



COUNCIL – 13TH JUNE 2017

SUBJECT: BRYN COMPOST LIAISON GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The attached report was considered by Cabinet on 7th June 2017. The recommendations of Cabinet will be reported verbally to Council on 13th June 2017.
- 1.2 Members will be asked to consider the recommendations of Cabinet.

Author: Helen Morgan, Senior Committee Services Officer

Appendix: Report to Cabinet - 7th June 2017



CABINET - 7TH JUNE 2017

SUBJECT: BRYN COMPOST LIAISON GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR- SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 In March 2010, Council agreed to establish the Bryn Compost Liaison Group. Following a request from the Liaison Group to extend its terms of reference to incorporate odours created by farming activities, this report seeks the view of Cabinet on the future operation of the Group prior to its presentation to Council.
- 1.2 Part 2 of the Council's constitution provides that full Council is responsible for "agreeing and/or amending the terms of reference for committees, sub committees, panels and boards, deciding on their composition and making appointments to them".

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Bryn Compost Ltd operates as a commercial composting business at Gelliargwellt Uchaf Farm in Gelligaer. The Bryn Compost Liaison Group was established in March 2010 in order to address complaints of odour experienced around the Gelliargwellt Uchaf Farm location. The Liaison Group is composed of representatives from the Bryn Compost Company, Environmental Health, Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales, adjoining local ward members and ten residents and chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services. Its existing terms of reference are detailed in the appendix to the report. A local ward member suggested that the terms of reference should be extended to incorporate odours created by farming activities and this was supported by the Liaison Group.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 This proposal supports the authority's aim to maximise its contribution towards the national well-being goals for Wales under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and in particular contributes to:
 - *A prosperous Wales*
 - *A resilient Wales*
 - *A healthier Wales*
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - *A globally responsible Wales*

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Gelliargwellt Uchaf Farm complex is comprised of various businesses including Bryn Quarry, a waste recycling facility, a working milking cattle farm, an In-Vessel Composting (IVC) facility and an energy from waste anaerobic digestion (AD) facility.
- 4.2 Over recent years, improvements in the management and operation of the IVC, together with the introduction of the AD facility has significantly reduced the number of odour incidents associated with the composting facility. The number of complaints relating to composting odours has also significantly declined with members of the Liaison Group remarking on a substantial improvement. Attendance at the Liaison Group has declined over recent times with some meetings attended by just one or two local ward members and four members of the public from Nelson and Gelligaer.
- 4.3 Such positive improvements have been countered by a limited number of residents occasionally reporting complaints of odour associated with farming activities such as feeding cattle, cutting silage and spreading slurry as fertiliser. As such a local ward member has suggested that the terms of reference for the Liaison Group should be expanded to include the farming activities and this was supported by the those present.
- 4.4 Complaints of farming related odours have been investigated and found to be transient with no evidence of statutory nuisance. The farming practices also comply with best practice guidance.
- 4.5 Members should be aware that the investigation of such farm related odours are considered to be “business as usual” and therefore do not require the provision of a specific liaison group. Liaison groups have not been established for other farms across the county borough. Furthermore, the significant reduction in complaints associated with the composting facility suggests that the Liaison Group has successfully served its purpose and as such has reached a natural conclusion.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This proposal contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that it has successfully integrated a problem solving approach with other agencies to set priorities, involved the local population in the decisions that affected them, and explored the root cause of the issues to minimise future re-occurrences.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications as a result of this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 There are no consultations that have not been included in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Members are asked to consider the future role of Bryn Compost Liaison Group and made a recommendation thereon to Council.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To consider the future role of the Bryn Compost Liaison Group.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Environmental Protection Act 1990

Author: Ceri Edwards, Environmental Health Manager edwarc@caerphilly.gov.uk
Consultees: Cabinet Member
Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
David Street, Corporate Director Social Services
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Jon Goldsworthy, Natural Resources Wales
Adam Ward, Natural Resources Wales
Catriona Harvey, Natural Resources Wales
Public Health Wales

Appendices:
Appendix 1 – Bryn Compost Liaison Group Terms of Reference

**BRYN COMPOST LIAISON GROUP
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. PURPOSE

1. To promote effective communication between Bryn Compost, the Local Residents, Members, Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales and Local Authority Officers.
2. To receive and consider complaints and concerns about the current operation of Bryn Compost in so far as it impacts on the local communities
3. To receive information about action taken by regulatory, statutory and other bodies in relation to the operation of Bryn Compost, with particular regard to complaints received.

2. MEMBERSHIP

County Borough:

Adjoining Ward Members and respective Cabinet Member

Residents:

10 local resident representatives

Bryn Compost Ltd: Mr A. Price or his representative

Public Health Service: Representative

Natural Resources Wales: Representative

Environmental Health: Ceri Edwards and Gary Mumford

Co-opted members: as may from time to time be required.

3. OFFICERS

Chair: Respective Cabinet Member, who will act as the Group's co-ordinator

Administrative Secretary: Committee Services Officer, who will make a record of the proceedings

4. MEETINGS

Meetings of the Group will be held at intervals of three months or as deemed appropriate by the Chair. Meetings will be held during office hours at the Caerphilly County Borough Council Offices, Ty Penallta or an alternative Council Office, depending on availability of meeting rooms.

5. REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Notices of meetings, minutes and other appropriate papers will be circulated to members of the Group. It will be the responsibility of the Administrative Secretary to ensure circulation of the minutes to appropriate persons.

The Group will also liaise with other agencies and organisations as deemed appropriate.