

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 Monday, 4th July 2016, at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Borough Councillors

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| J. Bonetto | (Mrs) S. Pickering |
| S Bradwick | M. Weaver |
| J. Elliott | T. Williams |
| G. Holmes | R. Yeo |
| P. Howe | |

Officers

Mr N. Wheeler – Director, Highways & Streetcare Services

Ms K. May – Head of Democratic Services

Mr A. Wilkins – Head of Legal - Corporate & Democratic Services

Also in Attendance

County Borough Councillor P. Baccara (Ex Officio Member)

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S. Carter, (Mrs) A. Davies, (Mrs) L. De Vet and L. Langford.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

8. 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 4th July 2016.

Matters Arising – Committee agreed that a further letter be sent to RCT Homes expressing its disappointment at not having received a response in respect of concerns that some residents of RCT Homes do not appear to be engaged in the Council’s recycling initiatives. Committee also requested that another letter be sent to the Police Crime Commissioner inviting him to a future meeting of the Committee sitting in its role as the Council’s designated Crime & Disorder Committee.

9. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Democratic Services presented the report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services in respect of drafting a Scrutiny Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2016-17. The Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee was reminded that a number of areas had already been identified for on-going attention in 2016-17 such as the Community Recycling Centres and the Council’s Mobile Library Service which had been set out in the work programme.

Further discussion ensued regarding identifying potential work topics and Members of the Committee considered the Cabinet Work Programme and the topics which fall within the remit of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Committee. In conclusion Committee wished to undertake pre-scrutiny of the following topics ‘HR Policies Update’ and ‘Maximising Attendance’ from the Cabinet Work Programme which the Head of Democratic Services confirmed would be raised at the next Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Members of the Committee also identified ‘grass cutting’ as a further topic for inclusion on the work programme following concerns that there could be duplication of work in this area. It was confirmed that further discussions concerning the work programme would be held between the Chair & Vice Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee together with the appropriate officers and that the response of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to committee’s request to undertake pre scrutiny of the aforementioned topics would be reported at its September 2016 meeting.

Members of the Committee requested that a site visit to Viridor Waste Plant in Cardiff is arranged for all Committee Members and that the October meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee is held in Bryn Pica, the Council’s waste management facility, which will enable members of the Committee to undertake a tour of the facility prior to considering the formal business in the Education Centre at Bryn Pica.

Members of the Committee requested quarterly updates from the Director of Highways & Streetcare Services in respect of recycling data which they had previously found useful. The Director, who was present at the meeting, agreed that this could be delivered on a quarterly basis.

The Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee advised members that the closing date of the consultation on the future kennelling facilities for Rhondda Cynon Taf was the 4th July 2016 at

5.00pm. He expressed disappointment that the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee had not formed part of the Council's consultation process or had been given an opportunity to scrutinise the proposal to date. Committee requested that an email be sent to the Leader of the Council to highlight Committees' concerns in respect of this matter.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED**:-

1. That the request of the Committee to undertake pre scrutiny of the following topics, 'HR Policies Update' and 'Maximising Attendance' in line with the Cabinet Work Programme, is raised at the forthcoming meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a view to including these items on its work programme;
2. That the topic of grass cutting is also included on the Committee's work programme;
3. That quarterly updates are presented to Committee in respect of the Council's recycling data/information by the Director of Highways & Streetcare Services;
4. That an email is sent to the Leader of the Council on behalf of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee to raise the aforementioned issues relating to the future of kennelling facilities within RCT;
5. That arrangements are made for Committee to visit the Viridor Waste Plant in Cardiff and for the October 2016 meeting of this Committee to be held in Bryn Pica (with a tour of the facility prior to consideration of the formal business of the Committee).

10. REPORTS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. Participation Rates in Recycling across Rhondda Cynon Taf
- II. Number of Bids & Tenders Submitted for Council Contracts

Two reports of the Director of Legal & Democratic Services were presented in respect of committee reviews undertaken into the 'Participation Rates in Recycling across RCT' and the 'Number of Bids and Tenders submitted for Council contracts'. Both served to outline the work undertaken by members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee during the municipal year 2015/16 and the recommendations subsequently formulated.

Members of the Committee considered the final reports and recommendations and **RESOLVED** that the following recommendations be taken forward by the Executive:-

Participation Rates in Recycling across RCT:-

- a) That all Elected Members of the Council undertake training on the recycling targets, contamination and the recycling collection system so that they can fully understand the service

b) That the project to increase and maintain a high level of participation in both dry and food recycling is rolled out to other areas across Rhondda Cynon Taf to support the Council meet its legislative targets.

The Number of Bids & Tenders Submitted for Council Contracts:-

a) The reporting timescale for this Key Performance Indicator (LPRO107 % of bids/tenders submitted by local businesses) is revised to an annual reporting frequency (rather than quarterly) which will reflect a more meaningful end of year aggregation

11. PROGRESS OF THE COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES IN RCT

Through the aid of a Power Point presentation the Director Highways & Streetcare Services provided Members of the Committee with an update in respect of the two new community recycling centres in Llantrisant and Treherbert. Detailed information together with data for each of the community recycling centres was provided which served to highlight the improved performance of both since they opened.

It was reported that the Llantrisant community recycling centre which opened in 2015 has recently been shortlisted for a national award due to its innovative design. The Director also advised Committee that the intention is to utilise the area beneath the centre to sell recycled goods with all profits being donated to a local charity. The Community Recycling Centre in Treherbert opened in March 2016 and it was reported that performance was very good, averaging 539.99 tonnes of recycling since it opened.

The presentation concluded with a table which highlighted the performance of all seven community recycling centres across the County Borough. It was confirmed that they are a contributing factor to the much improved overall municipal recycling rate in Rhondda Cynon Taf for 2015/16 which is now on target to meet the Welsh Government's recycling target of 64% by 2018.

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.

The meeting closed at 5.45pm

Chairman
G. R. Davies