the council website - www.hertsmere.gov.uk - for updates. If we miss your bin we will usually collect it the next day. Residents with excess waste can take this to recycling centres in Allum Lane in Elstree or Cranborne Road in Potters Bar.

Cllr Quilty, added: "Residents have been very supportive of our staff who have continued to work under great pressure throughout the pandemic and we in turn are grateful to residents for their understanding. Things are moving so quickly it's impossible to say how long this will go on, but we will be keeping the situation under constant review and will do everything we can to maintain our normal waste collection services."

The pressures follow a rise in the number of staff having to self-isolate under Covid-19 rules and a national shortage of HGV drivers. Hertsmere Borough Council currently has six HGV driver vacancies as well as a shortage of loaders available.

"Hertsmere directly employs all its waste collection staff, so as well as competitive rates of pay drivers can enjoy the benefits of secure employment, predictable hours and a local government pension," said Cllr Quilty. "If you are HGV qualified, please contact us for more details."

The council has had to reduce the frequency of some services like charged collections of bulky waste and divert staff from other duties to make sure core waste and recycling collections are maintained.

The council is regularly updating its social media channels.

To find out the latest news on waste and recycling collections, please visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/binupdates

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