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GOHEBIAETH YN DILYN CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR

Pwyllgor PWYLLGOR CRAFFU AMGYLCHEDDOL

**Dyddiad ac amser
y cyfarfod** DYDD MAWRTH, 17 MEDI 2019, 4.30 PM

Gweler isod gohebiaeth anfon gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor ar ôl y cyfarfod , ynghyd ag unrhyw ymatebion a gafwyd

Am unrhyw fanylion pellach, cysylltwch â scrutinyviewpoints@caerdydd.gov.uk

10 **Gohebiaeth yn dilyn y cyfarfod pwyllgor** (*Tudalennau 3 - 18*)

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

Ref: RDB/RP/MM/17.09.2019

25 September 2019

Councillor Michael Michael,
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Michael,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 17th September 2019

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 17th September 2019 to discuss the item on 'Affordable Funeral Strategy & Burial Space Provision'. The comments and observations made by Members on the areas relevant to your portfolio of responsibility are set out in this letter.

- Members would like to congratulate you and the staff in Bereavement & Registration Services for winning 'Best Service Team of the Year – Cemetery & Crematorium Category' at the recent APSE awards. Being presented with such an award clearly demonstrates the professionalism of staff and reflects well on the Council and Cardiff.
- During the meeting Members were told that Bereavement & Registration Services was looking into the development of some type of funeral plan or bond to help local residents to save for funeral expenses. The Committee was told that there were some potential barriers to delivering such a scheme, however, they still felt that it was a good idea that merited further investigation. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with information on the type of plan or scheme that the Council is looking to deliver, along with an explanation of the potential barriers and benefits that various options might provide.
- The Committee was told that people are generally reluctant to talk about future funeral arrangements; however, avoiding such a conversation could make things difficult for those left to pick up the pieces and potentially

channel families and individuals into funeral poverty. Members were told that Bereavement & Registration Services is due to start a 'Broader Conversations Campaign' that would provide 'pre-need advice' along with counselling and support for those struggling to manage the financial and emotional difficulties that can accompany the planning of a funeral. The Committee welcomes the roll out of such a campaign, but has asked for assurance that all staff providing the counselling and advice are properly trained.

- Members welcome the news that the Council has identified an ashes scatter area along the River Taff, and ask to be informed of the exact location just before the announcement is made public.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and provide a response to the content of this letter.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Ramesh Patel in black ink.

Councillor Ramesh Patel

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Andrew Gregory - Director of Planning, Transport & Environment
- Martin Birch – Operational Manager, Bereavement & Registration Services
- Davina Fiore - Director of Governance & Legal Services
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee



Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM42421

Dyddiad / Date: 21st November 2019

Councillor Ramesh Patel
Chairperson
Environmental Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl/Dear Cllr Patel

Environmental Scrutiny Committee - 17th September

Thank you for your letter dated 25th September regarding the 'Affordable Funeral Strategy' and observations made by Members. Thank you also for your congratulatory comments concerning the staff at Bereavement Services, this is much welcomed and appreciated.

You have requested information on the type of plan or scheme that the Council is looking to deliver in relation to funeral plans or bonds. Whilst the strategy has identified a need for the Council to explore what options exist, this is very much at the early stage of recognising this need and it forms part of an action plan in the strategy. However a lot more investigation is required to provide you with the information you have requested. I will be happy to report further as this is developed and the Bereavement team has had opportunity to explore this fully.

Bereavement Services have long provided pre-need advice delivered by staff who are knowledgeable, experienced and trained on the services provided by Bereavement Services. It is not intended that Bereavement Services staff will offer a 'counselling' service as those seeking 'counselling' will be signposted to third sector groups who are trained and specialised to provide this service. Bereavement Services staff will be providing advice and guidance on all aspects of burial and cremation services and pre-need information such as funeral planning. Please be assured that the team at Bereavement Services are very competent in providing this type of information and advice already and any further training deemed necessary will be provided.

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO :

Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office, Ystafell / Room 518, Neuadd y Sir / County Hall
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GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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Tudalen 5



With regards to your request to be informed of the location of the scatter area along the River Taff, I will ensure that you are informed of this prior to any public announcement.

Yn gywir
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Michael', written in a cursive style.

Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
Aelod Cabinet dros Strydoedd Glân, Ailgylchu a'r Amgylchedd

Ref: RDB/RP/CW/17.09.2019

26 September 2019

Councillor Caro Wild,
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Wild,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 17th September 2019

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 17th September 2019 to discuss the item on the 'Third Cardiff Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report'. The comments and observations made by Members on the areas relevant to your portfolio of responsibility are set out in this letter.

- **New Jobs** - During the meeting I commented on the 20,900 new jobs that have been created in Cardiff during the period of the current Local Development Plan, and asked for clarification on the type of positions created and where these have been sited geographically. An officer explained that the employment information used in the Annual Monitoring Report had been drawn from wider national statistics, and that the Planning Service didn't currently hold employment data in that level of detail. He suggested that Economic Development might hold information that might answer my question. I would be grateful if you could liaise with Economic Development to see if they hold details on the type and location of the 20,900 new jobs created during the Local Development Plan, and if the information exists to share this with the Committee.
- **Physical Activity** – This Committee is concerned that measures contained within the Annual Monitoring Report suggest that in the last three years the level of physical activity has declined. For example, in 2016/17 23% of adults reported being physically active for less than 30

minutes in the previous week; this increased to 31% in 2018/19. Members asked what the point of the Local Development Plan was if people aren't getting healthier, and would like you to explain how the Local Development Plan can be used to reverse this trend.

- **Affordable Housing** – The Annual Monitoring Report explains that 40% of the housing completions set out against the Local Development Plan have been achieved, while only 25% of the affordable housing allocation has been completed – this appears to have created a 15% lag between the two targets. Members were concerned by this, particularly as 75% of the affordable housing target now needs to be delivered in less than seven years. To counter this, Members would like some assurance that progress will be made in the next few years to significantly increase the number of affordable properties provided in Cardiff. It would also be appreciated if you could provide the Committee with a breakdown of the different types of affordable housing that have been delivered within the current plan, along with the types of delivery model used, for example, social rented housing; affordable rented housing; shared ownership; help to buy and shared equity.
- **Education Travel** – The Annual Monitoring Report shows a gradual decline in the number of sustainable travel journeys for education, stating that trips for '*education has seen a significant decrease*'. This is supported by Figure: 1.14.1 on page 49 of the Annual Monitoring Report which presents a steady decline in this area. Members believe that this is a concern since school traffic is significantly adding to congestion in Cardiff at the beginning and end of every school day. Members would like to understand what the Council proposes to do to reverse this trend and increase the number of sustainable journeys to and from school.
- **Student Accommodation** – During the meeting there was some debate around planning decisions for student accommodation in the city. Some Members questioned the temporary change of use planning status that had been applied for and granted on some student developments in

Cardiff – this meant that, on a temporary basis, the accommodation could now be occupied by other residents, i.e. not students. They were concerned that a precedent had been set, meaning that other developers could follow suit should their developments fail to attract sufficient numbers of students. Members felt that this presented risks in terms of building standards and receipt of planning obligation monies. The Committee went on to question the level of demand for student accommodation in Cardiff, particularly as the Annual Monitoring Report states *'current evidence shows the further strength of the student accommodation market in Cardiff'*. A Member cited a recent Savills report which provided an opposite view. I would be grateful if you could provide a copy of the evidence used to support the claim that *'current evidence shows the further strength of the student accommodation market in Cardiff'*.

- **Congestion** – The Committee welcome the positive cycling results that are included in the Annual Monitoring Report, however, they are concerned that congestion levels continue to increase across the city (for example, from 27% in 2017 to 28% by 2018). They believe that reducing congestion levels in Cardiff should be one of the fundamental principles of the Local Development Plan, and they will monitor the progress made in this area closely. They hope that the Transport White Paper that is due to be published shortly will shed a light upon what can be done to reduce congestion in Cardiff.

- **Bus Station & Wanugron Road Transport Interchange** – At the meeting I asked for confirmation on:
 - When work would start on the new Bus station;
 - When the new Bus Station would be completed (including full fit out);
 - When work would start on Wanugron Road Transport Interchange;
 - When Wanugron Road Transport Interchange would be completed (including full fit out).

I was referred to the answer provided at the last Full Council meeting for the new Bus Station and given a brief response for the Waungron Road Transport Interchange. It would be appreciated if you could confirm the current position on the new Bus Station and the Waungron Road Transport Interchange when replying to this letter.

- **Bus Rapid Transit Routes** - At the meeting I expressed my concern at the lack of progress around the delivery of the Bus Rapid Transit Routes that have been included in the Local Development Plan. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with a detailed update on these proposed schemes, along with an estimate as to when these will be delivered.
- **Modal Split Target** – The Annual Monitoring Report repeatedly makes reference to a 50:50 modal split target that has been set for 2026. This created a little confusion for some Members who thought that the Council was actually looking to achieve a 60:40 modal split by 2026. I would be grateful if you could explain the current modal split target for 2026, and confirm if this has been changed from 60:40 target in recent years.
- **Travellers Site Update** – The Committee asked about the progress that had been made in identifying a new Travellers site in Cardiff. Members were told that discussions were ongoing around the location of a potential new site, and that as the content of the discussions were confidential it would not be possible to disclose any information at a public meeting. Members understand this position and ask that you provide the Committee with:
 - A confidential update on the progress that has been made since the review of the Second Cardiff Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report (4th September 2018);
 - Confidential updates on any future progress relevant to the development of a new Traveller site.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and provide a response to the content of this letter.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Ramesh Patel in black ink.

Councillor Ramesh Patel
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Andrew Gregory - Director of Planning, Transport & Environment
- James Clemence – Head of Planning
- Stuart Williams – Group Leader, Planning Policy
- Davina Fiore - Director of Governance & Legal Services
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**



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Fy Nghyf / My Ref : CM42391

Eich Cyf / Your Ref :

Dyddiad / Date: 22nd November 2019

Councillor Ramesh Patel
Chairperson
Environmental Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Ramesh

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING 17TH SEPTEMBER
2019**

Thank for your letter dated 26th September 2019 regarding the 'Third Cardiff Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report' and setting out comments and observations made by Committee Members. I have set out below a response to each of the comments made.

- **New Jobs** – In terms of the type and location of jobs created during the Local Development Plan, Officers have liaised with the Council's Economic Development section who have provided the relevant data. This shows that geographically this growth has been concentrated with the Cardiff Bay and City Centre areas, with Butetown, Cathays, Grangetown and Riverside wards all experiencing a net growth in jobs. Other areas of the city experiencing growth include Heath Hospital and St Mellons Business Park in the Heath and Trowbridge wards respectively. In terms of the type of jobs created, the data shows there has been an increase in jobs relating to Construction, Information and Communication, Financial and Professional Services and Healthcare.

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Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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Tudalen 13



- **Physical Activity** – With regard to the data quoted in the Annual Monitoring Report relating to physical activity, this is taken from the National Survey for Wales and Officers have contacted the Health Board to identify any reason for the apparent decline in physical activity over the last three years. The Health Board advise that the difference in the percentage of people being inactive may not actually be statistically significant, according to their data analysts in the Public Health Wales Observatory. They state that the easiest way to test significance is to look at the confidence intervals. When looking at this data it is apparent that the confidence intervals overlap, which means that they are most likely not significantly different.

In addition, the sample size is quite small for the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board population and it also decreased slightly (from 1840 to 1609) between the two periods, which means the confidence intervals may have widened slightly. It is also self-reported information and there are only a few years of data which enable trends to be identified, so it is difficult to draw firm conclusions at this juncture (the question in the national survey changed in 2016/17 meaning that previous years reports can't be compared).

However, the Health Board states that this is the best population level data available with regard to lifestyle behaviour and it is something they will research further.

Notwithstanding the concerns highlighted above regarding the data, I would like to reassure Committee Members that the LDP offers an opportunity to enable people to increase the amount of physical activity and active travel they undertake. High quality design of urban areas plays a crucial role in supporting activity in buildings and spaces. Work continues to ensure that developers submit active travel plans for new sites and design and access statements, which prioritise walking and cycling as the means of travel while enabling good access to public transport. Making these choices the easy choices will encourage people to choose to travel more actively.

There are also other ways in which the LDP can play a crucial part in improving health through encouraging activity:-

- Providing safe, accessible and pleasant outdoor spaces will enhance children's play and encourage adults to use spaces for activities, like ball games.
 - Ensuring new residential development, whether on strategic sites or smaller, provides adequate cycle parking and storage, which is covered and secure.
 - Provision of space for food growing
 - Ensuring that community facilities are located within communities and are accessible
 - Ensuring building design incorporates active options. For example, locating the staircase prominently and the lifts not so prominently
 - Protecting existing open space, and encouraging provision of open space in new development areas
- **Affordable Housing** – The comments regarding the lag between the affordable housing target and actual completions are noted. This reflects

the lag there has been in the physical commencement of house building activity on the strategic housing sites. However, construction has now started, or is about to start, on most of the strategic housing sites. As a result, affordable housing completions over the remaining 7 years are expected to increase significantly. This is evidenced by the current land bank of sites for affordable housing, which totals 4,790. In terms of the breakdown of the different types of affordable housing that have been delivered, I have included below a breakdown for the last five years 2014 to 2015 (Please note these figures include all properties brought into the affordable housing sector and are not restricted solely to new build properties). In terms of delivery models, shared ownership is not currently a tenure the Council deliver and the Help to Buy is a scheme run by the Welsh Government, so the Council have no figures available on these models.

2014/2015 - 239 units

6 - Shared Equity

233 - Social Rented/Intermediate Rented

2015/2016 - 278 units

278 - Social Rented/Intermediate Rented

2016/2017 - 256 units

10 - Shared Equity

246 - Social Rented/Intermediate Rented

2017/2018 - 273 units

7 - Shared Equity

266 - Social Rented/Intermediate Rented

2018/2019 – 306 units

306 - Social Rented/Intermediate Rented

- **Education Travel** – To clarify, trips for ‘Education’ in this context relate to all educational journeys made by adults only, as recorded in the Ask Cardiff Survey; as opposed to travel specifically to School by pupils, as recorded in the Schools Hands-up Survey. Therefore ‘Education’ includes not only parent-child escort trips to school but also trips to colleges, universities and other adult learning sites. While the proportion of ‘Education’ trips being made by sustainable modes appears to have shown a decline in recent years, this is based on a limited number of observations historically, which may not be enough to reliably indicate the true trajectory.

Furthermore, the trends for travel to school by sustainable modes specifically, have increased in recent years, having previously dipped around 2013. It should also be noted that crucially, while the proportion of those travelling by sustainable modes to education may not necessarily have increased, that nevertheless, this does not mean that the actual number of journeys made by sustainable modes for ‘Education’ has not increased, in recognition that the overall demand for travel has increased. It should also be noted that the proportion travelling to school by sustainable modes already exceeds the Council’s 60:40 aspiration. Travel to ‘Education’ is also close to achieving this, demonstrating a positive overall performance.

- **Student Accommodation** – The comments regarding the temporary change in the use of student accommodation for use by other residents are noted. As set out by Officers at the Scrutiny meeting, I can reassure Committee Members that such changes of use have only been permitted on a temporary basis and the timescales are designed to allow beneficial occupation of newly completed student accommodation by other residents, until they can be occupied by students at the beginning of the new University term in September. In terms of evidence regarding the student accommodation market, the latest monitoring undertaken by the Council in July 2019 shows that 1,998 student beds were under construction and a further 3,069 student beds are permitted and in the pipeline.
- **Congestion** – Whilst congestion remains an issue faced by all cities, Cardiff's position in the global ranking of most congested cities having decreased over this period (from 123rd in 2017 to 131st by 2018 according to INRIX, and from 112 to 128 according to TomTom over the same period).

However, the Council recognises the impact that congestion can have on the network, in terms of increased queueing and delay and as a result worsening air quality, journey times and decreased journey time reliability. As such, the Council is committed to addressing this by encouraging a greater shift to sustainable modes of travel, through the reallocation of road space to cyclists and buses, prioritising active and public transport and through establishing 'Smart Corridors' to more efficiently and effectively manage the flow of traffic and people along key routes into the city. As stated, further clarification on Cardiff's proposals to address congestion will be detailed within the forthcoming Transport White Paper.

- **Bus Station & Wanugron Road Transport Interchange** – As previously referred to at Full Council, the new bus station is a Transport for Wales scheme and the construction programme is in their hands. I can confirm however, that work has begun on site and our current information is that the works are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2022. As you will understand, the council can give no guarantee on this timescale.

Waun-Gron Road Transport Interchange requires the building of a retaining wall to support the railway embankment. This structure has been designed and is currently with Network Rail for approval, which is expected by early 2020. Once approved the construction is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2020. Construction of the residential development is anticipated to take place followed by the completion of the interchange. Whilst this may appear to be an unduly complicated process, it is the only way that the scheme can progress. I am unable at this time to give a completion date for this scheme.

- **Bus Rapid Transit Routes** – The delivery of Bus Rapid Transit Routes is dependent on s106 developer contributions. The contributions come on stream, as the phased build-out of units reaches previously agreed trigger points.

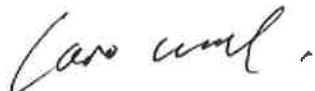
Delivery is therefore very much dependent on the progress of the developers build-out and I am not able therefore to give specific estimates of the delivery dates for these projects.

- **Modal Split Target** – The Annual Monitoring Report relates back directly to what was stated within the Adopted Local Development Plan, whereby, in Policy KP8, the target mode-split was defined as being 50:50 and was evidenced on the basis that this would result in a level of modal split required such that the network could sustain the level of predicted growth.

Furthermore, the 50:50 is also aligned with local performance indicators (LTPPI/011), as defined in the current Corporate Plan 2019-2022. The 60:40 was first defined as an aspiration within the Transport Strategy in 2016. However, it is only very recently, as indicated by the continued reference to 50:50, that the decision has been made to set 60:40 as the more ambitious target. Nevertheless, further work is required in order to demonstrate that the newer 60:40 target is both realistic and achievable.

- **Travellers Site Update** – With regard to the request for a confidential update on progress that has been made in identifying a new Gypsy and Travellers site in Cardiff, as set out at the Committee meeting, given that work is still ongoing and has not yet reached final conclusions nor formally reported, it is not considered appropriate to provide such an update at this juncture.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



Cynghorydd / Councillor Caro Wild
Aelod Cabinet dros Gynllunio Strategol a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport

