

Ref: RDB/PM/BD/10.11.15

30 November 2015

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



Dear Councillor Derbyshire,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015. As you are aware the meeting considered items titled 'Litter Management & Enforcement in Cardiff', 'Modified In House – Neighbourhood Services Project' and 'Cardiff's Future Waste Facilities – Member Update'. The item on 'Litter Management & Enforcement in Cardiff' provided the opportunity to receive a public question which was asked by Sheila Hendrickson – Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Cardiff Third Sector Council; details of the question and your response are recorded in this letter.

**Public Question - Sheila Hendrickson – Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Cardiff Third Sector Council**

Members felt that the inclusion of a public question on this Committee's agenda helped stimulate discussion on certain areas of the 'Litter Management & Enforcement in Cardiff'. The questions asked were:

*'The Council's performance in terms of its recycling goals show positive outcomes. Does the Council plan to expand the range of items that can be recycled through its kerbside collections/services to include items such as textiles, plastic containers and waxed food and drink cartons (tetra-paks), batteries and aluminium foil?'*

*What can the Council do to work with the Third Sector to further improve the take up of re-cycling services and ensure recycling rates are consistent across all neighbourhood areas?'*

**In response to the questions you explained that:**

- You welcomed the input from Cardiff Third Sector Council and stated that you were keen to work with them to improve recycling in the city. In particular you felt that they could provide specialised support in certain parts of the city to encourage recycling;
- You considered that education was a vital ingredient in improving recycling rates and that the third sector could help raise awareness on this issue in certain communities;
- The authority is very keen to expand the range of items that can be recycled. This aim corresponds with the statutory requirement to achieve a 58% recycling rate in 2015/16;
- The Waste Strategy aims to identify new materials which can be recycled. You addressed each of the items listed in the question setting out the difficulties and opportunities associated with recycling these materials.

**Litter Management & Enforcement in Cardiff**

During the way forward Members considered the item on 'Litter Management & Enforcement in Cardiff'. They made the following comments and observations:

- That if the Council was looking to commission a third party litter enforcement trial then the proposal should be thoroughly evaluated to ensure that all parties clearly understand what is expected of them, for example, how resources should be geographically allocated and a clearly defined income agreement. In addition to this all Members should be properly briefed on any new third party litter enforcement trial both before parties are invited to bid and prior to the scheme going live. Thorough

evaluation and clear communication should improve the chance of success and ensure that certain standards are agreed.

- During the meeting the proposal of sponsoring bins was raised. A Member who happens to own a local business explained that he had in the past tried to sponsor some park bins, however, his attempt had been unsuccessful as he had not been able to locate a person to deal with his sponsorship request. The Committee felt that Council services need to be better organised if they want to gain sponsorship for a wide range of offers. This was identified during the sponsorship section of the 2013/14 Environmental Scrutiny Committee task & finish exercise on 'Cardiff Outdoors'. In this a series of recommendations were made regarding how to improve sponsorship across outdoor services. As a reminder I have attached a letter titled 'Cardiff Outdoors - Sponsorship' as **Appendix 1**.
- A Member asked for clarification on the recent changes to the fly tipping performance indicator; in particular an explanation as to how the new definition incorporates waste management and fly tipping. In addition to an explanation on this I would be grateful if you could let the Committee know when the criteria changed; the reason for the change and if it is an all Wales change.
- The item on 'Litter Management & Enforcement in Cardiff' addressed a series of new regulations and potential powers which the Council is looking to implement and develop, these included:
  - Community Protection Notices;
  - Public Space Protection Orders;
  - Improving the control of printed literature;
  - Getting Highways Services to issue fixed penalty notices;
  - Using third party litter enforcement partners.

I would appreciate it if you could provide the Committee with a projected timeline for the implementation of these new powers and resources.

- At the meeting there was a short discussion about what the Council could do to make sure that the correct skip hire permissions were always in place. A Member asked if it would be possible to record all skip permissions online so that they could be easily accessed by Members and the public. A properly maintained record would make it easier to identify skip providers and users who failed to comply with regulations. I would be grateful if you could look into the viability of this and provide feedback to the Committee.

### **Modified In House – Neighbourhood Services Project**

During the way forward Members considered the item on ‘Modified In House – Neighbourhood Services Project’. They made the following comments and observations:

- An officer explained that Local Environmental Audit Management System (LEAMS) results had improved in the Neighbourhood Services pilot area and that anecdotal comments from Members of the public seemed to support the improvements. In addition to this the improvements in the pilot area appear to be better than those across the rest of the city. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with the LEAMS results for the last twelve months for both the pilot area and the rest of the city.
- Members commented that the initial Neighbourhood Services pilot was based in the South West Neighbourhood Management Area and that the longer term aim was of rolling the pilot out into Cardiff’s other five Neighbourhood Management Areas. They were a little confused that the presentation broke the new service approach into East and West Neighbourhood Service Areas instead of the existing Neighbourhood Management Areas. An officer explained that the East / West split was purely for management purposes and that the overall service delivery would still be split by Neighbourhood Management Area. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with a detailed management structure for the new Neighbourhood Services approach; this should include the various management grades, the different service functions

and demonstrate the direct link between the overall East / West split and the individual Neighbourhood Management Areas.

- During the meeting I asked what was being done to better manage the high rates of internal recharging between the range of services in the Modified In House model. An officer explained that lots of work had been done in this area to reduce the problem and that in recent months significant progress had been achieved. I would be grateful if you could provide a summary of the work undertaken and the actual savings (by area) that this work has generated for the Council.
- A Member asked for an explanation of the types of new income generation ideas which are being developed alongside the Modified In House and Wholly Owned Arms Length Company. He was told that several ideas were being considered including a window cleaning service. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with a summary of new income generation options currently being considered for the two options.

### **Cardiff's Future Waste Facilities – Member Update**

During the way forward Members considered the item on 'Cardiff's Future Waste Facilities – Member Update. They made the following comments and observations:

- Members noted that the presentation delivered at the meeting was littered with numerous acronyms. They found these a little confusing and have asked for a short glossary of these to include a full title and definition.
- When discussing Household Waste Recycling Centres the Members once again noted the plan to move to seasonal opening in 2016. The Committee understands the need for this change; however, they would like to stress the importance of clearly communicating these changes to the public well in advance of the changes actually taking place.

- Members welcomed the contribution from the Chief Executive Officer of the Cardiff Third Sector Council. It was clear that the Cardiff Third Sector is keen to support the Council to help improve recycling rates and the Committee believes that this additional help represents welcome support at a time of financial challenge. In particular Members believe that parts of the Cardiff Third Sector could be used to develop and manage a reuse facility. As a result I would ask that when you look to implement reuse facilities in Cardiff you consider involving the Cardiff Third Sector.

During this item I asked a question on behalf of Mr Dave King who volunteers for Keep Wales Tidy and the Cardiff Rivers Group. He asked:

*‘Could the Council update us on the latest position with setting up a community drop off area at Bessemer Road HWRC for items that could be reused, repaired and reused and a community shop alongside it? There were council employees undertaking a survey many months ago but haven't seen anything. Huge amount of stuff dumped in skips that could be diverted and generate funds for local community’.*

I welcome the response that you are actively looking to expand reuse facilities in Cardiff and note that you intend provide Mr King with a written answer to his question. I would be grateful if you could provide me with a copy of the response.

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  
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc to:

Andrew Gregory, Director for City Operations

Tara King, Assistant Director for City Operations

Jane Cherrington, Operational Manager, Strategy & Enforcement

Pat McGrath, Operational Manager, Infrastructure & Projects

David Lowe, Waste Operations Manager

Matthew Wakelam, Operational Manager, Infrastructure & Operations

Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services

Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee