

Full Council, 18 December 2018
Motion: Cllr Alan Schneiderman
Bin collection chaos

Council notes the total chaos caused by this Conservative administration's poorly thought through re-organisation of the borough's bin collections.

Council also notes that:

- some residents did not receive the door-to-door leaflet advising them about the changes in bin collections, so were unaware they had to put their bin out on a different day;
- there have been repeated missed collections even after residents and ward councillors have reported them;
- there have been on average at least 3,500 missed bin collections across the borough each week, with many streets waiting weeks for their bins to be collected;
- this figure doesn't include bins missed on a collection day but collected within the week;
- on advice from the Council bins are being left out on the street - sometimes for weeks - waiting for collection and causing obstruction on footways;
- bags of rubbish with food waste in are building up in locations across the borough, raising concerns about rats and foxes;
- overtime to clear the backlog of missed collections is costing the Council £15k - 20k a week;
- staff are having to collect re-cycling and green waste at the same time as general refuse to try to make up the bin collections, which will reduce the re-cycling rate;
- the Council have said they cannot give any guarantee about when a normal service will be restored;

Council notes this chaos is all down to the Conservative administration's total mismanagement of the Council's budget which has resulted in a projected £69 million shortfall leading up to 2024 and the need to find urgent and drastic cuts to balance the books.

In addition to the re-organisation of the bin collections to save money, Council also notes the Conservatives have proposed introducing a £50 charge for green waste collections in order to save a further £700,000. Council notes that this charge has been proposed to replace the savings that would partly have been made from increasing tonnages of separate food waste collections - but the Conservatives scrapped the separate food waste collection earlier this year;

Council believes that the new bin collection rounds are too long and complicated, and calls on the Barnet Conservative administration to go back to the drawing board, consult staff and come up with a system that works.

Council also calls on the Barnet Conservatives to scrap their proposal to charge £50 for green waste collections, and to reinstate the separate food waste collections.

Council puts on record its thanks to front-line Streetscene staff who are working extremely hard under very difficult circumstances to try and ensure the bin collections are made on time.