

Ref: RDB/PM/RP/14.07.15

7th October 2015

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



Dear Councillor Patel,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 14th July 2015

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 14th July 2015. As you are aware the meeting considered items titled 'Council Energy Projects & Proposals for the Route to Market' and 'Implications of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

Council Energy Projects & Proposals for the Route to Market

- Members of the Committee note the progress made in terms of the Council's contribution to increasing renewable energy production in Cardiff. An officer explained that Cardiff would soon be able to produce 40 Mega Watts (MW) of electricity per annum and that 30 MW of this would be provided by the Viridor energy from waste facility. With this in mind I would be grateful if you could confirm:
 - By when it is anticipated that Cardiff will be able to produce 40 MW per annum of renewable electricity;
 - An estimate of total annual electricity consumption in Cardiff (with residential and industrial values to be illustrated);
 - A breakdown of how much of the estimated 40 MW of electricity produced in Cardiff will be generated by Cardiff Council and other local partners respectively.


Implications of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

- Members appreciate the goals of the new legislation and note the lack of clarity which they hope will be addressed by the Welsh Government guidance notes due to be published in the autumn. The Committee stressed the importance of the Council reviewing the guidance in detail and the impact that this will have on the provision of services in Cardiff. It was felt at the meeting that any future guidance needs to be crisp and clear with quantifiable expectations.

- The Committee are concerned that the new legislation could be bureaucratic and expensive to implement. They would like assurance that the Council will look to minimise bureaucracy around applying the new legislation and to stress that implementation costs need to be kept to a minimum.
- The Committee feel that the new legislation will have a Council wide impact and should, therefore, be considered by the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee. I will forward a copy of this letter onto the Chair of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee so that he can review the appropriateness of including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act on their work programme.

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

Regards,



Councillor Elizabeth Clark
Acting Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc to:

Andrew Gregory, Director for City Operations
Tara King, Assistant Director for the Environment
Gareth Harcombe, Operational Manager – Energy & Sustainability
Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services
Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager
Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee