



County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

Committee	ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date and Time of Meeting	TUESDAY, 2 JULY 2019, 4.30 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM 4 - COUNTY HALL
Membership	Councillor Patel (Chair) Councillors Boyle, Derbyshire, Owen Jones, Lancaster, Jackie Parry, Owen, Wong and Wood

9 Correspondence Following the Committee Meeting (Pages 3 - 12)

Davina Fiore
Director Governance & Legal Services
Date: Wednesday, 26 June 2019
Contact: Graham Porter, 02920 873401, g.porter@cardiff.gov.uk

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Ref: RDB/RP/MM/02.07.2019

10 September 2019

Councillor Michael Michael,
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Michael,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 2nd July 2019

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 2nd July 2019 to discuss the item on the 'Cardiff Food Strategy'. The comments and observations made by Members on the areas relevant to your portfolio of responsibility are set out in this letter.

Cardiff Food Strategy

Hydroponic Project - At the start of the meeting you mentioned the hydroponic food growing project that was being developed in Cardiff and extended an invite to the Committee to visit the scheme. Members welcome the invite and ask that you and the officers liaise with the scrutiny services to arrange the visit.

Hydroponic Hub – Members found the idea of a 'Hydroponic Hub' very interesting, particularly as such a venture could provide an opportunity for local residents to grow a range of produce out of season. Cardiff has a very established allotment community, and the Committee believe that many of these would welcome an out of season opportunity to grow food. On this basis we recommend that if the Council does propose developing a 'Hydroponic Hub' then it should engage with the allotment community to establish interest and commitment to take such a project forward.

Local Food Market – Members feel that Cardiff has a strong local food community, but lacks a permanent base where the local food offer can be

showcased. A Member pointed out that the city does not have an equivalent of Borough Market, and that such a facility would add sustainability, economic and tourism benefits. The Committee would ask you to look into this to establish if a suitable location exists in the city centre, and if one does to look into the feasibility of developing such a venue.

New Retailer Enforcement - A Member commented that a few local food shops he was familiar with had been prevented from displaying produce and offers on the pavement edge and / or adjacent to their shops, for example, placing fruit and veg stands on the pavement and putting out 'A Frames' to display offers. To their cost these responsible retailers played by the rules only to see new businesses appear overnight, breach the same rules and then disappear. This left the established retailers very frustrated at the lack of Council enforcement against the less scrupulous retailers. The Member has, therefore, asked if you could review what can be done to improve enforcement against new retailers who consistently breach these rules.

Council Food Establishments – Healthy Eating Options - During the meeting I commented on the lack of healthy food options at County Hall and other staff canteens, and then asked what was being done to improve the healthy eating offer for staff. When the refurbished County Hall canteen was being launched I was told that it would be promoting a number of healthy eating options, however, when visiting it recently I was disappointed not to see anything healthy on the menu. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with details of future healthy eating options to be introduced at County Hall and other Council food establishments, for example, suggested healthy eating menu options and promotions.

Monitoring the Cardiff Food Strategy - The Cardiff Food Strategy includes an action plan that sets out a wide range of tasks that the Council will look to deliver in the short, medium or long term. It was not clear from the document how these targets and standards would be monitored, nor indeed what level of resource will be required to deliver any of the actions. It would be appreciated if you could confirm the monitoring arrangements that have been put in place to deliver this plan, along with details of the required resources.

Food for Life & Soil Association Award - At the meeting a Member asked if the Council was doing anything with the 'Food for Life' or the 'Soil Association Award'. I would be grateful if you could confirm if the Council intends to link into either of these schemes, and if it is, what it plans to do.

Local Food Quality Mark - The Committee supports the idea of creating a local food quality mark for Cardiff. This could be introduced to identify locally produced food that meets an agreed standard. It would help local food growers, support the local economy and incentivise sustainability. Such an initiative should be cost effective, therefore, the Committee would encourage you to develop this idea in partnership with local food producers / retailers and the wider community.

Beef - During the meeting a Member suggested that the Council should probably play a greater role in determining what was consumed at Council establishments and in school canteens. For example, beef, beef and beef had dominated the menu at his daughter's school for the last three days. He went on to highlight the current environmental crisis facing the planet, making reference to the negative impact that the beef industry has on large parts of the world. He continued by suggesting that the Council should use its influence in the procurement process to understand where our beef came from, for example, providing assurance that it was locally produced and not a product of Brazil where huge deforestation is taking place to enable production. He concluded by suggesting that the Council needed to be sure of the carbon footprint of the food that it procures and consumes. The Committee agrees with this suggestion and encourages the Council to:

- Do all it can to produce a greener menu that supports the Council's wider carbon reduction commitment.
- Encourage schools to do more to promote healthy eating on the curriculum, while at the same time promoting food sustainability.

Linking Council Strategies – A comment was made at the meeting that the Council often failed to link up its own strategies. A Member explained that the

Council had recent published a property disposal strategy that had brought forward the sale of several retail outlets in district shopping centres. These it was assumed would be sold to private landlords who would increase the rent making it increasingly difficult for small local retailers to operate. Such a strategy was in direct contrast to the Cardiff Food Strategy that is looking to achieve lots of things, including the reduction and removal of food deserts and swamps – this is something that can only be done if suitable premises exist in these areas. The Committee agrees with this statement and asks that the Council does all that it can to ensure that there is clear linkage between policies / strategies. The aims and objectives of one policy should not contradict those of another.

Southern Arc Data - During the meeting, Members were told about the significant difference in life expectancy between people living in the Southern Arc and more affluent parts of Cardiff. The report explained that for men this is 11 years and for women 9 years, rising to 24 years for men and 22 years for women in relation to healthy life expectancy. Diet, both in terms of food options available and food consumed, has a part to play in this difference in life expectancy. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with the source of the information and data that was used to support this statement.

Food Deserts & Swamps – The item on the Cardiff Food Strategy highlighted a number of issues, including food deserts and swamps. Members are supportive of the work that you plan to take to remove / reduce these in Cardiff, therefore, please confirm in detail exactly what the Council proposes to do to address the issue.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and provide a response to the content of this letter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ramesh Patel', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Ramesh Patel

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Andrew Gregory - Director of Planning, Transport & Environment
- Gareth Harcombe – Commercial Manager, Energy & Sustainability
- Liz Lambert - Group Leader, Sustainable Development
- Davina Fiore - Director of Governance & Legal Services
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee

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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM42310

Dyddiad / Date: 10th January 2020

Councillor Ramesh Patel
Chairperson
Environmental Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl/Dear Councillor Patel

Environmental Scrutiny Committee - 2nd July 2019

Thank you for letter of 10th September 2019. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding. We would respond to your queries as follows:

Hydroponic project – We are pleased that Environmental Scrutiny Committee members are interested in this project. Officers will be in touch to organise a site visit once the pilot project in Bute Park is up and running.

Hydroponic hub – The consideration of a Food Park/Hydroponic hub is one of the longer term aspirations of the Strategy. This is in recognition of the complexity of identifying suitable sites and occupants and in getting the strategy and ambitions right. This pause for thought does allow a more considered analysis of some of the points you have raised for which we are grateful and we will ensure that these are integrated into the consideration of the longer term project.

Local food market – The action of developing a city centre food plan with the For Cardiff (Business Improvement District) partners will consider options for the city centre to increase its sustainable food options including the viability of these options.

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO :

Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office, Ystafell / Room 518, Neuadd y Sir / County Hall
Glanfa'r Iwerydd / Atlantic Wharf , Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF10 4UW
Ffon / Tel: (029) 2087

GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



New retailer enforcement – This matter is dealt with by Highways legislation under Part 7a of the Highways Act. The granting of licences is highly site specific and driven by the need to maintain accessible pavements and space for emergency vehicles etc. On that basis it is not possible for everyone who requests a licence to be granted one. We will pass on the enforcement comments to the enforcement team for their consideration.

Council food establishments – healthy eating options – The strategy seeks to develop a Sustainable Food Framework to define and integrate sustainable food goals, thresholds and targets across all Council operations. Healthy eating is part of sustainable food along with local sourcing, environmentally friendly and good animal welfare food options. We will be working with our partners in Public Health Wales to develop the Sustainable Food Framework. Council operations in scope are staff canteens, internal and external catering, schools catering and vending machines. As such, we will be working with the County Hall canteen to see where improvements can be made. In particular, we would like to arrange a site visit for the canteen staff to see the success of the Y Gegin restaurant at the Heath Hospital which was recently refurbished with a strong focus on healthy food.

Monitoring the Cardiff Food Strategy – Monitoring of the strategy is essential to ensure progress is made. We plan to establish a Board comprised of senior officers and representatives from Directorates to monitor progress. This Board will in turn report outcomes to the Cardiff PSB as part of the Council's partnership arrangements. Cabinet have highlighted the potential benefits of creating a Food Co-Ordinator post to assist in the delivery of the strategy and the directorate is currently preparing a funding bid in response.

Food for Life and Soil Association Award – Food Sense Wales has recently gained some funding from the Soil Association to help deliver Food for Life Get Togethers. The programme is an inter-generational one that uses good food to bring together people of different ages and backgrounds through growing, cooking and eating. Cardiff Council sits on the steering group of Food Sense Wales and it is planned that the Get Togethers will take place across Wales including Cardiff. Where Get Togethers are planned for Cardiff, we will also work with Food Cardiff, the local citywide food partnership (Food Cardiff sits underneath Food Sense Wales and the Council sits on the steering group of both organisations).

Local food quality mark – Local businesses and organisations have expressed interest in the development of a Sustainability Mark to promote local sustainable food businesses. The strategy includes developing such a Mark, which would be developed with partners and would include both process (ie how the business is run) and product (ie what is sold by the businesses).

Beef – The Sustainable Food Framework mentioned above will consider locality of food, health, environmental issues and good animal welfare. The Council has also recently declared a Climate Emergency and is working towards making the Council's operations carbon neutral by 2030. The scope of this declaration will include Council buildings, transport and procurement. We are currently working with Welsh Government to calculate the carbon footprint of our procurement which will include food procured by the Council for our canteens, schools and events. This will in turn inform the procurement actions identified in the food strategy.

Linking Council strategies – These points are noted and some of the actions of the Food Strategy, particularly around mapping food deserts and recording and supporting expressions of interest from community food interests, will help to provide an evidence base that will help inform other decision making activities. It is also recognised, however, that any strategy or action will need to balance a number of competing demands and that it will not be possible to retain a perfect balance in each and every case.

Southern Arc data – The life expectancy data for Cardiff is from the Cardiff What Matters Strategic Needs Assessment and the information around diet having an impact on life expectancy is from the NHS. For the latter, that is that obesity is influenced in part by diet (food options available and food consumed) and that obesity leads to a number of serious and potentially life threatening conditions such as type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, some types of cancer, stroke plus psychological problems.

Food deserts and swamps – The first step in this work is to map the food deserts and food swamps across the city. This has been started with regards to mapping of hot food takeaways and work is currently underway to map availability of fresh fruit and vegetables across the city. Once this data is gathered, we can utilise this to target interventions to areas of the city most in need. Examples of interventions include community pantries and growing projects either delivered direct by the Council or with our partners. We will also share this data with our partners to enable them to assist them in spatial targeting of their workstreams.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Yn gywir
Yours sincerely



Councillor / Y Cyngorydd Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
Aelod Cabinet dros Strydoedd Glân, Ailgylchu a'r Amgylchedd

