

Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

19 March 2024

Recommendations/Actions

Future Waste Service Options

The Committee discussed in detail the three service delivery options in the report and the findings of the commissioned report from Eunomia on future recycling and waste options from April 2026. Having heard from Officers and the Eunomia consultants Members were interested to understand more regarding the option of a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo), whether it was viable and could be a benefit. They discussed the ability to create funds within a LATCo and whether an offer of an affordable package of waste collection for businesses could provide the potential, to offer the same pension scheme and terms and conditions as Bridgend County Borough Council staff, by offsetting the cost with the potential additional revenue streams. Members expressed concern that staff should not be disadvantaged with regard to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

1. While understanding that there were no guarantees of success and the model selected would not be operated until 2026 so would not be a quick fix, the Committee recommended the LATCo model be explored further with the Authority looking at how it could be developed and grown over future years, which as the LATCo developed could help provide a part solution to the long term issue of annual revenue difficulties.
2. Members also discussed the findings with regards to the qualitative assessment and the in-house position. Noting the assessment had identified the market conditions to be favourable at present with a low probability of high risk in both operational and implementation and no difference in quality of service, however there was a financial risk based on the pension contributions, but there was also an opportunity to control, shape and develop that service. On that basis the Committee recommended that bringing the waste collection service in-house should also be explored in further detail.
3. Members agreed that they were looking for the best decision and best fit for the Council and its residents and to contribute to this decision, the Committee recommended that a report be submitted to Cabinet either with the recommendations or shortly after, including a case study of best practice where these types of operations had been proven and were operating successfully, to demonstrate how they could potentially also work for Bridgend County Borough Council.