



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Hybrid meeting of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 22 March 2023 at 5.00 pm.

This meeting was live streamed, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

The following Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Councillors were present online:-

Councillor G L Warren	Councillor P Binning
Councillor V Dunn	Councillor E L Dunning
Councillor S Emanuel	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor W Hughes	Councillor G Jones
Councillor A O Rogers	Councillor R Yeo

Officers in attendance:-

Mr S Humphreys, Head of Legal Services
Mr R Waters, Director – Frontline Services
Mrs S Handy, Members Researcher & Scrutiny Officer
Mr A Stone, Capital Projects Officer
Mr D Macey, Operation Heritage Manager

County Borough Councillors in attendance:-

Councillor Crimmings, Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure

Apologies for absence

Councillor C Middle	Councillor J Barton
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor W. Treeby

52 Welcome

The Vice Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The Vice Chair informed Members that Councillor Middle was unable to be here this evening and that he had given his apologies. The Vice Chair also welcomed Cabinet Member Councillor Crimmings to the meeting.

53 Apologies

Apologies of absence were noted from County Borough Councillors J. Barton, D. Grehan, C Middle and W. Treeby.

54 Scrutiny Research

The Members' Researcher and Scrutiny Officer referenced the research facilities that were available to Members within the Council Business Unit. Members were advised that if they have any specific queries to email them to Scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk.

55 Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the code of conduct, there were no declaration of interest pertaining to the agenda.

56 Minutes

The minutes of the 15th February 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

57 Consultations

The Members' Researcher & Scrutiny Officer referenced the consultation links, which were available through the 'RCT Scrutiny' website. Members were reminded that information is provided in respect of relevant consultations for consideration by the Committee, which are circulated on a monthly basis and updated on a fortnightly basis.

58 Report on the initial public engagement for the Authority's review of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan

The Head of Flood Risk Management and Strategic Projects presented his report to Members in respect of the response of the non statutory public engagement exercise prior to review of the current Local Flood Risk Strategy and Action Plan.

Members were provided with a power point presentation and following the update, Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

A Member queried where was the highest risk of flooding in the County Borough. The Officer confirmed that it is difficult to answer as the data keeps changing. The highest ranked within RCT is the community of Pentre, however, it was emphasised that this can overlap. It is currently the highest ranked in RCT and also the highest ranked in Wales. The Member also referred Officers to the survey in the report which stated that 95% of people wanted to see greener areas in RCT. The Member questioned whether each individual person would be prepared to make sacrifices to contribute to the Climate Change agenda. The Officer advised that this was outside of his expertise, however, he did note that residents putting down grass instead of patio slabs would help in terms of flood risk management.

Discussions ensued and a Member asked whether the Council makes residents aware that they are at risk of flooding if they live on a flooding hot spot. The Member also queried whether estate agents are obliged to tell the resident before they buy a property that this area is at risk of flooding. The Member also emphasised that the Council should be encouraging and supporting local action groups in this area so that residents are encouraged to help each other in times of flooding and storms. The Officer advised that each point raised by the Member will be embedded within the revised strategy looking ahead at the next

5 years and what actions need to be taken by the Council. The Officer confirmed that the Council's tools, maps and data are a lot better than what they were previously as well as the Council's working partnership with NRW. In terms of making future house buyers aware, the Officer confirmed that flood risk reports are available for prospective buyers from a number of suppliers and a simple online search on NRW's website. In terms of supporting local flood risk action groups, it is part of the current Council's strategy and will be embedded in the flood risk management plan.

Another Member referred to the survey and questioned what action is being taken to assist specific areas such as pentre. The Officer advised that works have been carried out in pentre and are in development. He further commented that the number of residents who responded to questions on flood risk management was disappointing given the numbers that were affected by Storm Dennis. However, the Officer advised that the results are still really good and still valid in terms of Climate Change strategy and a way forward on the Review of the Local Flood Risk Strategy.

In respect of the Officer's previous comments regarding laying grass instead of patios, a Member questioned whether there is any standard advice on this that the Council is promoting to the public. The Officer confirmed that the report highlights that the Council needs to increase the amount of information available to the public in terms of self help information regarding climate change. The Officer confirmed that this will be in the next stage of the strategy development. Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the contents of the report and for the comments of the Scrutiny Committee to be fed into the revised local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan.

59 Heritage Services

The Heritage Operations Manager presented the report to Members and provided them with an overview of the service through the use of a power point presentation.

Following this, Members had the opportunity to scrutinise the report in further detail. The Chair thanked the Officer for the presentation.

A Member advised that he used to be a minor and the language that was used was completely different and referenced an example where at that particular time it wasn't accepted to be called 'Black'. The Officer agreed and noted that the language is always evolving.

Discussions ensued and another Member questioned if there's anything the Council intend to do about restoring chapels across RCT. The Officer advise that he is happy to support any community groups or charities but hat as a Council they do not have the resources available to them. As discussions ensured another Member noted that he did not agree with the removal of the statue in Bristol and noted that you cannot change history. The Member noted that he also did not agree with changing street names. It was also noted that the Member used to work in the colliery and noted that there was always good camaraderie amongst all the men.

Discussions continued and a Member queried whether there were any other plans to extend the roll out of QR Codes. The Officer advised that this will be a

part of the plan going forward. Another Member commented that we do need to preserve our heritage and queried what the Council are doing about this. The Officer confirmed that this is a priority for the Council.

Following discussion, Members **AGREED** to acknowledge the update.

60 Information Report

The Vice Chair advised Members that the report was provided for information and that if they have any questions to email them to Scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk

61 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business to report.

62 Chairs Review and Close

The Vice Chair informed Members that this is the last meeting of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee for the 2022-23 Municipal Year. The Vice Chair thanked the Chair for his hard work over the past year and thanked Committee Members for their commitment and dedication.

This meeting closed at 6.14 pm

Vice Chair, Cllr G Warren