

Chester West and Chester

Severe Weather Disruption to Waste Collection Services Update 6th January 2010

As a result of the heavy snowfalls and severe weather conditions experienced across the district over the last few days, the authority's waste collection services have been seriously disrupted. A limited service was provided in the Chester & District and Ellesmere Port & Neston areas on Tuesday, but no service has been provided today, Wednesday. In the Vale Royal area only a relative small number of households have been provided with a service on both days.

Current road and footway conditions, particularly on minor roads, housing estates and in rural areas are making it impossible for large HGV refuse vehicles and their crews to operate safely. Continued freezing weather is forecast for the next week or so and it is therefore unlikely that conditions will improve to levels that will enable a return to a full and comprehensive service soon. As such, a very limited service is likely to operate in the near future.

Whilst the bad weather persists, householders are advised to present their bins and containers on their scheduled collection days as normal. If no collection service is provided on that day, then they should take them back on to their property and present them on the following scheduled collection day.

Once weather conditions improve and collections can be undertaken safely it is our intention to resume refuse and dry recycling collections only. These collections will be undertaken on their regular scheduled collection day. This is the day that residents would normally expect to put out their bins for collection. It is totally impractical to try to catch up with the backlog of collections by returning to previous days work. As such, collection crews will not be returning to those households missed earlier.

Residents that do not receive a collection are likely to have more waste and/or recycling than they can contain in their bins/containers and we will therefore for the next few weeks be collecting any materials placed at the side of their bins as long it is suitably contained.

Once road and footway conditions start to improve, it may well take several weeks for the backlog of collections to return to normal. During this period, additional resources will need to be deployed to ensure that this occurs as soon as practical. To this end, all green waste collections have been temporarily suspended to enable collection resources to be redirected to domestic and recycling collections. We have initially planned for this to be for a minimum period up to the end of January, but this may be extended if necessary.

Every effort will be made to provide households with a collection of the domestic waste and recycling on their scheduled collection day. Conditions will be reassessed on a daily basis and adjustments made to collection schedules to ensure that services are provided safely. We would very much ask residents to bear with us over the next few weeks whilst we endeavour to return the service to the high standards that residents have become accustomed to.