

Item 09 – Trade Waste Update

The attached report was considered by the Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee on 11 November 2024. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee (11 November 2024, Minute 27)

The Head of Direct Services presented the report which set out the business review of the commercial trade waste service. He advised that the commercial waste collection service had been run providing local business with a fairly priced transparent and flexible service. During recent years, a number of challenges had impacted the service and it was now being subsidised from other direct services budgets, and thus was not generating the required surplus. Following the business review undertaken there were three options available to Members regarding the service. Members considered the options which included, continuing the service as is, ceasing the service or reviewing the service to reinvent the service as a more compact commercial entity.

In response to questions, the officer explained that the service was currently too intermingled with the statutory service, and that the reinvention of the service would allow the service to be separated from and support domestic waste collection. Should the service be reinvented, but prove unviable within 12 to 18 months, the service would likely be recommended for termination. The number of customers for the service had grown beyond pre-Covid levels and it was anticipated that it would be viable. The reinvention of the service would not involve the creation of a separate company; there would be no change in ownerships or liabilities for the service. High disposal costs prevented the service from collecting glass, plastic, and metal recycling, but it was anticipated that operating as a more compact commercial entity may allow the Council to better negotiate this issue. The Council would investigate having the service support the statutory domestic waste collection service where possible, such as through bulk bin collection.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that Option 3 - Reinventing the service as a more compact commercial entity to deliver an income surplus – be approved.