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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER 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

10 **Correspondence Following Committee Meeting** (Pages 3 - 18)

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My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 16 October 2018

Councillor Russell Goodway
Cabinet Member, Investment and Development
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



County Hall
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Dear Councillor Goodway,

Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee: 11 October 2018

Members have asked I pass on their sincere thanks to you, Andrew Cobden (Vastint) and Neil Hanratty for attending our meeting to provide an update on plans to regenerate the Dumballs Road site.

Overall, Members are supportive of the design concepts explained by Andrew as underpinning the master-planning process. Members particularly appreciate the commitment to creating mixed, balanced communities in a development that integrates with surrounding areas, both North/ South and East/ West.

Improved connectivity is central to whether this redevelopment is successful and Members are pleased to note the commitment to creating routes to connect with the communities of Grangetown and Butetown as well as into the city centre and Cardiff Bay. We note the intention to utilise the river water taxi system as well as to have a new bridge for pedestrians and cyclists, connecting the site to Grangetown, and cycle routes through the site. Members would like to know whether the latter would form part of one of the Council's Cycle Superhighways and ask that this be clarified in your response to this letter. Members also note the aspiration for the proposed Metro system to serve this redevelopment, via routes along Lloyd George Avenue and Dumballs Road. All of these transport modes will help to boost Cardiff's economy, whilst at the same time reducing reliance on cars, which we applaud.

Members are also pleased to note the commitment to providing green and open spaces in the redevelopment, both private courtyards and publically accessible 'fingers' of green space running East/West to boost sight lines and connectivity, and open squares. We note discussions are on-going regarding whether to have a higher number of slimmer routes and squares or whether to 'mass' these and have a smaller number. Members can see the advantages of both and await further plans to see how green, open spaces can be best integrated; however, Members are clear that they would not support any diminution of overall amount of green and/ or open

space. Members also discussed the on-going maintenance of these spaces and, in your response to this letter, would like your views as to whether the Council will adopt the spaces or whether Vastint will use service charges to pay for a management company to maintain them.

Members are supportive of Vastint's stated aim of keeping to 6-8 storeys for most buildings on the development, as we believe this provides the right contrast to the city centre and Cardiff Bay skylines. We were pleased to hear the commitment to ensuring appropriate ground floor usage, to create an active environment with a mix of uses including some commercial.

Concerning commercial units, Members note the intention to locate some along the river frontage, with most units being within the centre of the development. Members agree with the intent to move from heavier industrial uses towards different types of commercial use, including spaces for creative industries and co-working enterprises. Members hope that these spaces could also accommodate lighter, craft-style industries, such as ceramics. Our on-going work on the need for Workshops and Innovation premises has demonstrated to us that there is significant demand for these types of spaces. We recommend that Vastint talk to the Creative Industries departments at Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the University of South Wales for further insight into their student and alumni experiences, which may help Vastint to frame their commercial offer to meet local demand.

Members were interested to hear that Vastint and the Council are working with existing tenants to help them to relocate to appropriate sites and were pleased to see that most of these have stayed in Cardiff.

Given the time period for redeveloping the site, Members were pleased to hear that work is underway to identify suitable 'meanwhile' uses for spaces, to attract footfall and utilise available space. Again, it may be worthwhile speaking to the local universities and to the Creative Cardiff network, which may have some interesting ideas for how to use the space productively and sympathetically during the redevelopment phases.

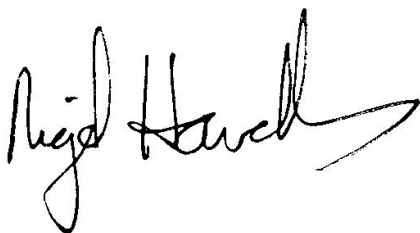
This is a large-scale redevelopment, resulting in possible employment and training opportunities for the local population. Members were pleased to hear Neil Hanratty commit to ensuring that the Council will help to establish links between Vastint and the Cardiff & Vale College, located next to the site, which runs several relevant courses, including construction, in order to ensure training opportunities are maximised.

Members recognise the complexity of land assembly for this site and note that the Council may use Compulsory Purchase Orders in order to ensure the redevelopment takes place; as stated at the meeting, it is to be hoped that this does not prove necessary but, if it is required, Members fully support their use.

Finally, Members note the reassurance provided at the meeting that there are no other known or anticipated further costs to the Council. Members are impressed with the co-operative manner that Vastint has demonstrated in the collaborative master-planning to date and believe that the scale of the development is both exciting and feasible. We look forward to seeing more details and ask that you liaise with Scrutiny Services to ensure this happens at the appropriate time.

Once again, thank you for your attendance. This letter requires a response, please, as it contains requests for information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Howells', with a stylized flourish at the end.

COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
 Andrew Cobden – Managing Director, Vastint
 Neil Hanratty Clair James Cabinet Support Office

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County Councillor Russell Goodway
Cabinet Member, Investment & Development

My ref : RVG/Scrutiny/CM40462

Your ref : T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

2 April 2019

County Councillor Nigel Howells
Chair, Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee

By email: nhowells@cardiff.gov.uk



Dear Nigel

DUMBALLS ROAD

I refer to your letter dated 16 October 2018 and I apologise for the delay in replying to you.

I am grateful for the support of your committee for this project and we have taken on board the various views expressed both at the meeting and in your letter.

I have asked that the Council's Transport Strategy team to consider the matter you raised regarding cycle superhighways as part of the development. They will explore precisely the extent of any commitment we can make in this regard.

I can confirm that there will be no diminution of green or open space as part of the development. Indeed, we see the provision of new open spaces in the Dumballs Road area as a key benefit of the development. It is the intention that Vastint will manage the public open space through service charges.

In terms of commercial units, we will certainly ensure that Vastint link with the city's universities as well as other industry networks to consider how they can meet demand. We will also share with Vastint the work of the Scrutiny Committee on innovation and workshop space.

In the meanwhile, we have continued to make progress in developing Heads of Terms for the disposal of the council's landholdings on the site along with an agreement for the delivery of some 450 units will transfer to the Council and be managed as part of our council housing stock.

/cont...

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Please reply to:
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A report relating to these issues will be considered by Cabinet in the near future. That report will also outline the timetable for taking the project forward including the date by which the masterplan will be completed through to construction and occupation of the housing units.

Thank you again for your support for this project. I believe it will make a hugely positive contribution to this area of the city, and will play a crucial role in linking the city-centre with Cardiff Bay.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely



RUSSELL GOODWAY
CABINET MEMBER, INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Copies: Neil Hanratty, Director of Economic Development.



Date: 16 October 2018

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member, Culture & Leisure
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Bradbury,

Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee: 11 October 2018

Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee have asked me to pass on their thanks to you, Neil Hanratty and Steve Morris for attending Committee to present the Cabinet Response to our Inquiry into the Funding of Parks in Cardiff.

Members are pleased that you found our Inquiry report informative and that you will use it when shaping policy decisions regarding the future funding of Parks. We are pleased to note that nine out of our thirteen recommendations are accepted, with another three partially accepted. Members wish to accept your offer to provide an action plan detailing timescales and processes for the implementation of these agreed recommendations. I ask that officers send the action plan to Scrutiny Services as soon as possible; we will recommend to a future Committee that they schedule a progress report on this for September 2019.

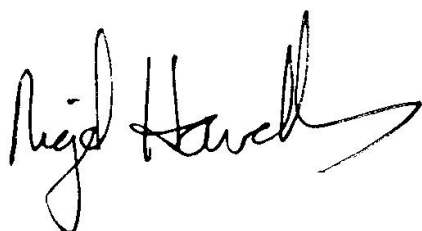
Members remain disappointed in the wording used in the Cabinet Response to Recommendation 11; however, we are pleased to note that you felt that this should have been better worded to reflect the fact that Cabinet will consider the recommendation as part of the normal budgetary process.

Finally, Members are appreciative of the compliments paid to our scrutiny in the press release issued alongside the Cabinet Response and are pleased to note that

future press releases will include a quote from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, to demonstrate joint working.

Once again, thank you to all for attending. This letter requires a response please as it contains a request for information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Howells', with a stylized flourish at the end.

COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM40442

Dyddiad / Date: 6th December 2018

Councillor Nigel Howells
C/O Member Services
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Annwyl/Dear Nigel

Scrutiny - Funding Of Parks Enquiry

Further to your letter following the October meeting, I have attached a copy of the action plan that relates to the recommendations accepted by Cabinet.

As indicated at the meeting, I do believe that the exercise undertaken by the Scrutiny Team was thorough and meaningful and will benefit the service moving forward.

Yn gywir
Yours sincerely

Y Cyngorydd / Councillor Councillor Peter Bradbury
Aelod Cabinet Dros Ddiwylliant a Hamdden
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO :

Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office, Ystafell / Room 518, Neuadd y Sir / County Hall
Glanfa'r Iwerydd / Atlantic Wharf , Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF10 4UW
Ffon / Tel: (029) 2087 2501

GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



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ACTION PLAN**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FUNDING OF PARKS**

<i>RECOMMENDATION</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>TARGET DATE</i>
<p><i>Recommendations 1/2</i></p> <p>Cabinet agrees a clear vision statement for the Parks Service that defines its purpose, focus and direction and thereby determines the scale and scope of required income generation and cost reduction.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&</p> <p>The vision statement for Parks Services, and consequent scale and scope of required income generation and cost reduction, reflects the impact of the reduction in available Commuted Sums for Parks Services and that a plan be put in place to mitigate the impact of this reduction.</p>	<p>Develop a draft vision statement for inclusion in the Corporate Plan (2019-2022) and the Directorate Delivery Plan (2019/20).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&</p> <p>Mitigation plan to be developed as part of the budget setting process / medium term financial plan.</p>	<p>Director ED / OM (P,S,HA & L)</p> <p>Director ED / OM (P,S,HA & L)</p>	<p>30/11/2018</p> <p>As part of / in line with budget timetable</p>

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE
<p>Recommendation 3/4/5</p> <p>Cabinet tasks officers to undertake an options appraisal of the potential mechanisms to generate income and reduce costs, with the evaluation criteria to include: the fit of the mechanism with the agreed vision statement for Parks Services; anticipated amount of income generated; ease of generating income; availability of resources required; impact on existing services; and level of risk.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&</p> <p>Cabinet tasks officers to use the evidence provided by this Inquiry to inform the options appraisal of the mechanisms identified as able to deliver savings/generate income.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&</p> <p>Cabinet tasks officers to develop a detailed plan for implementing the preferred mechanisms identified by the option appraisal that sets out the resources identified to achieve implementation and resultant timescales.</p>	<p>Many of the options set out in the report continue to be actively pursued by the service and feature in the service based improvement plans made available to the Committee at the time of the enquiry.</p> <p>Any mechanisms not included in current improvement plans will be appraised / evaluated and integrated.</p>	<p>JM / P, S & L Team Leaders</p> <p>JM / P, S & L Team Leaders</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>31/12/2018</p>

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>Cabinet, ahead of the options appraisal as a matter of urgency, tasks officers to expedite the application for Welsh Government grant funding for energy efficiency measures at Bute Park nursery.</p>	<p>All the necessary field work has been completed and a decision as to whether or not the Nursery will form part of Phase II of the Re-Fit Framework Scheme will be made by 16/11/2018.</p>	<p>MP/ JM</p>	<p>26/11/2018</p>
<p>Recommendation 7</p> <p>Cabinet ensures that any additional concessions in Parks are of a high standard, sustainable and add to the reputation of Cardiff's parks.</p>	<p>Parks and Strategic Estates will continue to ensure that that high quality and sustainable concessions are secured through the procurement process and in particular through evaluation models that weight these factors appropriately.</p>	<p>JM /Strategic Estates</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>Recommendation 8</p> <p>Cabinet tasks officers to liaise with the sports pitch users' representatives that responded to this Inquiry expressing an interest in taking on responsibility for grounds maintenance and land management, with a view to establishing viable key holder agreements, leases and/ or asset transfer arrangements that deliver savings/ generate income for Parks Services.</p>	<p>Liaison arranged.</p>	<p>SM</p>	<p>30/11/2018</p>

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE
<p>Recommendation 9</p> <p>Cabinet considers smaller events utilise sites throughout the city, including school sites subject to the approval of their governing bodies, taking into account sustainable travel plans, hard surfaces/ standing and utility requirements.</p> <p>Recommendation 10</p> <p>Budget realignment takes place as a matter of urgency to ensure that the Parks Services budget reflects the true position in terms of income generated and costs incurred, to include:</p> <p>c. The charges from CTS reflect the work undertaken and the reduction in the number of Parks vehicles.</p>	<p>Such sites and opportunities will be considered as part of the established event application process.</p> <p>The budget realignment (c) has taken place.</p>	<p>SM</p> <p>JM / CTS / Finance</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Complete</p>

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE
<p>Recommendation 12</p> <p>A communication plan be developed and implemented to ensure that there is a shared understanding of the vision and direction for Parks Services amongst staff, partners, businesses and residents.</p> <p>Recommendation 13</p> <p>In order to develop the vision statement, deliver agreed recommendations and any other work arising from the agreed vision statement, Cabinet ensure that the Operational Manager time available for Parks is increased, along with other resources as required.</p>	<p>Communication Plan to be developed in conjunction with the central comms team and following vision statement / Corporate Plan sign off.</p> <p>Implement proposals to restructure Tier 2 of the Parks, Sport, Harbour Authority & Leisure Management service structure.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>JM</p>	<p>1/4/2019</p> <p>1/4/2019</p>

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