

STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

22 February 2019

Chairperson: Councillor S.Penry

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S. ap Dafydd

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

Officers In Attendance D.Griffiths, N.Headon, P. Jackson, R.Turner
and J.Davies

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

1. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee chose to scrutinise the following items:

Cabinet Board Proposals

1.1 Household Waste Recycling Centre, Lower Cwmtwrch

The Committee received information in relation to Household Waste Recycling Centre, Lower Cwmtwrch as contained within the circulated report.

Members referred to paragraph nine on page 13 in relation the financial impact, and queried whether the savings made from closing Pwllfawatkin have been factored into this figure. Officers stated that the savings from the closure of Pwllfawatkin had been factored in, but the savings fell marginally short of the £100,000 target.

Members queried whether there was a breakdown available which provided the outturn cost for the deal agreed with Powys. Officers explained that there was no further breakdown available from Powys, and that officers had agreed to a lump

sum payment to cover site management fees. Officers informed the committee that both authorities would share the cost of residual waste, recycling, reuse and composting tonnages taken by residents to the site on a 50/50 basis for the first three years. Officers added that after the three year period had elapsed that surveys would be undertaken to determine the cost to each authority based on actual usage by citizens from both areas.

Members queried whether there was a further breakdown of the figure agreed with Powys. Officers explained that cost of the contract with Powys was cheaper and better value for money than the current arrangement. Officers added that there wasn't much additional detail to include other than what was included in the report.

Members queried why the site would be closed for two days. Officers explained that it was in order to make the site more viable.

Following scrutiny, the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board; however the committee requested for a further report to be presented to the committee with a further breakdown of outturn costs.

1.2 Programme of Maintenance of Bus Shelters

The committee received a report in relation to the Programme of Maintenance of Bus Shelters as contained within the circulated report.

Members queried whether the contract in place with Clear Channel in relation to the maintenance of the stainless steel bus shelters was effective. Officers stated that the contract with Clear Channel was good value for the Council as they offered a full maintenance and repair service on a regular basis at no cost to the Council, provided that they could arrange advertisements on the shelters and retain the associated income. Officers added that the only cost that the Council would have to incur was to replace a bus shelter if it was demolished or damaged beyond repair, and an insurance claim was unsuccessful.

Members questioned that in the scenario where an insurance claim was not successful and there was no money in the budget to replace a bus stop, would a flag and a pole in place of a bus shelter work as a temporary measure. Officers stated that every insurance claim was followed up and the Council had a good track record of recovering costs.

Members queried whether there were any usage figures available which could determine whether there was still a need for a bus shelter in a local area. Officers stated that specific data on bus shelter usage was not currently available; however this information was currently being collected for the Welsh Government as part of a response aimed to improve bus services in Wales.

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

13. Key Performance Indicators 2018/2019 – Quarter 3 Performance (1st April 2018 – 31st December 2018)

The committee received information in relation to the Key Performance Indicators 2018/2019 – Quarter 3 Performance (1st April 2018 – 31st December 2018) as contained within the circulated report.

Members referred to an article on the BBC news website dated 12th February 2019, where the Council had been reported to have received complaints regarding 3,810 missed bin collections; and queried whether the vast majority of them were not upheld or partially upheld, and how many of them were reflected in the performance data. Officer informed the committee that the way the calls were recorded were as a request for service and not as complaints. Officers stated that they were only dealt with and recorded as complaints if an individual contacted the Council on more than one occasion to report that they still had not received the service. Officers added that to have missed 3,810 bins collections from approximately 5 million was not poor.

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

2. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 18/19**

The committee noted the forward work programme.

CHAIRPERSON