



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Thursday, 27 February 2020 at 5.00 pm at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Park, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

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

Councillor S Bradwick (Chair)
Councillor T Williams Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor G Stacey Councillor E George
Councillor W Owen Councillor S Pickering

Officers in attendance:-

Alistair Critchlow – Parking Services and Enforcement Manager
Martyn Hughes - Head of Finance Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services and Chief Executive's Group
Simon Humphreys - Head of Legal Services
Sarah Daniel – Senior Democratic Services Officer

1. Declaration of Interest

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

None

2. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 26 September 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.
approved

3. Consultation Links

The Chairman advised Members of the links to the consultations that were available to members to participate in. Members were reminded if they had any queries on the consultations they could contact the Scrutiny Team.

South Wales Parking Group Update

The Parking Services and Enforcement Manager provided a presentation to Members which updated them on the current position of the South Wales Parking Group.

The Officer explained that they were looking to expand the service they offer to other neighbouring Local Authorities.

A Member asked how many penalty notices issued are progressed to the bailiff stage for the collection of funds not paid.

The Officer responded that the national PCN payment rate was around 75% but usually RCTs payment rate is around the 80% mark. He added that the Authority cancels very few PCNs, at around 7%, which again was below the national average. He advised members that for the fine to be progressed to a debt collection agency, the motorist will have likely received and ignored three to four letters. He added that the Authority incurs no cost for it to be escalated to the collecting agent as all costs are recouped by them from the motorist.

In response to a question from a member the officer reassured that the collection agency that they use follow special rules when dealing with vulnerable adults. They remain in close contact with the Authority throughout and ask us if they want them to proceed with the collection of funds. He advised members that they had received less than 10 formal complaints regarding the collection agents since CPE was introduced in 2012, (and none have been upheld). He further advised that they all wear body cameras for the protection of themselves and the public.

A Member asked which area in RCT was the most profitable

The Parking Services and Enforcement Manager advised that the majority of the fines issued were in the Aberdare and Pontypridd area as they had the most restrictions and car parks. He added that if surplus revenue was generated through CPE, it was ring-fenced, so could only be reinvested back into the service area, or across the wider Highways / Streetcare area.

A Member was concerned that in the Llanharry area there was often illegal parking but as there were lower numbers of enforcement officers in that area motorists continued to park inappropriately. The Officer responded that Civil Enforcement Officers were deployed right across the County Borough, but if members felt there was a particular problem in their area, some enhanced enforcement could be offered; Members should contact the department to discuss.

The Chairman asked if Enforcement officers were issued with a standard uniform that they should be wearing when they are on patrol as they are representing the Council and he felt they should be immediately identifiable as an enforcement officer and look professional.

The Officer responded that they do have a set uniform that they should wear and are reminded regularly that as a representative of the Council they should look smart as they are a representative of the council. Appropriate action is taken with officers if they are found to continually not follow the uniform guidelines.

A Member raised the issue of people parking on pavements and asked if there was anything the council could do.

The Officer responded that parking on pavements was a police matter and not something the Council could enforce as we do not have the power to do so.

A Member asked if the Authority has any jurisdiction over private companies that charge you as soon as your vehicle enters the car park. The officer responded that as the companies managed car parks on private land the Authority had no power to intervene.

A Member raised the issue of parking on the pavement on the lower end of Mill Street in Tonyrefail. He stated that residents had to park half on the pavement so cars were able to pass but this was causing an issue as wheelchair users were not able to safely pass, he added that the PCSO's in the area do not issue fines as they have stated that it has acted as a traffic calming measure.

The Officer responded that there were parking restrictions on the lower end of Mill Street and if these restrictions were abused then motorists would be issued with a PCN accordingly.

The Chairman wished to place on record the Committee's thanks to the officers in the Parking Services team for their exceptional work and stated that he had already fed-back to the Leader how impressed he was with their work.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the update and presentation provided to them

4. Understanding the Council's Budget

The Head of Finance – Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services and Chief Executive's Group provided Members with a presentation on the Council's 2019/20 revenue budget and the Council's 3 year Capital programme with the aim to aid the Committee's understanding of the Council's revenue and Capital budgets.

A member asked what the cost of providing the recycling bags for all RCT households was. The Officer responded that approximately 20 million recycling bags and 5 million food waste bags were provided on an annual basis for the collection of recycling with an estimated cost of £1.5 million.

A Member noted that RCT would need over £100m to deal with the impact of Storm Dennis. He asked how this was budgeted for.

The Officer responded that there was £1.5 million allocated from general reserves to deal with the immediate response and that discussions are ongoing with Welsh Government and, in turn, with national government regarding other funding. The member asked if the £1.5 million from general reserves was enough. The Officer responded that there was a special Council meeting the following week on 4th March relating to the impact of Storm Dennis and it was recommended that specific questions should be asked in that full council meeting.

A Member asked if any department in the Authority had a reduction in funding for the next financial year. The Officer responded that information would be detailed in a report to full council next week on 4th March. He reminded members also that the budget was reported quarterly to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

A Member asked that all Committee Members receive a copy of the presentation. The Officer responded that a copy was available on the Council's website and the link would be sent around to Members after the meeting.

5. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business reported

6. Chair's Review and Close

The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting is on 26 March 2020. The Chairman advised that he would ask the Group Director Prosperity to give the committee an update at their next meeting on the recycling figures for 2019

The meeting closed at 17.58

**CLLR S. BRADWICK
CHAIR.**