

Request: Innovative & cost-saving models of local service delivery ?

The LG Association (England) is interested in learning more about innovative and cost-saving approaches to local authority service delivery from all over the EU. Local authorities in the UK now have to deliver local services in very tight financial circumstances. We would be very interested to have any examples of:

1. **Two or more local authorities merging** i.e. actually sharing a single chief executive or leader; or perhaps **sharing a single management team for the delivery of one or more services**.

Two councils in north of England decided to share a single Chief Executive.
http://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/site/scripts/news_article.php?newsID=478

Two councils in the north of England are considering creating a single waste collection service:
<http://www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/news/Waste-collection-merger-beat-cuts/article-2450576-detail/article.html>

For example, two councils in London are developing a single unified Education service for both their local areas.

2. Where local authority staff / management, or the **local community themselves have taken over services within a council and decided to run the service themselves**. This is sometimes known as a 'cooperative' model, or a staff / management / local community 'buy-out'. The new service could be run either independently or as part of the council.

One example is a local sports centre where the council did not have the funds to continue running the centre but gave ownership to a local voluntary group who continued to run the centre independently from the local authority for the benefit of the local community.

Another council has allowed the local community itself to build and run a children's centre i.e. people use their own funds, it was done without public funds.

Another council is offering local tax rebates to local residents if they take over the management and running of libraries, parks and other service areas for themselves: it is becoming a 'cooperative' council:
<http://www.thisislocallondon.co.uk/news/8296429.Cooperative-Council-steering-group-s-first-public-meeting-tonight/>

Another council runs a scheme where tenants of local housing estates manage their own properties, i.e. residents undertake or arrange for their own property maintenance on their own houses (which are owned by the local authority).

Another council in London is now delivering mental health services via a consortium of local voluntary organisations, instead of running the service in-house.

3. Other cost-cutting measures

Barnet Council (London) has launched 'Easy Barnet' it aims to copy 'EasyJet' in only offering very basic public services for free, and making residents pay for every extra service they need.

http://www.publicservice.co.uk/feature_story.asp?id=12779

Conclusion

Any examples of the above would be helpful as we look to develop solutions to deal with the very difficult financial context facing local authorities.

Please send to Jennifer Watson jennifer.watson@local.gov.uk by **Monday, August 16**. Local Government Association (England). Tel: 00 44 20 7664 3107