

Ref: RDB/PM/BD/04.10.16

25 October 2016

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



Dear Councillor Derbyshire,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 4 October 2016

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers from the Commercial & Collaboration Service for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 4 October 2016. As you are aware the meeting considered an item titled 'Recycling & Waste Restricting Programme – One Year Update'. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

Recycling & Waste Restricting Programme – One Year Update

- A Member who recently visited a household waste recycling centre in Bridgend noted that the site used a large board to show the percentage of recycling achieved from materials presented at the site. The board illustrated that the household waste recycling centre was achieving an 85% recycling rate and acted as a reminder to staff and the public of the importance of achieving high recycling rates. He also noted that staff seemed very motivated towards achieving the recycling goal as they were quick to offer advice as to where the materials from his vehicle should be placed.

The Committee ask that you consider introducing such boards at sites in Cardiff as they could raise awareness of the need to maximise recycling rates and act as a reminder to staff and the public of the targets which need to be achieved.

- At the meeting there was much discussion about achieving the 58% recycling target during 2015/16 and the impact that the inclusion of recycling fly ash had on the overall total. After some discussion it was acknowledged that the overall recycling percentage was made up of a series of collection inputs (for example, food waste, fly ash, commercial waste, comingled recycling and household waste recycling centres) and that these all contributed to the overall 58% figure. Members were told that the definition of what was accepted for inclusion in the overall recycling calculation tended to change each year and that the challenges facing each category constantly varied. The conclusion was that no two years were the same making direct year to year comparison very difficult.

During the way forward Members agreed that the Committee should receive a breakdown of waste collection inputs into the waste stream for each of the waste collection input streams; this should include the overall tonnage collected, the percentage recycling from the stream actually achieved and the unique challenges facing each stream from year to year. This data would give the Committee a greater insight into areas which are performing well and help identify where improvements could be made. As a starting point the Committee would like this data for the financial year 2015/16.

- A Member explained that she had recently been made aware of a new scheme for dealing with waste on property frontages and asked for more information about the scheme. She was advised that this was a Neighbourhood Services project and that they would be best placed to provide an update on this new scheme. The Committee is due to receive an item titled 'Neighbourhood Services – Member Update' at their meeting in November.

I would ask that the presentation for this item briefly addresses the new scheme for dealing with waste on property frontages and in particular references how the scheme can be accessed and the educational work taking place to support improvements in this area.

- When you responded to my letter following the meeting on the 17 May you provided a table which set out a breakdown of recycling by material type for 2015/16.

I would be grateful if you could provide the same information for 2014/15.

- The letter produced after the meeting on the 17 May 2016 had a paragraph which stated:

The subsequent Chair's letter dated 29 May 2015 said that, "The Assistant Director for the Environment explained that a fly capture report could easily be produced for Cardiff and then confirmed that they could be produced on a Ward by Ward basis". As a result this information was subsequently provided for each Ward and month for 2014/15 (excluding one month - April 2014) in Cllr Derbyshire's letter of 15 September 2015. At the meeting a Member suggested that the definitions for fly-tipping and misrepresented waste might have changed and that the information available was no longer as freely available when compared to May 2015.

The fly capture information for April 2014 has yet to be provided; I would be grateful if you could arrange for this information to be made available to the Committee.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and provide a response to the requests made in bold in this letter.

Regards,



Councillor Paul Mitchell
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

Tara King – Assistant Director for Commercial & Collaboration Services
Jane Cherrington – Operational Manager, Strategy & Enforcement
Matt Wakelam – Operational Manager, Infrastructure & Operations
Paul Keeping – Operational Manager, Scrutiny Services
Davina Fiore – Director for Governance & Legal Services

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee