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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting THURSDAY, 6 JULY 2023, 4.30 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

9 **Correspondence Following the Committee Meeting** (Pages 3 - 6)

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Ref: SharePoint/Scrutiny/Env/Correspondance06.07.2023

Date: 11 July 2023

Cllr Caro Wild
Cabinet Member, Climate Change

By email

Annwyl Cyng Wild / Dear Cllr Wild



REPLACEMENT RECYCLING FLEET FOR RESIDENTIAL COLLECTIONS

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee held on 6th July 2023, I would like to thank you and officers for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the Planning Transport & Environment Directorate Delivery Plan. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations, and you will find our requests listed at the end of the letter.

The committee asked for clarification regarding the benefits of purchase and leasing vehicles. Officers explained that a business case is made and that Central Transport Services (CTS) purchase and maintain vehicles and that the service area will lease them back using their revenue budget. Any leasing arrangements will need to ensure value for money for the organisation and the more flexible or shorter the lease the higher the costs.

Following the collapse of a lease hire company that was used by the Council, members asked if any lessons had been learnt from the purchase of vehicles from the administration company and whether the purchase had been value for money. Officers confirmed that the purchase had been value for money and that these vehicles are standard RCVs and will be used for the collection of residual and garden waste.

Members asked about the disposal of vehicles that are no longer required and officers confirmed that these are either sold or scrapped but that approximately 20-25% of the total fleet will be leased to ensure some flexibility to react to any market changes. Members also asked if the delay in delivery of the vehicles would impact the roll out of the strategy an officers clarified the phased purchase supports the strategy in that the roll out of segregated

recycling to 40,000 households in October/November 2023 is manageable with the leased vehicle with the larger cohort of 80,000 households being included in July/August 2024 when the new vehicles are available.

The committee asked if we need more vehicles to collect recycling is the strategy cost neutral given the increase in fuel costs. Officers stated that currently we pay to dispose of glass collected as it is contaminated, using a separate vehicle for collection will minimise contamination and we will be able to sell the glass, so overall the scheme will be cost neutral.

Members queried how the proportions of the 'split back' vehicles was determined and officers confirmed that analysis during the pilot suggested that a 70/30 split between paper/card and plastic, tins and tetrapaks would be the most efficient with some element of compacting. The split back vehicle was also preferred by operatives.

Committee members asked about the sizes of vehicle as some appear to have difficulty navigating Cardiff streets. Officers confirmed that the larger 26 tonne RCV have 'narrow bodies' to assist working in street which are narrow due to on street parking, but that 'standard' vehicles will be used wherever possible due to the density of housing stock. It was also noted that smaller RCV's will be used in the more rural outlying areas of the City and that the model being introduced is similar to Swansea who have seen improved performance.

Concern was also noted by members as no solution to deal with the issue of HMO's has been proposed so how can we be sure the vehicles being purchased will be the right ones. Officer agreed that this was a challenge that will need to be revisited to ensure that any model going forward works for residents of HMOs and does not impact on the street scene negatively.

The proposed deposit return was noted by members as a potential issue going forward as it has not been included in the Strategy. Officers observed that currently no decision has been made and that if/when a decision is made by Welsh Government the strategy/model can be reviewed.

Members expressed disappointment that despite a commitment to reducing our carbon impact and already having a significant number of electric Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) that the proposal is to purchase diesel engine RCVs. Officers explained that the issue was the lack of capacity on the wider Western Power electricity network and in an attempt to resolve this they are working with colleagues from the Renewable Energy Team to **generate and store power locally** to support more vehicles. The committee would welcome further information about progress in relation to this initiative. Officers also informed the committee that the transition to electric vehicles will take 5 – 7 years as the development of larger electric vehicles is not as advanced as smaller vehicles.

You also noted the recent Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) meeting and offered to provide further information for members which has been received and circulated.

Members asked if we can meet net zero carbon by 2030?. Officers acknowledged the issues and advised the committee that manufacturing, and transport were the greatest challenge and that we need to support the creation of a Welsh circular economy.

The committee asked what the benefits to residents will be from having new vehicles. Officers stated that their carbon foot print will be reduced as a result of segregated recycling and putting materials back into the circular economy, although this may not be apparent to them and they will benefit from a cleaner street scene as the pilots have shown that the reusable bags do not have the food contamination that attracts vermin to break into the previous single use sacks leaving detritus in the street. There is also a planned restructure in cleansing that will enable cleansing crews to follow the RCVs to ensure the streets are clean following collections.

To confirm a response to the letter which responds to the following points is requested:

- Information regarding the progress of the **generation and storage of power** at Lamby Way.

Once again thank you once more for attending Committee and for considering our comments and observations.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely / Yn gywir

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

Councillor Owen Jones

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc: *Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee*

Matt Wakelam, Assistant Director, Street Scene

Cllr John Lancaster, Group Leader, Conservatives

*Cllr Rodney Berman, Group Leader, Liberal Democrats Cllr Andrea Gibson,
Group Leader, Common Ground*

Gavin McArthur, Chair Governance & Audit Committee

Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit

Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations

Claire Deguara, Acting Head of Cabinet Office