

## ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

**Members Present:**

**16 February 2017**

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

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor S.Rahaman

**Councillors:** Mrs.K.Lloyd, M.Crowley, D.M.Peters,  
D.W.Davies, Mrs.R.Davies, S.K.Hunt,  
E.E.Jones and Mrs.A.Wingrave

**Officers In Attendance** M.Roberts, D.Griffiths, K. Lewis, P. Jackson,  
M.Duffy, M. Thomas and Miss.C.Davies

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

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It is with great sadness that I would advise Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee of the death of Councillor John Bryant who was a Member of this Authority.

As a mark of respect Members stood for a minute's silence.

1. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2017**

The Committee noted the Minutes.

2. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017.**

The forward work programme was noted by the Committee. It was highlighted that this meeting would be the last meeting of Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee for the civic year 2016/17 due the pre-election period.

3. **INTEGRATED TRANSPORT UNIT SERVICE REPORT CARD 2016/2017**

Members considered the Report Card for the Integrated Transport Unit.

Members asked how the MOT Service was progressing and if the service was open to the public. Officers confirmed that it is; however, they are currently not advertising the service as they want to ensure the service works correctly before including the public.

Members queried how much the Authority was charging for MOT's. Officers confirmed that there was a cost of £45 for public, taxi drivers were charged £20 and staff would have a discount of £5.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

4. **BUILDING SERVICES REPORT CARD 2016/2017**

Members considered the Report Card for Building Services.

Members queried that the performance Outlook for 2016-17 on Minor and Major accident statistics was to improve and asked if it meant that standards was not being met. Officers confirmed that the objective would always be zero and therefore would always have an outlook to improve.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

5. **CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE - REDUCE, REUSE RECYCLE - QUARTER 3 MONITORING REPORT**

Members considered the Corporate Improvement Objective on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Members queried the cost of fly tipping. Officers highlighted that the statistics in Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for the last 5 years is available online.

Members highlighted that there are occasions where recycling was not being picked up on the scheduled days. Officers highlighted that currently there is not a consistent service throughout the borough and when Recycle + is fully rolled out as collection routes will be

optimised to smooth the workload through the week. There will always be potential for problems with vehicle breakdowns however.. It was noted that Members should be informed if their ward was not going to be collected on the scheduled day to inform the public and would make sure that service is being adhered to.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

## 6. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

### Cabinet Board Proposals

#### 6.1 Review of Kerbside Collection of garden Waste

Members considered the review of the kerbside collection of garden waste.

Members queried what the impact would be on people with large gardens and people who cut grass that belong to the authority. Officers highlighted that in other authorities where this process is used there hasn't been any particular issues raised.

Members queried whether compost bins were still available to the public to reduce waste. Officers confirmed that the issuing of compost bins was agreed to be ceased, however, some compost bins were believed to be still available to purchase at the Briton Ferry Re-use shop.

Members queried what the capacity of the re-useable Garden waste sacks was. Officers confirmed that the re-useable Garden Waste Sacks would hold around 4 plastic recycling bag fulls of green waste.

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

#### 6.2 Taxi Rank – Orchard Street, Neath

Members considered the objections received following the advertisement of the proposal to have a taxi rank at Orchard Street, Neath.

A petition was circulated at the meeting that contained approximately 76 signatures from taxi operators. Members noted that the petition was received out of the time limit; however felt it was appropriate to consider it.

The RMT wanted a Rank in front of the Gwyn Hall, Officers highlighted that the original proposal was to have the taxi rank near the Gwyn Hall, however, there were several objections and it was also not ideal due to the two-way traffic and busy location due to pick-up of bulky goods from nearby stores.

Members queried why there was no Equality Impact Assessment. Officers confirmed that there had been a screening assessment undertaken which highlighted that there was no requirement for a full Equality Impact Assessment.

Members queried if there was any other suitable area for the Taxi rank to be placed. Officers confirmed that it was proving difficult to identify other suitable areas and most would have some form of objection. It was noted that there was very limited time as it would have to go through due process which could take up to 8 weeks when the taxi rank is temporary for approx. 20 weeks.

Following scrutiny, the committee was unsupportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

### 6.3 Rhianna's Swing – Gnoll Park

Members considered a request for a 5 year repairing lease to an area of land adjacent to the existing children's playground within the Gnoll Country Park, Neath.

Members commended the report.

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

### 6.4 Port Talbot Integrated Transport Hub – Material Change Proposal

Members considered a report to obtain authority for the Director and Head of Engineering and Transport to enter into a Material

Change Proposal with Network rail, in relation to land adjacent to Port Talbot Parkway Station.

It was highlighted that the cleanliness of Port Talbot Parkway Station was not up to standard and there had been bad press relating to it.

Officers advised that this was the responsibility of Network Rail and that the matter had been raised with them directly.

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

## 7. **URGENT ITEMS**

Because of the need to deal now with the matters contained in Minute No. 8.1 and 8.2 below, the Chairman agreed that these could be raised at today's meeting as urgent items pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason:

Due to the time element.

## 8. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following urgent items:

### Cabinet Board Proposals

#### 8.1 Urgent Report of the Head of Engineering and Transport – Traffic Orders, Ty-Fry Road, Bertha Road and beechwood Road, Margam

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

8.2 Urgent report of the Head of Engineering and Transport –  
National Procurement Service Supply of Vehicle Spare Parts  
Framework

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

**CHAIRPERSON**