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21 July 2016

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



Dear Councillor Patel

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 14 June 2016

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 14 June 2016. As you are aware the meeting considered items titled 'Cardiff's Transport Strategy' and 'Street Lighting – Member Briefing'. The comments and observations made by Members following these items are set out in this letter.

Cardiff's Transport Strategy

- During the way forward Members discussed a range of potential stakeholder groups which they felt should be involved in the consultation exercise for Cardiff's Transport Strategy. In particular they felt that the Wales Tourist Board and other tourism bodies should be involved in the exercise as transport is a critical factor in bringing a substantial number of tourists and other visitors into the city each year. In addition to this the Committee would like to see clear linkages between Cardiff's Transport Strategy and Cardiff's Student Strategy as student numbers have increased substantially in recent years.
- The Committee would like to see a commitment to establishing a 'circle line' around Cardiff as a part of the South Wales Metro proposals. In particular they feel that developing a link between Coryton and Radyr would be a logical step which would help complete a natural circle route

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for the city. Members, therefore, feel that when the Council is asked to submit its proposals and priorities for the South Wales Metro to the Welsh Government then this particular option should feature.

- At the meeting I stressed the importance of securing any pieces of land which are vital for protecting any heavy and / or light alignment points; this approach should make the longer term development of the South Wales Metro much easier and cheaper. In addition to this I would again stress the importance of establishing a suitable land purchase compensation scheme at the first possible opportunity; this would provide much needed assurance for people living on the potential routes and avoid unnecessary worry and property devaluation.
- The Committee as a whole has yet take a view on the preferred transport options for the South Wales Metro – this is something that I would like to consider further during 2016/17. On a personal note, and given my transport background, I would prefer to see a light rail option being applied across the South Wales Metro; it is far more cost effective and flexible than options like heavy rail.
- During the meeting a Member stressed the importance of properly maintaining highway routes leading to key transport sites, for example, railway stations and park & ride facilities. Having well maintained highways in these areas would provide cyclists looking to access rail travel with confidence which in turn would encourage modal transfer. I would be grateful if you could look into the feasibility of prioritising highway maintenance work in these areas and provide the Committee with feedback on your findings.
- Members agree with the idea of implementing 20 mph zones, however, are concerned that in some areas there appears to be a lack of enforcement and signage to support the new schemes. They feel that without any clear enforcement initiatives and appropriate signage motorists will simply ignore the lower speed limits. The Committee, therefore, asks that you liaise with key agencies like South Wales Police to

ensure that proper measures are put in place for existing and new schemes.

- The presentation included a graph titled 'Our Target – 50:50 Modal Split'; this covered the period 2011 to 2026. Discussion on the graph caused some confusion as it was not clear if it illustrated journeys to work in Cardiff or all journeys in Cardiff. I would be grateful if you could confirm if the graph represented journeys to work or all journeys in Cardiff.
- During the meeting a Member explained that residents in two new housing developments in Pontprennau and Pentrebanne had received bus travel subsidies on the day that they moved into their new property. The Committee felt that this was a good idea as it helped promote good travel habits from residents of the new housing developments. I would ask you to look into the practicality of extending this approach to all new housing developments in future, particularly for those on the new strategic sites which will need to be developed around the 50:50 modal split principle.

Street Lighting – Member Briefing

- Overall Members were supportive of the work being undertaken by the Council to procure 13,608 LED lanterns for Cardiff's strategic routes. They felt that the anticipated energy, carbon and financial reductions were a positive thing, however, they were concerned that only the highways lighting stock were within the scope of the tender exercise while the street lighting controlled by housing and parks was excluded. The Committee feel that this is a negative example of 'silo' working and that if the benefits of the LED lanterns are clear for the highways lighting stock then naturally these same benefits would apply to all other parts of the Council. As a consequence I would ask that you revisit the proposal to review if it is possible for housing and parks street lighting to be included in the LED scheme; either now or in the near future.
- During the meeting Members asked for confirmation of the anticipated financial savings to be delivered through the LED street lighting scheme.

There was some confusion around the actual value; therefore, I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with a detailed breakdown of all savings and costs associated with the new scheme.

- Members are aware that the implementation of LED street lighting can potentially result in a reduction in light pollution. I would, therefore, be grateful if you could provide the Committee with any information that you currently hold on how LED lighting reduces such light pollution and ultimately results in night sky improvements.

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, reading 'P. D. Mitchell'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The 'P' and 'M' are prominent, and the 'D' is written as a simple loop. The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Councillor Paul Mitchell
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

Andrew Gregory, Director for City Operations
Tara King, Assistant Director for City Operations
Matthew Wakelam – Operational Manager, Infrastructure & Operations
Gary Brown – Operational Manager, Assets, Engineering & Operations
Matthew Price – Section Leader – Transport Vision, Policy & Strategy
Paul Carter – Head of Transport
Paul Keeping – Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services
David Marr – Interim Monitoring Officer
Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee