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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting THURSDAY, 15 JUNE 2023, 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: SharePoint/Scrutiny/Env/Correspondance15.06.2023

Date: 21st June 2023

Cllr Dan De’Ath
Cabinet Member, Transport & Strategic Planning



By email

Annwyl Cyg De’Ath / Dear Cllr De’Ath

REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PREFERRED STRATEGY

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee held on 15th June 2023, I would like to thank you and officers for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the Replacement Local Development Plan – Preferred Strategy. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations, and you will find our requests listed at the end of the letter.

Members asked that I pass on thanks and congratulations to officers on the robust and comprehensive nature of the preferred strategy that they feel will stand up to scrutiny during the consultation.

In relation to consultation the members raised concerns that the proposed consultation period was over the summers holidays when people may not be available. The Cabinet Member and officers acknowledged this but stated that conversely during the holiday period people may have more availability if taking time off work. They also confirmed that the consultation period would be 10 weeks up to the end of September rather than the required 6 weeks.

A member also raised concerns about the consultation regarding the proposed growth options where Option A with the smallest growth was preferred by consultees, but Option B is being recommended in the draft preferred strategy, therefore could the public have confidence that they will be listened too? Officers stated that evidence has been provided to support the preferred Option B, they also noted that there is sufficient land already ‘banked’ to enable delivery of the proposed new homes. Member were also

reassured that all voices will be listened to and that the final plan will contain a lot more detail and explanation.

The issue of 'NIMBY'ism during consultation was also raised by a member and the response from officers was that everyone's voice is valid and that they want to support the development of communities that people want to live in and next to, whilst accepting that during the construction phase it is difficult for existing households.

A member commented that volunteers had been supporting new residents on a development in their ward, welcoming them and signposting them to local services and that the recruitment of a Community Engagement type worker on new developments would be beneficial. The Cabinet Member advised that funding had recently been announced by Cllr Sangani which may be suitable to support this work.

The inaccuracy of the population estimates in the previous LDP were commented on by a member and officers responded that the Council is in a very different place in relation to what it needs to deliver in the RLDP

The committee raised concerns about the lack of green space in new developments as gardens and verges provide a better environment for air quality and biodiversity. The concerns were echoed by officers although they also confirmed that as part of the master planning process, they are looking at the types of trees to be planted to ensure that they support biodiversity but are also resilient in terms of our changing climate. Officers also informed the committee that the council has duties under biodiversity legislation and there is emerging national policy which may provide opportunities to be more creative as the new LDP is about quality housing and shaping communities and therefore providing more green spaces.

Members asked for clarification on the definition of a 'green field' site as the terms, 'greenfield' and 'brownfield' are used without any real understanding. Officer clarifies that a 'greenfield' site is one that has not been previously built on, they also reiterated that the current land bank appears to be sufficient to meet the identified needs going forward.

The committee also asked about Supplementary Planning Guidance to support the protection of biodiversity. Officers confirmed that there is currently a significant amount of guidance in place and that this will be reviewed alongside the development of the final plan as existing SPGs will be superseded. They also noted that there is an opportunity to strengthen areas of the guidance by bringing them into the plan itself.

A member asked for further information on protecting and enhancing river corridors, as noted on the key diagram, and what this actually means, officers responded that further details would be provided in the final plan but in general terms provide better access to rivers but not exacerbate any flood risk.

The exclusion of the **transport hub for Fairwater** on the key diagram was also commented on, and officers will seek to clarify if this is an accidental omission, or it has not been included as work is already in progress.

The committee asked how the number of jobs created by each of the proposed options has been calculated and what types of job would they be. Members were informed that a crude estimate had been made based on the additional number of households that would be created and therefore the extra number of jobs needed by the new households.

Members asked if the proposed growth of social housing in the plan would address the needs of the approximately 8,000 currently on the housing waiting list. The committee were informed that collaboration was needed with housing associations but that officers were optimistic that with more affordable housing that a significant contribution to the market would be made, although they acknowledged that more strategic work was needed in relation to brownfield sites.

The committee commented on the fact that whilst there has been an emphasis on insulating homes and buildings to ensure their energy efficiency, the impact during hot spells of weather, as seen recently, is that the buildings become too hot as they do not have air conditioning or adequate cooling. Officers agree that how homes and buildings are being used post pandemic

has changed and that changes in design standards may be need to address this issue.

Members finally noted that the inclusion of some Community Infrastructure Levy development towards the end of building is difficult to understand if houses have been built and are being lived in, the critical mass need before the building of a new school was understood, but the same logic does not necessarily apply for recreation areas. Officers commented that this was a negotiation with the developer however income from the sale of houses is often needed to progress these issues.

To confirm a response to the letter which responds to the following points is requested:

- Clarification of the omission of the **Fairwater transport hub** on the key diagram.

Once again thank you once more for attending Committee and for considering our comments and observations.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely / Yn gywir



Councillor Owen Jones

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc: *Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee*

*Andrew Gregory, Director Planning Transport & Environment
Simon Gilbert, Head of Planning*

*Cllr Adrian Robson, Group Leader, Conservatives
Cllr Andrea Gibson, Group Leader, Common Ground
Cllr Rodney Berman, Group Leader, Liberal Democrats*

*Gavin McArthur, Chair Governance & Audit Committee
Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit*

*Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations
Claire Deguara, Acting Cabinet Business Manager*

Ref: SharePoint/Scrutiny/Env/Correspondance15.06.2023

Date: 21st June 2023

Cllr Dan De'Ath
Cabinet Member, Transport & Strategic Planning

Cllr Caro Wild
Cabinet Member , Climate Change



By email

Annwyl Gynghorwyr De'Ath a Wild / Dear Cllrs De'Ath & Wild

PLANNING TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT – DIRECTORATE DELIVERY PLAN

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee held on 15th June 2023, I would like to thank you and officers for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the Planning Transport & Environment Directorate Delivery Plan. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations, and you will find our requests listed at the end of the letter.

Members asked how the current Delivery Plan had been developed and if the outcome had been judged as successful. Officers replied that the Delivery Plan evolves annually, and the adjustments are made due to changing legislation or the availability of funding and the yes they felt that the delivery of the plan had been successful.

The committee asked if work had begun on the coastal flood defences and also if any work was being done in relation to river bank erosion. Officers confirmed that Welsh Government had made the offer in respect to the Coast Risk Management Programme which now needs to be accepted to progress work. The need to consider erosion in relation to rivers was acknowledged and that flood risk strategy is being developed following consultation earlier in the year.

A member asked about the lack of **KPI results and targets** in relation to workforce development & planning in that no results for previous years had been provided and the '**results were awaited from the Corporate Performance Team**'. Officer noted that these would be followed up and provided when available.

In relation to the Food Strategy, the committee asked if more could be done, meat free days in schools for example. The Cabinet Member commented that in order to support this the behaviour change by individuals is needed and that he had had discussions with Cllr Sangani who leads on the Food Strategy, about how we can lead the way but acknowledged yes more could be done. The Committee would welcome news on any developments on the food strategy and potential meat free days trials.

A member raised concerns about the ability of the housing retrofit programme to meet zero carbon targets in the next seven years. Officers acknowledged that there are not sufficient resources nationally to deliver the level of change needed. It was also noted that there are a number of plans at a regional level and that Welsh Government are looking at the introduction of hydrogen technologies and that we continue to lobby for changes and while waiting for decision to be made carrying on with boiler replacements etc, which are all things that will help in the short term for householders.

The committee asked about progress in relation to both the Bus Strategy and the Park and Ride Strategy, and the impact on modal shift, as both were included in the previous years plan. Officers stated that the Bus Strategy had been delayed due to ongoing issues in relation to the ending of the Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) by Welsh Government and the introduction of the Bus Transition Scheme, which is close to completion. In relation to modal shift it was noted that traffic patterns had changed following Covid and that questions will be included in the new Ask Cardiff survey to re-establish baseline figures.

Given the size of the Directorate and the huge scale of some of the projects it deals with, members asked if it had sufficient resources to deliver the projects outlined in the Directorate Delivery Plan and also if the introduction of Road User Charging would help. The Director commented that it was a matter of balancing the need of large regional projects with the local ones and the Cabinet Member stated that the income generated from Road User Charges would help but clarified that nothing has currently been proposed. The challenges of balancing workforce and budget was noted and the Director stated that budgets and funding were constantly under review and the if funding was reduced or withdrawn projects were reviewed accordingly.

A member asked about the current advertising of 'junk' food on bus stops and near to schools, it was noted that this contract is due for renewal and would be reviewed.

In relation to contracting members asked if we procure sustainably. The Cabinet member stated that currently 80% of the Councils carbon emissions are due to procurement and that a significant amount of cross directorate work is being done to develop a socially responsible procurement strategy, which when available could come to the Committee.

The Committee commented on the vacant OM1 One Planet Cardiff post, given the influential nature of the post and the importance of delivery within a relatively short time frame. The Director reassured the committee that recruitment to the post was currently underway.

The delivery of a number of train/metro stations was commented on, as the timescales for realising them appear to be slipping each year, it was also felt that we are potentially raising unrealistic expectations in a one-year plan. The Director accepted that this was an area of weakness, however he was confident that the stations would be delivered the issues was around timescales.

To confirm a response to the letter which responds to the following points is requested:

- **KPI results and targets** to be provided by the Corporate Performance Team to be followed up and provided.

Once again thank you once more for attending Committee and for considering our comments and observations.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely / Yn gywir



Councillor Owen Jones

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc: *Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee*

Andrew Gregory, Director Planning Transport & Environment

Simon Gilbert, Head of Planning

Gareth Harcombe, Commercial Manager for Energy & Sustainability

Jason Dixon, Transport Development & Network Management

Amy Preece, Traffic Enforcement & Maintenance.

Martin Birch, OM, Bereavement & Registration Services

Gavin McArthur, Chair Governance & Audit Committee

Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit

Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations

Steve Parker/Kevin Morgan – PTE Performance Leads