

Ref: RDB/PM/RP/15.03.16

11 April 2016

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



Dear Councillor Patel,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 15 March 2016

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 15 March 2016. As you are aware the meeting considered an item titled 'City Operations – Quarter 3 Performance'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

City Operations – Quarter 3 Performance

- Members note the red and amber R.A.G. status of PLA/004 (a) (% of major planning applications determined during the year within 13 weeks) and PLA/004 (c) (% of householder planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks) respectively. They acknowledge the reasons provided for the poor performance of these indicators and (as suggested) hope to see improvements in Quarter 4 2015/16 and Quarter 1 2016/17.
- At the meeting a Member asked for details of the fines issued for unauthorised use of scaffolding, skips and portaloos. In addition to this fine information was requested on the dumping of waste on the public highway. I would be grateful if you could provide this information for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

- Members note that the Council is looking to implement a new 'Highways Asset Investment Strategy' in 2016/17. They look forward to scrutinising details of this proposal before it is received at Cabinet.
- The overall Council total (Head Count) of staff eligible for PPDR completion reduced from 6,230 at the end of Quarter 2 to 5,792 at the end of Quarter 3; this was a reduction of 438 staff eligible for a PPDR. During this period City Operations reduced from 1,387 at the end of Quarter 2 to 1,328 at the end of Quarter 3; a reduction of 59 staff eligible for a PPDR. I would be grateful if you could clarify the reason for this reduction in staff eligible for PPDR.

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 City Operations
Tara King, Assistant Director for City Operations
Matthew Wakelam – Operational Manager, Infrastructure & Operations
James Clemence – Head of Planning
Simon Gilbert – Operational Manager, Development Management (Strategic & Place Making)
Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services
Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager
Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Michael Michael, Chair of Cardiff's Planning Committee