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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time
of Meeting** THURSDAY, 9 MARCH 2017, 4.30 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

11 **Correspondence Following the Committee Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 12)*

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

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**SWYDDFA'R ARWEINYDD
OFFICE OF THE LEADER**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM37253

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 18.04.2017

Cllr Rod Mckerlich
C/O Member Services
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Butetown
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Phil Bale
Arweinydd Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd
Leader of the City of Cardiff Council

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Annwyl / Dear Cllr Mckerlich,

Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee - 9 March 2017

Many thanks for your letter dated 13th March 2017, and for inviting me to your meeting of the 9th March.

The work to date as part of Central Square has showcased our city's ability to take forward world-class developments and has already delivered in terms of jobs and business growth.

Transport is unquestionably important to the success of Central Square, indeed its location at the heart of the city-region's transport network is the primary reason for the development. The Transport Interchange is clearly integral to the development, and we remain committed to its completion. I will also continue to lobby the UK Government and Network Rail to commit funds to the redevelopment of Cardiff Central Train Station.

Locating the Tourism Information Centre at the new interchange will also provide an appropriate location for the service, close to transport connections, and easy to find for new visitors to the city.

With regard to developments in Cardiff Bay, I will ask officers to ensure that the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee is regularly updated on developments.

Yn gywir,
Yours sincerely,

**CYNGHORYDD / COUNCILLOR PHIL BALE
ARWEINYDD, CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD
LEADER, THE CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL**

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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: NRS/RM/BD/09.03.17

Dyddiad / Date: 23 March 2017

Councillor Bob Derbyshire
Cabinet Member for the Environment
City of Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Councillor Derbyshire

ECONOMY AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 MARCH 2017

Friends Groups and Volunteering in Parks

Thank you for attending the March meeting of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee, where we considered an item on Friends Groups and Volunteering in Parks. I will be grateful if you could also pass on the thanks of Committee to Nicola Hutchinson for her presentation and for supporting you in answer our queries. The Committee had a small number of comments and observations which are set out below.

During the meeting Members were informed of the benefits the work of Friends Groups and Volunteers bring to Cardiff, helping deliver projects and improvements to the city's parks, enabling Council resources to have a greater impact. Members also recognise the benefits to individuals involved in Friends Groups, through improved well being, a sense of community spirit and pride in their local area. It is clear to us that the successes achieved through Friends Groups and Volunteers are in no small part down to the work and support of the Community Park Ranger Service, without which the work of volunteers would be limited. Members were pleased to be informed that there are no changes to the budget allocation for this service in 2017/18, maintaining the Community Park Rangers at their current level, and we would hope that the Council continues to recognise its importance for years to come.

As discussed during the meeting, Members of the Committee note that volunteers tend to be white middle aged individuals and would wish to encourage a more diverse range of participation in these groups. We feel that involvement of school pupils could be a good way to get the ball rolling and to create awareness and interest from a more diverse demographic, through activities such as local litter picks and community gardens.

Members understand that further interest in Friends Groups could be generated through the effective use of social media, such as the Council's twitter account. We

feel there are many individuals in the city who would be interested in this work and have a lot to contribute, but are not aware of how to get involved. We do however recognise there are limitations to the scale of this service and are wary that a rapid expansion in demand for Friends Group activities could grow to a scale that the Community Park Rangers, at their current resource level, would be unable to meet.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments, and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod McKerlich', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Councillor Rod McKerlich
Chairperson, Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee

cc Andrew Gregory, Director – City Operations
Jon Maidment – Operational Manager, Parks and Sport
Nicola Hutchinson - Parks Conservation Officer
Cabinet Support Office
Members of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee.
Martin Chamberlain – Friends of Forest Farm
Steve Bool – Friends of Heath Park Woodland

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM37363
Eich Cyf / Your Ref: NRS/RM/BD/09.03.17
Dyddiad / Date: 6th April 2017



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Councillor Rod Mckerlich
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
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Annwyl/Dear Rod

**Economy And Culture Scrutiny Committee - 9 March 2017 - Friends Groups
and Volunteering in Parks**

Thank you for your letter dated 23 March 2017, I will ensure that you positive remarks are conveyed to Officers.

Your comments in respect of the volunteer demographic are noted, the Love Where You Live Campaign has enabled the Council to target under represented groups within the local community, in particular school children, and through the role of Community Development Co-Ordinator for Neighbourhood Services I envisage participation for such groups increasing.

I also fully recognise the resource requirements for volunteering to managed effectively, further capacity through the Community Development Co-Ordinator is being provided to ensure community demand can be met and the wider use of social media is being used to promote opportunities for engagement.

I trust the above information is of assistance, however, should you require any further information, please contact either myself or Jon Maidment, Operational Manager, Parks Sport & Harbour Authority on Cardiff tel: 2233 0235.

Yn gywir
Yours sincerely

Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Bob Derbyshire
Aelod Cabinet Dros Yr Amgylchedd
Cabinet Member Environment

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO :

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make the difference | gwnewch

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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: NRS/RM/PBr/09.03.17

Dyddiad / Date: 21 March 2017



Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member: Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise
City of Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Bradbury

ECONOMY AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 MARCH 2017

Thank you for attending the March meeting of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee, where we considered the Cardiff Contemporary Arts Festival 2016 and Quarter Three Performance of the Economic Development Directorate. I will be grateful if you could also pass on the thanks of Committee to Ruth Cayford, Kath Richards and Neil Hanratty for their presentations and for supporting you in answer our queries.

Cardiff Contemporary Arts Festival 2016

Firstly, Members of the Committee wish to recognise the fantastic work Ruth has done in delivering the 2016 Festival. Her clear passion and enthusiasm for the contemporary arts scene in Cardiff are no doubt a key contributor to the successful organisation of this event. With the backdrop of reduced resources and a modest budget, we were impressed that the scale and reach of Cardiff Contemporary has not diminished from previous years.

Given the limited Council resources available for this festival, we recognise it is ever more important that partnerships are central to its delivery. We were pleased to be informed of the significant in-kind contributions secured from businesses and organisations across Cardiff and feel they are a clear demonstration of the support for this festival. We were also informed of important partnerships that exist with Artes Mundi and the Arts Council of Wales, and welcome the ambitions to further involve the TATE in Cardiff Contemporary. The Committee recognises that while the Council plays a central role in facilitating the Festival, securing the support and expertise of the TATE would undoubtedly enhance the profile and public exposure of Cardiff Contemporary Arts Festival to a wider audience, firmly placing it on the UK's arts calendar.

The Cardiff Contemporary Report sets out a variety of venues and spaces used as galleries and exhibition spaces. The Cardiff Castle Animal Wall was effectively used as an exhibition space in the 2016 Festival, and the Committee feel similar opportunities exist in further Council owned venues, such as St David's Hall or City Hall. While financial resources available from the Council have been reduced in recent years, this could be an opportunity to secure in-kind resources from the local authority.

Following our Scrutiny of this Festival in 2014, Members requested that an Economic Impact Assessment be carried out to evidence the value of this event to the city of Cardiff. During this month's meeting we were pleased to be informed of the estimated economic impact for the 2016 Festival and understand the difficulties in placing a fully accurate figure on an event that is free, unticketed and held across multiple venues in the city centre. This figure, alongside those quoted for Artes Mundi, SWN and Made by Hand, show the clear benefits that a vibrant and popular arts scene is bringing to Cardiff. Members wish to recommend that in future years, as a further enhancement to this estimate of economic impact, event organisers work with hoteliers in the city centre to establish whether the Cardiff Contemporary Arts Festival has an impact on their number of bookings and overnight stays in Cardiff, comparing years the festival is held with years it is not.

The Economy and Culture Committee support the biennial continuation of this event for 2018 and recommend that an update be brought in late 2017, or early 2018, allowing scrutiny Members in the new administration to review its progress and contribute to the development of the Festival.

Quarter 3 Performance – Economic Development

Members are pleased to note the impressive performance being delivered within our areas of responsibility for this Directorate, with all performance indicators on course to comfortably meet the years targets and Directorate Delivery Plan Commitment progressing as scheduled.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments, observations and recommendations, and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Regards,



Councillor Rod McKerlich
Chairperson, Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee

cc Neil Hanratty – Director, Economic Development
Ruth Cayford – Visual Art Manager
Cabinet Support Office
Members of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee

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