

## ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Gnoll Country Park)

**Members Present:**

**1 September 2016**

**Chairperson:** Councillor I.D.Williams

**Councillors:** M.Crowley, D.W.Davies, Mrs.R.Davies,  
C.Morgan and Mrs.A.Wingrave

**Officers In Attendance** Mrs.N.Pearce, M.Roberts, D.Griffiths, M. Key,  
N.Evans, H.Hasan and Ms.J.Smith

**Cabinet Invitees:** Councillors E.V.Latham and Mrs.S.Miller

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### 1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The following Member declared the following interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Cllr. A Wingrave: the report of the Head of Engineering and Transport; Proposed Traffic Orders Llandarcy Village as she lives in the area.

### 2. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7TH JULY 2016.**

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 July 2016 and had the following comments.

In relation to the comment with regards footpath maintenance it was highlighted that a request had been made in the middle of July still had not been undertaken. Officers stated that they would look into this and contact the relevant Member directly.

A question was asked on asset sponsorship and although the Council receives approximately £96k clarity was required on how much the Council has to pay for the contract. It was stated that the Council pays nothing for the contract.

Following scrutiny the minutes were agreed.

3. **TO RECEIVE THE SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017.**

Members noted the forward work programme.

4. **CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE - REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE REPORT - QUARTER 1 2016-17**

Members considered a highlight report on the Corporate Improvement Objective: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle which provided a progress report on the first three months of 2016/2017.

Officers stated that this was a new report that was previously only reported to the Corporate Directors Group and Members were asked to comment on the format of the report.

Members were informed that the Recycle Plus programme continued to be rolled out. Officers stated that there had been instances where some households had been visited as they were presenting a large number of black bags. In some of these cases it was found that residents were running a business from their premises and they had subsequently changed to a trade waste contract.

Officers advised Members that there was currently a review ongoing in relation to green waste collection and how the Council is different to the Welsh Government Blueprint. Once the review has been completed this will be presented to the Committee for their consideration and comment.

A further review is also ongoing in relation to the MREC and once final analysis has been completed this will also be reported back to the Committee at a future date.

Members noted that kerbside recycling continued to increase but there was a reduction last year in the amount of bottom ash recycling that was made following waste incineration. The Council had met the 58% target.

Members asked whether flytipping had increased since the civic amenity site had reduced its opening hours. Officers stated they would check the figures. The 'Stats-Wales' website shows figures as follows:

2013/14 - 1269

2014/15 - 1267

2015/16 - 1271

Figures for this year are being monitored

Members raised concern that waste collection calendars had not been issued to residents and whether this was causing a problem. Officers stated that once recycle plus is fully rolled out this financial year there will only be one waste collection system in place and the collection rounds can then be fully optimised including any collection day changes where required. Officers would then look to reintroduce calendars but in the interim information was available on-line or via the Contact Centre.

Members asked whether the vehicles have equipment on them that can assist with picking up any spillage as they assume this would be cheaper than sending a cleansing crew round after the collection. It was stated that supervisors try to instil into the crews the need to clean any spillage as much as possible but on occasions there are issues..

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

## 5. **ROAD SAFETY REPORT CARD**

Members considered the service report card for the Road Safety Unit.

Officers stated the Council was in the top 3 for providing motorcycle training and this is reflected in our low accident rates. In addition adult cycling training has been established and 4 courses had been held so far with more planned in the future.

Members noted that around the schools there needs to be more enforcement activity in relation to parking and Members asked for an update on the situation in relation to the number of wardens. Officers noted that the parking enforcement function was not part of the Road Safety function. The Head of Service advised that within parking services the Senior Supervisor role had now been backfilled and one new officer had been appointed. Over 50 applicants for the remaining vacant post were received. Once appointed, this would bring the total Enforcement Team to nine officers; two of which are Senior Supervisors.

Members asked how the training programmes are funded and it was confirmed that they are funded by Welsh Government currently.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

## 6. **ENGINEERING SERVICES REPORT CARD**

Members considered the Engineering Services Service Report Card.

Members asked what specific progress is being made in relation to the aqueduct at Pontrhydyfen. Officers stated that the progress had been slow due to complications resulting from discussions with CADW relating to the scaffolding design which was a contractor's responsibility. This has now been resolved and work on-site is progressing.

Members asked what the two internal complaints were in relation to and it was confirmed that in fact the complaints were external and neither were upheld.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

## 7. **PRE-DECISION**

The Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the following matters:

### Cabinet Board Proposals

- i. Environment and Highways Performance Indicators for Quarter One 2016/2017.

Members considered the latest performance indicator report.

Officers advised that on 7<sup>th</sup> September the All Wales comparative data will be published by the Data Unit and this will highlight how the Council has performed in 2015/2016 against the other authorities in Wales.

Officers further advised that due to the requirement for Councils to meet a specific target by a certain date many Councils have improved their recycling figures and there was not much difference between the lower and middle quartiles.

Following Scrutiny the report was noted.

ii. Highway and Drainage Services Operational Business Plan

Members were presented with the Highways and Drainage Services Operational Business Plan.

Members were advised that further monitoring of the business plan will be undertaken through consideration of the relevant report cards. Officers stated that the Council had been 3<sup>rd</sup> previously on Highways Maintenance but could be 2<sup>nd</sup> in the most recent figures due to be published shortly.

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

iii. Lighting Services Operational Business Plan

Members considered the Lighting Services Operational Business Plan.

Members asked what the externally funded works that the department undertook. Officers advised that this was generally works like putting up Christmas lights in various communities.

A question was asked with the regards street lighting on the sea front at Aberavon and what the cost was. Officers stated that they would need to investigate this further and the information would be circulated outside of the meeting.

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

iv. Air Quality Progress Report Wales 2016

Members considered the progress report on Air Quality.

Members noted that the Council was allowed up to 35 breaches of air quality and for 2016 there were 38 although these were currently under investigation and the number could fall.

Members asked was it possible to compare how we perform against any similar area in the United Kingdom. Officers stated that this was very difficult to achieve because of the different variables affecting other towns/areas.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

**CHAIRPERSON**