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13 January 2017

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



Dear Councillor Patel,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 10 January 2017

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers from the City Operations Directorate for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 10 January 2017. As you are aware the meeting considered an item titled “Draft Cycling Strategy & Integrated Network Map”. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

- The Committee welcomes the creation of a Cardiff Cycling Strategy. The Cardiff growth projections are such that achieving a 50:50 modal split by 2026 is essential for the quality of life of Cardiff residents. The Members felt that the “Draft Cardiff Cycling Strategy” and “Integrated Network Map” were positive documents because:
 - They set out a series of ambitious targets;
 - They provide a defined vision and series of actions to improve Cardiff’s cycling infrastructure;
 - They identify trends that need to be addressed;
 - They identify target audiences who need to be involved in the consultation and engagement process;
 - They document Cardiff’s current and proposed cycling infrastructure;
 - They set out a basic structure for a series of primary routes which could provide excellent north / south and east / west connectivity

options. In particular the Committee noted that they would provide sustainable transport links between key parts of the city and strategic development sites.

- The figures provided in the presentation titled “Cardiff Cycling Strategy and Integrated Network Map” were all provided as percentage values and did not provide actual values, for example, cycling trips in the city centre increased by 86% between 2004 and 2014 – how many cycling trips does the 86% figure represent? I would be grateful if you could provide actual values for all of the percentage figures illustrated in the presentation.
- The health benefits of cycling were emphasised on several occasions at the meeting, for example, the Director for City Operations explained that cycling on a regular basis statistically increases life expectancy by five years. The “Cardiff Draft Cycling Strategy 2016 to 2026” explains that the Council only spends £3.84 per resident per annum on cycling – this is very low when compared to cities like Amsterdam and Copenhagen who spend approximately £18 per resident per annum. The Committee believe that a relatively small per resident increase in cycling investment would produce significant health benefits, which in the medium term would reduce other financial pressures facing the Council and health service. Such an investment would also enhance the Council’s liveable city ambitions.

During the item a Member asked how the aims of the “Cardiff Draft Cycling Strategy 2016 to 2026” would be funded. You responded by explaining that this could not be confirmed at the meeting because of the ongoing budget consultation. The Committee will consider the budget lines associated with cycling during budget scrutiny in February 2017 and provide appropriate feedback in relation to the aims and ambitions contained within the “Cardiff Draft Cycling Strategy 2016 to 2026”.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and provide a response to the content of this letter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. D. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and a prominent underline under the "l" in "Mitchell".

Councillor Paul Mitchell

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

Andrew Gregory – Director for City Operations

Paul Carter – Head of Transport

Gail Bodley-Scott – Section Leader (Transport Vision, Policy and Strategy)

Paul Keeping – Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services

Davina Fiore – Director of Governance & Legal Services

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee