

Ref: NT/RP/HTMMCW/11.05.2021

17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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



Dear Leader, Councillor Michael & Councillor Wild,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 11 May 2021 – One Planet Cardiff –  
A Response to the Climate Emergency: Key Progress**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and officers for attending Committee on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the One Planet Cardiff Progress Report. In a bid to assist you and the service area, Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you.

Members firstly wish to acknowledge the level of corporate working of yourselves and officers in moving this agenda forward. As referenced at the meeting, Members look forward to receiving the definitive Report which is due later in the summer and will include comparisons between the strategy's key projects, along with a detailed action plan and findings of the carbon analysis assessment.

**Cost of Retrofit on Social Housing**

During the meeting, questions were raised on the costings of the council house retrofit programme and Members were advised that there is a specific budget of the council's Housing Revenue Account which is assigned to such work. However, as a specific figure was not provided it was unclear to Members the exact costings of the scheme. As such, Members would appreciate if specific detail on the costings could be provided along with insight into how the programme will be managed. During the discussion, the need to encourage higher income households into the agenda of retrofitting was also referenced as an ongoing piece of work and Members would

appreciate some more information on the initiatives we are considering in engaging such households.

### **Wildlife corridors**

With regard to wildlife corridors, although Committee Members note the comments made that extensive talks on all aspects of biodiversity does occur with developers, Committee Members do hold concerns that wildlife corridors have not necessarily always appeared to be recognised, maintained or enhanced in recent developments. Committee Members wish to stress the importance of public perception of the council in this respect and wish to seek evidence on how we as a council will ensure that wildlife corridors on future developments which occur in the city are better achieved in the future.

### **Tree planting**

Committee acknowledge that the Council has planted over 10,000 trees and saplings in the last four years and would be intrigued to know exactly how many trees planted by the council have reached maturity. Committee wish to encourage the continuation of such activity, however do wish to stress that it is fundamental trees reach full maturity in order to provide their full benefits. Further to this, Members also wish to stress that within all future developments, areas are assigned for tree planting as not only will this help to ensure that the agenda of One Planet Cardiff is fully embedded, but it will foster and drive a positive perception and message to the general public that the council recognises and values the importance of green open space. In addition, Committee Members would also be grateful to receive further information on the National Park City as offered by Cllr Wild.

### **Charging Points**

With regard to the forecast of 40,000 charging points being required in Cardiff by 2030, Members hold concerns in this forecast being achieved effectively given the possibility of technology changing along with the other key variables highlighted by yourselves at the meeting. Members note this is a Welsh Government ambition and acknowledge and ratify your comments that a cautious approach in achieving this ambition is needed. Members do wish to

stress that if such ambitions are included in the final strategy, or in any document produced by the council, it be clearly noted when ambitions or targets are set by outside bodies in order to ensure clarity to the readers.

### **Public Consultation**

Members note the comments that the consultation reiterated the importance of facilitating a change in public behaviour and Members wish to seek feedback on if the recommendations made following our December meeting on public behaviour change have been accepted and will be acted upon. Members also wish to reiterate that a key purpose of a consultations is to act as a tool for learning which in turn can generate new ways of thinking and ensure the best possible outcome and delivery of such an important strategy. Members wish to note it was disappointing that this perspective on the purpose of a consultation appeared to not necessarily be shared.

### **Electric Taxis**

Members note that cost remains a key challenge in the move toward electric taxis and Members acknowledge and felt assured by the comments made that that work is ongoing with outside bodies to develop trials and schemes towards addressing this challenge.

### **City Car Club**

Members note the comments made on the research conducted by Hackney Council on the City Car Club and would welcome such information being shared with Committee. Members do hold concerns that a lot of the emphasis on transportation within the progress Report appears to be on cars. Members note the move to electric vehicles is a good solution, however wish to stress that electric cars are not the panacea and we as a council need to do more to discourage the public from using cars and this emphasis on a change in public mind-set could have been more greatly reflected within the report. Members wish to reiterate the need to more greatly emphasis public transport or other alternative modes of transport such as cycling or walking within all documents generated. Members feel the emphasis on public transport is particularly important in light of the pandemic and the general public perception on public transport safety. Members feel we as a council need to

do more to rectify this perception and ensure members of the public are better informed that public transport is safe in the current climate and is the preferred mode of transport, which in turn will also assist with public transports financial viability.

Thank you once more to you and officers for attending the meeting. For ease of reference, the requests detailed in this letter are as follows:

- Costings on the retrofit of social housing along with insight into how such work will be managed.
- How we are looking to engage higher income households into the agenda of retrofitting
- How we as a Council will ensure that wildlife corridors on future developments are better achieved in the future.
- How many trees planted by the council have reached maturity.
- To receive further information on the National Park City as offered by Cllr Wild.
- Feedback on if the public behaviour change recommendations made following our December meeting have been accepted and will be acted upon.
- Sight of the research conducted by Hackney Council on City Car Clubs.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Ramesh Patel in black ink.

Councillor Ramesh Patel

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Paul Orders – Chief Executive
- Andrew Gregory – Director for Planning, Transport & Environment
- Gareth Harcombe – Operational Manager – Energy & Sustainability
- Jason Bale - Programme Manager – Clean Air Cardiff
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee