

Ref: RDB/PM/RP/19.05.15

29th May 2015

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



Dear Councillor Patel,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 19th March 2015

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 19th May 2015. As you are aware the meeting considered items titled 'Environment & Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport Directorates – Performance Report Quarter – 2014/15' and 'Greener Grangetown – Final Consultation Phase'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

Environment & Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport Directorates – Performance Report Quarter – 2014/15

- A Member asked for a breakdown of capital expenditure on individual renewable energy schemes and an income rate of return for each of the schemes. I would be grateful if you could arrange for this information to be provided to the Committee.
- The Member for Trowbridge explained that Council funding had been made available for the provision of insulating render for almost every street in Trowbridge with the exception of Cemaes Crescent; this had done nothing to improve his popularity locally. Could you please provide the Committee with detail of the criteria applied for insulating render grants in this area.

- During the meeting you explained that for every £1 million borrowed for projects the Council had to pay back £80,000 per annum in interest. This equates to a figure of 8% which seems high. I would appreciate it if you explain what this £80,000 figure is used to cover, i.e. is it all an interest payment or a combination of interest and capital repayment.
- At the meeting the new powers for the removal of letting boards was raised. It was explained that the new powers would come into force in November or December 2015 which would mean that letting agents would only be able to use compliant to let boards. The Director for Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport explained that he had a copy of a letter which confirmed the future implementation of these powers. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with a copy of this letter.
- The Committee has asked for details on the current average time for the planning service to process householder planning applications in Cardiff. I would appreciate it if you could provide the Committee with this information.
- At the meeting Members of the Committee noted that the current bus station will be closing in August 2015 and that work will commence on the new site in September 2015.
- A Member asked for details on the quantity of illegal buildings determined for demolition by planning enforcement and the number that have actually been demolished. I'd be grateful if you could provide data on this for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Greener Grangetown – Final Consultation Phase

- A Member asked if the Greener Grangetown project represented good value for money for the task payer. The Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water officer explained that the best way to evidence this was the cost benefit analysis exercise conducted by Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water; she offered to share this with the Members. I would appreciate it if you could obtain a copy of this document and share it with the Committee.

- A Member for Grangetown explained that there was a potential empty parking area at the Turner's Mansion site in Grangetown which could be used by the construction workers during the development phase of the project. Use of this site could reduce local parking pressures during the construction phase and prevent construction workers from having to take up resident and other local parking spaces.

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 that reads "P. D. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Councillor Paul Mitchell
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

Ian Titherington, Lead Officer, Drainage

Michelle Russ, Rainscape Regulation, Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water

Martyn Evans, Strategy Advisor, Natural Resources Wales

Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services

Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee