

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 Bryn Pica, Llwydcoed, Aberdare, Rhondda Cynon Taf
on Thursday, 25th January 2018.

PRESENT

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

County Borough Councillors

A. Chapman	D. Owen-Jones
M. Fidler Jones	G. Stacey
P. Howe	W. Treeby
W. Jones	T. Williams

Officers

Mr N. Wheeler – Director Highways & Streetcare Services

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

J. Nicholls – Senior Democratic Services Officer

Other Members

G. P. Thomas – Vice Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

A. Crimmings – Cabinet Member, Environment & Leisure

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors G. Jones and M. Weaver.

26. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chair extended a welcome to County Borough Councillor P. Howe who had recently been appointed to the Committee.

The Chair also announced that a special meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee would be held on Thursday, 8th March 2018 at 5.00pm in the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale to enable Scrutiny to be consulted on the draft supplementary planning guidance in respect of houses in multiple occupation.

27. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor M. Fidler Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 3 – Overview of the work conducted by County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings, Cabinet Member Environment & Leisure – ‘Work for the RSPCA’

28. 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 12th December 2017 subject to it being noted that County Borough Councillor G. Stacey submitted his apology for the meeting.

29. OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE CABINET MEMBER, ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings, Cabinet Member, Environment & Leisure provided an oral progress report on the delivery of her respective area of the Corporate Plan. The Cabinet Member advised scrutiny that she had a varied portfolio which covers a wide remit such as waste and recycling, street cleansing and the recently introduced Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO – dog controls). Scrutiny was informed that to date 106 dog fouling fixed penalty fines of £100 have been issued to irresponsible dog owners.

The Cabinet Member also referred to her work relating to Leisure and Cultural Services (Strategic Projects) and Heritage Services & Visitor Attractions such as the Park & Dare Theatre in Treorchy and the Coliseum Theatre in Aberdare (also working in close collaboration with the Muni Arts Centre in Pontypridd). Emergency Planning and Home to School Transport were also highlighted as being part of the Cabinet Member’s portfolio.

Scrutiny was advised that in order to monitor and secure continuous improvement in performance within the portfolio areas the Cabinet Member works closely with several senior Officers and conducts monthly one-to-one meetings with them. She added that she represents the Council at various events, national, regional and local forums and is accountable for her responsibilities to the Council.

In conclusion the Cabinet Member stressed the importance of Scrutiny and how she welcomed the engagement sessions with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee to discuss work programmes, a practice that would continue on a quarterly basis.

The Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Delivery Scrutiny Committee confirmed that he and the Vice Chair would also be meeting with other Cabinet Members given the wide ranging remit of the Scrutiny Committee.

There followed a number of questions to the Cabinet Member in respect of her portfolio areas; she confirmed that where appropriate further information would be obtained and provided back to the individual Councillor.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for attending the meeting and providing Scrutiny with a valuable insight into her portfolio.

30. AMGEN CYMRU

The Director, Highways and Streetcare Services presented a Power Point presentation in relation to Amgen Cymru under the following headings:-

- Who are we?
- What we do
- Food Waste Plant
- Mattress Plant
- Future Plans
- Bryn Pica Eco park
- Cynon Valley Gateway
- What Else?
- Current Funding Position
- Bryn Pica Eco Park – Our Vision
- Bryn Pica Eco Park – Our hope
- Bryn Pica Eco Park – Our Future

In conclusion, the Director outlined plans for an Eco Park in Bryn Pica which would accommodate, amongst other things, a mattress recycling unit, AD Plant which serves 3 councils at present, a transfer station for residual waste and an education centre. It was also confirmed that currently a number of businesses are looking to or have shown interest in relocating to the site.

In response to a query the Director confirmed that in the future there may be the possibility of linking the Education Centre to the school syllabus so as to involve local schools and utilise the fully interactive Education Centre to its full potential.

It was **RESOLVED** that the information contained within the presentation would continue to 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.

31. UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) (DOG CONTROLS)

The Director, Highways and Streetcare Services presented a Power Point presentation in respect of progress of the Public Spaces Protection Order &

Enforcement, 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
- Enforcement – Type of offence

Scrutiny was informed that to date 106 fines have been issued in respect of offences relating to dog fouling and a breakdown of where the offences have taken place was provided.

Following the presentation, scrutiny raised a query in respect of whether appropriate, clear signage has been used in parks, playgrounds and the countryside to inform residents and visitors of the new rules relevant to where they are walking their dogs. The Director assured scrutiny that posters and billboards had been displayed and new signage installed in many areas (as directed by the Parks department).

In conclusion, scrutiny praised the campaign and implementation of the PSPO (dog controls) and the immediate impact that the initiative has had and it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the information contained within the presentation.

32. PRE SCRUTINY – INCREASING RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

The Director of Highways and Streetcare Services presented his report, in discussion with the relevant portfolio holder, Councillor Ann Crimmings, in respect of Improving Recycling Performance. Members of the Committee were asked to undertake pre scrutiny in this area to inform a recommended way forward and feedback to Cabinet.

In presenting his report, The Director of Highways and Streetcare Services invited Committee to review and challenge the proposals before them to improve the Council's recycling rates and improve service delivery. He referred Members to the recommendations set out in the report to approve the changes to the Council's residual side waste policy from the 4th June 2018.

The Director reminded Scrutiny that the Council has been proactive in addressing the issue of improved recycling and a number of initiatives have been undertaken to help improve the municipal recycling rate and meet the statutory target. Failure to meet these targets will result in significant fines for the Local Authority.

Members were informed that as a result of a number of awareness campaigns which have encouraged residents to waste less and recycle more, the Council's recycling rate improved to over 64% in 2016/17; however, the Director advised Committee that in order to meet the next target set at 70% by 2024/2025 further changes would still need to be made. These proposals were outlined as follows:-

- Residents that have their waste collected in black bags, primarily the Rhondda – the current four black bags allowance per fortnight is reduced to two bags;
- Residents that have a bin waste collection, primarily in the Cynon and Taf - no side waste per household per fortnight irrespective of the bin size will be permitted;
- Over the Christmas period there would be a relaxation of the restriction whereby there will be a 4 bag limit for residents that have their waste collected in black bags and residents with a 120l bin could have one bag of side waste whilst there would be no change for any resident with a 240l bin;
- That between 1st November and the 1st March of each year the Council's green waste collection service be a fortnightly collection which reverts back to a weekly service over the remainder of the year;
- That the Council by way of a notice, inform residents that they cannot place recyclable material within their residual bin/bag and if the Notice is breached, and after a warning has been given, then a Fixed Penalty Notice could be issued; and
- That an awareness campaign is run for at least two months prior to the implementation of the changes and then to continue to support the awareness campaign once the changes have started.

The Director advised Scrutiny that predominantly the proposals were targeted at those residents who are not engaged with the current recycling initiatives or those who recycle very little, so that they can participate and make a positive contribution to improving the overall municipal recycling rate within RCT. He reminded scrutiny that many other Welsh Councils have already or are considering reducing their residual waste collection frequency to three or even four weekly collections so as to influence the recycling percentages but he gave assurances that there was no intention to introduce this in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

In conclusion, the Director explained that key to the implementation of the proposals, should they be agreed, would be a clear and simple message to all residents by way of an awareness campaign which would give them sufficient notification and offer support to those residents who need additional assistance following the changes.

Some Scrutiny members asked whether there could be a stepped approach to the reduction of black bags in the Rhondda, from four to three in the first

instance with a reduction to two following a period of stability. The Director advised that the reduction from four to two bags per fortnight from the outset would have a greater, more effective impact on the overall recycling rates and a lesser impact on those residents who are already engaged in recycling.

Members agreed that running an effective and clear awareness campaign is crucial so that residents are fully aware of the changes in place and can access support where needed. They also agreed that the proposed four stage approach whereby officers issued three warnings to residents prior to issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice was a sensible approach which offered the recycling teams the opportunity to influence residents through direct contact and engagement before the enforcement teams are involved.

The Chair reminded Scrutiny that all domestic animal waste can be recycled with the Council's green waste which is collected on a weekly basis all year round but he suggested that this service should be better publicised to the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Chair also suggested that a booking system during busy periods for larger than normal amounts of green waste recycling (such as Christmas and summer) would better concentrate the work of the green recycling teams. The Director advised that this option would be considered and reviewed in the summer of 2018.

With regard to the report in respect of improving recycling performance within Rhondda Cynon Taf, it was **RESOLVED** that the following feedback from the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee be reported to the Cabinet:-

- That Scrutiny supports the changes to the Council's residual side waste policy from the 1st June 2018 (as set out at 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 of the report); and
- That it is better publicised that domestic animal waste can be recycled with the Council's green waste on a weekly basis.

33. MALADMINISTRATION COMPLAINTS 2016/17

In his report the Director, Legal & Democratic Services set out information in respect of complaints of maladministration made to the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales during 2016/17.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Maladministration Complaints Report for 2016/17 and associated appendices overall provides a fair and balanced assessment of performance for Rhondda Cynon Taf for the period.

The meeting closed at 6.35pm

Chairman
S. A. Bradwick