



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2016

**SUBJECT: DIGEST OF CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report from Caerphilly CBC contains a digest of committee reports of items of interest for the voluntary sector. If there are reports of particular interest Members can request the committee report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to prepare a further report/take questions.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A quarterly summary of Caerphilly CBC committee reports selected as they contain areas of interest for the voluntary sector.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 All Caerphilly CBC reports relate to aspects of the Caerphilly County Borough Community Strategy.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The following reports have been selected as having particular interest on voluntary sector issues (note Members can request a full hard copy of any of the reports included):-

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE 16TH NOVEMBER 2015 INSURANCE CLAIMS – PRESENTATION

SR (Risk and Insurance Manager) provided Members with the Authority's Claims Analysis for 2014-15.

Members noted that 356 claims had been received in total, relating to motor vehicle, employers' liability and public liability cases. The total cost of claims amounted to £923,714.47 and the average per claim was £2594.70.

Comparison figures were provided in relation to cases taken to court and it was noted that the Authority's success rate at trial is 83%.

Examples of claims were presented in respect of Parks, the Environment, Schools and Leisure Centres. Particular reference was made to a recent court case, where the claimant (a Badminton player) slipped on water/sliver of paper at a leisure centre within the Borough. The

Authority lost the case and the claimant was awarded £6,500 damages. Their claimants costs amounted to £44k and the Council's costs are likely to be in the region of £8k. The total cost of claim before costs.

In terms of risk management SR confirmed the Authority has excellent processes and policies in place. Claims are low in comparison to other Authority's in Wales, which are reflected in the current insurance premiums.

Members queried the figures in relation to claims made against refuse vehicles and it was confirmed that claims have decreased since the introduction of 360 degree cameras being installed within the vehicles.

**HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
9TH FEBRUARY 2016
PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE INFORMAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE MAKING OF
A PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER RELATING TO DOG CONTROL**

To inform and seek members views on the proposal to replace Dog Control Orders and the current enforcement provisions under the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996, with Public Space Protection Orders under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014, and the implications for dog control in the county borough.

Also, to seek authorisation to undertake an informal public consultation exercise on the proposed provisions of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) relating to dog control in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 brought in a new power for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour problems in a geographical area by imposing conditions on the use of an area. The aim is to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

PSPOs replace a number of existing legal provisions including Designated Public Place Orders, Gating Orders and Dog Control Orders. Existing Orders made under previous legislation subsist for a period of 3 years from October 2014; at this point they will be treated as PSPOs. In order to simplify the enforcement landscape, Councils need not wait for this to happen and could decide to review the need for their current orders ahead of that transition.

A PSPO can identify a particular public place and either prohibit specified things being done or require specified things to be done. These can be similar restrictions and requirements to those that could be created under dog control orders and are designed to make public spaces more welcoming to the majority.

The report considers the need to introduce a PSPO in accordance with powers contained within the Act to include requirements relating to dog control.

It is proposed to consider creating offences of:

- Failing to remove dog faeces (covering the whole County Borough).
- Not keeping a dog on a lead in specified places.
- Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer (covering the whole County Borough).
- Permitting a dog to enter specified land from which dogs are excluded.
- Dog walkers not carrying an appropriate receptacle (poop bag) or other means for clearing up after their dog.
- Excluding dogs from specified sports/playing pitches.
- Require dogs to be kept on leads in enclosed memorial gardens.

It is proposed that initial informal public consultation on the proposed provisions of a PSPO is undertaken. A further report will be presented to this Committee, with the outcome of the consultation together with recommendations on the proposed controls to be included in a draft Order. The Committee's recommendations will then be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

CAERPHILLY HOMES TASK GROUP – 18TH FEBRUARY 2016 REVIEW OF COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDS

Report to outline a proposal to absorb the WHQS Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund into the Environmental Programme budget. The report is seeking the views of Caerphilly Homes Task Group (CHTG) prior to its presentation to Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

Following the ballot in February 2012, the Council agreed that it would deliver the promises made in its Offer Document to tenants and deliver WHQS by 2019/2020. It also gave a commitment to delivering numerous additional benefits which were also outlined in the Offer Document, which would add value to the WHQS programme and help deliver the Council's ambition of using the £200 million WHQS investment as a catalyst to Transform Homes, Lives and Communities.

These additional benefits included the creation of a Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund. The Council also created a Local Employment Fund.

The Local Employment Fund has been relatively successful and will be subject shortly to a separate report. £50,000 is allocated to each fund annually.

The Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund have not met the original expectations and it is advocated these are now incorporated as part of the Environmental Programme budget.

The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) is intended to ensure that all local authority and housing association homes are improved and maintained to specified standards. The Council is committed to ensuring that the WHQS investment transforms not only homes but also lives, and communities.

The Council's Local Housing Strategy "People, Property, and Places" has the following aim:

"To provide good quality, well managed houses in communities where people want to live, and offer people housing choices which meet their needs and aspirations."

The delivery of the WHQS environmental programme is coterminous with the aims of the Council's Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017 which aims to 'improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the county borough' and the recently approved, Caerphilly Poverty Strategy 2015.

The Community Improvement Fund was designed specifically to foster community development and cohesion by enabling community groups to bid for funding to support local initiatives and projects that would help improve the immediate environment.

The Community Safety Fund was created to support community safety initiatives and interventions that would directly and indirectly benefit Council tenants including creating safer communities, tackling anti-social behaviour, reducing crime and the fear of crime, supporting victims of anti-social behaviour and domestic violence.

Potential applicants to the Community Improvement Fund apply for funding via a two stage process that complies with the Council's standing orders and requires evidence of community support, synergy with Communities First outcomes, and an indication of the benefits that will be delivered. Applications to the Community Safety Fund have been via internal departments. Proposals under both funds are subject to consultation with the CHTG and decisions are then made by the Head of Service under delegated powers.

Since 2013/14 a total of only £18,604 has been approved from the Community Improvement Fund to support the following organisations (although not all monies have been claimed):

- Rhymney Allotments Society
- Oaklands Hall Allotments Association
- Pen Y Dre Tenants and Residents Association
- Tarragon Educational Gardens

Further applications have been approved for Britannia Community House, Graig Y Rhacca Resource Centre and Neuadd St Catwg and not claimed. Since 2013/14, a total of £43,350 has been approved from the Community Safety Fund out of a potential £150,000.

Each year there is a significant underspend in the funds allocated to the Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund. Meetings have been held with relevant individuals and partnerships to promote the availability of funds and marketing literature produced and circulated. The funds have also been promoted via social media and support made available to those organisations seeking assistance to complete the required paperwork.

Despite these efforts, the number and diversity of organisations requesting funding has been minimal. The Community Improvement Fund has, in the main, been accessed predominantly by Allotment Associations located throughout the borough to increase access to facilities for members and interested parties within local communities.

The Community Safety Fund has supported the purchase and installation of CCTV cameras in areas of the borough exhibiting high levels of anti-social behaviour and to support the work of the Community Safety Partnership in relation to target hardening measures to help protect victims of domestic violence and anti-social behaviour.

Whilst many of the projects supported have been worthy, the Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund have not delivered the original expectations. They were both designed to increase community cohesion and address local priorities.

It is therefore proposed that both the Community Improvement Fund and the Community Safety Fund are absorbed into the Environmental Programme budget. It should be noted that they were top sliced from this budget originally.

The WHQS Environmental Programme is currently under development. If any projects emerge that would previously have been candidates for the two funds they will, if appropriate, be incorporated within proposals for specific estates and be subject to the consultation arrangements that will inform the decision making as to which project proposals can be supported.

CABINET – 2ND MARCH 2016 OUTDOOR BOWLS CLUBS

To advise members of the progress made in relation to the potential self-management of bowling greens across the county borough.

The Authority currently operates twenty-one bowling greens, which is a discretionary service and costs circa £500K per annum. This equates to 27% of the Parks budget (excluding HQ and staffing).

Members will be aware in July 2014, a report was considered by the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) proposals for Community & Leisure Services. One recommendation was the closure of six out of the twenty-one bowling greens managed by the Authority to achieve £100K financial savings (£50K in 2015/16 and £50K in 2016/17).

Members resolved that all clubs should be consulted and given the option to take up self-management. Officers and the Cabinet Member met with all clubs on the 17th October 2014 to set out the various proposals. It was resolved that officers would meet clubs on an individual basis, thereafter to discuss self-management.

On the 14th October 2015 Cabinet considered and approved a range of MTFP budget proposals including the rationalisation of bowling greens. This report outlines an option (after learning from other Local authorities) which will achieve more ownership of the facilities by bowls clubs and equal and fair treatment of all clubs within the county borough.

CABINET – 2ND MARCH 2016 THE REGISTRATION OF PUPILS WHO ARE EDUCATED OTHER THAN AT SCHOOL (EOTAS)

Report to agree the process of registration for EOTAS.

The majority of pupils settle successfully in schools and make progress. However, a relatively small number of pupils across the authority have needs that cannot be met within a school setting. Some of these pupils are too vulnerable to cope with a school environment, whilst others present behaviours that are too challenging for a mainstream school.

The Local Authority (LA) has identified alternative provision for these pupils and organises and funds this. The pupils have remained on the roll of the main school but they have no interaction with it, so their registration becomes academic. It would be more reasonable for the pupils attending full time provisions to be registered at the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) which is the hub of the LA's EOTAS provision. A number of these pupils could return to education at school.

Glossary of terms:- Not in Employment, Education and Training Strategy (NEETs), Educated Other Than at School Strategy (EOTAS), Single Integrated Plan (SIP)

174 pupils currently access education outside the school in a full-time capacity. 16 of these pupils attend INNOVATE which is a provision for vulnerable pupils, based in Rhymney. These pupils have no interaction with their mainstream school.

36 pupils attend Bridge/Include provision which caters for pupils who have the most significant and complex behavioural, social, emotional, learning and mental health needs. These pupils have no interaction with their mainstream school.

56 pupils attend Community/Home/Young Parents Project Tuition (32 Community; 19 Home; 5 Young Parents project). Some of these pupils are in this setting for a very short time and will definitely return to a school. It is appropriate that they remain on the school roll during the interruption to their school life. However, some of these pupils are in tuition while they access alternative provision or the PRU.

The Chief Education Officer is currently in discussion with headteachers to identify ways in which schools can collaborate to design bespoke packages for pupils who require an alternative curriculum so they can remain part of the school community.

It is proposed that where pupils are educated off-site in full-time provision independent of the school, they will be registered at the PRU. This is because they have no meaningful contact with the school and often will never have done so. Where pupils in need of an alternative curriculum are educated through collaborative arrangements between schools, they should remain on their respective school roll.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equalities implications have been taken into account for the vast majority of reports submitted to Cabinet and other committees.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None, this is an information paper only on the contents of Caerphilly CBC reports which contains items of interest for the Voluntary Sector Committee.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are invited (if they feel appropriate) to select any report for further consideration by the Committee by requesting the report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to take questions/prepare another report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure Members are fully briefed on items of interest for the Voluntary Sector.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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