

Ref: RK/RP/MM/11.11.2021

11th November 2021

Councillor Michael Michael,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Cllr Michael,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 11 November 2021 – Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) - Adoption And Future Maintenance Of Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Features Report

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, I would like to thank you as well as Officers from the Planning, Transport and Environment Directorate for attending Committee on Thursday 11th November to discuss the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) - Adoption and Future Maintenance of Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Features Report.

Following our consideration, Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following observations and requests to you.

The Committee noted the comments made by yourself in relation to the difference that SuDs initiatives are having on new and old building developments and the associated work that is being undertaken with developers to ensure that the right model is in place. Likewise, Members appreciate the comments made by the Director for Planning, Transport and Environment in relation to how crucial this work is to any major development in the city and the option proposed would mean that the Council can manage the process and look to the long-term benefit for householders and the City as a whole.

Enforcement

Members questioned whether enforcement could be undertaken in relation to SuDS on older developments to which Officers advised that unfortunately the

new legislation did not allow for this and only applied to newer developments of more than one property. It was confirmed that it was now at the forefront of design with developers and the Council had the powers to refuse adoption of any SuDS features that were not up to standard.

Resources

The Committee expressed concern during the meeting over the resources within the Council to take on the responsibility of future maintenance of SuDS features. The report and officers at the meeting stated that the existing service area would be developed and expanded to undertake this as more development progresses and more SuDS assets are introduced. Members were advised that the team would expand in line with demand and develop into a specific Street Scene SuDS maintenance team. Members welcomed reports from Officers that part of this expansion would incorporate apprenticeships as well as in-house training but expressed concern over how long this would take to develop and whether the need for the service would expand more rapidly than the team would be able to cope with, posing a risk to the Council. The Committee therefore **requested** written confirmation of the planned approach to expand the team and provide the service required, including how many apprenticeships this would include.

Requests following this scrutiny

For ease of reference the requests contained in the letter are as follows:

- That the Committee receive written confirmation of the planned approach to expand the existing team to enable them to undertake maintenance of existing features and other flood risk associated assets, including how many apprenticeships this would include.

Thank you once more to you and the officers for attending the meeting.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and provide a response to the request detailed in this letter.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Ramesh Patel in black ink.

Councillor Ramesh Patel

Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Andrew Gregory – Director for Planning, Transport & Environment
- Matt Wakelam, Assistant Director, Street Scene – Highways
- Gary Brown - Head of Highway Infrastructure and Operations
- Simon Dooley - Team Leader (Drainage & Flood Alleviation)
- Heather Warren, Cabinet Support Office
- Cabinet Support Office
- Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Business Manager
- Leaders of the Opposition
- Tim Gordon - Head of Communications & External Relations
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee