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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2017, 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

8 **Correspondence Following Committee Meeting** (Pages 1 - 10)

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My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 19 July 2017



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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.

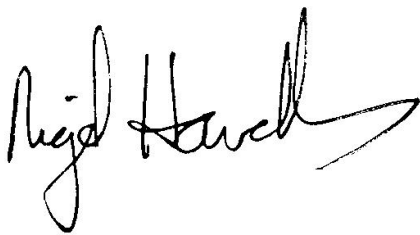
With regard to the second recommendation to Cabinet to delegate authority, Members support this, on the understanding that the usual due diligence checks would apply to ensure robust financial modelling and consideration of legal advice. Members support the appointment of external cost consultants and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

My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH



County Hall
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Date: 14 September 2017

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:
Consideration of Called – In Decision CAB/17/11: 13 September 2017**

On behalf of both the Economy & Culture and Environmental Scrutiny Committees, please accept our thanks for attending our special meeting to consider the Called-In decision CAB/17/11 titled 'Funding the New Bus Transport Interchange'. Members wish also to pass on their thanks to Neil Hanratty and Geoff Shimell for their attendance.

Having considered the evidence presented by Councillor McEvoy, Dr Max Wallis and yourselves, Members decided not to refer back to Cabinet the decision CAB/17/11. Therefore, this decision stands.

However, Members have asked that I pass on the following comments and observations from their discussion at the Way Forward.

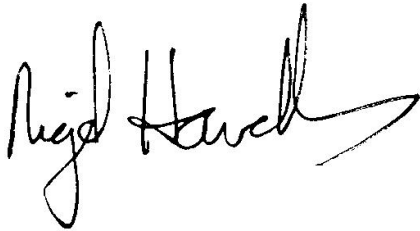
Members welcome the fact that concerted efforts are being made to secure office usage in the interchange building and hope that these prove fruitful. However, Members are supportive of a market driven approach for this space as well, subject to further planning application, if required.

Members asked that I re-emphasise the points made in our previous letter to you, dated 19 July 2017, regarding: ensuring due diligence checks are applied to ensure robust financial modelling and consideration of legal advice; and being kept informed

of progress with the bid to Welsh Government for assistance in meeting technical fit out and highway improvements.

Members share the wish to see a high quality bus transport interchange in place as soon as possible and look forward to progress being made with this.

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
Cllr Neil McEvoy
Neil Hanratty
Geoff Shimell
Dr. Max Wallis
Clair James
Cabinet Support Office

My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH



County Hall
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Date: 15 September 2017

Councillor Lynda Thorne
Cabinet Member, Housing and Communities
Cardiff Council,
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Thorne,

Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee: 14 September 2017

On behalf of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee, please accept our thanks for attending our meeting to consider proposals developed in response to the cessation of Communities First. Members wish also to pass on their thanks to Sarah McGill, Jane Thomas and Louise Bassett for their attendance and for the excellent presentation that summarised the issues and proposals.

Members have asked that I pass on the following comments and observations and ask that these be included as our response to the current consultation on these proposals.

Members recognise the challenging circumstances facing the provision of employment services in Cardiff with the cessation of Communities First and are pleased that proposals have been developed to address these and improve service provision. However, given the reduction in overall funding available, Members recognise that some services currently offered by Communities First will not continue.

Members welcome the intention that the new services are accessible to all citizens, regardless of where they live. It is important that citizens have good access to employment services and it is heartening to see a number of routes offered for access, including hubs, job clubs, online and by telephone. Members are mindful that some of those citizens most in need of employment services may face additional

challenges in accessing these services, either because of previous poor experience with official services or because they do not live near a hub/ job club or because they either do not have access to the internet or a phone or find it hard to use these. Members therefore urge officers to ensure that the marketing of the new gateway approach provides reassurance to potential service users re its independence and helpfulness. Members are also interested to hear more about how officers will identify potential service users who face difficulties accessing these services.

Members are pleased that there will be an initial assessment of needs with onward signposting to council or external services, as required, and mentoring support. At the meeting, Members raised their concerns about future ESOL provision and were interested to hear that officers are mapping provision with a view to identifying possible additional funding provision. Members would like to be kept informed on progress with this.

Members also raised the specific needs of newly arriving refugees, such as Syrian refugees, many of whom are highly educated and require a different kind of support to access employment. Members were reassured to hear that officers recognise this and that appropriate support is available.

With regard to other specialist provision, Members note that officers are hoping that consultation responses will identify additional specialist services, to enhance the current list of specialist services.

Members also welcome the proposal to have a single database, which will enable better monitoring of outcomes for service users.

Moving on to the Legacy Fund, Members note that the Welsh Government criteria for this is very broad in order to allow flexibility. Members also note that Cardiff Council intends to use the responses received to the '*Helping people find work and Building Community Resilience*' consultation to shape the proposed use of the fund in Cardiff.

Members have scheduled pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet Report on Employment Services for our meeting on 9 November 2017. Members would like to

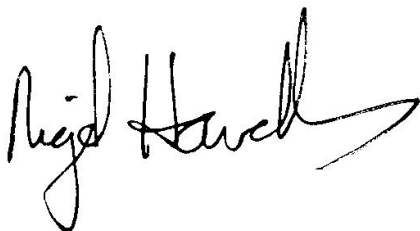
receive the consultation schedule with our papers for this item, in order that we can see the responses received and the corresponding actions proposed.

To summarise:

- Members urge officers to ensure that the marketing of the new gateway approach provides reassurance to potential service users re its independence and helpfulness.
- Members wish to hear how officers will identify potential service users who face difficulties accessing employment services.
- Members would like a progress report re mapping ESOL provision and accessing additional funding.
- Members would like to receive the consultation schedule with our committee papers for pre-decision scrutiny of Employment Services.

Thank you once again for your attendance at Committee and I wish you well with progressing proposals for future employment services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Howells', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Sarah McGill
Jane Thomas
Louise Bassett
Elizabeth Patterson
Cabinet Support Office

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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



RUSSELL GOODWAY
CABINET MEMBER, INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT