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24th September 2020

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



Dear Councillor Michael,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 3rd March 2020

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 to discuss the items on 'Quarterly Performance Monitoring – Quarters 1 & 2 2019/20' and 'Cabinet Response – Environmental Scrutiny Committee Report Titled 'Litter & Fly Tipping in Cardiff''. The comments and observations made by Members on the areas relevant to your portfolio of responsibility are set out in this letter.

Quarterly Performance Monitoring – Quarters 1 & 2 2019/20

- **Recycling Target Fines** – Since the autumn it has become apparent that the Council will not achieve the Welsh Government Recycling target of 64% during 2019/20; this is something that both you and officers have explained at Committee. I would be grateful if you could confirm:
 - Based on the current forecast for Cardiff's recycling rate for 2019/20, the value of the potential fine that the Welsh Government could levy against the Council;
 - Details of the work and dialogue that the Council is undertaking with Welsh Government to avoid the fines being applied;
 - The local authorities who missed the recycling target in 2018/19, along with details of those who are unlikely to miss the Welsh Government recycling target in 2019/20.

- **LEAMS DATA** – A Member asked why Quarter 1 (96.54%) produced a better score for the indicator described as '*the percentage of highways and relevant land inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness*' than Quarter 3 (94.32%). In his experience Quarter 1 is always worse for litter than Quarter 3. I would be grateful if you could provide an explanation as to why this was the case in 2019/20, along with details of the main influencing factors.
- **Food Hygiene Ratings** – Members were pleased to note that the performance against PAM / 023 ('Broadly Compliant' with food hygiene standards) increased to 94.5% in 2018/19; however, Cardiff only came 16th in Wales. I would be grateful if you could confirm how our two other Shared Regulatory Service partner authorities performed (Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan) during the same period, and the reasons for any differences (if applicable).

Cabinet Response – Environmental Scrutiny Committee Report Titled 'Litter & Fly Tipping in Cardiff'

- **Enforcement Teams** – A Member asked for details of what the proposed 'Whole Council' approach to litter enforcement entailed. He was told that it would involve better use of a wide range of Council resources across the city, and that they were hoping for Cabinet support to fund the proposals in the summer. The Committee look forward to receiving more information on the proposals, and will ensure that any new enforcement initiatives are added to the work programme as they are rolled out.
- **Camera Powers** – Members are supportive of the use of cameras to target littering offences, particularly for litter thrown from vehicles on key routes into and out of the city. They also acknowledge that legislation as it stands isn't strong enough, and that Welsh Government needs to be lobbied to improve existing powers. With this in mind, the Committee is willing to support any lobbying that you undertake to Welsh Government to enhance the use of cameras to target littering offences.

- **Litter Action Plan** – During the item an officer explained that the full response to the report recommendations would be put into an action plan and address specific actions, details and timescales. Members were told that this action plan would be available within three to six months. The Committee look forward to receiving a copy of this document, and hope that it deals with concerns that they had regarding the vague ‘partially accepted’ and ‘accepted in principle’ responses.
- **Cardiff App** – As you will be aware, the Cardiff App provides a range of useful information on various Council services; this includes littering and fly tipping. The Committee asks that all new Cardiff residents are automatically sent information on the app when registering for Council tax; this they feel would help increase the uptake of the app and in turn help improve the collection of litter and fly tipping data.
- **QR Codes for Bins** – During the meeting a Member suggested that placing QR codes on bins would be a cheap and effective way of monitoring the use of bins in the city. The Assistant Director for Street Scene thought that this was a good idea and confirmed that he would look into how it might work in Cardiff. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with a progress update after he has reviewed the matter.
- **Recycling & Pop Up Bins** – Members are disappointed that the Council isn’t looking to roll out recycling and pop up bins to wards outside the city centre. They felt that using these type of bins would encourage better recycling habits, and ask that you reconsider how they are allocated across Cardiff.
- **Four Day Working** – Members note that the idea of four day working is being considered. They would like to be kept informed on any developments, and will look to carry out scrutiny on any new proposals that are brought forward.

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 Planning, Transport & Environment
- Matt Wakelam – Assistant Director, Street Scene
- Sarah McGill – Corporate Director, People & Communities
- Davina Fiore - Director of Governance & Legal Services
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee