



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GWŶS I GYFARFOD O'R CYNGOR

C.Hanagan
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
Y Pafiliynau
Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian
Cwm Clydach CF40 2XX

Dolen gyswllt: Ms J Nicholls - Senior Democratic Services Officer (01443 424098)

DYMA WŶS I CHI i gyfarfod o **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU - CYNNAL GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS, CYMUNEDAU A FFYNIANT** yn cael ei gynnal yn **Ystafell Bwyllgorau 1** ar **DYDD IAU, 11EG GORFFENAF, 2019** am **5.00 PM**.

Caiff Aelodau nad ydyn nhw'n aelodau o'r pwyllgor ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd gyfrannu yn y cyfarfod ar faterion y cyfarfod er bydd y cais yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd. Gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i Wasanaethau Democrataidd erbyn Dydd Mawrth, 9 Gorffennaf 2019 trwy ddefnyddio'r manylion cyswllt uchod, gan gynnwys rhoi gwybod a fyddwch chi'n siarad Cymraeg neu Saesneg.

AGENDA

Tudalennau

1. DATGAN BUDDIANT

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Aelodau, yn unol â gofynion y Côd Ymddygiad.

Noder:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag ef a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw; a
2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, mae rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

2. COFNODION

Derbyn cofnodion o gyfarfod blaenorol y Pwyllgor Craffu – Cynnal Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Cymunedau a Ffyniant a gafodd ei gynnal ar 14 Mawrth 2019.

3 - 8

3. RHAGLEN WAITH DDRAFFT Y PWYLLGOR CRAFFU – CYNNAL GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS, CYMUNEDAU A FFYNIANT 2019/20.

Derbyn cofnodion o gyfarfod blaenorol y Pwyllgor Craffu – Cynnal Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Cymunedau a Ffyniant a gafodd ei gynnal ar 14 Mawrth 2019.

9 - 18

4. HYFFORDDIANT

Pennu gofynion hyfforddiant Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Craffu – Cynnal Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Cymunedau a Ffyniant ar gyfer y flwyddyn i ddod.

5. ADRODDIAD AR REOLI DEUNYDDIAU AILGYLCHADWY YN RHONDDA CYNON TAF.

Derbyn adroddiad (a chyflwyniad PowerPoint) oddi wrth Cyfarwyddwr y Gyfadran – Ffyniant, Datblygu, a Gwasanaethau Rheng-flaen mewn perthynas â rheoli deunyddiau ailgylchadwy yn Rhondda Cynon Taf.

19 - 22

6. MATERION BRYN

Trafod unrhyw faterion sydd, yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd, yn faterion brys yng ngoleuni amgylchiadau arbennig.

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu

Cylchreliad:-

(Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol Y Cynghorydd S Bradwick a Y Cynghorydd T Williams – Cadeirydd ac Is-gadeirydd, yn y drefn honno)

Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:

Y Cynghorydd M Weaver, Y Cynghorydd G Stacey, Y Cynghorydd A Chapman, Y Cynghorydd Owen-Jones, Y Cynghorydd W Treeby, Y Cynghorydd D Grehan, Y Cynghorydd E George, Y Cynghorydd G Hughes, Y Cynghorydd W Owen, Y Cynghorydd S Pickering, Y Cynghorydd A Fox and Y Cynghorydd M Diamond

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Thursday, 14 March 2019 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 M Weaver
Councillor A Chapman	Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor E George
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor W Owen
Councillor S Pickering	Councillor E Stephens
Councillor A Fox	

Officers in attendance

Mr N Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services
Mr D James - Head of Regeneration & Prosperity
Mr A Wilkins - Director of Legal Services
Mr D Powell, Director of Corporate Estates
Mrs A Virgo, Project Team Leader - Funding and Implementation
Mrs W Edwards – Head of Community Services
Mr N Kelland – Principal Librarian

37 Apologies

An apology of absence was received from County Borough Councillors M Fidler Jones, G Stacey and W Treeby.

38 Declaration of Interest

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

39 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 7th February 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

40 Announcements and Introductions

The Chair made the following announcements:-

1. County Borough Councillor S. Pickering and member of the Scrutiny Committee has recently completed an expedition raising money for the British Legion;
2. Mr Steve Gammon, Streetcare Cleansing & Enforcement Manager is

retiring and on behalf of the Committee, the Chair extended his thanks to Mr Gammon for his contribution to Scrutiny;

3. Commend the Council's Legal Services on the successful prosecution of an individual who has been handed a suspended prison sentence in Court for assaulting an Enforcement Officer – supporting the Council's zero-tolerance approach to violence against its staff.

The Chair introduced the following officers and congratulated them on their recent promotion:-

Mr D Powell, Director of Corporate Estates

Mr N Wheeler, Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services

Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

41 Rhondda Cynon Taf's Welsh Public Library Standards Assessment 2017-18

The Head of Community Services presented the feedback received from Welsh Government in respect of the Library Service's performance against the Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS) for the period 2017-18. Members were reminded that at the Scrutiny meeting held in December 2018 an interim report was presented as at that time the full assessment had yet to be published on the Welsh Government website.

The Head of Community Services reported that the Sixth Framework of Welsh Public Library Standards includes 12 core entitlements and 16 Quality Indicators designed to monitor how well library services provide for the people of Wales. From a Local Authority point of view, Rhondda Cynon Taf met all of the 12 core entitlements in full, achieved 5 of the 10 quality indicators in full, 1 in part and failed to achieve 4.

It was stated that overall the Welsh Government's narrative assessment of the local authority performance was positive however, the Head of Community Services acknowledged that a number of factors outside the immediate control of the service have had a major influence on the Council's performance. The Library Service will not be able to meet the quality indicator on opening hours as reduced funding in 2016 has meant the opening hours have reduced. In respect of the ICT (Q111) it was reported that the decision was taken not to invest in any further public access computers as only 24% of the available time was being used and library users are bringing their own devices into the libraries.

In respect of the All Wales data, set out at Appendix 3 of the report, the Head of Community Services commented that making comparisons with other local authority library services is difficult as they have developed their services in different ways.

A number of positive comments were received in respect of the improvements and investments made to the Library Service in RCT, specifically in relation to the opening of the new facility at Rhydyfelin, the new development at Taff Vale and the planned community hubs at Ferndale and Mountain Ash. This long term investment was considered a positive development. There has been an increase in the number of hours by volunteers, particularly young volunteers, which has been evidenced in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Following the presentation the Head of Community Service responded to a

number of queries in respect of staffing levels and investment in staff training with funding being made available for 2 members of staff to enrol onto a professionally recognised course.

Concern was raised that the 4% target on Welsh medium stock was not met. In response the Principal Librarian confirmed that the number of Welsh books obtained from the Welsh Books Council has increased, are prominently displayed and include a number of downloadable audio and e-books. He added that this stock did not include school age curriculum related books as these are costly, however the provision for e books is proving popular.

A Member asked for more publicity for the mobile library routes and timetable in the form of posters and leaflet drops to advertise the service in their area.

Following further discussion it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the content of the Annual Assessment report received from Welsh Government.

42 Progress of the Taff Vale Redevelopment

With the aid of Power Point, the Head of Regeneration & Prosperity presented the report of the Director of Regeneration, Planning & Housing in respect of progress of the Taff Vale Redevelopment with emphasis on achievements since the item was last reported to Scrutiny in September 2017.

Scrutiny was reminded that there is a renewed confidence in Pontypridd through the development of key regeneration schemes such as the Pontypridd Lido which has increased the footfall to the town and re-established its strategic location within the County Borough.

The Head of Regeneration & Prosperity reminded Scrutiny that the scheme incorporates three buildings on site, two large office accommodation buildings incorporating street level food/drink units and a third which will house a 21st Century library, a Council customer contact point, a café and a new leisure and fitness centre. In addition it was reported that the development will also include a direct link with Ynysangharad War Memorial Park via a pedestrian route across the river.

Scrutiny was provided with an update on the key milestones to have taken place since the previous progress report and informed that advancement has since been made with the main construction works and the steel frames to the three buildings which are nearing completion. Preparation work has also begun on the footbridge following appointment of the appropriate contractor who specialises in bridge design.

An update was also provided in respect of the Contractor's Community Benefits Plan target of 2280 weeks of recruitment and training of local people (long term unemployed, trainees, apprentices and work experience placements) With 1248 weeks having been achieved to date it was anticipated that the target would be surpassed by the end of the contract.

It was reported that on the 7th March 2019 the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford AM, had visited the Council's flagship development at the former Taff Vale Shopping Centre site to officially announce the new name of the site as Llys Cadwyn. The name translates to Chain Court, reflecting the strong, proud, industrial heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf, and the world famous Brown Lenox & Co. chain works, which were situated in Pontypridd during Wales' industrial

heyday.

In conclusion, the Head of Regeneration & Prosperity explained that as part of the Contractors commitment to Pontypridd there had been discussions around a Community Legacy Project and the bowls pavilion within the park had been proposed for improvement using donated labour and materials from the Contractor.

The Head of Community Services took the opportunity to report on progress of the library facility within the development as something she had been involved with since its inception. Members were provided with an overview of the project which will include a children's area that includes space for crafts, a teenage space, an expanded collections area that will house such artefacts as the Evans James family bible which has been conserved by Glamorgan Archives. The Head of Community Services stressed the importance of working closely with the architects to keep in line with customers' needs and build a library that delivers an effective community space.

Following the presentation, it was agreed that Members of the Committee attend a site visit of the development in due course to see first-hand the progress made.

In response to a query regarding the importance of a clerk of works on site to monitor and sign off every stage of the development, the Director of Corporate Estates confirmed that external professionals and RCT staff inspect the project of works and are jointly responsible for signing off every stage of the project with a monthly report to confirm the arrangements.

In respect of an update regarding the letting of office space within the development, it was confirmed that a marketing campaign and brochure would be launched shortly to advertise the space available. A lettings agent has been appointed who has already received a number of enquiries, in advance of the campaign and an open day has been held which also generated a number of interests.

In terms of parking facilities for the new development, it was confirmed that there are 70 car parking spaces available to users of the buildings which would complement the existing car parks in Berw Road, Sardis Road, the Goods Yard and St. Catherine's Corner which currently offer plenty of capacity to visitors to the town. Scrutiny was reminded that the South East Wales Metro, part of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, will improve the connectivity by public transport across the region and offer four trains per hour in each direction.

It was **RESOLVED:-**

1. To acknowledge the progress of the Taff Vale Redevelopment;
2. That Scrutiny Members undertake a site visit to the development site in the next few weeks; and
3. That a further update will be reported to this Scrutiny Committee on the next key stages of the development.

43 Urgent Business

The Chair announced that the Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services wished to present a music video recently made by a young

resident of RCT, which had been shown to members of the Senior Leadership Team. The video had a strong message about the importance of recycling across the County Borough and it was hoped that the video would be shown to schools in RCT.

Members agreed that it was a useful tool to promote recycling in RCT, especially amongst school aged children. The Chair thanked the Group Director for providing Scrutiny with the opportunity to view the video.

This meeting closed at 6.20pm

**Cllr S Bradwick
Chairman**

Tudalen wag



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 JULY 2019

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/2020

REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to agree its Work Programme up until the end of December 2019 following its endorsement by members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 1st July 2019.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:-

- 2.1 Review and agree the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2019/20 (up until December 2019 in the first instance) (attached as Appendix 1); and
- 2.2 Agree that the Work Programme be reviewed at quarterly intervals to ensure the items identified for inclusion are relevant and that any additional referrals are incorporated.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members will recall that at the special meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, held on the 1st May 2019, a report was presented by the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications which provided a response to the request from committee members to review the Council

Scrutiny arrangements and to update Members on the progress to have arisen from the WAO report in respect of the Council's Scrutiny arrangements 'Fit for the Future'.

3.2 Members acknowledged that, although a number of positive changes have taken place since the revised scrutiny arrangements in 2015, they agreed that improvements to some current practices were needed and they welcomed the suggestions for improvements to the following specific areas:-

- Review the terms of reference of each scrutiny committee;
- Streamline the Scrutiny work programmes and agendas;
- Formalise the process for Scrutiny to facilitate Council motions; and
- Further enhance the public engagement section of the website.

3.3 In terms of the Scrutiny Work Programmes, it was agreed at the meeting by Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (and previously by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs), that they were in need of review as in previous years they had become laden with reports that were often for information only where the impact of the work was likely to be minimal. This had detracted from the more valuable and targeted outcomes which is of value to the Council and to the local residents of RCT.

4. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

4.1 Through research and consideration of the Council's Scrutiny priorities, a new and more streamlined work programme template has been developed with enough flexibility to account for additional items throughout the year. These additional items may be referred from Council, Audit Committee or other sources such as individual Councillors or residents of RCT.

4.2 The Scrutiny Work Programmes have been developed initially for six months (up until December 2019) so that each individual scrutiny committee will have the opportunity to review their respective programmes going forward, on a quarterly basis) to ensure that all items listed are still valid and are being brought forward as planned.

4.3 To support this process a scrutiny criteria form has been developed which considers issues such as impact, performance and the rationale behind the chosen topics (Appendix 2). This criteria has been critical in setting an informed work programme for each Scrutiny Committee and will ensure that when identifying topics for investigation, the scrutiny work is beneficial to the respective Scrutiny Committee and in the public interest.

4.4 The Forward Work Programmes have also aligned themselves with the Council's Corporate Performance themes and priorities as well as acknowledging the Well-being of Future Generations goals.

5 SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

5.1 Below is an overview of scrutiny activity since May 2019 so that Members can

follow the sequence of events and understand the process for delivering the draft work programmes.

Month	Activity
May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review - Overview & Scrutiny 'Fit For the Future' -Members receive a report on the proposals to review the Council's Scrutiny arrangements and an update on progress arising from the WAO report 'Fit for the Future' at its meeting on the 1st May 2019 (likewise the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs received the same information); • Research is undertaken to find the best fit for the Council's Scrutiny Work Programme template;
June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs meet to consider the draft terms of reference and draft Scrutiny Work Programme template; • Scrutiny Work programmes are drafted using a criteria, incorporating matters from 2018/19, notices of motions and in line with the Council's Corporate priorities to produce a draft proposal of topics (up until the end of December, as agreed, for further review to take place so as to measure the effectiveness of the work programmes for the following 6 months);
July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft Scrutiny Work programmes are presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (1st July 2019) for:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recommended sign off by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O&S) of its own work programme; • Endorsement of the four themed Scrutiny Committees to their respective meetings to follow (for determination of its own work programme and deciding on what evidence to seek to fulfil its scrutiny role);
July-December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the Scrutiny Work Programmes and assess their suitability and effectiveness in October 2019.

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report and no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed necessary for the purposes of this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The considerations and comments of Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs as well as members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee have been sought in

respect of the draft Scrutiny Work Programmes and it is for Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee to agree these developments at its meeting to be held on the 11th July 2019.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

10 LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 The proposals to address the WAO report proposals includes arrangements to strengthen the Council's consideration and scrutiny of its work, through 'the lens of the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act'. These arrangements will be embedded into the business of the Council as set out in the Policy Statement agreed by Cabinet on [2 November 2016](#).
- 10.2 The proposals outlined within the report will work to ensure a sustainable and robust scrutiny structure is in place which will effectively challenge policy decisions taken forward.

11 CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The Council is continuing its work to strengthen its scrutiny arrangements and these enhancements support the council in responding to the findings arising from the recent WAO report and will further strengthen governance and accountability arrangements.

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

‘Holding the Executive to account in respect of all three priorities within the Council’s Corporate Plan....Economy (Building a strong economy), People (Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone), Place (Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work).’

Each of the Council’s Scrutiny Committees is responsible for setting and agreeing its own work programme by identifying a list of themes and topics which fall under the remit of each individual Scrutiny Committee. Following discussion with the Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny Members a practical, realistic and timetabled programme can then be developed.

The scrutiny forward work programmes should provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected; be outcome focussed; ensure that the method of scrutiny is best suited to the topic area and the outcome desired; align scrutiny programmes with the council’s performance management, self-evaluation and improvement arrangements.

Throughout the year, there are a number of ways in which additional issues can be considered for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme and ideas for inclusion may come from a number of sources such as:-

- Individual Councillors;
- Performance or budget monitoring information;
- Inspection reports;
- Referrals from Council (such as Notices of Motion), Cabinet/Audit or other scrutiny committees;
- Service users;
- Monitoring the implementation of recommendations previously made by the Committee; and
- Local Residents

The Cabinet is also required to produce forward work programmes and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee keeps abreast of forthcoming items or topics which may enable scrutiny to be involved in the development of Council policy prior to its formal consideration by Cabinet. It is important to bear in mind that an element of flexibility is applied to each individual work programme that provides Committees with the capacity to scrutinise new / urgent issues that arise during the year. For this reason the Scrutiny Work Programmes will be published for a 6 month period and reviewed every quarter.

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE					
Date/Time	Overarching Item	Officer	Cabinet Member	Invited/ In attendance	Scrutiny Focus
11th July 2019, 5pm Committee Room 1, Clydach Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Work Programme 	Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services			Scrutiny & Challenge – For Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee to consider their work programme for 2019/2020.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Needs 	Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications			To consider and develop a schedule of training requirements for members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's plastic waste policy (and other recycling developments) 	Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services			Scrutiny & Challenge – To review the Council's plastic waste policy.
12th September 2019, 5pm Committee Room 1, Clydach Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet & Scrutiny Engagement Session 	Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services	√	Scrutiny & Challenge – Consider the progress made In advancing the portfolio responsibilities of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services.

10th October 2019, 5pm Committee Room 1, Clydach Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly Review of the Scrutiny Work Programme 	Director of Democratic Services & Communications			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Work Programme suitable and relevant to the Terms of Reference? Does the Work Programme illustrate clear outcomes and objectives? Members of the Committee to provide comment in relation to the Work Programme.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the Scrutiny Working Group “Recycling in Communal Areas” 	Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the findings to date of the Scrutiny Working Group to include draft recommendations.
14th November 2019, 5pm Committee Room 1, Clydach Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways, Transportation & Strategic Projects Supplementary Capital Programme 	Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Service Director, Frontline Services			Scrutiny & Challenge – To assess the detailed Capital Programme for Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects.
12th December 2019, 5pm Committee Room 1, Clydach Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rhondda Cynon Taf’s Open Spaces – Parks, Play areas and Pitches 	Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Head of Leisure Parks & Countryside			Scrutiny & Challenge – To review the parks, play areas and pitches across the County Borough to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Other Areas for exploration:-

Streetcare Services

PSPO – Dog Fouling

Bryn Pica/Education Centre

Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's)

Resident's Parking (Back-office Penalty Charge Notice (PCN arrangements)

Town Centre Street Furniture

Training Requirements:-

To be considered at the first Scrutiny Committee in July

Current Scrutiny Working Groups:-

Recycling in Communal Areas



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF RECYCLABLE MATERIAL IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

**Author: Nigel Wheeler, Group Director of Prosperity, Development and Frontline
Services**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on the management of recyclable material in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the content of the report; and
- 2.2 Task the Service Director - Democratic Services and Communications to undertake the appropriate report of how the Council facilitates the use of recyclable waste in the future.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will be aware of recent press coverage about plastic waste from the UK being found dumped outside the town of Jenjarom, Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. The illegal dumping of waste featured in a three part KEO Productions documentary for the BBC "*War on Plastic with Hugh and Anita*" with the first programme scheduled for transmission on 10th June 2019.
- 3.2 Within the rubbish at Jenjarom, it was reported by the programme that one Rhondda Cynon Taf Council recycling bag was found. We have not had access to the

conclusions formed by the documentary, but we have carried out our own investigations into why a Rhondda Cynon Taf recycling bag, with no waste inside, was found in Malaysia.

4. INFORMATION PROVIDED IN RESPONSE

- 4.1 It is important to highlight that until being contacted by the production company responsible for this series that, to our knowledge, which was based upon the contractual arrangements we have in place, all our recyclable waste was being processed in the correct way.
- 4.2 The Council has conducted a full investigation with the accredited company concerned to find out why a Rhondda Cynon Taf recycling bag was found in Malaysia.
- 4.3 The company concerned maintain that the correct procedures have been followed in respect of managing the recyclable waste of this Council. The Council no longer utilises this company and can confirm that since 31st May 2018, the Council has not exported any waste materials outside of the EU.
- 4.4 This Authority was asked to take part in a BBC Documentary on plastics and were told the show wanted to highlight the good practice work being undertaken by the council
- 4.5 The Council was able to effectively investigate the formal process a bag would have gone through to end up at the reported location, as the council only use registered contractors. As there was a contractual arrangement in place we have relied upon the integrity of the registered contractors.
- 4.6 For the record the company involved in the export have informed us they were confident it was not through their processes that a bag would have arrived at this location as they utilize registered outlets. The council ceased its contractual arrangements with this company in May 2018.

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The Council continues to ensure that as much of its recycling is processed in the UK in a sustainable manner and will continue to look for markets closer to where the material is collected from.
- 5.2 The Council can also confirm that 97% of our waste was processed in the UK. The remaining 3% was for specific reasons, such as paper mill capacity in the UK, treated and processed outside the UK under EU and the Environment Agency licenses.
- 5.3 In response to this discovery, the Council has also sought assurances and evidence from all its UK waste processing contractors, all of whom are licensed and regulated by the Environment Agency, to reaffirm that all Rhondda Cynon

Taf Council's waste has been properly processed in the UK. All the companies have provided evidence that this is the case.

5.4 The Council supports the action being taken by the Environment Agency to investigate and prosecute organisations that have not complied with their licences to recover and recycle plastics exported to countries such as Malaysia but are fraudulently sending the waste to landfill or illegally dumping it.

5.5 As Members will be aware, the Council's recycling bags are freely available across the County Borough.

5.6 RCT Council continues to develop an Eco Park at Bryn Pica where companies will process materials collected in the County Borough utilising green energy produced on site and highlighting true circular economy.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 There are no Consultation implications aligned to this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 There are no Legal Implications aligned to this report.

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10.1 The recycling processes we adopted align themselves to the Corporate Plan and Corporate Priorities.

10.2 This is linked with the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, helping to create a resilient Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

10.3 The Council's response to Net Zero – the Committee on Climate change was recently reported to Cabinet on 18th June 2019.

10.4 The report seeks to understand its impact on the environment and respond to the issues set out in the Committee on Climate Change Report – Net Zero. The future actions that arise as a result of the recommendations in the report will set out new requirements and aspirations of the new Council Corporate Plan and will take full regard to the 7 National Wellbeing goals.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 RCT Council is proud of its recycling services and prides itself on being at the forefront of continuous improvement in this area.
- 11.2 Since the subject matter of recent media coverage, the Council has conducted a full investigation with the companies which it has entered into contractual arrangements to process recyclable material.
- 11.3 The council continues to progress its Eco Park plans and the development of the new Material Recycling Facility, which is currently under construction.