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## CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee** ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time of Meeting** TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2017, 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](mailto:scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk)

8 **Correspondence following the Committee Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 10)*

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Ref: RDB/PM/BD/14.02.17

14 February 2017

Councillor Bob Derbyshire,  
Cabinet Member for the Environment,  
County Hall,  
Atlantic Wharf,  
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Derbyshire,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – Budget Scrutiny Meeting – 14 February 2017**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers from the City Operations Directorate and Commercial & Collaborative Services for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 14 February 2017. As you are aware the meeting considered the 'Draft Budget Proposals 2017/18'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

**City Operations Directorate**

- The Committee welcomes the additional £350,000 allocated as the result of the 'Intensive Cleansing Initiative' financial pressures bid and the nine new jobs that this has created. They understand that much of this money will be directed towards cleansing in and around the city centre, however, feel that at least some of this funding needs to benefit the other wards of the city. With this in mind I would be grateful if you could confirm:
  - How the extra money will be used to support cleansing outside of the city centre;
  - If you would be willing to find additional resources to fund a liaison officer to work with retailers (particularly those in district shopping centres) in the city. The Members feel that raising waste awareness

with retailers would have a significant impact on waste and litter issues – particularly around district shopping centres.

- The Committee were encouraged to hear that the Neighbourhood Services enforcement figures had increased by 75% in the last quarter. They look forward to reviewing the progress of this service at their March meeting.

### **Commercial & Collaborative Services**

- The Committee were concerned that the reduction of £468,000 in the Welsh Government 'Single Revenue Grant (Environment)' had effectively forced the Council to plug this funding gap through a financial pressures bid. Members view the monies received through this grant as a vitally important funding source for maintaining an effective waste management service. It was suggested during the meeting that the Welsh Government is considering merging the remaining 'Single Revenue Grant (Environment)' into the wider Revenue Support Grant and that prior to this happening the 'Single Revenue Grant (Environment)' could reduce further. Members would ask you to continue to lobby the Welsh Government to ensure the amount provided is not further eroded – either as a part of the 'Single Revenue Grant (Environment)' or within the wider Revenue Support Grant. It is clear that such funding is essential to meet the very challenging Welsh Government recycling targets which are by far the highest in the United Kingdom; without these much needed funds the Council and other Welsh local authorities would struggle to reach the exceptionally challenging recycling targets and ultimately the Welsh Government would fail against its own objective.
- I would be grateful if you could confirm the cost of the red and white waste bags provided to residents by the Council for the disposal of municipal waste during 2016/17.
- The Committee supports the additional £218,000 allocated towards a new 'Recycling & Re-use Centre' as the result of a financial pressures bid. As

you will be aware I have lobbied for several years for the creation of such a facility and I view this as a positive step forward.

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 that reads "P. D. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor Paul Mitchell  
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee  
Cc:

Councillor Graham Hinchey – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance

Andrew Gregory – Director for City Operations

Matt Wakelam – Operational Manager, Infrastructure & Operations

Tara King – Assistant Director for Commercial & Collaborative Services

Neil Hanratty – Director for Economic Development

Christine Salter – Corporate Director Resources

Ian Allwood – Head of Service, Finance

Paul Keeping – Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services

Davina Fiore – Director of Governance & Legal Services

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee

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Ref: RDB/PM/GH/14.02.17

14 February 2017

Councillor Graham Hinchey,  
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance,  
County Hall,  
Atlantic Wharf,  
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Hinchey,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – Budget Scrutiny Meeting – 14  
February 2017**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you, Christine and Ian for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 14 February 2017. As you are aware the meeting considered the 'Draft Budget Proposals 2017/18'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

- Members feel that budget consultation process improved during 2016/17; in particular they were pleased to see that over 6,500 people had taken part in the exercise. However, there is always scope for further improvement and with this in mind the Committee believe that it is important to review the 2016/17 process and compare the consultation work undertaken in Cardiff against other local authorities. Taking this approach will ensure that the process will continue to improve and ultimately better reflect citizen priorities.
- The Committee feel that the early start and improved planning for the budget process worked well, for example, 93% of the proposals had detailed plans and none of the budget proposals were 'red risk rated' – this was a significant improvement when compared to previous years. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to congratulate you and the supporting officers for creating such a detailed and well-organised budget.

- Members note the Council's commitment to paying of the voluntary living wage and the efforts it has made to encourage partners and contractors to do the same. While it is not possible to mandate that partners and contractors pay the voluntary living wage we would support your continued efforts to encourage them to follow this practice.
- During the meeting you explained your frustration at having to manage one year budget settlements instead of having the option of planning over a longer period, for example, a three year budget planning cycle similar to that used by the Local Health Boards. The Committee understands that the Council is limited in what it can do to change this one-year financial settlement process; however, we would support any lobbying efforts that you might make to attempt to extend the financial planning window.

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 that reads "P. D. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M".

Councillor Paul Mitchell  
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

Christine Salter – Corporate Director Resources  
Ian Allwood – Head of Service, Finance  
Paul Keeping – Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services  
Davina Fiore – Director of Governance & Legal Services  
Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee



Ref: RDB/PM/RP/14.02.17

14 February 2017

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



Dear Councillor Patel,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – Budget Scrutiny Meeting – 14 February 2017**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers from the City Operations Directorate for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 14 February 2017. As you are aware the meeting considered the 'Draft Budget Proposals 2017/18'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

- As stated during previous scrutiny Members support the idea of developing further 20 mph zones across Cardiff and welcome the additional £200,000 allocated towards such schemes in the Financial Resilience Mechanism; the Committee looks forward to more 20 mph schemes being rolled out across the city. To further supplement the knowledge of the Committee I would be grateful if you could provide copies of the following when they become available:
  - The Cathays 20 mph pilot scheme evaluation;
  - Details of lessons learnt from the Cathays scheme and an assurance that these will be applied to future schemes;
  - The comparative data on 20 mph schemes gathered from across the United Kingdom, for example, from Edinburgh and London.
- The Committee welcomes the additional funds allocated from the Financial Resilience Mechanism towards improvements of the highway asset, for

example, the £540,000 for highway & footway reconstruction and the £320,000 for continued targeted highway improvement across the city. The Members feel that it is important for the budget process to direct additional fund towards such a citizen priority.

- The Committee agree with the allocation of £250,000 towards 'Hostile Vehicle Mitigation' measures to help protect key areas of the city centre. However, given the scale of the task they are concerned that the sum is not enough. I would be grateful if you could confirm the type of measures that the monies will provide and assurance that the sum allocated is sufficient.
- Members felt that the introduction of 'parking sensor apps' was an exciting new development which illustrates the Council's appetite to embrace new technology to help better manage parking and traffic congestion. As the Council is helping to pioneer the development of this technology the Committee hopes it will one day create future income opportunities, for example, selling the knowledge gained to other local authorities.

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 that reads "P. D. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M'.

Councillor Paul Mitchell  
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

Councillor Graham Hinchey – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance

Andrew Gregory – Director for City Operations

Matt Wakelam – Operational Manager, Infrastructure & Operations

Christine Salter – Corporate Director Resources

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Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee

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