

Ref: RDB/PM/RP/15.09.15

17th September 2015

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



Dear Councillor Patel,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 15th September 2015

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 15th September 2015. As you are aware the meeting considered items titled 'Draft Parking Strategy 2015 & Cabinet Response to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee report titled 'Problem & Nuisance Parking in Cardiff' and 'City Operations – Quarter 1 Performance'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

'Draft Parking Strategy 2015 & Cabinet response to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee report titled 'Problem & Nuisance Parking in Cardiff'

At the meeting you explained the idea of creating parking buffer zones in the areas around the city centre. The aim of this would be to encourage transport modal shift and to support local residents who regularly experience parking problems; this could be achieved by introducing or increasing residential parking schemes. You then explained that now would be an excellent time to discuss this issue in Grangetown as the Council is in the process of implementing the Greener Grangetown project which will have an impact on parking in the area. During the way forward the Committee and in particular a local Member for Grangetown felt now would seem like a good opportunity to raise the issue with local residents – i.e. consult with local Members and residents on the future parking options for the area. Should you decide to

promote this approach in Grangetown then the Committee would provide its support.

At the meeting a Member asked for a detailed breakdown of income generated by Civil Parking Enforcement, Moving Traffic Offences and all other parking revenue. I would be grateful if you could provide a detailed summary of these revenue streams, the associated costs for generating this revenue and comment on how this income feeds into the parking revenue account. In addition to this the Committee would like a breakdown of all the schemes and projects which are funded from the income in the parking revenue account. Committee members appreciated and welcomed this ring-fencing but felt that more scrutiny and publicity of this dedicated spend would alleviate some of the negative media comments about bus lane fines for example.

Members also noted the increasing of technology in parking enforcement such as the somewhat-delayed camera car and would welcome timely updates as to potential future applications of this technology.

Members were comfortable with the idea of relaxing the survey requirements for the creation or extension of residential parking schemes. They would, however, like to stress the importance of involving Members in the development of the criteria through vehicles like the focus groups which you mentioned at the meeting. In addition to this, once a new approach is agreed then it is vitally important to provide Member briefing sessions to explain exactly how the new surveys and consultation work will be delivered.

The Committee were supportive of the requirement to address the parking needs of both local residents and businesses. They stress that during the development of the new parking strategy you ensure that a sensible balance is maintained so that new scheme doesn't positively impact one of these stakeholders to the detriment of the other.

At the meeting I suggested that the Council should approach Cardiff Bus and other bus and rail operators to see if the advertising I implemented on the back of bus tickets at Cardiff Bus in 1993 could be further enhanced to offer

promotions with businesses based in Cardiff. This would enable retail businesses to champion themselves as environmentally responsible as well as attracting customers. Therefore it could provide an additional incentive for people to use the bus and train and hopefully encourage modal transfer. It could even be marketed as a '50-50 deal' to further highlight the council's modal shift target. I'd be grateful if you and the officers could look into this idea and whether it could stretch to other modes such as cycling.

The Committee noted your positive response to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee report titled 'Problem & Nuisance Parking in Cardiff'. They are pleased that you have already implemented many of the recommendations and that it has made such a major and positive contribution to the development of Cardiff's Draft Parking Strategy.

City Operations – Quarter 1 Performance

A Member asked about the future scrutiny of the Bus Station. The Committee notes your response and will work with you and officers to ensure that scrutiny of the proposals will take place in advance of any decisions being taken.

When discussing the 2015/16 work programme item Members decided to scrutinise the changes taking place in the planning service at the meeting on the 13th October. In particular they would like this to focus on the new Welsh Government planning fee proposals and the potential risks that these could place on the Council.

At the meeting the Director for City Operations mentioned that a mitigation plan has been put in place to ensure that the 2015/16 budget challenges are properly managed. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with a copy of this mitigation plan.

At several points during the meeting the Director for City Operations made reference to several restructures and refreshes which are taking place in the City Operations Directorate. The Committee understand that the council is entering a phase of constant review under extreme financial pressures but it would like some assurance that this is part of a structured process rather than

reactive fire-fighting in service areas and departments. I would therefore be grateful if a list of all current restructures and refreshes which are taking place within the City Operations Directorate could be provided to the Committee. This, in deference to limited resources need not be excessively detailed but it should include a description of the restructure or refresh, the aims and objectives of the work and a delivery timeline. Members feel that such a list would provide a clearer view of the changes currently taking place within the City Operations Directorate which in turn would assist with future scrutiny. I will be asking the same question to the Cabinet Member for the Environment so a combined response would seem sensible.

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
Acting Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc to:

Andrew Gregory, Director for City Operations
Tara King, Assistant Director for the Environment
Paul Carter, Head of Transport
Matthew Price, Section Leader - Transport Vision, Policy and Strategy
Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services
Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager
Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee