

No.

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 18th May, 2021.

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

Present: Councillor Ms. B.E. Brooks (Chairman); Councillors V.J. Bailey, Mrs. P. Drake, V.P. Driscoll, G. John, M.J.G. Morgan, A.R. Robertson, L.O. Rowlands, Ms. S. Sivagnanam and S.T. Wiliam.

Also Present: Councillors L. Burnett (Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration), P.G. King (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services).

39 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chairman 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.”

40 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN –

RESOLVED – T H A T Councillor Ms. S. Sivagnanam be appointed Vice-Chairman for the Municipal year.

41 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 20th April, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

43 NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND TRANSPORT – PROPOSED POLICY AND FEES FOR PLACING ITEMS ON HIGHWAY (TABLES AND CHAIRS, OUTSIDE TRADING SPACE, ADVERTISING BOARDS, SKIPS, SCAFFOLDING) (REF) –

Cabinet, at its meeting on 12th May, had referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration, with any comments to be referred back to Cabinet.

No.

The resolutions of Cabinet were:

“(1) T H A T the proposed Policy for “Neighbourhood Services – Placing of equipment on the highway asset”, as set out in the report and at Appendix A (Annex 1 and 2) to operate from 1st July, 2021, be approved in principle.

(2) T H A T the proposed Policies for “Skips and Scaffolding” as set out within the report and at Appendix A (Annex 3 and 4) to operate from 1st July, 2021 be approved in principle.

(3) T H A T a further report, after 1st July, 2022, outlining how the Neighbourhood Services – Placing of Equipment on the Highway Asset Policy was working and whether any changes were needed, be received by Cabinet.

(4) T H A T the report be referred to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for consideration, with any comments to be referred back to Cabinet.

Reasons for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the content of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(3) To update Cabinet on the implementation of the Policy and to propose any changes (if necessary).

(4) To allow the report to be considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee and for any comments received to be considered by Cabinet prior to final agreement of the Policies.”

In reply to a query from Councillor S. Sivagnanam, regarding businesses in Penarth, the Neighbourhood Manager Highway Maintenance, advised that historically there had been a large number of complaints about the location of bins. This was something that the Council had to resolve in a reasonable manner.

Councillor V.P. Driscoll commented that for some businesses the fees represented a five-fold increase and he queried what other local authorities were charging. In response, the Neighbourhood Manager Highway Maintenance advised that he had undertaken research of charges, and the proposed fees had been reduced from the initial proposals. Fees in the Vale were cheaper than those in Bridgend and Cardiff. He added that it was important to recognise that some footpaths were heavily obstructed, so the Council had initially worked with businesses to find solutions. In addition, the fees would not generate income for the Council, but would cover administration costs.

Councillor Driscoll also referred to the financial impact on businesses as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and he tabled a motion for the fees relating to cafes, pubs and restaurants be delayed until April 2022. The motion having been seconded and voted upon, was not carried by the Committee.

No.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the resolutions of Cabinet

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the contents of the Cabinet report and the Policy and Fees for Placing Items on Highway (Tables and Chairs, Outside Trading Space, Advertising Boards, Skips, Scaffolding), be accepted.

Reason for recommendation

Following consideration of the proposed Policy and Fees by the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

44 4TH QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING 2020/21 AND PROPOSED ANNUAL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2021/22 (MD) –

The Chairman presented the report to update Members on progress on the Scrutiny Committee's historical recommendations and to confirm the Committee's proposed Forward Work Programme for 2021/22.

It was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendices A to D to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 attached at Appendix F to the report, in the context of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Annual Forward Work Programme 2021/22 content, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the 4th Quarter Forward Work Programme attached at Appendix E be noted.
- (4) T H A T the Committee's proposed Annual Forward Work Programme schedule for 2021/22 attached at Appendix G 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&3) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (4) For information.