

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, 9th November, 2015 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Borough Councillors

J. Bonetto	(Mrs) A. Roberts
S. A. Bradwick	M. Weaver
J. Bunnage	R. Yeo
P. Howe	

**Other Members in Attendance
County Borough Councillor**

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

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S. Carter, (Mrs) A .Davies, (Mrs) L. De Vet, G. Holmes, L. Langford, (Mrs) S. Pickering, D. Weeks and T. Williams.

17. 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.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Committee held on the 12th October 2015.

19. POWERPOINT PRESENTATION – PARTICIPATION RATES IN RECYCLING ACROSS THE COUNTY BOROUGH – PROGRESSING THE WORK

Members of the Committee received Mr N. Wheeler, Director of Highways & Streetcare Services who provided Committee with his presentation which set out the scope of the work to identify areas of low participation rates and to agree a programme of work to support improvement.

The Director explained that the door stepping exercise would be undertaken in an area which has been identified as one of low participation and Members were reminded that at the previous meeting it was agreed that the Director would nominate the most appropriate area for the work to be undertaken. It was confirmed at the meeting that Cilfynydd, previously highlighted as an area of low participation within Taff Ely, would be the area selected in which to target awareness for this particular exercise.

Further to the previous meeting when Members resolved to receive the same training that had been delivered to the refuse/recycling staff in respect of contamination (Minute No.15 refers) Mr Wheeler confirmed that the training session would take place on Monday, 23rd November at 2.00pm in Ty Glantaf Offices, Treforest Industrial Estate. He further explained that Mr James Kay, South Wales Regional Waste Co-ordinator for the twelve local authorities, will deliver the training to members of the Committee.

It was anticipated that the participation work would begin the week commencing the 30th November 2015 once members of the Committee had met with the recycling teams alongside whom they will conduct the door stepping exercise. Mr Wheeler outlined the different phases associated with the exercise beginning with phase one of the work which will involve the initial participation monitoring within Cilfynydd so that the teams are aware of those residents who are not engaged in recycling and can target those non participants. Before the end of the exercise (to last approximately one month) officers together with Members will be able to identify those properties that have failed to recycle during the participation monitoring period. Finally, the effectiveness of the door stepping exercise will be monitored and evaluated.

The Director of Highways & Streetcare Services confirmed that based on results from previous Recycling Participation Campaigns, targeted awareness in low participation areas and directed predominantly at non participants has impacted positively upon recycling rates across the County Borough and has supported sustainable outcomes.

Following the presentation one Member of the Committee questioned why Hendreforgen in Gilfach Goch appeared in the Rhondda area of low participating areas and not the Taff Ely area. Mr Wheeler confirmed that Gilfach Goch is part of the Rhondda area from a collections point of view.

Members of the Committee considered that the Contamination training should be made available to all Members of the Council and Mr Wheeler proposed that arrangements are made in the New Year.

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

1. That Members of the Committee receive Contamination Training on Monday, 23rd November 2015 in Ty Glantaf, Treforest Industrial Estate
2. That the door stepping campaign aimed at increasing recycling rates through a targeted approach with the Council's recycling teams commences on the 30th November 2015 (subject to all appropriate arrangements being in place)

20. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME - UPDATE

The Senior Democratic Services Officer referred Members to a paper, previously circulated, which illustrated examples of functional areas within the remit of the Committee and asked Members to consider which topics from the long list of proposed areas they would like to include on their work programme (in addition to those topic areas already agreed (Minute No. 10 Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee 14th September 2015 refers).

A Member suggested that Communities First could be a consideration for the work programme. In response the Service Director, Performance & Improvement highlighted that a review of Communities First and its future delivery is currently underway and, as it forms part of the tackling poverty agenda, it may be prudent to await the outcome of the review in the new year to avoid any duplication of work.

Another Member suggested Parks as a possible topic for review following the re-structure of the service area.

With reference to the Committee's current work programme, the Chair informed Committee that he had written to the Leader of the Council suggesting that the service change proposal relating to the Library Service may be premature given that this Committee is due to consider the mobile library service as part of its work programme. The Chair also notified Members that he would be attending the Cabinet meeting on the 10th November 2015 when the service change proposal would be considered so that he can raise this issue with Cabinet.

A Member suggested Highways as a review topic for this Committee's consideration and in particular traffic calming measures.

Discussion also centered on Crime and Disorder and in particular anti social behaviour which many Members agreed would be a topical area to consider. A number of Members had concerns within their own wards relating specifically to the issues of anti social behaviour and substance misuse. However, Members

were reminded that as the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee (under Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act, 2006) these issues would be considered in January 2016 when Members would receive an overview of the subject matters by the appropriate Officers before considering whether to scrutinise further topics in more detail.

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement reminded Committee that topics for review should be well thought out and have a clear scope and intended outcome. The Service Director added that possible topic areas should be assessed against the criteria, as reported to the 6th July 2015 meeting of this Committee, to enable Members to make informed decisions around topic selection. One Member suggested it would be good practice to include the scope and any relevant questions as a regular agenda item for a specific review to assist the Committee with its work.

Members were also provided with an updated work programme which reflected the items referred by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee to this Committee for review and subsequently agreed by this Committee at its previous meeting on the 12th October 2015 (Minute No. 14 (1) refers).

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. That the following proposed topics are assessed by Members against a set criteria at the next meeting (to determine whether they should be incorporated into the work programme):
 - Highways (Traffic Calming)
 - Parks
2. That the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee await the outcome of a review of Communities First which may then inform the work programme of the Committee.

**G.R.DAVIES
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.