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12th January 2021

Councillors Huw Thomas & Michael Michael,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Leader & Councillor Michael,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2020

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 1st December 2020 to discuss the item on 'One Planet Cardiff'. As you will be aware the meeting was split into two parts:

- **Part 1:** Where the Leader, Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment and supporting officers from the Planning, Transport & Environment Directorate briefed the Committee on the content of the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy.
- **Part 2:** Where nine stakeholder groups answered questions on the written submissions that they had provided and discussed the content of the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy.

For reference, the nine stakeholder groups who participated in the meeting were Cardiff University, Dwr Cymru, Labour for a Green New Deal, Natural Resources Wales, Size of Wales, Sustrans, Wales & West Utilities, Wales Co-operative Centre and Welsh Government Energy Services. Written contributions were also provided by Friends of the Earth, FOR Cardiff and the British Conservation Alliance. The written submissions provided by the stakeholders referenced above have been placed into a witness written statement submission pack; a copy of this document is attached to this letter as **Appendix 1**. The Committee ask that this letter and the witness submissions be added to the other documents as a part of the wider consultation exercise for One Planet Cardiff.

The scrutiny meeting was a long affair and was supplemented by twelve detailed witness submissions. This means that Members have had to evaluate a substantial amount of information to agree the content of this letter. While reviewing this information a number of consistent themes became apparent, and so the feedback and recommendations falling out of this scrutiny have been structured by the themes underlined below:

❖ **One Planet Cardiff Strategy – A Positive Statement**

The Committee is very supportive of the carbon reduction targets set out in the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy, i.e. ‘*Cardiff City Council Net Zero Carbon by 2030*’, and ‘*Cardiff Net Zero Carbon City by 2030*’. This was echoed by almost all of the stakeholder groups who took part in the meeting. They made several positive comments about the strategy target, including that ‘*it was a much welcomed push*’, that it ‘*linked into the aims of their organisation*’ and that ‘*the UK Government target of 2050 wasn’t immediate enough*’.

❖ **Strategy Feedback**

As explained in the previous paragraph, the Committee is supportive of the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy. However, after reading the witness submissions and considering the comments made at the meeting the Committee felt that the strategy could be improved by:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generations** - Witnesses commented that the draft strategy did not make reference to the Wellbeing of Future Generations legislation and the supporting wellbeing objectives. It is a requirement for these to feature in documents such as the Council’s Corporate plan, therefore, Members were disappointed to note this omission. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the final strategy provides clearer linkages to the Wellbeing of Future Generations legislation and the supporting wellbeing objectives.
- **Strategy Linkages** – Cardiff University in particular commented that there was a disconnect in the strategy between the high-level targets and the

projects that had been identified to help address the challenge. They suggested that a target and plan needed to be set out for each theme, before moving onto the specific projects that have or will be put in place to address the challenge.

- **Behaviour Change** – Given the scale of ‘Scope 3 Emissions’ several witness groups suggested that a dedicated section on behaviour change should be placed into the final version of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy. This new section should explain the scale of ‘Scope 3 Emissions’, identify important areas where the public need to change behaviour, and set out a long term plan for delivering the change. This would need to include a partnership plan to deliver the message across Cardiff and the wider region which would set out key messages, partner responsibilities, available resources, targets and how these would be measured. It was clear during the meeting that there was a real appetite amongst the stakeholder groups to work with the Council to help deliver change in this area.

❖ **Partnership & Governance**

After considering the witness comments and written submissions it was clear that there was an appetite from most organisations to work with the Council to help deliver the aims of One Planet Cardiff. For example, Dwr Cymru, Natural Resources Wales and Cardiff University all stated that they were keen to work in partnership with the Council. This is exceptionally positive news since the Council cannot deliver all of the required work on its own, and partner organisations can add much needed resources and expertise to the help meet the challenging carbon reduction targets. Going forward Members feel that properly organising this combined resource is one of the most important challenges and opportunities, therefore, it recommends that the Council:

- **Commitment** - Obtains a commitment from a wide range of local stakeholder groups to work with the Council to help deliver the aims of One Planet Cardiff. This should go beyond (but include) the traditional Cardiff Partnership Board Partners, and include groups and

representatives from the business community; community groups / the third sector; colleges and universities; schools and youth groups; neighbouring local authorities and energy / utility companies.

- **Mapping** - Once the commitment has been obtained, the Council should work with the various local stakeholder groups to map out and quantify what they will do to help achieve the challenging carbon reduction targets.
- **One Planet Cardiff Leadership Board** - The Council should establish a One Planet Cardiff leadership board comprising of representatives from the Council and other key partners. This leadership board should be bound by the creation of clear project governance, which sets out committed resources, timescales and accountability for specific tasks.
- **Local Climate Forum** - Give thought to creating a 'Local Climate Forum' similar to the one in operation in Leeds. This could provide a voice for local residents and act as an ongoing consultation tool for the Council and its stakeholder partners.

❖ **Behaviour Change**

Several of the witness groups that took part in the meeting made it clear that wider public behaviour change was by far the biggest challenge faced in terms of delivering the aims of One Planet Cardiff. This was emphasised by the scale of Scope 3 Emissions generated by the public, and over which the Council has limited control. Cardiff University, Dwr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales all stressed that public behaviour had the biggest impact on carbon emissions in Cardiff, and so the strategy clearly needed to take this into account. After considering the evidence presented and comments made relating to behaviour change, Members recommend that:

- **Dedicated Section** - The final version of One Planet Cardiff Strategy contains a section dedicated to delivering public behaviour change that will reduce carbon emissions in Cardiff.

- **Quantities & Planning** - The behaviour change section would need to quantify the level of carbon emissions directly generated by households in the city; identify how and where reductions could take place; and outline positive steps to show how individual households might achieve the required change within the 2030 timescale.

- **Public Responsibility** - At the start of the behaviour change section it should be made clear that the Council cannot deliver the carbon reduction required on its own, and that the public has an essential role to play in achieving the 2030 target. If the strategy does not make the importance of the public clear, then it might by accident create the impression that the Council will deliver this for the people of Cardiff – this would be a huge mistake.

- **Carrot & Stick** - During the meeting there was much discussion around the use of ‘carrot and stick’ to get the public to support the aims of One Planet Cardiff. The Committee was generally of the view that at the outset a well-positioned and directed carrot was more effective than the use of a stick. That said, there are instances where, however tasty the carrot may be, some members of the public will refuse to eat it. In such circumstances, a suitable pre-determined stick or sanction needs to be in place to help drive the necessary behaviour change.

- **Selling Benefits** - Getting the public to change needs to be supported by well-defined benefits, which in turn needed to be sold properly. To illustrate this Cardiff University used a good example by saying that you don’t sell the concept of climate change by telling people how many polar bears have died, instead you sell benefits such as better work life balance and healthier lifestyle. The strategy and supporting action plan needs to be backed up by a well thought out behaviour change strategy.

- **Resourcing & Long Term Plan** - The behaviour change plan needs to be well resourced, and long term. A witness from Dwr Cymru with experience of running promotional campaigns explained that if the Council wanted to effect real behaviour change by 2030, then they needed to start

immediately and continually run the campaign for the next nine years. This would take time, significant resources and collaboration with partner organisations. To achieve this the Council and its partners need to establish and publish a plan; agree how it will be structured and timed over the nine year period; determine a range of measures to see how effective it has been; and finally agree resources that each partner will put forward.

- **Reviewing Behaviour Change Plan** - The behaviour change plan put forward will need to be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it is working properly. Natural Resources Wales highlighted the importance of regularly reviewing education and communications initiatives, as they don't always work as planned. Regular reviews need to be undertaken by people who have suitable expertise.
- **Public Ownership** - The aims of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy need to be clearly understood and owned by the residents of Cardiff. Ultimately the strategy needs to be delivered bottom up by the people of Cardiff, and supported by the Council and its partner organisations.
- **Identifying Partners** - Any strategy needs to identify public groups that the Council and its partner organisations can work with, for example, volunteer groups, third sector organisations and housing associations.

❖ **Covid Resilience**

As a part of questioning during the meeting, I asked witness groups if there was anything positive that we might learn from the Covid crisis that should give us hope for the future, and if there were any behaviour changes that had happened that we should look to adapt going forward. The responses were generally very positive, so I have included a summary of these in this section of the letter:

- **Adapting to New Working Practices** - Most of the witness groups felt that their working practices had adapted quickly and effectively in response to the pandemic. For example, several organisations stated that large numbers of their staff had started working from home within weeks,

and this had produced unexpected benefits such as fewer journeys to work, reduced car emissions and a better work life balance. This has been seen as a big positive.

- **People are Adaptable** - Most witness groups stated that it had proved that people were very adaptable and able to face up to a challenge. This was viewed in a very positive light, because it proves that when they have to, people are able to make positive changes. Labour for a Green New Deal pointed out that society is capable of being very creative in finding solutions to the problems faced, we just need to let them at the problem.
- **Travel Changes** - Sustrans noted that they had seen many positive changes around travel to work and sustainable travel; for example, more people were making sustainable travel choices such as walking and cycling, while travel to work vehicle emissions had fallen. They felt people had managed to adapt their behaviour, and that the challenge now was to lock in the gains. Organisations like the Council could play a big part in preserving these gains by, for example, continuing to roll out cycling and walking infrastructure.
- **Covid & Climate Change Links** - That the Covid crisis and climate change emergency are very similar in as much as they both have a disproportionately large impact on the poorest people in society.

❖ **Planning & Cardiff's Local Development Plan**

Planning is a process that is used to control how and where homes, businesses, infrastructure and other facilities are placed. Cardiff has a Local Development Plan that has in recent years determined how and where the aspects mentioned above are located. In 2021, Cardiff's Local Development Plan will be the subject of a four-year review that will look to see if the existing document needs to be changed to reflect the changes that we see around us. Members see this as an opportunity adapt the current local development plan to better reflect the priorities of the Climate Change Emergency and the consequences of the Covid crisis. With this in mind Members ask that:

- **Prioritise Aims of One Planet Cardiff** - The four-year review of Cardiff's Local Development Plan places the aims of Cardiff's One Planet Strategy at the heart of its priorities and decision-making process.
- **Adapt Plan to Reflect Change** - The direct and long term consequences of the Covid crisis are built into the revised document to reflect how people are more likely to travel and work in future. For example, representatives from Cardiff University made it clear that the pandemic had created a huge shift to home working, which means that greater focus needs to be placed upon the immediate environment of local residents.
- **Measure Value of Green Space** - The Council and Cardiff's Local Development Plan need to include a measure that better illustrates the value of green spaces in the city. Natural Resources Wales highlighted this point, and emphasised the importance of Cardiff's green spaces to local residents during the pandemic.
- **Prioritising Green Infrastructure** - Cardiff's Local Development Plan needs to find a better way to protect its existing green infrastructure, with particular reference to trees. For example, instead of simply identifying mitigating measures to offset the removal of mature trees and other green infrastructure, developers need to learn to work with the natural environment and protect these assets. Protecting Cardiff's green infrastructure needs to be a priority of the revised plan.
- **Planning Policy Reflects Carbon Neutral Aim** - If the Council has the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, then it stands to reason that it should not support future planning applications that create an additional carbon burden for the city. Some type of carbon emissions assessment should sit alongside future planning applications, with the onus placed on developers to meet the new targets.
- **Future Strategy** - The Committee will look to play its part in the scrutiny of Cardiff's Local Development Plan review, in doing this it will place the aims of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy at the centre of its thinking.

❖ Food

Several witness groups felt that food should be one of the most important themes in the One Planet Cardiff Strategy. Cardiff University and Natural Resources Wales both agreed that it should be one of the main themes of the document, while the Size of Wales stressed the importance of establishing a local low carbon food supply. Natural Resources Wales added that a sustainable food supply would be best delivered on a regional basis, and therefore, the strategy needed to work beyond the boundaries of Cardiff for the delivery of this theme.

Taking this in to consideration, the Committee recommend that the Food section of the strategy be expanded to include a wider range of sustainable food options, with the net being cast a little wider to work with agencies such as Natural Resources Cardiff, the National Union of Farmers and other neighbouring local authorities. Such an initiative could link into the Natural Resources Wales area statements, and be targeted to play a greater part in supporting the local economy.

❖ Water

Natural Resources Wales, Cardiff University and Dwr Cymru all thought water and its associated carbon footprint should feature more in the strategy. The use of water in the home (for example, washing, heating and cooking) produces significant carbon emissions, meaning that a more efficient use of this limited resource will help Cardiff a carbon neutral future. Achieving this involves a combination of behaviour change, better use of technology and retrofitting our homes and infrastructure to improve the transfer of water. To support this the Committee believe that:

- **Dedicated Water Section** - The strategy needs to include a dedicated water section that builds on the success of managing grey water in through projects like Greener Grangetown, and expands into public behaviour change, better use of technology and improved retrofitting.

- **Water Consumption Target** - The strategy needs to set out a current average water consumption per head / or household figure for Cardiff, agree a future water consumption target and set out the actions that need to be taken to reach this target. The required actions should include a mixture of behaviour change, better use of technology and retrofitting. Dwr Cymru explained that such an approach had been followed in Copenhagen, where they are looking to reduce the average water consumption per person per day from 140 litres to 100 litres.

- **Sustainable Urban Drainage** - The Council should work with partners such as Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru, to roll out more sustainable urban drainage schemes similar to Greener Grangetown. Such schemes would take rainwater out of the sewer systems, and significantly reduce the amount of energy needed for pumping water to treatment stations; the net result would be a reduction in Cardiff's carbon footprint. This approach could form a part of a wider 'Blue Green Strategy' which aims to recreate a naturally-oriented water cycle, while contributing to the amenity of the city by bringing water management and green infrastructure together.

- **Highlight Linkage – Climate Change & Water** - Dwr Cymru felt that the strategy needed to highlight a bigger link between climate change and water, not just in terms of how we use it, but also from some of the associated implications, for example, flash flooding, drought and rising sea levels. Members agree with this and feel that such messages should feature in a 'Water' section of the document.

❖ **Education**

At the meeting there was some discussion around how best to engage with children and young people on the aims and objectives of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy. At one point the Leader made a comment relating to the strategy that '*the battle would be won or lost in schools*'; this was something that was echoed by representatives from Cardiff University. The Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment explained that the

Council was working with schools and the Cardiff Youth Council to identify the best way to engage with young people and to capture their thoughts as a part of the consultation exercise. The Committee welcomed these comments, and look forward to seeing the contributions of young people as a part of the wider consultation. It goes without saying, that Members would also welcome similar contributions from other sections of society, for example, older people.

Members also feel that children and young people are a valuable resource can and offer far more than just a consultation opportunity. They believe that they are a resource that if used properly could have a big impact in delivering behaviour change and in supporting other projects; therefore, the Committee recommend that the Council find a way of utilising this resource as a part of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy action plan. Once again, Members would welcome similar contributions from other parts of society.

❖ **Trees**

Members welcome the idea of planting more trees in Cardiff as this will help enhance the local environment and manage carbon dioxide emissions. Based on this and the comments made during the meeting Members would like to raise the following:

- **Natural Resources Wales Support** - They note that Natural Resources Wales has expertise in this area, and are willing to provide support where they can to develop any plans that the Council might have, for example, the Urban Tree Farm. The Committee recommend that the Council taps into the resource and expertise that Natural Resources Wales can provide in this area.
- **Urban Tree Farm** - Some witness groups felt that proposal to develop an 'Urban Tree Farm' didn't contain enough detail. It would be appreciated if you could provide the Committee with details around how, where and when the 'Urban Tree Farm' will be developed.

❖ **Resources**

Members believe that climate change is the biggest challenge currently facing society. In response to this the Council has declared a Climate Change Emergency, and so needs to resource the scale of this challenge accordingly. The Committee value the excellent contributions made by the very dedicated 'Energy & Sustainability Team', but it is a very small team that is nowhere near big enough to meet the enormous challenge that the Council faces. To address this obvious shortfall the Council needs to do the following:

- **Staffing Review** - It needs to immediately review the level of staffing resources currently allocated towards dealing with climate change. In doing this, it needs to increase the number of dedicated staff working towards achieving the goals of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy. The resource needs to be **dedicated** and not patched up with part time contributions from a range of service areas. Sourcing funding, working with partners and driving forward projects needs people who are able to focus on the task. Part time resources deliver part time results, and climate change is not a part time challenge.
- **Resource Benchmarking** - The Council needs to be satisfied that it is allocating at least the same level of resource to address the Climate Change Emergency, as it is for other major Council projects. For example, it would be useful to benchmark climate change against the staffing and capital support provided for projects like the City Deal and Cardiff Indoor Arena.
- **Dedicated Partnership Resources** - Dealing with the Climate Change Emergency needs to be a partnership effort, this means that the Council needs to ask its partners to allocate dedicated resources to help deliver the One Planet Cardiff Strategy. Contributions need to be both financial and in kind. Seconding staff from service areas and partner organisations to work in a wider One Planet Cardiff Team would be a big step forward, and a quick way to increase the number of dedicated staff.

- **Resource Impact** - Staffing and capital resources need to focus on projects that deliver the biggest impact. The projects that we prioritise need to demonstrate the biggest returns on investment. For further information on this, see the 'Prioritisation' section of this letter.
- **One Planet Cardiff Finance Officer** - The United Kingdom Government aims to reach carbon neutrality by 2050; this is 20 years after the One Planet Cardiff target. This will probably create funding challenges for the Cardiff target, as some financial support may align to the 2050 target. This means that the Council will need to focus hard on identifying potential funding opportunities, and so it would be sensible to have a One Planet Cardiff finance officer. He or she should have a role dedicated to spotting new funding streams, matching monies to schemes, highlighting the opportunities to the relevant officer(s) and supporting the submission of applications. Members feel that this would be an investment for the Council, as if it was done properly the post could pay for itself many times over.
- **Student Resources** - The Council and its partners need to make better use of the large number of students in Cardiff who are capable of supporting the projects that will need to be delivered to reach the 2030 target. Representatives from Cardiff University felt that linking the work of students to practical tasks and projects would be a huge step forward. The students could gain real work and project experience, while One Planet Cardiff would access a very valuable resource. Members recommend that the Council and its partners liaise with the local universities and colleges, to start a discussion about how this approach could work.
- **Balancing Large & Small Projects** - Members are keen to point out that reducing carbon emissions is not just about delivering large-scale projects such as solar farms and heat networks, it is also about the smaller things that we all do on a daily basis. The strategy needs to remember this when allocating resources, by emphasising that we need to deliver a blend of

large capital based projects, alongside the smaller behaviour change initiatives.

❖ **Transport**

Changing the way that we travel into the longer term will make a big impact on everyday carbon emissions. It will also present a wider range of economic and health benefits that will only make Cardiff a better place. The Committee acknowledges the big steps forward that the Council has taken in recent years to change travel behaviour and modal shift, they are also very encouraged by some of the changes that have been embraced as a result of the pandemic and which have transformed travel patterns, for example, more working from home. Based on the witness submissions, and the evidence received at the meeting, the Committee would also like to highlight the following transport points:

- **Home Working** - Locking in the transport benefits that have materialised from the Covid crisis is very important. Going back to the old way of working is simply not an option, therefore, the Council and its partners need to develop a sensible hybrid approach to home working that acknowledges for staff to be together at crucial times, while respecting the obvious benefits of home working. To help with this the Council and its partners need to create and implement new home working policies to better reflect the post Covid working environment.
- **Low Traffic Neighbourhoods** - Several of the witness organisations were very supportive of the idea of low traffic neighbourhoods, but acknowledged that they needed to be properly planned and supported by a good consultation piece. Sustrans, for example, felt that to deliver such a scheme the Council would need to work with the community, and that there would always be some resistance to such a scheme. Members like the idea of low traffic neighbourhoods, and ask the Council to review options of where these might be introduced in Cardiff. Any such proposals taken forward would need to be supported by a detailed community consultation that reflected the views of local residents.

- **Cycling & Walking Infrastructure** - The Council needs to continue to roll out the much needed cycling and walking infrastructure. This will continue to help make cycling and walking an easier travel choice for the public, and help to lock in some of the modal shift benefits experienced as a result of the Covid crisis. Cycling infrastructure should include the growth of the cycle lane infrastructure, along with a range of bike storage facilities – particularly in less affluent areas where space and facilities for bike parking are not always readily available.

- **E-cargo Bikes** - Sustrans is keen to introduce E-cargo bikes to the streets of Cardiff, and is looking to run an event to raise their profile in Cardiff. Such a mode of travel would help reduce carbon emissions, and contribute to improving air quality in the city. On this basis Members recommend that the Council liaises with Sustrans to see what it can do to help raise the profile of this sustainable mode of transport in Cardiff.

❖ **Prioritisation**

Prioritisation of what can be done to achieve the biggest impact in the shortest possible time is essential if we are to reach the challenging 2030 targets. This is particularly true given the limited resources available to take the One Planet Cardiff Strategy forward. The action plan that will support the final version of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy needs to act as a menu that sets out:

- **Existing Project Resources** - The projects that we can deliver given the existing resources that we have, to include the timescale, cost and most importantly the carbon reduction impact that the projects will have. In short, we need to prioritise the projects that provide the '*biggest bang for buck*'. Each project should be ranked in order of importance based on overall carbon reduction within the nine-year window.

- **Additional Project Resources** - The projects that we would like to deliver if we had additional resource, to include the timescale, cost and most importantly the carbon reduction impact that the projects will have. In short, we need to prioritise the projects that we would like to deliver that

provide the 'biggest bang for buck'. Each project should be ranked in order of importance based on overall carbon reduction within the nine-year window.

- **Covid Recovery** - The action plan should include green projects that support the post Covid recovery, for example, several witness organisations mentioned the retrofitting of properties as an ideal project that would have a big impact on carbon emissions, and at the same time support the local economy.

❖ **Future Energy Solutions**

The Committee were impressed by the content and proposals contained within the Wales & West Utilities presentation. Many of the Members were unaware of the changes that are taking place on the existing gas network, as it makes the transition towards a hydrogen-based system. They were encouraged that:

- **Gas Network** - Plans are in place to convert the whole network to hydrogen well before the United Kingdom carbon neutral target of 2050.
- **Hydrogen Market** - The development of the hydrogen market, which is set to include the use of new technologies such as carbon capture.
- **Industrial Cluster** - That Cardiff, which is based along the South Wales industrial cluster, is well placed to take advantage of existing hydrogen sources.
- **Vehicle Fuel** - How the development of the hydrogen market could help increase the supply of this natural element as a fuel for vehicles.
- **Energy Blend** - Serious thought was being given to other energy sources that might complement the development of the gas network, for example, ground heat pumps.

- **Cardiff Capital Region** - That the proposals for upgrading the gas network to hydrogen were being taken very seriously by the Cardiff Capital Region.

❖ **Procurement**

The Committee felt that the Council and its partners could make a big contribution towards reducing net carbon emissions by adapting their procurement processes. Every purchase made should be considered against the impact that it has on climate change, with a suitable weighting put in place to ensure greener procurement. The combined budget of the Council and its partner organisations is huge, and so any green procurement changes made should have an environmentally positive impact on the supply chain. With this in mind Members ask that:

- **Review Procurement Processes** - The Council and its partner organisations review their procurement processes to ensure that the carbon reduction aims of One Planet Cardiff are at the heart of all purchasing decisions.
- **Local Economy** - That where possible, the Council looks to keep the carbon footprint of everything that it buys low by focusing on the local economy.
- **Working with Businesses** - That in making the green procurement changes, the Council works with business to support them through the change, and encourages them to adapt to a new way of working.
- **Gas Boiler Procurement** - That when taking decisions on the replacement of gas boilers, the Council and its partner organisations ensure that hybrid boilers and other complementary energy sources (for example, ground heat pumps) are at the forefront of any decision made.
- **Social Enterprises** - That the Council works with and supports social enterprises when developing new greener procurement processes. They

are capable of supporting the Council's procurement process, however, they often struggle to compete based on not putting a profit motive first.

- **Retrofit Opportunity** - Retrofit of properties was viewed by witnesses as a huge opportunity to kick start the green local economy. Matching this to the local supply chain could provide huge economic benefits, but would require lots of forward planning.
- **Indirect Emissions** – It is easy to forget that actions taken to support day to day life in Cardiff can indirectly generate carbon emissions in other parts of the world. For example, consumption of products like beef, soya, coffee and chocolate in Cardiff can contribute to deforestation in places like the Amazon, which in turn is having a huge impact on carbon emissions and how the planet regulates them. The Council and the One Planet Cardiff Strategy needs to raise awareness of this problem, and encourage the public to think about what it is buying and the consequences of such a purchase. Supporting fair trade schemes will help, as will following the example of Chester which has been turned itself into a sustainable palm oil city. Finally, the Council and its partners need to adapt their respective procurement process to restrict the purchasing and consumption of unsustainable products. The purchasing power of the Council and partners will have a direct influence on the suppliers of these products, which in turn will hopefully result in a long-term positive change.
- **Purchasing Green Energy** – During the meeting Labour for a Green New Deal explained that if the Council was serious about being carbon neutral by 2030, then it should commit to only buying electricity from a green or renewable provider; such providers / tariffs are increasingly common in the energy market and act as an incentive for the production of clearer energy. The Committee agree with this and asks that in line with its carbon neutral aspirations, the Council switches to a green or renewable provider / tariff.

❖ **Regulation & Policy**

During the meeting, the use of appropriate regulation initiatives to drive behaviour change was discussed. The feeling was that simple schemes such

as the 5p carrier bag charge had worked well in delivering behaviour change, and therefore, other similar schemes might work well in tackling climate change. With this in mind the Committee would ask that:

- **Sharing Ideas** - The Council keeps in regular dialogue with Welsh Government to know when similar new initiatives are being introduced, and also if the Council identifies a potential scheme that it thinks might work, then the details should be passed across to Welsh Government for consideration.
- **Fair Trade** - In line with its green credentials, the Council looks to maximise the sustainability benefits that can be achieved for Cardiff by embracing the opportunities presented by the Fair Trade movement.
- **Deforestation Free Council** - The Council adopts the Size of Wales aim of becoming a deforestation free Council, i.e. one that does all it can within its decision-making ability and power, to eliminate imported deforestation from its sphere of financial influence. In addition to this, it should also encourage its public sector partners to make the same commitment.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and provide a response to the content of this letter.

Regards,



Councillor Ramesh Patel

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Andrew Gregory – Director for Planning, Transport & Environment
- Gareth Harcombe – Operational Manager – Energy & Sustainability
- Jason Bale - Programme Manager – Clean Air Cardiff

- Julie Gwilliam – Cardiff University
- Angelina Sanderson Bellamy – Cardiff University
- Katrina Henderson – Cardiff University
- Tony Harrington – Dwr Cymru
- Ben Burggraaf – Dwr Cymru
- Sean Thompson – Labour for a Green New Deal
- Nadia De Longhi – Natural Resources Wales
- Andy Robinson – Natural Resources Wales
- Kevin Rahman Daultrey – Size of Wales
- Christine Boston – Sustrans
- Oliver Lancaster – Wales & West Utilities
- Derek Walker – Wales Co-operative Centre
- Sarah Evans - Wales Co-operative Centre
- Jane Forshaw - Welsh Government Energy Services
- Bryony Haynes – Friends of the Earth Cardiff
- Joe Kidd – British Conservation Alliance
- Adrian Field – For Cardiff
- Davina Fiore - Director of Governance & Legal Services
- Members of Cardiff’s Environmental Scrutiny Committee