

Ref: RDB/PM/BD/14.04.15

13th May 2015

Councillor Bob Derbyshire,
Cabinet Member for the Environment,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Derbyshire,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 14th April 2015

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 14th April 2015. As you are aware the meeting considered an item titled 'Cardiff Student Community Partnership 2015 – 2018 Action Plan'. The comments and observations made by Members following these items are set out in this letter. It should be noted that the same comments have been sent to Councillor De'Ath as you were both involved with the item. To save time and resources Members are happy to receive a joint reply to the 'Cardiff Student Community Partnership 2015 – 2018 Action Plan' section of the letter:

- Members would like to congratulate Emma Robson and all the other staff involved with delivering the Cardiff Student Community Partnership 2015 – 2018 Action Plan for the work that they have undertaken. They believe that the diverse range of projects that the partnership has delivered has been excellent and that these have made a very positive impact on Cardiff's main student areas.
- During the 2013/14 municipal year the Committee wrote to the Cardiff Partnership Board and Cardiff University to raise the idea of creating a Cardiff student travel card. Following the letter some of the Committee Members met with representatives from Cardiff University to raise this matter and a number of other issues. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with an update on any developments that might have taken place around the creation of a Cardiff student travel card.

- The Committee were keen to discover the potential sanctions available under the Welsh Agent & Landlord Licensing Scheme against non compliant landlords. The Assistant Director for the Environment explained that these were details that the new scheme still had to establish, however, they would need to be in place by April 2016. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with a summary of the new sanctions available to the Welsh Agent & Landlord Licensing Scheme when they become available.
- Members felt that the 'Cardiff Student Community Partnership 2015 – 2018 Action Plan' would benefit from a set of clearly defined targets which could be used as a progress benchmark. These could be reported as regular performance indicators which would provide Members and other relevant parties with a picture of progress on tackling a range of issues in student areas. These measures would need to be clearly thought out and linked to existing Council practice, for example, regular LEAMS surveys could be undertaken along with data on how long it takes to clear a fly tipping incident.
- The Committee supports the good educational and communication initiatives being delivered at the moment; however, they also acknowledge the need to apply enforcement action where necessary. They would ask that the Council isn't shy in issuing fixed penalty notices against any offenders in the student areas. A comment was made that a small minority of students only react to issues when it "hits them in the pocket".

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

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. D. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Councillor Paul Mitchell

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc to:

Jane Forshaw, Director for the Environment

Tara King, Assistant Director for the Environment

Jane Cherrington, Operational Manager – Strategy & Enforcement

Will Lane, Operational Manager, Regulatory Domestic Services

Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services

Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee