



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee meeting held virtually on Thursday, 14 January 2021 at 5.00 pm

County Borough Councillors - Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor S Bradwick (Chairman), Councillor T Williams (Vice-Chair), Councillor M Weaver
Councillor G Stacey, Councillor A Chapman, Councillor W Treeby, Councillor D Grehan
Councillor E George, Councillor S Pickering, Councillor A Fox, Councillor M Diamond
Councillor G Holmes, Councillor A Crimmings

Officers in attendance

Mr Nigel Wheeler – Group Director Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services
Mr Simon Humphreys – Head of Legal Services
Mrs Sarah Daniel – Senior Democratic Services Officer

13 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

14 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the 12 November 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

The Chair advised that the letter referred to in the minutes was sent to the Director on behalf of the Committee

15 Impact of COVID19 on Community Recycling Centres

The Group Director Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services presented a report that updated Members of the on the impact on the Community Recycling Centres during Covid 19 period. He advised members of the changes in the way the CRC's had to operate during various lockdown periods to comply with COVID Legislation and stated that members of the public, in large, complied with the guidelines when using the CRC's.

He advised members of the performance of the CRC's during the first 6 months of the financial year and highlighted that the target set by Welsh Government had still been achieved despite the challenges of the global pandemic. He added that the figures were down just 0.56% on the same period last year.

The Chairman asked how is this Christmas tree recycling had been operating.

The Group Director advised the Committee that approximately 60-65 trees had been collected per day and all trees should be cleared by the end of the week. He added that the street cleansing teams had been supporting multiple service areas during this time and the volume had been quite substantial. He further advised members that once the trees were collected, they were shredded which meant that approximately 800 trees fitted in to one skip.

The Chairman asked how the recycling figures were over the Christmas and New Year period.

The Group Director advised that more than double the amount that was usually collected was collected in the week before, during and after Christmas on dry recycling and food waste. He added that over 400 tonnes of food waste and 450 tonnes of dry recycling had been collected in one day, whereas the previous year this figure would have been collected over a week. He further added that the residual figure had also dropped.

A members asked if there was currently a backlog of recycling from the Christmas and New Year period.

The Group Director stated that there was currently no backlog. He advised that four streets had suffered a delay due to ice and the vehicles not being able to safely access the street. He added that recycling would normally still be being sorted at Bryn Pica in February, however this had been cleared already.

A member asked what implications the first lockdown had on fly tipping. The Group Director stated that the impact of the first lockdown was not significant. He advised members that the issue was catching the offenders and fining them as they never leave evidence. Flytippers that had left evidence had been prosecuted accordingly.

A members stated that some of his residents had reported issues trying to get a supply of recycling bags

The Group Director advised that due to the national lockdowns and people having to stay at home there had been a huge surge in recycling. This combined with some of the distribution points being closed had resulted in some people having difficulties getting a supply. However he advised that there were still plenty of distribution points still open and if residents were in short supply they were able to order a supply online. He added that if the Authority knew that residents were in need then they were still able to deliver them.

A member thanked the officer for the report and thanked all staff for the way in which they have carried out their duties throughout the pandemic and the way in which they had also dealt with a small minority of people being rude to staff during this time. He asked for clarification on the issue

of recycling that is contaminated and what final figure was actually reported as recyclable material.

The Group Director advised the Committee that if for example 10 tonnes of recycling was collected and 5 of that was contaminated, then the final figure that is reported is 5 tonnes. The Contaminated amount does not get included in the overall figure he confirmed.

A member asked if residents could now recycle all wrapping paper as they were allowed to include it in their recycling this year, but had not been able to in previous years.

The Group Director clarified that we cannot recycle all wrapping paper but we asked the public to put it in for recycling as some of it could be recycled, for instance plain, non-coated paper with no glitter etc. But as this was quite specific we asked the public to include all wrapping paper and it was then sorted at the CRC's. He added that if there was any doubt, we would rather it be included as a potential item for recycling than it going to landfill.

A member asked if there were issues with the supply of food waste bags. The Group Director stated that he was not aware of any issues and there was plenty of supply. He added that if distribution points or residents had run out of stock then they need to inform us within plenty of time for us to be able to get a new supply out within sufficient time.

A member asked if there was anything the Authority could do regarding materials that piled up outside charity shops. He added that people were still donating by leaving bags outside charity shops when they were closed, despite there being clear signage not to do this.

The Group Director confirmed that this was a national problem. He clarified that whilst this was the responsibility of the charity shops to clear it away the Authority does support them in doing this. He added that if their crews are in the area and they know the shops are closed they will clear this away for them

RESOLVED: Members noted the report

16 Bryn Pica Waste Management Facility

The Group Director updated members on the potential new development at Bryn Pica and presented them the proposed Strategic Business Case.

He advised that outline planning permission for the Eco Park was granted in Dec- 18 and works are progressing to clear the site ready for development. Outline plans for the Eco Park include:

- Development 6,000 m2 of commercial / industrial indoor floor space within 4 light industrial units.
- Options for expansion of a 5th Industrial unit as the scheme develops.
- Provision of an external operational / storage space.
- Electrical and Heat Off-Take connections to Tomorrows Valley Waste Treatment Plant.
- Offices, welfare and educational facilities.
- Targeting 60 new jobs in the circular economy across the Eco Park Scheme.
- The presentation will set out the strategic case for the proposed investment associated with the proposed Bryn Pica Eco Park. The scheme is strongly aligned with the requirement of Welsh Government's Future Generation Act 2015, particularly in respect of the emphasis on sustainable living and the provision of good quality local employment opportunities.

RESOLVED: Members noted the update

17 Chair's Review and Close

The Chairman thanked the officers for attending and asked for an update to come back to members in 6 months' time.

18 Consultation Links

Members were advised of the consultations available for consideration by the Committee

19 Urgent Business

None reported

**Cllr S Bradwick
Chairman**