

Ref: RDB/RP/CW/05.01.2021

11th February 2021

Councillor Caro Wild,
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Councillor Wild,

Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 5th January 2021

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and the officers for attending the Committee meeting on Tuesday 5th January 2021 to discuss the items on ‘Cardiff Transport White Paper – One Year Update’ and ‘South Wales Metro – Member Briefing’. The comments and observations made by Members on the areas relevant to your portfolio of responsibility are set out in this letter.

Presentations at Committee

- In advance of the meeting it was agreed that no presentations would be delivered to support the scrutiny, however, shortly before the start of proceedings the Committee was made aware of a presentation that the Directorate had created to support the item on ‘Cardiff Transport White Paper – One Year Update’. Can I take this opportunity to remind you and officers that while the Committee welcome presentations from the Directorate, these do need to be agreed in advance of the meeting and made available at the point of publishing papers, i.e. three complete working days in advance of the meeting.

Cardiff Transport White Paper – One-Year Update

- **EV Charging Points Consultation** – The Committee was disappointed at the small amount of consultation that had taken place prior to the roll out of the first phase of EV charging points in Cardiff. They felt that ward Members had only been alerted to the introduction of EV charging points

in their area, and in some circumstances the locations chosen had been poor. The Committee recommend that in future proper consultation needs to take place prior to a site being decided upon so that ward Members can have real and meaningful input into final decision.

- **Highways Surfacing Programme** – At the meeting we briefly discussed the options of reviewing Cardiff’s Highways Surfacing Programme, and reminded you that the Committee was still waiting for a copy of the document to review. On behalf of the Committee, I ask that you provide the Principal Scrutiny Officer with a copy of Cardiff’s Highways Surfacing Programme so that it can be circulated to Members, and used to agree future scrutiny on the topic.

- **City Centre Recovery – Post Covid** - At the meeting you and the officers were asked if the transport plans for the City Centre needed to be revised to take into account any long-term impacts of the Covid crisis, for example, a greater shift to working from home might mean that fewer daily journeys to work are made into Cardiff once the pandemic has finished. The Director for Planning, Transport & Environment explained that it was probably too early to start predicting how the City Centre was going to adapt post Covid, and that a period of monitoring would need to take place to establish what needed to happen next. The Committee agree with this approach in principle, but ask that you provide Members with a plan on exactly how any potential changes will be monitored; a picture of how the Council anticipates the city centre recovery will happen; and an explanation of the level of change that might require the Council to adapt its current plans.

- **Future Funding for Transport** – The Committee were concerned that the funds dedicated to transport pre-Covid, might not necessarily be available post-Covid. Members agreed that good transport infrastructure is a sound investment because it increases productivity, and provides a good return for the wider economy. With this in mind, they are asking for assurance that the pre-Covid transport funding is still available, along with a summary

of the monies available, the source of funding, and a plan to show where it is being allocated.

- **Electric Bike Security** – Members welcomed the roll out electric bikes onto Cardiff's NextBike network, but raised a number of concerns about the costs associated to the theft and damage of these expensive bikes. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with details of the number of new electric bikes on the Network; where stands will be based; the associated costs; and details of the security measures that have been put in place to prevent theft and damage.

- **20mph Zones** – At the meeting I once again asked for confirmation that South Wales Police is actively enforcing the speed limit in Cardiff's 20mph zones. To date no evidence has been provided to confirm that this is happening, or indeed that the Council is formally putting pressure on South Wales Police to carry out this enforcement work. On behalf of the Committee I ask that:
 - You provide evidence in writing of all requests that have been made by the Cabinet or Senior Officers to South Wales Police that ask for enforcement of Cardiff's 20mph zones;
 - Details of any replies from South Wales Police to the 20mph enforcement requests made by the Cabinet or Senior Officers;
 - You liaise with South Wales Police to find out how many speeding fines have been issued in Cardiff's 20mph zones since they were implemented, and then share that information with the Committee.

- **Albany Road Parking Spaces** – At the meeting a Member expressed concern at the removal of parking spaces on Albany Road, and the impact that this would have on older and more vulnerable people. An officer explained that the scheme had been designed to remove longer-term parking from the area, which in turn would increase parking space availability. This he argued had worked well so far, and that there was evidence to support that it had resulted in greater turnover of shorter-term

parking, which in turn improved access. I would be grateful if you could arrange for this supporting evidence to be shared with the Committee.

- **Waungron Road** – The Committee is disappointed by the ongoing delays in developing the Waungron Road site into a transport hub. This scheme was proposed during the last administrative term, and yet very little progress has been achieved. In acknowledgement of the delays to this scheme, I would be grateful if you could:
 - Confirm dates for the delivery of the new transport hub at the Waungron Road site;
 - Provide an explanation of the actions that are currently happening to make sure that the site is delivered on time;
 - Confirm which Cabinet Members or Senior Officers are currently responsible for delivering the scheme;
 - Provide a summary of the actions taken to date to develop this scheme, along with an explanation of how they have contributed to the delays.

Requests for following this scrutiny:

- 1) **Presentations** - Agreed in advance of the meeting and made available at the point of publishing papers, i.e. three complete working days in advance of the meeting.
- 2) **Highways Surfacing Programme** – To provide the Principal Scrutiny Officer with a copy of Cardiff’s Highways Surfacing Programme so that it can be circulated to Members.
- 3) **City Centre Recovery – Post Covid** – To provide Members with a plan on exactly how any potential changes will be monitored; a picture of how the Council anticipates the city centre recovery will happen; and an explanation of the level of change that might require the Council to adapt its current plans.

- 4) **Future Funding for Transport** – Provide assurance that the pre-Covid transport funding is still available, along with a summary of the monies available, the source of funding, and a plan to show where it is being allocated.
- 5) **Electric Bike Security** – To provide the Committee with details of the number of new electric bikes on the Network; where stands will be based; the associated costs; and details of the security measures that have been put in place to prevent theft and damage.
- 6) **20 mph Zones** – To provide evidence of all requests that have been made by the Cabinet or Senior Officers to South Wales Police that ask for enforcement of Cardiff's 20mph zones; details of any replies from South Wales Police to the 20mph enforcement requests made by the Cabinet or Senior Officers; information on the number of speeding fines have been issued in Cardiff's 20mph zones.
- 7) **Albany Road Parking Spaces** – To provide the evidence that supports the greater turnover of parking spaces in Albany Road.
- 8) **Waungron Road** – To confirm dates for the delivery of the new transport hub at the Waungron Road site; provide an explanation of the actions that are currently happening to make sure that the site is delivered on time; confirm which Cabinet Members or Senior Officers are currently responsible for delivering the scheme; to provide a summary of the actions taken to date to develop this scheme, with an explanation of how they have contributed to the delays.

Recommendations to be monitored following this scrutiny:

- 1) **EV Charging Point Consultation** - In future proper consultation needs to take place prior to a site being decided upon so that ward Members can have real and meaningful input into final decision.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and provide a response to the content of 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
- Mark Barry - Professor of Practice in Connectivity, Cardiff University
- Paul Carter – Head of Transport
- Jason Dixon – Operational Manager, Transport Development & Network Management
- Davina Fiore - Director of Governance & Legal Services
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee