

STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

20 July 2018

Chairperson: Councillor S.M.Penry

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S. ap Dafydd

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

Officers In Attendance D.Griffiths, A.Lewis, P. Jackson and C.Davies

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

1. **MINUTES OF THE STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 25TH MAY 2018**

The committee noted the minutes.

2. **OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY TRANSPORT IN THE NPTCBC AREA**

Members were provided with background information on the Third Sector Community Transport organisations operating in the Neath Port Talbot area, as detailed in the circulated report

Members asked whether there were two volunteers as there was an error in the report. Officers confirmed that there was a misspelling and it was meant to read two volunteers.

Members highlighted that the main element of community transport are volunteers, and therefore asked what encouragement is being offered. Officers advised that they are actively trying to get volunteers through advertisement, however people aren't responding.

Members questioned how often the mobility scooters are in usage. Officers highlighted that membership had dropped due to not particularly great summers, especially in Neath as there is no undercover like in Port Talbot shopping centre. Officers highlighted that they would provide members with the data

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

3. **OVERVIEW OF SUBSIDISED AND LOCAL BUS SERVICES IN NEATH PORT TALBOT**

Member's praised officers for their report and confirmed that they were satisfied with the information that was provided and therefore noted the report.

4. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters.

Cabinet Board Proposals

4.1 **Street Scene and Engineering Performance Indicators for Quarter 4 of 2017/18**

Members received information on the quarter 4 performance management data for the period 1st April to 31st March 2018 for Environment, as detailed in the circulated report.

Members questioned why the calculation of the Transport and Highways Performance Indicator had been temporarily suspended. Officers highlighted that they were unsure, however reassured members that they would look in to it and provide an update.

4.2 **Waste Strategy Update**

Members were informed of the Council's waste strategy with a view to meeting the next statutory 'recycling' target of 64% in 2019/20 and continuing to make progress towards the 70% target in 2024/25.

Members highlighted that there was only 6% difference between the recycling targets for 2019/20 and 2024/25 and asked why was this percentage was so low. Officers highlighted that the majority of the easy to achieve changes to encourage recycling had been achieved and that to achieve increased recycling rates / participation has become more difficult therefore the 6% may seem low, however, it is a big increase to achieve.

Members asked officers to confirm how the tailored vehicles for the roll out of Recycle+ system would work. Officers highlighted that the vehicles are to be used for primarily for farms and rear lanes throughout the county borough. This will result in all domestic properties in Neath Port Talbot being on the same Recycle+ system.

Members queried whether one truck collects all waste. Officers confirmed that there are separate vehicles. One collects residual wheelie bin / black bag and green waste whilst the other collects the recycling.

Members asked whether those vehicles work together, at the same time. Officers highlighted that both are in the same area on the same day but not necessarily at the same time.

Members asked whether the vehicles that are used could have a weighing system installed to calculate the amount of weight of each compartment on the recycling trucks. Officers highlighted that they were unsure, however could make enquiries to the manufactures around specification.

Members asked what systems are in place to audit residents recycling waste. Officers highlighted that participation surveys have been carried out and that staff report back on homes that present large quantities of waste.

Members questioned officers on how they encourage other organisations such as Tai Tarian and Coastal to inspire their residents too recycle. Officers highlighted that they currently work in partnership with Coastal Housing through enforcement officers and that approaches have been made to Tai Tarian who have not yet taken up that offer.

Members highlighted whether Green waste could be collected weekly during the summer. It was noted that this was also raised last year. Officers highlighted green waste is currently collected in a separate compartment of the refuse vehicles and that with the current budget restraints it would not be achievable to change this.

Members raised concerns as during the summer months the Green waste starts to have an odour and they are not being picked up regularly. Officers highlighted to members that the collection of green waste isn't a statutory requirement, however, if it is not being picked up when properly presented then members need to contact the relevant officers.

Some of the Members raised concern on measure's 6 & 9 and highlighted that they could not be in support of the recommendation unless those two measures were removed.

The Cabinet Member highlighted that Education is a key priority in this scheme and if the decision was to be approved then the changes would not be implemented until April 2019 to allow the public enough time to prepare for the changes.

Members asked what was being done for the education element of the scheme. Officers highlighted that there is a communications plan being developed which will include letter drops, media releases, local radio etc. to highlight these changes prior to implementation.

It was highlighted that there were concerns in the community about vermin being attracted by the changes in recycling. Members highlighted that if recycling is done in the proper manner then vermin wouldn't be enticed.

Members asked whether every resident would receive a letter informing them of the recycling changes. Officers confirmed that every resident would receive a letter.

The Cabinet Members highlighted that Members may wish to take the word 'Current' out of measure 7 to make it read more clearly. The scrutiny members were in favour to do that.

It was highlighted that on occasions residents could be running businesses from home, which incurs more waste. Members

asked what the difference was between a household having more children in a home to a household running a small child minders business as the amount of waste would equal the same amount. Officers highlighted that it is legislation and not Council Policy that sets out the differences between domestic and non-domestic waste. Questions were raised regarding if a resident is running a child minders business from home. Officers confirmed that this would be classed as a business and any waste produced by that business would be subject to trade waste charges.

Members raised concern around the Recycling centres opening hours, due to the 25 minutes queue's that can occur on weekends. The Cabinet Member highlighted that the deputy leader had asked members in a previous All Members Seminar to write in their views on the opening hours. Only two submissions were received, both in support of the status quo.

Members asked whether the management of the traffic could be looked at rather than the opening hours, to prevent queues as the direction of traffic could be more streamlined. Officers confirmed they would investigate if this was feasible.

Members asked how much it would cost for the food waste loyalty lottery that was included in the previous all member seminar on waste. It was highlighted that it was put forward as a suggestion however upon further investigation this suggestion did not seem feasible and therefore had not been included as a proposal.

Members asked whether there will be education on the new recycling system in schools. Officers confirmed that there is currently ongoing education on recycling in schools and could gather feedback to provide to members.

Members asked whether education on recycling is being taught at all schools. Officers highlighted that it is easy to engage with Primary school pupils however, more difficult at Secondary Schools. Members suggested that it be taught through the Welsh Baccalaureate classes as it's statutory for all secondary pupils to take that subject.

Members highlighted that recycling bins should be installed in rural areas as well as town centres. Officers highlighted that

there is a linked budget for this but if the scheme is successful may roll out eventually to all areas, dependant on budget costs.

It was noted that the current van permit system is being abused with many vans arriving at the site from neighbouring authorities to use the recycling centre. Officers highlighted that enforcement officers are currently on site to deter this.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that Cabinet Board be asked to consider the following amended recommendations:

- Measure 1: Complete roll-out of 'Recycle+' kerb-sort recycling collections;
- Measure 2: Change the current two vehicles dedicated to trade waste recycling to two new split-back freighter vehicles with bin lifts for trade waste and flats;
- Measure 3: Introduce an electronic 'link' between the Council Tax and Recycling Services. Similarly, it is proposed to have a link between the Business Rates Section and the Trade Waste Service;
- Measure 4: Offer a 'waste audit' to the Council's larger residual waste producing trade customers to help them recycle more where possible;
- Measure 5: Change the collection of green waste from single use bags to re-usable sacks, supplying 2 bags per household with the need, with a charge of £1.00 for replacement/additional sacks. Green waste will be collected all year round, but the small amount of green waste collected during the period December to February would not be kept separate or composted;
- Measure 6: Cease accepting the presentation of side waste alongside wheeled bins, or more than three black sacks in bag areas;
- Measure 7: Maintain the 'exemption' scheme for additional waste where the amount of non-recyclable waste produced

by a household exceeds the permitted wheeled bin capacity or bag limit;

- Measure 8: Identify and investigate locations where householders may be operating business from their homes and putting trade waste out for household collection;
- Measure 9: Increase enforcement activity against residents presenting excess waste where not covered by the Council's exemption scheme when the 'no side waste' restriction in measure 6 is implemented;
- Measure 10: Appoint two additional enforcement officers dedicated to enforcing the 'no side waste' policy;
- Measure 11: Introduce 'bag splitting' for residual waste at our HWRCs through the introduction of residual waste presentation/challenge areas to maximise the level of diversion of landfill;
- Measure 12: Maintain current opening hours at our HWRC's;
- Measure 13: Close the HWRC at Pwllfawatkin and move to a replacement higher performing purpose built joint facility with Powys on the border at Lower Cwmtwrch;
- Measure 14: Expand and increase the focus of education and awareness raising towards reducing food waste;
- Measure 15: Introduce more secure external food waste collection bin for all new and replacement food bins;
- Measure 16: Introduce additional recycling litter bins in town centres and other areas of high foot fall;
- Measure 17: Change trade collections in Neath Town Centre to once a week in line with Pontardawe and Port Talbot collections. It is also proposed to change the collection day to improve integration of the trade service with general recycling collections;

- Measure 18: Expansion of the re-use shop at Briton Ferry to allow Enfys to expand service;
- Measure 19: Introduce checks to van permit requests for HWRC's and limit number of permits to 12 per year.

4.3 Proposed Individual Disabled Parking Place: No. 25 Brytwn Road, Cymmer

Members received information on the Legal Orders for the Implementation of an Individual Disabled Parking Place (IDPP) bay at No.25 Brytwn Road, Cymmer.

Members asked whether double yellow lines could be put in place to prevent other disabled badge holders to park in individual disabled parking place bays, as it can be mistaken for a generic disabled parking bay. Officers highlighted that markings on the road have to comply with the regulations in order for them to be legally enforced.

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

5. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

Members noted the Scrutiny forward work programme.

CHAIRPERSON