

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT)

MINUTES of a meeting held on 3rd October, 2006.

Present: Councillor N.P. Hodges (Chairman); Councillors Ms. L. Burnett, P. Church, J. Clifford, Miss J. Cole, R.F. Curtis, N.J. Gibbs, Mrs. V.M. Hartrey, G. John, Mrs. M. Kelly Owen, Mrs. A.J. Moore, Mrs. A.J. Preston, Mrs. S.I. Sharpe, S.T. Wiliam, E.T. Williams and M.R. Wilson.

Also present: Councillors G.A. Cox and M.R. Harvey.

378 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE -

This was received from Councillor W.C. Vaughan.

379 MINUTES -

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September, 2006 be approved as a correct record.

380 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

No declarations were received.

381 SECURITY SERVICES ACCREDITATION TO SECURITY INDUSTRY TRAINING ORGANISATION (SITO) STANDARD (REF. - MINUTE NO. C2603) -

This Committee had initially, in September, 2005 discussed matters pertaining to the introduction of security quality assurance systems to achieve SITO for security vetting of staff. Cabinet had then, on 6th October, 2006 received a report in respect of the above which sought Cabinet endorsement to achieve security services accreditation to the Security Industry Training Organisation (SITO) Standard. Cabinet had subsequently endorsed SITO registration and referred the report to this Committee. By way of background, it was reported that the introduction of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 had been the catalyst for the development of the Security Industry Authority (SIA), a body which reported directly to the Home Secretary. The SIA had identified large growth in the private security industry and had responded to calls for proper regulations to be introduced, including the individual licensing of security service operatives. This Council's Security Services currently employed 24 members of staff at a number of Council establishments throughout the Vale, and had identified a commitment to conform with various standards including British Standards BS7858 and BS7499. It was explained that BS7858 related to vetting procedure and accreditation required that organisations should

establish by direct reference to former employees a continuous record of employment for 10 years. Accreditation also required, inter alia, that employment should not commence until 5 years screening had been carried out. BS7499 related to manned security services and accreditation required that an organisation had a proper management structure, adequate insurance and proper procedures for employees. All such employees would be required to carry photographic identity cards and have a minimum of two days induction training plus any other training as required.

It was acknowledged that to date specific security training for existing employees had been very limited. It was consequently recommended that all security personnel be trained to comply with the requirements for SIA licensing. The National Open College Network (NOCN) Level 2 Award in Security Guarding met all the requirements for compliance. Completion of the course would ensure all security personnel were eligible to apply for the SIA licence, the award of which was subject to the vetting procedure outlined in BS7858 and the provisions of systems of work in line with the criteria contained in BS7499. Successful completion of the NOCN Level 2 Award in Security Guarding (or similar) was mandatory to enable employees to apply for the SIA licence. Attention was drawn to the fact that some existing members of staff might find the training regime difficult and might fail the stringent vetting procedure. Redeployment would, therefore, need to be sought for those employees failing to achieve accreditation in accordance with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the report be noted and SITO registration endorsed.
- (2) T H A T BS7499 and BS7858 be removed from the Building Services Service Plan.

382 VISIBLE SERVICES: WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CLEANSING - POSITION STATEMENT (CHAIRMAN) -

Background information and key issues in respect of the Waste Management Service had been provided to assist Members when considering the scope of the proposed Scrutiny Review into Recycling and Waste Management. The Committee had originally proposed that the Scrutiny Review focus on Recycling (Minute No. 1054 - 2005/06) but had extended the remit of that review to encompass Waste Management (Minute No. 81). The focus had been expanded given the clear correlation between recycling and waste management.

Details were contained within the report as to the requirements the Council needed to meet in respect of statutory and non statutory targets for recycling/composting and diverting biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) from landfill. Details were also contained within the report of the various recycling/composting services provided to all householders within the Vale in addition to the household "black bag" weekly refuse kerbside collections. For

contracted commercial customers, it was noted that the collection of dry recyclables was also available at a reasonable charge but that schools received those services at no cost.

Reference was made to the fact that waste growth was a matter of significant concern to the service with growth within the Vale currently running at almost 4% against a Wales average of 1.5%. Householder participation and capture within the kerbside collection scheme presently stood at approximately 40% and had been identified as an area where improvements needed to be made for future targets to be achieved. The Waste Management Service had been subject to a Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Peer Review in June 2006. As a consequence the following observations had been made:

- that the Council operated a reliable, user-friendly collection of recyclables on which it had consulted with residents to ensure that the collections met the needs of the customer
- that it was unlikely that the Council would meet its composting targets for 2006/07 due to a relatively low composting rate
- that to comply with the 2009/10 waste diversion targets, a kitchen waste collection would need to be introduced which would contribute greatly to raising the current combined recycling/composting rate from nearly 26% to the necessary 40%; WLGA had also stated that in order for authorities to meet the 2009/10 targets, they should begin separately collecting food waste and diverting it to in vessel composting or anaerobic digestion
- that Community Recycling Centres resulted in high levels of waste being diverted from landfill
- that this Committee had identified recycling as a high priority to be reviewed.

It was anticipated that the development of the new large “state of the art” Community Recycling Centre at the Atlantic Trading Estate would increase diversion rates further and it was reported that plans were well advanced for the new site with it being anticipated that planning consent would be sought imminently.

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T in order to define a realistic scope for the Scrutiny Review a Task and Finish Group of the following 7 Members be established:
Councillors R.F. Curtis, N.J. Gibbs, N.P. Hodges, G. John, Mrs. M. Kelly Owen, Mrs. S.I. Sharpe and E.T. Williams (or nominated substitute).

(2) T H A T , in order to comply with the timetable for the Review, a report of the Task and Finish Group’s deliberations be submitted for consideration to the next meeting of this Committee.

383 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING: 1ST APRIL - 31ST AUGUST, 2006 (DEER) -

The projected outturn for the 2006/07 Revenue Budget was for a deficit of £450k. for the Directorate which would be funded from anticipated savings identified in Policy Committee. A report providing more detail on the anticipated overspends and identifying actions taken or to be taken to minimise/reverse the predicted overspend would be submitted to Cabinet on 4th October, 2006.

As regards the Capital Programme, details were appended to the report. It was noted that several schemes would not outturn in the current financial year, namely refurbishment of bridges, Waste Resource Park Phase 1, and the Section 106 Morrisons Thompson Street Footbridge/Trail. As regards the access road to Dunraven Bay, Southerndown, negotiations were currently ongoing in relation to land required to undertake the work and a revised budget profile would be reported in due course.

Following further consideration of the above and related matters, it was

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the decision with regard to the 2006/07 revenue and capital monitoring be noted.

384 SITE INSPECTIONS (DLRS) -

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the attendance of the following Councillors at the sites indicated below be noted:

(a) 25th July, 2006

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. S.I. Sharpe.

Penarth Pier and Pavilion, Esplanade Shelter and Italian Gardens	Councillor N.P. Hodges (Chairman); Councillors Ms. L. Burnett, P. Church, N.J. Gibbs, Mrs. V.M. Hartrey, M.R. Harvey, G. John, Mrs. M. Kelly Owen, Mrs. A.J. Preston, and Mrs. M. Randall.
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(b) 5th September, 2006

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms. L. Burnett, G. John, Mrs. S.I. Sharpe and B.I. Shaw (local ward member).

Innovation Quarter and related buildings, The Waterfront, Barry and Barry Island Railway Station	Councillor N.P. Hodges (Chairman); Ms. M.E. Alexander, J. Clifford, N.J. Gibbs, Mrs. V.M. Hartrey and E.T. Williams.
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385 APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES (DLRS) -

In accordance with Minute No. 259, consideration was given to the reappointment of the following Sub-Committees for the current municipal year:

- Traffic Sub-Committee
- Town Centre Sub-Committee.

Both “dealing with the challenge of traffic” and “town centre improvement and regeneration” formed part of this Committee’s Forward Work Programme for 2006/07. Rather than bringing the scrutiny of such wide-ranging matters to the Committee itself, the need to devise an alternative mechanism through which to facilitate in-depth discussion and fact finding and to formulate proposals for improved service delivery/policy development was accepted, as was the need to refine the terms of reference. Regard was paid to the recently published Wales Audit Office “Democratic Renewal: follow up report” which, inter alia, drew particular attention to the role of Sub-Committees suggesting instead that greater use be made of time-limited Task and Finish Groups.

RECOMMENDED -

(1) T H A T a Traffic Task and Finish Group and a Town Centre Task and Finish Group of 7 Members be established, the membership of each being:

Traffic: Councillors N.J. Gibbs, N.P. Hodges, G. John, Mrs. A.J. Preston, Mrs. S.I. Sharpe, E.T. Williams and M.R. Wilson.

Town Centre: Councillors Ms. L. Burnett, P. Church, J. Clifford, G. John, Mrs. M. Kelly Owen, Mrs. A.J. Moore and S.T. Wiliam.

(2) T H A T tightly defined terms of reference be drawn up for each of the above to allow firm proposals to be submitted to Cabinet early in the new year.

386 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC -

RESOLVED - T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

387 PENARTH ESPLANADE: PIER PAVILION AND THE ITALIAN SHELTER (DEER) (EXEMPT INFORMATION - PARAGRAPH 21) -

The Council had agreed to bring both the above buildings back into beneficial public use by leasing them to private sector partners whilst retaining the freehold interest, and progress as to the current position in that respect was detailed. In brief, both buildings had been marketed in 2005 and although no formal bids had been received for the Pier Pavilion, various parties had expressed an interest and one particular party was to meet with officers to discuss proposals further. A major stumbling block to attracting a private sector developer in respect particularly of the Pavilion was the reluctance of the Earl of Plymouth Estates to withdraw the restrictive covenant. No immediate user had, therefore, yet been established for the Pier Pavilion, and monies had been secured to undertake essential painting and structural concrete repair works to the building. As regards the Italian Shelter, 5 formal bids had been submitted and a recommended bidder selected.

Discussion ensued on the above and related matters, (including the desirability of improving sections of the built environment and street scene along the Esplanade) with attention focussing in particular on ways in which to expedite progress in bringing both the above buildings (together with any other vacant Council owned buildings) into beneficial public use.

RECOMMENDED -

(1) T H A T Cabinet be requested

- to publicise the availability of the Pavilion (and any other similar coastal buildings) through the Vale Business Club
- to issue a press release regarding the availability of the Pavilion, including an article in Vale Waves
- to market redundant coastal buildings with the Vale more strenuously.

(2) T H A T a representative from the Earl of Plymouth Estates be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss a way forward.

(3) T H A T the preferred bidder in respect of the Italian Shelter be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss progress.

(4) T H A T in order, inter alia, to learn about how other piers were managed and funded, representatives from resorts having piers and/or from the National Piers Society be invited to address a future meeting.