



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

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Bryn Compost Liaison Group Terms of Reference