

Ref: RDB/RP/MM/06.11.2018

03 December 2018

Councillor Michael Michael,
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Michael,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 6 November 2018

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 6 November 2018. As you are aware the meeting received an item titled 'Waste Management Strategy Update'. The comments and observations made by Members on the areas relevant to your portfolio of responsibility are set out in this letter.

Waste Management Strategy Update

Members are supportive of the idea of closed loop recycling, particularly if this can be processed closer to home. This approach is clearly better for the environment and local economy as it does not involve shipping recyclate large distances for processing. The Committee encourages you to lobby and work with the Welsh Government to help achieve this goal.

The Committee understands that there is a clear distinction between local authority and private commercial waste companies, particularly in relation to recycling targets and payment of VAT. I would be grateful if you could:

- Confirm if the Council's Commercial Waste Service currently charges VAT on all transactions to businesses and members of the public. In addition to this could you please confirm if the Council's Commercial Waste Service is legally required to charge VAT on all transactions. If there are VAT

advantages for local authority commercial waste services then the Council should look to use this as a competitive advantage.

- Members understand that private commercial waste companies are not required to follow the same statutory recycling targets that are placed against local authority waste services. This creates a challenge for local authority waste collection services who have to declare all commercial waste materials against the current statutory recycling target of 58% (soon to increase to 64% in 2019/20). The Committee is concerned that commercial waste providers in Wales only achieve recycling rates of 29% - this is bad for the environment and also gives them a commercial advantage. I would be grateful if you could confirm what can practically be done to close this gap and to create a more level playing field.

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

Regards,



Councillor Ramesh Patel
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Andrew Gregory - Director of City Operations
- Matt Wakelam - Operational Manager, Infrastructure & Operations
- Jane Cherrington – Operational Manager, Waste Strategy & Enforcement
- Davina Fiore - Director of Governance & Legal Services
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee