

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref : CM36981
Eich Cyf / Your Ref : RDB/PM/BD/14.02.17
Dyddiad / Date: 16th February 2017



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Councillor Paul Mitchell
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Paul

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

Thank you for your letter dated 14 February 2017. In reply, I would like to respond to the Committee's comments on the 2017/18 budget proposals as follows:

City Operations Directorate

In 2016/17, the 'Intensive Cleansing Initiative' has focused on blitzing the 8 inner wards, although through March, April and May 2017 work will take place in areas of demand within the 21 outer wards in the city. I can confirm that the proposed £350,000 'Intensive Cleansing Initiative' financial pressures bid in 2017/18 will support the provision of two deep cleansing teams and a proactive gully cleansing team as part of the future base budget within Neighbourhood Services. It is proposed that this resource will be used proactively across the city to deal with any issues and concerns that are identified. For example, resources will be utilised on a seasonal programme to support demands on Neighbourhood Services associated with blitzing, parks litter, cleansing during school holidays and leaf fall.

As was recognised by the Committee, raising awareness of waste and litter issues, particularly with retailers, can have a significant impact on cleanliness within local communities. I am pleased to say that the Neighbourhood Services enforcement team is making significant progress on this issue with retailers across the city through education and enforcement. I can also confirm that Neighbourhood Services will seek to identify a liaison officer or team to work with businesses in the city's district centres in 2017/18 as part of the additional resources contained in the budget proposals.

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO :
Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office, Ystafell / Room 518, Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Glanfa'r Iwerydd /
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The Council welcomes correspondence in English and Welsh and we will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, whether that's English, Welsh or bilingual as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Cyflawni ein gwledigaeth o ddot y brifddinas orau i fyw ynddi yn Ewrop

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu â chi yn eich dewis iaith boed yn Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog dim ond chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

Commercial & Collaborative Services

I would concur with the Committee's view that the grant funding support from the Welsh Government is vital to supporting our recycling services and improving our recycling performance to ensure that we meet statutory targets. I also want to assure the Committee that the Council has been working with other local authorities in Wales over recent years to try and protect the level of grant funding provided and has lobbied and engaged directly with the Welsh Government on this issue. We will continue to do so.

I can confirm that the cost of the red & white waste bags provided to residents by the Council for the disposal of municipal waste during 2016/17 is £48,000. I also want to thank both you and the Committee for your support for the proposed additional funding allocation for the recycling and reuse centre.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



Y Cyngorydd / Councillor Bob Derbyshire
Aelod Cabinet Dros Yr Amgylchedd
Cabinet Member for Environment

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 retails 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,



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

