



***ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION AND  
STREETSCENE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE***

***10.00 AM FRIDAY, 3 MARCH 2023***

***MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING/ HYBRID MEETING IN COUNCIL  
CHAMBER***

**All mobile telephones to be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting**

This meeting will be recorded for broadcast via the Council's Internet Site. By participating you are consenting to being filmed and the possible use of those images and sound recordings for training purposes.

1. Chair's Announcements
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (*Pages 5 - 8*)  
For the Committee to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
4. To Consider the Recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on the Waste Strategy Review (To Follow)
5. Pre-Decision Scrutiny  
To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board agenda for Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Cabinet Board reports included for Scrutiny Members)
6. Urgent Items  
Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local

Government Act 1972.

7. Forward Work Programme (*Pages 9 - 10*)  
For the Committee to receive the Forward Work Programme of the Environment, Regeneration & Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee for 2022-23.
8. Access to Meetings  
Access to Meetings to resolve to exclude the public for the following item(s) pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

## **PART 2**

9. Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s  
To select appropriate private items from the Cabinet Board agenda for Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Cabinet Board reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).

**K.Jones**  
**Chief Executive**

**Civic Centre**  
**Port Talbot**

**24<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

### **Committee Membership:**

**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 and S.E.Freeguard

**Notes:**

- (1) *If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*
- (2) *If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.*
- (3) *For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised - though Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.*
- (4) *The relevant Cabinet Board Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/ Consultation purposes.*
- (5) *Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet Board papers with them to the meeting.*

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## Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Scrutiny Committee

(Microsoft Teams Meeting/ Hybrid meeting in Council Chamber)

**Members Present:**

**20 January 2023**

**Chairperson:** Councillor S.Pursey

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor T.Bowen

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

**Officers In  
Attendance** D.Griffiths, C.Morris, N.Pearce, C.Plowman,  
M.Roberts, N.Blackmore, N.Chapple, H.Jones  
and J.Stevens

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

**Observers** Councillor Carol Clement-Williams  
Councillor Matthew Crowley  
Councillor Heath Davies

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### 1. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair noted that the Members of the Scrutiny Committee had agreed to scrutinise the following items from the Cabinet Board agenda: Items 12 and 15.

Members were provided with a brief verbal update about the recent successful bid for the levelling up fund for the Neath Valley Heritage Corridor. Works will need to be completed before the end of 2024.

Disappointment was expressed that a successful bid was not achieved for Port Talbot. However, officers advised that work will continue to explore other funding streams to try and carry out work in Port Talbot.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

3. **Consultation on 2023/24 Budget Proposals (Report to Follow)**

Members were presented with the consultation on 2023/24 Budget Proposals, as presented within the report circulated.

Concerns were expressed about the energy efficiency savings. The details of the savings are not specifically outlined within the budget. Further, it was noted that a 50% increase in energy costs has been allowed for within the budget, however there was also a statement within the proposals that costs could increase by 162%. Members queried if the energy efficiency savings would be enough to cover this possible increase.

Officers advised that they have asked for an energy review to be undertaken with more detailed costs to be brought back in 6-8 weeks. This will assist with identifying energy efficiency savings.

There are currently ongoing feasibility studies with regards to the buildings under council ownership and control, to determine if and how they can be used more efficiently. Also, if usage of the buildings can be reduced. This will be required to be undertaken without comprising on the service that is delivered.

Officers confirmed if there are specific proposals about street lighting they will be brought back before Cabinet. This will take place during the relevant financial year, if proposals are brought forward.

Members queried if there was a strategic plan or itemised proposal in relation to climate change, more specifically the current drainage systems that are in place within the borough. Officers outlined the current arrangements and actions that are in place to try and alleviate some of the flooding caused by the drainage systems. It was recognised that some of the issues were not caused by Council owned systems.

Members were advised that the updated Floor Risk Management Strategy would be coming before the relevant committee in September, before being submitted to Welsh Government.

Officers outlined elements of the DARE (Decarbonisation and Renewable Energy) Strategy. It is noted that it does not just relate to physical buildings, but also considers the behaviour of staff. The strategy is in place to work towards the goal of being net zero by 2030.

Members queried if there should be a specific budget allocated to climate change. Officers advised that there is a winter reserve budget which can be used when a response is required to extreme weather. There is a fund in the forthcoming budget to support the DARE strategy and climate change. When relevant feasibility studies have been carried out, the authority will be able to better understand associated risks and the impact that this will have on the budget.

Following scrutiny, members noted the report.

#### 4. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny**

##### Audit Wales National Study - Net Zero Decarbonisation Baseline Review

Members were presented with the Audit Wales National Study – Net Zero Decarbonisation Baseline Review, as presented within the report circulated.

Members queried the specific dates the strategies outlined will be updated.

Officers advised that a report has been commissioned which considers the gaps between the DARE Strategy and the Carbon 2030 Action Plan. The next step is to undertake some work with the carbon trust to draft an action plan which will then be fully costed. The set up meeting to do this is scheduled to take place in early February. The process may take up to 12 months to complete.

With regards the DARE strategy, additional resource will be required to review the strategy and to implement some of the net zero work over the coming years.

#### 5. **Urgent Items**

None.

6. **Access to Meetings**

To resolve to exclude the public for the following item(s) pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

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

The Transfer of Land and Construction of a Commercial Unit at Burrows Yard - Update (Exempt under Paragraph 14)

Following scrutiny, the report was noted.

**CHAIRPERSON**



## Environment, Regeneration & Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee

(All starting 10am unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
<b>2022</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Training Session	
16 <sup>th</sup> Sept		
28 <sup>th</sup> Oct		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec		
<b>2023</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Budget Scrutiny	
	Burrows Yard (cabinet Board)	
24 <sup>th</sup> February (Task and Finish Group session)	Waste Strategy	Mike Roberts
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Waste Strategy proposals from scrutiny	Cllr. Sean Pursey
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Japanese Knotweed	Dave Phillips

26 <sup>th</sup> May	Active Travel	Ceri Morris
	Burrows Yard	

**Report to be included in future cycle:**

- Report detailing a review of the decision on the National Underground Assets Register – detailing further information around the costs and benefits of the project and how the Council wishes to continue with it.
- Burrows Yard to be reviewed quarterly.
- Healthy Travel Charter (Awaiting conformation from Officers)