



**STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(RESCHEDULED FROM 2ND MARCH 2018)**

2.00 pm TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 2018

COMMITTEE ROOMS A/B - NEATH CIVIC CENTRE

PART 1

1. To receive any declarations of interest from Members
2. To receive the Minutes of the Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee held on 19th January 2018 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
3. To receive the Minutes of the Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee held on 13th February 2018 (*Pages 7 - 10*)
4. To receive the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2017/18.
(*Pages 11 - 12*)
5. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).
6. Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972

**S.Phillips
Chief Executive**

**Civic Centre
Port Talbot**

Date Not Specified

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: Councillor S.M.Penry

**Vice
Chairperson:** Councillor S. ap Dafydd

Councillors: A.R.Aubrey, N.J.E.Davies, R.Davies,
W.F.Griffiths, C.James, A.McGrath, R.Thomas,
J.Warman, R.W.Wood and J.Hale

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.*

STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

19 January 2018

Chairperson: Councillor S.M.Penry

Councillors: A.R.Aubrey, N.J.E.Davies, R.Davies, J.Hale,
C.James, A.McGrath, R.W.Wood and
S. ap Dafydd

Officers In Attendance M. Thomas and S. Curran

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors E.V.Latham and A.Wingrave

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

The following Member made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Cllr R Davies: Report of the Head of Engineering and Transport re: Traffic Order Glan Y Afon Ystalyfera as she is a Governor of Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur.

2. **MINUTES OF THE STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2017**

The Committee noted the Minutes.

3. **MINUTES OF THE STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH DECEMBER 2017**

The Committee noted the Minutes.

4. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

The Committee requested the following items be added to the Forward Work Programme:

Update on Safety Certificates held by the Contractors on the Approved Contractor List

Opening Hours Recycling Centres

Grit Bins- an update on the previous Task and Finish Review findings and progress against any actions.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

5. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

5.1 Japanese Knotweed Management and Treatment Service

The Committee received information in relation to a Japanese Knotweed Management and Treatment Service as contained within the circulated report.

The Committee were made aware that within appendix 1 of the report, reference to the management plan costs on page 3 and 5 should be **£120** (which includes VAT) **not £100** as shown in the report.

Members asked if it was the intention to grow the service into a business and maximise the potential income generation. It was explained that the model being proposed is based on a cost recovery model. If the service was successful it could be expanded if it was feasible to do so.

Members raised concern about those who would be unable to afford the service. It was explained that the service is designed to be affordable and the costs are felt to be reasonable and based on cost recovery. Members were pleased to note that there was an option for staged payments to make the service more affordable.

A discussion was held on the different services available in the private sector at different costs and Members asked if more information on the comparison that had been conducted among commercial operators be circulated to them via email.

The Committee asked if other Council's policies had been reviewed. Swansea Council was used as an example, however Members noted that the service provided in Swansea is a different model whereby the quotes are given on an individual basis.

Further information was sought on the breakdown of the costs and it was explained that all elements such as officer time, treatment and accommodation costs have been carefully considered.

Members asked if a 5 year plan was mandatory and if it could be opted out of at any time. It was explained that while every case would be carefully monitored it would be the home owner's decision to opt out at any time. An early opt out however may affect the effectiveness of the management and treatment plan.

The Committee asked for assurances that offering this new service wouldn't have a detrimental impact on existing Council Services. It was explained that this service would utilise different personnel and resources and would be regularly reviewed to ensure existing services are not adversely affected.

Members noted that the Council would be in a position to decline to service an area if it was felt it could not be treated successfully.

A discussion was held on Network Rail and the Civil Action that is available to home owners should they want to pursue any action against them. It was noted that this was not in the remit of this report as the proposals are for the provision of a paid for service to manage and treat Japanese Knotweed and is not an enforcement function.

Members were pleased to note that the Communications Team would be engaged to launch and promote the new scheme.

Members looked forward to receiving annual updates on the Service on progress and case studies.

Following scrutiny the Committee were supportive of the proposal to be considered at Cabinet Board.

CHAIRPERSON

STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

13 February 2018

Chairperson: Councillor S.M.Penry

Councillors: A.R.Aubrey, N.J.E.Davies, R.Davies,
W.F.Griffiths, C.James, A.McGrath, J.Warman,
R.W.Wood, S. ap Dafydd and J.Hale

Officers In Attendance D.Griffiths, S. Curran and Mr. S Cook

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors E.V.Latham and A.Wingrave

1. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

1.1 **Parking Review 2018**

The Committee received information in relation to a variety of initiatives in relation to the Authority's parking services as contained within the circulated report.

Members expressed concern regarding 'Virtual Permits' whereby the need for paper permits will be eliminated and what this would mean for members of the public who are not IT literate and it was confirmed that the services would still be offered i.e assistance with registering for a permit.

Members were informed that fees and charges are considered on an annual basis.

The Committee noted with concern that the translation into Welsh would be prohibitive and were concerned at the

implications of this particularly in line with the new Welsh Language Standards being implemented by Welsh Government. It was explained that while the NPT landing pages on the Council's website would be bilingual, ongoing discussions are being held with the third party company on the costs and options in relation to translation.

Officers agreed to raise this particular issue with the Welsh Language commissioner for consideration.

Members asked for detail in relation to Welsh Government's involvement and were informed that there is no universal regime such as integrated tickets or universal metering but that the Parking Services Regional Group are taking this forward.

It was noted that the proposed tariffs remain cheaper than in other Local Authorities.

Members asked if any consideration had been given to extending the opening hours of the Neath Multi Storey Car Park when there were particular events on. It was explained that this has been debated at length however the cost per hour to extend the opening would be prohibitive. Particularly as other measures to encourage the night time economy were provided such as regulation orders in the pedestrian areas being changed after 6pm to allow for parking.

Officers noted that the Car Park is opened for specific occasions, i.e. Neath Fair, Fireworks and special events.

The Committee welcomed the Mobile CCTV Enforcement and noted that it is a police matter if vehicles are obstructing the highway. It was noted that enforcement can be done on signed and lined bus stops but there is more difficulty if bus bays are not marked. Members noted that there is a planned review to identify and refresh lines and signs and to identify problematic locations to be addressed.

Members asked for further information in relation to parity between all areas on parking charges. It was explained that the charges at the beachfront aim to maximise visitors and income and all reasonable considerations have been taken into account and that a balanced and an incremental approach be taken.

It was noted that the Local Members fully support the proposals.

Following scrutiny, the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

CHAIRPERSON

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(DRAFT)
Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2017/18

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
2 March 2018		
13 April 2018	‘Public Lighting Asset update’	Mike Roberts
	Information on Refuse and Recycling Team (part of Cabinet Report on Waste Strategy Review)	Mike Roberts

- Approved Contractors Health and Safety

Waste Strategy Review:

- Recycling and Refuse Teams Performance
- Update on Side Waste Task and Finish Group
- Recycling Centre Opening Times

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