

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SERVICE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
27TH JUNE, 2019**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J. WILKINS (CHAIR)

Councillors C. Meredith
P. Baldwin
M.J. Cook
G.L. Davies
L. Elias
S. Healy
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
H. McCarthy
J.P. Morgan
G. Paulsen
L.C. Winnett

AND: Service Manager Community Services
Service Manager Public Protection
Team Leader Transport /Street Scene
Engineering Manager
Engineering Services & Transportation Planning
Manager
Engineer
Communications, Marketing and Customer Access
Manager
Scrutiny Officer

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	

<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>An apology for absence was reported for Councillor T. Sharrem.</p>	
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest and dispensations reported.</p>	
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></p> <p>The Committee AGREED that future meetings be held at 10.00 a.m.</p>	
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The minutes of the special Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee held on 18th March, 2019 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 18TH MARCH, 2019</u></p> <p>The action sheet arising from the special meeting of the Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee held on 18th March, 2019 was submitted, whereupon:-</p> <p><u>Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Performance Review 2018/2019</u></p> <p>A Member referred to page 7 of the Minutes and expressed concern that the same article had appeared in the press, and asked that this be taken up with the Managing Director.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the action sheet be noted.</p>	<p>Managing Director</p>
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p>	

	<p>The minutes of the Environment Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee held on 4th April, 2019 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 4TH APRIL, 2019</u></p> <p>The action sheet arising from the special meeting of the Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee held on 4th April, 2019 was submitted, whereupon:-</p> <p><i><u>Blaenau Gwent Consumer Brochure</u></i></p> <p>Following a question raised, the Chair confirmed that this would remain on the Action Sheet until the brochure was presented to Committee.</p> <p><i><u>Review Update of Community Asset Transfers</u></i></p> <p>Following a request by a Member for an update, it was noted that an update was provided to Members via e.mail on the 18th June, 2019, and a further report would be submitted to Committee in the Autumn.</p> <p><i><u>Highways Capital Works Programme 2018/19</u></i></p> <p>In response to a question raised by a Member regarding potential surplus monies for additional schemes, the Engineering Manager explained that this would not be known until the works were completed and an audit undertaken.</p> <p>A brief discussion ensued when a Member said he would not have expected the remedial works for the new Six Bells School site would be funded from the Highways Capital Works Programme.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the action sheet be noted.</p>	<p>Muhammed Forouzan</p>

<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>PROPOSED SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2019-20</u></p> <p>The proposed Scrutiny Forward Work Programme for 2019-20 was submitted for approval. The Work Programme was a fluid document and there was flexibility to allow for regular review between the Chair and the Committee.</p> <p>The following points were then made by Members.</p> <p><u>Straying Animals</u></p> <p>A Member said straying animals was a problem in the Borough and suggested that this be added to the Work Programme.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding the last meeting of the Straying Animals Forum, and the Service Manager Community Services said it was apparent from the meeting that there were specific problem areas, and it was intended to address issues on an area by area basis. The issues were predominantly fencelines, and whilst the Council has to demonstrate that we are making inspections and carrying out repairs, there were budget implications.</p> <p>A Member referred to the good work of the previous Straying Animals Forum which all but eradicated the problem in the Borough, and said a robust policy was needed, and consideration should be given to reinstating the Forum on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the Forward Work Programme for the Community Services Scrutiny Committee be approved.</p>	
<p>No. 10</p>	<p><u>WASTE AND RECYCLING PERFORMANCE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Community Services which provided an update of waste and recycling performance outcomes for 2018-2019.</p> <p>The Team Leader Transport /Street Scene presented the report and confirmed that overall there has been an increase in Blaenau Gwent's recycling rate in 2018/19 and</p>	

more noticeably since the introduction of side waste enforcement and black bag sorting at the HWRC towards the end of Q1.

He referred to the table at section 6.1 of the report and confirmed that the figures had now been verified by Natural Resources Wales and the Q4 figure was 59.22%, and the overall annual recycling figure was 59.26%. He said this was a significant achievement for the Council in meeting the Welsh Government recycling target for the first time, and commended the Waste Team for their considerable efforts, and thanked the Leadership and Members for their support. However, he also commended and thanked the residents of Blaenau Gwent for their patience and support in helping the Council achieve its targets, and this would be communicated to residents in due course.

However, he said more work was needed to meet the 64% target for 2019/20 which would be a huge challenge, and the Team would be relying, again, on the support of Members and residents in putting measures in place to achieve that target.

Members said this was very good news and commended the Waste Team for their efforts, and also the residents of Blaenau Gwent.

In response to a question raised by a Member regarding trade waste initiatives, the Officer explained that work on this had been delayed due to staffing issues. However, a new Officer had now been appointed to commence at the beginning of August to continue the review of the service and drive forward the commercial and trade waste business.

A Member referred to the orange refuse bags used by residents to undertake litter picks of their streets etc. and asked whether recyclable materials were being taken out following collection.

The Officer confirmed that this was being undertaken. He also reported that it was intended to install 'on-the-go' recycling bins in Town Centres, and hopefully this would improve our recycling rates. The Officer undertook to discuss location of the bins with Members.

In response to a question raised regarding fly tipping figures the Officer said it formed part of the overall residual tonnage.

A discussion ensued when the Service Manager Community Services clarified points raised by Members regarding the commercial waste review and the green waste service.

A Member commended the Officer for achieving the target for this year, and asked what plans were in place to meet next year's targets. The Service Manager Community Services outlined various initiatives intended to hopefully meet the 64% target for next year, including the 'on-the-go' bins in Town Centre, and continuation of the green waste service throughout the year.

In relation to green waste collection, a Member suggested that green waste be collected from CAT facilities, and the Officer said he would discuss this with the Team Manager for Streetscene.

A discussion ensued when the Officer clarified points raised by Members. In relation to the proposed new HWRC, he explained that a business case had been submitted to WG, and a meeting would be held with the Minister on 8th July, 2019 to discuss potential funding options. Also in relation to rear lane collections, he confirmed that the new vehicles had been ordered, and a full review of the routes was currently being undertaken.

In response to a question raised by a Member, the Team Leader Transport/Streetscene confirmed that the Public Engagement Roadshows had been excellent, and perhaps the scope of these could be widened moving forward. However, there had been a delay in delivering some of the equipment requested following the Roadshows due to the demand and also supply issues. However, an additional crew has been out and hopefully this issue was now being resolved.

The Committee AGREED to recommend Option 2, i.e. to consider the information contained within the report and provided challenge and/or further action for consideration to

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e Watkins

	make improvements.	
No. 11	<p><u>CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT: PARKING ENFORCEMENT POLICY</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Community Services which sought comments from Scrutiny on the Parking Enforcement Policy for Civil Parking Enforcement in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>The Engineering Services & Transportation Planning Manager spoke to the report and highlighted points contained therein. He confirmed that notification had now been received from Welsh Government that the formal application for the acquisition of Civil Parking Enforcement powers had been approved.</p> <p>A Member expressed concern that a vast number of ‘yellow lines’ in place throughout the Borough were out-dated, and should be reviewed. Another Member also raised concern regarding the process of dealing with abandoned vehicles.</p> <p>In response the Officer said the timescale for implementation of the scheme did not allow for consideration of the individual traffic regulation orders currently in place throughout the Borough, dating back many years. Resources were limited within the Section, however, following implementation of the scheme Officers endeavour to consider any requests received.</p> <p>In relation to abandoned vehicles, he explained that when a PCN was issued, if no response was received within 28 days it would be passed to the DVLA to ascertain ownership of the vehicle.</p> <p>A Member asked whether there were be an amnesty period following implementation of the scheme to allow for review to be undertaken. He also said there were numerous residential streets within the Borough where parking on the pavement was necessary due to the width of the roads, and asked whether residents would be penalised for doing so.</p> <p>The Officer said it was unlikely that a PCN would be issued if a vehicle was not causing an obstruction, however, a</p>	

warning could be issued if a vehicle was parked on the pavement where a traffic regulation order was in place, i.e. yellow line.

A brief discussion ensued when Officers clarified points raised by Members in relation to the scheme.

A Member asked whether it was possible for the Authority's Environmental Enforcement Officers to also enforce the scheme, as this would provide a more robust workforce without any additional expense. In response the Officer confirmed that resources would be reviewed moving forward.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members provided comment on the Civil Parking Enforcement Policy for Blaenau Gwent, prior to adoption of the Policy (Option 2).
