

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next appropriate meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Council Headquarters, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Thursday, 27th July 2017 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor S. A. Bradwick – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

A. Chapman	W. Treeby
M. Fidler Jones	T. Williams
W. Jones	G. Stacey
D. Owen-Jones	

Officers

Mr P. Mee – Service Director Public Health & Protection

Mr N. Wheeler – Director Highways & Streetcare Services

Mr S. Humphreys – Head of Legal, Planning & Environment

J. Nicholls – Senior Democratic Services Officer

Other Members

C. J. Willis – Scrutiny Performance Coordinator

G. P. Thomas – Vice Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

1. WELSH TRANSLATION

Prior to the commencement of the meeting and at the request of the Welsh Translation Unit, the Chairman asked whether any member of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee wished to conduct their business through the medium of Welsh. No Member of the Committee indicated that they wished to do so and therefore Committee agreed that the Welsh Translation Unit be allowed to leave the meeting before the commencement of committee business.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors J. James, G. Jones and M. Weaver.

3. STATEMENT

The Chair introduced himself for the benefit of new Members and reminded Committee of the Scrutiny function which is to ensure that work programmes are outcome based and bring about improvements to the services provided to the people of RCT. The Chair politely requested that there be no parochialism or political points scoring within the scrutiny arena and Members agreed with the sentiments of the Chair.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no personal declarations of interests made, pertaining to the agenda.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee held on the 13th March 2017.

6. FIRE SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING, SUPPORTED HOUSING, HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION AND COUNCIL OWNED BUILDINGS

The Chair, County Borough Councillor S. A. Bradwick announced that following the Decision Notice of the Cabinet held on the 22nd June 2017 this matter had been referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee due to the nature of the cross-cutting issues.

It was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the position.

7. PRESENTATION - TURNING RUBBISH INTO A RESOURCE

The Director of Highways and Streetcare Services presented an overview of Recycling in Rhondda Cynon Taf by means of a Power Point presentation under the following headings:-

- About us
- About the Service
- How have we done?
- Changes Made
- Barriers to Moving Forward
- What we are Working on for the Future

For the benefit of new Members, the Director provided an overview of key developments to date such as all waste collections are now carried out in house, RCT has its own Waste Company (Amgen Cymru), its own Landfill site and its food waste plant (Biogen) serves the Councils of RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Newport City Council. Further details were provided about the specific services which are carried out across the County Borough such as the separate food waste and green waste weekly services as well as the separate nappy waste weekly collection.

Members noted the annual recycling performance since 2006 which demonstrated a gradual, sustainable improvement in the recycling rates for RCT which reached 64.95% for 2016/17 compared to the Welsh Government target of 58%. Committee was informed of the key changes made to the processes in place which have enabled improvements to be made which included fortnightly collections, no black bags accepted at CRC's, pre sort facility at CRC's and strong enforcement teams.

The Director reminded Members that this Scrutiny Committee had, as part of its work programme in 2015/16, delivered a project aimed at increasing recycling in a targeted area based on previous targeted campaigns which have encouraged residents to waste less and recycle more with very positive results. Committee determined that revisiting a particular area would maintain or even surpass the previous positive recycling rates and the awareness campaign produced sustainable outcomes as well as two recommendations which were implemented by the Executive.

The Director outlined a number of plans for the Cynon Valley Gateway which represents a significant investment by the Council to energise the region with strategic investment opportunities (building on the £1 billion private sector investment in energy projects within the area) as well as strategic transport opportunities such as the extension of the passenger rail line to Hirwaun and the creation of a transport hub.

In conclusion, the Director outlined plans for an Eco Park in Bryn Pica which would accommodate, amongst other things, a mattress recycling unit, AD Plant which serves 3 councils at present, a transfer station for residual waste and an education centre. It was also confirmed that currently a number of businesses are looking to relocate to the site which will process/manufacture on site materials collected by this Local Authority.

There followed a number of questions in respect of the current services provided by RCT Council and it was **RESOLVED** that the information contained within the presentation would inform the development of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee work programme in respect of monitoring the Council's participation rates in recycling across RCT.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

8. WORK PROGRAMME

Committee considered the report of the Director, Legal and Democratic Services which set out a proposed approach to drafting a work programme for the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee and were asked to consider adopting the draft work programme attached at Appendix 1.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer reported that whilst devising a draft work programme, a number of key sources of information had been considered as well as meetings held with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and relevant Council Officers to discuss potential areas of work.

As the Council's designated Crime & Disorder Committee which, under Sections 19 & 20 of the Police & Justice Act 2006 is required to meet at least once a year, Committee was also asked to agree one topic from the following list of four potential topics and in order to assist with their decision, the Service Director, Public Health & Protection provided an overview of each the four potential areas as requiring further scrutiny:-

- Strategic Assessment of Crime & Disorder in Cwm Taf;
- Anti Social Behaviour;
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence; and
- Substance Misuse.

Following consideration of the topics, Committee felt that further scrutiny of the Strategic Assessment of Crime & Disorder in Cwm Taf, to inform the priorities and action plan for the community safety partnership, would provide scrutiny with the opportunity to challenge and influence how the Cwm Taf resources are being deployed.

Members agreed that the Crime & Disorder Committee would meet on a more frequent basis in order to undertake the work and agreed that meetings would be held on the 26th October 2017 and the 22nd February 2018 (previously the 25th January 2018 as set out in the attached draft work programme) would be dedicated to the Crime & Disorder Committee (with a view to arranging further meetings should Members feel this is necessary).

A Member requested that an update be brought to committee in respect of making the roadsides in RCT pollinator friendly.

Committee discussed the proposals for taking the Scrutiny Committee to venues outside the formal Council Headquarters as part of the Council's

proposals to improve its arrangements for public participation in its overview & Scrutiny process.

Following discussion and consideration of the topics for inclusion, it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To agree the work programme for 2017/18 subject to inclusion of the following topics:-
 - A report in respect of making the roadsides in RCT pollinator friendly; and
 - An update report in respect of Amgen Cymru;
2. To agree to scrutinise the Strategic Assessment of Crime & Disorder in Cwm Taf is scrutinised at two meetings of the Crime & Disorder Committee (Under Sections 19 & 20 of the Police & Justice Act 2006) on the 26th October 2017 and 22nd February 2018 (previously the 25th January 2018 as set out in the draft work programme, with further meetings to be arranged as necessary);
3. To agree that the following venues are incorporated into the forward work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year as follows:-
 - Lido Meeting Room, Pontypridd (28th September 2017);
 - Aberdare Community School (26th October 2017);
 - Municipal Buildings, Pontypridd (30th November 2017);
 - Municipal Buildings, Pontypridd (12th December 2017);
 - Bryn Pica, Aberdare (25th January 2018);
 - Treorchy/Tonypandy School (22nd February 2018); and
 - Lido Meeting Room, Pontypridd (22nd March 2018).

9. EXECUTIVE RESPONSE – MOBILE LIBRARY REVIEW

In his report the Director, Legal & Democratic Services set out the response to the findings and recommendations of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee whole committee review in respect of the Mobile Library Review.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer presented the report and referred Members to the five recommendations which had been proposed by the committee and formally considered and agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on the 9th March 2017.

Committee **RESOLVED**:-

1. To receive and acknowledge the written response received from the Executive; and,

2. To monitor the implementation of the five recommendations

The meeting closed at 6.00pm

Chairman
S. A. Bradwick