



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# **SCRUTINY :** **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES** **AND PUBLIC PROTECTION** **MEETING**

**MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Roberts (In the Chair)

Councillors H Barrett, J McCarthy, S Slater, W R Smith and Raymond Thomas

**Portfolio Councillor:**  
Councillor Phil Williams

**Cooptees:**  
Robert Holdaway

**Officers:**  
Cherylee Evans (Chief Officer (Neighbourhood Services)), Val Steel (Waste Strategy Manager), Meirion Williams (Highways Network Group Leader), Richard Parry (Consultant for School Improvement) and Sue Gow (Environmental Health)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer), Karen Vokes (Democratic Services Officer) and Maria Price (Business Administration Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
395	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Mrs Nicola Mahoney (Co-optee).

396	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were made.
397	Waste Management at MTCBC	<p>The Chair welcomed Cherylee Evans and Val Steel to the meeting.</p> <p>Following the request on this Committee's work programme, Val Steel gave a presentation in relation to the Waste Management at the Authority and outlined in detail to members the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landfill Allowance Performance</li> <li>• Local Authority Recovery Target (LART) Performance</li> <li>• Comparison of LART Performance 2010/11 to 2014/15</li> <li>• Average Rates of Improvement</li> <li>• Progress on Collaborative Change Programme</li> <li>• Success and Challenges of the changes</li> <li>• Impact of the recent changes</li> <li>• Future Strategy for Waste Management</li> </ul> <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As we missed the target for 2014/15, is it possible that Welsh Government will penalise this Authority? If so, how much would the penalty be?</li> <li>• The table shows that rates of increase is positive when compared to neighbouring Authorities. What plans do you have in place to hit the targets for next year? For the community, could guidance be given on products that can and can't be recycled for the next year?</li> <li>• Clarification on the timetable for the highway and street cleansing.</li> <li>• In relation to engaging with hard to reach audiences and targeting non-participating houses, how do you intend to engage with these people? And examples of what you are actually doing?</li> <li>• New depot is operating on a CCP - Can you explain?</li> <li>• You mentioned that you are generating revenue from the sale of materials, where is this revenue going?</li> </ul> <p><b>Agreed</b> that a report be brought back to Committee on a breakdown of the revenue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to future targets, how are we, as an Authority, going to achieve next year's target of 58%. What do we need to do differently?</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to implementing trade waste collection service changes, what is the current position and do we have a plan to take this forward?</li> <li>• Councillor P Williams referred to an earlier comment in relation to separating cans from street waste. He asked whether there are any more moves ahead to try to do this with the Schools in the Borough and what measures we can take with the Schools' Authorities to try to do their own separation of waste which will be beneficial for both the Schools and the Authority.</li> </ul> <p>Following a query, it was agreed that Lisa Tomkins, Trade Waste Officer, would be available to attend any Governing Bodies meetings to discuss internal waste and recycling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have Schools got the appropriate recycling bins to progress trade waste?</li> <li>• Do you envisage the Welsh Government providing local Authorities with stronger powers to deal with people that do not recycle?</li> <li>• What protection does the Authority provide to its operatives that suffer abuse from residents, and have we had any serious cases of abuse?</li> <li>• Can you illustrate whether you think the service is now providing better value for money than it was previously?</li> <li>• What arrangements do you have in place to advertise the arrangements of recycling to keep the community informed?</li> <li>• In relation to the recycling centres, do we have data to look at the tonnage from the civic amenities sites?</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked both Cherylee Evans and Val Street for attending the meeting.</p>
398	Highways Performance Report	<p>The Chair welcomed Meirion Williams to the meeting.</p> <p>Following the request on this Committee's work programme requesting a report detailing progress against the transformation of the service and the overall performance against local and national indicators, Meirion Williams gave a presentation in relation to the Highways Performance and outlined in detail to members the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on the condition of the Classified Roads</li> </ul>

		<p>which shows the National Strategic Indicator in Merthyr Tydfil for the last 3 years which also shows the Welsh average for the same period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection for National Strategic Indicator 12 - Percentage of Classified Roads in Poor Condition.</li> <li>• Update on the Salix Project to replace the light stock.</li> <li>• How to continually improve the National Strategic Indicators also the Authority's position in the All Wales League Table.</li> </ul> <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to look at certain areas in the Borough that only have lamp posts columns on one side of the road resulting in the lighting not being strong enough from kerb to kerb.</li> </ul> <p>Agreed that Councillors will highlight the black spot areas in order that the Highways Section can revisit these areas to ascertain whether the LED lighting would need to be updated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to classified roads, given Merthyr Tydfil was 5<sup>th</sup> out of 22 in 2014, is this ambition realistic given the funding reductions?</li> <li>• Concern was expressed in relation to the Cycle Lane in the Pontmorlais area and up Penydarren Road which has been installed as part of the national cycle pathway route.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor P Williams advised that if Members were minded to take it up as an issue he would refer this back to the Regeneration Section. <b>Agreed</b> that members would consider this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to the Salix Project, the £290k savings per annum from 2016/17 onwards. How have we arrived at this figure?</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Meirion Williams for his informative presentation.</p>
399	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that there was no update in relation to this item.
400	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and Committee reflected on the issues that had been considered at the meeting, as follows:</p> <p>In relation to Waste Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Task and Finish Group be set up for the whole Committee on Waste Services to be held at the</li> </ul>

		<p>Recycling Site at Pentrebach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Communication Plan be brought back to this Committee before it goes out to businesses.</li> </ul> <p>In relation to Highways Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Task and Finish Group be set up to discuss the Committee's concerns with regard to budgets. Will circulate dates and finalise a date with the department.</li> </ul>
401	Forward Work Programme	The Committee considered and agreed the Forward Work Programme.
402	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.