

ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

13 October 2016

Chairperson: Councillor I.D.Williams

Councillors: M.Crowley, D.W.Davies, Mrs.R.Davies,
E.E.Jones, C.Morgan, S.Rahaman and
Mrs.A.Wingrave

Officers In Attendance D.Griffiths, M. Thomas and N.Evans

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors E.V.Latham and Mrs.S.Miller

1. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2016**

The Committee noted the Minutes.

2. **TO RECEIVE THE SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017.**

The Committee noted the Work Programme.

3. **PRE-DECISION**

The Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

3.1 Officer Urgency Action 0150 re: Environmental Health and Trading Standards – Enforcement Policy 2016

Members considered the report that updated the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Enforcement Policy 2016. Members were advised that the reason behind the urgency was due to the need to ensure compliance with applicable legislation.

Members asked how this enforcement team could link with waste enforcement officers or parking enforcement officers and were advised that due to the nature of the work it would be difficult to be part of a consistent approach.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

3.2 Proposed Taxi Ranks – Orchards Street, Neath

Members considered a report that contained objections to the proposed ranks in Orchard Street, Neath.

Officers advised that the two letters of objections received raised valid concerns. Subsequently, in consultation with Local Members two alternative ranks are proposed seeking Members' permission to advertise the new locations.

Members asked if it was a temporary measure until the multi storey car park was demolished why were they being advertised as permanent. Officers advised that temporary orders last for only 18 months and cannot be renewed. In this case, it would be dependant upon the town centre regeneration programme. Officers stated that once the regeneration scheme was completed the order could be reviewed and revoked in whole or in part dependant upon the success or otherwise of the locations.

It is confirmed HOWEVER, that the intention is to reinstate the taxi rank to its current location adjacent to the former Wilkinson store.

Members noted that there are no taxi's at Port Talbot Parkway railway station particularly on a Sunday. Officers stated that taxi drivers have to purchase permits to collect passengers on Network Rail Land operated on their behalf by the franchisee. Due to the current construction of the Transport Hub at the location, the Network Rail taxi rank had been temporarily relocated to the adjacent Arriva Trains car park.

Members enquired generally whether there is a limit on the number of taxi licences that can be granted. Officers confirmed that taxi licencing was managed by Democratic Services. The Head of Engineering & Transport advised that it was his understanding that the number of licences issued in the County are not limited.

Following scrutiny the committee were supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

CHAIRPERSON