

**Report for:** **Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement PDG**

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Date of Meeting:	23 June 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Waste and Recycling Options</b>
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Josh Wright, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement
Responsible Officer:	Darren Beer, Operations Manager – Street Scene and Open Spaces  Matthew Page, Head of People, Performance and Waste
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	All – District Wide
Enclosures:	None

**Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)**

Additional waste and recycling service provision was considered by Members in a report to Cabinet in January 2025. This report details the results of a three month trial collecting unusable metal pots and pans in an area of the District.

**Recommendation(s):**

**Members are asked to:**

1. **Review the contents of this report.**
2. **Make a recommendation (a, b or c) to Cabinet regarding the potential future collection (or non-collection) of unusable metal pots and pans across the District. Options to include:**
  - a. **Undertake a subsequent trial in different areas of the District to better understand service demand.**
  - b. **We cease any further collections of pots and pans.**

- c. **Permanent collections of unusable metal pots and pans are introduced across the District from a specific date supported by an effective communications plan and resident correspondence.**

## Section 2 – Report

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Following on from the recommendation made from the Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement PDG in December 2024 and subsequent decision made by Cabinet in January 2025, a trial was conducted between 28 February 2025 and 23 May 2025 to assess both the feasibility of collecting pots and pans (made of aluminium, stainless steel) and their subsequent collection rates from households as part of the Council's routine recycling collections. Two separate trials were conducted: one in an urban area (Willand) involving 453 properties and one in a rural area (Uffculme) involving 346 properties.
- 1.2 The results of the trial are presented in section 2 with preliminary analysis and conclusions drawn together in section 3.

### 2.0 Results

#### 2.1 Urban - Total Properties in the trial: 453

- Resident participation was relatively low, peaking at just under 3% of households
- After 11/04/2025, resident participation dropped to zero
- The total weight of pots and pans collected increased significantly by 11/04, suggesting either increased awareness or a build-up of stored items amongst residents.

Collection No	Date of Collection	Number of households participating URBAN	Households participating URBAN	Aluminium/ stainless steel (Kg)	Steel (Kg)	Total Weight (Kg)
1	28/02/2025	10	2.21%	2.50	4.00	6.50
2	14/03/2025	13	2.87%	1.40	3.10	4.50
3	28/03/2025	8	1.77%	2.50	4.40	6.90
4	11/04/2025	10	2.21%	2.70	7.68	10.38
5	28/04/2025	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	10/05/2025	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	23/05/2025	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	41		9.1	19.18	28.28

*\*Dates in red are catch up collections after a bank holiday*

## 2.2 Rural -Total Properties in trial: 346

- Participation was lower in the rural areas, peaking at 1.45%
- As with the urban trial, participation was very low after 11/04/2025
- Overall collection rates of pots and pans were modest

Collection No	Date of collection	Number of households participating RURAL	% of households participating RURAL	Aluminium/ stainless steel Kg	Steel Kg	Total Weight Kg
1	28/02/2025	5	1.45%	3.00	3.00	6
2	14/03/2025	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0
3	28/03/2025	5	1.45%	3.00	3.00	6
4	11/04/2025	1	0.29%	0.25	0.00	0.25
5	28/04/2025	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0
6	10/05/2025	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0
7	23/05/2025	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0
	<b>Total</b>	11		<b>6.25</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>12.25</b>

*\*Dates in red are catch up collections after a bank holiday*

## 2.3 Total Weights for Rural and Urban Combined

Collection No	Date of collection	<b>TOTAL</b> number of households participating	% <b>TOTAL</b> participation	Aluminium/ stainless steel Kg	Steel Kg	<b>TOTAL</b> Weight Kg
1	28/02/2025	15	1.88%	5.50	7.00	12.50
2	14/03/2025	13	1.63%	1.40	3.10	4.50
3	28/03/2025	13	1.63%	5.50	7.40	12.9
4	11/04/2025	11	1.38%	2.95	7.68	10.63
5	28/04/2025	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0
6	10/05/2025	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0
7	23/05/2025	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0
	<b>Total</b>	52		<b>15.35</b>	<b>25.18</b>	<b>40.53</b>

*\*Dates in red are catch up collections after a bank holiday*

## 3.0 Analysis

- ### 3.1
- The results of the trial confirmed that collecting pots and pans via household recycling routes is operationally feasible and adds strategic value to MDDC's services. While engagement was limited, especially over time, small volumes

were collected efficiently. This initiative, if permanently introduced as a collection service, could further enhance Mid Devon's recycling capabilities and environmental reputation; however there will be a minimal effect on the recycling rate if the low tonnage collected during the trial was to continue.

- 3.2 The trial was useful to understand potential participation rates across the district. It showed that residents initially used the service actively, primarily to dispose of old items. However, usage dropped significantly after the first few collections. This suggests that long-term use may be lower than initial uptake, making it difficult to predict future usage levels across the district. This also highlights the importance of communication and how we need to regularly remind residents of our services and how they can use these services.
- 3.3 It is important to emphasise that, in line with the Waste hierarchy, residents are encouraged to consider what materials they reuse and reduce as well as recycle. However, and given the ease with which the additional pots and pans could be collected during the trial, the Street Scene service can collect residents' pots and pans as an additional collection service if required with very limited or minimal extra associated cost to the Council (and increased recycling should still lead to enhanced income through the new EPR scheme).

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 The trial has given useful operational insight and demonstrated that there is not a consistent demand pattern for the collection of pots and pans across the District. Therefore, it is envisaged that rolling out this provision across the District should be delivered within current capacity and budget. However, future additional collection materials will need to be appraised based on the understanding that adding pots and pans into our recycling activity will place slight additional pressure on the operation.

#### **Financial Implications**

Based on the findings of the trial, pots and pans being included in the portfolio of materials collected at the kerbside will not incur additional operational costs. There will be minimal financial gain in the form of recycling credits or sales income due to the low tonnage collected.

#### **Legal Implications**

Under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act Waste Collection Authorities may by means of notice specify how householders present their waste for collection. There will be legal requirements to adhere to legislation around Simpler Recycling once it has been clarified by Government.

#### **Risk Assessment**

In the event that any future changes are trialled (or mandated by government) a register of risks would need to be compiled in advance of those proposed service changes. There are potential risks, including impacts on; carbon emissions, the carbon footprint, operational costs and other resources required (from containers to personnel).

### **Impact on Climate Change**

Any increase in recycling will have a positive impact on climate change however, the trial indicated that participation is low for pots and pans therefore this impact would be minimal.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

If rolled out districtwide residents provided with assisted collections and those living in HMOs and flats will be included.

### **Relationship to Corporate Plan**

This report identifies with the Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement section of the Corporate Plan for 2024-2028, and in particular 5.2 – *We will increase our recycling services, enabling our communities to achieve even higher levels of recycling.* Supporting and enabling customers to recycle and reduce residual waste contributes to Mid Devon District Councils' commitment to the Devon Climate Emergency.

### **Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks**

**Statutory Officer:** Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

**Date:** 13 June 2025

**Statutory Officer:** Maria de Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date:** 13 June 2025

**Chief Officer:** Stephen Walford

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

**Date:** 13 June 2025

**Performance and risk:** Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

**Date:** 12 June 2025

**Cabinet member notified:** (yes)

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Darren Beer, Operations Manager – Street Scene and Open Spaces

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**Background papers:**

None