



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE SUMMONS

C Hanagan
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: Ms J Nicholls - Principal Scrutiny Officer (01443 424098)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a meeting of **PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at the **Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Park, Tonypany, CF40 2XX** on **THURSDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 2019** at **5.00 PM**.

Non Committee Members and Members of the public may request the facility to address the Committee at their meetings on the business listed although facilitation of this request is at the discretion of the Chair. It is kindly asked that such notification is made to Democratic Services by Tuesday, 12 November 2019 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

AGENDA

**Page
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1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. MINUTES

To approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th September 2019.

REPORTS OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2019-20

To consider the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

11 - 20

4. CONSULTATION LINKS

Information is provided in respect of relevant [consultations](#) for consideration by the Committee.

OFFICER REPORTS

5. RECYCLING UPDATE

To receive an update from the Group Director, Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services in respect of the recycling performance for the first 6 months of 2019/20.

21 - 24

6. HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION AND STRATEGIC PROJECTS

To receive a report on the Capital Programme for Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects.

25 - 34

7. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items, which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Circulation:-

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee
(County Borough Councillor S Bradwick and County Borough Councillor T Williams respectively)

County Borough Councillors:

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

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Thursday, 12 September 2019 at 5.00 pm at the Committee Room 1, 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 G Stacey	Councillor A Chapman
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor E George
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor W Owen
Councillor M Diamond	

Cabinet Member

Councillor A Crimmings, Cabinet Member Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr N Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services
Mr S Humphreys, Head of Legal Services

51 Apologies

An apology of absence was provided by County Borough Councillors A.S. Fox and S. Pickering.

52 Welcome

The Chair extended a welcome to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services who was in attendance to update scrutiny members with an update on progress made in advancing her portfolio responsibilities.

53 Declaration of Interest

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

54 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 11th July 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

55 Cabinet & Scrutiny Engagement

The Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services provided an

overview of the portfolio responsibilities of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services to include key areas within Waste Services, Street Cleansing and grass cutting, facilities cleaning, leisure and play areas.

The Group Director reported that through awareness raising and media campaigns as well as working directly with communities and residents, the provisional recycling rate for the County Borough has reached over 68% for the first quarter, exceeding the 64% target for 2019/20 set by Welsh Government. The targeted engagement with communities and schools through various recycling competitions means that RCT is close to achieving its future target of 70%.

The Group Director indicated that the Eco Park development and new MRF, currently being installed in Bryn Pica would open up further opportunities for RCT in achieving its Welsh Government targets. Members were assured that further to the installation and development of the MRF facility in Bryn Pica, a site visit would be arranged for Scrutiny to see first-hand the efficiency and effectiveness of the new equipment which will improve the quantity and quality of recyclable materials.

The Group Director praised the street cleansing services as one of the most productive and effective service which can be evidenced by the decrease in the amount of dog fouling and graffiti on the streets of RCT, 97.6% of which were graded as B and above the 2017/18 all Wales figure of 95.8%. He also reported a decrease in the number of fly tipping incidents, despite the change to the waste collection allowance. Surveillance, patrols and a combination of enforcement action has impacted positively on this activity which can be a blight on the environment.

The Group Director was pleased to announce that a further three schools have opted to utilise the in house cleaning services of the Council which will generate additional income. The cleaners are trained to a high standard and the work is monitored on a regular basis with open communication between the Heads of the Schools and the Council to ensure a high standard of cleaning is maintained. The Group Director also referred to the investment made to the 18 public conveniences and 24 urinals across the County Borough to modernise the facilities, it was noted by Committee that no public conveniences have been closed.

With regards to the Council's fleet, the Group Director explained that the cyclical fleet replacement programme is looking at ways to reduce the Council's overall fleet size by undertaking service reviews to reduce the number of vehicles and the operational costs. He reported on a number of challenges facing the service such as vehicle purchase prices and the severe industry shortage of qualified motor mechanics. Members were informed that the fleet is striving to meet the latest design standards in Carbon/NOX gas emissions.

Other areas within the Cabinet Member's portfolio include the Civil Parking Enforcement Service which has successfully assumed the responsibility for back-office PCN processing function from Merthyr Tydfil and since has received a number of expressions of interest from other local authorities for this Council to conduct the work on their behalf.

In conclusion the Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services provided an update on issues within the countryside and public rights of way

service areas such as its continued development of the biodiversity grassland management programme and the Council's significant investment in its leisure facilities and development of the 4G pitches across the county borough.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee posed a number of questions following the presentation. A query was raised in respect of the new MRF facility in Bryn Pica and whether it can identify black plastic through its new technological process. The Group Director confirmed that the new system is fully able to process all materials and in large quantities which will improve the recovery of recyclable materials.

With regards to tackling dog fouling and the introduction of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) from October 2017, additional staff resources have been identified to enforce the dog fouling which, together with awareness raising campaigns has reduced the percentage of dog fouling incidents. The Group Director assured Members that the enforcement teams target hotspots and undertake patrols as resources allow but it can be difficult to cover the whole of the County Borough. He confirmed that there were no plans in place to change the provision for dedicated dog bins in RCT.

Members praised the Council's recycling process as being effective and easy for residents to undertake. However, Members raised concerns that some residents are still unaware of what they can recycle and asked if there was value in the Council reducing the frequency of its residual waste collection to show that recycling is a key priority for the Council. The Group Director referred to the National Behavioural Change campaign which would be looking to educate the public as to what they are able to recycle as a more effective way of interacting with and informing residents of RCT.

Members agreed that the Street Cleansing Service has made excellent progress and is successfully maintaining a high standard of cleanliness of our streets and highways. In particular, the team at Dinas Depot was praised for being reactive and responsive.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services endorsed the good work of the staff within each of the service areas within her portfolio and praised the good working relationships between Councillors and Officers to produce effective and clear results in areas such as street cleansing and recycling. The Cabinet Member referred to the recent community recycling engagement day in Rhydfelin as a great example of Members and Officers working together to achieve the same goal. In this instance to support and advise residents on the Council's recycling process and to improve engagement where possible.

The Cabinet Member reported on the Council's significant investment in its leisure facilities such as the new upgrades at Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre which has prompted an increase in its membership. She referred to the town centre investments across the County Borough such as LLys Cadwyn in Pontypridd and to the heritage and visitor attractions across RCT which have gained recognition and received a number of accolades.

In response to a query as to how the play areas are prioritised for refurbishment, the Cabinet Member clarified that a full assessment is undertaken to identify the play areas that are in need and this remains a core commitment of the Council as this year as further funding has been allocated.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Acknowledge the information in the report and in the update of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services; and
2. Receive additional information in respect of:-
 - i) The number of baby changing facilities available across the county borough; and
 - ii) The number of home to school transport appeals in respect of bus passes received annually.

56 Recycling in Communal Areas

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications presented the final report of the Scrutiny Working Group which was established to deal with 'Recycling in Communal Areas' and he asked members of the Scrutiny Committee to consider and endorse the recommendations to the Council's Cabinet.

Members were reminded that the Working Group was set up following a presentation to Committee by the Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services at its meeting on the 27th September 2018 which highlighted the concerns around the increase in black bags, contaminated recycling and fly tipping at communal bin collection points (BCP's). Members resolved to set up a working group to address the concerns relating to issues at the BCP's and to consider the development of future policy.

At its inaugural meeting the working group established two sub groups to consider and progress two specific programmes of work and officers from the Council's Waste team and Democratic Services joined forces to arrange a public engagement day in Rhydfelin which had been identified as part of a trial to improve some of the concerns.

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications referred members to the 16 recommendations set out in the report which had been formulated by the working group to be considered by Cabinet.

The Chair wished to extend his gratitude to all the Council Officers involved in the work and gave particular thanks to the lead officer in Waste Services for her commitment to the project. He hoped that the children involved in the art competition would be invited to see their artwork being printed.

Whilst reviewing the recommendations, in particular recommendation 16 relating to the provision of two additional enforcement officers to be provided to the Waste Service department, concern was raised that should that particular recommendation be implemented at this time, it could have a potential detrimental impact on resources elsewhere within the service area. In view of this, a motion was put forward that a caveat be attached to recommendation 16 as follows:-

'that consideration of recommendation 16 is delayed until after the Council's Revenue Budget (Provisional Settlement) is known.'

A vote was taken on the matter, the motion fell and it was **RESOLVED** to submit the recommendations in their entirety, as set out in the report, for the consideration of the Cabinet.

This meeting closed at 6.10 pm

**Cllr S Bradwick
Chairman**

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th NOVEMBER 2019

SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMMES

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is seek Members proposals to develop a forward work programme for the next six months. Members are asked to consider the draft forward work programme (attached as Appendix 1) and determine whether the items included (particularly from January 2020 –March 2020) are relevant and in line with the terms of reference of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Public Service Delivery, Communities Scrutiny Committee.:-

- 2.1 Review and agree the draft Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2019/20 (which now includes work programme topics from January to March 2020);
- 2.2 Identify any additional items Members wish to consider including in the forward work programme;
- 2.3 Consider any training requirements that will assist Members in their role; and
- 2.4 Consider providing the necessary flexibility to accommodate pre-scrutiny opportunities and early engagement in policy development; Members should also consider providing the opportunity for consideration of items generated through future public engagement.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members will recall that at a meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, held on the [1st July 2019](#), a report was presented by the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications, which outlined a number of changes to the Scrutiny arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 3.2 One of the improvements included the development of a more streamlined forward work programme, which contained less items for consideration at each committee meeting to allow for more in depth review of topics and potential referrals from Council, Audit Committee and other sources.
- 3.3 Initially, the scrutiny work programmes were developed on a six monthly basis (up until December 2019) so as to give each individual scrutiny committee the opportunity to take stock and review their respective programmes going forward. The attached draft work programme contains items for consideration for the remaining Municipal Year, from January 2020 to March 2020.
- 3.4 The attached draft work programme has been compiled from current business identified and matters relating to the Council's Corporate Performance themes and priorities.
- 3.5 When setting their work programme Members are asked to consider and acknowledge their role relating to the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals and the importance of ensuring that the decisions of the Council are progressed through the lenses of the Act.
- 3.6 The proposed work programme also incorporates matters previously identified by Scrutiny members such as:-
- Capital Programme for Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects;
 - South Wales Parking Group (SWPG) Update;
 - Continuing to challenge the Council's Municipal Recycling rates.
- 3.7 A series of Cabinet/Scrutiny engagement sessions were held throughout October between the Scrutiny Chairs, Vice Chairs, respective Cabinet Members and Senior Leadership Officers, which supported the Scrutiny arrangements going forward and also informed the respective forward work programmes.

4. TRAINING

- 4.1 To assist Scrutiny Members in fulfilling their role a training session was arranged for all RCT scrutiny members and co-opted members on Friday, 25th October 2019 (9.30am-12.30pm). The session was facilitated by Dr Dave McKenna, a dedicated scrutiny practitioner with ten years' experience including as Manager of Swansea Council scrutiny team. He has presented at national conferences in Wales and hosted workshops at three Centre for Public Scrutiny annual conferences.

- 4.2 The scrutiny training session was solution focussed and asked Members to consider what works well in their own local authority and what Members are looking to improve by using good practice ideas. One of the key aims of the session was to explore how scrutiny in RCT can have more impact through improved questioning.
- 4.3 Further to the Scrutiny training session, ongoing training requirements are a key consideration and therefore Members are asked to identify any other gaps in their development particularly in relation to undertaking scrutiny of the items listed on the forward work programme.
- 4.4 It is important for all members of scrutiny to engage in the training opportunities provided to support their role.

5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 The Council continues to progress opportunities for the public to engage in the scrutiny process. Further enhancements are underway to provide better access to the business of scrutiny online. This includes providing more user-friendly information to support the public engaging in this important element of the Council's democratic processes and overall governance functions.
- 5.2 Members are asked to consider the Council's Scrutiny Public Engagement Protocol, agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the [13th December 2018](#).
- 5.3 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee will shortly consider subject areas to be promoted through social media, for the public, to select as matters for scrutiny to explore and consider. Members are asked to provide flexibility in their work programmes to allow sufficient opportunity for scrutiny of these areas, where they fall within the remit of the committee.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Determining its own work programme and deciding on what evidence to seek to fulfil its scrutiny role; asking relevant and timely questions at meetings and participating in activities that the Committee has agreed to pursue outside of its formal meetings are all key to effective scrutiny.
- 6.2 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.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 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.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The considerations and comments of Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs have been sought in respect of the forward work programmes and it will be for the Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee to review and agree its own work programme at its meeting on the 14th November 2019.

9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

- 11.1 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](#).
- 11.2 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.

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
11 th 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.
12 th September 2019, 5pm Council Chamber, 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.
	<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.

<p>14th November 2019, 5pm Council Chamber, Clydach Vale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Scrutiny Work Programme • Capital Programme for Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects. • Quarterly Review of the Council's municipal recycling rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications • Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services • Service Director, Frontline Services • Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services 			<p>Scrutiny & Challenge</p> <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. <p>Scrutiny & Challenge – To assess the detailed Capital Programme for Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects.</p> <p>Scrutiny & Challenge – To receive a quarterly review of the Council's Municipal recycling rates as part of the Council's ongoing waste and recycling strategy</p>
<p>16th January 2020, 5pm Council Chamber, Clydach Vale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Session – 'Understanding the Council's Budget' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director - Finance & Improvement Services 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide Members with the Council's medium term financial plan (and future consideration for Members)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rhondda Cynon Taf's Open Spaces – Parks, Play areas and Pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services 			<p>Scrutiny & Challenge – To review the parks, play areas and pitches across the County Borough to ensure they are fit for purpose.</p>
<p>27th February 2020, 5pm Council Chamber, Clydach Vale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Wales Parking Group (SWPG) Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Parking Services & Enforcement Manager 			<p>Scrutiny & Challenge – To assess the progress made in relation to Civil Parking Enforcement since Scrutiny received a report in January 2019.</p>
<p>26th March 2020, 5pm Council Chamber, Clydach Vale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streetcare Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services 			<p>Scrutiny & Challenge – To receive a report outlining this service area, to assess the outcome/impact on the residents of RCT.</p>

Other Areas for exploration:-

PSPO – Dog Fouling

Town Centre Street Furniture

Training Requirements:-

To be considered at the first Scrutiny Committee in July

Current Scrutiny Working Groups:-

Recycling in Communal Areas

Site Visits

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) & Education Centre, Bryn Pica (November 2019)

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 14th NOVEMBER 2019**

THE RECYCLING PERFORMANCE FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2019/2020

**REPORT OF THE 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 recycling performance for the first 6 months of 2019/20.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the contents of the report; and
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any further matters.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This Council as do all councils in Wales has statutory targets set by Welsh Government. This year the target is 64%, failure to meet these targets will result in the Council receiving a substantial fine. The fine is based on performance so every ton we miss the target by, will result in a minimum fine of £200 per ton.

4. UPDATE / CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 RCT Council incrementally year on year has improved its recycling figure, but last year saw a slight drop in the performance, this was mainly due to the change in way we were able to measure the wood we collected at our Community Recycling

Centres and the tonnage in green waste collected at the kerbside due to the weather.

4.2 These changes affected all Councils and not only our Council, whilst other Councils also indicated that they had seen recycling plateau, something we had been concerned about for some time.

4.2.1 2019/2020 is a target year in regard to the legislation, and the target is that we must achieve a recycling figure of at least 64%, failure to do so would result in the Council receiving a fine. The fine is a minimum of £200 on every ton we fail to miss the target by, so it could be a substantial amount.

4.2.2 The table below shows our performance during the first 6 months of this financial year. These figures are subject to ratification by Waste data flow and any change will be minimal.

4.2.3

	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20	Total For 2019/20
Dry Reuse	379.35	461.61	840.96
Dry Recycling	15710.31	18,161.45	33,871.76
Composting	5,479.19	5,950.82	11,430.01
Total municipal waste	32,105.14	34,841.50	66,946.64
WMT 10(iv) - Dry reuse rate	1.18%	1.32%	1.26%
WMT 10(v) - Dry recycling rate	48.93%	52.13%	50.60%
WMT 10(vi) - Composting rate	17.07%	17.08%	17.07%
WMT 09b reuse, recycling and composting rate	67.18%	70.53%	68.92%

4.2.4 For the record the performance highlighted in the table, shows that we have achieved the target set out by Welsh Government and puts in a good position to be able to maintain this for the remainder of the year, thus avoiding any fines.

4.2.5 It should also be noted that these figures are the highest ever achieved by this Council.

4.2.6 The next target for this Council is the 2024/2025 target of 70% so if we can maintain this performance and improve slightly we are well on course to achieve this considerably earlier than we need to. It is hoped that provision of the new MRF at Bryn Pica will go a long way in taking us over the target.

5. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 There are no Consultation implications aligned to this report

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are financial implications in failing to achieve the statutory targets.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 There are no Legal Implications aligned to this report

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

9.1 The recycling processes we adopted align itself to the Corporate Plan and Corporate Priorities.

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

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 RCT Council are proud of its recycling services and prides itself being at the forefront of continuous improvement in this area.

10.2 This is highlighted with the Eco Park plans and the development of the new Material Recycling Facility currently being commissioned.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT & FRONTLINE SERVICES

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Author: Andrew Griffiths – Service Director Highways and Transportation

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee of the Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects Capital Programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the contents of the report and progress in delivering the capital programme.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 RCT is the 3rd largest local authority in Wales with a population of approximately 240,000 and covering an area of 424km²

- 3.2. The Council's highway assets are valued at £3.4B (2016) and is the largest asset the Council owns.
- 3.3 The assets consists of 1284km of A,B,C and unclassified roads, 1,989,045m2 of footways, 468 highway structures (inclusive of bridges and culverts), 1093 retaining walls, 29,200 street lighting lanterns, 47,147 road gullies, over 30km of drainage ditches, traffic signals and signage.
- 3.4 In 2011/12, the Council committed to additional spending each year on highways infrastructure together with funding received from Welsh Government. On 3/10/16 the Cabinet approved the Corporate Plan which again recognised the importance of highway infrastructure and Cabinet on 17/3/2016 approved the 3 year Capital Programme. Subsequent Cabinet approvals was obtained each year for the yearly Capital Programme and Supplementary Highways Programme. On 14/02/2019 the Cabinet approved the Council's 3 year Capital Programme and on 21/3/2019 the Highways Supplementary Capital Programme was approved. Subsequent reports on 18/6 and 17/10/2019 highlighted the Highways Investment Schemes programme.
- 3.5 The highway network and associated infrastructure has benefitted from over eight years of enhanced levels of investment and has improved the fabric of the highways network and provided greater resistance to the impact of winter weather conditions and storm events.
- 3.6 Continued enhanced levels of investment in the highways infrastructure assets means that interventions can be undertaken in a more pro-active manner where more efficient and cost effective preventative maintenance is carried out rather than expensive reactive treatments and reconstruction of roads, footways, structures, drainage assets, etc.
- 3.7 The investment plan priorities are carriageways, footways, car parks, structures, street lighting, safety barriers, disabled access, town centres, drainage, transport infrastructure, traffic management and essential highway repairs.

4. UPDATE / CURRENT POSITION

Carriageways / Footways

- 4.1 Since April 2019, 77 carriageway schemes and 21 footway schemes have already been completed to the combined value of £6.3million under the Highways Investment Programme
- 4.2 On 21st March 2019 Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Group Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance and Digital Services, to extend activity to approve additional projects during the financial year where capacity exists for accelerated planning and delivery in accordance with the purpose of the wider programme.

- 4.3 On 17/10/2019 Cabinet approved to undertake additional schemes as highlighted in the report in the sum of £5.84million due to the progress made in the first 6 months.

Street Lighting

- 4.4 By March 219 the Council successfully converted all the remaining street lighting lanterns to LED. This has resulted in electricity charges being reduced by over 70% since 2013/14 and has reduced the Council's carbon footprint by over 2,750 tonnes annually.
- 4.5 All concrete street lighting columns have been replaced. Existing steel lighting columns are now being tested based on age and inspection. As part of the capital programme the Council is now undertaking a replacement programme of street lighting columns that have come to the end of their design life. The Council is also undertaking a cable replacement programme as a result of testing of the infrastructure.

Drainage

- 4.6 The Council has committed £348k in 19/20 for various drainage repair works and studies at various locations within the Borough. These works include installation of "super gullies", pipe repairs, pipe lining, additional drainage and modifications to culvert outlet and inlet structures.
- 4.7 All the schemes are progressing well despite the prolonged periods of inclement weather in the last few months.

Structures

- 4.8 Structures consist of highway bridges, pedestrian footbridges, culverts over 1.0m in diameter, retaining walls, soil nails and rock anchors. The Service Area has recently taken responsibility for Parks structures which also incorporate the previous structures.
- 4.9 The Council is prioritising the inspection of structures on the Precautionary Salting Network and to date only 10 highway structures inspections are outstanding. From the inspections undertaken, the Council can prioritise the repair and remedial works to the various structures.
- 4.10 In respect of the highway structures there are over 75 which are currently at various stages of design for repair and replacement subject to future funding.
- 4.11 Currently the following structures are about to commence / on site / complete:
- St Albans – advance utility works ongoing, main bridge replacement to commence in early 2020
 - Pont Rhondda – on site due to complete winter 19/20
 - Castell Ifor – on site, due to recommence in May 2020
 - Abercwmboui retaining wall – commenced 28/10/19

- Gwrangron Culvert – on site due to complete late Autumn 2019
- Station Rd Bridge, Hirwaun – on site due to complete late Autumn 2019
- Pont Cynon bridge repairs – completed October 2019
- Hopkinstown River Wall – complete
- Williamstown footbridge phase 1 – complete
- Mill Farm footbridge – complete
- Nantgarw revetment phase 1 – complete

Several parks footbridges are due to commence on site shortly for completion by end of March 2020.

Making Better Use Programme (MBU)

- 4.12 The MBU programme looks at improvements to the existing highway network by the efficient utilisation of highway space for the improvement of highway safety, easing congestion, improving journey times and also consideration of highway safety ie formalised controlled crossings. This has been successful in previous years with the introduction of additional carriageway lanes by utilising verges to provide dedicated turn left / right turns eg Ynys roundabout, Asda roundabout, etc.
- 4.13 The current MBU programme consists of 11 projects to be constructed and a further 7 in study stage. The seven studies are currently ongoing, 2 out of the 11 construction schemes are complete with the remaining nine to be constructed between now and end of March 2020.

Traffic

- 4.14 The Traffic management programme of £160k consists of small scale projects which are implemented to improve traffic safety. To date these are all on programme and consist of :
- Disabled Parking
 - Residents Parking
 - Traffic Regulation Orders
 - Speed Limit Review
 - Minor schemes
 - Development of future schemes

Transportation Infrastructure

Active Travel

- 4.15 Funding has been obtained from Welsh Government's Active Travel Fund for the three schemes; the design of the Rhondda Fach Community Route, which is progressing well and should ready for tender by end of the financial year. The construction of Llantrisant Community Route Phase 2 and Nant Cae Ddwg bridge on the Taff Trail, both of which are currently on site and due to be complete in winter 19/20. Funding has also been secured from the Active Travel Core Fund to undertake feasibility studies, and progress the design of a number of other active travel schemes within the borough. These include, linkages within the Rhondda

Fawr to provide improved walking and cycling journeys to the main town centres, public transport facilities and major trip attractors. The design of an active travel route from Talbot Green to the boundary with Bridgend at Llanharan. The design of a route through Gelligaled Park, Rhondda and design of improvements to the Cynon and Taff Trail. Feasibility work is also currently being undertaken to progress the Abernant Tunnel scheme, and to identify new active travel links to and within Church Village, Treforest Industrial Estate and Upper Boat. Further bids are pending consideration by Welsh Government and include funding to continue proposals in respect of the Rhondda Tunnel.

Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link

- 4.16 Good progress has been made to date in respect of this project which is partly financed via Welsh Government's Local Transport Fund Grant. The A4059 junction works are complete. The Council's design and build contractor for the main bridge works completed the design and commenced works on site in Summer 2018. Despite the challenges in respect of the diversion of the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water combined sewer, the bridge beams were successfully landed at the end of September and work is progressing for completion late Spring 2020.

A4119 Dualling (Stinkpot Hill)

- 4.17 This project has received funding from Welsh Government's Local Transport Fund Grant to date. The project is nearing completion of the preliminary design stage with negotiations ongoing with the Fire Service about the potential of formation of a new access to their headquarters after the removal of an existing roundabout / access off the A4119. A planning application will be required for the formation of a new access to the Fire Station. Ecological surveys have indicated the presence of lesser horseshoe bats which will require mitigation measures. Third party land will also be required for the implementation of the project which has commenced with the respective landowners.

Cynon Gateway North (Aberdare Bypass)

- 4.18 Preliminary design work continues on the project which will link the A465 Heads of the Valleys Croesbychan Roundabout with the Aberdare Bypass just north of Robertstown. Agreement has recently been reached with the Welsh Government and their technical advisors in respect of the location of the Croesbychan roundabout which will facilitate the tie in of the Cynon Gateway North. Ecological surveys are ongoing with geotechnical investigations about to commence shortly. It is anticipated that the preliminary design will be complete in Summer 2020. A planning application will be required to be submitted and acquisition of third party land.

Llanharan Bypass

- 4.19 This project has received funding from Welsh Government's Local Transport Fund Grant and the preliminary design will be complete in Spring / Summer 2020. Ecological surveys are ongoing together with geotechnical site investigation. A planning application will be required to be submitted in Summer 2020. An exhibition was held earlier this calendar year which was well attended by the public and as a result the horizontal alignment of the route has now been finalised avoiding the Llanharan Welfare Ground.

Gelli Treorchy Relief Road

- 4.20 Feasibility studies are ongoing into the investigations of options to relieve traffic congestion in Treorchy. Stag Square is a major bottleneck causing congestion and delays to users of the road network including public transport. The option investigation which is ongoing will need to tie into the overall masterplan for Treorchy which is being formulated.

Porth Transport Interchange

- 4.21 Funding (£0.82M) has been obtained from Welsh Government's Local Transport Fund regional allocation toward development of a transport hub as the key ingredient in the Transport Quarter proposed in the Porth Regeneration Plan. Land acquisition is progressing with demolition of the day centre and former Barclays programmed to take place in the new year. In addition City Deal funding (£0.225M) is being sought to deliver additional parking capacity off Rheola Road opposite the Rheola public house, which is within easy walking distance of the station. The contract for this work has been tendered and will provide an additional 29 parking spaces. Ducting will be provided to enable electric vehicle charging infrastructure to be implemented in future.

A4119 Bus Corridor

- 4.22 The Council has received further funding on top of the previous two years for the A4119 bus corridor. This looks at improving infrastructure and making modifications to highway layouts to prioritise public transport and make it more accessible. Currently being delivered this year out of the funding received are the completion of the bus boarders along the route and design of modifications to roundabouts on the A4119.

Safe Routes in the Community

- 4.23 The Council has secured funding from Welsh Government's Safe Routes in the community funding for the implementation of Llwynypia SRIC and Pontyclun Phase 2 SRIC. Both schemes utilise 20mph limits with other associated features dependent upon the scheme and will be delivered on site by end of March 2020.

Road Safety Grant

- 4.24 The Council was successful in securing over £300k for the digitalisation of the Council's fixed speed cameras within the borough together with the introduction of average speed cameras for the Lower Rhondda Fach Relief Road covering the section to the north of Porth by the end of March 2020.

Park and Ride Programme

- 4.25 Porth Park and Ride Phase which involves the creation of additional car parking north of the Phase 1 has received planning consent and will commence construction in January 2020. Pontyclun Park and Ride Phase 2 is still currently at feasibility stage with various car park layout options being considered.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no negative or adverse equality or diversity implications associated with this report.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There are no consultation implications aligned to this report.
- 6.2 The public are consulted on the various projects (dependant upon nature and size) via public exhibitions and Traffic Regulation Order consultations.
- 6.3 The public are kept informed of projects via the following methods:
- Public exhibitions
 - Consultations – mainly Traffic Regulation Orders
 - Letter drops to affected residents
 - Press releases
 - Social media
 - Frequently Asked Questions
 - Advance signage

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 The Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects Supplementary Capital Programme approved by Cabinet on 21/03/2019 provided specific capital allocations of the £15.032 million in favour of Highways Technical Services and £10.934 million in favour of Strategic Projects.
- 7.2 The work packages for the Highways Improvement schemes are:
- Carriageways £6.301m

- Footways £1.512m
 - Vehicle Restraint Barriers £0.1m
 - Disabled Access Improvements £0.030m
 - Highway Structures £5.794m
 - Parks Structures £1.0m
 - Street Lighting £0.250m
 - Car Parks £0.045m
- 7.3 The Strategic Projects work packages consist of;
- Land Drainage / Flood Risk Management £0.348m
 - Traffic Management £0.16m
 - Transportation Infrastructure £10.364m
- 7.4 On 17/10/2019 Cabinet approved to undertake additional schemes as highlighted in the report in the sum of £5.84million for carriageway and footway schemes due to progress made in the first 6 months.
- 7.5 On 17/9/2019 Cabinet approved further funding via the Council Corporate Plan – Investment Priorities in the total sum of £3.75m for highway structures, flood alleviation works, MBU, A4119 dualling, Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link and Treorchy Link Road. (details of exact breakdown in the report).
- 7.6 The Council has been successful in securing external funding from Welsh Government and other sources in previous years and again in 2019/20 the Council has secured the following:
- Active Travel Fund £1.602m
 - Local Transport Network Fund £0.6m
 - Local Transport Fund £0.1m
 - Road Safety Capital £0.371m
 - SRIC £0.296m
 - Drainage / Flood Capital Grant - £0.185m
 - Regional Local Transport Fund:
 - Porth Interchange £0.82m
 - Relocating Treforest Station £0.28m (pending)
 - North West Cardiff/RCT Mass Transit £0.07m
 - Park and Ride Assessment Treforest/Upper Boat £0.035m
 - Other bids are also pending

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are a number of legal implications which are dependant upon the nature and type of project and can vary from and include, but not restricted to:
- The Highways Act 1980
 - Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
 - Acquisition of Land Act 1981

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

- 9.1 The Capital Programme supports a number of the authority's own plans, policies and strategies that relate not only to transport, but the wider local agenda including:
- Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
 - Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan
 - Local Development Plan
 - South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan (2015)
 - Strategic Opportunity Areas
 - One Wales: Connecting the Nation (Wales Transport Strategy 2008)
 - National Transport Plan (2010, updated 2011)
 - Wales Spatial Plan (2008)
- 9.2 The Capital Programme supports the Council's Corporate Plan Priority "Place – creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work".
- 9.3 The programme is wide ranging and deals with the maintenance, enhancement and creation of transportation infrastructure in order to meet travel demand. The programme supports enhanced connectivity to link homes with employment opportunities, education and health facilities, and to act as a catalyst for development and regeneration. In conjunction with grant applications, a range of sustainable and active travel opportunities are promoted.
- 9.4 The programme supports the Well-Being goals fostering prosperity and resilience with inclusive and sustainable transport options supporting more cohesive and vibrant communities.
- 9.5 The requirement to reduce carbon emissions is set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 and also in the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. More recently, Welsh Government produced Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales and in May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change recommended new emissions targets for the UK: net zero greenhouse gases by 2050 (Wales is set at 95% due to a disproportionate impact from the farming industry). The capital programme will help to relieve congestion, promote public transport and thus aid in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The capital programme continues the enhanced levels of investment under the RCTInvest initiative, delivering sustained improvements to the resilience and durability of our highways and transportation infrastructure, promoting sustainable transport opportunities and network efficiency.
- 10.2 The improvements to the standard of our network are supporting continued reductions in the Council's exposure to claims for slips, trips and falls on the highway network from 712 in 2004 to 124 in 2018. This level of claim is at the lowest level experienced within RCT.

- 10.3 The capital programme is fundamental in aiding and creating employment opportunities and economic growth by making the transport infrastructure and public transport systems more efficient to improve accessibility and connectivity.
- 10.4 The capital programme expenditure for 2019/20 is currently on target to be delivered by March 2020.
- 10.5 RCT is one of the few councils that continues to make significant investments in maintaining and improving our highways and transportation infrastructure. This evidenced by the Key Performance Indicators for roads requiring maintenance. In RCT in 2018/19, (2010/11 in brackets), the percentage of roads requiring maintenance was:
- Class A roads 4.9% (16.2%)
 - Class B roads 6.5% (15.2%)
 - Class C roads 3.0% (15.3%)
 - All classified roads 4.8% (15.7%)