



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER 2013 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.T. Davies – Chairman
Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs A. Blackman, J. Bevan, C.J. Cuss, R.T. Davies, C. Elsbury, Ms E. Forehead, R.W. Gough, Ms J.G. Jones, M.J. Prew, Mrs D. Price and Mrs E. Stenner.

Cabinet Members:

K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure Services) and T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering).

Together with:

S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), P. Elliott (Head of Regeneration and Planning), T. Shaw (Head of Engineering Services), M.S. Williams (Head of Community and Leisure Services), C. Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager), A. Santos (Senior Planning Officer), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Research Officer) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors N. Dix, A.G. Higgs and S. Kent.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors J. Bevan, Mrs A. Blackman, C. Cuss, D.T. Davies, R.T. Davies and Mrs D. Price declared an interest in Agenda Item 7(2) – Review of the Operation and Parking Charges for Blue Badge Holders in Council Public Car Parks. Details are minuted with the respective item.

Councillor Mrs E.A. Aldworth declared an interest in Agenda Item 7(3) – Kerbside Collection of Recyclables – Update on Recycling Marketing Issues. Details are minuted with the respective item.

3. MINUTES – 29TH OCTOBER 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2013 (minute nos. 1 - 11, page nos. 1 - 6) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. CALL-IN PROCEDURE

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

5. CABINET REPORTS

There had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

6. VERBAL REPORTS OF THE CABINET MEMBERS

Councillor K. James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development, updated Members on the consultation exercise regarding the Draft Delivery Agreement for the first review of the Local Development Plan. Members were informed that the Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, with a date for the public examination set for 14th January 2014.

Progress had been made with the Heritage Lottery Fund bid in respect of the Butetown Heritage Scheme and the planning application for Nant Llesg had been submitted, Success had been achieved in Sustainable Development, with Maes y Onn Farm winning the prestigious 2013 Wales Planning Award.

The Cabinet Member also referred to Business Development within the Authority and named a number of grants awarded to local businesses and the support provided by these grants. Particular reference was made to the South East Wales Community Economic Development Programme and the support it provided to a number of Social Enterprises within the Authority.

Members were pleased to note the achievements within Business Support and clarified a number of details relating to the various grant schemes available within the Authority.

Councillor D.V. Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, informed Members that the Project Gwyrdd Procurement had reached financial close, with the contract being awarded to Viridor Waste Management. Members were reminded that the Heads of the Valley Organic Project remained as a collaborative venture between Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen for the processing of food and green waste.

The Cabinet Member praised the recent Sport Caerphilly Volunteer Awards, which recognised the efforts of volunteers to bring sporting opportunities to communities across the Authority. He also referred to the recent Pride In Your Place Awards, which recognised the outstanding contribution that business, schools, community groups and individuals make to enhancing the physical environment across the county borough.

The Cabinet Member explained that the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme became a legal requirement in Wales from 28th November and that all food businesses will now have to display their Food Hygiene Rating to the public.

Councillor T.J. Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Engineering, informed Members that the official opening of Energlyn Rail Station would be held on 16th December.

Members were informed that Highways were also finalising their Annual Status and Options Reports and programmes that would be used to support the final year bid for Local Government Borrowing Initiative funding for 2014/15k, with a further report to be submitted to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee. Members clarified the frequency of the new service and also the highway funding arrangements for 2014/15.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

7. DELIVERY AGREEMENT FOR THE CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (FIRST REVIEW)

Pauline Elliott, Head of Regeneration and Planning, and Adeline Santos, Senior Planning Officer, presented the report to Members, which summarised the public responses to the Draft Delivery Agreement received during the six-week consultation period from 17th October to 28th November 2013, and included Officer recommendations to those responses for consideration. It also sought approval of the Draft Delivery Agreement and the final Delivery Agreement for the Local Development Plan First Review for submission to the Welsh Government (WG).

Members were reminded that the Local Development Plan (LDP) provides the policy framework for the development and use of the land within the Authority, which was formally adopted on 23rd November 2013. Consultation also commenced on the revision of a Delivery Agreement, which contained a timetable for LDP production and the Community Involvement Scheme and outlined when stakeholders and the community could contribute to the review of the LDP. The report summarised the public responses to the Draft Delivery Agreement and included Officer recommendations relating to these responses. Members were advised that three responses were received following consultation.

Discussion ensued regarding the report and Members reported user feedback, with some difficulties accessing the report electronically, and some users finding the consultation form complicated. Members were encouraged to contact the Planning Division with any queries and Officers confirmed they had received a number of queries regarding the contents of the report. Officers clarified the statutory requirements of the Delivery Agreement and confirmed that there had been no objections received regarding developments in particular areas.

Following discussion on the content of the report, the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee noted the findings contained in the Report of Consultation and, upon approval, that the amended Delivery Agreement be submitted to Welsh Government, as required by the Development Plan Regulations.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained therein be adopted. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein, the amended Delivery Agreement (as attached in Appendix 2 of the report) be referred to Cabinet for consideration and Council for approval.

8. REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND PARKING CHARGES FOR BLUE BADGE HOLDERS IN COUNCIL PUBLIC CAR PARKS

Councillor Mrs D. Price declared an interest in this item as she is a blue badge holder, and left the room during discussion of this item. Councillors J. Bevan, Mrs A. Blackman, C. Cuss, D.T Davies, and R.T. Davies also declared an interest in this item as they have family members who hold a blue badge, and left the room during discussion of this item.

Councillor Mrs E.A. Aldworth presided as Chair during consideration of this item.

Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager, presented the report, which provided details of the outcome of a review carried out on the operation and current parking charges for blue badge holders in the Council's off-street public car parks, and sought the views of Members on the proposed recommendations contained therein.

A consultation exercise was carried out on the charging and operation of car park facilities, and the response identified a number of key improvements that needed to be made. Members were advised that the costs would be met from future Engineering Services budgets over a phased period of time. The recommended improvements for blue badge holders included the creation of additional disabled parking bays, increasing the size of existing parking bays, introducing 1 hour extra free parking and the promotion of on-street parking exemptions.

Members thanked Mr Campbell and a discussion ensued regarding the report. Members clarified the current arrangements relating to disabled parking and discussed parking and waiting times within the Authority. Members queried how the new arrangements would be implemented with regards to the pay and display machines, and Mr Campbell confirmed that the machines would be calibrated accordingly to accommodate this change.

Following discussion on the content of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained therein be adopted. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:-

- (i) additional disabled parking bays be provided in 12 pay and display car parks;
- (ii) a number of existing disabled parking bays be increased in size in 9 pay and display car parks;
- (iii) concession of 1 hour extra free parking for blue badge holders be introduced in all pay and display car parks;
- (iv) on-street parking exemptions for blue badge holders be better publicised/promoted.

9. KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES – UPDATE ON RECYCLING MARKETING ISSUES

Councillor Mrs E.A. Aldworth declared an interest in this item, owing to a family member being employed as a Recycling Operative, and left the room during discussion of this item.

Mark S. Williams, Head of Community and Leisure Services, presented the report, which provided an update on the current market conditions facing the UK's recycling industry and their impact upon the Authority's kerbside recycling collection service, and sought the views of Members on the proposed recommendations contained therein.

Members were advised that fluctuating market prices over recent months and an increase in demand for high quality input at material recycling facilities had impacted significantly on the Authority's kerbside recycling service. Mr Williams explained that the recycling team were encountering numerous inappropriate items that had been put out by householders for recycling, such as food, nappies, dead animals and garden waste, which could disrupt the process at recycling centres and lower the quality and value of recycled materials.

Members were informed that the Authority had implemented a range of short term arrangements with a variety of different contractors and was working towards re-procuring a new contract. In order to ensure greater stability in the long term at an affordable price, a number of actions had been proposed to improve quality in the kerbside recycling service. This including the publication and distribution of new literature, intervention from the Waste Advisory Wardens and a programme of bin removal and enforcement where necessary. Enforcement actions would include warning letters, officer visits and fixed penalty notices.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed identification and enforcement actions to improve the quality of recycling, and the Head of Service confirmed that the actions proposed were intended to focus on those residents who persistently contaminated recycling waste. Members queried the use of refuse bags within recycling bags and it was clarified that residents should be encouraged to use clear bags or empty their recycling directly into their brown bin. Legislation relating to recycling directives and guidance from the Welsh Assembly was also discussed.

Following discussion on the content of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained therein be adopted. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:-

- (i) new literature be prepared/issued to all properties;
- (ii) work be undertaken with Communications to publicise what should be placed in a recycling bin and the consequence of not adhering to the guidance provided;
- (iii) the procedures outlined in section 4.15 of the report be developed as new Council policy.

It was agreed that an update on the new procedure would be provided to Members in 12 months time at the Scrutiny Committee meeting of December 2014.

10. REQUESTS FOR AN ITEM TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE AGENDA

The following request was received:-

1. Councillor J. Bevan requested a report on the protocol used in relation to the opening and closing arrangements for cemetery gates.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following reports were received and noted without discussion:-

- (1) Consultation Process within the Outdoor Facilities Section;
- (2) Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme;
- (3) Bargoed Town Centre Management Group Minutes – 1st October 2013;
- (4) Bryn Compost Liaison Group Minutes – 31st July 2013.

The meeting closed at 18.19 pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2014, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN