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## SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM45370

Dyddiad / Date: 7th September 2021

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

Annwyl/Dear Councillor Patel

### Environmental Scrutiny Committee - 2nd March 2021

Thank you for your letter dated 4 March 2021. I would also like to thank yourself and your fellow Scrutiny Committee Members for their contributions to the comprehensive Report; which the Cabinet considered and agreed a response in November 2020. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

With regard to the specific comments made in your letter of 4th March, I would make the following observations.

### Funding Update

With regard to new funding opportunities I can confirm:

- £25K has been awarded from NRW for scoping the potential of PSB land for new planting and environmental purposes.
- A new Coed Caerdydd brand has been created
- £5K towards a “living wall” to support city centre air quality through the Local Nature Partnership
- £230K from the Woodland trust to support tree planting, a new tree nursery at Forest Farm and to prepare a scoping report for the after-use of timber.

#### 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.



EnraW (Stage 2) has been submitted to Welsh Government for £735K to support:

- 2 posts to manage the pilot project (posts have been job evaluated and are ready for advertisement)
- Further development of the Coed Caerdydd brand and branded materials
- Vehicles, tools and equipment
- Trees, plant protection and publicity materials
- Preparation of an Citywide Urban Forest Strategy and Soil Strategy
- Joined up monitoring and collation of data with all partners
- Development and management of volunteer programme (including training for volunteers)

### **Staff Capacity**

Within your letter, you make references to securing adequate staffing and resources. I can assure you that staffing is never an afterthought. I am working closely with senior officers to ensure that there are sufficient staff to deliver projects. I would take this opportunity to commend the Council's highly dedicated and experienced staff for their continued commitment during these difficult and challenging times.

### **River Rhymney Remediation Work**

With regard to the River Rhymney Remediation, I have asked relevant Officers to respond to you separately, as this work did not form part of the Scrutiny discussions.

### **Planning Policy Wales – Editions 10 & 11**

With regard to PPW11 and the National Development Plan, officers have advised that an All Member briefing paper is being prepared for circulation this Summer. This will describe all the main changes between PPW10 and PPW11 as well as describe what is now included in the National Development Plan for Wales. In advance of this, meetings are being arranged between senior Council and Welsh Government officials in April where it is expected that further information will be prepared to inform the new National Policy framework.

### **Rewilding & Member Consultation**

Questions regarding specific projects, which were not included in the Scrutiny recommendations, are best directed to the relevant Cabinet Member.

### **Declare Biodiversity & Climate Change Emergency**

I do not share the view that by not declaring a "Biodiversity Emergency" there is any inherent risk of overlooking the scale and challenge of the problem. Cardiff's Section 6 Duty supports wider policy integration that is entirely consistent with the corporate

approach taken under the One Planet Strategy; thus increasing the potential to promote biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems.

### **Local Development Plan Review**

I am advised that senior officers in the Planning Service are liaising with the Cabinet Office to discuss in detail the imminent LDP review in terms of Scrutiny, governance and wider consultation arrangements.

I trust you find this response helpful.

Yn gywir  
Yours sincerely

Michael Michael

**Councillor / Y Cyngorydd Michael Michael**  
**Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Strydoedd Glân, Ailgylchu a'r Amgylchedd**