

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021

**“C571 NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND TRANSPORT - PROPOSED POLICY AND FEES FOR PLACING ITEMS ON HIGHWAY (TABLES AND CHAIRS, OUTSIDE TRADING SPACE, ADVERTISING BOARDS, SKIPS, SCAFFOLDING) (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

The report sought Cabinet’s agreement for a new Policy on placing items on the adopted highway asset. Requests for placement of items on the adopted highway asset were controlled under Section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.

Historically, Council licence fees for adopted highway assets were set for three years and were not proportionate to the outside space required. The new fee charges proposed were based on the amount of outside space required and were annual, making them more flexible and cost effective for smaller businesses.

The report recommended that the Policy be introduced to ensure a fairer and safer use of the highway and greater opportunities for businesses, whilst also ensuring a clearer understanding of what was required from those who applied to place items on the highway asset.

The report also sought to update the Skips and Scaffolding Policies to bring those into line with similar principles but did not propose a change to the fees agreed for these by Cabinet in February 2021.

The Cabinet Member noted the Policy would go some way towards decluttering public spaces, making it clearer and safer for pedestrians and drivers and easier for traders. He also said how flexible the Council had been concerning the usually chargeable highway licences during the pandemic, with over 50 issues at no charge to assist local businesses.

The Deputy Leader said that some of the street café licences had been arranged exceptionally quickly with areas outside premises inspected, boundaries agreed, and trading could begin with little delay. Conversations had highlighted further issues concerning items on the highway that affected people differently.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2021 be approved in principle.
- (3) T H A T a further report, after 1<sup>st</sup> 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.”