

ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 MAY 2019

Present: Councillor Patel(Chairperson)
Councillors Derbyshire, Philippa Hill-John, Owen Jones,
Lancaster, Jackie Parry, Owen, Wong and Wood

86 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Caro Wild (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport) and Andrew Gregory (Director, Planning, Transport & Environment).

87 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received in accordance with the Member's Code of Conduct:

Councillor Bob Derbyshire	Item 6	Personal – Member of the Licensing and Public Protection Committees
Councillor Ashley Wood	Item 6	Personal – Member of the Licensing and Public Protection Committees
Councillor John Lancaster	Item 6	Personal – Member of the Licensing and Public Protection Committees

88 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on the 19 March and 2 April were approved and signed by the Chairperson.

89 : PRE DECISION SCRUTINY: LED STREET LIGHTING ON RESIDENTIAL HIGHWAY NETWORK

The Chairperson welcomed Gary Brown (Operational Manager, Planning Transport & Environment to the meeting.

Gary Brown provided Members with a [presentation](#).

The Committee was asked to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received. Those comments are summarised as follows:

- Members referred to the calculated energy saving figures over 17 years and queried whether the profits would go to the revenue or capital accounts. Officers advised that as there could be no guarantee as to the extent of any increases in energy costs a conservative approach had been taken. When more information is available a decision will be made as to whether to reinvest the savings to pay off capital or reinvest in further improvements. A further reduction in night scouting and in the costs of materials, for

example the units themselves may also result in further savings. It was noted that any ornamental columns would be retro fitted rather than using as standard unit on standard columns. It is only the unit that will be changed.

- Members noted that the Officer was not aware of there being any successful claims against the authority as a result if inadequate lighting.
- Members were advised that the 45% savings referred to, amounting to approximately £270k was achievable through changes in illuminated signs and apparatus, for example bollards.
- Members sought some clarification as to the success of the Central Management System (CMS) and were advised that whilst initially it had its teething problems, it is now operating very successfully, and whilst often residents will ring in relation to day burning, it is picked up by CMS and officers to go out. It is very often birds sitting on the detection sensors.
- Members asked about the lighting of people's house frontages and were advised that whilst there have been occasions when it has been possible to raise the lighting level, or slightly change the unit, the purpose of street lighting is to light the highway and the street. It is anticipated that when the change in lighting is rolled out there may well be an increase of calls from residents expressing concern that their frontages are no longer lit, however they will all be dealt with individually.
- Members noted that the rollout of the new LED lighting across the entire network will begin on 2 December 2019 and the target for completion is 18 months, it is anticipated that there may have to be some programme of works to deal with streets with a lot of on street parking to ensure the smooth flow of traffic. Officers advised that parks and housing will not be changed, it has not been possible to obtain the precise asset information required to programme the work, but it can be done in due course.

Members also noted that the savings from the changes in lighting of the strategic road networks completed previously have exceeded the targets set.

- Members sought clarification about the position of the units, not referred to the Equality Impact Assessment, and whether there is likely to be any glare caused to elderly residents. Officers advised that there had been a lot consultation work done for the strategic network, it is for that reason that the 3000 Kelvin LED is being installed as it is a warmer softer light.

RESOLVED – That the Chairperson writes, on behalf of the Committee, to the Cabinet Member conveying their observations.

90 : PLANNING, TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT - DIRECTORATE DELIVERY
PLAN - 2019/20

The Chairperson welcomed Jane Cherrington (Operational Manager, Waste Strategy and Enforcement) to the meeting who provided members with a [presentation](#).

The Committee was asked to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received. Those comments are summarised as follows:

- In relation to growing of food, Members asked whether there is a programme involving this to be taken forward with schools. Work is ongoing with the Food Strategy to look at home composting and growing. There will be some pilot work with School Governors at Llanishen High School to look at the whole ethos of composting growing and selling.
- Members queried when the Ward Actions Plans were due and were advised that they would be available in approximately 6 months because it has been necessary to ensure that all information required is present and in a slick web based format.
- Members sought clarification about the information that the update in cycling is from those walking or using buses and not from people who are using their cars. Officers advised that the information will be provided by Paul Carter in due course.
- Members asked about the new missed waste collection KPI and were advised that it is about ensuring that all the data is in one place, it is transparent and robust and also ensure that information can be collated as to why the collection was missed and why has the resident been failed.
- Members were advised that currently no household recycling site has been identified for the north of the city, a regional solution is being considered as neighbouring authorities are also looking at changing their household waste dynamics.
- Members queried the steps being taken to keep the recycling figures up bearing in mind the strong push to reuse plastic containers. Members were advised that the projected recycling figures for 2018-2019 are not currently available although there is an improvement on last year. The negative impact of the reuse of plastic containers is not great, but there will be a new education campaign to ensure residents are aware of what can be recycled and where – it is necessary to ensure that residents are not suffering from plastic confusion. There will be a new push in relation to hygiene recycling. There is a facility in Carmarthen takes hygiene products.

- Members asked about the system used for providing recycling information, and asked, bearing in mind the digitalisation, how long before it will only takes minutes to provide information about recycling rates. Officers advised that the report is always a month in arrears as the end processor has to be contacted to confirm what happened to the waste. It is not just entering the data, it is about getting the data from processors. The final figures comes from the NRW database.

Members queried whether information about waste collection weights can be provided for certain areas and or routes. Members were advised that information about how much is collected can be provided, but not how much is recycled. Data collection (in cab information) can provide information as to what streets are missed but the tonnage collected cannot provide specific information.

- Members queried the rag rating given in respect of the removal of global markets for the end recycling product and the challenges that brings. Officers advised that global markets are shrinking and recycling process no longer available. Cardiff already provides high quality products into those markets, glass is a different consideration and a pilot is being undertaken in relation to the recycling of that. Local solutions are always considered. Hygiene is good example, as it is either Carmarthen or Italy. Work is ongoing with Welsh Government and other local authorities to try and secure local markets.
- Members asked about the number of missed collections, in particular garden waste, recently and were advised that there have been difficulties namely the company who provided vehicle maintenance going into administration which resulted in a lot of vehicle breakdowns and then the weather. The first stream that is deferred is the green waste. More recent issues were around staff availability due to sickness, an action plan is being prepared with the Cabinet Member which can be provided in due course. When there are patterns of sickness they are tracked with HR. As part of the strategy work is looking at the collection zones for the city bearing in mind some of the issues and also the city growth.
- Members asked for an update on the clamping and towing away of vehicles, the clean air strategy and whether you have the required level of saving for 2020 – 2021 and what they are. Members were advised that the scheme has started within the last month and the statistics can be provided; the clean air strategy is on time at the present time and in relation to the level of savings proposals are being reworked with the Cabinet, together with the testing of the financial profile and business models.

RESOLVED – That the Chairperson writes, on behalf of the Committee, to the Cabinet Member conveying their observations.

91 : SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES BUSINESS - DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2019/20

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Michael Michael (Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment); Councillor Linda Thorne (Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities), Councillor Norma Mackie (Chair of Cardiff's Licensing & Public Protection Committee) Dave Holland (Head of Shared Regulatory Services), Helen Picton (Operational Manager, Consumer Service, Shared Regulatory Services) and Christina Hill (Operational Manager, Public Protection and Housing Enforcement, Shared Regulatory Services) to the meeting to introduce the plan.

Members were provided with a [presentation](#) by the Head of Shared Regulatory Services.

The Committee was asked to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received. Those comments are summarised as follows:

- Members asked, in terms of safeguarding vulnerable people, what is being done about the monitoring elderly people who are subjected to scams, pressurized sales and cold calling and were advised that the work of the SRS in that field is usually reactive but there is proactive work that is undertaken. As well as the individuals that are vulnerable there is also engagement with professionals that are involved with them. There are lots of initiatives with partners, police and other agencies to get the message out there.
- Members raised no cold calling zones and areas and the stickers provided. Sources of funding for those schemes has been withdrawn, stickers and grab cards are still available which are being distributed. If communities would wish to run their own schemes help and advice could be provided.

In relation to rogue traders memo cams have being provided for some vulnerable people and call blockers have also been installed. There have been instances where officers have attended within 30 minutes of a call being made about cold callers.

- Members sought information about the number empty properties and how long they have been empty and were advised that the performance indicator used is about properties that have been empty for 6 months. There have been changes in the way that Council tax has been levied in relation to empty properties, but the figures have not yet been quantified.

The Cabinet Member advised that Welsh Government has had an independent report on empty housing, one of the issues raised has been the length of time involved in obtaining a CPO.

- Members queried the inspection of food and hygiene ratings and

the time frame for providing a food rating. Officers advised that once a new business is registered the visit to establish the hygiene rating is 28 days. That target is not always possible due to staff vacancies, there are currently 5 vacancies in food at the present time. There is a recruitment drive ongoing and interviews are to take place shortly.

- Members queried where there is adequate support to deal with those committing the frauds or scams and were advised that whilst significant inroads have been made when focussing on specific issues, for example tobacco sales, there needs to be sufficient resources. Councils do not have the resource and the Welsh Government are being challenged about this. There needs to be a dedicated resource.
- In relation to the question about the collaboration between the Councils, Members were advised that the success of the SRS is largely to elected members who sit on the Committee, and are aware that the purpose of the service is to protect the public. As a consequence there have not been any huge differences of opinion.
- Members asked about the current challenges facing the SRS regarding Brexit. Officers advised that the main challenge would be the uncertainty, when considering supporting the local economy – businesses are querying what their legal status will be.
- Members queried the position in relation to charges and whether there are any plans to introduce charges in other service areas. Officers were advised that all charges are being reviewed, time has been spent making sure that, where legislation permits, the costs of issuing those licenses, training and forming relationships through a Primary Authority Scheme which provided advice for which a charge is levied. It was noted that some areas can generate income in others we can only recover costs. The SRS is also looking at best practice in other authorities when considering income streams although the important thing to remember is that the SRS is not a revenue generating service.
- Members noted that it is anticipated that the premium on Council tax for vacant homes will bring in extra funding and that the service area will benefit.
- Members asked whether there was a risk to out of hours services and were advised that there was as it relies on officers volunteering. Whilst there is a small allowance, it does rely on good will. It is hoped that those new members of staff will be prepared to volunteer.

RESOLVED – That the Chairperson writes, on behalf of the Committee, to the Cabinet Member conveying their observations.

92 : ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT
2018/19

The Principal Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee's draft annual report 2018-2019, a reflection of what work has been undertaken by the Committee.

The Principal Scrutiny Officer advised that the Chair's Forward and a list of items for possible inclusion on the Committee's future work programme would be circulated via email for feedback from the Committee. The list would be used to inform the work programme for 2019-2020.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

93 : ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME
2018/19 - VERBAL UPDATE

The Principal Scrutiny Officer outlined the potential items for the work programme for the next month. Members discussed items and prioritised what items they would like to see brought forward and when.

94 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

There were no urgent items tabled at the meeting.

95 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee is on Tuesday 4 June 2019.

The meeting terminated at 7.20 pm