
CABINET RESPONSE – IMPROVING CARDIFF’S AIR QUALITY

Background

1. The Environmental Scrutiny Committee agreed as part of their work programme to undertake an inquiry titled Improving Cardiff’s Air Quality. As a result, the Committee agreed to set up a task & finish group inquiry. The terms of reference were agreed as follows:

The aim of the inquiry is to provide Members with the opportunity to explore and consider how the Council can help to improve air quality in Cardiff. This will include reviewing:

- **Current Air Quality Position** - to include a report and analysis of the worst affected areas; the major contributing factors to air pollution in Cardiff; resources, monitoring arrangements & statutory responsibilities; the impact on public health; consider any existing air quality action plans for Cardiff; to consider air quality responsibilities placed on the Council.
- **Development of Cardiff’s Clean Air Strategy** – to include a report on the aims and objectives of the strategy; associated policies that support the development of the strategy; resources and timescale for delivering the strategy; desired impact of the strategy and the main areas that the strategy will target.
- **Welsh Government Position on Air Quality** – to gain a better understanding of the policy objectives of the Welsh Government in terms of air quality; to understand the applicable timescales and consequences of the Council not

meeting these policy objectives; to identify the key areas that Welsh Government believes should be targeted to achieve the best outcomes for air quality.

- **Transportation** – *to understand the positive and negative impacts that transport (and transport systems) can have on air quality in Cardiff; to establish a hierarchy of transport pollution sources and evaluate what can be done to better manage the worst polluting sources; to review transport schemes and infrastructure planned for development or in the process of being delivered in Cardiff; to explore the benefits of sustainable fleet management in Cardiff; to consider the impact that changes in technology and public perception can have on air quality.*
- **Other Pollution Sources** – *to consider a range of pollution sources (excluding transport) and the impact that these have upon air quality in Cardiff; to establish a hierarchy of pollution sources (excluding transport) and evaluate what can be done to better manage the worst polluting sources; to review proposals currently being developed or delivered (excluding transport) to reduce pollution in Cardiff.*
- **Planning & Development** – *to understand how the planning and development process can be used to improve air pollution in Cardiff; to consider the current planning processes / policies and how these impact upon air pollution; the impact that the growth of the city might have upon air quality.*
- **Sustainable Fuels** – *to understand the challenges and opportunities that the growth of sustainable fuels can have upon air quality in Cardiff; to consider the role of the Council in terms of helping to establish the local market for sustainable fuels; to consider what the Council and its partners can proactively do to support the move to sustainable fuels.*
- **Clean Air Zones** – *to understand how Clean Air Zones work; the impact that a Clean Air Zone could have upon air quality in Cardiff and the wider implications for the city; the costs and opportunities of setting up a clean air zone; best practice in delivering Clean Air Zones (to include domestic and international examples).*

2. The task group Inquiry was informed by evidence and advice from the following:

- Councillor Michael Michael, Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Performance
- Councillor Caro Wild, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport
- Councillor Susan Elsmore, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-being
- Gary Brown, Operational Manager – Assets, Engineering & Operations
- David Lowe, Operational Manager – Operations
- Jane Cherrington, Operational Manager – Strategy & Enforcement
- Simon Gilbert, Operational Manager – Development Management, Strategic & Place Making
- Paul Carter, Head of Transport
- Gareth Harcombe, Commercial Manager – Energy & Sustainability
- Gladys Hingco, Researcher – Scrutiny Services
- Richard Jones, Fleet Manager, Commercial Services
- Tim Walter, Senior Planning Officer
- Craig Lewis, Specialist Services Officer– Environment (Enterprise and Specialist Services), Shared Regulatory Services
- Jason Bale, Team Manager – Environment (Enterprise and Specialist Services), Shared Regulatory Services
- Helen Picton, Operational Manager, Enterprise & Specialist Services, Shared Regulatory Services
- Dr Huw Brunt – Public Health Wales
- Dr Tom Porter - Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Cardiff & Vale Local Public Health Team
- Stuart Cole, Professor of Transport, University of South Wales
- Huw Williams, Emeritus Professor of Transport and Spatial Analysis, Cardiff University
- Sukky Choongh- Campbell, Society of Motor Manufacturers
- Peter Renwick – Premier Taxis
- Ryan Owen – Dragon Taxis
- Kieran Harte – Uber
- Desmond Broster – Dragon Taxis
- Dr Claire Beattie – University of the West of England
- Gareth Mole - Cardiff Bus
- Margaret Everson - Bus Users Cymru

- John Pocket – Confederation of Passenger Transport
 - Roger Herbert – Welsh Government
 - Martin McVay – Welsh Government
 - Steve Lloyd Brennan – New Adventure Travel
 - David Conway – Stagecoach Bus
 - Dr. Ji Ping Shi, Senior Technical Specialist, Air Quality Modelling and Risk Assessment Team Leader, Natural Resources Wales
 - Professor Alun Guwy, Head of the Sustainable Environment Research Centre, University of South Wales
 - Dr Paul Nieuwenhuis, Centre for Automotive Industry Research & Electric Vehicle Centre of Excellence, Cardiff University
 - Adrian Field, Executive Director, Cardiff BID (For Cardiff)
 - Will Lane – Shared Regulatory Service
3. The report was presented to Cabinet on the 20th September 2018; a copy of the report has been attached to this report as **Appendix 1**. A full response was agreed by Cabinet on the 21st November 2019; a copy of the full response has been attached to this report as **Appendix 2**.

Cabinet Response to Recommendations

4. The scrutiny report made a series of key findings and 34 recommendations that required a Cabinet response; 25 of the recommendations were accepted, five recommendations were partially accepted and four recommendations was rejected. The key findings and recommendations were based around seven themed areas that are listed below:
- Public Health;
 - Clean Air Strategy – The Next Steps;
 - Planning;
 - Transport;
 - Sustainable Fuels;
 - Council & Public Sector Partner Responsibilities;
 - Consultation & Engagement.

5. Full details of the response and future actions are contained in **Appendix 2** of this report.

Way Forward

6. Officers from the Planning, Transport & Environment Directorate have been invited to attend the meeting. They will provide a summary of the Cabinet response and answer any questions that Members may have.
7. Members may consider the response contained in the attached **Appendix 2** and provide any comments, advice or recommendations relevant to the contents of this report.

Legal Implications

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if

and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The Committee is recommended to consider the Cabinet response, the information presented at the meeting and then provide the Cabinet Member with any comments, concerns or recommendations.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance & Legal Services

15 January 2020