

ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - Draft copy for Annual Report 2023/24 Committee Page

Our Membership:



Councillor Owen Jones (Chair)



Councillors Bob Derbyshire; Andrea Gibson, Jamie Green, John Lancaster;
Helen Lloyd Jones, Jacqueline Parry; Bethan Proctor; Ashley Wood.



Youth Council Representative – Shifa Shazad

Our Purpose

- The Environmental Scrutiny Committee works to improve the Council’s services and policies in the area of environmental sustainability, which includes Waste Management, Planning, Environmental Health and Transportation;
- We monitor the effectiveness of who the Council works with in this area, including how resources are spent;
- We ensure that key Council Policies in this area such as One Planet Cardiff, Clean Air Strategy, Recycling Services Strategy, Green Infrastructure Plan and Local Development Plan are developed and put in place; and

- We make recommendations to the Council’s decision-makers to enhance performance and service delivery.

Our Achievements

- **Transport.** The committee has commented on several Transport projects including:
 - Updates in relation to the Cardiff **CrossRail** project following successful funding bid the UK Governments Levelling Up Fund which has been matched by the Welsh Government;
 - Progress in the development of the **Cardiff Bus Interchange**, from Transport for Wales, following handover of the site to them;
 - The proposed introduction of **Road User Charges** to support investment in transport projects;
 - The proposed restructuring of parking across the city to introduce more easily understood and consistent **Parking Zones**;
 - The permanent solution for **Castle Street** following Air Quality issues and concern raised by the RNIB about the issues encountered following the installation of the ‘pop-up solution’.
- **Recycling & Neighbourhood Services** – the committee continued to receive updates regarding the roll-out of segregated recycling across the city in an aim to improve recycling rates to reach Welsh Government targets and avoid financial penalties, Houses of Multiple Occupation and blocks of flats are not currently being involved in the roll-out while potential solutions are being investigated.
- The Committee were pleased to hear updates in relation to **Nature and Biodiversity** and the good work being carried out by a small number of officers supporting this area of work
- **One Planet Cardiff**, is the Council’s response to the Climate Emergency and strategy to achieve its Carbon Neutral target by 2030. This year we received a second update following the adoption of the strategy and the Action Plan, and noted the difficulty in reaching net zero by 2030 due to the lack of resources, change in the reporting framework by Welsh Government, therefore making a comparison with the baseline year difficult, but hopefully will improve going forward.
- Members of the Committee participated in the Joint Task & Finish work that considered the Preferred Strategy stage of the Replacement **Local Development Plan**. The Joint report submitted to Cabinet in January 2024 made 130 key findings and 17 recommendations, of which ?? were accepted and ?? partially accepted.

TO BE UPDATED FOLLOWING CABINET RESPONSE

Looking Ahead – Scrutiny Priorities

- Continue to monitor the rollout and efficiency of the Council’s waste services strategy and how the Council achieves the **Welsh Government’s statutory recycling target of 70%**. Including, plans for flats/HMOs and Recycle/Reuse facilities.
- Review the Council’s **Final Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP)**. Ensuring a robust process is in place, and to ensure the final plan is **fit for purpose**.
- Evaluating how the Council is managing **Cardiff’s biodiversity** and **natural environment** and ensure it is incorporated in considerations under wider pieces of work.
- Monitor the implementation of the final Castle Street solution to improve the **Air Quality** in the area.
- Continue to observe the development of Transport for Wales projects [Cardiff Bus Interchange, & Cardiff CrossRail] and the effect on travel habits of residents and visitors to Cardiff.
- Monitor the roll out of the **parking plan** and the introduction of **parking zones** across the city and the impact on residents.
- Monitor the implementation of priority **bus corridors** to support improvements to bus services.
- Oversee and support the development of the **One Planet Cardiff Green Paper** to take forward the carbon reduction agenda.