

Mae'r cofnodion hyn yn amodol ar gymeradwyaeth yng nghyfarfod priodol nesaf y Pwyllgor

These Minutes are subject to approval at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, on Thursday, 28th June 2018

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor S. A. Bradwick – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

A. Chapman	D. Owen-Jones
M. Diamond	S. Pickering
M. Fidler Jones	E. Stephens
E. George	W. Treeby
D. Grehan	T. Williams
G. Hughes	

Officers

Mr N. Wheeler – Director Highways & Streetcare Services

Mr S. Gale – Service Director, Planning

Mr S. Humphreys – Head of Legal, Planning & Environment

J. Nicholls – Senior Democratic Services Officer

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair introduced himself to the new Scrutiny Members and welcomed them to his Committee. He outlined the key Scrutiny functions and politely requested that Members refrain from being parochial within the scrutiny arena and avoid political point scoring.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor W. Owen, G. Stacey, M. Weaver and County Borough Councillor D. R. Bevan, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development and Housing.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd March 2018 subject to it being noted that County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick resident's Parking Bay Zone is 302 not 202 as set out in the Minutes and subject to a misspelling of 'Trivallis' on page 6.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 37 – Inclement Weather Arrangements – It was confirmed that the letter of thanks has been sent on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee to all the frontline staff across the County Borough to acknowledge their hard work during the recent snowfall.

Minute No. 38 – The Chair confirmed that any issues relating to the Housing Associations would be dealt with by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. However, Members were advised that the Committee, sitting in its role as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee would be considering Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in partnership with the Housing Associations.

6. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF AGENDA

The Committee agreed that the agenda would be considered out of sequence and as detailed in the minutes set out hereunder.

7. ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE COUNCIL'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Service Director, Planning who, with the aid of Power Point slides outlined the background to the work that was undertaken by Scrutiny in 2014/15 which resulted in the Council introducing a small dedicated Development Control Committee for the 2014/15 municipal year. The decision was influenced by the Council making more decisions contrary to officer recommendation than other Councils in Wales and by the Welsh Government/RTPI study which considered the performance of the Development Control Committees across Wales.

In addition in response to the work of Scrutiny improvements to the visual aids for the public were introduced and more use was made of technology in presentations.

Members were presented with a detailed slide which demonstrated the number of Members overturns which had declined to 0.79 cases a month under the new arrangement compared to 3.79 under the area committees. The Service Director also alluded to the previously larger agendas compared to the more manageable sized agendas currently circulated which allows Members to consider each application in detail.

In conclusion the Service Director Planning suggested areas for Scrutiny to consider in relation to the following:-

- Annual report and review using key facts and figures?
- Review and revision of 'Code of Good Practice'?
- Member Training Programme?
- Working Group?
- Any other innovations deemed appropriate?

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed the information and questioned the Service Director, Planning.

In response to a query regarding the appeals system, the Service Director confirmed that there was a review of the Planning system in Wales in 2014/15 that considered the appeals system and the changes suggested by the Member were considered and discounted in the review. It was reported that when Scrutiny last looked at the performance of the DC Committee, the majority of appeals lost following refusals contrary to officer recommendation involved highways reasons for refusals (often parking issues) and further explanation was provided in respect of the judicial review process. The Service Director suggested that Members may wish to invite the Director of Wales Planning Inspectorate to a future meeting of this Committee to discuss the issue in greater detail.

It was clarified that due to the change to the Scheme of Delegation (agreed by Council at the time the all Member DC Committee was reduced) whereby an increased number of applications are dealt with under Officer Delegation there has been a clear reduction in the number of applications going before the Planning and Development Committee. In response to a query regarding retrospective planning applications, the Legal Officer explained that a retrospective application can be made under section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 although such an application is made at the risk of the developer as there is no guarantee that permission will be granted.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** that:-

1. Appropriate training be given to all Members of the Council to facilitate their understanding of the planning process;

2. Progress in relation to the Planning and Development Committee be tracked via an Annual Report to be presented to the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee;
3. The 'Code of Good Practice' be reviewed and revised as appropriate; and
4. The Director of Wales Planning Inspectorate be invited to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

8. STREET ENFORCEMENT

The Committee received the Director, Highways and Streetcare Services who presented an overview of Streetcare Enforcement within Rhondda Cynon Taf. He advised of the current enforcement structure and the areas that are enforced such as littering, dog fouling and fly posting. A detailed update was provided in respect of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) since its implementation on the 1st October 2017, under the following headings:-

- Number of Fines Issued
- Type of offence
- Where it's happened? Top 10
- Issues Encountered/Excuses
- Abuse

Scrutiny was informed that to date 209 (210 since the publication of the presentation) fines have been issued in respect of offences relating to dog fouling. Members were also informed that there has been an increase in the number of fly tipping prosecutions since 2015. In conclusion the Director alluded to new enforcement activity within the County Borough relating to the contamination of recycling, communal collection points, misuse of recycling bags and no side waste policy.

Following the presentation, scrutiny raised several queries in respect of the recent changes to the refuse and recycling arrangements within the County Borough and the Director reminded Scrutiny that the Service will respond to any concerns raised by Members within their communities. The Director confirmed that resources are sufficient to carry out enforcement activity efficiently across the County Borough and added that the improvements as a result of the introduction of the PSPO would be reported to Scrutiny in due course.

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

1. To acknowledge the information contained within the presentation; and
2. To receive a list of officers, their roles and responsibilities for the Highways and Streetcare Service area.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

9. WORK PROGRAMME

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, Members consideration was sought in relation to the draft Work Programme which was attached at Appendix 1.

The Chair outlined the key topics for consideration such as the review of Local Carbon Vehicle (LCV) infrastructure in Rhondda Cynon Taf which had been referred to Scrutiny as a result of a Notice of Motion to Full Council on the 28th February 2018, Town Centre Management and Recycling Strategy to be considered at the meeting in September 2018 and a review of the statutory process for the removal of caravans and other obstructions from the highway. It was suggested that any progress reports relating to the Community Infrastructure Levy would be referred to the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee who currently review the CIL Annual Report.

Members were also reminded that should they be in agreement, there will be two meetings of the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committees in October 2018 and February 2019, the latter to consider Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in partnership i.e. with Housing Associations. It was confirmed that the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) would also be in attendance.

A request was made that Scrutiny undertakes a further visit to Viridor in Cardiff for the benefit of new Members.

In conclusion the Senior Democratic Services Officer pointed out two amendments to dates on the current work programme namely the 15th November and 13th December 2018.

Following consideration of the Work Programme it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. To agree the amended Committee Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2018/2019;
2. To agree the topics for consideration by the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee; and
3. To undertake a visit to Viridor, the Energy Recovery Facility in Cardiff.

10. MOBILE LIBRARY CONSULTATION

The Senior Democratic Services Officer referred Members to the Mobile Library consultation on the Council website which is seeking views on the proposal to improve the quality and range of services provided by the Mobile library Service by:-

- Reducing the number of existing vehicles used for delivery of the Mobile Library Service from 3 to 2;
- Investing in two new purpose built vehicles, which unlike the existing service vehicles would have onboard access to Wi-Fi and be suitable from which to provide other Council information services;

- Changing the method of delivery from 393 short stops per fortnight to 48 longer stops every three weeks that would enable the service to expand the range of provision available on the vehicles.

Members were reminded that the consultation closes on the 3rd July 2018 and they were invited to forward their views as a collective should they wish to. The Senior Democratic Services Officer would collate them and forward them for consideration on behalf of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the information.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

Chair
S. A. Bradwick