

**Ref:** SharePoint/Scrutiny/Env/Correspondance15.06.2023

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023

**Cllr Dan De’Ath**  
**Cabinet Member, Transport & Strategic Planning**

**Cllr Caro Wild**  
**Cabinet Member , Climate Change**



By email

Annwyl Gynghorwyr De’Ath a Wild / Dear Cllrs De’Ath & Wild

## **PLANNING TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT – DIRECTORATE DELIVERY PLAN**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023, I would like to thank you and officers for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the Planning Transport & Environment Directorate Delivery Plan. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations, and you will find our requests listed at the end of the letter.

Members asked how the current Delivery Plan had been developed and if the outcome had been judged as successful. Officers replied that the Delivery Plan evolves annually, and the adjustments are made due to changing legislation or the availability of funding and the yes they felt that the delivery of the plan had been successful.

The committee asked if work had begun on the coastal flood defences and also if any work was being done in relation to river bank erosion. Officers confirmed that Welsh Government had made the offer in respect to the Coast Risk Management Programme which now needs to be accepted to progress work. The need to consider erosion in relation to rivers was acknowledged and that flood risk strategy is being developed following consultation earlier in the year.

A member asked about the lack of **KPI results and targets** in relation to workforce development & planning in that no results for previous years had been provided and the '**results were awaited from the Corporate Performance Team**'. Officer noted that these would be followed up and provided when available.

In relation to the Food Strategy, the committee asked if more could be done, meat free days in schools for example. The Cabinet Member commented that in order to support this the behaviour change by individuals is needed and that he had had discussions with Cllr Sangani who leads on the Food Strategy, about how we can lead the way but acknowledged yes more could be done. The Committee would welcome news on any developments on the food strategy and potential meat free days trials.

A member raised concerns about the ability of the housing retrofit programme to meet zero carbon targets in the next seven years. Officers acknowledged that there are not sufficient resources nationally to deliver the level of change needed. It was also noted that there are a number of plans at a regional level and that Welsh Government are looking at the introduction of hydrogen technologies and that we continue to lobby for changes and while waiting for decision to be made carrying on with boiler replacements etc, which are all things that will help in the short term for householders.

The committee asked about progress in relation to both the Bus Strategy and the Park and Ride Strategy, and the impact on modal shift, as both were included in the previous years plan. Officers stated that the Bus Strategy had been delayed due to ongoing issues in relation to the ending of the Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) by Welsh Government and the introduction of the Bus Transition Scheme, which is close to completion. In relation to modal shift it was noted that traffic patterns had changed following Covid and that questions will be included in the new Ask Cardiff survey to re-establish baseline figures.

Given the size of the Directorate and the huge scale of some of the projects it deals with, members asked if it had sufficient resources to deliver the projects outlined in the Directorate Delivery Plan and also if the introduction of Road User Charging would help. The Director commented that it was a matter of balancing the need of large regional projects with the local ones and the Cabinet Member stated that the income generated from Road User Charges would help but clarified that nothing has currently been proposed. The challenges of balancing workforce and budget was noted and the Director stated that budgets and funding were constantly under review and the if funding was reduced or withdrawn projects were reviewed accordingly.

A member asked about the current advertising of 'junk' food on bus stops and near to schools, it was noted that this contract is due for renewal and would be reviewed.

In relation to contracting members asked if we procure sustainably. The Cabinet member stated that currently 80% of the Councils carbon emissions are due to procurement and that a significant amount of cross directorate work is being done to develop a socially responsible procurement strategy, which when available could come to the Committee.

The Committee commented on the vacant OM1 One Planet Cardiff post, given the influential nature of the post and the importance of delivery within a relatively short time frame. The Director reassured the committee that recruitment to the post was currently underway.

The delivery of a number of train/metro stations was commented on, as the timescales for realising them appear to be slipping each year, it was also felt that we are potentially raising unrealistic expectations in a one-year plan. The Director accepted that this was an area of weakness, however he was confident that the stations would be delivered the issues was around timescales.

To confirm a response to the letter which responds to the following points is requested:

- **KPI results and targets** to be provided by the Corporate Performance Team to be followed up and provided.

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

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely / Yn gywir



**Councillor Owen Jones**

**Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: *Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee*

*Andrew Gregory, Director Planning Transport & Environment*

*Simon Gilbert, Head of Planning*

*Gareth Harcombe, Commercial Manager for Energy & Sustainability*

*Jason Dixon, Transport Development & Network Management*

*Amy Preece, Traffic Enforcement & Maintenance.*

*Martin Birch, OM, Bereavement & Registration Services*

*Gavin McArthur, Chair Governance & Audit Committee*

*Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit*

*Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations*

*Steve Parker/Kevin Morgan – PTE Performance Leads*