

Recycling & Waste Services – Service Review

West Lothian Council Executive discussed a review of Recycling and Waste Services on 4 December 2018. The review describes the action is necessary to deliver savings agreed as a part of the budget agreed at Council on 13 February 2018. The actions comprise:

1. The signing of the national charter for household recycling.
2. The signing of the charter enables an alternative solution for the current blue bin materials and the delivery of a saving of £973,000.
3. A proposal has been made for co-mingling food and garden waste in the brown bin which will be collected fortnightly without charge. Overall this model of collection gives a saving of £327,000.
4. Co-mingling brings with it the risk that some food waste will be deposited in the grey bin which will go to landfill.
5. The new system could be operational by September 2019.
6. The report concludes that there are no alternative solutions to achieve the £327,000 saving.

Review of Local Governance

West Lothian Council Executive discussed a review of Local Governance on 4 December 2018. The review is being undertaken jointly by the Scottish government and COSLA. The Scottish Government has stated that it intends new legislation within the lifetime of the current parliament (the "local democracy bill") with the aim of:

- strengthening local decision making and democratic governance
- in ways that improve outcomes in local communities,
- grow Scotland's economy for everyone's benefit,
- support communities to focus on their priorities, and
- help new ideas to flourish

the review by WLC will be considered at two levels:

1. decisions taken in communities
2. decisions taken at the level of community planning partnerships and councils.

The 13 November 2018 Partnership and Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel discussed, the potential for different governance arrangements for various types and size of communities in different parts of the country. An officer group has been established by the chief executive to produce draft proposals for the consideration of members. It is judged that Communities of Interest (CoI's), related directly to Council services, across geographic areas might bring the greatest benefit to service users rather than existing Communities of Place (CoP's) e.g. Community Councils and CDT's. Council consultation would involve CoI's through local ward forums and involve all residents. (Level 1) CoP's would operate at Level 2 through representative organisations such as the Joint Forum of Community Councils.

It is suggested that a group consider the Review of Local Governance Report in detail and make recommendations.

John Kelly

17th December 2018.