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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2024, 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

10 **Correspondence following the Committee Meeting**(Pages 3 - 10)

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Ref: Scrutiny/Env/Corespondance14/03/2024

Date: 20 March 2024

Councillor Dan De'Ath

Cabinet Member, Transport & Strategic Planning



Dear Councillor De'Ath

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 14 March 2024

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee a sincere thank you for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the proposed **Bus Priority Strategy** and the **Cardiff CrossRail** update. Please also relay our thanks to the officers who attended the Committee meeting to support this item. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations. You will find our recommendations and requests, listed at the end of the letter.

Bus Priority Strategy

The Bus Priority Strategy outlined the proposal to develop a number of bus corridors to improve the reliability and quality of bus services into and out of the city, using a range of infrastructure designs. It was emphasised that this strategy does not address the provision of bus services and intends to look at bus corridors holistically as part of an integrated transport network.

The committee were informed that having a robust plan in place will allow bids for funding to be sought, as some corridors are more progressed than others as funding has been secured.

The committee sought clarification about many aspects of the strategy, and noted responses regarding the following:

- The proposed bus corridors, including the Northern corridor and the corridor crossing the Rhymney river ;
- Equalities and wide consultation and engagement with disability, including neurodivergent, groups;
- Modal shift targets for active travel modes;

- The scale of cross border working with neighbouring authorities;
- Review of interventions previously implemented, if they are not working;
- Availability of accurate, real-time information at bus stops;
- The overall cost of the schemes and the corresponding impact on reliability;
- The provision of Park & Ride schemes;
- Current reliability of services;
- City Centre congestion;
- Impact of Active Travel routes;
- How interventions on the corridors will be prioritised.

Only one recommendation was made in relation to equalities, given the positive impact that engagement can have:

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
Ensuring that all interventions proposed are widely 'accessible' and consultation and engagement is undertaken with disabled and neurodivergent groups.				

Cardiff CrossRail

The purpose of this report was to start the process needed to deliver Phase 1a of the CrossRail and to ensure spend of the UK Governments contribution of £50m.

During our questioning, we asked you about the following issues and noted responses:

- Clarifying the funding available covers changes needed to the road infrastructure;
- Underspend or overspend of the project;
- Risks and risk management:
- The impact to transport and travel around the Callaghan Square area during construction.

No further information was requested in relation to this item and no formal recommendations were made.

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

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Owen Jones

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc: Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Andrew Gregory, Director for Planning, Transport & Environment

Claire Moggridge, Head of Transport

Gething Shields. Transportation Programme Manager.

Cllr John Lancaster, Group Leader, Conservatives

Cllr Andrea Gibson, Group Leader, Common Ground

Cllr Rodney Berman, Group Leader, Liberal Democrats

Chris Pyke, Audit Manager

Tim Gordon, Head of Communications and External Relations

Claire Deguara, Acting Cabinet Business Manager

Graham Porter, Committee Clerk

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Ref: Scrutiny/Env/Correspondance14/03/2024

Date: 20 March 2024

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member, Climate Change



Dear Councillor Wild

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 14 March 2024

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee a sincere thank you for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the **One Planet Cardiff** update. Please also relay our thanks to the officers who attended the Committee meeting to support this item. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations. You will find our recommendations and requests, listed at the end of the letter.

The One Planet Cardiff Annual Update provided information about the reduction in emissions from Council activities and highlighted the areas of concern as our buildings and procurement.

There were discussions about the urgency needed to address the climate crisis and the reality of the funding required to make the necessary changes as being huge.

The potential wider economic benefits to driving forward this agenda were also commented on.

You also noted that since the declaration of the Climate Emergency there has been little evidence to support the behaviour change by the public.

In order to address procurement issues the Council has adopted a Socially Responsible procurement Strategy, however it was noted that the carbon reduction associated with the strategy has not been evaluated. It was also noted that 'smarter' specifications could also help.

In conclusion, the need for a green paper that builds on the Local Energy Action Plan, the positive progress that has been made to date, review of funding and investment opportunities [local and regional] and public consultation to refocus and renew the actions required to meet targets.

During our questioning, members asked you and officers about the following issues and noted responses:

- Our ability to meet the 2030 targets;
- Support for domestic property retro fitting;
- The role of the Replacement Local Development Plan;
- Grant support for steel framed homes;
- Levers within procurement and specifications for products/works;
- Support for local farmers and businesses;
- Piloting and use of heat pumps in schools;
- Renewable energy developments, including the Western Gateway;
- Sequestered carbon, from a range of plants, not just trees;
- EV charging for a range of vehicles;
- Availability of other transport modes for commuting;

For ease of reference, the requests detailed in this letter are:

- Further information relating to the calculation of embodied carbon i.e. the carbon emission produces to provide facilities and infrastructure that reduce carbon emissions in the long term e.g., cycle paths or demolition before rebuilding.
- Further information regarding the development of tidal energy and the Western Gateway

No formal recommendations were made.

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

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Owen Jones

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

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