

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at Bryn Pica, Llwydcoed, Aberdare, Rhondda Cynon Taf on Monday, 3rd October 2016, 2015 at 5.15 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Borough Councillors

S. Bradwick	(Mrs) S. Pickering
S. Carter	M. Weaver
G. Holmes	T. Williams
P. Howe	

Officers

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

Mr N. Wheeler – Director, Highways & Streetcare Services

Mr D. Batten – Head of Leisure, Parks & Countryside

Mr A. Critchlow – Parking Services & Streetworks Manager

Mr J. Spanswick – Parks & Countryside Manager

Mr S. Gammon – Service Manager

J. Nicholls – Senior Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance

County Borough Councillor (Mrs) A. Crimmings – Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Culture

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) J. Bonetto, (Mrs) A. Davies, (Mrs) L. De Vet, J. Elliott, L. Langford, R. Yeo and P. Baccara (ex officio member)

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

25. 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 5th September 2016.

Matters Arising – Minute No. 20– The Chairman read aloud a briefing provided by the Head of Procurement and Energy Management in response to Committee’s query regarding the sub contracting of RCT contracts. The response outlined the standard terms and conditions that the Council uses for the provision of services to include standard clauses on sub contracting. Committee was satisfied that the response had addressed their concerns.

26. AMGEN CYMRU

The Director, Highways and Streetcare Services provided an oral update at the meeting in respect of issues relating to agency staff and employment practices at Amgen Cymru in light of recent publicity. The Director explained that Amgen Cymru operates as an arm’s-length waste management company and as such the contract tendering and other operational issues are the responsibility of the company and it’s Board of Directors.

The Director, Highways & Streetcare Services confirmed that a letter in response to the concerns raised by the GMB Union had been issued on behalf of the Council (which was available at the meeting for committee to view) and further, Smart Solutions Ltd had also since addressed all the issues by holding a series of surgeries for workers should they have any personal concerns.

Following discussions and questions asked of the Director who confirmed that Smart Solutions Ltd is fully compliant with the Council’s Ethical Procurement Policy, Committee **RESOLVED** to note the update.

27. STREETWORKS: SCAFFOLDING & SKIPS

Members of the Committee received the Parking Services & Streetworks Manager who, with the aid of Power Point, presented an overview of the Streetworks Department under the following headings:-

- Legislation
- Skips
- Scaffolding
- Enforcement
- Reporting / Contact
- Questions

At the meeting committee was provided with information relating to the legislation for Streetworks co-ordination, skips and scaffolding control, skips and scaffolding charging and enforcement. Details were provided in respect of permits available for skips and scaffolding and of the non compliance procedures followed by the Streetworks Department when required. Committee was reminded of the importance of local intelligence, particularly local members when reporting issues to the department. In response, Members requested that a fact sheet is compiled to assist them in identifying and reporting incidents of non compliance.

There followed a series of questions to the Parking Services & Streetworks Manager who agreed that a copy of the presentation would be emailed to all Members following the meeting.

RESOLVED that:

1. A copy of the power point presentation is emailed to members of the Committee following the meeting;
2. A factsheet for Members is compiled by the service area to assist them to identify and report incidents of non compliance regarding skips and scaffolding in their communities.

28. MAINTENANCE OF GRASS AREAS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

The Committee received both the Parks & Countryside Manager and the Service Manager who provided Members with an overview, by means of a Power Point Presentation, of the maintenance of grass areas within Rhondda Cynon Taf under the following headings:-

- Organisation (Parks)
- 3 Operational Park Depots
- Statistics
- Grass Cutting
- Machinery Used
- Grasscutting Script
- Trees Script
- Grass Cutting Layer
- Highway Flail Layer
- Cut and Collect for Biodiversity
- Softrak Cut & Collect Machine
- Overgrowth Operations
- Streetcare Overgrowth Operations
- Overgrowth Statistics (to 31st August 2016)
- Overgrowth Script
- Overgrowth Layer
- Overgrowth Examples
- Future Plans – Grass Cutting & Overgrowth

Members were also provided with the opportunity to view a short film of the Softrak cut and collect machine and it was advised by the Director, Highways & Streetcare Services that the green waste generated from the machine (over 1,000 tons in 6 weeks) has greatly contributed to the overall recycling figures for the County Borough.

Following the presentations, the officers responded to a number of questions specifically in respect of the Streetcare overgrowth operations and cemetery grass cutting within RCT. In conclusion the Committee thanked the officers for their presentations and **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the content which Members of the Scrutiny Committee had requested.

29. **VIRIDOR PRESENTATION**

Prior to Committee's visit to the Viridor Waste Plant in Cardiff in November 2016, Members were presented with a Power Point presentation by the Director, Highways & Streetcare Services which served to provide Committee with an overview of the facility.

Following the presentation Committee **RESOLVED** to note the information in advance of their visit.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Chairman

G. R. Davies