

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

(Via Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

30 September 2020

Chairperson: Councillor M.Harvey

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S.Rahaman

Councillors: S.E.Freeguard, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt,
S.A.Knoyle, S.Miller, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison,
S.H.Reynolds and A.N.Woolcock

Officers In Attendance: A.Evans, A.Jarrett, N.Pearce, S.Phillips,
C.Davies, C.Griffiths, K.Jones, C.Furlow-Harris,
T.Davies, C.Plowman, H.Jones and M.Roberts

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors C.Clement-Williams, D.Jones,
L.Jones, R.G.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer,
P.A.Rees and P.D.Richards

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

That the minutes of the following meetings be approved:

- 29 January 2020
- 5 February 2020
- 12 February 2020
- 19 February 2020
- 5 March 2020
- 21 May 2020
- 25 June 2020
- 23 July 2020
- 30 July 2020

2. Pre-Decision Scrutiny

The Committee was presented with a report to consider the continuation of kerbside collections for textiles.

Members asked how the community groups or textile banks would be able to get a viable price, if the Council wasn't able to, by kerbside collection. It was explained that there was no market for recycling the mixed textiles that the Council was collecting; there was a market for the sorted reusable clothing but if the Council were to sort the mixed textiles, the income would need to be greater than the cost of sorting for it to be viable for the Council, which Officers confirmed wasn't the case.

It was queried whether the Council had a market for textiles collected at the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). Officers highlighted that the Council didn't have a market for recycling, and that the market was in the voluntary sector who were prepared to undertake the sorting of the mixed textiles. However, the waste company, FCC Environment, who currently operated the Councils sites had access to those markets. It was confirmed that the textiles collected at the Councils HWRCs were going to be sent for sorting.

Officers suggested that Members could share their community experiences with each other to pass on information in relation to alternative arrangements to gauge access to recycling, as there was a number of Cash for Clothes organised across the County Borough; it was also noted that Officers could share details of parties known to be offering Cash for Clothes, and subject to the approval, details of community representatives that organise events. Members highlighted that there was opportunity to raise funds for the community through Cash for Clothes, and even with the current pandemic it could be done safely and social distancing rules could be adhered to. It was added that Members needed to be aware that a lot of textiles were ending up in landfill due to the fact that there was currently a reduced amount of clothing materials being collected.

In relation to timescales if kerbside was to be withdrawn, it was noted that a minimum of one months' notice would need to be given, also with enough time to communicate the change.

Members asked would the capacity be retained e.g. vehicle design, if the economic circumstances change for kerbside, to which Officers confirmed that it would; it was added that it would be two years before any of the first vehicles were due to be changed.

Concerns were raised in regards to lack of collection of materials due to the pandemic and current lockdown circumstances; if it were to continue for a long period of time, the materials could end up being

disposed of in landfill and/or fly tipping instead of correctly. It was noted that the Council works in line with the national strategy which was very much a high reuse, recycle, compost policy; the material that the Council cannot reuse, recycle or compost goes to Energy from Waste plants opposed to landfill. In terms of members of the public who could have additional materials, it was stated that the Councils exemption scheme was still up and running for the public to apply for along with the weekly and fortnightly services; therefore there should be no reason why residents should not appropriately dispose of their waste. Officers added that they would continue to review the information that the Council gives out with respect to textiles.

It was highlighted that the nearest HWRC site for the Upper Swansea and Afan Valley was Lower Cwmtwrch which was a site shared with Powys Council; Members asked if residents of Neath Port Talbot were still able to use this site due to the current local lockdown restrictions. It was noted that legal had looked into the issue of cross boundary travel to the civic amenity sites and confirmed that as it was part of an essential service, residents were able to travel to them.

A formal amendment to point (i) of the recommendation contained within the circulated report was proposed and seconded:-

- (i) The Council ceases to collect textiles at the kerbside and alters its marketing accordingly providing two months' notice to the public; and,
- (ii) Officers work with any local outlets who are prepared to receive and/or pay for textiles, to help promote the growing number of community events and the use of 'bring' facilities such as those provided at council Household Waste Recycling Centres.

A roll call was undertaken for the purposes of determining the vote; the amendment went through as a result of the roll call.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by cabinet.

CHAIRPERSON

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