

**Ref:** Scrutiny/Env/13/10/2022

**Date:** 18 October 2022

**Councillor Dan De'Ath**

Cabinet Member, Transport & Strategic Planning



Dear Councillor De'Ath

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 13 October 2022**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee a sincere thank you for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the Electric Bus Scheme. Please also relay our thanks to the officers who attended the Committee meeting to support this item. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations. You will find our recommendations and requests, listed at the end of the letter.

**General**

The committee welcomed the £8m grant from Welsh Government to support increasing the provision of electric buses across the city.

Members noted that a previous grant of £5.6m had resulted in 36 electric buses being introduced, and asked what the expectation and vision/preferred outcome was for this additional monies? Officers confirmed that they would expect an additional 40-50 electric buses being purchased, but they were not clear what their ideal scenario/vision would look like.

**Bid/Grant Criterion**

Members commented on the proposed information that would be used in considering and awarding grants. Would it be the buses with the greatest patronage? Or those that operate in areas/streets with poor air quality, since electric buses do not pollute the atmosphere as heavily/badly as the older buses in services? What is the Councils priority? Officers commented that both issues would be taken into consideration along with views from the bus

operators in developing the scheme, and that the guidance from Welsh Government was very loose.

The Committee also noted that the source of electricity being used to charge the buses should be sustainable and **recommend** that this is included in any assessment criterion.

<b>Recommendation</b>	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
It is <b>recommended</b> that any assessment criterion for bids includes sustainable sources of electricity to charge buses				

For ease of reference, the requests detailed in this letter are:

- Please provide a statement that clarifies the ideal vision following the use of the £8m grant.

Members were also informed that it was hoped that this grant from Welsh Government and the subsequent scheme development process would help to inform future schemes.

The Committee commented that the public had also welcomed the introduction of the electric buses, however, it had been observed that the poor condition of some roads was now more noticeable. Officers noted the need for these bus routes to inform the Highway Asset Management Plan.

Once again thank you once more for attending Committee and for considering our comments and recommendations.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor Owen Jones**

**Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee**

*Cc: Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee*

*Andrew Gregory, Director for Planning, Transport & Environment*

*Jason Dixon, Transport Development and Network Management*

*Cllr Adrian Robson, Group Leader, Conservatives*

*Cllr Andrea Gibson, Group Leader, Common Ground*

*Cllr Rhys Taylor, Group Leader, Liberal Democrats*

*Jo Watkins, Cabinet Office*

*Chris Pyke, Audit Manager*

*Tim Gordon, Head of Communications and External Relations*

*Steve Parker/Kevin Morgan – PTE Performance Leads*

*Alison Taylor, Cabinet Support Officer*