

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

6th OCTOBER 2014.

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Agenda Item No. 4

**WORK OF THE STRATEGIC PROJECTS
SECTION.**

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1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report advises on the structure and work carried out by the Strategic Projects Section with Highways, Transportation and Strategic Division.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The content of the report is noted.

3.0 GENERAL OVERVIEW

3.1 The Strategic Projects service area consists of four distinct teams:-

- Flood & Taps Risk Management
- Projects
- Traffic Management
- Land Reclamation Client.

3.2 Lead by the Strategic Projects Manager the service area currently has 24 FTEs with a diverse range of skills and qualifications to deliver a professional service. The service area has Civil Engineers, Geologists, Hydro-geologists, Traffic Engineers and Environmental Engineers/Science with qualifications ranging from BTEC to Masters level.

3.3 The service area provides both statutory and project (Capital) based services. A brief overview of the service area is contained in Appendix A

4.0 FLOOD & TIPS RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The Flood & Tips Risk Management team are responsible primarily for the implementation and regulation of the following legislation
- Land Drainage Act 1991
 - Flood and Water Management Act 2010
 - Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (EU Floods Directive)
 - Tan 15 – Section 8 – Surface Water Flood Risk
 - Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act 1969
- 4.2 The flood risk legislation requires the authority to regulate any obstructions to flows in ordinary watercourse, carry out essential works (See Projects), consent any new structures to ordinary watercourses, keep an asset register of significant structures and plan for and manage flood risk at a strategic level.
- 4.3 In terms of managing flood risk, the council has now adopted a strategy which is now published and approved by the Welsh Government and it is the team's responsibility to implement this strategy. This includes the legal requirement to develop a Flood Risk Management Plan by December 2015.
- 4.3 The team also provides support for Planning Department colleagues to ensure that Tan 15 (Section 8) is complied with and also the provision of specialist advice to the projects team.
- 4.4 The team also regulates stability of the disused spoil tips with the county borough. This is carried out by a standardised visual inspection at a frequency based on the risk of instability and the consequences of a failure. There are 297 registered disused tips in the County Borough.

5.0 PROJECTS.

- 5.1 The projects team are primarily responsible for the delivery of capital projects within the following broad areas:-
- Flood Alleviation Projects
 - Transportation Projects
 - Traffic Management Projects
 - Land Reclamation/Remediation Projects
 - Land Stability Projects
 - General highway Infrastructure Projects
- 5.2 The projects team delivers many aspects of the projects such as Project Management, feasibility, detailed design, contract procurement and site supervision.
- 5.3 The projects team utilises the specialism's of the Flood & Tips and Traffic team within the overall service area to deliver these challenging schemes

5.4 Some notable projects delivered in recent years are listed below:-

- Church Village Bypass
- Upper Boat R/About – Phase 1
- Numerous Cycleway and Safe Routes
- Broadway Traffic Calming
- Rhydyfelin Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Aberaman Colliery Reclamation Scheme
- Abercynon and Aberdare Park and Ride

5.5 The Strategic projects section are currently managing projects with a budget allocation for 2014/15 of over £8.5m. This includes the following schemes:-

- Nant Gwawr Flood Alleviation Scheme (Design & Construction)
- Nant Cae Dudwg Alleviation Scheme (Design & Construction)
- Nant y Fedw Alleviation Scheme (Design & Construction)
- Bwlfa Road, Cwmdare Alleviation Scheme (Design & Construction)
- Albion Tip Stabilisation Scheme (Construction)
- Cardiff Road Aberaman Highway Improvements (Design & Construction)
- Safe Routes – Rhydyfelin (Design & Construction)
- Broadway, Pontypridd – Pedestrian Safety Scheme (Design & Construction)
- Upper Boat Gyratory Improvements – Phase 2 (Design)
- Sardis Road Gyratory (Design)
- Rhondda Fach Bus Stop Improvements (Design & Construction)
- Residents Parking – Pontypridd & Aberdare.
- Various Traffic Safety Schemes

6.0 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT.

6.1 The Traffic Management team are responsible primarily for the implementation and regulation of the following legislation:-

- Highways Act 1980
- Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
- Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991
- Road Traffic Act 1991

6.2 The legislation requires the Local Authority to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities.

6.3 The Traffic Team is responsible for Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) to maintain highway safety and the free flow of traffic. General provisions of is TRO are:-

- For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road, or preventing likely hood of such danger arising
- For preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road.
- For facilitating the passage on the road of any class of traffic (inc pedestrian)
- For preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic that is unsuitable
- For preserving the character of the road
- For preserving or improvements to the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

6.4 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide temporary road closures under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and as amended by the Road Traffic (Temp Restrictions) Act 1991. This is also administered by the Traffic Team.

6.5 Examples of Traffic Regulation Orders for controlling the movement of traffic on the highway include:-

- Speed limits
- One way streets
- Prohibition of turning
- No Entry
- No vehicles except for access
- Weight limits
- Parking & loading restrictions
- Clearways
- Prohibition of pedestrians
- Pedestrian zones

6.6 The traffic team deal with a vast number of requests regarding issues of highway safety, the free movement of vehicular traffic or on street parking. These may form the basis of projects dealt with by the Traffic Team or the Projects Team. The Traffic also team provides specialist advice to the projects team on the larger more complex projects such as The Sardis Road Gyratory.

7.0 LAND RECLAMATION CLIENT

7.1 This is a function rather than a separate team. The Strategic Projects Manager performs this function promoting projects, applying for grant and commissioning the projects team or consultants where required.

Appendix A Strategic Projects Structure

Strategic Structure (Sept 2014)



