
SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE: UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides Members with an update on meetings of the Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) Joint Committee
2. The Committee heard from SRS regarding their Business Plan for 2022/23 in October 2022. However, the Committee needs to retain an oversight of the service and issues that may impact the delivery of services to Cardiff and its residents.

Background – Shared Regulatory Services

3. The Shared Regulatory Service (SRS) is a collaborative service that was formed between the partner local authorities of Bridgend, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan on 1st May 2015. The new approach aimed to deliver a fully integrated service under a single management structure for Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Licensing functions with shared governance arrangements ensuring full Elected Member involvement.
4. The Shared Regulatory Service operates under a Joint Working Agreement with the Head of Service reporting on service provision to a Joint Committee of Elected Members drawn from the three partner local authorities. The detailed delegations of policy and functions from partners to the Joint Committee and Head of Service are set out in the Joint Working Agreement, these include:
 - a. The functions to be carried out by the joint service.
 - b. The terms of reference and constitution of the Joint Committee, the Management Board, etc.
 - c. The term of the proposed Shared Regulatory Service such as staffing, the services to be provided by the host and other partners, financing, and other functional issues.
 - d. The financial operating model.

5. The five priorities of the SRS are:
 - i. Improving health and wellbeing
 - ii. Safeguarding the vulnerable
 - iii. Protecting the Environment
 - iv. Supporting the local economy
 - v. Maximising the use of resources.

Core Services Provided by the Shared Regulatory Service

6. The SRS provides a diverse and comprehensive range of services that safeguard the health, safety and economic wellbeing of consumers, businesses and residents. The services are covered under the three main areas of Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing
7. These broad areas encompass a wide range of services that deal with issues that can have a huge impact upon people when things go wrong or have not been enforced properly.
8. The SRS has its own website at: [Shared Regulatory Services \(srs.wales\)](https://srs.wales). The website contains useful background information on the role of SRS and the services it provides as well as news about any prosecutions it has undertaken.

SRS Joint Committee (SRS JC)

9. The Joint Committee meets four times a year, usually March, June, September, and December. Following the Local Authority elections in May 2022 the representatives from Cardiff are Cllr Dan De'Ath, Cabinet Member for Transport Planning & Environment and Cllr Michael Michael, Chair of the Licencing Committee.
10. Details and papers for meetings since 2016 can be found here: [Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)
11. You Tube recordings of meetings held since September 2020 can be found here: [Shared Regulatory Services - YouTube](#)

12. During 2023 the following meetings have been held and the agenda and papers for these meetings are available from the links below, with a list of items considered at each meeting:

[9 February 2023](#) Special Meeting

- Shared Regulatory Services Draft Budget 2023-24

[21 March 2023](#)

- Reports of the Director of Environment and Housing
 - **Overview and Update on SRS**
 - Q3 2022/23 SRS Revenue Monitoring Report
 - Appointment of Proper Officers

[21 June 2023](#)

- Reports of the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
 - SRS Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2022/23
- Reports of the Director of Environment and Housing
 - **SRS Annual Report 2022/23**
 - **SRS Business Plan 2023/24**
 - SRS Health & Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2023/24

[27 September 2023](#)

- Reports of the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
 - SRS Audit Wales 2023 Audit Plan
- Reports of the Director of Environment and Housing
 - **Overview and Update on SRS**
 - SRS Food and Feed Law Enforcement Service Plan 2023/24
 - Review of the SRS Compliance and Enforcement Policy

[13 December 2023](#)

- Reports of the Director of Environment and Housing
 - **Overview and Update on SRS**
 - SRS Fees & Charges 2024/25
 - SRS Budget Savings

CLOSED SESSION

- Reports of the Director of Environment and Housing
 - SRS Budget Savings
- Reports of the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer

31 January 2024

- Reports of the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
 - Audit of the 2022/23 SRS Financial Statements
- Reports of the Director of Environment and Housing
 - SRS Draft Budget Proposals 2024/25

20 March 2024

- Reports of the Director of Environment and Housing
 - [SRS Overview and Update report](#)

13. The schedule of meetings for 2024/25 is as follows:

- 19th June 2024
- 25th September 2024
- 18th December 2024
- 27th March 2025

Issues to note

14. The most recent meeting provided an update as at the end of Q3 and highlighted the following:

- i. The results of a survey in relation to sunbed safety following an undercover investigation by the consumer programme *X-Ray*.
(Pages 39 – 60: [SRS Overview and Update report](#))
- ii. Welsh Government have started the consultation process in relation to draft regulations and statutory guidance prior to the introduction of mandatory licencing scheme for acupuncture, body piercing, electrolysis and tattooing, although the anticipated date for introduction has been slightly delayed to October 2024.
- iii. In relation to Air Quality in addition to information that was included in the Annual Report it was noted that the Council had submitted an updated Final Plan, which was being reviewed by Welsh Government's Expert Panel, and a final decision on funding for the Castle Street Scheme is anticipated by the end of March 2024. Although potential delays were raised with a new First Minister and Cabinet being in post.

- iv. The XL Bully ban came into force on 1st February 2024 which places additional requirements on owners under the Dangerous Dogs Act. SRS are working with South Wales Police and Cardiff Dogs Home and others to confirm the process for typing and assessing any strays that are suspected of being XL Bully's.
- v. The outcomes of investigations and prosecutions are provided including the following:
 - 2 Cardiff businesses prosecuted regarding food hygiene failings
 - Illegal dog breeding

Way Forward

During their meeting, Members will have the opportunity to note the update provided in relation to the SRS Joint Committee.

Legal Implications

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may

arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to note the update provided on the SRS Joint Committee.

Leanne Weston

Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

12 April 2024