

## SRS Business Plan 2023-24

Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee

14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

# Background

- A fully integrated service delivering the Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing functions across the Bridgend, Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan areas.
- A single management structure
- Governance is through a Joint Working Agreement, Joint Committee and Scrutiny arrangements of the respective councils

# Governance

## Joint Committee



**Councillor  
Michael Michael**  
Cardiff Council



**Councillor  
Maxine Lewis**  
Bridgend County  
Borough Council



**Councillor  
Ruba Sivagnanam**  
Vale of Glamorgan  
Council



**Councillor  
Dan De'Ath**  
Cardiff Council

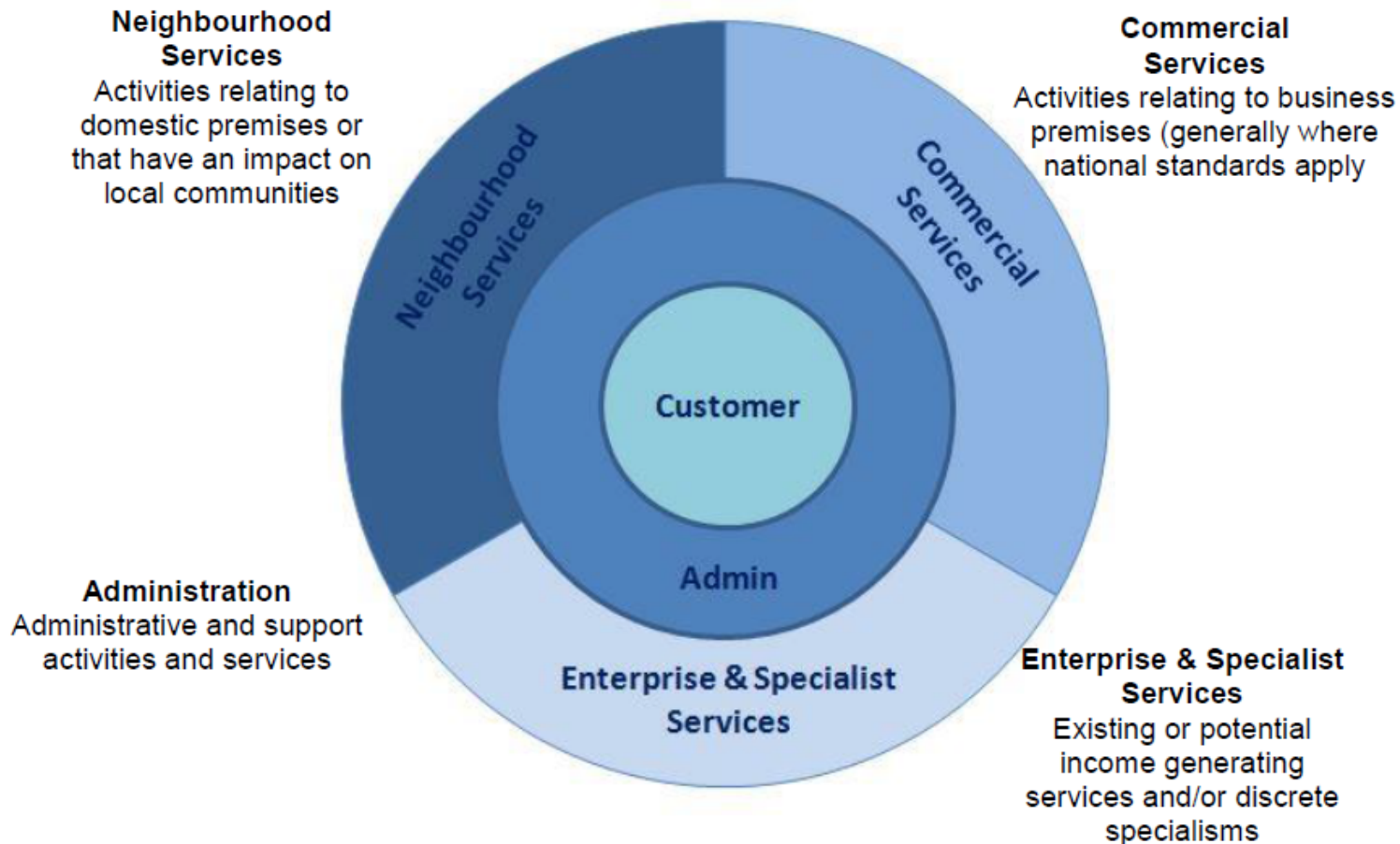


**Councillor  
Rhys Goode**  
Bridgend County  
Borough Council



**Councillor  
Pamela Drake**  
Vale of Glamorgan  
Council

# SRS structure



# The SRS business planning process

## The SRS Business Plan

- Delivers the statutory requirements placed upon each Council
- Supports the corporate priorities of each Council through our five strategic themes



# SRS strategic themes





# Turning strategic themes into outcomes

## Priority

### Supporting the local economy

## Outcomes



A fair trading environment is maintained



Informed and confident consumers



Improved business practices and operation



Accessible services responsive to business needs

## Outputs

Disrupt the supply of illegal and unlawful products and services

Undertake inspection programmes

Take enforcement action against those that flout the law

Offer training and advice to businesses and consumers

Work with businesses to improve standards

License business activities

Offer primary authority partnerships

Contribute to business events

Major events liaison

Provide advice & information on licensing & planning applications

# SRS Business Plan 2023-24





# Reflecting on 2022-23

The Business Plan sets out service achievements during 2022-23 under each of the strategic themes. Just a few examples:

- A transition year during which COVID functions were pared back, support still being given to high risk settings such as care homes
- Recovering lost ground on our inspection programmes, including those for Food, Housing, Pollution and Trading Standards interventions
- Assisting the partner authorities in dealing with global events, most notably the war in Ukraine (*Homes for Ukraine* scheme) and the cost of living crisis.

# Reflecting on 2022-23

- Over 90% of reported scams and doorstep crime incidents prevented or resolved through intervention
- 28 prosecution cases concluded in court across the breadth of functions
- These included the conviction of 4 rogue traders / doorstep criminals:-
  - A combined total of nearly 3 years in custodial sentences
  - A 12 month community order
  - Compensation of £6000 awarded to some of those affected
- Rebranding of the Wales Illegal Money Lending Unit as *Stop Loan Sharks Wales*
- 13,834 packets of illegal cigarettes and 957 packets of hand rolling tobacco were seized with an estimated retail value of £184,501

# In 2023-24

## Challenges for the Shared Service:

- Further recover lost ground due to the COVID pandemic (inspections, investigations, paid-for services)
- Addressing difficulties in recruitment and retention of staff in certain roles and the need to develop a workforce strategy embracing new ideas, including regulatory apprenticeships
- New areas of regulation
- All within a reduced budget

# In 2023-24

## *Vapes*



# In 2023-24

## Issues

- Supply to the under 18s
- Supply of illegal vapes - 842 seized *since the start of 23-24* (with a value of £8,595)
- Liquid strength
- Liquid volume
- Environmental concerns
- Food imitations / child safety





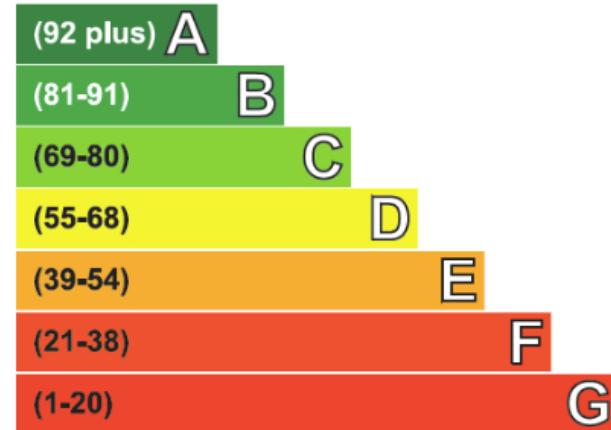
# In 2023-24

## Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

- Engage with landlords and letting agents of F and G rated properties
- Provide guidance to drive higher energy efficiency through property improvements
- Ensure that the only F and G rated properties remaining in the private rented sector are those that have a bona fide exemption
- Feed key data into the three partner Councils as a result of interventions, supporting both the climate change and cost of living agendas i.e.
  - *Reduction in carbon tonnage*
  - *Reduction in energy use at improved properties in kWh*
  - *Reduction in energy use at improved properties in money saved on energy bills*



Very energy efficient - lower running costs



Not energy efficient - higher running costs

# In 2023-24

## *Empty homes*



# In 2023-24

## *Continued concerns around dog breeding*





# Also on the horizon

## *New legislation / areas of work*

- Special procedures framework – live from April 2024?
- Environmental Protection (Single use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act
- The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill



# Next steps...

- The Business Plan will be presented to the SRS Joint Committee on 21st June
- Consultation with partner agencies is still ongoing, so the Plan may be subject to a degree of change
- The thoughts of the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee are welcomed on the 2023-24 Business Plan, and ideas for improvement