

Ref: RDB/PM/RP/12.07.16

25 July 2016

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



Dear Councillor Patel

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 12 July 2016

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the Operational Manager for Energy & Sustainability for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 12 July 2016. As you are aware the meeting considered an item titled 'Cardiff's Energy Prospectus – Member Update'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

Cardiff's Energy Prospectus – Member Update

- To begin with I would like to congratulate the officers in the Energy Team for the considerable progress that has been achieved since we last scrutinised Cardiff's Energy Prospectus in June 2015. Members were very encouraged that:
 - Significant projects like Radyr Weir have been delivered;
 - Progress has been made on the Kelda Anaerobic Digestion Plant;
 - Numerous energy efficiency projects have been delivered in schools, on the Council's estate and across the wider community;
 - The Council has helped drive forward seven exceptionally innovative energy projects;
 - Cardiff now delivers 35MW of local renewable energy which contributes to a 16% renewable energy provision per head of population (making Cardiff the fourth most successful city in the UK);

- The Energy Team has attracted £6m in external grant funding in the last three years; and,
 - A 2,000 tonne reduction in CO2 emissions has been achieved across the Council's estate in the last 12 months.
-
- Members commented that the presentation titled 'Energy Prospectus Update' was the most interesting that they had received at a scrutiny meeting and that it was very exciting to see the Council involved in so many innovative projects.
 - Members are concerned about the implications that 'Brexit' might have on a number of projects contained within Cardiff's Energy Prospectus. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with a summary of the potential impacts from 'Brexit' on projects currently within Cardiff's Energy Prospectus.
 - Members are fully supportive of the Groundwater Heat Project currently being developed in Cardiff. The idea that there are 28 billion litres of warm water underneath Cardiff which could provide sustainable heating across large parts of the city is very exciting. I would appreciate it if you could keep the Committee updated on the progress of this project and confirm if there is an option to link this potential heat source via a heat network to the new strategic sites identified in Cardiff's Local Development Plan.
 - The Committee found the seven innovation projects being supported by the Council both fascinating and exciting. Innovative ideas like the 'Vivus Lime' quick drying lime render; the 'Q-Bot' underfloor insulation robot; the portable renewables SBRI and the Hydrogen Enabled Local Energy projects came across as both ground breaking and financially lucrative. I would be grateful if you could confirm the longer term benefits that these projects potentially offer Cardiff and if the Council holds a financial stake in any of these initiatives.
 - Members were informed of a recently developed NEA grant for targeting individuals with identified fuel poverty health issues which Cardiff is piloting

with Flintshire. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with further information on this excellent scheme.

- During the way forward Members again asked for a progress update on the Greener Grangetown project. Further to the request made in my letter after the meeting on the 17th May I would be grateful if you could confirm when work will start on the Greener Grangetown project and provide an estimated completion date.

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. De Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M'.

Councillor Paul Mitchell
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

Andrew Gregory - Director for City Operations
Gareth Harcombe - Operational Manager, Energy & Sustainability
Paul Keeping – Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services
David Marr – Interim Monitoring Officer
Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee