

**CABINET
9 AUGUST 2022**

**THREE WEEKLY WASTE COLLECTION SCHEME – CABINET
IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE JULY 22**

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Colin Slade, Cabinet member for the Environment and Climate Change

Responsible Officer(s): Darren Beer, Operations Manager for Street Scene
Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste

Reason for Report: To provide an update to Cabinet and review the operational arrangements for rolling out the three weekly bin collection scheme in October 2022.

Recommendation: To note and approve the contents of this report.

Financial Implications: Moving to three weekly bin collections in October will see the better deployment of current resource to be able to serve additional household requirements.

Budget and Policy Framework: There will be budget implications with regards to moving to three weekly bin collections as already set out in previous reports and discussed at committee. Waste and recycling remains a statutory service provided to the residents of the District.

Legal Implications: Under Section 46 of the Environment Protection Act Waste Collections Authorities may be means of notice specify how householders present their waste for collection.

Risk Assessment: The Council is required to meet its Climate Emergency declaration ambitions and the targets set by the Government regarding refuse and recycling rates. The Council also has to meet the requirements of additional future housing developments which requires better deployment of current resource.

Equality Impact Assessment: The service will provide flexibility to residents to make it as accommodating as possible to ensure the smooth transition to three weekly bin collections. These steps are set out in the below report.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The Corporate Plan sets out our commitment to reduce residual waste and increase recycling to reduce our carbon footprint and enable the District to hit net zero status.

Impact on Climate Change: The change to three weekly bin collections enables every household to make a vital contribution to the District in meeting its climate change commitments.

1.0 Introduction/Background

- 1.1 In February 2022 the Cabinet approved the decision to move to three weekly bin collections from the autumn of that year (and to allow an orderly transition to the new arrangements). The purpose of this paper is to give an update on the key components regarding the operational implementation of this decision.
- 1.2 A trial of the scheme was carried out last year in both urban and rural areas of the District between July and October 2021. The areas surveyed included Holcombe Rogus, Westleigh and the area around Canal Hill in Tiverton. The results of this were favourable with significant increases to recycling rates being demonstrated and positive feedback received from a subsequent residents' survey of the trial areas involved.
- 1.3 Moving to three weekly bin collections will help the District both reduce its residual waste collection and increase its recycling. This will help the District to reduce its carbon footprint and hit net zero status in the future. Each household in the District can make a positive contribution to the District reducing its carbon footprint by participating in the new scheme.
- 1.4 Mid Devon has committed to net zero carbon status by 2030 and is committed to increase recycling rates to 60% by 2025 and 65% by 2035 in line with both Devon and National targets. Currently, MDDC's recycling rate is hovering around 53%. This has remained fairly static for a number of years, which is in line with trends reported by the industry where waste collection authorities have not made major changes to their service. Of the authorities in Devon (2020-2021), East Devon achieved the highest recycling rate of 60%, who are the only council currently on three weekly waste collections, while Exeter City Council had the lowest at 27.8% and similar to the previous financial year as seen below:

Council	2019/20 Recycling Rate %	2020/21 Recycling Rate %
East Devon District Council	60.50%	60.00%
Exeter City Council	26.10%	27.80%
Mid Devon District Council	53.10%	53.70%
North Devon District Council	49.50%	49.40%
South Hams District Council	54.40%	54.70%
Teignbridge District Council	56.30%	55.90%
Torbay Council	40.40%	35.70%
Torridge District Council	54.10%	55.20%
West Devon Borough Council	53.70%	55.20%

2.0 Project plan and timetable update

- 2.1 New bins with attached hangers started being delivered to households in the District from Monday 18 July 2022 by Jett Distribution. District and Parish Councillors have received weekly updates regarding the progress of the scheme's implementation and there are regular updates on social media and printed media.

2.2 The roll out of three weekly bin collections will commence on Monday 10 October 2022.

3.0 **Bin roll-out and seagull sack distribution (including requests for extra capacity)**

3.1 Advance notice via social media was given to those areas that were about to gain their bin delivery and both District and Parish Councillors were given advanced notice to help them field any queries and questions, seeking support from officers if required.

3.2 All residents will receive a letter prior to delivery of the bins outlining the reasons for the new Bin-it 123 roll out and that they would shortly be receiving a new bin. There are also links to the FAQs and calendar look-up. The letter also explains how to request a seagull sack if residents are unable to accommodate a bin and how to request another bin for households that require extra capacity (for example, a household with a large number of residents and/or residents who have a medical condition). Included with the letter is a leaflet further detailing the three weekly bin collection scheme along with relevant fact and figures as well as commonly asked FAQs.

3.3 Each bin has a hanger attached to it which advertises the coming three weekly collection scheme and the purpose of the bin being delivered e.g. to facilitate three weekly collections, which are due to start in the autumn and the fact that residents can use their bin immediately.

3.4 Seagull sacks will be available on request for residents who, for example, have no outside storage space or have steps leading to their property. These can be ordered by contacting Customer First, or via the Mid Devon website.

3.5 Households that struggle to fit all their non-recyclable waste within the wheeled bin provided can request an extra bin through either Customer First or via the website.

3.6 Towns centres will have their bins delivered last to ensure proper consultation can take place with the town councils on how three weekly collections can take place, with sufficient bin capacity being maintained and effective waste and littering enforcement taking place.

3.7 The financial costs for the whole project are estimated to total £890k. This includes £750k for bins/seagull sacks and delivery to properties, £60k for communications and £80k in extra staffing. The projected savings from predominantly fuel but also vehicle hire and driver costs are around £160k per year. Note – This does not include any shared savings associated with DCC or any increased revenue from material sales.

4.0 **Communications plan**

4.1 There has been a series of media announcements and interviews with the Cabinet member for the Environment and Climate Change to raise awareness

of the forthcoming three weekly bin collection scheme. This will continue over the implementation period up to and including the 10 October 2022.

- 4.2 Included in the updates will be how residents can support more recycling with messages on what can be recycled and how to pack it down for increased capacity within the recycling boxes. There will also be messages regarding keeping all waste inside the new wheelie bins and measures to aid this.
- 4.3 There was a strong waste presence at the Mid Devon Show to promote the three weekly scheme, hand out leaflets and answer questions from the public.
- 4.4 All town councils will be written to and offered a briefing on the three weekly scheme to help with implementation in these areas.
- 4.5 As stated above, bin distribution to the town centres will happen last to ensure effective consultation with the towns can take place in realising these areas are likely to be the most challenging regarding implementation of the scheme.
- 4.6 A comprehensive leaflet outlining the early timetable for three weekly collections, when different bins will be collected and the waste (including food waste) and recycling to be put into different containers will be delivered in September 2022.
- 4.7 We have started to send a weekly email to members to give advanced notice of what will be taking place in the coming weeks to make them aware of key dates and milestones in the three weekly implementation plan. We are also sending this information to appropriate Parish and Town Councils.

5.0 FAQs and drop-in sessions at Carlu Close

- 5.1 There is a comprehensive list of FAQs for the public available at [Bin It 123 - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://www.middevon.gov.uk/bin-it-123) and these are being regularly updated as new queries and questions come in from the public. Please do forward on any questions that you think need to be added to the list (and answered of course).
- 5.2 District Councillors have been invited to attend drop-in sessions at Carlu Close so the Operatives can talk them through what we do, how the depot works and invite questions from Members around the current and future provision of waste and recycling collections in Mid Devon.

6.0 Enforcement

- 6.1 We realise that anxiety over increased littering and fly typing comes hand in hand with the introduction of a three weekly bin collection roll out. This anxiety is particularly prevalent in the towns and this is why we are consulting with them specifically over the implementation of this scheme.
- 6.2 The Council's Environment and Enforcement Manager, together with the District Officers (DOs), has organised increased patrolling of car parks and streets regarding litter and waste enforcement. This has included the roll out of evening patrols and the purchase of body cameras for DOs to protect their health and safety.

- 6.3 Statistics are being recorded on our enforcement performance and a paper was taken to the Environment PDG on the 19 July regarding the way forwards for enforcement practice.
- 6.4 Strengthened enforcement practice, coupled with enhanced education and support for our residents, should result in the successful roll out of three weekly bin collections.

7.0 Conclusion and next steps

- 7.1 New Black Bins are currently being distributed to all households in the District with the new scheme set to start on Monday 10 October 2022. All residents will receive a letter outlining further details of the scheme together with a leaflet which contains the reasons for the new scheme, commonly asked questions and links to further information.
- 7.2 There will be regular follow up communication and reminders both through different media outlets but also with the Parish Councils (and Councillors). We will work with the Town Councils on how the scheme best operates, with bins being distributed in these areas last. We will work closely with town centre residents, particularly those who live in flats or who have communal collections, to deliver a tailored programme of education and communication to help bring about a successful transition to the new scheme. There is a dedicated page on the scheme on the Mid Devon website, which includes a list of updated FAQs to use.
- 7.3 Clearly, proactive communication and education will be paramount in delivering the resident engagement we need to make our new Bin-it 123 strategy a success and ensure we meet the recycling targets that are required, helping us move forward to our carbon zero ambitions.

Contact for more Information: Darren Beer, Operations Manager for Street Scene (dbeer@middevon.gov.uk)

Circulation of the Report: Cabinet and Leadership Team

List of Background Papers:

Appendix 1 - Original paper tabled for Cabinet decision in February 2022 regarding approving the recommendation tabled by the PDG to move to three weekly bin collections.

Appendix 2 -The new Bin-it 123 logo