

**Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Scrutiny
Committee**

(Microsoft Teams Meeting/ Hybrid meeting in Council Chamber)

Members Present:

3 March 2023

Chairperson: Councillor S.Pursey

Vice Chairperson: Councillor T.Bowen

Councillors: W.Carpenter, A.Dacey, R.Davies, N.Goldup-
John, C.James, S.Grimshaw, K.Morris,
S.M.Penry, L.Williams, S.E.Freeguard.

**Officers In
Attendance** D.Griffiths, C.Morris, J.Stevens, B.Griffiths,
S.Brennan, R.Crowhurst, H.Hasan, A.Jones,
K.Lewis, R.Turner and C.John

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors W.F.Griffiths, S.Jones and
D.M.Peters

1. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed the Committee.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2023 were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

4. **To Consider the Recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on the Waste Strategy Review (To Follow)**

Members received an overview of the report requesting that the Scrutiny Committee commend the recommendations within the Task and Finish group report to the Environment, regeneration, and Streetscene Services Cabinet Board.

The Scrutiny Committee also requested that the relevant Cabinet Member reports back to the Scrutiny committee on their response to the recommendations. The Chair thanked the members and officers for their efforts during the Task and Finish group.

Following Scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

5. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny**

Highways and Engineering - Works Programme 2023/2024

Members received information on the highway and engineering works to be undertaken in the financial year 2023/24 and were asked to approve the programme works as presented within the report circulated.

The Chair requested a report from officers to come back to the Scrutiny Committee that is scheduled for the 26th of May detailing the criteria used to assess and prioritise the schemes in highways and engineering works programme as circulated within the report.

Following Scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

Vehicle and Heavy Plant Fleet Procurement Programme 2023/24

Members were advised on the request to approve procurement of new and replacement vehicles and heavy plant in 2023/24. Along with approval of delegated authority for the relevant Head of Service to replace vehicles from future years 25/26 if any grants become available to assist with the purchase of vehicles, as presented within the report circulated.

Members requested that a report be brought to a future meeting detailing figures in relation to plant fleet procurement and how much the Council is committed to, this would provide an understanding for members on the costings of tenders when they become apparent. Officers agreed to bring a cost report back to members half yearly, however they advised that the vehicle market is currently difficult with costs being affected by supply and demand. Officers advised that the report would be dependent on going through specifications of vehicles and seeking tenders to provide costs received.

Members also wanted an update on charging infrastructure in line with having more electric vehicles and a report on this. Officers confirmed that a report would be brought forward and explained that there is currently limited charging infrastructure installed around Civic Buildings. However, in readiness of expanding low carbon vehicles in the fleet, a 1.6million contract has commenced to facilitate this issue and will predominately deal with the council fleet vehicles. This is aimed to be completed by the end of the summer within this financial year. Officers also advised that Tregelles Court will also be receiving some electric vehicle infrastructure as the authority is due to receive electric vehicles to support council services.

Members also wanted to know why the report refers only to the possibility of electric vehicles for the refuse lorries. It was discussed that a transport review would be starting this financial year, with a 5-year plan on how the fleet will be developed and expanded. Officers explained that grants are available to help the difference of cost when switching from diesel to electric to help decarbonise waste fleets by 2030 and it is hoped by officers that should the council decide to move the refuse fleet to electric, that Welsh Government are able to support replacement of the fleet. If not, then the council will need to look at what is affordable. Officers have flagged up to Welsh Government that the Council is renewing most of the fleet so they can factor this in when reviewing their grants.

Following discussions, members felt that zero emissions vehicles should be the main purchase of vehicles to ensure the Council is achieving its environmental targets. Therefore, the following amendment was put forward from Scrutiny Committee for Cabinet Members to consider when making their decision:

- That Members approve the purchase of the zero emission vehicles in the proposed Vehicle/Plant Procurement Programme for 2023/24 set out at appendix a.

- That Delegated Authority be granted to the Head of Service in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Transport and Connectivity to purchase any zero emission vehicles in order to maximise the availability of Grant funding that may become available to assist with the purchase cost of the vehicles.
- That the purchase of fossil fuel powered vehicles included in appendix a, and any additional vehicles be subject to further reports to cabinet board for approval, with justification as to why a zero-emission alternative is not able to be purchased.

Following scrutiny, the above amendment was supported to Cabinet Board.

Key Performance Indicators 2022/2023 – Quarter 3 (1st April 2022 – 31st December 2023)

Members received the report Quarter 3 Performance Management Data and Compliments and Complaints report for the period 1st April 2022 – 31st December 2023 in relation to Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services, as per the report.

Members noted that following a previous Scrutiny Committee a number of recommendations and amendments were put to officers in relation to the reporting of the key Performance Indicators. It was noted that not all of the requests were included within the report due to timescales and data collection. Therefore, scrutiny were advised that the full information will be included within these reports in due course.

Following scrutiny, the report was noted.

6. Urgent Items

There was none.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Members of the Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

8. **Access to Meetings**

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

9. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s**

Home to School Transport

To discuss tendering process in relation to Home to School Transport, as detailed within the private circulated report.

Following scrutiny, the recommendation was supported to cabinet Board.

CHAIRPERSON