

No.

SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 23rd March, 2022.

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

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present:

Representing Bridgend County Borough Council – Councillors D. Lewis and D. Patel.

Representing Cardiff City and County Council – Councillors M. Michael (Chair) and Mrs. N. Mackie.

Representing the Vale of Glamorgan Council – Councillors J.W. Thomas and E. Williams (Vice-Chair).

(a) 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.”

(b) Minutes –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

(c) Declarations of Interest –

No declarations of interest were received.

(d) Overview and Update of the Shared Regulatory Services (DEH) -

The Head of the Shared Regulatory Services, presented the report which apprised the Committee of the work of the service and progress towards completing the actions contained in the Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) Business Plans.

SRS Business Plans were developed in consultation with stakeholders; they informed and directed the work of the service and contributed toward the corporate priorities of each partner Council. The service had five key aims, namely:

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- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Safeguarding the Vulnerable
- Protecting the Local Environment
- Supporting the Local Economy
- Maximising the use of our resources

The report contained information outlining how the service was working to achieve better outcomes for residents and businesses within the region through a series of different actions and work programmes. The report provided an overview of activities undertaken in the period December 2021 to February 2022, detailed under the following areas:

- Human Resources
- Financial Position 1st April to 31st December 2021 – Appendix 1
- Performance Monitoring – Appendix 2
- Service Update – Covid-19 related work including (infographic contained in Appendix 3)
- Test, Trace and Protect
- Trading Standards – Impacts and Outcomes
- Taxi Licensing
- Air Quality
- Animal Welfare
- Enforcement Activity – Appendix 5

Councillor D. Patel queried whether any creative methods of recruitment had been considered, such as attracting students. In reply, the Head of Service advised that an interesting trend now being seen, was that the SRS had lost some people who had left to work in the local authority that they lived in. With regard to those students that had joined the SRS in 2021, a number of them were now permanent members of staff, and a number of them would finish their studies in June and it was hoped that the SRS would be able to attract them into the service. The Head of Service added that information regarding the steps taken to recruit staff was being put together, for example the use of specialist recruitment agencies, but recruitment of staff with the necessary training was a challenge across the whole of the United Kingdom.

With regard to the use of Agency staff to undertake food hygiene inspections, the Operational Manager stated that over the past two years, the use of Agency staff by all local authorities had increased which had meant that the costs and rate of pay had increased too. To ensure the quality of inspections was maintained, this had resulted in the SRS moving away from paying per hour to now paying per inspection.

Discussion then ensued in relation to the age of taxis and hackney carriages across the 3 local authority areas, with it being noted testing of vehicles in Cardiff was carried out by commercial operators, whereas there was in house testing regimes adopted in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan. This appeared more robust as it offered greater control. Members of the Committee raised the issue of the age profile of vehicles as being something that needed to be looked into.

No.

The Committee Members offered their thanks and appreciation to all SRS staff for their work and commitment in meeting the demands of the Covid-19 pandemic.

There being no further comments or queries, the Joint Committee

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be agreed.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(e) Building for the Future – A Report by Public Protection Wales (DEH) -

The report introduced a paper from the Directors of Public Protection Wales (DPPW) group, which provided detail of resilience challenges for local authority regulatory/public protection services, and presented a case to the Welsh Government for increased investment over the medium term.

Having considered the report, it was

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be agreed.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.