Waste Collection Arrangements for Christmas and New Year

Report by John Blair, Director, Commercial Services

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report provides details of the proposed arrangements to collect household waste within Midlothian over the forthcoming Christmas and New Year period.

2.0 Background

2.1 Christmas Day and Boxing Day 2008 are on Thursday 25 December 2008 and Friday 26 December 2008 and as such are recognised as public holidays. Similarly the 1 and 2 of January 2009 are public holidays and no waste collection service will operate on these days.

To limit changes to customers it is proposed that all collections (including kerbside recycling) that are normally scheduled for Thursdays will be uplifted on the following Saturday (27 December 2008 and 3 January 2009). Similarly all collections that are normally scheduled for Fridays will be uplifted the following Sunday (28 December 2008 and 4 January 2009).

Monday 5 January 2009 is a Midlothian Council public holiday and collections due on that day will operate as normal.

This will result in additional 2 days uplift ie 16 days instead of 14 days between residual collections and 9 days instead of 7 days for recycling collections. All other residents, approximately 60% of Midlothian households, will experience no changes to their service arrangements.

It is proposed that an enhanced service will be provided to all householders on their collection day, with additional side waste being uplifted during the period from 24 December 2008 to 4 January 2009.

To inform residents of the operating arrangements over the festive period the proposals outlined in the report submitted to the Cabinet on Tuesday 22 January 2008 will be implemented. This will include:

a) Residual (grey) bins affected by a change of collection day will be stickered in advance to identify the revised collection days/date. This sticker will detail arrangements for both residual and recycling waste uplifts. See Appendix 1 for examples of this sticker which are tailored to meet the service changes as they affect the householder.

b) A letter will be issued to all households, along with a collection calendar for 2008/09 that is specific to the East and West routes. See Appendix 2 for a copy of this letter and the collection calendars.
c) Publicity panels will be attached to refuse vehicles to make affected residents aware of the changes to collections over the period.

d) Changes to collection arrangements will be broadcast on Black Diamond FM. This is a Midlothian specific radio station and can be used without causing the confusion across the Lothian and Borders area when other Councils are broadcasting festive collection arrangements.

e) A redesigned advert will be placed in December's Midlothian News, which separates out waste collections from other service information. This advert will also be placed in The Advertiser and The Peeblesshire News in the editions sold on 18 December 2008, 24 December 2008 and 30 December 2008. A copy of this draft advert is included in Appendix 3.

f) During the month of December Waste Aware Officers will visit all main shopping centres in Midlothian to provide advice on recycling and changes to collection services. The Recycling Helpline will also continue to be manned to answer customer enquiries on all collection days.

g) Posters will be distributed and placed on display at public locations throughout Midlothian including community notice boards, council buildings and main shopping centres.

h) Information will be published on the Household Rubbish & Recycling section of the Midlothian Council website.

i) A copy of this report will be issued to Community stakeholders including Community Councils.

j) Each Councillor in Midlothian has been also provided with the proposed household information (ie sticker, calendar) based on home address for information.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The resources required to provide the proposed waste collection service change notifications for the festive period are approximately £17,000 and have been provided for in the Waste Services 2008/09 budget.

3.2 Risk

The risk of additional waste being fly tipped is negated by the proposal to uplift side waste during the festive period as detailed above.

The risk of residents misinterpreting information is negated by the enhanced communication arrangements for Festive Waste Management Collections as outlined above.
3.3 Policy

Strategy

This proposal accords with the Council’s Corporate aim 8: of protecting the natural environment.

Consultation

Consultation has been carried out with the trade unions regarding the working arrangements over the festive period. Contact was made with neighbouring Councils but their plans for festive waste collection services are still evolving at this stage.

Equalities

There are no equality issues arising from this report.

Sustainability

There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

4 Recommendations

Meeting is asked to:

a) Note the revised arrangements for waste collections during the Christmas and New Year Periods.

b) Note the proposals to advise the public of the revised collection arrangements over the festive period as detailed in this report.

27 October 2008

Report Contact: Name: Ricky Moffat
Tel No: 0131 561 5306 Email: ricky.moffat@midlothian.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 Bin Stickers advising of collection changes
Appendix 2 Letter mail shot and Lets Recycle Calendar
Appendix 3 Draft Newspaper Advertisement
BIN STICKERS

CHANGES TO YOUR FESTIVE WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS
GREY BINS

Thursday 25 December 2008  moves to  Saturday 27 December 2008

PLEASE PRESENT FOR COLLECTION BY 7AM
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 0845 130 2322
OR VISIT WWW.MIDLOTHIAN.GOV.UK

Sticker 01 – East Residual

GRAYBINS

CHANGES TO YOUR FESTIVE WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS
GREY BINS

Friday 26 December 2008  moves to  Sunday 28 December 2008

RED AND BLUE RECYCLING BOXES

Thursday 25 December 2008  moves to  Saturday 27 December 2008
Thursday 1 January 2009  moves to  Saturday 3 January 2009

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Sticker 02 – East Residual/Recycling

CHANGES TO YOUR FESTIVE WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS
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Sticker 03 – West Residual
BIN STICKERS

CHANGES TO YOUR FESTIVE WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

GREY BINS

Friday 2 January 2009 moves to Sunday 4 January 2009

RED AND BLUE RECYCLING BOXES

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Sticker 04 – West Residual/Recycling

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Sticker 05 – East/West Recycling Only
During the Festive Period there will be no change to your normal collections as detailed on your calendar.
LETTER AND CALENDAR: MONDAY, TUESDAY WEDNESDAY HOUSEHOLDS

During the Festive Period there will be no change to your normal collections as detailed on your calendar.

CARDBOARD
Cardboard will be collected separately, by a different vehicle, on the same day as your recycling boxes. Please flat pack cardboard and present it next to your boxes.

CHRISTMAS TREES
Christmas trees will be collected on your brown bin collection day on the week beginning 19 January 2009.

RECYCLING CENTRES
Additional waste/recycling can be disposed of at either of the Recycling Centres, Bellman’s Road in Penicuik or Stobhill Road, Newtongrange.

These facilities are open 7 days a week except for 25 and 26 December 2008 and 1 and 2 of January 2009.
LETTER AND CALENDAR: COLLECTION CHANGES EAST AREA

To accommodate Christmas and New Year holidays it is necessary to make changes to refuse/recycling collection days in your area.

Full details of the revised festive collection arrangements are shown overleaf.

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 0131 561 5284

Letter 04 - East Residual/Recycling
LETTER AND CALENDAR: COLLECTION CHANGES EAST AREA

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Letter 05 – East Recycling Only
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**CHANGES TO YOUR FESTIVE WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RED AND BLUE RECYCLING BOXES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 26 December 2008</strong></td>
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PLEASE PRESENT FOR COLLECTION BY 7AM
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OR VISIT [WWW.MIDLOTHIAN.GOV.UK](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk)
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CHANGES TO YOUR FESTIVE WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

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Letter 07 – West Residual
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**CHANGES TO YOUR FESTIVE WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS**

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### Let's Recycle 08-09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
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**Recycling Helpline:**
0845 130 2322

- Brown Bin (Garden Waste)
- Grey Bin (Other Waste)
- No Collection

Your kerbside recycling (red and blue boxes) will be collected every week.

### East Area

### West Area
Newspaper Advertisement (Draft)

### Midlothian Council Festive Season Refuse Collections

To accommodate Christmas and New Year holidays the following changes will be made to GREY BIN and RECYCLING BOX collection days:

If your normal collection day is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>New Collection Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day 2008</td>
<td>Saturday 27 December 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boxing Day 2008</td>
<td>Sunday 28 December 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Year Day 2009</td>
<td>Saturday 3 January 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 2 January 2009</td>
<td>Sunday 4 January 2009</td>
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Your grey bin will be stickered during collections, on either the week beginning 8 December 2008 or 15 December 2008, if your household is affected by these changes.

If your collection date is NOT on one of the above dates your normal grey bin and recycling boxes collection will be unchanged. Brown bin collections will resume after the festive period. Please check your calendar for dates. Please ensure your bins/boxes are out for 7am on your collection day.

### Midlothian Council – Additional Waste Collection Information

#### Christmas Tree Collections

Christmas trees will be collected on your normal brown bin week in January, either the week beginning 12 January 2009 or week beginning 19 January 2009. Alternatively you can take your Christmas tree to the Recycling Centre at Stobhill Road in Newtongrange or Bellman’s Road in Penicuik.

#### Cardboard

Over the festive period please flat pack pieces of cardboard, removing any polystyrene etc, and present this beside your recycling boxes.

#### Recycling Centres and Public Toilets

Both recycling centres and public toilets will be closed on 25 and 26 December 2008 and 1 and 2 January 2009.

If you have any questions about recycling or have not yet received your collection calendar for 2008/9 please call us on 0845 130 2322 or email recycling@midlothian.gov.uk.

Details of the revised arrangements have also been mailed to our customers and are detailed on the Council’s website www.midlothian.gov.uk.