

Dear Householder

## CHANGES TO BROWN BIN AND FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

We are writing to tell you about changes to your food waste and brown bin services.

From the 30th September 2019 we will no longer empty food caddies. That is because from the end of September we will collect your food waste in your brown bin along with your garden waste.

### What food waste will I be able to put in my brown bin?

All the food that you previously put in your food caddy will go in your brown bin from the 30th September 2019. This includes tea bags, egg shells, dairy products, vegetables, meat, fish leftover pasta and rice. Please do not put liquids or oils in your brown bin, only 'solid' food.

### Can I still use plastic bags?

**NO X**

No. Once we start collecting your food and garden waste together in the same bin we will no longer be able to accept anything wrapped in plastic bags. You can still wrap it in newspaper, or biodegradable bags but **not in plastic bags**.



### How often will my brown bin be collected?

From 30th September 2019 your brown bin will be emptied every 2 weeks. Please see the calendar that accompanies this letter for details of your new collection dates.

### What about the things I normally put in my brown bin?

You can still put the same things in your brown bin as you always did (grass and hedge cuttings, weeds, cut flowers, small branches) but now it will be mixed with the food waste from your household.

### Why is it ok to put food in my brown bin now when it wasn't before?

We are changing the way we process the brown bin waste. Instead of being composted in the open air it will now be treated in a container (which we call 'in vessel' treatment) along with the food waste. This means that the 2 waste types (garden waste and food) can be collected together.

### What will happen to my food caddy?

You may still find it useful to keep your small kitchen caddy, so that you can carry food out to your brown bin. If you are able to make use of the larger outdoor caddy then please keep it. If you don't want it anymore you can either: take it to a Community Recycling Centre the next time you visit or once your last separate food waste collection has taken place put your (empty) caddy outside and leave it there until we remove it.

**A calendar is included with this letter which tells you your new collection days. Further information about what can be placed in each of your bins can be found on the back of your calendar. For more detailed information please visit our website [www.westlothian.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste)**