



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

with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Bridgend County Borough Council.

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 collection average was around 72% but usually RCT collects around the 80% mark. He add that that the Authority cancels very few fines at 7% which again was below the national average. He advised members that for the fine to be progressed to a collection agency, the motorist will have 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. 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 a surplus was made through this scheme it was ring-fenced into the wider highways budget.

A Member was concerned that in the Llanharry area there was often illegal parking but as there were lower enforcement officers in that area motorist continued to park inappropriately as they knew there were not often enforcement officers in that area. The Officer responded that if members felt there was a particular problem area they could deploy officers to that area and should contact him to discuss.

The Chairman asked if Enforcement officers were issued with a standard uniform that they should be wearing as when they are on patrol they are representing the Council and 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 as parking on pavements was illegal it was therefore a police matter and not something the Council could pursue 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 broken then motorists would be issued with a fine accordingly.

The Chairman wished to place on record the Committees 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 CEX'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 equipment for all RCT households was. The Officer responded that approximately 20 million 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 bring us back where we would like to be in the refurbishment of their bridges. He asked how this was budgeted for.

The Officer responded that there was £1.5million in general reserves and that they were currently looking at options with National and Welsh Government. The member asked if the £1.5million from general reserves was enough. The Officer responded that he would not be able to answer that question and it was recommended by members that the question should be asked of the Leader in Council.

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. He reminded members also that the budget was reported on quarterly to the Finance and Performance Overview and 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.**