

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

08 July 2016

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member
c/o Room 520
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Susan

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee – 6 July 2016

On behalf of the Members of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I would like to thank you and officers for attending for Agenda Item 5, the Cardiff Housing Strategy report.

Members have asked that I pass on their congratulations to officers for producing an evidence based, comprehensive, whole system approach strategy. It is obvious that a lot of hard work, thought, planning and organisation have gone into developing the vision, aims and actions contained in the document. This, coupled with the assurances given at Committee by Sarah McGill, Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Services and Jane Thomas, Assistant Director of Communities and Housing, helps to give confidence that officers are able to deliver the many actions in the strategy, with the resources currently available.

It is also heartening to hear that the strategy has been developed in partnership with Registered Social Landlords, Health and Social Care colleagues and private sector landlords, as appropriate. Members recognise that the strategy will require extensive partnership working to deliver the actions and believe that involving partners at the start of the process can only aid this.

With regard to the content of the strategy, Members have the following recommendations, which were discussed at the meeting, aimed at further strengthening the strategy:

- That the strategy more fully references the Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Cardiff and the work that will be undertaken to ensure their specific housing needs are assessed and planned for.
- That reference be made in the Equalities section of the strategy to the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020.
- That it be made clear that 4,220 affordable homes will be provided over the 5 years of the strategy, rather than the life of the LDP.
- That reference be made in the strategy to the fact that the design of housing and of estates is critical to ensuring high quality, sustainable affordable

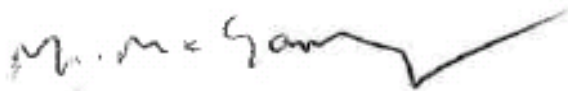
housing that residents wish to live in and that contribute to resilient communities.

Members note that the main risk to the Council, arising from the proposals in the Strategy, is a likely increase in void properties as under-occupation initiatives start to work, as these properties often require considerable work to bring them to a lettable standard. Members also note that the cost of these voids is small when compared with the cost of providing similar houses as new.

Finally, Members are currently finalising the Committee's work programme for the remainder of this municipal year and I am sure that various elements of work mentioned in the Housing Strategy will feature in this, thus enabling Members to carry out more in-depth scrutiny of particular elements of the Strategy.

To summarise, I look forward to hearing back from you on the recommendations contained in this letter, which I hope are of use to you.

Yours sincerely,



COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M^CGARRY

Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc:	Sarah McGill	Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Services
	Jane Thomas	Assistant Director, Communities & Housing
	Liz Patterson	Personal Assistant
	Matt Swindell	Cabinet Support Officer

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**



Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM35160
Eich Cyf / Your ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/
Cllr McGarry

Dyddiad / Date: 16 August 2016

Councillor Mary McGarry
Chair, Community & Adult Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny Services
Room 263
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Mary

**Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee 6 July 2016 - Cardiff
Housing Strategy Report**

Thank you for your letter dated 08th July 2016 on behalf of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, with regards the Cardiff Housing Strategy Report.

I am delighted that Scrutiny Members valued the effort that has gone into producing the draft Housing Strategy, and I have passed on your congratulations to Officers as requested.

I agree that the strategy can only be delivered with the help of our partners; we are currently consulting with a wide range of partners and will take their views on board before finalising the document.

In response to the Committee's specific recommendations,

- 1) *That the strategy more fully represents Black & Minority Ethnic communities in Cardiff, and the work that will be undertaken to ensure their specific housing needs are assessed and planned for.*

**ATEBWCH I /
PLEASE REPLY TO:**

Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office,
Ystafell / Room 514, Neuadd y Sir / County Hall,
Glanfa'r Iwerydd / Atlantic Wharf, Caerdydd / Cardiff,
CF10 4UW Ffon / Tel (029) 2087 2479

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu â chi yn eich dewis iaith boed yn Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in English and Welsh and we will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, whether that's English, Welsh or bilingual as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Reference will be included to the findings contained in the Local Housing Market Assessment on the housing needs of BME Communities and links to actions in the strategy will be made clear.

- 2) *That reference be made in the Equalities section of the strategy to the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020.*

This section will be updated to include such reference in the final draft.

- 3) *That it be made clear that 4,220 affordable homes will be provided over the 5 years of the strategy, rather than the life of the LDP.*

This will be clarified in the final draft.

- 4) *That reference be made in the strategy to the fact that the design of housing and of estates is critical to ensuring high quality, sustainable, affordable housing that residents wish to live in, and that contributes to resilient communities.*

I agree that quality of design is very important in new housing developments and the views of the Committee will be passed on to colleagues in Planning and those working on the Housing Partnership Programme sites. Officers will work with Planning colleagues to ensure this concern is reflected in the final draft document.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yn gwyir,
Yours sincerely,



Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Susan Elsmore
Aelod Cabinet Dros Lechyd, Tai a Lles
Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Wellbeing

Cc: Members of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee
Sarah McGill Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Services
Jane Thomas Assistant Director, Communities & Housing