



**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: Mrs S Daniel, Senior Democratic Services Officer (07385 086 169)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a meeting of **PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held **Virtually** on **THURSDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2020** 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, 10 November 2020 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

AGENDA

**Page
No's**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence from members

2. 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.

3. MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Community Committee held on 23 September 2020

3 - 6

4. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

7 - 14

5. IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON RECYCLING AND RESIDUAL WASTE IN RCT

15 - 18

6. CHAIR'S REVIEW AND CLOSE

To reflect on the meeting and actions to be taken forward.

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 W Owen, Councillor S Pickering, Councillor A Fox,
Councillor M Diamond and Councillor G Holmes

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 23 September 2020 at 10.30 am 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 G Stacey	Councillor A Chapman
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor E George	Councillor G Hughes
Councillor W Owen	Councillor M Diamond
Councillor A Fox	Councillor A Crimmings

Officers in attendance

Mr S Owen – Service Director Streetcare
Mr C Davies – Corporate Consultations Manager
Mr S Humphreys – Head of Legal Services
Mrs S Daniel – Senior Democratic Services Officer

The Chairman congratulated Mr Paul Mee on his recent promotion to Group Director Community and Children's Services. He also welcomed Mr Steve Owen, Service Director Streetcare to the Committee who was in attendance in place of Mr Nigel Wheeler

1 Declaration of Interest

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

2 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 27 February 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

3 Pre-Scrutiny Of Proposed Extension And Variation To Rhondda Cynon Taf CBCs Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Orders

The Senior Democratic Services Officer presented the report to members which informed them of the outcomes of the recent public consultation to extend the two Public Spaces Protection Orders relating to dog controls in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Service Director for Streetcare asked for feedback from members on the report and stated that any comments from the meeting would be taken into consideration when the Cabinet meet to consider the proposals.

A member asked about cemeteries that are run by Community Councils and if it was possible that they could be involved in the PSPO
The Service Director for Streetcare advised that the service area had already

worked with Town and Community Councils and though there aren't many who are responsible for cemeteries they could possibly be included in the PSPO. He added that no issues had been reported to them from Town and Community Councils so if members were aware of any he asked that they get in touch with him.

The Chairman asked if dog waste bags were freely available for residents throughout RCT and at what cost was this to the Authority for providing the service?

The Service Director Streetcare advised members that the Authority spends in the region of £25 – 30k per year on dog waste bags and is a gesture of good will to encourage residents to be responsible owners. He added that RCT were the only Authority that provides them free of charge. He advised however that due to the current pandemic the bags had not been distributed since April as they are not a priority and most facilities where they were distributed have been closed

The Chair asked if there was a law that allowed horse manure to be left on the streets. The Service Director Streetcare advised that this was not an offence

The Chairman asked what the annual tonnage of dog waste collected per annum was. The Service Director Streetcare responded that this was approximately 105 tonne per year.

The Chairman stated that the signs to warn dog owners to pick up their dog waste after them were very small and asked if the signs could be made bigger. The Service Director Streetcare stated that whilst the signs would need updating to reflect new dates the option to make the signs larger would be a costly exercise as signs would need larger posts and they were legible if you were close to them.

The Chairman stated that he would like to see the Authority engage with schools to educate future generations to clean up after their dogs and be responsible dog owners and for them to understand the impact on public health if dog waste is left behind. The Corporate Consultations Manager advised that this was to be explored as it was also mentioned in the consultations feedback. A member stated that he fully supported the order and there was large scale support from community also. He added that people needed to take personal responsibility and not rely on enforcement action from the Authority. He added that if you can't see a bin it is still not acceptable, nor a reasonable excuse to leave dog waste on the floor and urged residents to pick it up and take home. He asked officers if there could be some more publicity on where the bins are located such as a find your bin campaign and also if it was possible to make it easier to report a full bin

The Service Director Streetcare stated that there were lots of things the Authority would like to do electronically to make it easier for residents to report things in their area (not just dog bins) but this was still being looked at to ensure this way of reporting did not exclude residents who were unable to report things online. If residents do not currently have the means to report incidents online we are asking them to still call in to report or ask someone who has the means to report it electronically to do so on their behalf.

A member stated that his Community Council has over 30 dog bins that the Authority empties for them. He asked how many dog bins does the Authority

empty for other Community Council's and suggested that if the Authority charges them this could generate income to employ more enforcement officers. The Service Director Streetcare advised that the number of bins the Authority empties for Community Councils was very small in comparison to the amount that RCT is responsible for. He added that the case is usual that Community Councils fund the capital costs for the bin and installation, and the Authority empties the waste as this is a small element for us when we are already out emptying bins. Some Community Councils have asked for a part time warden to patrol the areas for dog fouling purposes which they will contribute to the cost. He further added that the RCTCBC are currently working with Trivallis to fund a full time warden.

A member stated he was concerned to hear that the Authority are receiving 2000 calls per year reporting dog fouling issues. He stated that many play areas were constantly getting fouled as there was a lack of visits to these areas. He asked if as part of the recommendations that enforcement was going to be increased?

The Service Director Streetcare advised members that since lockdown at the end of March 2020 the Authority has not been out enforcing as the staff had been redeployed to essential services and were delivering food and supporting other services. Now the staff have returned to some normal duties. He stated that more enforcement officers were not the answer as the challenge was actually catching people in the act, he advised that the Authority needed local intelligence so they can have a more focused presence in patrolling those areas of concern.

A member asked about the working patterns of the enforcement officers and asked if they worked different patterns as people often walked their dogs early in the morning or later in the evening.

The Service Director Streetcare advised that the enforcement officers operate on a rota basis which covers early mornings and evenings when the normal rota is in place. He reiterated that local intelligence was needed as if they are aware of a problematic area then they can target and publicise that they are in the area.

The Cabinet Member thanked the officers for carrying out the consultations and noted the positive feedback from residents. She also thanked the Committee for the proactive work and their engagement with residents and officers

4 Chair's Review and Close

Thanked all members in public health and licensing over the last few months. He also thanked the bin men and crews for their continued hard work during the current pandemic.

5 Urgent Business

None

This meeting closed at 11.20am

**Cllr S Bradwick
Chairman**

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 November 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

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 April 2021.

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 2020/21 as attached at Appendix A
- 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.
- 2.3 Consider and determine any other matters that members may wish to scrutinise over this period.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is proposed that Members of the Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to consider its work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year and that the proposed work programme allows for an element of flexibility and taking into account any additional consultative documents or legislative matters requiring attention.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 4.1 Members will recall that the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020, published at the end of April, provided the opportunity for committee functions to operate virtually. At that time, Members supported the proposal for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as the Council's overarching Scrutiny Committee, to take a council-wide approach and consider those key matters that ordinarily would have been under review by the four themed scrutiny committees.
- 4.2 At its meeting on the 30th July 2020, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Council's Performance Report, 31st March 2020 year end, as part of the temporary arrangements set in place to progress and establish virtual committee arrangements. All members of the council were invited to attend and contribute to this matter.
- 4.3 Following the Council's Annual General meeting held on the 16th September 2020 Scrutiny is now able to present its forward work programmes for the 2020/21 Municipal Year with the opportunity to review the work programme quarterly.
- 4.4 The Committee continues to acknowledge the current pressures on the Council as it focuses on the impact of the pandemic and its associated plans for response and recovery. Committee recognises the desire to resume a 'business as usual' approach in terms of the scrutiny work programme, however, Committee will need to be mindful of these ongoing pressures. Members are asked to acknowledge the balance required for a flexible and supportive scrutiny work programme that has clear objectives, expectations and lines of questioning. Importantly, this approach allows for business critical matters to be prioritised.
- 4.5 Members are reminded that given the current climate the forward work programme priorities are subject to change should other specific business need to be considered by the Committee.
- 4.7 The Committee is invited to consider areas for further scrutiny by the committee.
- 4.8 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.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 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 the proposed items at this meeting

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

- 9.1 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](#).
- 9.2 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.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 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	Item	Officer	Cabinet Member	Invited/ In attendance	Scrutiny Focus
12 November 2020	Impact of Covid 19 on Recycling and Residual Waste in RCT	Nigel Wheeler	Cllr Ann Crimmings		To understand the impacts of the global pandemic on the recycling figures in the Borough. How has the service area responded to the challenges
10 December 2020	Community Recycling Centres	Nigel Wheeler	Cllr Ann Crimmings		Operation of the Community Recycling Centres during the COVID19 pandemic. Updates on new developments Performance of the Material Recycling Facility
14 January 2021	Bryn Pica	Nigel Wheeler	Cllr Ann Crimmings		To discuss new developments pending at the Bryn Pica site and how these will be implemented.
	Trade Waste Presentation	Nigel Wheeler	Cllr Ann Crimmings		To inform Scrutiny of the new legislation that will come into effect in July 2021 on how trade waste is collected and disposed of
11th February 2021	Parks and Countryside	Nigel Wheeler	Cllr Ann Crimmings Cllr Rhys Lewis		To update the Committee on the work of the Parks and Countryside team
18 March 2021	Enforcement and PSPO	Nigel Wheeler Alistair Critchlow	Cllr Ann Crimmings Cllr Rhys Lewis		To include enforcement figures in relation to Litter and Flytipping. How many incidents have there been? How many fines have been issued?

29 April 2021	Climate Change	Nigel Wheeler			
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Other Areas for exploration:-

Parking enforcement partnership

Training Requirements:-

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

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

12TH NOVEMBER, 2020

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF
PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT AND
FRONTLINE SERVICES.**

Agenda Item No: 5

**REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID
19 ON RECYCLING & RESIDUAL
WASTE PERFORMANCE FOR THE
FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2020/2021**

Author: Nigel Wheeler

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 2020/21 during Covid 19 period.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report:
- 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 again 64%, failure to meet these targets will result in the Council receiving a substantial fine. The fine is based on performance so every tonne we miss the target by, will result in a minimum fine of £200 per tonne.

4. UPDATE /ISSUES ENCOUNTERED/ CURRENT POSITION

4.1 RCT Council incrementally year on year has improved its recycling figure, this year has seen us battle with the impact of Covid 19 which had the potential to greatly affect the services performance, this is due to a number of factors such as closure of the Community Recycling Centres (CRC's) due to social distancing restrictions, the ceasing of enforcement on contamination of recycling, availability of distribution points for recycling bags and the social distancing rules for collection staff.

4.2 These changes affected all Councils, not only our Council, but the closure of the CRC's and the ceasing of enforcement were real concerns as both had the potential to have a significant impact on our recycling figures.

4.2.1 Another factor which affected the service were the closing of numerous distribution points for recycling bags which could have made it difficult for residents to be able to get recycling bags, but to counter that, we opened a bag request system online and redirected the enforcement team to deliver to our residents.

4.2.2 The social distancing legislation made it impossible for our crews to run with 3 in a cab, therefore we had to implement a convoy system whereby we have two staff in a cab and another following in a support vehicle, this has been an added expense to the service, but has allowed us to continue with the level of service we provide and we are still implementing that system.

4.2.3 In addition to the points mentioned in above, we have seen a significant increase in residual waste levels and a higher proportion of contamination in the recycling with no real reason for this except more residents are at home. Despite this, the new Material Recycling Facility (MRF) at Bryn Pica has been able to deal with the contamination levels and are still producing a high level of quality recycle.

4.2.4 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.

4.2.5

	Q1 2020/21	Q2 2020/21	Total For 2020/21
Dry Reuse	0.24	271.41	271.65
Dry Recycling	15,629.22	20,561.97	36,191.19
Composting	5,937.24	6,430.90	12,368.14
Total municipal waste	32,508.95	38,923.83	71,432.78
WMT 10(iv) - Dry reuse rate	0.00%	0.70%	0.38%
WMT 10(v) - Dry recycling rate	48.08%	52.83%	50.66%
WMT 10(vi) - Composting rate	18.26%	16.52%	17.31%
WMT 09b reuse, recycling and composting rate	66.34%	70.05%	68.36%

- 4.2.6 For the record the performance highlighted in the table, shows that we have achieved the target set out by Welsh Government whilst only being down .0.56% on this time last year which when you take into account the pandemic it puts in a good position to be able to maintain this for the remainder of the year, thus avoiding any fines.
- 4.2.7 It should also be noted that last year's figures at this point were the highest ever achieved by this Council and to be so close to them on what we have encountered is testament to the resilience of our staff and our collection processes.
- 4.2.8 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 clear that provision of the new MRF at Bryn Pica has gone a long way in helping us maintain our performance.

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 in 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 at Bryn Pica.

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