

Neighbourhood Environmental Services Waste and Cleansing Policy 2025/26

22 May 2025

Control schedule

Approved by	Transport and Environment Committee
Approval date	22 May 2025
Senior Responsible Officer	Andy Williams, Head of Neighbourhood Services
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Scheduled for review	May 2026



Version control

Version	Date	Author	Comment
0.1	Jan- Mar 2025	Angus Murdoch	Ensured polices reviewed and updated as appropriate
0.2			Added litter and fly-tipping sub-policy, revised short-term let sub-policy

Subsequent committee decisions affecting this policy

Date	Committee	Link to report	Link to minute

Neighbourhood Environmental Services

Waste and Cleansing Policy 2025/26

Policy statement

Neighbourhood Environmental Services provides a diverse range of waste management services and the policy sets out to service users what they can expect from the service, as well as what is required of them to use the services effectively.

Scope

The policy is relevant to all service users.

Definitions

Household waste is waste arising from a domestic premises, in line with all applicable legislation. Other types of waste will normally be treated as commercial waste, with the exception of waste collected from charities, places of worship, etc, in line with those specific sub-policies.

Kerbside collections are recycling and waste collections carried out using individual bins, typically from detached and semi-detached houses.

Communal collections are recycling and waste collections carried out using larger shared bins, which are provided to the majority of blocks of flats.

Household waste recycling centres refer to the large sites provided at key locations primarily for the disposal of large items of household waste and a number of specialised waste streams such as engine oil.

Special uplifts are booked collections for the collection of large items of household waste (e.g. fridges and furniture).

Short-term lets are properties where residential accommodation is provided by a host in the course of business (including but not limited to guesthouses, applicable B&B's, home sharing, home letting or secondary letting such as holiday let and / or self-catering accommodation) where:

- a. The guest does not use the accommodation as their only or principal home;
- b. The short-term let is entered into for commercial consideration; and

c. The property requires a short term lets licence in line with both Council and national policy / legislation.

Managed student accommodation is purpose built self-catering accommodation used exclusively for the use of students, operated and managed by universities or private companies.

Policy content

Neighbourhood Environmental Services provides a diverse range of waste management services for the management of household waste across the following areas:

- Kerbside and communal collections of recyclable and non-recyclable household waste, including the chargeable garden waste service;
- Special uplifts of bulky waste and household waste recycling centres;
- The Council does not operate commercial waste collections, but the responsibilities around compliance for commercial waste are signposted, together with services for the collection of certain waste from some bed and breakfasts and managed student accommodation;
- Services for the collection of waste from charitable premises and places of worship;
- Cleansing sub-policy in relation to how litter bins are sited, and the management of graffiti;
- Sub-policy for the provision of service to new housing developments;
- A sub-policy relating to the correct management of waste produced by the Council's buildings and operations;
- A sub-policy specifically relating to the management of waste from short term lets, in recognition of changes to the legislation in this sphere.
- A sub-policy relating to the control of weeds.
- Cleansing sub-policy relating to the management of litter and fly-tipping;

These are set out in full in the Policy Guidebook.

Implementation

This is a routine review of the existing policy which primarily contains only minor detailed changes.

More substantive changes are as follows:

The Communal Bin sub-policy has been updated to reflect that the communal bin review is almost complete and to reflect changes to the siting requirements made by Committee in the past year;

The policy relating to the management of waste arising from short-term lets is revised;

The interim Weeds Control sub-policy is now permanent;

A litter and fly-tipping sub-policy is introduced which sets out existing practices.

Roles and Responsibilities

The majority of the policy sets out how the Council will operate household waste collection services, and how these should be used, which affects all service users.

Council staff are responsible for the correct application of the policy, and operating services correctly when they are in the workplace.

A diverse range of staff have a role to play in implementing and applying different aspects of policy, including waste and cleansing staff, contact centre staff, building managers, housing teams, planning officers, etc. All Council staff are responsible for the correct sorting and management of waste within the workplace.

It is the responsibility of commercial businesses to ensure that they have an appropriate waste collection service in place.

Related documents

The Council operates in a diverse and highly regulated environment and is subject to a range of statutory instruments and polices, with the main ones summarised by the [Scottish Government](#).

Also relevant are:

[The Council's waste management strategy](#)
[Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse 2018](#)

Integrated impact assessment

The annual policy review has not undergone an integrated impact assessment (IIA), as there have been no substantive changes since this was previously undertaken. The sub-policies relating to the introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste and the review of the communal bin service both underwent IIA's at that time.

A stand-alone IIA has been carried out for the weeds control sub-policy, and the litter and fly-tipping policy which did not raise any significant issues at this stage.

Compliance with these policies mitigates the risk that waste is not managed correctly, which would represent a risk to the local and global environment, detriment to the Council's reputation and, in the case of commercial waste, enforcement action and reputational risk to the waste producer.

A stand-alone IIA will be required for the use of gull proof sacks which will be informed by the consultation results.

Review

The Neighbourhood Environmental Services Waste and Cleansing policy is reviewed annually but interim reviews of specific elements can also take place as required, to account for changes in legislation or other changes of circumstance.

Neighbourhood Environmental Services Waste and Cleansing Policy Guidebook (May 2025)

The following information summarises the Waste and Cleansing Service policy which we use to operate our services.

These will be reviewed and, where appropriate, updated annually.

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KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION SUB-POLICIES (Household Waste Only)

The following sub-policies all relate to the collection of waste and recycling at the kerbside. These assume provision of the mixed bin recycling and recycling box service alongside separate facilities for residual (non-recyclable) waste and food recycling.

Sub-Policy on the Provision of Kerbside Waste Containers

The standard kerbside collection service provided will consist of:

- 240 litre GREEN bin for mixed recycling (paper and card, mixed plastics, cans and tins, empty aerosols and clean foil);
- 33 litre box for segregated recyclable materials (glass, batteries, textiles, small electricals);
- 23 litre GREY bin for food recycling collected;
- 240 litre BROWN bin for garden waste recycling (this is a chargeable service and provision of this bin is optional);
- 140 litre GREY bin for residual (non-recyclable) waste.
- Smaller (140 litre) green and brown bins are available on request.
- Food collections take place weekly;
- Mixed recycling and residual (non-recyclable) bins are collected two weekly.
- Recycling boxes are collected two-weekly;
- Garden waste bins are collected as outlined in the Garden Waste Collection Policy; you can only request a garden waste bin if you have registered for the collection service.
- Larger green and grey bins are available only in specific circumstances outlined below.

Alternative services, such as the gull-proof bags used in parts of the World Heritage Site, will only be offered where the standard kerbside or communal collection systems cannot be provided.

All containers (including bins and recycling boxes) are the property of the Council; if a bin or other container is lost or requires replacement, and you request a replacement by phone or online, we aim to replace this within 10 working days. We may in some circumstances request additional information to support your request.

Please note that if the bin is damaged we reserve the right to carry out a repair of the existing bin where this is possible. If the bin is lost or stolen we may require you to provide a Crime Report number from Police Scotland.

ADDITIONAL CAPACITY

GREY (NON-RECYCLABLE WASTE) ONLY:

The grey non-recyclable waste bin is provided for the disposal of household waste which cannot be recycled. The standard capacity provided is 140 litres per household. A larger 240 litre bin is available where there is a genuine need, i.e.:

- 5 or more people who are permanent residents in household;
- 2 or more children aged 3 years or under;
- A medical condition which results in the generation of additional waste;
- Other households are required to use the standard 140 litre bin.
- THE LARGER BIN IS 240 LITRE; A 360 LITRE BIN MAY ONLY BE PROVIDED IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

GREEN (MIXED RECYCLING)

- A larger (360 litre) green mixed recycling bin is available on request

RECYCLING BOXES AND FOOD CADDIES

- Up to two food bins and recycling boxes can be uplifted from each household.

BROWN (GARDEN WASTE RECYCLING):

A larger garden waste bin is NOT available due to the weight of the materials. Additional garden waste bins are available on request. There is no charge for supplying the additional bins, but there is a charge for the garden waste collection service itself so additional bins do cost more. Please refer to the separate Garden Waste Collection Sub-Policy.

Shared Recycling Bin Sub-Policy

In some blocks of flats, and other properties, there may be insufficient space to accommodate the full range of individual waste and recycling bins. This should only apply to older buildings- all new buildings should be designed to accommodate the full range of services.

Where this is the case we may offer shared bins.

In some cases we may offer each resident their own non-recyclable waste bin, and offer shared recycling bins. In other cases it may be necessary to offer shared bins for both services.

The examples below show how officers assign bins to blocks of flats which previously had green bins under the red and blue box recycling service but may not have enough space to accommodate the full range of bins under the new service. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, and other options may be offered.

A typical household will be receiving 240.5 litres per week on the new service (excluding garden waste). The previous service was 198 litres per household per week.

In every case shown the capacity provided each week has increased compared with the previous situation. However, two options are provided for 6 in a block to minimise the drop off in capacity.

Standard Service (Per Property for comparison of litres provided):

	Grey 140l Non- Recyclable	Green 240l Recycling	Recycling box (glass, etc) Recycling	Food Recycling	TOTAL (litres per household per week)	TOTAL (Bins)
Bins (+boxes)	1	1	1	1		
Litres/hh/wk	70	120	27.5	23	240.5	

The capacity above applies regardless of whether garden waste service is provided; garden waste will already be in place if relevant.

Block Of 4 (Sharing):

It is assumed that in most cases blocks of 4 will NOT be sharing. The following is provided only for situations where this resolution cannot be achieved.

	Grey 140l Non- Recyclable	Green 240l Recycling	Recycling box (glass, etc) Recycling	Food Recycling	TOTAL (litres per household per week)	TOTAL (Bins)
Bins (+boxes)	4	3	4	4		7+8 boxes
Litres/hh/wk	70	90	27.5	23	210.5	

The capacity above applies regardless of whether garden waste service is provided; garden waste will already be in place if relevant.

Block of 6 (Sharing):

This provides 2 options depending on the amount of space available. In each case, residents have 1 non-recyclable waste bin each (as well as recycling boxes and food bins) but share either 5 or 4 recycling bins.

	Grey 140l Non- Recyclable	Green 240l Recycling	Recycling box (glass, etc)	Food Recycling	TOTAL (litres per household per week)	TOTAL (Bins)
Bins (+boxes)	6	5	6	6		11 +12 boxes
Litres/hh/wk	70	100	27.5	23	220.5	

The capacity above applies regardless of whether garden waste service is provided; garden waste will already be in place if relevant.

	Grey 140l Non- recyclable	Green 240l Recycling	Recycling box (glass, etc)	Food Recycling	TOTAL (litres per household per week)	TOTAL (Bins)
Bins (+boxes)	6	4	6	6		10 +12 boxes
Litres/hh/wk	70	80	27.5	23	200.5	

The capacity above applies regardless of whether garden waste service is provided; garden waste will already be in place if relevant.

Block of 8 (Sharing):

	Grey 140l Non- Recyclable	Green 240l Recycling	Recycling box (glass, etc)	Food Recycling	TOTAL (litres per household per fortnight)	TOTAL (Bins)
Bins (+boxes)	8	6	8	8		14 +16 boxes
Litres/hh/wk	70	90	27.5	23	210.5	

The capacity above applies regardless of whether garden waste service is provided; garden waste will already be in place if relevant.

Contamination Sub-Policy

- The kerbside recycling bin (green) is provided for the collection of the following specific materials only:

Paper and cardboard, clean plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, clean cans, tins, foil and EMPTY aerosols. All items must be placed clean and loose in the bin. Plastic bags are not accepted.

- The kerbside recycling box (colour may vary) is provided for the collection of the following specific materials only:

Glass bottles and jars, small electrical items such as toasters, kettles, etc, small batteries (in a clear bag) and textiles (presented in a bag in or beside the box- black bags are not accepted).

- The food bin (23 litre grey bin) is provided solely for the recycling of cooked and uncooked food. Materials must be wrapped in a compostable liner, old newspaper or a plastic bag inside the food bin (e.g. a bread bag; black bags are not accepted).
- The garden waste bin (brown) is provided solely for the recycling of compostable garden waste. All items must be presented loose in the bin. Bins containing plastic bags and other materials will not be collected. Please refer to the separate Garden Waste Collection Policy.
- The non-recyclable waste bin (140 litre grey) is provided solely for the disposal of household waste which cannot be recycled in one of the recycling collections.
- Other items presented in these containers will result in them not being collected. In this event it is the responsibility of the householder to remove the incorrect items and present the bin or box on the next collection day.

Where genuine mistakes are made we will seek to engage with the householder and resolve this.

Where a householder continues to contaminate a recycling bin, and does not engage with staff to resolve this, the recycling service will be withdrawn and enforcement action may result in some circumstances.

Excess Waste Sub-Policy

All bins must be presented at the kerbside with lids closed and no extra waste presented alongside, with the following exceptions:

- Large cardboard boxes which do not fit in the recycling bin (e.g. television boxes) may be presented alongside the recycling bin. All such boxes should be empty of all other materials and presented flat in such a way that they do not blow away, e.g. between the bin and a fence or hedge.
- Textiles should be presented in a sealed clear or coloured plastic bag - black bags are not collected; textile bags may be presented in or beside the recycling box.
- No other loose or bagged waste will be collected.
- Glass, household batteries and small electrical items must be presented in the recycling box, with the lid provided securely attached.

Presentation of Waste Sub-Policy

- All waste must be presented in the containers provided, or in line with the excess waste sub-policy.
- Waste bins and containers must only be presented on the day of collection and should be removed as soon as possible after collection.
- Collection may take place at any time between 6 AM and 10 PM. Bins presented after 6 AM may not be collected and will not be covered by the Missed Collection Sub-Policy (below). A limited night-time collection operates in parts of the World Heritage Site.
- All containers should be presented on the pavement outwith your property (except where an assisted collection has been arranged) and must be removed no later than 12 noon on the day following collection.
- On some occasions it may be necessary to agree a presentation point with you. This is a special location where it is agreed that you will present your bins – this will be employed in specific circumstances such as limited access, unsurfaced rural roads, etc.
- Our crews will endeavour to return bins and other containers to the point they take it from.

Assisted Collection Sub-Policy

- Assisted collections are available where all members of a household are unable to present their bins due to a disability or medical condition.
- If you request an assisted collection we will visit you within 10 working days; if you are eligible for an assisted collection we will specify a collection point which is accessible to you and the collection crews.

- The collection point must be accessible to collection crews and not present a hazard (e.g. due to inadequate lighting, loose paving or other trip hazard). We are unable to hold keys.
- Collection crews will collect your bins from this point and return them to this point after collection.
- We will contact you regularly to check whether you still need the service.
- This will not usually take place more often than annually, except where a temporary assisted collection has been agreed for a shorter period.

Missed Collection Sub-Policy

- We will seek to collect all materials on the scheduled collection day.
- Where a collection is delayed as a result of severe weather, vehicle breakdown, etc, we will advertise this on our website and advise when the collection will take place (usually the following day).
- Where a collection is missed in error and this is reported by phone or webform we will ask that the customer leaves the bin out.
- You can report a missed collection from 10pm on the day of collection, for up to three working days after the collection was due. Reports after this time cannot be accepted as a missed collection.
- We will come back within two working days, (excluding Saturday, Sunday and some public holidays).
- Where the crew has reported a recycling bin as being contaminated, the bin will be tagged to advise the householder. In these circumstances, we will not return to collect the bin until the next collection.
- Where the crew records that the bin has not been presented, it must be presented on the next scheduled collection day. Crews will not return to collect the bin prior to this.

COMMUNAL BIN COLLECTIONS (HOUSEHOLD WASTE) SUB-POLICY

General information

Communal bins may be provided as an alternative to individual bins where the design of the property makes the issuing or collection of household waste bins impractical.

- Bins are provided only for the disposal of general household waste and separated recyclable items.
- Large items such as furniture should be disposed of via Special Uplift or Household Waste Recycling Centres; where practicable reusable items should be donated to charity (more information is available from the our website).
- Bins must be stored off street within the bin store, car park, etc. at all times, unless the bin has specifically been sited on the street by Neighbourhood Environmental Services (e.g. in “traditional tenement” areas where there is no off-street storage of waste).

Bins will normally be provided for mixed recycling (paper and card, mixed plastics, cans and tins, empty aerosols and clean foil); glass, food and residual (“non-recyclable”) waste.

- Bins will be emptied on a frequency that seeks to ensure they are not overfilled.
- Bins may be emptied on any day (including Saturday and Sunday) between the hours of 6 AM and 10 PM. Seven-day, safe access must be maintained at all times. A limited night-time collection operates in parts of the World Heritage Site.
- Bins will be maintained regularly as required.
- Where bins are sited on private property it is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that the property presents a safe working environment.
- The Waste and Cleansing Service will not be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of any property where bins are sited, or any bin lift mechanism, etc.
- Where properties are not maintained to an adequate and safe standard, the Waste and Cleansing Service may in exceptional circumstances suspend collections until the defect is rectified. In these circumstances it will be the responsibility of the landowner or factor to arrange and pay for any additional collections which are required.

On Street Bin Siting

While all new build properties should be designed to allow bins to be sited off street, there are many areas of Edinburgh where the historic design of the buildings prevents this. In these streets, the waste and recycling services are provided on street through integrated bin hubs which provide a segregated collection point for all statutory materials. A range of parameters are in place to support the safe and efficient provision of this service. The parameters consider the requirements of the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance (EDSG) which seeks to prioritise pedestrians over vehicles e.g. by reducing clutter and impediments on the footway. In addition, EDSG seeks to declutter the visual environment and streetscape. This framework was last updated at the November 2024 meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee and should be used when:

- Determining locations for new bin hubs, as part of any changes to the waste and recycling service
- Reviewing existing bin hub locations currently installed and operational

New and existing bin hub locations should satisfy all these requirements, where possible. Nevertheless, the framework is a set of 'best case' guidelines. With agreement and collaboration between residents, councillors, and officers, discretion can be applied to the siting of a hub in such a way that may not conform with the framework due to the variations and requirements within different streets.

1. Range of materials collected

All bin hubs include bins to collect the full range of statutory materials: Non-recyclable waste (NRW), dry mixed recycling (DMR), glass and food waste. Where space permits, we might also be able to provide additional recycling banks for non-statutory materials such as textiles.

2. Capacity

The number of bins, size of bins and collection frequency ensure the following capacities (litres) are provided per household, per week.

- a. Non-recyclable waste = 140L - 170L
- b. Dry mixed recycling = 140L - 170L
- c. Glass = 5L - 20L
- d. Food waste = 5L - 20L

More flexibility is designed into the service for glass and food waste taking into consideration the less bulky nature of these materials..

3. Walking distance

As far as possible bins will be sited in accordance with the requirements outlined in "Adult Disability Payment/Personal Independence Payment/Disability Living Allowance" used to assess Mobility e.g. for Blue Badge access. This applies where a person cannot walk more than 50 metres.

We aim to minimise the number of bin locations whilst ensuring the full range of waste and recycling services are provided at each location. We want to ensure bins remain as accessible as possible to people with reduced mobility. We also seek to balance several, sometimes competing, factors such as safety and accessibility, in addition to convenience for residents. Examples of circumstances where this might not be possible include main arterial routes, where bins must be sited on side streets. Walking distance can be relaxed provided the total distance including crossing a road (as outlined in criteria 4C below) does not exceed 120 metres.

4. Road safety requirements and streetscape

Residents should preferably not be required to cross a road to dispose of their waste and recycling. Every effort should be made to provide bins on the same side of the road as the residents' properties, unless a safe crossing place is nearby. Bins should not be sited over utility hatches or other street furniture including gullies and other drains. Bins should be located in such a way that residents are not required to stand in the flow of traffic in order to deposit their waste or recycling.

- a. bins located 10m away from junctions and pedestrian crossings except where a one-way street or pavement build-out has resulted in a potential hub-site that is safe for residents and workers;
- b. bins placed onto roads (unless the streetscape provides no options for bins to be placed on the road and the placement on a pavement maintains at least 2m for wheelchair users, pushchairs etc)
- c. bin hubs can be placed on opposite side of the road/pavement if: -
 - i. it is a 20mph road
 - ii. road width does not exceed 10.5m except where the street is a cul-de-sac, no through road or there is a safe crossing (zebra, toucan or pelican) or other safety measure such as a pavement build-out or a pedestrian island within 120m. Consideration should be given to road width requirements in cul-de-sacs and no roads. Protecting pedestrians and road users must remain a priority.
 - iii. clear 25m lines of sight are maintained based on derived sight stopping distances (SSD)
 - iv. there is no accident history within 25m radius from proposed location except where adequate mitigating improvements have been made since the incident(s)
 - v. there is safe space to use bins – minimum pavement or other hard-standing or grass/park area with width of 1.5m.
- d. Consideration should be given to residents' amenity (immediate outlook, noise, privacy) and whether the hub can be sensitively integrated into the streetscape without incurring disproportionate cost; any perceived impact being transferred to another property should be evaluated;
- e. Parking optimization should be considered but is secondary to resident satisfaction. Where a location is identified on the roadway, as far as possible, multiples of 5m stretches of parking will be maintained.

5. Hospitality

Bins should not be sited directly adjacent to an outdoor area currently used for tables and chairs by a hospitality venue. To preserve resident amenity (criteria 6), in streets with both residential and hospitality premises, bin hubs may be placed in front of hospitality venues. Bin hubs located near premises (hospitality or otherwise) which do not currently use outdoor seating will not necessarily be moved if a permit is subsequently granted for tables and chairs.

6. Resident amenity

Bin hubs should be sited in locations which minimise any negative impacts on resident amenity (if at all possible), meaning specifically the impacts of noise and odours and the impacts on privacy and outlook.

Bins should not be sited over manhole covers or other street furniture including gullies and other drains.

Developments / Off-street

For new developments, the present maximum walking distance for householder (from home to bin) must be no greater than 30 metres as per “Waste and Recycling - Instructions for Architects and Developers”, last updated May 2022. This complies with British Standard Waste Management in Buildings —Code of practice, BS5906.

SPECIAL UPLIFT SUB-POLICY (HOUSEHOLD WASTE)

Special uplifts are available only for household waste to uplift larger or other items not dealt with by routine waste collection services, such as mattresses, furniture and large household items. A charge is levied for these services with the exception of residents in receipt of Council Tax Reduction (previously called Council Tax Benefit) in which case the service will be free.

We aim to offer you an initial appointment within 5 working days (Monday- Friday). There may be exceptions when this is not possible such as periods of very high demand or during the festive period when this service is suspended. If this initial appointment is too soon, we can offer a later one.

Where the premises are a place of worship, or a charitable premises in line with our separate policies on those properties, you can still use this service as outlined below, but will be required to pay the full amount.

Where we believe the service is being used to dispose of commercial waste we reserve the right to decline to provide the service; in this event any charges which have already been made for that uplift will be refunded.

Where practicable arrangements should be made to allow items to be reused. Support for this is available from the National Reuse Helpline, and further information is available from our [website](#).

Additional charges:

There is a charge for each individual item uplifted. Up to 5 items will be collected per uplift. Charges will be set annually and advertised on our website.

Items not covered by this service:

This service is provided for commonly disposed of large household items. Sometimes we might not be able to accept bookings for items due to size, what they're made of or because they need specialised treatment. More information about items we can't accept will be published on our website.

Presentation of items for Special Uplift:

Waste must be on the pavement in front of property by 7am on the specified day of collection. Waste must not be presented at any other time. Staff will not normally be able to enter any property or building to uplift waste. Only those items specified at the time of booking will be uplifted.

Special Uplift assisted collections are available where all members of a household are unable to present their items due to a disability or medical condition but must be requested at the point of booking the uplift. If you book online, you can then request an assisted collection by contacting special.uplifts@edinburgh.gov.uk

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SUB-POLICY

Provision of Garden Waste Collection

Our aim is to make the garden waste collection service available to as many households as is practicable, provided we are able to operate an efficient collection route and that it is operationally feasible to provide the service.

This is not a statutory service, and there is an annual charge for providing this service.

The charge does not include the cost of composting the material collected.

The service will operate every two weeks, and the collection dates will be advertised on our website. The service will cease for a period of 4 weeks (i.e. two collection cycles) in winter.

A variation of the service is available on defined streets in the Colinton area. This service is provided by Tiphereth/Colinton Community Compost. Residents in those streets who register to receive a garden waste collection will receive the sack based service as provided by Tiphereth, and not the standard brown bin service provided by the Council.

You can only [request a garden waste bin](#) if you are registered for the service.

Eligibility

This service is provided for the collection of household waste.

The Council does not operate a commercial waste collection service and commercial premises are not eligible to receive the service. Separate arrangements for bowling, lawn tennis and some other clubs are in place.

Ambassadorial and other embassy premises may be eligible to receive the service but will be required to register and pay for it in the normal way.

Places of worship premises may be eligible to receive the service but will be required to register and pay for it in the normal way.

Council premises who request the service will be able to do so but must register and pay for the service.

Organisations who operate community gardens on Council premises may receive the service but must arrange this through the Council service (e.g. libraries, housing, etc.) who are responsible for that land, and they will be required to pay for the service.

Exemptions from Payment

Some people do not have to pay to use the garden waste service, however they must still register to use the service using either the web form or one of the other registration routes.

If you become exempt during the collection year you will not receive a refund for the remainder of the year but the exemption would apply when you next register. Your free permit will renew every year unless your exemption status changes.

People who need to register for the service but do not have to pay for it are:

People who are in receipt of the welfare benefit Council Tax Reduction (previously called Council Tax Benefit);

People who live in a household where someone is registered with Council Tax as being Severely Mentally Impaired.

More information about these benefits is available at:

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/discounts-exemptions

People who receive the Council's Garden Aid service AND are also exempt from paying for it.

Paying for the service

The annual charge covers a full 12 month period which runs from November to November. Collections will be suspended for a 4 week period (2 collections) in winter.

The registration period for the year will take place in late July to early September. If you subsequently join the service during a later registration period, you will still be required to pay the full annual charge.

You can either register once per year, or via an annual direct debit. If you choose to register for an annual Direct Debit it will automatically renew your subscription each year. The first payment will be taken within 7 days of you registering, and future payments will be taken on or shortly after 1 August each year. This date is the same regardless of when you first register. Direct Debit payments are covered by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

If you have registered for direct debit, you can cancel future payments as set out below.

Permits are issued prior to the advertised service commencement date. If you have not received your permit please notify us within 28 days of the advertised service commencement date. Failure to do this may result in requests for replacement permit being rejected.

You may register and pay for the service on behalf of someone else, e.g. a relative, neighbour or friend.

We are not able to accept householders who wish to join the service outwith the defined registration periods.

The charge will apply per bin – you may sign up more than one bin. We will only empty bins which carry the relevant sticker to show that they have been registered.

The chargeable service may be transferred to a new property subject to the new property being eligible to receive the service. It will be the responsibility of the customer to provide a minimum of six weeks notice of the change; the customer will be responsible for transferring the bin to the new location.

If your new property does not receive the service (or is outwith the Council boundary) please leave the bin at the current address so that the new residents can use it for the remaining period.

If you wish to share a bin with a neighbour, or neighbours, only one person should sign up to the scheme and make payment and ensure that the bin is properly presented on the correct days.

The bin will be registered to that property (e.g. their flat) and all correspondence, enquiries or complaints relating to the service must be directed through that person.

There is no discount for the smaller size bin.

Residents that qualify under the Council Tax Reduction scheme (previously Council Tax benefit), or where someone at the address is registered as severely mentally impaired, will be exempt from paying for the service. www.edinburgh.gov.uk/discounts-exemptions

Use of the service

It is important that your brown bin is only used to collect the correct materials as outlined below. All materials must be loose, and not in a bag. We do not accept any kind of bag or liner in the brown bin.

Bins which contain other materials will not be collected and we will not issue refunds for these collections

You must present your bin by 6am on the day of collection and remove it as soon as possible after collection.

The bin must be presented at the kerbside outwith your property (except where an assisted collection has been arranged) with the lid fully closed, and in line with our normal policy on the Presentation of Waste.

Our normal Assisted Collection Policy will apply to this service.

All bins must display the garden waste collection scheme sticker for the appropriate year. Bins without a valid sticker displayed will not be uplifted.

Where the service is provided to a Council building or land, (e.g. a community garden), or to another organisation, such as a bowling club, etc, it is the sole responsibility of the group responsible to arrange for the bin(s) to be presented for collection and then removed from the street on the correct days.

Should this prove to cause conflict with the Council's policies on the presentation of waste (e.g. if this means that bins are left out in an area where the other premises are commercial) it may be necessary to review or remove the service.

Collection of garden waste

Collections will take place from 6am on the collection day.

Failed collections

Collection crews will record instances where bins are not presented or where the contents are contaminated with other types of waste or are too heavy to lift. Those bins will not be uplifted, and no refund will be issued.

You should remove any contaminants or reduce the weight of the bin and present the bin again by 6 AM on the next collection date.

We regret that we are not able to collect garden waste when the contents are frozen due to weather conditions. We will collect on the next scheduled collection; we will not issue a refund in these circumstances.

Where we are not able to collect your bin due to circumstances outwith our control (such as roadworks or no access) crews will record this and we will seek to return as soon as possible. We will not issue a refund.

Where we are not able to collect your bin due to circumstances within our control (such as vehicle failure) crews will record this and we will return to collect it within two working days.

Where we fail to collect your bin as a result of our error, we will return to collect it within two working days of being notified. (Please refer to the operational days for the service).

Cancelling your subscription

If you change your mind, you may cancel the registration at any time. If you cancel within 14 days of registration you will receive a full refund. Please note that if you cancel after 14 days of registration you will not receive a refund.

For single year registrations you can do this by sending an email with your details to gardenwaste@edinburgh.gov.uk (or by calling the customer contact centre on 0131 608 1100. Select Option 1, then option 9).

For an annual direct debit you can cancel future payments any time up until 10 working days before the next payment is due to be taken. You can do this by contacting your bank and cancelling the direct debit with them.

If you decide to cancel your direct debit after we have taken a payment then you can do this by contacting your bank and cancelling the direct debit with them. If it's within the 14 days cancellation period please let us know after you have cancelled it with your bank so that we can provide you with a refund. You can do this by sending an email with your details to gardenwaste@edinburgh.gov.uk

If you've registered for a permit(s) and received it but change your mind and want to cancel it, then you will need to cancel any direct debit with your bank as set out above, but we will refund you for the unused permit(s) if you return it, or them, to the Council.

Materials accepted in brown bins

You can put these in your brown bin:

- Flowers, plants and weeds
- Grass cuttings and leaves
- Hedge clippings, twigs and small branches

- Christmas trees (all decorations must be removed; Christmas trees may also be presented beside the bin in January only; (please cut trees in half)

You can't put these in your brown bin:

- Food
- Animal waste and bedding
- Plant pots
- Soil and turf
- ANY TYPE OF BAG (including bags labelled compostable, degradable or biodegradable)

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES SUB-POLICY

Household Waste Recycling Centres are solely provided for the recycling and disposal of household waste generated by households in Edinburgh. Commercial waste is NOT accepted at these sites.

Site visits must be booked in advance. The current arrangements, and any changes to these, will be advertised on our website.

Opening Hours

Our sites are open 7 days per week. We will publish our opening hours on the website.

The sites may be closed on any or all of 25, 26 December each year and 1, 2 and 3 January each year. Closures may vary between sites.

In exceptional circumstances (e.g. extreme weather) it may also be necessary to close sites at other times; in this event, the closure will be advertised via social media, or by emailing the customers who have a visit booked at the sites and times affected by the closure.

Vehicle Access

Trailers carrying household waste are only permitted on any site if they measure less than 6ft by 4ft (excluding the frame, tow hitches, etc).

The following vehicles are not permitted in any household waste recycling centre:

- any vehicle greater than 3.5 tonnes;
- trailers greater than 6x4 ft, excluding frames or tow hitches, but including horse boxes;
- Luton vans
- liveried vehicles
- flat-bed tipper style or transit style vehicles

Hire vans carrying household waste are only permitted on any site if they are hired for a period not exceeding 5 days. The hire documentation must be shown, along with two forms of identification (one photographic), both showing the driver's home address. This must be within the City of Edinburgh Council area. Appropriate forms of identification will be listed on the Council's website. Vehicles hired for longer than 5 days will not be permitted on site.

Vans are not able to book more than 12 visits per year.

Commercial waste is not allowed at any site.

We will take steps to prevent misuse of the sites and to that end reserve the right to use a variety of methods including but not restricted to: physical barriers; automatic number plate recognition systems; permits. Where data is collected as a result of these measures, any information collected will be stored and managed in line with data protection principles and any relevant legislation.

Council staff have the right to refuse entry or deny tipping to any person they suspect of trying to deposit commercial waste, whether for disposal or recycling.

Council staff have the right to require suspected traders or carriers of commercial waste to complete a "Household Waste Declaration" form to state that the waste is from their own domestic property. Appropriate photographic identification may be required to be shown to site staff when completing this form.

Council staff have the right to inspect the contents of any load.

Council staff have the right to visit any customer's address if they are suspected of bringing in commercial waste, to establish the origin of the waste.

Council staff have the right to ban, from all sites, any vehicle or customer suspected of ongoing illegal deposit of commercial waste.

Behaviour on site

Householders using the site must always follow the site rules and the instructions of our staff. This is for their safety, and that of others. These will be advertised on site, and on our website. You must follow instructions given by site staff for your safety.

- Children and animals must remain in your vehicle at all times.
- Only Edinburgh residents with their own household waste can use the site.
- Commercial, trade or business waste is not allowed.
- You must observe speed limits and traffic flow signs. Reversing is not allowed.
- All waste must be sorted and deposited only in the correct container.
- Only authorised contractors may remove materials from this site.

The Council will prosecute anyone who threatens or assaults our staff.

Items which can be accepted on site.

We accept a wide range of household waste, but there are some items we are not able to accept. Our objective is to divert as much as possible for reuse or recycling. Items which can and cannot be accepted will be advertised on our website.

From time to time we may need to make changes to the materials we can accept. These will be advertised on our website.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE FROM PLACES OF WORSHIP SUB-POLICY

Places of worship which are treated as exempt from commercial rates under the Valuation and Rating (Scotland) Act 1956 will be treated as households for the purposes of waste collection and disposal.

Where multiple properties exist as separate addresses on the same site, e.g. a residential dwelling and a church, each is entitled to its own collection.

Where practicable we will provide the following services; where the location or design of the building prevents us from providing these services, it will be the sole responsibility of the person(s) responsible for the facility to put in place a commercial waste collection.

The following services will be provided at no cost:

240 litres non-recyclable waste per fortnight;

360 litre mixed recycling per fortnight (paper and card; cans, tins and clean foil; and clean plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays);

Two glass boxes per fortnight;

Two food collection boxes per week;

The capacities provided are significantly greater than those provided to a standard household. Where the quantity of waste presented cannot be accommodated within the provision outlined above, you should in the first instance discuss this with the Waste and Cleansing Service who may be able to advise you of ways to reduce your waste.

Any additional requirement will normally be treated as commercial waste and a commercial waste contract must be put in place to manage this.

Any waste arising from a specific commercial activity such as a café or a crèche must not be placed in the household waste stream, and a commercial contract must be put in place to manage this.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE FROM CHARITIES SUB-POLICY

Waste and Cleansing Services collects waste from charities but requires that as a minimum waste is segregated to allow recycling of dry mixed recyclate (paper and card; cans, tins and clean foil; and clean plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays); glass (where produced); food waste (from food premises).

Where practicable we will provide the following services; where the location or design of the building prevents us from providing these services, it will be the sole responsibility of the person(s) responsible for the facility to put in place a commercial waste collection.

The following COLLECTION services are available free of charge:

240 litres non-recyclable waste per fortnight

360 litres mixed recycling per fortnight (paper and card; cans, tins and clean foil; and clean plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays)

Two glass boxes per fortnight

Two food collection boxes per week

Where multiple properties exist as separate addresses on the same site, e.g. a charity headquarters and a separate charity shop, each is entitled to its own collection (however any office which is simply part of the shop would not be covered by this).

Where the quantity of waste presented cannot be accommodated within the provision outlined above, you should in the first instance discuss this with the Waste and Cleansing Service who may be able to advise you of ways to reduce your waste.

Any additional requirement will normally be treated as commercial waste and a commercial waste contract must be put in place to manage this.

TRADE WASTE COLLECTIONS SUB-POLICY

- Trade waste is any waste or recycling produced by a business, regardless of size.
- Whether you operate out of a shop, office, restaurant, van or your home, it's the law that your waste is collected by a licensed waste carrier. This is called your Duty of Care.
- The Waste and Cleansing Service does not operate a commercial waste collection service or accept Trade Waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres or in household waste and recycling bins.
- If you seek to dispose of your waste as household waste the Council may seek to take enforcement action against you.
- The Waste (Scotland) Regulations require you to sort certain waste streams and arrange for these to be collected separately for recycling.
- Waste must not be stored on the street and can only be collected at agreed times.
- Information on complying with your Duty of Care, recycling your waste, and our policy on presenting waste only at set times is available on our website at:
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/tradewaste

WASTE COLLECTION FROM SHORT-TERM LETS AND TRADITIONAL BED AND BREAKFAST PROPERTIES SUB-POLICY (Revised May 2025)

1. Introduction

Owners of properties used for short-term lets (including but not limited to guesthouses, applicable B&B's, home sharing, home letting or secondary letting such as holiday let and / or self-catering accommodation) must ensure their waste management practices comply with all relevant legislation, including the Council's [licensing scheme](#), the [Waste \(Scotland\) Regulations](#) 2012, and the [Duty of Care](#) Code of Practice obligations regarding waste disposal.

This policy outlines the responsibilities of short-term let operators to ensure proper waste collection, recycling, and disposal.

2. Waste Collection Services for Short-Term Lets

2.1 Primary Residence (Council Tax Payers)

- If the let property is your primary residence and is liable for Council Tax, the Council will provide standard household recycling and waste collection services based on the number of permanent residents.
- No additional capacity will be provided to accommodate guests.
- Any excess waste generated must be disposed of through a commercial waste collection service.
- Your waste service must comply with the [Waste \(Scotland\) Regulations](#) 2012, ensuring the separation of recyclable materials and adherence to [our local rules around the correct presentation of waste](#) (including timed collection windows where applicable).
- Otherwise, businesses and property owners must comply with their legal duty in respect of managing waste as set out in the [Duty of Care](#) Code of Practice, ensuring waste is stored, transported, and disposed of correctly.

2.2 Non-Primary Residence (Non-Domestic Rate Payers)

- If the property is classified as a non-domestic property, meaning it is liable for Non-Domestic Rates, you must arrange a commercial waste collection service.
- Your waste service must comply with the [Waste \(Scotland\) Regulations](#) 2012, ensuring the separation of recyclable materials and adherence to [our local rules around the correct presentation of waste](#) (including timed collection windows where applicable).
- Otherwise, businesses and property owners must comply with their legal duty in respect of managing waste as set out in the [Duty of Care](#) Code of Practice, ensuring waste is stored, transported, and disposed of correctly.

3. Waste Storage and Disposal Requirements

3.1 Properties Using Communal Household / Domestic Bins (Council Tax Payers)

- Short-term let properties must NOT use communal household bins if they are designated for domestic waste.

- If the property is located in a block or street with communal bins, short-term let operators must arrange commercial waste collection separately.

3.2 Properties Without Off-Street Waste Storage (Non-Domestic Rate Payers)

- If the property has no off-street storage for waste, operators should consider whether a cleaning service (licensed to carry and dispose of waste) can remove waste between collections.
- Waste cannot be stored outside the property if off-street storage is unavailable.
- Operators removing waste from the property themselves must hold the appropriate waste carrier license, ensuring compliance with waste transportation and disposal regulations including (but not limited to) the [Waste \(Scotland\) Regulations 2012](#).

4. Guest Waste Management Responsibilities

- Licenced STL Operators will be aware of additional licence condition 8 dealing with waste management. Subject to para 2 above, short-term let properties must NOT use communal household bins for waste generated by guests if such bins are designated for domestic waste.

5. Removal of Domestic Waste Collection Services

- If the property previously received domestic kerbside collection, but is no longer eligible for these services, operators must contact Neighbourhood Environmental Services to arrange the removal of any Council containers from the property. It may be possible to arrange the set-up of a chargeable contract with the Council or, failing which, if you have an existing contract in place with another commercial waste provider or wish to use another commercial waste provider, you may be asked to complete and return a declaration form confirming the details of your chosen commercial waste provider / their waste carrier license in order to help the Council monitor compliance with waste management regulations in Scotland and the Council's Waste Collection Short Term Lets Policy.
- If you are eligible to continue using the Council's domestic kerbside collection services and wish to continue its use but you require additional capacity and / or have excess waste that requires to be disposed of then operators should contact the Neighbourhood Environmental Services to arrange the set-up of a chargeable contract.

6. Compliance and Enforcement

- Non-compliance with waste management regulations in Scotland can result in various penalties, depending on the severity of the violation. Failure to follow the Waste Collection Short Term Lets Policy could result in operators being fined, or enforcement action being taken.

7. “Traditional” Bed and Breakfast Properties

- Licensed bed and breakfast properties with a Premises Licence are treated differently to short-term lets under the law, and services will be provided as set out below.
- Where the property is in shared domestic and commercial use, e.g. a bed and breakfast with the owner or family living on site the following rules will apply:
- Where the property is assessed for rateable value as being 20% or less domestic, this will be treated as a business and the Trade Waste policy must be followed, and a trade waste contract be put in place to manage all waste;
- Where the property is assessed for rateable value as being 21% or more domestic, the standard provision for household waste and recycling will be provided; the Trade Waste policy must be followed, and a trade waste contract be put in place to manage any waste additional to this.

MANAGED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION SUB-POLICY

Managed student accommodation in terms of this sub-policy refers to purpose built self-catering accommodation solely for the use of students which comprises rooms for one or more persons, forms the main residence for the tenants during term time, and is used at one or more other times of year for short term lets or other commercial purposes.

A household waste collection will be provided as directed by the Council’s Waste and Cleansing Service. This will require the provision of a fully integrated recycling and waste management service. The volumes of containers and frequency of collection will be directed by that service.

It is the sole responsibility of the site operator to:

- Ensure that site design for new premises correctly follows the policy “Provision of Service to New Housing Developments” and all departmental procedures in particular so that all bins are stored off street, that there is adequate provision for a fully integrated recycling and waste collection service, and that the service is able to operate safely.
- Ensure the correct management and segregation of materials within the premises so that recycling is not contaminated and bins do not overflow;
- Ensure that bins do not overflow as a result of any commercial activity, and where this occurs, ensure that commercial contracts are put in place to remove any such excess;
- Ensure that commercial contracts are in place to manage any other excess arising at the site.
- Where any of the above are not followed, the service will not be provided, or will be withdrawn. In this event it will be the sole responsibility of the site operator to put in place commercial waste contracts for the management of all materials arising from the site’s operations.

WASTE FROM COUNCIL PREMISES SUB-POLICY

- It is the Council's policy that all of its business premises must comply with the internal Resource Use Policy, as well as the Waste (Scotland) Regulations and all other relevant legislation.
- The Resource Use Policy requires the waste hierarchy to be applied, to reduce, reuse and recycle, and in addition as a minimum to ensure that facilities are in place to recycle: paper, card, cans, plastics, glass and food, as well as to collect non recyclable waste for energy recovery.
- Procedures must be put in place to manage specialised waste streams not covered by general household waste provision (e.g. engine oil).
- It is the responsibility of building managers, in partnership with the Facilities Management team covering that building, to ensure compliance on a site by site basis, and to arrange collection of the above materials by the Waste and Cleansing Service.
- All steps must be taken to maximise use of the recycling services and prevent their contamination with other materials, through the use of adequate signage, the use of correct coloured sacks, and staff training.
- It is expressly forbidden to mix separately collected and mixed waste streams.
- Council premises which are involved in the sale of drinks in plastic or glass bottles, or cans, will be required to participate in the deposit return scheme for these, when it comes into force in Scotland. This will apply to drinks sold for consumption off site, and involve registering with the scheme operator, ensuring all necessary infrastructure is in place, charging the deposit at the point of sale, issuing deposits for returned containers, and ensuring materials are collected by the scheme's contractor.

PROVISION OF SERVICE TO NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS SUB-POLICY

This policy is designed to support and work in tandem with the more detailed document “Instructions For Architects and Developers” setting out the more detailed instructions to developers and architects which cover types and numbers of bins, access, health and safety, defensible space and other operational requirements.

The Council’s policy is that all new build or converted properties must be specified to allow:

- The provision of the full range of waste and recycling collections as specified by the Council’s staff, which must be fully integrated, e.g. each bin store must have provision for the full range of materials collected for disposal and recycling;
- Safe and efficient access for waste collection teams to collect waste and recyclable materials;
- Provision for the disposal of bulk items as well as general household waste and recyclable materials.

It is the responsibility of the developer or architect to:

- Engage the Waste and Cleansing Service at the earliest point of the development process, and prior to the submission of any plans to the Planning Service, to agree a waste management plan for the property;
- If this does not take place, the Waste and Cleansing Service may not be able to adopt the property, requiring residents to make their own arrangements for the disposal of waste at their additional cost.

The waste management plan must comply with the Waste and Cleansing Service’s Instructions to Developers and Architects. It must cover:

- The types and capacities of bins to be used and the range of materials for which provision will be made, including the full range of recyclable materials;
- Access arrangements to empty bins, including turning circles, interactions with pedestrians, etc;
- The arrangements going forward to service and maintain bin housings, bin stores, bin lifts, etc as appropriate (which will not be managed by the Waste and Cleansing Service)
- The decision as to whether a development will receive a kerbside or communal bin collection service will rest solely with the Waste and Cleansing Service.
- The standard kerbside waste collection service provision (per property) is formed of one non-recyclable waste bin, one mixed recycling bin, a recycling box and a food caddy. In some cases a garden waste bin may also be provided.
- In larger blocks it may be more appropriate to utilise communal bins rather than individual containers and the Waste and Cleansing Service may require this as part of the planning process.

- The developer may source their own bins provided these are compliant with the collection arrangements (including types and colours) operated by the Waste and Cleansing Service;
- The Waste and Cleansing Service can also source bins but will recover these costs from the developer.
- The Waste and Cleansing Service will be responsible for the subsequent maintenance and replacement of the bins, but not for any bin housing or lift mechanism associated with the property or development.

LITTER BIN SITING SUB-POLICY

Background

This policy is designed to

- outline the principles which will be followed in selecting and reviewing where litter bins are located across the city;
- inform decision making for future litter bin sites; and to
- assist with decision making around existing litter bin sites with the ultimate objective of locating the correct size and type of right bins in the right place, reflecting demand and helping to alleviate litter issues.

The Council's capacity to provide litter bins is finite. It is likely that the demand for litter bins will, at certain times or locations, exceed the capacity to provide the service. Therefore, litter bins will be targeted towards locations where data demonstrates a clear need.

It is expected that the criteria outlined in the policy should assist with managing litter bin provision. In addition, no review process currently exists to ensure that litter bin locations continue to match the expectation when it was sited, taking into account changes to usage patterns, and external factors such as vandalism, etc.

A range of bin types may be deployed across the city taking into account the following:

- Available litter bin stocks;
- Size of litter bin versus usage and demand;
- Type of location.

It is intended that future litter bin sites and servicing frequency will be selected and reviewed by using data led principles. These will include (but are not restricted to):

- Cleanliness audit scores (LEAMS);
- Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD);
- Usage patterns derived from bin sensor data;
- Health and safety considerations associated with the servicing of the litter bins;
- Links to other policies, e.g. planning and streetscape issues including in particular Edinburgh Street Design Guidance.

The type, size and location of litter bins are all linked to how litter bins are used by the public, and in particular how frequently they require to be emptied, and how much litter is collected. These are the key determinants which need to be matched to service delivery and flexibility in terms of servicing frequency and the ability to route services effectively and efficiently.

Usage and efficiency

Changes to the ways in which litter bins are managed will be governed by two factors: how they are used by the public, and how efficiently they can be serviced.

The use of routing software, coupled with resident feedback and data from litter bin sensors will help to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of Waste and Cleansing

services, but will also be used to better target the siting of the bins to maximise their efficiency.

Prioritisation Criteria

It is very difficult to define specific sites which will and will not receive litter bins.

The following areas will normally be viewed as high priority to receive litter bins:

- Main arterial routes and other high footfall and through route areas;
- Main areas of commerce and retail;
- Key routes in relation to secondary schools, and routes to and from schools;
- Near fast food and takeaway retailers;
- Public transport hubs (e.g. Bus stops and similar areas) where large numbers of people stand for periods of time, particularly in central areas;
- The “core” path network, and;
- Entrances to or locations within parks and significant public spaces.

The following areas will not normally be viewed as high priority for litter bin placements, or may in some cases be ruled out for litter bin placement:

- Exclusively residential areas, except where these become high priority due to one of the reasons above;
- Locations where the litter bin would be sited in close proximity to a household waste bin (i.e. the communal bins which are sited on street in tenemental areas, and are provided for the disposal of household waste AND litter);
- Locations where the litter bin is being abused, including: inappropriate disposal of household or commercial waste which has not been resolved by engagement or enforcement; sites which are subject to arson or vandalism to the point the bin is unusable.

Other Siting Criteria

Siting with regard to pedestrians

Care must be taken to ensure that litter bins do not impede pedestrian flows and take into account the particular needs of people who use wheelchairs and prams. A minimum footpath width of 1.5m must be maintained.

The location of bins should be located in such a way that minimises the need for vehicles to travel on the core path network and should not exceed 20m for the operative to move a bin to the vehicle.

Public events

The provision of temporary litter bins may be considered at specific locations to reflect increased pedestrian flows and litter generation at certain times, e.g. during public events.

Other criteria with regard to safe siting, or whether or not to provide a separate recycling service should be taken into account when siting these bins. Litter bins must not be provided to collect commercial waste and it must be made clear that events organisers must put in place separate arrangements for the segregation of commercial materials for

recycling and disposal of commercial waste in compliance with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations and other pertinent legislation.

Parks and other similar public spaces

The siting of bins in public parks and greenspaces presents some particular challenges in terms of efficiency, capacity and safety, however, it is acknowledged that those risks can be mitigated with the use of light vehicles and non-mechanised equipment. It is usually viewed as beneficial to encourage park users to take their waste to strategic locations, usually at entrances and exits, so that the litter bin can be serviced safely without having to drive into or around the greenspace. Where bins are located at entrances and exits, there will be messaging used at points within the park to highlight this to users.

Therefore, as facilities are upgraded the following principles will be adopted:

- The maximum capacity must be provided;
- The facilities should be designed to take account of the usage of the sites, with dedicated facilities being provided as appropriate for barbecue waste, specific appropriate recycling streams, etc.
- Where bins have previously been removed from the centre of a park, Waste and Parks Teams will work with 'Friends of' parks groups to have them reinstated if the group wishes so.

Recycling

Scottish legislation, and the Council's Waste and Cleansing Strategy, both assume or require that waste should be segregated and separately collected as close to source as possible to maximise recycling and the recovery of materials.

The Council also takes a pragmatic view of the effectiveness and efficiency of such measures, and the Council's strategy acknowledges the particular challenges associated with collecting litter as a segregated stream for recycling while maintaining the relevant high standards of quality required, as well as the small quantities involved and the likely impact of forthcoming legislative change.

Therefore:

- Recycling bins for litter are NOT required at every location, but can be considered at key locations where there are sufficient quantities of the relevant recyclates;
- Any segregated litter bins MUST consider following;
 - How the bins will be emptied- under no circumstances can segregated recycling bins be mixed with other waste;
 - Which materials it is most appropriate to target (e.g. cans and plastic bottles in parks, newspapers on main arterial routes and bus stops and termini?);
 - Bins must be labelled appropriately for specific target materials, and not labelled just "recycling";
 - Contamination risks (which can be offset by appropriate design);

Specific Waste Streams

Barbecues: consideration will be given to the siting of dedicated litter bins or containers for the safe disposal of hot waste at locations where there is a history of barbecue usage during good weather, etc.

Dog waste: the Council's policy is to maximise efficiency by collecting bagged dog waste alongside general waste. No dedicated dog waste bins will be provided. This will be reviewed should it undermine the separate objective of sorting mixed waste for recycling.

Litter Bin Siting Policy Appendix 1: Factors for consideration:

- LEAMS data
- Bin density (how far do people have to walk?)
- Bin size and type
- Location type (e.g. high priority areas as outlined in the policy)
- Usage/ demand derived from bin sensor data
- Safety (public and staff)
- Bins creating litter (whether due to capacity, misuse or location).
- Vandalism and arson
- Terrorism
- Design for recycling
- Proximity to household waste (communal) bins which can perform same function.
- Parks, greenspaces, civic areas, squares, plazas, etc.

GRAFITTI MANAGEMENT SUB-POLICY

What is Graffiti?

Graffiti is defined as any unauthorised writing or other marking made to walls, buildings or other surfaces. It does NOT include street art, etc which is located by permission of the landowner, and with any relevant consents (e.g. planning, etc).

Graffiti can be treated as the common law crime of malicious mischief or the statutory offence of vandalism and if prosecuted the offender could face a fine or even imprisonment. The police can also issue fixed penalty fines for these offences.

Additionally, under 16's are not permitted to buy aerosol paint cans under the Anti-Social Behaviour Scotland Act 2004.

Removal of graffiti

The removal of graffiti from buildings and other structures is the responsibility of the owner.

In certain circumstances the Council may be able to help.

Council Premises or Property

We will aim to remove graffiti as soon as possible, usually within the following timescales. In some cases it may be more appropriate to cover over graffiti rather than remove it.

These are not statutory targets and it may be necessary to extend these timescales for operational, financial or other reasons.

We will aim to remove offensive graffiti more quickly. Graffiti is deemed to be offensive if it is threatening, obscene, racist, homophobic or otherwise constitutes an attack on people protected under equalities legislation.

Offensive graffiti: 24 hours

Other graffiti: 10 days

Third Party Premises or Property

Where the graffiti is on either premises or property which does NOT belong to the Council, removal of this will be the responsibility of the landowner.

Where the graffiti is offensive, the Council can help you if you provide permission to do so.

There is a charge for this service.

The Council can also assist in the removal of other graffiti but will levy a charge for doing so. We recommend that you also seek further quotes for this work as well as a method statement.

In certain circumstances, and in compliance with relevant legislation, we may take enforcement action to require graffiti removal.

Historic Monuments

In some cases, if the structure is a historic monument or structure the Council may not be able to remove graffiti or may have to agree a specialised programme with Historic

Environment Scotland or other statutory bodies as appropriate. In those circumstances it may be necessary to extend the normal timelines for the removal of graffiti.

Prevention

Where practicable we will work with landowners to encourage the use of preventative measures such as surface treatments which may reduce graffiti, or areas or locations such as graffiti walls, or murals/street art which are set aside for the purpose of graffiti.

WEEDS CONTROL SUB-POLICY

One of the main reasons for the control of weeds in amenity areas is aesthetic, so that public spaces look neat and tidy.

In certain areas and circumstances, weeds can cause trip hazards or lead to damage of hard surfaces. They can lead to competition, with plants within beds, for light, moisture and nutrients. These usually only become a problem if weeds are left to grow to an advanced stage and normal maintenance levels usually remove or kill weeds before they get to this stage.

When managing any amenity area, the level of toleration needs to be identified- i.e. does an area require to be 100% weed free or can a lower tolerance level be set?

The level of toleration will determine the level of maintenance required and has a direct impact on identifying and agreeing different control methods. Management plans, cultural and chemical controls will all differ depending on the agreed tolerance levels.

The level of weed infestation that is acceptable depends on the function, the use and the location of the area. Consideration also needs to be given to the demands of the customer/user, as well as the environmental impact of removing what are regarded as weeds but can also be a source of rich materials for pollinators.

The City is divided into 6 zones which primarily reflect the zones identified in CoPLAR (Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse) which are driven by footfall. However, these have been reviewed and have also taken account of other factors, alongside COPLAR zone, such as Indices of Multiple Deprivation, historical cleanliness scores (LEAMS), type of waste collection service provided and proximity to communal bin (wind-blown and collection derived litter).

Zone 1 are areas of high footfall, e.g. City Centre, and Zone 6 are more rural areas with very limited footfall (rural West of Edinburgh). As part of the ongoing work all newly zoned streets/areas will receive cleaning to Grade A standard on a schedule appropriate to the zone they fall in. Cleaning to Grade A standard not only includes litter removal but also includes removal of detritus and dirt which largely, over time, becomes the growth medium for weeds.

As part of the planned phased reduction of chemical treatment for weeds, chemical treatment will continue to be applied on main roadways/gateways into the city and city and town centres. This will be applied using hand lances and spot treatments rather than use of quad bikes.

Two sprays are typically planned each year but due to chemical application being weather dependant, two applications may not always be achieved.

Chemical treatment will be supplemented by the manual weed removal, as part of normal cleansing duties, outlined above. The success of this will be reviewed and may alter subject to the success of the approach over time.

Where a complaint is received about weeds in a street these will be checked by a street inspector. Where the weed is not causing damage to the footway, kerb, or roadway it will be left until the next scheduled clean. Where the weed is causing damage or presents a trip hazard it will be removed by a rapid response team.

Glyphosate will not be used in parks, other greenspaces and school environments..

Street/Resident associations can continue to request no application of glyphosate but as stated above, the type of environment that will be chemically treated is expected to gradually reduce considerably.

We can also help resident and street associations by providing clean up kits which include litter pickers for adults and children. We can lend out brushes and shovels to clear leaves, and scrapers to clear weeds, and remove the litter, leaves and weeds that have been collected from an agreed location which is accessible for a large vehicle. Please give us two weeks' notice for any event.

LITTER AND FLY-TIPPING SUB-POLICY

Litter and Fly-tipping is governed by the [Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse \(CoPLaR\)](#).

CoPLaR was issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and provides statutory guidance to organisations with a duty to fulfil the legal requirements of section 89, (1) and (2) of the Act. Duty holders are required to:

- keep their land clear of litter and refuse; and
- keep their roads clean.

Organisations covered by CoPLaR include not only the Council but other bodies such as Scottish Water and government agencies who might operate publicly accessible land.

CoPLaR sets out clear standards for the removal of litter and fly-tipping and the timescales for doing so dependent on the zoning of the land in question.

The Council has assessed the land for which it is responsible and [mapped the different zones](#) which are published on our website. It strives to ensure litter and fly-tipping is managed within this framework and its timescales.

Within the Council, the responsibility for keeping land clean is usually the responsibility of the service which manages it. They should ensure that land is maintained and that litter and fly-tipping are removed in line with CoPLaR.

Where they are not able to deliver this directly, they should arrange this with either Neighbourhood Environmental Services or with an appropriately licensed external provider with whom the Council has a contract in place. These services may be chargeable to the service area.

Where a community-based organisation wishes to organise a clean-up on public land, they are able to request equipment and support to dispose of waste from Neighbourhood Environmental Services. This is signposted via our website. There is no charge for this service.

CoPLaR also emphasises the importance of litter and fly-tipping prevention. The Council will use a variety of methods to deliver this, including the support it gives to community-based activities, advertising and communication and, where practicable, piloting alternative approaches to managing litter and fly-tipping.

Dependent on the nature and location of any littering or fly-tipping, enforcement activity will rest either with the Council's [Street Enforcement Team or SEPA](#).

Appendix 3 Motions included in the update

Motion by Councillors Dobbin and Aston to Transport and Environment Committee, 23 May 2024:

Requests that the Interim Weeds Control Sub-Policy is further updated to include how the Council might promote and support the benefits of adopting the pesticide free approach (as adopted by Pesticide Free Balerno) to other residents, resident groups and resident associations across the city.

Response: This is included within the updated policy

Motion by Councillors Dobbin and Aston to Transport and Environment Committee, 23 May 2024:

Requests that prior to the next iteration of the Policy Assurance Update, Officers prepare a report proposing a policy/sub-policy in respect of addressing fly tipping across all estates, including potential enforcement options.

Response: A draft sub-policy is included.