



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD IN PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH JULY 2023 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.T. Davies MBE - Chair

Councillors:

M. Adams, R. Chapman, C.J. Cuss, M. Evans, A. Gair, S. Kent, A. Leonard, D.W.R. Preece, H. Pritchard, J.E. Roberts, S. Williams, C Wright

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: P. Leonard (Planning and Public Protection), N George (Corporate Services, Property and Highways), C. Morgan (Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces)

Together with:

M.S. Williams (Corporate Director for Economy and Environment), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services), M. Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure), C Edwards (Environmental Health Manager), D. Smith (Principal Engineer Traffic Management), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), A. Jones (Committee Services Officer)

RECORDING, FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being live-streamed and recorded and would be made available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). Members were advised that voting on decisions would be taken via Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Dix, C. Elsbury, A. Hussey - Vice-Chair

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course, of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 13TH JUNE 2023

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2023 be approved as a correct record and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation (and in noting there were 13 for, 0 against and 0 abstention) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee held on 13th June 2023 (minute nos. 1 – 5) be approved as a correct record.

4. CALL-IN PROCEDURE

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

5. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Mark Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) presented the report, which outlined details of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period July 2023 to March 2024.

Members were asked to consider the FWP alongside the Cabinet work programme and suggest any changes prior to publication on the Council's website. The Scrutiny Committee noted the details of the reports scheduled for forthcoming meetings.

It was moved and seconded that the report recommendation be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation (and in noting there were 13 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

6. CABINET REPORTS

It was confirmed that there had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

7. MOBILISING TEAM CAERPHILLY; ENFORCEMENT AND ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – SERVICE REVIEW.

Councillor P Leonard (Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection) presented the report which invited Members of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny

Committee to consider and endorse a draft Terms of Reference to provide the framework for a service review on enforcement and associated community engagement carried out by the council.

The Committee were asked to endorse the recommendations set out in the report under 3.1 to 3.4. The Head of Public Protection and the Head of Infrastructure were present to answer any questions.

The Chair sought clarification on what was meant by “mobilising” in this context. The Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services explained the aim was to work together to achieve a review of services to determine the best way of operating. The Chair also sought clarification on timescales. The Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services advised that resources would be needed to support the review and that it was hoped that a final report on findings would come back to Scrutiny in early 2024.

One Member enquired if this process would end up in a pay regrading review for staff. The Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services highlighted that this was unknown until the review recommendations were finalised. However, he gave assurances to Members that should staff be asked to undertake duties of a higher grade as a result of the review, existing HR processes and acting-up honorarium arrangements would be applied.

A Member asked about engagement with the trade unions and enquired if they were satisfied with proposals at this initial stage. The Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services advised that concerns had been expressed about the implications of potential changes to working arrangements, but this was pre-empting the findings of the service review. Members heard how the trade unions had been fully briefed and that the draft terms of reference and a staff briefing had been shared with them. The Member enquired if significant changes would take place before the outcome of the review. The Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services reported that talks had taken place with Community Safety Wardens about assisting with behaviour change work in the waste service. It was outlined that further discussions would be had following Cabinet consideration of the new Waste Strategy.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the report be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation (and in noting there were 13 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that.

- 1 The establishment of a service review on enforcement of environmental protection and community behaviour related activity and associated community engagement delivered by the council be supported.
- 2 The proposed scope of the service review – initially focussing on ‘environmental protection and community behaviour’ enforcement carried out by community safety, environmental health ‘enviro-crime’ enforcement, waste and recycling compliance, and civil parking enforcement be endorsed.
- 3 The draft Terms of Reference for the review at Appendix One be endorsed.
- 4 The establishment of an informal Member working group to support the review be endorsed.

8. UPDATE ON THE TASK AND FINISH REVIEW OF THE RESIDENTS' PARKING POLICY.

Mark Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) presented the report and updated the Scrutiny Committee on the survey that has been sent to 1844 properties, which went live two weeks ago and that there were 2 weeks remaining for the surveys to be returned by the deadline of 4th August.

Members were informed that there have been 244 online responses and there have been 35 requests for hard copies to be sent out. Following the expiration of the deadline, the responses will be analysed by the Task and Finish Group and a report presented to the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee in the Winter.

Members were advised that this report would also be presented to the meeting of the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee on 24th July and their feedback would be incorporated into the forthcoming report.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee discussed the report and agreed that they would need to await the results following the survey. Having fully considered the report, the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee noted its contents.

9. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL SPEED LIMITS TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ORDER 2023.

Councillor N. George (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways) presented the report to the Scrutiny Committee which sought views of Members on the implementation of the proposed Caerphilly County Borough Council Speed Limits Traffic Regulations Order 2023. Members were asked to consider the recommendations set out in the report under 3.1 to 3.3 The Principal Engineer was available to answer any questions.

One Member questioned a 20mph exception at the Bryn Road arm of the Highfields Road, and asked generally about the merit of reduced speed restrictions on the approach to roundabouts as motorists would be doing this anyway as they approached the junction. The Principal Engineer advised that the decision to recommend a 20mph limit at this site was based on surveys on the arms of the roundabout. Members heard how there were significant numbers of pedestrians crossing each arm and it was judged that a reduction would improve safety and have minimal impact on motorist journey times.

A Member asked if the new restrictions would be policed in the same way as current speed limits. The Principal Engineer assured Members that Gwent Police and "Go Safe" would still be responsible for enforcement of the new speed restrictions.

Following consideration of the report the recommendations contained at 3.1-3.3 were duly noted by Committee Members.

RESOLVED that.

1 Members noted the intention to make the Caerphilly County Borough Council Speed Limits Traffic Regulation Order 2023 as amended.

2 Members noted the additional signage and road markings proposed as detailed within the report.

3 Members considered and noted the report and the views of the committee be presented to Cabinet on the proposals.

Mark Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) read the following statement from Councillor Hussey and the Chair requested that this be recorded.

‘Good evening, members, unfortunately I can’t be with you tonight at the last Environment and Sustainability meeting. I was very disappointed when I heard that this important Scrutiny was being split up. I would like to thank Tudor as chair for mentoring me and being a good friend. I would also like to thank you the members for being patient with me on the odd occasions I had to chair in Tudors absence. I would like to thank the officers who always gave us good reports to scrutinise and Mark Jacques and the Democratic Services Team. I hope to see some of you on one of the new scrutiny committees in the future. Once again stay safe Ade.’

The Chair conveyed to the members that it had been a privilege and pleasure to Chair this committee and preceding committees over the past 11 years. He thanked past and present members and officers who served on the committees and thanked them for their support and excellent working relationships. The Chair also thanked the Vice Chair Councillor Hussey for his support and his friendship and commended him on his role as Vice Chair.

The Corporate Director for Economy and Environment on behalf of himself and all of his Heads of Services and officers thanked Councillor Davies for his good working relationship over the years and for his dedication to the committees and also thanked Councillor Hussey.

Members of the Scrutiny committee also wished to note they’re thanks to Councillor Davies for all his work and dedication to the Scrutiny committees over the years.

The meeting closed at 18:20 PM

CHAIR