



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 27TH
OCTOBER 2020 AT 5.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor D.T. Davies - Chair
Councillor A. Hussey - Vice Chair

Councillors:

Councillors: M.A. Adams, A. Collis, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, A. Gair, Ms J. Gale, S. Kent,
Mrs A. Leonard, B. Owen, D.W.R. Preece, J.E. Roberts, J. Scriven, A. Whitcombe,
T.J. Williams

Cabinet Members:

N. George (Cabinet Member for Waste & Public Protection), S. Morgan (Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member for Economy & Enterprise), J. Ridgewell (Cabinet Member for Environment
& Infrastructure)

Together with:

Mark S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities), M. Lloyd (Head of
Infrastructure), C. Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager), A. Dallimore
(Regeneration Services Manager), P. Rossiter (Energy and Water Officer), M. Jacques
(Scrutiny Officer), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be
available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). Members
were advised that voting on decisions would take place by way of roll call.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 1ST OCTOBER 2020

By way of roll call (and in noting there were 14 for, 0 against and 1 abstentions), it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee held on 1st October 2020 (minute nos. 1 - 9) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. CALL-IN PROCEDURE

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

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 October 2020 to December 2020.

Members were referred to the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting on 15th December 2020 to consider a report on the findings of the CCBC Car Parks Task and Finish Group, and approval was sought for the inclusion of an additional report on a proposed Enforced Sales Policy.

Members noted the details of the reports scheduled for forthcoming meetings, and by way of roll call and (and in noting there were 15 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) unanimously agreed that the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers and with the inclusion of the additional agenda item be published on the Council's website.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

6. REDUCE, PRODUCE, OFFSET, BUY (A DECARBONISATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL)

The Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise presented the report, which sought the Scrutiny Committee's views on a draft Decarbonisation Strategy and supporting documents, prior to its presentation to Cabinet for approval. Members were also asked to acknowledge the milestones for adoption of this document by the Council, and to recognise the wide and diverse range of activities and actions that the Council will need to implement to achieve their Decarbonisation objectives with the key ambition of becoming net carbon neutral by the year 2030.

During the course of the ensuing discussion, Officers provided clarification on a number of queries raised, including the identification of sites for future renewable energy projects, Section 106 agreements and the income received through the Community Infrastructure Levy and commuted sums associated with the new Sustainable Drainage legislation (SAB). One Member expressed concerns about the predominance given to the Bryn Group in the draft Strategy, given recent negative media reports which had been investigated by Natural Resources Wales, and suggested that the Council should seek alternative green energy sources for its Strategy. Officers reminded the Scrutiny Committee of the significant

investment by the supplier in their anaerobic digester and emphasised that seeking an alternative supplier would not help the Council meet its carbon reduction objectives. It was noted that there was no update to report on the NRW investigation, and Officers also provided clarification on the contractual and subsidy arrangements for food and garden waste treatment between the Council and the Bryn Group.

Members also discussed planning new projects, the contractual obligations of future partners and the need to prioritise the allocation of actual costs against the projects outlined in the report. One Member enquired as to the number of electric/hybrid vehicles in the Council's fleet and it was arranged for this figure to be provided to Members following the meeting.

Members expressed their support for the draft Strategy, and having provided their views on the draft Decarbonisation Strategy and supporting documents and acknowledging and recognising the milestones and actions set out in the Officer's report, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for approval. By way of roll call (and in noting there were 13 for, 1 against and 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:-

- (i) the draft Decarbonisation Strategy and supporting documents be approved;
- (ii) the milestones for adoption of this document by the Council be acknowledged;
- (iii) the wide and diverse range of activities that the Council will need to implement to achieve the Decarbonisation objectives be acknowledged;
- (iv) it be recognised that the actions, targets and contents contained within the supporting Action Plan and Energy Prospectus are fluid and will respond to external pressures and opportunities as they occur. In particular, it will be necessary to react to changing legislation from Welsh Government and Central Government.
- (v) it be acknowledged that that business cases associated with Energy Prospectus projects will be reviewed by the CCBC Regeneration Project Board with recommendations being made to Cabinet where required.

7. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT - 2019/20 12 MONTH UPDATE REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure presented the report, which updated the Scrutiny Committee on the implementation and impact of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers, following the first twelve months of operation. Members were asked to scrutinise the report and provide comments on how CPE can be improved and/or to endorse the continuation of the approach taken within the contents of the report.

It was noted that the implementation of CPE has been broadly successful. During the first twelve-month period there have been 1043 requests for enforcement across the county borough. A total of 11528 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were issued, 9305 (80%) of which have been paid with the remainder progressing through the appeals process. Anecdotally there has been positive feedback about improvements in driver behaviour, greater parking availability and reduced congestion particularly in the busiest areas. As a result of the more pro-active enforcement of parking restrictions numerous requests have been received to consider changes to the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and these are currently being

progressed.

During the course of the ensuing debate, Officers responded to a number of queries received from Members, including how increased costs arising from CPE would be met, exemptions for blue badge holders parking in permit spaces, pavement parking, the renewal process for parking permits that have lapsed due to Covid-19 restrictions, and the recruitment process for CPE Officers. A query was received regarding the removal of charges at country parks and it was explained that this is a matter for Cabinet consideration but would form part of the recommendations of the forthcoming Task and Finish Group report on CCBC car parks.

The Scrutiny Committee discussed resident permit parking times and restrictions in detail. One Member asked if take-up of private driveways could be encouraged in order to resolve some of the issues around permit places. Officers explained that this a matter for each household and involves a fairly straightforward application process, although this has the potential to reduce the availability of on-street parking.

Officers also responded to queries on the specifics of permit parking and Members suggested that consideration should be given to disapplying the half-hour time limit on parking in a permit space, so that permit places are restricted to use by permit holders only, and also that permit hours should be extended to 8pm. It was proposed that both of these matters be considered at a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Having considered and noted the contents of the report, and subject to it being noted that the Scrutiny Committee had expressed an interest in discussing resident parking restrictions at a future meeting, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be endorsed. By way of roll call (and in noting there were 15 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the continuation of the current approach in respect of Civil Parking Enforcement be endorsed.

The meeting closed at 6.56 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2021, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR