



STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10.00 am FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

COMMITTEE ROOMS A/B - NEATH CIVIC CENTRE

PART 1

1. Declarations of Interest
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 3 - 6*)
3. Forward Work Programme 19/20 (*Pages 7 - 10*)
4. To scrutinise information and monitoring issues being reported by:
Head of Streetcare
5. Winter Service Operations Report (*Pages 11 - 14*)
6. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).
7. 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

Thursday, 12 September 2019

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: Councillor S.M.Penry

**Vice
Chairperson:** Councillor R.W.Wood

Councillors: S. ap Dafydd, A.R.Aubrey, C.Galsworthy,
J.Hurley, D.Keogh, A.McGrath, W.F.Griffiths,
R.Davies, J.Hale and S.A.Knoyle

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

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

5 July 2019

Chairperson: Councillor S.M.Penry

Vice Chairperson: Councillor R.W.Wood

Councillors: S.apDafydd, A.R.Aubrey, C.Galsworthy,
D.Keogh, A.McGrath, A.L.Thomas,
W.F.Griffiths, R.Davies, J.Hale and S.A.Knoyle

Officers In Attendance D.Griffiths, N.Pearce, M.Roberts, S.Curran and T.Davies

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

1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May, 2019, be approved.

2. **JAPANESE KNOTWEED**

Members discussed the circulated report which gave the first yearly update on the Japanese Knotweed Management and Treatment Service operated by Environmental Health and Trading Standards, from April 2018 to March 2019.

The treatment of Japanese Knotweed on Council owned land was discussed, and it was noted that before April 2019, Environmental Health Officers would treat areas on a reactive basis, when alerted by a complaint. Since April 2019, when a small allowance was built into the budget, Officers had begun to proactively map areas of the County Borough and identify hot spots in order for comprehensive treatment plans to be put in place.

Members noted that currently the Council was only mapping areas of Japanese Knotweed on Council owned land, and not areas owned by housing associations. Officers confirmed that the Council was only currently treating their own land, however they also offered the chargeable service, which may be of interest to Housing Associations. The continuation of this treatment programme was reliant upon the continued availability of a budget.

Officers explained that a briefing note would shortly be distributed to all Councilors in order for them to identify areas of Knotweed growth in their Wards. It was hoped that treatment of Japanese Knotweed on Council owned land could be treated at the same time as appointments for the chargeable service, in order to avoid duplication of work in the same area.

Other areas for discussion included:

- 'Adverse possession' of land
- Homes bordering Network Rail land
- Japanese Knotweed management plans for mortgage purposes

It was hoped that Members would promote the chargeable service, where relevant, to their constituents. Officers had also spoken to local estate agents about the service and would soon be releasing more social media publicity.

There were a number of factors that affected how effective the treatment was, including whether the homeowner took on board the aftercare instructions; the weather and the volume of spray. Small to medium areas of Knotweed treatment had proven most successful. Several treatment options were available under the chargeable service, including stem injections.

Members noted that this was the first annual update report on the treatment of Japanese Knotweed, and subsequent reports would be built into the Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee forward Work Programme going forward.

Following scrutiny, the report was noted.

3. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following Cabinet Board item:-

Key Performance Indicators 2018/2019 – 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (Full Year)

Members queried the figures relating to Stage 2 complaints which had been upheld, as they felt that the percentage reported in the circulated report should be representative of more than the one complaint detailed. Officers would provide further details to Members as soon as they were available.

Road safety was discussed, including the process following a serious injury or fatality, in order to prevent this from reoccurring. It was noted that the current Road Safety Plan was due to be revised in 2020, and the way in which investigations into accidents were dealt with could be subject to change.

Members also discussed:

- Current budget pressures in relation to performance
- How targets were set

Members noted that safety critical repairs and health and safety issues were given priority, and unexpected complications such as replacement of safety barrier protection; edge fails and collapses all created extra pressures on maintenance budgets. Officers would circulate details concerning how roads were tested and the four criteria of road surfaces to Members.

Following scrutiny, the monitoring report was noted.

4. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 19/20**

Following today's meeting, Members of the Committee would take part in a Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) workshop session, which would allow the opportunity for Members to identify items they would like to add to the FWP and scrutinise in 2019/20.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

CHAIRPERSON

**Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2019/20**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
20 September 2019	Winter Service Operations	Mike Roberts
25 October 2019		
6 th December	Recycling Performance Presentation - by new Graduate in Wales	Mike Roberts
	2 nd Quarter Performance Report	Mike Roberts
17 th January	Fly Tipping-update and monitoring report.	Mike Roberts
	Pest Control- update and monitoring report.	Mike Roberts
28 th February	Japanese Knotweed- Management and Treatment Annual Update.	Nicola Pearce
	Road Safety Strategy	Joy Smith

24 th April	Cymmer Improvement Scheme - Presentation	Dave Griffiths
	CCTV Enforcement Vehicle – First Years Data	Steve Cook
	Select List Review	Hasan Hasan
	Virtual Permit	Steve Cook
5 th June	Parking Services Annual Update Report including (Traffic Warden data.)	Steve Cook

To be built in:

- Update of HAMP & HMP with new Code of Practice
- Scrutiny to consider 'Road Safety Plan' before it is brought for decision in 2020.
- Maintenance of parks and play equipment
- Consider post implementation review of the A474 Roadworks Neath Abbey and lessons learnt.
- MREC Service transfer

Inquiry:

Refuse and Recycling:

- Post Implementation Review of Policy (Side Waste, Green Waste)
- Damaged bins and equipment
- Cost of providing equipment
- Complaints

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Streetscene and Engineering Cabinet Board

20th September 2019

Report of the Head of Streetcare – Mike Roberts

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

WINTER SERVICE OPERATIONS

Purpose of Report

To provide an update as requested by Members on the preparation that is on-going to ensure the successful delivery of winter service operations in readiness for the 2019-20 winter season.

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the preparation that is currently being undertaken to ensure another successful year of winter maintenance activities across the Borough for the approaching winter season.

Background

Each summer, preparation begins for the upcoming winter period. This includes:

- Debriefing operatives on issues that arose last season,

- Identifying and training operatives,
- Restocking and rotation of salt stocks,
- Restocking grit bins,
- Reviewing and addressing issues from the previous winter period,
- Reviewing the winter service operational plan,
- Reviewing the precautionary salting routes,
- Servicing and calibrating the gritting vehicles,
- Undertaking necessary maintenance of the salt barn,
- Producing an on-call rota.
- Office staff and operator training
- Checking of moisture and spreader testing etc. against any new regulations
- Reviewing of Risk Assessments.

The above preparations have begun for the coming season and everything is on track to be in place.

2200 tonne of grit has been delivered, to ensure the Council is stocked to maximum capacity of 7500 tonne of rock salt. Prior to the restocking all existing stock was rotated to ensure older rock salt is used first.

The gritting fleet has been serviced and calibrated.

Financial Impacts

There are no financial impacts associated with the recommendations of this report

Integrated Impact Assessment

There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

Valleys Communities Impacts

During the winter season there are normally more gritting runs on the higher routes in the valleys, as the road temperatures more often fall below freezing.

Workforce Impact

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impact

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

Winter preparedness is part of ensuring the Council delivers on its adopted Winter Maintenance Plan.

Officer Contact

Mr Steve Owen, Highways & Drainage Services Manager
Tel: (01639) 686304 or email: s.owen@npt.gov.uk

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