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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting TUESDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2021, 4.30 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

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Ref: RK/RP/CW/05.10.2021

5th October 2021

Councillor Caro Wild,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Wild,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 5 October 2021 – Fifth Cardiff
Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, I would like to thank you, the Director for Planning, Transport and Environment and Officers in attendance at the Committee on Tuesday 5th October for facilitating the Committee's consideration of the Fifth Cardiff Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report. Following our consideration of the item, the Committee requested that I feed back the following comments and observations along with some requests.

Review of Local Development Plan (LDP)

During the meeting discussion was held around retail units within district and local centres and the 40% target within the current LDP. In response to Members queries over how the Council will look to now achieve higher, given that this target had already been reached, Officers pointed out that this would be fed into the new Replacement LDP. When queried further over why the current LDP could not be adjusted in order to benefit the City now, rather than having to wait until the Replacement LDP is adopted in 2024, Officers explained that the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) focused on the adopted LDP and there was no mechanism to change this before the Review process for the Replacement LDP. Members expressed dissatisfaction over the response provided and the fact that the Council was unable to make any adjustments on the current LDP given that the AMR itself states that its purpose is to '*provide the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the LDP and ultimately determine whether any revisions to the Plan are necessary.*' In

view of this, and the fact that the current LDP is based on out-of-date data, covers a long period of time where policies, priorities, and society would obviously encounter some change, the Committee cannot see why the Welsh Government would prohibit adjustments that would only provide benefits to the city and the public. The Committee therefore agreed to write directly to the Minister for Climate Change to seek clarification on this with the intention of pursuing greater flexibility and responsiveness in the LDP process.

Furthermore, the Committee queried why the AMR did not report on aspects such as the success and effectiveness of the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). Members **requested** clarification on how the SPG is being monitored in terms of success, effectiveness, concerns and issues in order to inform the Review process and future SPG.

Affordable Housing and Population Growth

Following their discussion around affordable housing and population growth, Members expressed concern that these projections were based on 2018 data which pre-dated the pandemic. These projections did not therefore take account of the impact the pandemic has had both on the housing market and on population growth and migration in and out of the city. Members highlighted that current data could vary significantly from 2018 due to changes such as working practices with home working as well as the rise in house prices with the associated impact this could have had on what is now deemed 'affordable' housing in the current and future climate. The Committee agreed that further examination was required to assess this impact, both on the current LDP and in particular the affect it would have on projections for the Replacement LDP. Members **requested** that they receive this information as soon as it is available.

Open Space Provision

Members were pleased to hear of the increase in functional open space provision projected for the near future in order to meet the target set in the LDP of 2.43 Hectares. Officers reassured the Committee that large strategic housing greenfield sites were now being progressed which would provide a lot

more green infrastructure as part of them and a lot more functional open space. Members **requested** clarification as to whether Flat Holm Island was defined as functional open space or other.

Requests following this scrutiny

For ease of reference the requests contained in the letter are as follows:

- Clarification on how the SPG is being monitored in terms of success, concerns and issues in order to inform the Review process and the future SPG.
- Post 2018 data and resulting projections surrounding population growth, migration in and out of the city and housing requirements for Cardiff, to take account of the impact resulting from the pandemic, as soon as this is available.
- Clarification over what type of open space Flat Holm Island is defined as.

Regards,



Councillor Ramesh Patel

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Andrew Gregory – Director for Planning, Transport & Environment
- Simon Gilbert – Head of Planning
- Stuart Williams - Group Leader (Strategic Policy), Planning
- Heather Warren, Cabinet Support Office
- Cabinet Support Office
- Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Business Manager
- Tim Gordon - Head of Communications & External Relations
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee

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Ref: RK/RP/HT/05.10.2021

5th October 2021

Councillor Huw Thomas,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Leader,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 5 October 2021 – One Planet
Cardiff Strategy and Action Plan**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, I would like to thank you as well as Officers from the Planning, Transport and Environment Directorate for attending Committee on Tuesday 5th October and providing the Committee with the opportunity to consider and discuss the One Planet Cardiff Strategy and Action Plan. Following our consideration, Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following observations, requests and recommendations to you.

Behaviour Change

The Committee welcomed the information provided within the One Planet Cardiff (OPC) Strategy and Action Plan in relation to Behaviour Change and were reassured by confirmation that the Council was working with the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations. Members still expressed concerns that the proposals did not incorporate aspects relating to empowerment, both community and individual, whereby the public aren't just involved and engaged over what changes they need to make but take personal ownership. Members propose that by taking control and responsibility themselves, success is more likely, however it was not entirely clear how this would be achieved from the current strategy and action plan.

Governance

The Committee noted the governance framework proposed as part of the strategy and were pleased to see the inclusion of key partners and stakeholders. However, whilst there are numerous references to public engagement throughout the strategy, Members raised the point that there is no involvement of the public in the governance process. Members expressed the view that in order to achieve behaviour change, residents need to be involved in all aspects including the governance framework and that local community groups, for example, should be able to hold the Council to account and provide their input.

Carbon Neutral Building Developments

The Committee highlighted during the meeting that the target date for forthcoming new build development to be carbon neutral, including schools, was from 2024. Members appreciate that this would mean that school developments, already identified under Cardiff's 21st Century Schools Band B Programme, might not be included within this target. Members agreed to take up the offer from the Leader regarding **further detail** over the extent to which Band B schools have considered and incorporated carbon neutral solutions and could possibly achieve this target, or whether further funding would be required from Welsh Government for this to be realised.

Furthermore, the Committee **requested** that clarification be provided as to whether there was a similar situation regarding the new Cardiff Arena, and that due to prior commitment, including financial, this development might not achieve the carbon neutral target. Members asked for detail as to what extent this development would achieve carbon neutrality.

Action Plan and Monitoring

Following discussion over targets for achieving carbon neutral by 2030, the Committee noted that a set percentage shift per year may not be suitable due to various sizes of projects with each having a different percentage of reduction allocated. Officers explained that some projects and their associated reduction of emissions would likely be achieved in the first few years, whereas others would take longer to achieve and could be tail ended.

Whilst appreciating this, the Committee **recommend** that targets, key indicators as well as timescales be incorporated into the OPC Action Plan in order to be able to undertake effective annual monitoring of the strategy.

Financial Implications

During the meeting Members queried the fact that there was no mention of financial commitment within the OPC Strategy or Action Plan. Members welcomed the offer made by the Director of Planning, Transport and Environment to receive an estimated cost of the projects under Phase 1 of the Strategy. The Committee also **recommend** that the action plan incorporate financial detail in order that annual monitoring can effectively assess the financial situation including what can be achieved within existing resource and what further resource may be required.

Dedicated Resource

Whilst noting that the OPC Agenda involves numerous staff across the Council, previous reports to Cabinet identify additional posts that have been funded in recognition of the need to bring extra resource to the OPC Strategy. Members support a dedicated resource and believe that it is essential to push forward the OPC Agenda; to monitor it effectively and ensure its achievement. The Committee therefore **requested** clarification as to what these additional posts are and whether they have now been filled.

Requests following this scrutiny

For ease of reference the requests contained in the letter are as follows:

- **Further detail** over to the extent to which Cardiff's 21st Century Schools Band B Programme has incorporated carbon neutral solutions;
- Clarification regarding whether the new Cardiff Arena development and will achieve carbon neutrality;
- To receive an estimated total cost of the projects under Phase 1 of the Strategy.

- Clarification as to what additional posts have been funded to take forward the OPC Strategy and whether they have now been filled.

Recommendations to be monitored following this scrutiny

To summarise, the Scrutiny Committees made two formal recommendations which are set out below. As part of the response to this letter we would be grateful if you could, for each recommendation, state whether the recommendation is accepted, partially accepted or not accepted and summarise the Cabinet’s response. If the recommendation is accepted or partially accepted, I would also be grateful if you could identify the responsible officer and provide an action date. This will ensure that progress can be monitored as part of the approach agreed by Cabinet in December 2020.

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Implementation Date
1. That targets, key indicators as well as timescales be incorporated into the OPC Action Plan in order to be able to undertake effective annual monitoring of the strategy.				
2. That the action plan incorporate financial detail in order that annual monitoring can effectively assess the financial situation including what can be achieved within existing resource and what further resource may be required.				

Regards,



Councillor Ramesh Patel
 Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Paul Orders – Chief Executive

- Cllr Caro Wild, Cabinet Member, Strategic Planning & Transport
- Cllr Michael Michael, Cabinet Member - Cleaner Streets, Recycling & Environment
- Andrew Gregory – Director for Planning, Transport & Environment
- Gareth Harcombe – Operational Manager – Energy & Sustainability
- Jason Bale - Programme Manager – Clean Air Cardiff
- Debi Said, PA to the Leader
- Heather Warren, Cabinet Support Office
- Cabinet Support Office
- Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Business Manager
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee

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