

No.

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting held on 21st May, 2024.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby (Chair); Councillors C.E.A. Champion, P. Drake, A.M. Ernest, M.J. Hooper, C. Iannucci-Williams, J.M. Norman, E. Penn, J. Protheroe and S.T. Wiliam

Also present: Councillors J. Aviet, B.E. Brooks (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places), I.R. Buckley, L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), H.C. Hamilton, G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing), C. Stallard, E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health) and M.R. Wilson (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services).

57 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

58 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T Councillor C. Iannucci-Williams be appointed Vice-Chair for the Municipal year.

59 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 16th April, 2024 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment concerning Minute No. 1003, page 3, Requests for Consideration: Bus Services: the ‘Browns Foundation’ referred to in the minutes should be amended to the ‘Bevan Foundation’.

60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

61 UPDATE REPORT: HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 21st March, 2024 as contained within the agenda was presented by the Operational Manager – Neighbourhood Services: Operations, the purpose of which was for Members of the Committee to consider the details of the report and appendix on the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) in the Vale of Glamorgan and to refer any comments back to Cabinet. Should there be no views to the contrary expressed by the Committee, then the recommendations of the report would be considered as approved.

The report was accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, which gave Members further insight into the key takeaways of the report update, including the HWRC booking system update, recycling performance of HWRC sites, residual waste and the Llandow HWRC site proposals.

Following the report / presentation, Councillor Champion asked whether residents in the Western Vale could book to use the Barry HWRC due to the limitations on what items could be recycled in Llandow HWRC. It was confirmed that there were no restrictions on which HWRC sites residents in the Vale of Glamorgan could use to dispose of and recycle their waste.

The Vice Chair queried what efforts the Council was making to ensure that the recycling rate for Llandow HWRC improved and met that of its Barry equivalent. It was explained that although the recycling rate for Llandow HWRC would not be able to fully match that of Barry, due to the restrictions of the site's location, etc. there were still small steps that were being taken to improve it, such as to make it easier for recycling and to access the skips there. Both sites each had their own specific recycling capabilities as well, such as tyre recycling in Barry and asbestos disposal facilities in Llandow. The recycling rates for Llandow would only match the Barry site if it fully relocated to another site.

On Councillor Wiliam's query on the booking arrangements / figures for the HWRC sites and how bookings were 'counted' for these, it was stated that the statistics concerning this related to the number of bookings per person, per visit. The booking figures included commercial vehicles, vans and trailer bookings for permits. Over the calendar year 2023, 200,950 bookings were made at both sites, indicating that both facilities had been well used. The Councillor remarked on the effectiveness of the bookings system and website, as well as the flexibility of the staff at the sites and the lack of queuing to access the sites as a result. On the Councillor's follow up question about why the white recycling bags for batteries were not being picked up by the Council from kerbside collections for some Vale residents, the Operational Manager - Neighbourhood Services: Operations would take this issue back to the relevant team to address and monitor this matter. If further concerns were established then further work could be considered such as encouraging residents to report such issues to the Council and to highlight this via social media, etc.

On Councillor Drake's query on the carton recycling statistics on Table 2 of the report, this referred to tetra packs that had been kept on the sites previously but now due to changes in waste management and recycling processes, these were not

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being taken to the HWRC sites anymore. This remained on the statistics due to it being a performance indicator on the original contract.

Councillor Protheroe stated that the residents in the Western part of the Vale of Glamorgan would welcome the improvements to be made to the road leading to the Llandow HWRC which would help to improve the rates of recycling there. She referred to a previous meeting of Corporate Performance and Resources Committee in March where it had been suggested that the Council ask the Welsh Government for land at Picketston in the Western Vale and asked if this had been progressed. In response, there had been talk of shared working and partnership around a potential new HWRC facility in the Western Vale, but this had not been progressed due to various challenges and issues on how to monitor recycling there. Councillor Protheroe clarified that her point was in relation to buying the former Royal Air Force land near St Athan from Welsh Government (in Picketston). The Operational Manager advised that this would be revisited but no due diligence had been done on this as yet.

Councillor Hooper raised a number of points and queries which could be summarised (and were addressed) as follows:

- He echoed Councillor Wiliam's comments on the booking system etc for HWRC working well.
- It would be good to see on the profile of monthly bookings the figures as a percentage in order to see how it improves or changes year on year.
- To also have a look at the tonnage of waste (recycling, residual, etc) as a percentage.
- Regarding the percentage of waste that was not recycled, and what impact had there been due to the changes in general waste collection (three weekly bag collection) and costs associated with green waste permits. It was explained that a previous report had come to Committee outlining HWRC performance in such areas. Generally speaking, residual waste was reducing but not as much as the Council would like to see at the Recycling Centres. Therefore, additional controls would be sought in order bring these figures down further and to encourage recycling as well as changes to the behaviours of those residents that were still resistant to recycling. Any changes this year would be included in the update report that included all collection areas and the Recycling Centres scheduled for February 2025, on the Committee's Forward Work Programme. The Operational Manager also clarified the additional figure on the charts of the presentation on residual waste tonnages and reported that up to 20% of the total waste was being recycled as bottom ash and there were also other materials reclaimed such as metals. More green waste going to the HWRC sites was a positive as under the current contract with the waste service provider, this meant they absorbed the associated costs as well as the environmental and recycling benefits that would accrue from it.
- Had the Council received any claims directly as a result of residents using their vehicles on the poorly maintained road leading to Llandow HWRC. It was explained that any such claims were referred to the landlord of the site. It was not known whether these had been successful or not.
- Linked to the above point, and the conditions at the Llandow site, was the Council seeking a reduction in their rent to the landlord at the site. It was stated that the

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rental costs and charges were already relatively low at Llandow and none (rent) at the Barry site (although there were service charges). Therefore, the money and investment made by the Council to improve the road at Llandow would be good value for money and benefit residents.

- Should the Council be looking to not just replace the Llandow site, but also to expand or add new facilities in other parts of the Vale of Glamorgan. It was outlined that it had not been possible to relocate the Llandow site at this time. On other potential sites, any considerations on these would need to be based on the best location, such as where there were major population centres and where environmental permitting regulations could be achieved. Therefore the options could be limited due to lack of suitable available land and accessibility.

Councillor Penn referred to the booking system and permits that residents could obtain to utilise larger vehicles to dispose of waste, including the good value for money this represented for residents, as well as the challenges, such as trying to unload such vehicles later on in the day when there was less staff around. It was explained that the permit system was designed to allow residents to borrow a van or a trailer to take waste material to the site. The Council could not charge for these permits as such, rather the price was an administration fee for producing and posting the permits out to residents. It was stressed that the HWRC sites were licensed for the disposing of domestic waste only, not commercial.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services referred to the immense benefits to the Western Vale in resurfacing at Llandow, additional controls at HWRC sites to minimise residual waste and to maximise recycling and the generally positive response by residents in adhering to the new waste collection and recycling measures. He was happy for Elected Members to contact him or the relevant Council officers should they identify any illegal waste disposal and instances of 'fly tipping'.

The Chair added that if it were possible, could the suggestions made by Members on this item be included in future updates and reporting on this matter, including monthly usage, year by year comparisons, what was being disposed of at the recycling centres shown as a percentage in terms of tonnage, looking at Welsh Government owned land for a future HWRC site in the Western Vale and that consideration be given as part of the Replacement Local Development Plan to identify other potential HWRC sites in the county due to population size, etc.

The Operational Manager – Neighbourhood Services: Operations stated that if there were no recommendations or comments back to the Cabinet from the Committee then work would start on the road to the Llandow site in the next few weeks.

Subsequently, it was

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the reference and update report on the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) (including the proposed repair of the access road leading to the Council's HWRC, Llandow, as detailed at Appendix A to the report) be noted.

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Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the reference, report and the appendix, as well as the discussions at the meeting.

62 4TH QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING 2023/24 AND PROPOSED ANNUAL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2024/25 (DCR) –

The report, presented by the Chair, with support from the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer, advised Members of progress in relation to the Scrutiny Committee's historical recommendations and the proposed Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2024/25:

- 4th Quarter Recommendation Tracking January to March 2024 (Appendix A);
- Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme 2024/25 (Appendix B);
- Proposed Annual Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2024/25 (Appendix C).

The Chair also referred Committee to Appendix A of the report, informing the Committee that the recommendations had all been completed and highlighted to the Committee the actions / considerations that were taken by Cabinet etc. as a result.

The Chair referred to the Committee's Forward Work Programme highlighting a number of key reports that would be coming to the Committee over the 2024/25 Municipal year. These included an update on bathing water quality at designated bathing beaches in the Vale of Glamorgan, Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026: Annual Monitoring Report 2024/25 and the Replacement Local Development Plan 2021-2036 Deposit Plan. The Committee also had the coastal monitoring update that would be going in the latter part of 2024 and consideration of a public petition concerning school crossing supervisors earlier on in the work programme as well which was currently schedule in June.

The Chair informed the Committee that due to the extensive business that it would be covering over the year, and with a number of very busy agendas over the coming months, she was considering taking some financial reports as information only at the beginning of the municipal and financial year(s) to ensure that the Committee had sufficient time to scrutinise those issues that were particularly relevant to it.

Following the presentation of the report, Councillor Hooper referred to the comments made about financial reporting and wished to clarify whether these initial financial reports would still be on the agenda or not and also raised concerns about the potential for scrutiny missing out on key financial issues such as what he felt had happened previously in terms of the new Oracle system overspend. In response, it was stated that this would only apply to the initial financial reports at the start of the year and for those financial reports at mid-year and later on in the year these would be on the agenda for full scrutiny. In terms of the initial financial reports the aim was to place them on the agenda, but these were in essence, and unless Members

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stated otherwise prior to the meeting, to be more for information purposes only and would not necessarily require officer attendance. However, if after looking at the reports in question Committee Members did have questions they wished to raise within the Committee meeting then as long as the relevant Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer and the Chair were informed, an officer could attend and the report receive further scrutiny. It was stressed that all reports would be considered if scrutiny required them to be considered and there was no attempt being made to hide or omit any key areas of financial data or reporting to the Committee.

Councillor Hooper wished to add that although he appreciated the need for Committee Members to look at all key reports and documents prior to the meeting, in terms of questions, etc. he also felt that it was important that financial reports remain on the agenda for consideration and the size of the agenda for the Committee meetings should be properly planned out in order to avoid having excessively short and long meetings thereby ensuring that Members could properly scrutinise items presented to the Committee. In response the Chair stated the size of meeting agendas could vary, for example, due to the need of the Committee to take into account the Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme and the scheduling of reports and references from that to Committee, as well as the work programme being a 'moveable feast' and the makeup of each month's agenda therefore could change due to these and other factors.

Scrutiny, having considered the report, subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendix A to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme for 2024/25 attached at Appendix B to the report, in the context of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Annual Forward Work Programme 2024/25 content, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the Committee's proposed Annual Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2024/25, attached at Appendix C to the report, be approved and uploaded to the Council's website.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) To align with section 7.6 of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Roles and Responsibilities Protocol.
- (3) For public information.