

Ref: RDB/PM/RP/10.03.15

13<sup>th</sup> May 2015

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



Dear Councillor Patel,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015. As you are aware the meeting considered an item titled 'Environment & Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport Directorates – Performance Report Quarter – 2014/15'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

**'Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport Directorate Quarter 3 Performance' relevant to the Transport, Planning & Sustainability Portfolio**

- The topic of the new bus station was raised at the meeting. Members were interested in the development process and in particular the interim arrangements which would shape bus travel in Cardiff while the bus station is being built. With this in mind the Committee are keen to undertake some kind of ongoing scrutiny of the bus station development and will look to review progress shortly after the interim arrangements are put in place.
- During the meeting we were informed that the Planning Committee is receiving a presentation on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March on the Supplementary Planning Guidance for Residential Extensions & Alterations. I would be grateful if you could arrange for a copy of this power point presentation to be provided to the committee.

- The Director for Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport explained that the 'New Parking Strategy for Cardiff' is due to be presented at Cabinet in the near future. Members reiterate their desire to scrutinise this strategy along with the overdue Cabinet response to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee report titled 'Problem & Nuisance Parking in Cardiff'. Please arrange for an officer to contact scrutiny services to provide an update on when these documents will be available for scrutiny.
- The Environmental Scrutiny Committee report titled 'Problem & Nuisance Parking in Cardiff' recommended the implementation of the car cam system in Cardiff to primarily help reduce problem / dangerous parking in and around schools. At the meeting you explained that a vehicle was purchased in December, however, for a number of reasons it has yet to go live on the streets of Cardiff. I would be grateful if you could provide an explanation for the delay and set out a timeline for introduction of the new vehicle.
- The base budget in the Quarter 2 performance report was stated as £29.903m; this rose to £30.018m for Quarter 3 creating an increase of £115,000. The Director for Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport was unsure of the exact reason for the variance, therefore, I would appreciate it if the Directorate could liaise with Financial Services to provide an explanation for the increase. For future reference, Members would find it useful if any changes to the base budget (and associated savings) could be highlighted explained in each new quarterly performance report. Such an explanation would improve the Committees ability to accurately assess performance.
- During the meeting Members asked for a progress update on the Supplementary Planning Guidance for Houses of Multiple Occupancy & Flat Conversions. They commented that they had been consulted in April 2014 and that since then they had not received any further information. I'd be grateful if you could provide the Committee with an update on the

progress made on the Supplementary Planning Guidance for Houses of Multiple Occupancy & Flat Conversions including if it is possible to implement such a document and if so when.

**‘Environment Directorate Quarter 3 Performance’ relevant to the Transport, Planning & Sustainability Portfolio**

- Members received with interest the document titled ‘Energy Sustainability Team – One Planet Cardiff Delivery – Programme Overview’. This provided information on:
  - Energy related capital projects;
  - Energy related strategies and policies;
  - Energy related research and development programmes, and;
  - Current energy funding bid activity.

The document provided general comments, financial information, project updates and projected timelines for each of the pieces of work. The Committee has agreed to add another item on the Energy Prospectus to their work programme before the end of this calendar year. The main focus of this scrutiny will be to review the progress of the main energy capital projects. We will provide you with an update once the Environmental Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2015/16 is complete.

- Members believe that the CYD Cymru collective energy switching programme has been very successful. They acknowledge that it has produced worthwhile savings for many people in Cardiff and has gained significant support as over 5,000 have now signed up to the scheme. It was mentioned that the Welsh Government has asked the Council to roll this out to other parts of Wales. The Committee believe that this can only be a good thing and support the Wales wide expansion of the initiative.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and provide a response to the requests made in this letter.

Regards,



Councillor Paul Mitchell  
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc to:

Andrew Gregory, Director for Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic &  
Transport

Gary Brown, Operational Manager – Assets, Engineering & Operations

Jane Forshaw, Director for the Environment

Tara King, Assistant Director for the Environment

Gareth Harcombe, Commercial Manager, Energy & Sustainability

Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services

Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee