

Ref: RDB/PM/BD/17.05.16

20 June 2016

Councillor Bob Derbyshire  
Cabinet Member for the Environment  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff CF10 4UW



Dear Councillor Derbyshire

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 17 May 2016**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 17 May 2016. As you are aware the meeting considered an item titled 'City Operations – Quarter 4 Performance'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

**City Operations – Quarter 4 Performance**

- Members would like to congratulate the City Operations Directorate for delivering a budget surplus of £3,000 during the financial year 2015/16; they feel that this is an excellent achievement in the current financial climate. The Committee did, however, note the comments made by the Director for City Operations on the varied performance across the City Operations Directorate as a whole. For example, he mentioned that certain parts of Waste Services still had sickness rates in excess of 18 days per person per annum.

With this in mind I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with the sickness, budget and savings details on a service by service basis for all of the City Operations Directorate for 2015/16. This I feel will provide the Committee with a greater insight into the stronger and weaker performing parts of the City Operations Directorate which in turn will help inform how we identify items for future scrutiny. Please note that the letter

to the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability has also asked for this information.

- During the meeting it was explained that the 58% recycling target for 2015/16 (WMT/009b) would be met, although details of the exact result still required a final verification by Welsh Government. The Committee welcomes this news, but noted that the figures used in the City Operations Quarter 4 Performance Report were different to those featured in the City Operations Directorate presentation for the Environment Portfolio. For example, Quarter 1 in the report was 57% while the presentation provided a figure of 64.28% for the same period.

To address the confusion I would be grateful if you could confirm details of the correct percentage scores for each of the Quarters during 2015/16.

- During the meeting Members asked for a breakdown of the recycling figures by recyclate type for 2015/16, for example, this should include the proportion of bottom ash, food waste, green garden waste, plastic, glass, etc.
- Members were made aware that the Council had faced recent difficulties in recycling glass. They were also told that the collected glass could only be counted as recycled once it was sold and sent on for reprocessing. I would appreciate it if you could confirm the impact that this has had on recycling figures, and the costs associated in paying a third party to take the glass away.
- During the meeting concerns were raised at apparently contradictory statements over whether incorrectly presented waste is recorded or not as a part of the fly tipping performance indicator. A Member explained that the Environmental Scrutiny Committee minutes from the 19 May 2015 stated, "*when black bins/bags are put out on the wrong collection day this is categorised as waste presentation and not fly-tipping. This used to be categorised as fly-tipping until about two years ago. Such incidents are logged as waste presentation in Fly-capture, which is the national fly-*

*tipping database used by local authorities. Previously these would have been logged as fly-tipping events. The Committee requested that Members be provided with the date on which the change in categorisation was made and for ward by ward figures on waste presentation”.*

The subsequent Chair’s letter dated 29 May 2015 said that, “The Assistant Director for the Environment explained that a fly capture report could easily be produced for Cardiff and then confirmed that they could be produced on a Ward by Ward basis”. As a result this information was subsequently provided for each Ward and month for 2014/15 (excluding one month - April 2014) in Cllr Derbyshire’s letter of 15 September 2015. At the meeting a Member suggested that the definitions for fly-tipping and misrepresented waste might have changed and that the information available was no longer as freely available when compared to May 2015.

To provide clarification on the position of fly-tipping and misrepresented waste I would be grateful if you could:

- Provide the Committee with the current definitions for fly-tipping and misrepresented waste;
  - Explain where the fly-tipping and misrepresented waste information is recorded, and how easily this can be accessed to produce ward based and Cardiff wide reports.
- 
- During the way forward Members discussed the introduction of the Bininfo app. I would be grateful if you could confirm when the Bininfo app will be available, the promotional work which will be undertaken to raise awareness of the new app, and the anticipated annual budget for running the Bininfo app in Cardiff.

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 style with a loop under the "M".

Councillor Paul Mitchell

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

Andrew Gregory, Director of City Operations

Tara King, Assistant Director of City Operations

David Lowe, Waste Operations Manager

Jane Cherrington, Operational Manager for Strategy & Enforcement

Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services

David Marr, Interim Monitoring Officer

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee