

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 12th October, 2015 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

(Mrs.)J.Bonetto	G.Holmes
S.Bradwick	P.Howe
J.Bunnage	W.L.Langford
S.Carter	(Mrs.)S.Pickering
(Mrs.)A.Davies	T.Williams
(Mrs.)L De Vet	R.Yeo

**Other Members in Attendance
County Borough Councillors**

L.M.Adams – Chair of Overview & Scrutiny
C.J.Willis – Scrutiny Performance Co-ordinator

Officers

Mr.N.Wheeler – Director, Highways & Streetcare Services
Mr.P.Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement
Mr.A.Wilkins – Head of Legal, Corporate & Democratic Services
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors M.Weaver and D.Weeks.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Committee held on the 14th September, 2015.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

14. PROPOSED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16

The Director, Legal and Democratic Services referred Members to the 14th September 2015 meeting of this Committee where it was confirmed that the following topics be included in its Work Programme:

- Recycling (Participation rates in recycling)
- Review of the new Community Recycling Centres
- Library Service (Review of the mobile library service)

The Head of Democratic Services went on to advise Members that at the meeting of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee held on the 7th October, 2015, the Committee requested the scope of the Library Service review be widened to comprise other aspects including whether or not the savings identified as part of the 2014 service change have been realised. The Head of Democratic Services added that the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee also raised concern during the 7th October 2015 meeting (as part of considering the Quarter 1 Council Performance Report) around the percentage of bids/tenders submitted by local businesses for Council contracts i.e. 55% compared to a target of 75%. The Head of Democratic Services indicated that the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee considered this area warranted inclusion on the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

The Head of Democratic Services also sought Members consideration of the topics to be included in the Work Programme of this Committee's designated Crime and Disorder Committee (under Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act, 2006) and that these be looked at in January, 2016 when an overview of the subject matters such as Anti-Social Behaviour and Domestic Abuse will be made by the appropriate Officer(s).

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED –**

1. To agree the Work Programme as shown at Appendix 1 of the report to also include the following items as requested by Members of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 7th October, 2015:-
 - That in addition to the review of the mobile library provision to include a `financial dimension` i.e. to establish whether or not the savings identified as part of the service change implemented from June 2014 have been realised;
 - That the underpinning issues in respect of bids/tenders submitted by local businesses for Council contracts be reviewed in light of the below target performance.

2. That an overview of the topic areas that may be considered for inclusion on the Work Programme of this Committee's designated Crime and Disorder Committee be made at the meeting of this Committee scheduled to take place on the 11th January, 2016;
3. That the Work Programmes of both this Committee and the Committee's designated Crime and Disorder Committee be amended, as necessary, during the year to reflect the intended outcomes of the Committee's work and to also reflect the demands of the work.

**15. POWERPOINT PRESENTATION – DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS & STREETCARE SERVICES
PARTICIPATION RATES IN RECYCLING ACROSS THE COUNTY BOROUGH**

Members received Mr.N.Wheeler, Director of Highways & Streetcare Services, who with the aid of PowerPoint slides provided the Committee with an overview of the participation rates in recycling across the County Borough and he gave his observations under the following headings:-

- Targets/Legislation:
 - 2015/16 – 58%
 - 2019/20 – 64%
 - 2024/25 – 70%

At the meeting Mr.Wheeler informed Members that at a meeting with officials of Welsh Government, he was advised that Rhondda Cynon Taf was the most improved Council on food waste recycling and the Authority was to be used as an exemplar of good practice as it had sustained its figures and had not dipped or spiked like other Welsh Authorities.

- What has been done to date:
 - Targeting areas – door knocking
 - Awareness at supermarkets
 - Education centre at Bryn Pica
 - Green Glyncoch
 - L.W.Y.L (love where you live)
 - Enviro Vision
 - Cardiff City Project
 - School Visits
 - Zero Waste School
 - Council events
- What we have done already on Marketing:
 - Bus advertising
 - Billboards
 - Radio advert
 - Cinema advert

- Go Green
- Website
- Press releases

Mr.Wheeler stated that the Council has a fleet of 495 vehicles and notices are placed on these vehicles. The advertising materials used on the vehicles can be used again so can be interchanged every few months with no added expenditure.

- Education and Awareness:
 - Developed a purpose built education centre including a landfill safari
 - Enviro-vision Song Quest
 - Cleaning up the Game partnership with Cardiff City Football Club
 - Environmental show touring all primary schools
 - Trained all Refuse/Recycling and Cleansing staff

Mr.Wheeler informed Members that the purpose built education centre – Landfill Safari has been visited by 104 of the 110 schools within Rhondda Cynon Taf. He further stated that in April, 2016 visits would be made to Comprehensive Schools.

Members were also offered the opportunity to receive the same training that had been delivered to the Refuse/Recycling and Cleansing staff which had also been supported by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Leisure. The training session was in respect of contamination and Members could receive a presentation at the Ty Glantaf Offices, Treforest Industrial Estate.

- Recent Changes:
 - Fortnightly collections
 - Charge for special collections
 - Non collection of side waste
 - Collecting green waste separate
 - Nappy collection
 - Pre sort of CRCs (Community Recycling Centres)

Mr.Wheeler stated that the Nappy collection facility had been a success with over 8,000 properties participating.

The implementation of pre-sort at Community Recycling Centres had also seen an increase where the recycling figures at these centres had risen to 90%. This was as a result of the non acceptance of black bags and therefore individuals who use the facilities have to sort the black bags. It was hoped that the new recycling centres at Llantrisant and Treherbert would achieve 100% targets.

- Annual Results/Performance
 - The recycling performance figures were listed for the financial years starting from 2006/07 to date, which showed a steady

increase each year from 26.31% in 2006/07 to 60.57% in 2015/16 (1st Quarter). The only dip was in 2009/2010 and this was as a result of changes to the service.

- Next Steps
 - Targeted awareness in low participation areas
 - Targeted awareness on different materials e.g. food waste
 - Continue to push in legislative powers
 - Widen the training on contamination

The Director stated that he is the Lead Officer of a Group that is trying to influence the Welsh Government in changing its legislation and thus making it incumbent on everyone to recycle. Officials of Welsh Government are, for example, stressing that cardboard and other such materials cannot go into landfill, yet, councils cannot stop people putting such items out for collection in black bags.

- Low Participating Areas
 - The low participating areas in the Rhondda, Cynon and Taff areas were highlighted to Members, when it was indicated by the Director that University of South Wales (Treforest campus) were working with the Authority to improve these areas.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED –**

1. That Members of the Committee accompany Recycling Officers when visiting areas throughout the County Borough with low and high levels of recycling participation to assess opportunities for further improvement;
2. That Members receive the same training that has been delivered to the Refuse/Recycling and Cleansing staff in respect of contamination which would involve a presentation at the Ty Glantaf Offices, Treforest Industrial Estate;
3. That arrangements be made for Members of the Committee to visit the Cardiff Viridor site;
4. That the staff concerned in the Refuse/Recycling and Cleansing Sections be complimented and congratulated on the work that they have undertaken in supporting the Council and its communities to increase recycling levels and for their endeavours in raising the public's awareness in the areas associated with recycling.

**G.R.DAVIES
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.