

Ref: RK/RP/HT/05.10.2021

5th October 2021

Councillor Huw Thomas,
County Hall,
Atlantic Wharf,
Cardiff CF10 4UW.



Dear Leader,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 5 October 2021 – One Planet
Cardiff Strategy and Action Plan**

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 Tuesday 5th October and providing the Committee with the opportunity to consider and discuss the One Planet Cardiff Strategy and Action Plan. Following our consideration, Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following observations, requests and recommendations to you.

Behaviour Change

The Committee welcomed the information provided within the One Planet Cardiff (OPC) Strategy and Action Plan in relation to Behaviour Change and were reassured by confirmation that the Council was working with the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations. Members still expressed concerns that the proposals did not incorporate aspects relating to empowerment, both community and individual, whereby the public aren't just involved and engaged over what changes they need to make but take personal ownership. Members propose that by taking control and responsibility themselves, success is more likely, however it was not entirely clear how this would be achieved from the current strategy and action plan.

Governance

The Committee noted the governance framework proposed as part of the strategy and were pleased to see the inclusion of key partners and stakeholders. However, whilst there are numerous references to public engagement throughout the strategy, Members raised the point that there is no involvement of the public in the governance process. Members expressed the view that in order to achieve behaviour change, residents need to be involved in all aspects including the governance framework and that local community groups, for example, should be able to hold the Council to account and provide their input.

Carbon Neutral Building Developments

The Committee highlighted during the meeting that the target date for forthcoming new build development to be carbon neutral, including schools, was from 2024. Members appreciate that this would mean that school developments, already identified under Cardiff's 21st Century Schools Band B Programme, might not be included within this target. Members agreed to take up the offer from the Leader regarding **further detail** over the extent to which Band B schools have considered and incorporated carbon neutral solutions and could possibly achieve this target, or whether further funding would be required from Welsh Government for this to be realised.

Furthermore, the Committee **requested** that clarification be provided as to whether there was a similar situation regarding the new Cardiff Arena, and that due to prior commitment, including financial, this development might not achieve the carbon neutral target. Members asked for detail as to what extent this development would achieve carbon neutrality.

Action Plan and Monitoring

Following discussion over targets for achieving carbon neutral by 2030, the Committee noted that a set percentage shift per year may not be suitable due to various sizes of projects with each having a different percentage of reduction allocated. Officers explained that some projects and their associated reduction of emissions would likely be achieved in the first few years, whereas others would take longer to achieve and could be tail ended.

Whilst appreciating this, the Committee **recommend** that targets, key indicators as well as timescales be incorporated into the OPC Action Plan in order to be able to undertake effective annual monitoring of the strategy.

Financial Implications

During the meeting Members queried the fact that there was no mention of financial commitment within the OPC Strategy or Action Plan. Members welcomed the offer made by the Director of Planning, Transport and Environment to receive an estimated cost of the projects under Phase 1 of the Strategy. The Committee also **recommend** that the action plan incorporate financial detail in order that annual monitoring can effectively assess the financial situation including what can be achieved within existing resource and what further resource may be required.

Dedicated Resource

Whilst noting that the OPC Agenda involves numerous staff across the Council, previous reports to Cabinet identify additional posts that have been funded in recognition of the need to bring extra resource to the OPC Strategy. Members support a dedicated resource and believe that it is essential to push forward the OPC Agenda; to monitor it effectively and ensure its achievement. The Committee therefore **requested** clarification as to what these additional posts are and whether they have now been filled.

Requests following this scrutiny

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

- **Further detail** over to the extent to which Cardiff's 21st Century Schools Band B Programme has incorporated carbon neutral solutions;
- Clarification regarding whether the new Cardiff Arena development and will achieve carbon neutrality;
- To receive an estimated total cost of the projects under Phase 1 of the Strategy.

- Clarification as to what additional posts have been funded to take forward the OPC Strategy and whether they have now been filled.

Recommendations to be monitored following this scrutiny

To summarise, the Scrutiny Committees made two formal recommendations which are set out below. As part of the response to this letter we would be grateful if you could, for each recommendation, state whether the recommendation is accepted, partially accepted or not accepted and summarise the Cabinet’s response. If the recommendation is accepted or partially accepted, I would also be grateful if you could identify the responsible officer and provide an action date. This will ensure that progress can be monitored as part of the approach agreed by Cabinet in December 2020.

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Implementation Date
1. That targets, key indicators as well as timescales be incorporated into the OPC Action Plan in order to be able to undertake effective annual monitoring of the strategy.				
2. That the action plan incorporate financial detail in order that annual monitoring can effectively assess the financial situation including what can be achieved within existing resource and what further resource may be required.				

Regards,



Councillor Ramesh Patel
 Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

- Paul Orders – Chief Executive

- Cllr Caro Wild, Cabinet Member, Strategic Planning & Transport
- Cllr Michael Michael, Cabinet Member - Cleaner Streets, Recycling & Environment
- Andrew Gregory – Director for Planning, Transport & Environment
- Gareth Harcombe – Operational Manager – Energy & Sustainability
- Jason Bale - Programme Manager – Clean Air Cardiff
- Debi Said, PA to the Leader
- Heather Warren, Cabinet Support Office
- Cabinet Support Office
- Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Business Manager
- Members of Cardiff's Environmental Scrutiny Committee