

Democratic Services Committee

(Hybrid – Council Chamber, Port Talbot Civic Centre and Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

22 July 2024

Chairperson: Councillor S.Rahaman

Vice Chairperson: Councillor N.Goldup-John

Councillors: M.Harvey, J.Henton, C.Lewis, P.A.Rees, S.H.Reynolds and P.Rogers

Officers In Attendance S.Curran, P.Chivers, D.Griffiths and I.Rees

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. **Member Car Parking Scheme Proposals**

Officers provided members with an overview of the report contained within the agenda pack.

Members asked what times council car parks would be available for member use.

The Head of Engineering and Transport confirmed that members would have use of the car parks during the car parks operational

hours. It was noted that the operational hours differed between Neath and Port Talbot Multi Storey Car Parks.

Members commented that the Pontardawe Town Centre area was not included in the scheme.

Members enquired how the annual cost to members of the proposed scheme was decided.

The Head of Engineering and Transport confirmed that the charging tariff was reflective of the pre-Covid cost of the scheme and took into account increases in costs and public charging tariffs in the interim period.

Members queried the amount the proposed scheme could generate annually.

The Head of Engineering and Transport confirmed that the scheme was currently suspended, if all members joined the paid scheme this would raise £15k towards the council budget position.

Resolved: It is recommended that having due regard to the integrated impact screening assessment members approve the Member Car Parking Scheme annexed to the report at Appendix 1.

4. Verbal update on Task and Finish Group Progress

Officers provided a verbal update on the task & finish groups established by the committee in relation to Harassment, Abuse & Intimidation and Diversity in Democracy. The Handling Harassment, Abuse and Intimidation group held two workshops which generated discussion and tangible ideas to take forward. Officers advised members that due to the timing of the snap general election, it had not been possible to consider Diversity in Democracy within previously stated timescales. It was proposed that work would be undertaken to identify outcomes from the Harassment Abuse and Intimidation workshops, with the Diversity in Democracy workshops being re-arranged following council recess. It is anticipated that both groups will be concluded by autumn, when ideas will be reported to the committee and council.

Members noted the verbal update.

5. **Forward Work Programme Consideration**

Officers referred to the proposed Forward Work Programme for the forthcoming civic year, which was included in the agenda pack. Members were advised that an additional meeting had been scheduled for 30th September to manage the workload of the committee. Members were given an opportunity to provide feedback on any of the items or to raise items for future consideration.

Members raised concern that there should be wider consideration when undertaking a review of the new scrutiny model.

Officers confirmed that the council decision to implement a new scrutiny model would be reviewed and the results would be reported to council. Democratic Services Committee can be included as part of the review process.

The Forward Work Programme was noted.

6. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

**Cllr. Saifur Rahaman
CHAIRPERSON**