

Ref: RDB/RP/MM/06.03.2018

14 March 2018

Councillor Michael Michael,  
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment,  
County Hall,  
Atlantic Wharf,  
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Michael,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 6 March 2018**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 6 March 2018. As you are aware the meeting received an item titled 'Coastal Risk Management Programme' and considered a Member briefing note on 'New Burial Space'. The comments and observations made by Members following these items are set out in this letter.

**Coastal Risk Management Programme**

- The Committee supports the plan to improve coastal flood defences between Rover Way in the west and Lamby Way in the east. They feel that it is vital to ensure that the large number of homes and businesses in the area are properly protected against coastal erosion and future potential flood risks. They believe that working with Welsh Government to deliver the scheme is a positive thing and feel that developing the outline business case has been a thorough process that has assessed eight shortlisted options. The Committee looks forward to seeing this scheme progress and would like to have the opportunity to review the detailed plans for option 6 (Improve 4) once they have been completed in the next phase of the process.
- The Committee understands that the primary purpose of the new coastal flood defence scheme will be to protect an area of Cardiff from flooding

and to prevent further coastal erosion. However, as discussed in the meeting it would be a very positive thing if the new coastal flood defence scheme could be designed to support wildlife in the area and allow for a range of leisure opportunities, for example, walking. Members, therefore, have asked if you could look at these options and do what you can to build them into the design process.

- Table 2 of the draft Cabinet report set out a series of eight shortlisted options. As the recommendation is to proceed with 'Improve 4' financial details were only provided for this option. While the Committee supports your judgement it would like to see the costings for all of the other options included in Table 2.
- The Committee was told that Welsh Government along with the Council had agreed 'Improve 4' as the best way to proceed based on financial implications and a number of other considerations. I would be grateful if you could supply the Committee with the narrative provided by Welsh Government that identifies the other considerations applied in the making their decision.
- At the meeting a Member asked if sufficient modelling had been undertaken to assess the impact that creating the scheme would have on other nearby coastal areas. It was suggested that some modelling work had been carried out, however, Members felt that the response lacked detail. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with any coastal modelling information that you have on the proposed implementation of the scheme.

#### **Member Briefing Note: New Burial Space**

- Members of the Committee are supportive of the proposal to locate the new cemetery at Thornhill Farm. Its close proximity to the Thornhill Crematorium and the facilities that it offers seems to make it a logical option.

- The member briefing note identified that other cemetery options in the city had been considered prior to taking a decision to recommend the site at Thornhill Farm. The Committee would be grateful if you could provide details of the other sites considered along with their estimated costings.
- During the way forward Members discussed the development of the new site. It is clear from the report that this large site will be developed in phases, and that each of the phases will require the development of new supporting infrastructure. Subject to planning approval, the Committee would ask that before any work commences on phase 1 of the development an assessment is carried out to see if any long term savings can be achieved by delivering all of the required supporting infrastructure for the whole site at the outset.
- Bullet point 23 of the scrutiny cover report stated that ‘whilst it is accepted that there is a clear need for additional burial space for the City some concerns were raised, however, these relate specifically to detail which will be provided as part of the required planning application’. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with further details of the ‘concerns raise’ and any preliminary surveys or environmental assessments that have taken place.

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, appearing to read 'Ramesh Patel', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Ramesh Patel  
Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Andrew Gregory, Director of City Operations
- Matthew Wakelam, Operational Manager, Infrastructure & Operations
- Gary Brown, Operational Manager, Assets, Engineering & Operations
- Martin Birch, Operational Manager, Bereavement & Registration
- Davina Fiore, Director of Governance & Legal Services
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee