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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time
of Meeting** TUESDAY, 18 JULY 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

6 Correspondence Following the Committee Meeting (Pages 1 - 4)

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My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 19 July 2017



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

Dear Councillor Goodway,

Joint Economy & Culture and Environmental Scrutiny Committee: 18 July 2017

On behalf of both the Economy & Culture and Environmental Scrutiny Committees, please accept our thanks for attending our meeting for pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet titled 'Funding the New Bus Transport Interchange'. Members wish also to pass on their thanks to Neil Hanratty for his attendance and presentation. Members have asked that I pass on the following comments and observations from their discussion at the Way Forward.

Members share the wish to see a high quality bus transport interchange in place as soon as possible and understand the need for this to be achieved within the agreed financial envelope. Having considered the evidence presented regarding market demand for student accommodation in Cardiff, Members support the proposal to move from private rented sector accommodation to student accommodation. Members are pleased to hear that there are ongoing discussions regarding the office space and hope these are successful. However, Members are supportive of a market driven approach for this space as well, subject to further planning application, if required.

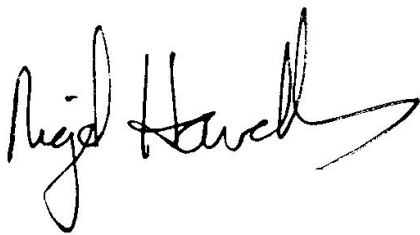
With regard to the second recommendation to Cabinet to delegate authority, Members support this, on the understanding that the usual due diligence checks would apply to ensure robust financial modelling and consideration of legal advice. Members support the appointment of external cost consultants and professional

advisors to ensure that the Council achieves value for money. Members also recognise the usefulness in acquiring the Saunders Road car park site.

Members note the bid to Welsh Government for assistance in meeting technical fit out and highway improvements. Members would like to be kept informed of progress with this bid, in terms of the amount awarded and the uses agreed for the grant funding.

Overall, having considered the evidence presented to the Committee, Members are supportive of the recommendations to Cabinet and look forward to progress being made on the site.

Yours sincerely,

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

**COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, JOINT ECONOMY & CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture and Environmental Scrutiny Committees
 Neil Hanratty
 Clair James
 Cabinet Support Office

County Councillor Russell Goodway
Cabinet Member, Investment & Development

My ref : RVG/Scrutiny

4 August 2017

County Councillor Nigel Howells
Chair, Joint Economy & Culture and
Environmental Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW



Dear County Councillor Howells

**FUNDING THE NEW BUS TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE
JOINT ECONOMY & CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 18 JULY 2017**

I refer to your letter dated 19 July 2017 in the above connection which was presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 27 July 2017. Cabinet colleagues were grateful for the supportive comments contained in the letter.

Can I thank you for the invitation to attend your meeting and I am grateful that you decided to undertake a pre-decision scrutiny of the changes that the new Administration is proposing in order to facilitate early delivery of the bus station facility. As you know, those proposals were set out in the Cabinet Report "*Funding the New Transport Interchange*".

I trust that your colleagues appreciate the challenges that remain to be overcome but also that the new Administration has chosen to adopt a new spirit of openness and transparency with regard to the bus station proposals and the potential solutions.

I am grateful that the joint committee supports our intention to adopt a market driven approach which will allow the development partners to market the site in a less constrained manner than has hitherto been the case. We will, of course, seek to achieve the best possible return on the council's investment to ensure that we can deliver the best possible facility but also taking account of the timescales we need to work to if we are to deliver the facility in an acceptable timeframe.

I take on board all of the points you make regarding the need to put in place robust arrangements that will ensure proper due diligence and I will ensure that council officials adopt such an approach.

/cont...

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County Councillor Nigel Howells
Chair, Joint Economy & Culture and
Environmental Scrutiny Committee

I note also the joint committees request to be kept informed of progress with regard to the bid to Welsh Government for funding to help finance the fit out costs of the bus station. I guess that the joint committee would equally like to be kept informed of progress with regard to the overall development and of key issues which are likely to emerge as we take it forward. I am eager to respond positively to the joint committee's request. Please can you ask Scrutiny Officers to liaise with the Cabinet Office to explore what arrangements can be put in place to help ensure this happens.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Russell Goodway'.

RUSSELL GOODWAY
CABINET MEMBER, INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT