
CABINET RESPONSE - RESTORE OUR RIVERS

Background

1. The Environmental Scrutiny Committee agreed as part of their work programme to undertake an inquiry titled Restore Our Rivers. As a result, the Committee agreed to set up a task & finish group inquiry. The terms of reference were agreed as follows:

The collaborative task & finish working group will consider, evaluate and address the current problems facing Cardiff's rivers and watercourses. In doing so the exercise will develop a series of work packages which will review the following areas:

- *Measurement and benchmarking of the current condition of Cardiff's rivers and watercourses;*
- *Prevention opportunities which can be applied to Cardiff's rivers and watercourses;*
- *Educational opportunities which can be applied to Cardiff's rivers and watercourses;*
- *Improvement opportunities which can be applied to Cardiff's rivers and watercourses;*
- *Regional opportunities which can be applied to the rivers and courses of the wider South East Wales River Basin.*

In doing this the task & finish working group will explore best practice, receive witness contributions and access research resources from a wide range of sources. The task & finish exercise will address each of the five work package themes individually and a bespoke terms of reference will be created for each of the work packages.

The task & finish exercise will aim to identify a series of key findings and recommendations for each of the five work packages; these will be recorded in this report which will upon conclusion be submitted to the to the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs; Cardiff Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment and the decision making body of each of the partner organisations who have provided representatives to support the collaborative task & finish working group. A copy of the report will be made available to other interested parties.

The collaborative task & finish working group will include Elected Members from Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee and co-opt appointed representatives from the Cardiff Rivers Group; Dwr Cymru; Glamorgan Anglers; Keep Wales Tidy; Natural Resources Wales and the South East Wales Rivers Trust.

2. The task group Inquiry was informed by evidence and advice from the following:

- Emma Harris, Pollution Strategy Manager, Dwr Cymru;
- Dai Walters, Team Leader (Ely & Vale), Natural Resources Wales;
- Hywel Abbott, Healthy Rivers Project Officer, Groundwork Wales;
- Charlotte Sturgess-Osborne, Placement Project Officer, Groundwork Wales;
- Edward Bennett, Network Manager Cardiff, Dwr Cymru;
- Luke Bentley, Sewer Network Abuse Protection Technician, Dwr Cymru;
- Hamish Osborn, Team Leader Natural Resource Management Swansea, Natural Resources Wales;
- Richard Davies, Sewerage Manager, Dwr Cymru;
- Pam Bacon, South East Wales Regional Manager – Central West, Keep Wales Tidy;
- Dave King, Cardiff Rivers Group;
- Gail Davies, Special Projects (Water), Dwr Cymru;
- Ian Titherington, Lead Officer Drainage, City of Cardiff Council;
- Martyn Gough, Communications Manager, Natural Resources Wales;
- Claire Roberts, Education Manager, Dwr Cymru;
- Jess Magness, Marketing & Communications Manager, Keep Wales Tidy;

- Ian Lloyd Davies, Media Advisor, City of Cardiff Council;
 - Andrew King, Project Officer, Keep Wales Tidy;
 - Nicola Hutchinson, Parks Conservation Officer, City of Cardiff Council;
 - Dr Stephen Marsh-Smith, Executive Director, Afonydd Cymru;
 - Luke Catterson, Scrutiny Research Officer, City of Cardiff Council.
3. The report was presented to Cabinet on the 21st September 2017; a copy of the report has been attached to this report as **Appendix 1**. A full response was agreed by Cabinet on the 16th November 2017; a copy of the full response has been attached to this report as **Appendix 2**.

Cabinet Response to Recommendations

4. The scrutiny report made 140 key findings and 20 recommendations that required a Cabinet response; 18 of the recommendations were accepted in principle, one recommendation was partially accepted in principle and one recommendation was rejected. The key findings and recommendations were based around five themed areas that are listed below:
- Measurement & Benchmarking;
 - Prevention Opportunities;
 - Educational Opportunities;
 - Improvement Opportunities;
 - Regional Opportunities.
5. Full details of the response and future actions are contained in **Appendix 2** of this report.

Way Forward

6. Officers from the Planning, Transport & Environment Directorate have been invited to attend the meeting. They will provide a summary of the Cabinet response and answer any questions that Members may have.

7. Members may consider the response contained in the attached **Appendix 2** and provide any comments, advice or recommendations relevant to the contents of this report.

Legal Implications

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The Committee is recommended to consider the Cabinet response, the information presented at the meeting and then provide the Cabinet Member with any comments, concerns or recommendations.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

30 May 2018