

Ref: RDB/PM/RP/09.06.15

17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Councillor Ramesh Patel,  
Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability,  
County Hall,  
Atlantic Wharf,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Patel,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015. As you are aware the meeting considered an item titled 'Draft City Operations Directorate Delivery Plan'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

**Draft City Operations Directorate Delivery Plan**

During the meeting the Director for Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport commented that the Civil Parking Enforcement team was running at above the cost of running the service. Members were concerned at this statement and have, therefore, asked if you would provide a breakdown of the following costs:

- A detailed income and expenditure summary for the running of the Civil Parking Enforcement team. Where a payment is made from this service into the 'Parking Revenue Account' a further breakdown should be provided to illustrate what these monies are being used to fund.
- A detailed income and expenditure summary for the running of the Moving Traffic Offences service in Cardiff. Where a payment is made from this service into the 'Parking Revenue Account' a further breakdown should be provided to illustrate what these monies are being used to fund. I would be grateful if you could break income generated down by month.

- It has been stated on several occasions that it is currently difficult to accurately predict future income streams from Moving Traffic Offences. I would be grateful if you could let me know when the Council will be able to accurately forecast the Moving Traffic Offences income streams.
- The Committee noted that a draft 'Parking Strategy' is due to go to Cabinet for approval in the autumn. Members look forward to scrutinising this draft proposal prior to it going to Cabinet for decision. They are also keen to receive long overdue feedback on the Cabinet response to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee report titled 'Problem & Nuisance Parking in Cardiff'.
- The Committee noted that a draft 'Highway Asset Strategy' is due to go to Cabinet for approval in the autumn. This will look at how the Council funds the maintenance and development of Cardiff's highway asset in future. Members look forward to scrutinising this draft proposal prior to it going to Cabinet for decision.
- During the item the Director for Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport explained that in future it would be vitally important to benchmark Council services within the new City Operations Directorate. In particular he was very keen to create a systematic approach against which to compare Cardiff's services against the best in the United Kingdom. The Committee agree with this approach and ask that once a way forward is identified that it is shared with Members. At a time of significant change it is felt that the Alternative Delivery Model services are benchmarked so that progress and improvement can be measured against the 'best in class'.
- During the item the issue of transport planning was raised. After discussing the matter the Committee was concerned at the lack of clear linkage between the various transport policies and strategies. For example, it is not clear how the Welsh Transport Strategy translates its high level vision into the Local Transport Policy, and then how both of these tie into the regional transport vacuum previously occupied by

SEWTA. Members are concerned that the lack of joined up working could result in missed transport planning opportunities which will impact on not only Cardiff but the wider South East Wales Region. The Committee believe that more can be done to improve the collaborative transport planning agenda and urge you to contact the Welsh Government to push forward this agenda.

- Members were informed that the Council is looking to publish a new Cardiff Transport Strategy in December 2015. The Committee will be interested in scrutinising this as a draft strategy before it is formally considered by Cabinet. We are in the process of creating the Environmental Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2015/16 and will in the coming weeks inform you how the scrutiny of this important document links into our work schedule. In the meantime I would be grateful if you could supply the Committee with a timeline for the development of this document along with detail on the consultation to be followed in the development of the strategy.

### **Draft Infrastructure Business Model & Alternative Delivery Options Task & Finish Report**

- At the meeting the Committee reviewed the 'Draft Infrastructure Business Model & Alternative Delivery Options Task & Finish Report'. After reviewing the content of the document Members accepted the draft report without the need to make any alterations. The Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee will have the opportunity to consider the draft report on the 7th July. It is hoped that after this meeting (and subject to any required changes) the report will be finalised and provided to Cabinet for consideration at their next available meeting.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and provide a response to the requests made in this letter.

Regards,

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

Councillor Ralph Cook

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc to:

Andrew Gregory, Director for Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport

Jane Forshaw, Director for the Environment

Tara King, Assistant Director for the Environment

Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services

Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee