

ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2018

Present: Councillor Patel(Chairperson)
Councillors Derbyshire, Philippa Hill-John, Lancaster,
Jackie Parry, Owen, Wong and Wood

11 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Owen Jones.

12 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

13 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairperson.

14 : COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee noted that Council on the 21 June 2018 appointed Councillor Bob Derbyshire as a Member of the Committee.

15 : PLANNING, TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE DELIVERY PLAN 2018/19 AND QUARTER 3 & 4 PERFORMANCE REPORTS 2017/18

The Committee received a report on the Planning, Transport and Environment Directorate Delivery Plan 2018/19. The report provided an opportunity to gain an understanding of the operation of the Planning, Transport and Environment Directorate and its key priorities for this year.

Members were advised that the Council's integrated strategic planning framework sets out the "golden thread" in meeting the Council's four key priorities: Working for Cardiff; Working for Wales; Working for the Future; and Working for Public Services.

The Plan was attached to the report at Appendix 1. The Delivery Plan has the following standardised format:

- Introduction;
- Directorate Profile;
- Directorate Self-Assessment of Performance 2017/18;
- Moving Forward: Context, Opportunities and Challenges;
- Contributing to Cardiff's Well-Being Objectives;
- Delivering Welsh Language Standards;
- Strategic Directorate Priorities.

The Directorate's Self-Assessment of Performance which sets out what the Directorate has done well, what the Directorate could/should have done better and

what opportunities and challenges the Directorate faced. The Moving Forward: Context, Opportunities and Challenges Section sets out issues that the Directorate must take into account in planning future delivery.

The Strategic Directorate Priorities section sets out how each Strategic Directorate priority will be achieved by using each of the following headings:

- Summary of Priorities;
- Key Performance Indicators;
- Risk Management;
- Dependencies;
- Key Actions - Individual Headline Actions with start/end date; responsible officer; key milestones for each quarter in 2018/19; a link to an equality objective.

The Chairperson welcomed Andrew Gregory, Director and Matt Wakelam, Assistant Director to the meeting. The officers were invited to deliver a brief presentation on the Directorate Delivery Plan and the Quarter 3 & 4 Performance Reports 2017/18.

Members were invited to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members asked whether the lack of a bus station was hampering efforts to switch to 50/50 modal shift and whether providing a bus station was still a priority for the City. Officers agreed that it was a hindrance. The City has been seeking to construct a new station for many years. An effectively funded scheme was now at the planning stage and it will be delivered. The City is moving towards the provision of city-wide transport hubs network and work will be completed in a phased programme. The detailed planning application is a major step forward. The bus station will be delivered within two years and the hub network is moving forward with potential interchanges identified in Cardiff West and the University Hospital of Wales.
- Members asked how modal shift was measured and were advised that modal shift is measured through surveys.
- Members noted the new Performance Indicator CL/AIR/001 'The amount of NO₂ measured annually across the City'. Officers commented that there is detailed work ongoing to develop the Clean Air Strategy. Assessment is a dynamic process and there are shifting levels of pollutants in AQMAs and the high risk areas identified by Welsh Government.
- Referring to the City Centre Masterplan proposals – Members asked why there were still question marks over the funding given the lead time for the proposals. Officers were asked to clarify the likely effect on services should funding not become available. Officers stated that City Centre Masterplan has had a number of iterations but it now becoming more defined as a result of work around active travel and the South Wales Metro. Detailed options discussion have been held over the past

12 months. The works to the public realm in Westgate Street are estimated to cost around £5.5 million. A number of key partners can potentially fund the scheme and the authority was currently in the midst of those negotiations. In the medium term period the authority will be required to make significant savings. This needs to be carefully considered. Proposals will only come forward when all options have been considered but cuts to services will be the last resort.

- Members referred to the proposals to increase the redundancy reserve set out in the Cabinet Budget Strategy report. Members asked how automation and digitalisation of services would affect staff numbers and how many jobs would be lost as a result of service changes. Officers stated that workload would be reallocated and/or staff would be deployed to deliver new services. There will be no forced redundancies.
- A Member asked how many vacant houses there were in the City and whether there was a target for the percentage of housing stock set aside to enable elderly residents to stay in their own homes. Officers stated that vacant houses fall within the remit of the Shared Regulatory Service.
- Members considered that the lack of east/west bus routes was having a negative impact on congestion in the city. Members asked whether officers supported the reinstatement of east/west bus routes. Officer considered this to be an important point, insofar that the lack of east/west services impact highest on the most disadvantaged communities. The Council wholeheartedly supports cross-city movements. It is actively seeking the reshaping of the bus network and it is keen to promote east/west connections that mean journeys into the City Centre are no longer required, as the network of transport hubs will provide those links.
- In terms of improving recycling and waste collection performance, Members asked what challenges have arising since the closure of Wedal Road HWRC and how these have been offset. The Cabinet Member stated that Wedal Road closed at the same time the new facility at Lamby Way opened. The new facility offers opportunities to recycle a broader range of materials. The Council has made a commitment to provide a HWRC in the north of the City.
- Officers were asked to provide further details of the baseline for a new KPI for missed collections. Officers stated the rationale for the new missed collections KPI was two-fold: 1. that missed collections are high in number; and 2. to identify areas where repeat problems exist so the service area can monitor, improve and ensure the service is customer focussed. It would also allow Members to know what goes on in their wards.
- Members sought to clarify the cost of providing a HWRC in the North of the City. Officers stated that no figure was available. Strategic Estates have been given a brief and it was anticipated they will return with

options within 6 to 8 weeks.

- Members asked for an update on the Nextbike Scheme. Officers stated that the Nextbike Scheme was progressing extremely well and the operators were pleased that the scheme has been accepted and welcomed in the City. The next phase of the scheme, increasing the number of bikes from 250 to 500, and at more locations, would be rolled out in August. Discussions are being held with the Welsh Government with a view to extending the scheme further.
- A Member asked what additional measures are being considered in order for the authority to achieve the increased Welsh Government target of 64% recycling in the near future. Officers were also asked whether residents in new developments are receiving education or publicity materials setting out the Council's expectations and the need for recycling. Officers stated that the recycling education is moving towards being more citizen focused and the authority will aim to explain more about what happens to the waste we collect. It was also hoped that the 'Cleansing Blitz' programme would also help make a difference by working with citizens in areas where recycling levels are low.
- Referring to the solar farm project, Members asked whether there were any ambitions to generate beyond the projected 6MW of electricity. Officers indicated that, following some discussions with a potential customer, the authority is seeking to extend the solar farm project to generate 7.5MW. The Council is also considering the possibility using the electricity generated to charge its own fleet vehicles. The Cabinet Members stated that the Authority is ambitious and is keen to work with partners looking to exploit clean energy opportunities in the city.
- Members suggested that, upon completion of the solar farm, clean energy targets could be shown on the performance management scorecard in future. Officers welcomed the suggestion and advised that the solar farm was due to be completed at the end of 2019.
- The Committee raised concerns at the levels of sickness absence, which had increased considerably. Members asked what actions and mitigations were being put in place to address this. Officers advised that Sickness Absence Policies and procedures were being rigorously applied. It was recognised that there are underlying productivity and workforce issues that have been identified. Plans are being developed to address these as part of the new street scene service.
- Members were concerned that ambitious budget cuts coupled with rising sickness absence levels will have an impact on the service area. Officers stated that a workforce development plan will look at the demographic of the workforce, the work they do and the types of sickness they are having. There was a need for a greater understanding of why staff sickness levels are increasing so that more can be done to support staff. A plan was being put in place and officers were happy to bring that plan back to the Committee.

- Members suggested that sickness absence levels were much higher in the Summer than in the Winter, and that they would expect the opposite.
- Officers were asked to comment on the budget variance in Waste Services. Member were advised that the Assistant Director Street Scene and colleagues from finance are working on putting zero based accounting systems in place and not allowing variances to drift. More informed information and monitoring is required.

RESOLVED – That the Chairperson write to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee to convey their comments.

16 : SECTION 106 LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL LISTS - MEMBER BRIEFING NOTE

The Principal Scrutiny Officer presented a Briefing Notice on Section 106 Local Infrastructure Proposals Lists. Members were advised that changes to the S106 process brought about by the CIL Regulations, planning policy guidance / legislation and the recommendations of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, it was proposed that 'S106 Local Infrastructure Proposal Lists' be prepared.

It is intended that the creation of the Ward-based Lists will provide Councillors with an opportunity to identify local infrastructure proposals (relating to Public Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Local Highway Improvements) in a more strategic manner and as part of a formalised process. These lists can then be taken into consideration by officers when securing S106 obligations as part of live planning applications and will supplement the consideration of other relevant information such as extant plans, programmes and strategies.

As part of the preparation of the Proposal Lists, an officer-facilitated workshop is being arranged with volunteering Councillors. The workshop will provide the opportunity for Councillors to undertake a trial run at completing the Proposal Lists and to share their views on the work that has been completed to date. It is anticipated that the project will be launched in the autumn. As part of the launch, a series of workshop sessions will be provided for Councillors to introduce the Local Infrastructure Proposal Lists and to offer broader guidance and training on the S106 process.

The Directorate are also preparing Ward Action Plans, which look at more day-to-day issues such as fly-tipping / graffiti and which will be provided as part of a coordinated process for Councillor dialogue and engagement.

RESOLVED – That the briefing note be noted.

17 : PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS - DOG CONTROLS - MEMBER BRIEFING NOTE

Members were advised that the Cabinet is due to receive a report on Public Space Protection Orders – Dog Controls on 5 July 2018. PSPO's are available to Local Authorities to deal with specific nuisance problems in particular areas that are having, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life for those who live, work

or play within the locality. An order can prohibit or restrict certain activities and are designed to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED – That the briefing note be noted.

18 : ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMMING
2018/19 VERBAL UPDATE

The Committee discussed options for the 2018/19 Work Programme. Members were advised that 2771 responses have been received to the litter/flytipping survey. The Principal Scrutiny Officer stated that a number of volunteer groups have responded to the survey and requested that Committee's approval to invite volunteer groups to a workshop. The workshop would set out to establish what the groups see as their challenges and how the Council can assist them meeting their challenges.

The Committee supported the proposal.

19 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 4 SEPTEMBER 2018

Members were advised that the next Environment Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for 4 September 2018.

The meeting terminated at 6.05 pm