

# Minutes



## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

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Date: 2 June 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Present: Councillors P Hourahine (Chair), M Al-Nuaimi, M Evans, L James, P Bright, B Davies and G Horton

In Attendance: Rhys Cornwall (Strategic Director - Transformation and Corporate Centre), Silvia Gonzalez-Lopez (Waste Recycling Strategy Manager), Sally Ann Jenkins (Strategic Director - Social Services), Paul Jones (Strategic Director - Environment and Sustainability), Finn Madell (Head of Safeguarding), Tracy McKim (Head of People, Policy and Transformation), Natalie Poyner (Head of Children Services) and Mary Ryan (Head of Adults Services)

Apologies: Councillors C Baker-Westhead, J Hughes and S Marshall

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### 1 Apologies

Councillors Claire Baker-Westhead and the Cabinet Members for Social Services (Job Share), Councillors Stephen Marshall and Jason Hughes.

### 2 Declarations of Interest

None.

### 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Committee noted that in a prior meeting they had requested the University of South Wales be contacted in order to attend the Scrutiny Committee however there had still been no confirmation whether this had been addressed.

- The Scrutiny Advisor confirmed it would be followed up again.

The minutes of the previous meeting held **28<sup>th</sup> April 2023** were **accepted as a true and accurate record**.

### 4 Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

The report was presented by the Head of Environment and Public Protection and the Service Manager for Climate Change.

#### Questions:

The Committee commended the report and queried what the definitive figure for charging ports in Newport.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change noted there was a crowdsourced website as well as a government website that tracked this information but there may be discrepancies between those.

*This document is available in welsh / Mae's ffurflen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg*

- The Service Manager informed Committee that the Council does also keep track via their website.

The Committee queried the information in the report that highlighted renting electric cars by the hour.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change noted this hasn't been addressed as a specific aim of the strategy but to consider the viability of electric car clubs.

The Committee asked if Officers were doing anything to get a definitive answer on the amount of charging ports in Newport.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change noted this can be taken away as an action point.

The Committee asked whether there was a statutory duty to provide electric charging points.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change informed the Committee that there is no statutory requirement.

The Committee asked whether there is a duty for private companies to provide electric charging ports.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change highlighted that the total number of charging ports also include private ports installed and noted the private companies work with retail outlets.
- The Service Manager for Climate Change also raised that the private sector hasn't felt the need to move into the public realm, especially with on street charging.

The Committee queried the process wherein residents request an electric charging port on their road.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change informed the Committee that the Council keep a record of anyone whose requested a charging port and uses that information to see where the demand lies.
- The Service Manager for Climate Change noted that they don't deal with specific properties and highlighted that residents can't install their own charger outside their property if it would then fall onto a public road or highway.

The Committee asked what integration had occurred between electric charging points and the electricity industry.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change noted that with each charging port that is installed, the local grid is contacted in order to see if the location is viable or whether it has to be slower charging in order as to not cause any issues.

The Committee questioned how Officers will ensure the consultation would reach a wide audience as well as the metrics for measuring how successful it will be.

- The Head of People, Policy and Transformation noted that a variety of forums are used to spread to the consultation such as social media, via the free bus Wi-Fi. The feedback from any successful consultation surveys would then be analysed.

The Committee asked whether there were any measures to increase the use of electric vehicles amongst taxi drivers.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change noted studies have been undertaken by Cardiff Council, as well as highlighting separate work will need to occur to support low emission taxis.

The Committee asked how residents would be encouraged to buy electric vehicles and how would the benefits of electric vehicles be highlighted.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change stated the goal is to make infrastructure in the area more viable and inform the public of this to highlight the benefits.
- The Service Manager for Climate Change further noted that it was currently cheaper to run electric vehicles than petrol or diesel.

The Committee asked for improved clarification on the names of different forms of charging ports.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change noted this can be added in future reports.

The Committee asked where the 90,000 electric cars by 2040 figure comes from.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change noted these are based of the Department for Transport figures, with the data on electric cars based on national research based on predicted uptake.

The Committee asked how many vehicles are in Newport.

- The Service Manager for Climate Change was unsure of any vehicle numbers that weren't specifically cars.

### **Comments and Recommendations:**

The Committee asked for further information as to whether air quality was improving through the increase in electric vehicles.

The Committee asked for a definitive answer on the number of charging ports within Newport.

The Committee felt that it would be beneficial for issues raised in reports to be highlighted in the following year's report to feedback progress and resolutions.

The Committee were content with the report.

## **5 Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report**

The report was presented by the Strategic Director for Social Services and the Head of Corporate Safeguarding.

### **Questions:**

The Committee asked what would be done with the real time data that the Officers had collected.

- The Head of Corporate Safeguarding informed the Committee that the data can be used to keep better track of progress through individual and up to date spreadsheets.

The Committee felt like having two systems of measuring data was confusing and asked for one to be removed.

The Committee noted the importance of safeguarding. The Committee highlighted that the training platform was not user friendly and wondered if this system was still used.

- The Head of Corporate Safeguarding informed Committee that training procedures from Wales Safeguarding would make things more straightforward but it had only been introduced in November 2022.

The Committee asked that the training platform be improved to be more functional.

- The Head of Adult Services noted training is wide ranging depending on the role
- The Strategic Director highlighted the meta compliance training can now indicate when training hasn't been done

The Committee highlighted that the Metropolitan Police are stepping away from mental health work and asked whether there would be any impact on Newport's services as a result.

- The Head of Adult Services highlighted the work the Crisis Mental Health team does and noted Gwent was better able to deal with situations from an adult services and mental health services perspective.
- The Head of Adult Services further reiterated that Newport would be okay if a similar occurrence happened.
- The Head of Children's Services detailed that the police are integrated into the service such as through joint services and are engaged in the safeguarding work.

### **Comments and Recommendations:**

The Committee would like the data to be clear as the information in one section was misleading

The Committee would like recommendation to IT to make the training courses a lot simpler. The Committee felt that it would be beneficial for issues raised in reports to be highlighted in the following year's report to feedback progress and resolutions.

The Committee were content with the work but would like a focus on outcomes.

## 6 Consultation Update

It was agreed that this item would be taken earlier in the agenda.

### **Questions:**

The Committee queried the demographics and their responses that the survey collected as responses were varied on topics such as Oaklands.

- The Head of People Policy and Transformation highlighted that responses had more focus on issues that impacted everyone rather than had an impact on a smaller of number of people. The response trends for Oaklands were similar across social services items that were on the consultation.
- The Policy and Partnership Manager highlighted that there were responses outside of the consultation survey in relation to the mentioned issues, as it was further explained that the survey did not reflect all the responses on the consultation topics.
- The Committee asked for all responses to be reflected in the total responses received rather than consultation survey responses only.

The Committee highlighted that there was no option for an email address to be added in the survey so that other surveys could be sent out to the respondent.

- The Head of People Policy and Transformation noted that this could be looked at.

The Committee asked how Officers were able to get a larger response pool for the next consultation.

- The Head of People Policy and Transformation informed Committee that how to increase the range, responses and focus to surveys were always under review.
- The Head of People Policy and Transformation also noted there is a balance to be struck between gaining a wide range of responses and allowing the public the choice of whether to give responses.
- The Policy and Partnership Manager highlighted giving notice before events within the city alongside ward meetings could help gain more responses especially face-to-face.
- The Strategic Director noted that there needs to be balance between responses and quality of responses, which may be worth putting into the work programme.

The Committee noted the quality of responses are important such as in this recent budget consultation, the voice of the unions and fairness commission were important.

The Committee felt the consultation was an improvement this year.

The Committee would like "other responses" including emails, meeting and calls etc included in the tally of responses.

The Committee highlighted there being no option to leave email address for future surveys.

## 7 Scrutiny Adviser Reports

### **Action Sheet**

The Scrutiny Advisor agreed to further follow up regarding the university.

### **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted looking at budget consultation as an agenda item for a meeting in October.

The Scrutiny Advisor agreed to query whether the Air Quality Report could be brought to the next meeting in order to make the agenda a two-item agenda.

### **Scrutiny Topic Referral**

The Scrutiny Advisor presented this item and explained the process to the Committee.

The referrer expressed disappointment that Officers were not present.

The referrer noted several failed bids for levelling up as well as highlighting that other Councils have been successful in their bids where Newport had not been and therefore wanted this to be brought to Scrutiny to provide comments and recommendations to increase chances of success.

The referrer noted that it fit the criteria for Scrutiny Committees as the focus was how to improve submissions and bids.

The referrer felt like this was not a political issue.

The referrer asked whether the failed bids had any feedback.

- The Strategic Director noted this can be looked at, and also highlighted that the decision is a Committee decision.

The Members of the Committee gave their comments on the proposed referral.

The referrer asked for a framework for how bids are created from inception.

The referrer asked that the report would include the bids and the feedback and ways to assist to make bids more likely to succeed.

The referrer would not like the report to be information only.

The referrer moved to have the report brought to the next Committee on the failed “levelling up” bids.

The Committee clarified that the Committee could make the decision to bring the item and clarified what they wanted.

- The Strategic Director confirmed the situation that the Committee can determine whether they want the motion and will confirm the legal process after the meeting.

The Committee took a vote to ascertain whether the item would be brought to Scrutiny.

The vote was not carried to have the item brought to a Scrutiny Committee with three votes against, two votes for, and two abstentions.

The Scrutiny Advisor confirmed the date of the next meeting to be **23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 at 10am.**

## **8 Live Event**

[Click here to watch the recording of the meeting.](#)