

# Public Document Pack



Cyngor Sir  
**CEREDIGION**  
County Council

Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa,  
Aberaeron, Ceredigion SA46 0PA  
[ceredigion.gov.uk](http://ceredigion.gov.uk)

15 March 2023

Lisa Evans

01545574177

Dear Sir / Madam

I write to inform you that a Meeting of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held HYBRID - NEUADD CYNGOR CEREDIGION, PENMORFA, ABERAERON / REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE on Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 1.30 pm for the transaction of the following business:

1. **Apologies**
2. **Disclosures of personal interest (including whipping declarations)**  
**Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. In addition, Members must declare any prohibited party whip which the Member has been given in relation to the meeting as per the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.**
3. **Waste Collection Service (Pages 3 - 8)**
4. **To confirm the Minutes of the previous Meeting and to consider any matters arising from those Minutes (Pages 9 - 12)**

Members are reminded to sign the Attendance Register

A Translation Services will be provided at this meeting and those present are welcome to speak in Welsh or English at the meeting.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Edwards'.

**Miss Lowri Edwards**  
**Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services**

**To: Chairman and Members of Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The remaining Members of the Council for information only.

## Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

**REPORT TO:** Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**LOCATION:** Hybrid

**TITLE:** Waste Collection Service

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** Review the waste collection over the Christmas period

**REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION:**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group met on Monday 30 January to scope the information they would request from officers for a Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on the waste collection Service. A date for the Scrutiny meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 21st March at 1.30pm.

### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

The report of the Task and Finish Group is contained in Appendix A. Officers will address the points raised by means of a presentation and the answering of any supplementary questions relating to the waste collection service on the day.

### **WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:**

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why**

**Summary:**

**Long term:**

**Integration:**

**Collaboration:**

**Involvement:**

**Prevention:**

**RECOMMENDATION (S):**

The Committee consider the response to their report and make appropriate recommendations to Cabinet if deemed necessary.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):**

To review the waste collection service over the Christmas period.

<b>Contact Name:</b>	Lisa Evans
<b>Designation:</b>	Scrutiny and Standards Officer
<b>Date of Report:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
<b>Acronyms:</b>	

**Thriving Communities Task & Finish Group – Waste Collection Service**  
**Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2023** **2.00 p.m.**

Committee Members present:	Others present:
Councillor Gwyn Wigley Evans (Chair) Councillor Ann Bowen Morgan Councillor Marc Davies Councillor Meirion Davies Councillor Rhodri Davies Councillor Wyn Evans Councillor Rhodri Evans Councillor John Roberts Councillor Chris James	Councillor Euros Davies Councillor Ifan Davies Councillor Amanda Edwards Councillor Eryl Evans Councillor Keith Evans Councillor Geraint Hughes Councillor Hugh Hughes Councillor Ceris Jones Councillor Caryl Roberts

The Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group met on Monday 30 January to scope the information they would request from officers for a Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on the waste collection Service. A date for the Scrutiny meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 21st March at 1.30pm.

Members shared their experiences of problems with the waste collection over the Christmas period with a number of residents not having their waste collected for up to 6 weeks. They raised concerns in relation to the issues that this caused including, storage problems, rodent problems, the image of Ceredigion as this is the 'shop window' for the County. Increasing resilience within the teams was discussed, due the effects that inclement weather can have on the service.

The group requested a full report explaining why the disruptions to waste collection are happening, and that it appears to be worse this year.

The main points raised by the Committee are outlined below:

### **1. General**

- Why is the collection of refuse not a priority?
- Inconsistency in when purple bags are collected in some areas (eg. Lampeter)?
- We need to focus on the disruptions that happen due to bank holidays/inclement weather.
- Condition of roads, road sweepings, leaves and soil. Roads aren't cleaned as well as they used to be. Do sweepings have to go to Cross Hands because of contaminated waste? It can all cause a knock on effect.
- The reasons given that HGV drivers were gritting in winter and not available for waste lorries does not hold in August. Waste collections were missed for 3 weeks in that period. Why?
- Should we forget about collections on Bank holiday Mondays? Easier and clearer
- In the countryside, it is often the ONLY service they get or need from the Council, and they do not get it, what are they paying for? When it is not

collected, there is a long lane to go down and back, not 3 paces on a pavement/

- As a small county, we can and should be more flexible
- Where should people keep the bags for 3/4/5 weeks in town?
- The public are positive about the staff they encounter
- Why is the waste going to N Ireland and not Carmarthenshire?

## 2. Staffing

- Would like information on the following:
  - Number of staff; resilience of service.
  - Pay & Conditions – has overtime changed over time.
  - The way holidays are structured – has that changed? Seems taking holidays at same time, pattern of.
  - HR recognised absences? Sicknesses? Request a graph to show.
- Are there enough staff?
- Do we have a full complement of staff to operate the fleet?
- Why are staff allowed to choose whether to work or not on bank holidays?
- Why are staff contracts different from each other?
- Do we need to review staff contracts?
- The employees are not comfortable or happy with contracts and therefore take holidays and sick leave as a way out
- Is refuse collection a full time job?
- If there is spare time after collections do the staff migrate into other jobs in that time?
- Can we have more staff able to assist when there are shortages (more people to have HGV licence / be able to pull staff from other Service areas / Access to bank staff)
- 

## 3. Budget

- Is there enough budget?
- How many more lorries and staff would be needed to fulfil the function of refuse collection? How much would it cost?
- What is the cost per household per week and what would be the cost of a gold plated service?
- They shut Beulah with a projected saving of £40,000 but were then delivering rubbish to Lampeter with the vehicles making 7-8 mpg. Was there any saving? How much? Is Beulah reopened now?

## 4. Outsourcing

- Should we look at alternative ways working? Outsourcing? Would this be a cheaper option?
- Example given of using private contractor for commercial collection, not missed once in 7 years

- Have you explored the option of employing contractors when there are disruptions?
- In difficult times can we not use farmers, they have the equipment to assist?

#### **5. Fleet/maintenance**

- How many refuse lorries are needed to safely collect black bags weekly?
- How many lorries are needed to safely collect recycling bags weekly?
- What percentage of vehicles are unserviceable every week?
- Have we adequate mechanics to keep the lorries serviceable?
- When the fleet needs renewing, would it be an option to look at smaller vehicles which don't require drivers to have a HGV licence/cheaper to run?
- Having been to Glanyrafon and seen 8 vehicles not in use, should we be doubling the shifts with the same number of vehicles?

#### **6. Communication**

- Would it be possible to improve communication when there are disruptions, many people are unclear if they should leave waste for next day or represent the following week, there isn't consistency. The Communication that is sent to Councillors has a note saying that it is not to be shared.
- Not everyone is on social media
- Can the daily/twice daily messages be more specific i.e. black bags, recycling, food, glass and what hasn't been collected?
- Evidence needs to be collected from the workforce and the public
- A press release is important

#### **7. Amenity sites**

- Why do Amenity Sites not accept waste bags when there are problems with collection, some residents are happy to take their bags there?
- In Penparc they insist on opening the black bags, why? No one wants to do it
- Could skips be placed in Glanyrafon to enable people to take their waste there if they choose, when it is not collected?

#### **8. Clic**

- How many enquiries in relation to Waste Collection issues have Clic received in the last 6 months?

Councillor Gwyn Wigley Evans,  
Chair of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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## Minutes of the Meeting of THRIVING COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

held at the Hybrid - Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron / remotely via video conference on Friday, 10 February 2023

**PRESENT;** Councillor Gwyn Wigley Evans (Chair), Councillors Marc Davies (Vice-Chair), Meirion Davies, Rhodri Davies, Gethin Davies, Rhodri Evans, Chris James, Maldwyn Lewis, Sian Maehrlein, John Roberts, Carl Worrall and Ann Bowen Morgan

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Bryan Davies, Clive Davies, Euros Davies, Gareth Davies, Eryl Evans, Keith Evans, Keith Henson, Wyn Thomas, Matthew Vaux, Alun Williams, Catrin MS Davies, Elizabeth Evans, Amanda Edwards, Wyn Evans, Hugh Hughes, and Ceris Jones

**Officers in attendance:** Lowri Edwards, Duncan Hall, Elin Prysor, Rhodri Llwyd, Russell Hughes Pickering, Eifion Evans, Barry Rees, James Starbuck, and Lisa Evans.

(9.30 am - 12.25 pm)

### 1 Apologies

None

### 2 Disclosures of personal interest (including whipping declarations)

**Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. In addition, Members must declare any prohibited party whip which the Member has been given in relation to the meeting as per the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.**

Councillor Gwyn Wigley Evans disclosed a personal interest with regards to the Mid & West Wales Fire Authority.

### 3 Report on the draft Budget for 2023/24

The Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members met to consider the Service budget for those service areas that are within the Committee's remit and to consider the following recommendations:

1. To consider the overall Budget position as shown in the Budget report in Enclosure A.
2. To consider the relevant elements of the Budget Cost pressures, totaling £22.2m across all Services.
3. To consider the relevant elements of the Budget Savings proposals, totaling £8.9m across all Services.
4. To consider the relevant elements of the Fees & charges proposals.
5. To consider the 4 options outlined in Recommendation 3a) to d) of the 24/01/23 Cabinet report, namely:

- 3a) A 6.3% Council Tax increase (including 1.3% in relation to the proposed Fire Authority Levy increase) and a 23/24 Budget requirement of £179.627m, which would provide a lower contribution towards Delegated Schools Budget Cost Pressures.
  - 3b) A 7.3% Council Tax increase (including 1.3% in relation to the proposed Fire Authority Levy increase) and a 23/24 Budget requirement of £180.101m.
  - 3c) A 8.3% Council Tax increase (including 1.3% in relation to the proposed Fire Authority Levy increase) and a 23/24 Budget requirement of £180.576m, to provide a higher contribution towards Delegated Schools Budget Cost Pressures.
  - 3d) An alternative option over and above Recommendations 3a) to 3c) to provide a specific increase for a specific purpose, provided that any option is considered during the Budget Scrutiny meetings and that the Section 151 officer is given sufficient time in advance to fully model the impact and to provide an opinion on its robustness.
6. To provide any other appropriate feedback on the Draft 23/24 Budget to Cabinet.

The Committee received presentations from the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bryan Davies), the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement (Councillor Gareth Davies) and the Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement (Duncan Hall). The relevant Cabinet Member then presented the Budget items relevant to their Service Area. Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions, which were answered in turn by Cabinet Members and/or Senior Officers.

### **Recommendations:**

The Committee agreed that:

1. It had considered the overall Budget position as shown in the Budget report in Enclosure A.
2. It had considered the relevant elements of the Budget Cost pressures falling under this Scrutiny Committee.
3. It had considered the relevant elements of the Budget Savings proposals falling under this Scrutiny Committee.
4. It had considered the relevant elements of the Fees & Charges proposals falling under this Scrutiny Committee, save that the Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that the proposed Car Parking Fees & Charges in Tregaron and Llandysul are removed, so that there would continue to be no Car Parking charges in those towns from 01/04/23 and that the potential £40,000 cost associated with this should be funded from the £400k Provision set aside for Pay and Energy Inflation risks.
5. The majority of Committee Members voted in favour of a 7.3% increase for Council Tax levels. The Committee is therefore

recommending an increase of 7.3% in Council Tax for 2023/2024, which is option 3b) of the recommendations, as follows:

3b) A 7.3% Council Tax increase (including 1.3% in relation to the proposed Fire Authority Levy increase) and a 23/24 Budget requirement of £180.101m).

6. It was agreed that the Committee would place the following item on the forward work programme of the Committee: To give consideration to the option of allowing 2 hours free parking before 11am.

**4 To confirm the Minutes of the previous Meeting and to consider any matters arising from those Minutes**

It was AGREED to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 7 December 2022.

Matters arising

None.

**Confirmed at the Meeting of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 March 2023**

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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