

Ref: RDB/PM/BD/16.02.16

16<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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



Dear Councillor Derbyshire,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016. As you are aware the meeting considered the 'Draft Corporate Plan 2016 – 2018 & 2016/17 Draft Budget Proposals'. In reviewing these proposals the Committee used the following documents to set the context of the discussion:

- Draft Corporate Plan 2016-18;
- Post Consultation Changes – Includes a total summary of the post consultation changes (£14.095 million), a schedule of amended 2016/17 savings proposals, post consultation changes – financial resilience mechanisms & additional pressures;
- 2016/17 Proposals Overview – Includes an overview of the 2016/17 savings proposals, Council wide budget savings proposals 2016/17, Addressable Spend – budget savings proposals 2016/17;
- City Operations Directorate - Draft Budget Savings Proposals;
- City Operations Directorate – Financial Pressures;
- City Operations Directorate – Capital Programme;
- City Operations Directorate – Employee Implications;
- City Operations Directorate – Controllable Budget Analysis;
- 'Changes for Cardiff – Consultation Results & Feedback Report on the City of Cardiff Council's 2016/17 Budget Proposals – Executive Summary' & relevant sections from the report;
- City Operations Directorate – Equality Impact Assessments.

This letter contains the recommendations, observations and requests for information agreed by the Members present during the Way Forward discussion conducted at the end of the meeting, which we hope will be of assistance to you in shaping the final budget recommendations. The proposals that are allocated against the City Operations Directorate and which fall within the scope of your portfolio are listed below:

### **Savings Line 13 – City Operations – New Operating Model**

- Members considered the £1.052 million savings allocated against the ‘New Operating Model for City Operations’. They understand that much of this saving is set against the delivery of the Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) for Infrastructure Services which was due to be jointly scrutinised by the Environmental Scrutiny Committee and the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny at a meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016. This is no longer the case and it is now anticipated that the Full Business Case (FBC) for the Alternative Delivery Model for Infrastructure Services will not be received until the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The Committee looks forward to scrutinising this item following the progress briefing that they will receive for the Alternative Delivery Model for Infrastructure Services on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### **Savings Line 37 – City Operations – Litter Enforcement – Increase enforcement powers to reduce Environmental Crime (Full Year Effect)**

- At the November 10<sup>th</sup> Environmental Scrutiny Committee meeting Members received an item titled ‘Litter Management & Enforcement in Cardiff’. This item included consideration of a draft Cabinet report titled ‘City Operations – Broadening Enforcement Powers to Improve the Public Realm’ which was later received by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The report referenced a series of proposed activities, some of which will be implemented in April 2016. Members accepted that these new enforcement activities will take some time to make an impact and wished to include an update report on the Environmental Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016/17 for the autumn.

- A Member asked for a detailed breakdown of income generated by the Council for all types of littering fines in 2015/16. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with this information.

### **Recycle & Reuse Facilities**

- I would appreciate it if you could provide the Committee with a progress update for introducing new recycle and reuse facilities to Household Waste Recycling Centres in Cardiff. The Committee agreed that such facilities would complete the recycling hierarchy and provide an excellent resource which would champion the recycling message and support community groups. During the Way Forward a Member suggested taking this initiative a step further and trialling a street-based reuse and recycle scheme in Cardiff. Such a scheme would involve organising residents who wish to leave unwanted items (which are still fit for reuse) outside for collection on a specific day of the week. These items would then be taken to a reuse and recycle facility where they could be rehomed. Brighton & Hove City Council was mentioned as a Council which took such an approach and members recommended some research in this regard.

### **Member Briefing Email – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

- You issued an email on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 which referenced the impact that recent Household Waste Recycling Centre changes had made, with particular reference to the reduction of materials now received in Bessemer Close Household Waste Recycling Centre. In particular the email stated that:
  - *In the first month the Bessemer Close HWRC has seen a 16% reduction in overall tonnages received, which supports the initial research that 17% of all users for that site were not from Cardiff.*
  - *The data also suggest we have deterred a lot of builders as the building waste figures have seen the biggest drop at 115% over all sites and specifically 262% at the Bessemer Close site.*

Members would be grateful if you could provide clarification on these statements and provide the Committee with details of the actual data as the latter percentages in the email appear to be missing decimal points.

## **Savings Line 42 – City Operations – Regulatory Collaboration**

- The Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee previously reviewed the Regulatory Collaboration savings of £310,000 at their budget scrutiny meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> February. They concluded that:

*‘Savings Line 42 – Members note that, whilst there is confidence that the savings will be achieved, the risk analysis ratings remain as Red/ Amber as 30% of the saving is predicated on raising additional income and this may be more difficult to achieve in South Wales than has been the case in parts of England that have followed a similar approach to Regulatory Services’.*

The Environmental Scrutiny Committee would like to agree with the caution about achievability expressed in this comment.

I would be therefore 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:

Councillor Ramesh Patel,  
Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability  
Councillor Graham Hinchey,  
Cabinet Member – Corporate Services & Performance  
Andrew Gregory, Director for the City Operations Directorate  
Tara King, Assistant Director for the City Operations Directorate  
David Lowe, Waste Operations Manager  
Christine Salter, Corporate Director Resources  
Allan Evans, Operational Manager, Service Accountancy

Marie Rosenthal, Director for Governance & Legal Services

Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services

Claire Deguara, Cabinet Office Manager

Cheryl Cornelius, Cabinet Support Manager

Councillor Nigel Howells, Chair of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny  
Committee

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee