

Ref: RDB/PM/BD/10.03.15

11th March 2015

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



Dear Councillor Derbyshire,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 10th March 2015

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 10th March 2015. As you are aware the meeting considered items titled 'Environment & Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport Directorates – Performance Report Quarter 3 – 2014/15' and 'Recycling & Waste Restricting Programme 2015'. The comments and observations made by Members following these items are set out in this letter.

Environment Directorates – Performance Report Quarter 3 – 2014/15

- **WMT/009(b)** - The Committee were informed that a range of recycling initiatives is due to be delivered in Quarter 4 which should produce an outturn for the period of above 60%; this increase should be enough to help the Council reach its 52% recycling target for 2014/15. I would be grateful if you could provide a detailed summary of the work undertaken to produce this improvement, i.e. a shift from 49.47% in Quarter 2 to above 60% in Quarter 4. The response should include the actions taken; the costs of implementing the work and the savings generated by delivering this work.
- **STS/005(b)** – A Member noted that 'the performance indicator for the percentage of highways and relevant land inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness' was missed by 4.67% in Quarter 3. It was acknowledged that the target of 90% has been missed since the

2014/15 street cleansing budget reduction. The Committee will closely monitor this indicator in future.

Recycling & Waste Restricting Programme 2015

- The Committee were encouraged at the way that you have been working with 'Grangetown Community Concern' to develop a landlord waste information pack. This will provide important information on the management of domestic waste and will be available on request in a wide number of languages. The Committee believe that this type of engagement is a good example of how we should be looking to raise community awareness and ultimately help increase recycling rates.
- Swansea was cited as an example of where the waste restricting approach had delivered 3% increase in their overall MSW recycling rate. Several Members were interested in finding out the impact that this had had on the areas which accommodate Swansea's student population. I would be grateful if you could obtain this information and share it with the Committee.
- The waste presentation stated that Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council and Salford City Council have increased their recycling rate by 10% as a result of waste restricting. I'd be grateful if you could establish what the starting point for this recycling increase was and provide an update on their current recycling performance.
- Members accepted that incidents of theft and arson were minimal; however, they would welcome confirmation as to who would be responsible for the cost of replacing the new wheelie bins if they were stolen. The Committee would appreciate it if you could outline the approach that the Council will take in dealing with such thefts and describe cases where the liability will fall on the Council and when it is the responsibility of the householder.
- The Committee understands the importance of monitoring when householders place additional waste out for collection and when

enforcement action needs to be taken. Members anticipate that accurately monitoring compliance with the new restricting system will be difficult. They would like to know exactly how the process will work, for example, the role that waste collection operatives, the role of education and enforcement officers and the ICT system which will be used to record this data.

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 style with a large, stylized "M".

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
David Lowe, Waste Operations Manager
Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services
Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager
Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee