

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PLACE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
11TH MARCH, 2025**

REPORT OF:

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M. CROSS (CHAIR)

Councillors R. Leadbeater (Vice-Chair)
S. Behr
K. Chaplin
G. A. Davies
W. Hodgins
L. Parsons
D. Rowberry
J. Millard

WITH: Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services
Service Manager – Public Protection
Service Manager – Neighbourhood Services
Team Manager – Neighbourhood Services
Destination Management Officer
Service Manager – Business & Regeneration
Team Manager – Business & Innovation
Head of Community Services
Communications & Marketing Officer
Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was reported that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation	
No. 2	<u>APOLOGIES</u>	

	An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Gardner.	
No. 3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS</u> No declarations of interest and dispensations were reported.	
No. 4	<u>PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u> Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 28 th January, 2025. The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.	
No. 5	<u>ACTION SHEET</u> Consideration was given to the Action Sheet. The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.	
No. 6	<u>REVIEW OF GREEN WASTE BAG CHARGES AND OPENING DAYS OF THE HWRCs</u> Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager – Neighbourhood Services. The Committee AGREED the following:- Review of Green Waste Bag charges - The Committee adopted the charge to residents for green waste recycling bags on a permanent basis. The £2 charge would be included on the fees and charges register and increase in line with Council policy each year. The charge would continue to support the administration and delivery of the green waste bags to residents (Option 1). HWRC Reduced Opening – The Committee gave permanence to the decision implemented in June 2024 to trial the closure of the HWRCs for an additional day each during the week (Option 1).	

<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>VISITOR LEVY</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Destination Management Officer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the Members provided their views on the introduction of a visitor levy in Blaenau Gwent, in order for officers to evaluate the cost and benefit to the local authority on the introduction of a visitor levy in Blaenau Gwent. This would enable officers to evaluate the response from both Scrutiny Members and traders. The results of which would be brought back to Scrutiny for consideration and then for final approval by Cabinet.</p>	
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>BLAENAU GWENT EMPTY PROPERTY STRATEGY</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager – Public Protection.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted, provided comments on the consultation outcomes and supported the adoption of the Blaenau Gwent Empty Property Strategy (Option 1).</p>	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: 29TH APRIL 2025</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and agreed the Forward Programme for the meeting 29th April 2025, as presented (Option 1).</p>	