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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER 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

10 **Correspondence Following the Committee Meeting**(Pages 3 - 16)

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Ref: SharePoint/Scrutiny/Env/Correspondence07.12.2023

Date: 12 December 2023

Cllr Caro Wild

Cabinet Member, Climate Change

Cllr Dan De'Ath

Cabinet Member, Transport & Strategic Planning



By email

Annwyl Cyng Wild / Dear Cllr Wild

LOCAL AIR QUALITY ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee held on 7th December 2023, I would like to thank you and officers for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the Local Air Quality Monitoring report for the year 2022, the Committee appreciated officers attending and facilitating the discussion. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations, and you will find our requests listed at the end of the letter.

Layout of the report

Members commented on the format and disjointed nature of the report when trying to identify results for specific sites as the information was contained in two separate tables on different pages that need cross referencing, and suggested incorporating the site identifier, location and result on a single table.

Officers acknowledged that the report was not easy to navigate in places and stated that the report is a template that is specified by Welsh Government however noted that **appendix** could be added to **future reports**.

It is recommended that future reports include a table that is in an easy to read format.

Roads & Road Users

The Committee asked if the reduction of buses in operation had led to increased car use and therefore a negative impact on air quality?

Officers commented that any shift in use will impact air quality however the shift currently has not been significant enough to impact overall averages in air quality.

Members asked about the measures being put in place to encourage greater use of public transport and active travel rather than penalising car use.

Officers acknowledged the need for viable alternatives to car use and noted the ongoing work in relation to the metro, Crossrail and the bus interchange, however officers also recognised that there is a lot of work to be done.

The Committee asked if there was any evidence locally that the recent introduction of 20mph was having an impact on air quality?

Officers stated that it was too early to say at the moment and that at least twelve months data would be needed before any assessments could be made, but that this could potentially be included in future reports. Although it was noted that Welsh Government used data gathered from pilots to inform the roll out across the Country.

Air Quality Reduction Measures

The Committee asked what did they attribute the improvement of air quality to and if there was any evidence to identify which interventions had the greatest impact on improving air quality, for example are green walls more effective than 'school streets'?

Officers replied that a combination of interventions rather than a single measure will have an impact. Members noted concerns that measures may be put in place that are not effective, and asked what does the Council want to achieve in relation to air quality. It was also noted that monitoring either side of green walls takes place and that air quality monitoring both inside and outside of school street zone closures is carried out. However, it is more

difficult to measure the impact of the introduction of electric busses due to the number of other vehicles on the road.

Officers stated that meeting the current National targets is a priority, however as air quality is fundamentally linked to public health we need to reduce air pollution to as lower levels as possible, which ultimately means reducing the number of cars on the road network. It was also noted that new targets may be forthcoming following any new legislation in relation to the new Clean Air Bill.

Monitoring Locations & Real Time monitoring

Members asked how the criteria used to determine locations of air monitoring stations was chosen as there appear to be areas that are heavily congested during peak travel times, and would meet the criterion for air quality monitoring., or is it by request.

Officers confirmed that it was a combination of factors and that location for 2024 were being reviewed and that they are happy to consider proposed locations going forward.

Members also queried the average reading across the year and noted that that where these are close to prescribed limits there are clearly peaks and troughs across time and there will be time where limits are exceeded.

Officers noted that only real time monitors will allow peaks and troughs in air quality to be measured and not the 'diffusion tube'. A number of real time monitors were introduced in May this year and the data quality has been monitored to ensure it is accurate and this will be included in future reports,, it was also noted that this information would also be made available on the Shared Regulator Services website in due course.

Castle Street

The committee noted that Castle Street is referred to on a number of occasions throughout the report, however the temporary solution to improve air quality is still in place, despite the Cabinet agreeing that work should be progressed to address the Legal Direction issued by Welsh Government in December 2022 and as we have heard from RNIB colleagues, this is less than ideal and potentially dangerous.

Officers stated that adjustments were needed to be made to take into account the issues that had been raised and that funding was now being sought from Welsh Government, to resolve the matter.

The committee would like further information on the following:

- what the next steps and time scales to have the **permanent solution** in place on **Castle Street**?

One formal recommendation was made by the committee:

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
Future monitoring reports include easy to read table that reference, site numbers, locations and results				

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



Councillor Owen Jones

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

cc: *Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee*

Andrew Gregory, Director for Planning, Transport & Environment

Helen Picton, Head of Shared Regulatory Services

Jason Bale, SRS, Operational Manager

Cllr John Lancaster, Group Leader, Conservatives

Cllr Andrea Gibson, Group Leader, Common Ground

Cllr Rodney Berman, Group Leader, Liberal Democrats

Chris Pyke, Audit Manager

Tim Gordon, Head of Communications and External Relations

Louise Mead, Cabinet Support Officer

Jenny Goss, Cabinet Support Officer

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CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE

My Ref: CE:0045097

Your Ref: SharePoint/Scrutiny/Env/Correspondence16.11.2023

Date: 06/02/2024

Cllr Owen Jones
Chair, Environmental Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Owen,

Environmental Scrutiny - Chair's Letter 04 December 2023 - Recycling & Waste Management

Thank you for your letter dated 4th December 2024 requesting an update as to the actions that have or will now be taken to ensure that the issues that led to the recent prosecution of staff at Lamby Way become more difficult to carry out in the future.

There has been targeted assurance activity that has taken place over the years since the offence. The focus of that assurance activity has been on core systems and has been undertaken by internal audit.

Now that the trial has ended, a post-trial review can commence which is being led by the Corporate Director Resources (Section 151 Officer), and will be reported to the Governance and Audit Committee. The objectives of the review are to seek assurance on the:

- Effectiveness of the Corporate response, to the concerns of criminal activity relating to the operation of weighbridge facilities (investigation and assurance).
- Counter-fraud control environment within the waste management service, represented by the management approach, activities and assurances, and the deployment and independent assurances of the internal audit service.
- Level of fraud awareness across the waste management service, and the extent to which key vulnerabilities are known and mitigated.
- Effectiveness of systems in place to prevent, detect and address fraud across the waste management service.
- Effectiveness of arrangements to investigate concerns of potential fraud.
- Lessons learned from cases of fraud within waste management.

Where it is considered that improvements can be made in respect of any of the objectives of this review, observations and recommendations will be reported so that controls can be enhanced.

The terms of reference for this review were considered and agreed by the Governance and Audit Committee in its meeting on 23rd January 2024.

The review is due to commence in February 2024 and the report and management response will be considered by the Governance and Audit Committee in its meeting in July 2024.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Climate Change

Ref: CE:0045476
Date: 06/02/2024

Dear Councillor Jones,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 7th December 2023 – RNIB Briefing

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the above. Please see our responses to the Committee’s recommendations below:

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially, Accepted, or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
We recommend that any new developments in relation to shared spaces involve the RNIB and their specialist Inclusive Design services, if necessary, to ensure the Council meets its Public Sector Equality Duties.	Partially Accepted (<i>we can only speak on behalf of Transport projects</i>)	The Council has a long track record of engaging with the RNIB on transport schemes. As a member of the Cardiff Access Focus Group, the RNIB would have been engaged on several transport projects. An example of this engagement would be Wood Street and the bespoke push button crossing on the bus island that	Gethin Shields	Actioned via regular meetings recently set up with SightLife, RNIB, and Guide Dogs Cymru.

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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.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

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		<p>was developed as a result of consultation with the group. The Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning and the Transport team have recently met with the RNIB, Guide Dogs Cymru, and SightLife towards the end of last year to update them on Castle Street and similar schemes. It was at that meeting that it was decided to allocate the group as a 'stand-alone stakeholder group'. This means that the group will continue to be consulted with on all major and minor transport schemes.</p>		
<p>It is recommended that recycling containers are returned after emptying in a reasonable way, to avoid them</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>We have a comprehensive training plan scheduled for the crews prior to the recycling roll out to advise them on</p>	<p>Alice George</p>	<p>Training commencing 5th February & 12th February</p>

becoming unnecessary obstacles on narrow pavements.

the best practice when returning sacks. All crews are being asked to return the receptacles to frontages where possible, and when on terraced streets, to return as close to the wall of property as possible to reduce pavement obstructions. Supervisors are tasked with monitoring collection crews on a daily basis to ensure this instruction is being adhered to.

As above, training will be provided to collection crews pre-roll out, and will also be included in upcoming Team Briefs to remind crews of the need to be sensitive when returning containers, and to do so in such a way as to not block the highway.

<p>We recommended that mechanisms are established to make the RNIB aware of any proposed changes, in advance of them happening so that they are able to communicate them to their members and other groups.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted (<i>we can only speak on behalf of Transport projects</i>)</p>	<p>The RNIB has been, and will continue to be, notified of any changes to the transport network via the Cardiff Access Focus Group. In addition to the current (and previous) processes followed, the Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning and the Transport team have met with the RNIB, Guide Dogs Cymru, and SightLife, and decided to allocate the group as a 'stand-alone stakeholder group'. This means that the group will be consulted on all major and minor transport schemes.</p>	<p>Gethin Shields</p>	<p>Actioned via regular meetings recently set up with SightLife, RNIB, and Guide Dogs Cymru.</p>
<p>It is recommended that the permanent solution to Castle Street is</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>As previously stated to the RNIB via regular Cardiff Access Focus Group</p>	<p>Gethin Shields</p>	<p>TBC - timeline contingent on Welsh Government</p>

<p>progressed as a matter of urgency and the RNIB are informed of the changes when they are being undertaken.</p>		<p>meetings, the Castle Street scheme is subject to funding confirmation from Welsh Government. Cardiff Council are ready to deliver this scheme but cannot proceed to tender until funding is confirmed by Welsh Government.</p>		<p>funding approval at this time.</p>
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In addition, in relation to the mention of contrasting colours for segregated recycling, the colours chosen are standardised across the UK, with advice provided to us by WRAP (Waste and Resource Action Programme). This is to avoid any confusion when recycling, and to be consistent with other local authorities across Wales.

We trust the above is of assistance. However, should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Dan De'Ath
Aelod Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Chynllunio Strategol
Cabinet Member for Transport and Strategic Planning



Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Caro Wild
Yr Aelod Cabinet dros y Newid yn yr Hinsawdd
Cabinet Member for Climate Change

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