
Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	5 August 2025
Subject:	Waste and Recycling Options
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):

Cabinet are asked to:

- 1. Review the contents of this report.**
- 2. As recommended by the Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement PDG, that Cabinet make a decision regarding the permanent future collection of unwanted metal pots and pans 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/or 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 in the first weeks of the trial up to the 11/04, this suggesting either an 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, resident participation dropped to zero 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
	Total	11		6.25	6.00	12.25

**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	TOTAL number of households participating	% TOTAL participation	Aluminium/ stainless steel Kg	Steel Kg	TOTAL 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
	Total	52		15.35	25.18	40.53

**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 the Council'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 the Council'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, given the ease with which the additional pots and pans were collected during the trial, the Street Scene service could 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 Extended Producer Responsibility 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 1990 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, as the trial indicated that participation in collection of pots and pans is likely to be low, 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 paragraph 5.2 (on page 14) which states – *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: 23 July 2025

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 23 July 2025

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford

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

Date: 23 July 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

Email: dbeer@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 255255

Background papers:

None