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Fy Nghyf / My Ref : CM42391

Eich Cyf / Your Ref :

Dyddiad / Date: 22nd November 2019

Councillor Ramesh Patel
Chairperson
Environmental Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Ramesh

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING 17TH SEPTEMBER
2019**

Thank for your letter dated 26th September 2019 regarding the 'Third Cardiff Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report' and setting out comments and observations made by Committee Members. I have set out below a response to each of the comments made.

- **New Jobs** – In terms of the type and location of jobs created during the Local Development Plan, Officers have liaised with the Council's Economic Development section who have provided the relevant data. This shows that geographically this growth has been concentrated with the Cardiff Bay and City Centre areas, with Butetown, Cathays, Grangetown and Riverside wards all experiencing a net growth in jobs. Other areas of the city experiencing growth include Heath Hospital and St Mellons Business Park in the Heath and Trowbridge wards respectively. In terms of the type of jobs created, the data shows there has been an increase in jobs relating to Construction, Information and Communication, Financial and Professional Services and Healthcare.

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO :

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GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



- **Physical Activity** – With regard to the data quoted in the Annual Monitoring Report relating to physical activity, this is taken from the National Survey for Wales and Officers have contacted the Health Board to identify any reason for the apparent decline in physical activity over the last three years. The Health Board advise that the difference in the percentage of people being inactive may not actually be statistically significant, according to their data analysts in the Public Health Wales Observatory. They state that the easiest way to test significance is to look at the confidence intervals. When looking at this data it is apparent that the confidence intervals overlap, which means that they are most likely not significantly different.

In addition, the sample size is quite small for the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board population and it also decreased slightly (from 1840 to 1609) between the two periods, which means the confidence intervals may have widened slightly. It is also self-reported information and there are only a few years of data which enable trends to be identified, so it is difficult to draw firm conclusions at this juncture (the question in the national survey changed in 2016/17 meaning that previous years reports can't be compared).

However, the Health Board states that this is the best population level data available with regard to lifestyle behaviour and it is something they will research further.

Notwithstanding the concerns highlighted above regarding the data, I would like to reassure Committee Members that the LDP offers an opportunity to enable people to increase the amount of physical activity and active travel they undertake. High quality design of urban areas plays a crucial role in supporting activity in buildings and spaces. Work continues to ensure that developers submit active travel plans for new sites and design and access statements, which prioritise walking and cycling as the means of travel while enabling good access to public transport. Making these choices the easy choices will encourage people to choose to travel more actively.

There are also other ways in which the LDP can play a crucial part in improving health through encouraging activity:-

- Providing safe, accessible and pleasant outdoor spaces will enhance children's play and encourage adults to use spaces for activities, like ball games.
 - Ensuring new residential development, whether on strategic sites or smaller, provides adequate cycle parking and storage, which is covered and secure.
 - Provision of space for food growing
 - Ensuring that community facilities are located within communities and are accessible
 - Ensuring building design incorporates active options. For example, locating the staircase prominently and the lifts not so prominently
 - Protecting existing open space, and encouraging provision of open space in new development areas
- **Affordable Housing** – The comments regarding the lag between the affordable housing target and actual completions are noted. This reflects

the lag there has been in the physical commencement of house building activity on the strategic housing sites. However, construction has now started, or is about to start, on most of the strategic housing sites. As a result, affordable housing completions over the remaining 7 years are expected to increase significantly. This is evidenced by the current land bank of sites for affordable housing, which totals 4,790. In terms of the breakdown of the different types of affordable housing that have been delivered, I have included below a breakdown for the last five years 2014 to 2015 (Please note these figures include all properties brought into the affordable housing sector and are not restricted solely to new build properties). In terms of delivery models, shared ownership is not currently a tenure the Council deliver and the Help to Buy is a scheme run by the Welsh Government, so the Council have no figures available on these models.

2014/2015 - 239 units

6 - Shared Equity

233 - Social Rented/Intermediate Rented

2015/2016 - 278 units

278 - Social Rented/Intermediate Rented

2016/2017 - 256 units

10 - Shared Equity

246 - Social Rented/Intermediate Rented

2017/2018 - 273 units

7 - Shared Equity

266 - Social Rented/Intermediate Rented

2018/2019 – 306 units

306 - Social Rented/Intermediate Rented

- **Education Travel** – To clarify, trips for ‘Education’ in this context relate to all educational journeys made by adults only, as recorded in the Ask Cardiff Survey; as opposed to travel specifically to School by pupils, as recorded in the Schools Hands-up Survey. Therefore ‘Education’ includes not only parent-child escort trips to school but also trips to colleges, universities and other adult learning sites. While the proportion of ‘Education’ trips being made by sustainable modes appears to have shown a decline in recent years, this is based on a limited number of observations historically, which may not be enough to reliably indicate the true trajectory.

Furthermore, the trends for travel to school by sustainable modes specifically, have increased in recent years, having previously dipped around 2013. It should also be noted that crucially, while the proportion of those travelling by sustainable modes to education may not necessarily have increased, that nevertheless, this does not mean that the actual number of journeys made by sustainable modes for ‘Education’ has not increased, in recognition that the overall demand for travel has increased. It should also be noted that the proportion travelling to school by sustainable modes already exceeds the Council’s 60:40 aspiration. Travel to ‘Education’ is also close to achieving this, demonstrating a positive overall performance.

- **Student Accommodation** – The comments regarding the temporary change in the use of student accommodation for use by other residents are noted. As set out by Officers at the Scrutiny meeting, I can reassure Committee Members that such changes of use have only been permitted on a temporary basis and the timescales are designed to allow beneficial occupation of newly completed student accommodation by other residents, until they can be occupied by students at the beginning of the new University term in September. In terms of evidence regarding the student accommodation market, the latest monitoring undertaken by the Council in July 2019 shows that 1,998 student beds were under construction and a further 3,069 student beds are permitted and in the pipeline.
- **Congestion** – Whilst congestion remains an issue faced by all cities, Cardiff's position in the global ranking of most congested cities having decreased over this period (from 123rd in 2017 to 131st by 2018 according to INRIX, and from 112 to 128 according to TomTom over the same period).

However, the Council recognises the impact that congestion can have on the network, in terms of increased queueing and delay and as a result worsening air quality, journey times and decreased journey time reliability. As such, the Council is committed to addressing this by encouraging a greater shift to sustainable modes of travel, through the reallocation of road space to cyclists and buses, prioritising active and public transport and through establishing 'Smart Corridors' to more efficiently and effectively manage the flow of traffic and people along key routes into the city. As stated, further clarification on Cardiff's proposals to address congestion will be detailed within the forthcoming Transport White Paper.

- **Bus Station & Wanugron Road Transport Interchange** – As previously referred to at Full Council, the new bus station is a Transport for Wales scheme and the construction programme is in their hands. I can confirm however, that work has begun on site and our current information is that the works are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2022. As you will understand, the council can give no guarantee on this timescale.

Waun-Gron Road Transport Interchange requires the building of a retaining wall to support the railway embankment. This structure has been designed and is currently with Network Rail for approval, which is expected by early 2020. Once approved the construction is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2020. Construction of the residential development is anticipated to take place followed by the completion of the interchange. Whilst this may appear to be an unduly complicated process, it is the only way that the scheme can progress. I am unable at this time to give a completion date for this scheme.

- **Bus Rapid Transit Routes** – The delivery of Bus Rapid Transit Routes is dependent on s106 developer contributions. The contributions come on stream, as the phased build-out of units reaches previously agreed trigger points.

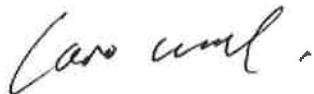
Delivery is therefore very much dependent on the progress of the developers build-out and I am not able therefore to give specific estimates of the delivery dates for these projects.

- **Modal Split Target** – The Annual Monitoring Report relates back directly to what was stated within the Adopted Local Development Plan, whereby, in Policy KP8, the target mode-split was defined as being 50:50 and was evidenced on the basis that this would result in a level of modal split required such that the network could sustain the level of predicted growth.

Furthermore, the 50:50 is also aligned with local performance indicators (LTPPI/011), as defined in the current Corporate Plan 2019-2022. The 60:40 was first defined as an aspiration within the Transport Strategy in 2016. However, it is only very recently, as indicated by the continued reference to 50:50, that the decision has been made to set 60:40 as the more ambitious target. Nevertheless, further work is required in order to demonstrate that the newer 60:40 target is both realistic and achievable.

- **Travellers Site Update** – With regard to the request for a confidential update on progress that has been made in identifying a new Gypsy and Travellers site in Cardiff, as set out at the Committee meeting, given that work is still ongoing and has not yet reached final conclusions nor formally reported, it is not considered appropriate to provide such an update at this juncture.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



Cynghorydd / Councillor Caro Wild
Aelod Cabinet dros Gynllunio Strategol a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport

