

STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

6 March 2018

Chairperson: Councillor S.M.Penry

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S. ap Dafydd

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

Officers In Attendance D.Griffiths, M.Roberts, H.Hasan, A.Lewis, Mr. S Cook and S. Curran

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors D.Jones and E.V.Latham

1. **MINUTES OF THE STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2018**

The Committee noted the minutes.

2. **MINUTES OF THE STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2018**

The Committee noted the Minutes.

3. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

4. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

4.1 **Combined Highways and Neighbourhood Works Programme**

The Committee received information in relation to expenditure for highway and neighbourhood works to be undertaken in the financial year 2018/19 as contained within the circulated report.

When further detail was sought on the consultation process, Members were informed that Members Surgeries and subsequent meetings with individual Members have identified local concerns.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

4.2 Individual Disabled Parking Places Policy.

The Committee received information in relation to the amended Individual Disabled Parking Places Policy as contained within the circulated report.

Members were concerned that applications could increase significantly and were keen that careful monitoring is conducted.

It was noted that tenanted properties have the space revoked if circumstances change.

Members asked for clarity in relation to street signage for the Bays and what is in place to prevent Blue Badge Holders parking in the spaces. It was noted that each Bay has a corresponding permit and on road signage is clear that the Bay is for an Individual Disabled Parking Space only.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

4.3 Streetcare Fees and Charges 2018/19

Members received information in relation to the Streetcare Fees and Charges 2018/19 as contained within the circulated report.

The Committee commented that Fees and Charges are a Delegated Authority for decision by Officers and queried why the decision was being brought to Committee for decision. Officers stated that for full and frank disclosure, the decision

had been taken to put the report before Members for their information.

It was noted that Welsh Government is providing a grant to Local Authorities to abolish all fees directly relating to the burial of a person under the age of 18 years old which will come into effect from April 1st 2018 and that any fees incurred before this date will be waived.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

4.4 Cwmavon Landslip.

Members received information in relation to the carrying out Rock Anchoring strengthening at Pant Du, Cwmavon as contained within the circulated report.

Members asked for clarity in relation to the removal of trees and were informed that only the larger trees were being removed to allow for a steel net to be positioned across the rock face to stabilise the slopes.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

4.5 Highway Structures Asset Protection and Maintenance.

Members received information in relation to progress on the Highway Structures Asset Protection and Maintenance Programme as contained within the circulated report.

Members were concerned at the current backlog estimated to be circa £3.3m of work and asked if reserves could be utilised. Mitigation measures were discussed including enforcing weight restrictions on bridges and single line traffic and Members were informed that all high risk structures are reported directly to the Capital Programme Steering Group.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

4.6 Vehicle Fleet Procurement Programme 2018/19

The Committee received information in relation to the Vehicle and Heavy Plant Fleet Procurement Programme as contained within the circulated report.

Members noted that the National Procurement Service is utilised to procure vehicles and a specific contract is utilised around recycling vehicles according to the All Wales Framework.

Members asked if older vehicles are offered to other sections of the Council and were informed that vehicles have been offered to schools and organisations such as DANSA.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board

CHAIRPERSON