



**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: Sarah Daniel - Senior Democratic Services Officer (07385 086169)

**YOU ARE SUMMONED** to a meeting of **PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at the **Virtual** on **THURSDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2021** 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, 9 February 2021 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

**AGENDA**

**Page  
No's**

**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 receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Community Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**3. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**7 - 14**

**4. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON OPERATIONS OF PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE**

**15 - 20**

**5. CHAIR'S REVIEW AND CLOSE**

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

**6. CONSULTATION LINKS**

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

**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 virtually on Thursday, 14 January 2021 at 5.00 pm

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

Councillor S Bradwick (Chairman), Councillor T Williams (Vice-Chair), Councillor M Weaver  
Councillor G Stacey, Councillor A Chapman, Councillor W Treeby, Councillor D Grehan  
Councillor E George, Councillor S Pickering, Councillor A Fox, Councillor M Diamond  
Councillor G Holmes, Councillor A Crimmings

### **Officers in attendance**

Mr Nigel Wheeler – Group Director Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services  
Mr Simon Humphreys – Head of Legal Services  
Mrs Sarah Daniel – Senior Democratic Services Officer

#### **13 Declaration of Interest**

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

#### **14 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the 12 November 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

The Chair advised that the letter referred to in the minutes was sent to the Director on behalf of the Committee

#### **15 Impact of COVID19 on Community Recycling Centres**

The Group Director Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services presented a report that updated Members of the on the impact on the Community Recycling Centres during Covid 19 period. He advised members of the changes in the way the CRC's had to operate during various lockdown periods to comply with COVID Legislation and stated that members of the public, in large, complied with the guidelines when using the CRC's.

He advised members of the performance of the CRC's during the first 6 months of the financial year and highlighted that the target set by Welsh Government had still been achieved despite the challenges of the global pandemic. He added that the figures were down just 0.56% on the same period last year.

The Chairman asked how is this Christmas tree recycling had been operating.

The Group Director advised the Committee that approximately 60-65 trees had been collected per day and all trees should be cleared by the end of the week. He added that the street cleansing teams had been supporting multiple service areas during this time and the volume had been quite substantial. He further advised members that once the trees were collected, they were shredded which meant that approximately 800 trees fitted in to one skip.

The Chairman asked how the recycling figures were over the Christmas and New Year period.

The Group Director advised that more than double the amount that was usually collected was collected in the week before, during and after Christmas on dry recycling and food waste. He added that over 400 tonnes of food waste and 450 tonnes of dry recycling had been collected in one day, whereas the previous year this figure would have been collected over a week. He further added that the residual figure had also dropped.

A members asked if there was currently a backlog of recycling from the Christmas and New Year period.

The Group Director stated that there was currently no backlog. He advised that four streets had suffered a delay due to ice and the vehicles not being able to safely access the street. He added that recycling would normally still be being sorted at Bryn Pica in February, however this had been cleared already.

A member asked what implications the first lockdown had on fly tipping  
The Group Director stated that the impact of the first lockdown was not significant. He advised members that the issue was catching the offenders and fining them as they never leave evidence. Flytippers that had left evidence had been prosecuted accordingly.

A members stated that some of his residents had reported issues trying to get a supply of recycling bags

The Group Director advised that due to the national lockdowns and people having to stay at home there had been a huge surge in recycling. This combined with some of the distribution points being closed had resulted in some people having difficulties getting a supply. However he advised that there were still plenty of distribution points still open and if residents were in short supply they were able to order a supply online. He added that if the Authority knew that residents were in need then they were still able to deliver them.

A member thanked the officer for the report and thanked all staff for the way in which they have carried out their duties throughout the pandemic and the way in which they had also dealt with a small minority of people being rude to staff during this time. He asked for clarification on the issue

of recycling that is contaminated and what final figure was actually reported as recyclable material.

The Group Director advised the Committee that if for example 10 tonnes of recycling was collected and 5 of that was contaminated, then the final figure that is reported is 5 tonnes. The Contaminated amount does not get included in the overall figure he confirmed.

A member asked if residents could now recycle all wrapping paper as they were allowed to include it in their recycling this year, but had not been able to in previous years.

The Group Director clarified that we cannot recycle all wrapping paper but we asked the public to put it in for recycling as some of it could be recycled, for instance plain, non-coated paper with no glitter etc. But as this was quite specific we asked the public to include all wrapping paper and it was then sorted at the CRC's. He added that if there was any doubt, we would rather it be included as a potential item for recycling than it going to landfill.

A member asked if there were issues with the supply of food waste bags. The Group Director stated that he was not aware of any issues and there was plenty of supply. He added that if distribution points or residents had run out of stock then they need to inform us within plenty of time for us to be able to get a new supply out within sufficient time.

A member asked if there was anything the Authority could do regarding materials that piled up outside charity shops. He added that people were still donating by leaving bags outside charity shops when they were closed, despite there being clear signage not to do this.

The Group Director confirmed that this was a national problem. He clarified that whilst this was the responsibility of the charity shops to clear it away the Authority does support them in doing this. He added that if their crews are in the area and they know the shops are closed they will clear this away for them

**RESOLVED: Members noted the report**

## **16 Bryn Pica Waste Management Facility**

**The Group Director updated members on the potential new development at Bryn Pica and presented them the proposed Strategic Business Case.**

He advised that outline planning permission for the Eco Park was granted in Dec- 18 and works are progressing to clear the site ready for development. Outline plans for the Eco Park include:

- Development 6,000 m2 of commercial / industrial indoor floor space within 4 light industrial units.
- Options for expansion of a 5th Industrial unit as the scheme develops.
- Provision of an external operational / storage space.
- Electrical and Heat Off-Take connections to Tomorrows Valley Waste Treatment Plant.
- Offices, welfare and educational facilities.
- Targeting 60 new jobs in the circular economy across the Eco Park Scheme.
- The presentation will set out the strategic case for the proposed investment associated with the proposed Bryn Pica Eco Park. The scheme is strongly aligned with the requirement of Welsh Government's Future Generation Act 2015, particularly in respect of the emphasis on sustainable living and the provision of good quality local employment opportunities.

**RESOLVED: Members noted the update**

**17 Chair's Review and Close**

The Chairman thanked the officers for attending and asked for an update to come back to members in 6 months' time.

**18 Consultation Links**

Members were advised of the consultations available for consideration by the Committee

**19 Urgent Business**

None reported

**Cllr S Bradwick  
Chairman**



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21**

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

**11 FEBRUARY 2021**

#### **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 review and 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.
- 4.6 The Committee is invited to consider areas for further scrutiny by the committee.
- 4.7 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.

<b>PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES &amp; PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>					
<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Invited/ In attendance</b>	<b>Scrutiny Focus</b>
<b>12 November 2020</b>	<b>Impact of Covid 19 on Recycling and Residual Waste in RCT</b>	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
<b>14 January 2021</b>	<b>Community Recycling Centres</b>	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
	<b>Bryn Pica</b>	Nigel Wheeler	Cllr Ann Crimmings		To discuss new developments pending at the Bryn Pica site and how these will be implemented.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>	<b>Parks and Countryside</b>	Nigel Wheeler Dave Batten	Cllr Ann Crimmings Cllr Rhys Lewis		To update the Committee on the work of the Parks and Countryside team and how they have been impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic
<b>18 March 2021</b>	<b>Enforcement and PSPO</b>	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?
<b>29 April 2021</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>	Nigel Wheeler			

**Other Areas for exploration:-**

Parking enforcement partnership

<b>Trade Waste Presentation</b>	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
<b>Parking Enforcement Partnership</b>	Nigel Wheeler	Cllr Ann Crimmings		
<b>CRC's</b>	Nigel Wheeler	Cllr Ann Crimmings		To keep members informed of progress of the CRC's following the Scrutiny Committee in January 2021
<b>Recycling and Residual Waste</b>	Nigel Wheeler	Cllr Ann Crimmings		<p>To keep members informed of progress of the Recycling and Residual Waste service and how they are continuing to operate under COVID-19 restrictions</p> <p>How the Authority are working towards the Welsh Government target of 70% of waste to be recycled by 2024/25</p> <p>What changes will have to be made by the Authority and residents to achieve the target?</p>
<b>Recycling in Secondary Schools</b>	Nigel Wheeler	Cllr Ann Crimmings Cllr Joy Rosser		To consider how secondary schools in the Borough can increase their recycling rates to contribute to the Welsh Government's targets for the recycling of waste which are 70% recycling by 2025 for waste from households and commercial and industrial businesses.

**Training Requirements:-**



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

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

**11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

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

**Agenda Item No: 4**

**REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID  
19 ON PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
OPERATIONS IN 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 Parks and Countryside Operational service during the 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 have all Councils in Wales had to suspend or collapse services in line with national and local rules and guidance to help protect residents, staff and businesses during the Covid pandemic.
- 3.2 The Council's Parks operational service comprises 90 operational staff based in 3 main depots – Rhondda (Pentre Park, Pentre), Cynon (Aberdare Park, Trecynon)

and Taff (Hepworth Park, Talbot Green) and is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Council's parks and sports pitches in the County Borough.

- 3.2.1 The Council's Play Facilities team is made up of 8 staff based in Hepworth Business Park in Talbot Green but with access to a work space in the Parks depot in Aberdare Park, Trecynon. The team is responsible for the maintenance and inspection of all children's Play Facilities across RCT as well as the Capital refurbishment programme.
- 3.2.2 The Council's Countryside Team is made up of 11 staff. 6 are based at Hepworth Business Park in Talbot Green with the additional ranger team of 5 based at Dare Valley Country Park. The team is responsible for maintaining the network of Public Rights of Way, Community routes and Trails as well as council owned countryside sites. The department is also responsible for managing the council's Japanese Knotweed treatment programme.
- 3.3 The impact of the restrictions under the various periods and severity of lockdown measures has in the main deemed organised sport and leisure activities non-essential and has therefore remained suspended for the majority of 2020/21.
  - 3.3.1 Children's play facilities were part of the initial lockdown measures introduced by Welsh Government, and Councils were instructed to lock or immobilise all children's Play Areas, Skate Parks, Mult Use Games Areas and outdoor courts. As part of this measure all construction being undertaken as part of the refurbishment programme was also suspended.
  - 3.3.2 The Countryside department was affected by the initial lockdown measures. Office based staff were limited to working from home and practical work was suspended as part of the initial lockdown.

#### **4. UPDATE /ISSUES ENCOUNTERED/ CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Initially the lockdown in March 2020 resulted in all sports, leisure activities, play and practical countryside work being suspended as they were deemed non-essential services.
- 4.2 The Parks & Countryside operations were initially suspended with minimum essential functions undertaken including litter/dog bin emptying in parks and the unlocking/locking of parks, checking of buildings and dealing with emergencies.
  - 4.2.1 After the Play Facilities were closed the operational and inspection staff were furloughed or redeployed. The remaining staff were able to work from home and undertake their duties
- 4.3 The majority of Parks staff were not working initially and operated on a rota basis to cover the minimum service level required. (March/April 2020)



- 4.3.1 A number of staff were deployed to provide support in other 'essential services'. These included additional teams deployed to Bereavement Services for grave digging duties and supporting Waste services with green waste collections.
- 4.4 As the lockdown restrictions eased for some categories of social/leisure activities both the Parks service and the Countryside Ranger teams increased operations to meet the needs of the community. Play areas were reopened, sports pitches and bowling greens needed essential seasonal maintenance or would have been at risk of going into disrepair and would then have required significant investment to rectify. Maintenance work also resumed on the Public Rights of Way network.
  - 4.4.1 Prior to the lockdown restrictions being eased, staff were brought back into service to carry out inspections and checks on all play equipment and sites, to ensure that Play Facilities could be re-opened safely once restrictions were lifted.
- 4.5 The service continued through the summer to undertake essential maintenance works including grass cutting pitches, renovations, preparation and planting of flower beds, hedge cutting pitch marking (basic).  
The work in the autumn and winter periods has included tree works, leaf clearing, culvert cleaning, shrub bed maintenance.
  - 4.5.1 When restrictions were eased play facilities were opened up with the government control measures; and the inspection and maintenance continued primarily dealing with essential measures and prioritising safety.
- 4.6 It should be noted that the Council has kept its Public Rights of Way (PROW) network open throughout the period of the pandemic. However, there has been a significant increase in usage and this has resulted in a number of landowners/farmers taking matters into their own hands by closing public paths on their land. Many of these issues have yet to be resolved.
  - 4.6.1 The Countryside service continued through the summer undertaking essential work to meet the increased public demand for outdoor exercise/activity. Works included footpath and trail maintenance, dealing with increased footpath obstructions due to the pandemic, vegetation clearance, drainage maintenance, tree safety work and invasive species treatment.
  - 4.6.2 There was an increased number of Japanese Knotweed queries/complaints during the pandemic. This was most likely attributable to the public being restricted to their gardens and as a result spending more time and money there. Over 300 sites in RCT were treated as part of the Knotweed programme. In addition, there has been 13 legal claims against the council in relation to Knotweed, compared with zero last year.
- 4.7 All Parks, Play and Countryside staff were kept safe with a number of Covid control measures in place.

- 4.7.1 These included sanitising of vehicle cabs, hand sanitisers in depots, wearing of masks/face coverings, distancing rules in parks and depots, limiting number of staff travelling together.
- 4.8 All services have unfortunately seen a number of staff absent at various times due to Covid related issues either shielding, isolating or symptomatic so have had to prioritise work accordingly.
- 4.9 The service also includes the specific areas of **Tree maintenance and the management of Allotments.**
- 4.9.1 **Trees**  
These services have continued to operate in line with Covid restrictions with a targeted approach to a particular problem affecting trees, namely **Ash die-back**. Examples include A4059 Mountain Ash to Abercynon, A4119 Royal Mint.
- 4.9.2 General maintenance of trees overhanging highways and street lighting has been undertaken.
- 4.9.3 Tree surveys are also ongoing to identify trees of poor health or condition growing upon public open spaces. Emergency works and responding to requests and complaints have continued with approximately 150 requests/month for trees and allotments
- 4.9.4 **Allotments**  
Allotment allocations and site visits ceased during the first lockdown in March, although enquiries continued and responded to and added onto the waiting list accordingly. Following the re-opening of services allocations and site inspections recommenced with 95% of allotments allocated and further inspections and works planned.

## **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 no Financial Implications aligned to this report

## **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 Parks, Play and Countryside services align themselves 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 healthier Wales, a resilient Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

10.1 RCT Council are proud of its parks, sports facilities, playgrounds and its countryside and prides itself in providing and maintaining these facilities to a high standard.

10.2 All the teams in Parks and Countryside have continued to maintain services to meet the changing requirements presented by the pandemic restrictions and how it has impacted on the provision of sports and leisure activities in the community.

10.3 In particular the Parks service staff have been deployed as and when necessary to provide support to other Council services.

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