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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting TUESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2018, 5.00 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

6 **Correspondence Following the Committee Meeting** (Pages 1 - 6)

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14, 21 of Part(s) 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 14 February 2018

Public Letter:

Councillor Russell Goodway
Cabinet Member, Investment and Development
Cardiff Council
County Hall
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Dear Councillor Goodway,

Economy & Culture and Environmental Scrutiny Committee: 13 February 2018

Thank you for attending our special meeting to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet regarding the preferred location for the proposed multi-purpose indoor arena in Cardiff. Members have asked that I pass on the following comments and observations from their discussion at the Way Forward; I have written to you separately regarding confidential elements.

Based on the evidence received, at this stage Members support the recommendation to Cabinet regarding the preferred location. This support is subject to future consideration of the additional information, which will come through regarding financial implications and the overall business case. Members recognise the need to decide on a preferred location at this time, in order to enable more detailed discussions and negotiations to take place, ensuring we expedite delivery of the arena and thus maximise the benefits to Cardiff and the city region.

Members note that the contribution to the overall city strategy and wider infrastructure were key differentiating factors in the appraisal process of the potential sites. As we stated after our earlier scrutiny, in October 2017, Members recognise the benefits that will accrue to the city region from the increased footfall and enhanced infrastructure that a 15,000-capacity super- hybrid bowl multi-purpose indoor arena will bring. Members wish to emphasise the need for high quality, reliable and affordable public transport to encourage the additional visitors to Cardiff to use sustainable transport and to avoid adding to the congestion in Cardiff.

Members also note that the other key differentiation factor in site appraisal was the need to ensure scope for ancillary development, to minimise the Council's contribution by providing income sources to offset costs. The preferred location of Atlantic Wharf has obvious scope for ancillary development that complements the desire to stimulate the next phase of development of Cardiff Bay as a leisure destination.


With regard to the Motorpoint Arena site, Members note that the main disadvantage to choosing this site is that it would mean Cardiff would be without an arena for approximately 2 years whilst the new arena is built and that it would require a comprehensive rebuild to accommodate a 15,000-capacity arena.

Members were pleased to note that the preferred location of Atlantic Wharf does not, in itself, hamper the proposed development of the Museum of Military Medicine, when the business case for this is finalised.

Members note your statement that, whilst the preferred location will add to the argument to finalise the Eastern Bay Link, the removal of Severn Bridge tolls and the consequent expected increase in traffic to south Wales will place more pressure on the Welsh Government to complete this road.

Members wish to undertake further pre-decision scrutiny of the detailed delivery strategy for the indoor arena, including the detailed financial implications for the Council and, as part of this, any acquisition of land not currently in Council ownership. I ask that officers liaise with Scrutiny Services to enable this. I trust that the above comments are helpful and wish you well with this important project.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Neil Hanratty Clair James Cabinet Support Office