

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 MAY 2015

Present: County Councillor Craig Williams(Chairperson)
County Councillors Dilwar Ali, Aubrey, Ralph Cook, Javed and Weaver

80 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Darren Williams **and Councillor Nigel Howells.**

81 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

82 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2015 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairperson.

83 : ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Q4 PERFORMANCE

The Committee received a report on the Quarter 4 Performance 2014-15 in Economic Development. The Committee has previously recognised the importance of considering service performance and agreed to consider performance as a recurring item through the 2014/15 work programme.

The performance report provided the context within which the service is operating, performance information and the management actions that are being taken to address performance issues. Members were advised that the performance reports had been considered at the 'Star Chamber' sessions where Cabinet Members and Directors will have reviewed and challenged performance and agreed actions that need to be taken to address the issues raised in the report.

The report included a corporate overview of performance allowing the performance of Economic Development to be compared to other directorates in areas such as complaints and member inquiries, staff and agency costs, sickness absence, compliance with PPDR targets and FOI requests. Members were asked to note the following:

- 100% of Members Inquiries were responded to in time
- Sickness absence of 4.2 FTE days per person within the directorate, below the corporate target of 6.0 FTE days per person
- 97.2% PPDRs completed

The following updates of progress on challenges identified at Quarter 3 were included in Appendix 2 of report:

- City Deal – budget announcement made. Work commencing towards preparing a final bid.

- Central Square – Bus Station proposal progressing. Cabinet Paper due in June.
- Multi-Purpose Arena – business case and appraisal to be presented to Cabinet in June
- BID – consultants appointed with a view to undertake ballot by the end of 2015
- Cardiff Business Council – Cabinet approved a review in March which will address funding and membership arrangements
- Cardiff Super Connect Voucher Scheme – 445 vouchers issued, scheme extended for 12 months and will include surrounding authorities

The report also highlighted service delivery actions in terms of the Directorate Service Delivery Plan. However, the report did not include the Directorate's financial position at Quarter 4 as the year end accounts were yet to be finalised.

Members were advised that all outcome agreements for the Directorate were 'green'. A summary of these was included in the report along with those performance indicators rated 'red' and 'amber'.

The Committee also received details of the challenges identified within the Directorate at Quarter 4, a number of which were of particular interest to the Committee given their previous scrutiny of these matters. These included:

- Preparing a bid for the City Deal
- Undertake a review of the Cardiff Business Council
- Manage the delivery of the Central Square Development, including the closure of the bus station
- Initiate work to develop a masterplan for the Civic Centre with Cardiff University, including an option for the future of City Hall
- Progress with the preparation of a Business Improvement District (BID)
- Progress Alternative Service Delivery model review

No new risks were identified at Quarter 4. However, the report set out the updated position with regard to risks identified previously in Quarter 3.

The Chairperson welcomed the Leader, Councillor Phil Bale and Neil Hanratty, Director – Economic Development to the meeting. Neil Hanratty was invited to deliver a brief presentation summarising the budget position, and the challenges and risks facing the Economic Development Directorate. Members were invited to comment, seek clarification or raised questions on the information provided. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members asked why the preparation of a BID proposal was being delayed. Officers advised that progress was on-going and consultants had been commissioned to undertake the BID application process. A ballot of relevant businesses was anticipated before the end of 2015.
- Members sought clarification as to what prompted the review of the current Cardiff Business Council (CBC) arrangements. The Leader stated that there was a public/private sector element to the City Deal and whilst CBC was 'city focused', the City Deal bid would be regional. Financial considerations would also form part of the review. It was anticipated that the review would lead to recommendations at a future meeting of the Cabinet. Officers stated that the current CBC funding arrangements were coming to an end and therefore it was necessary to consider

a more sustainable, geographically-wider, arrangement.

- Members noted that the outcome agreement targets had been well exceeded. The Committee considered that targets need to be both challenging and realistic. Officers noted these comments and gave an undertaking to review the targets at year end and, whilst the current indicators were related to 'long-term trends', new indicators would be proposed for future years pending the results of the review.
- Members asked whether there had been any change in emphasis in terms of the governance of a City Deal. The Leader advised that there had been some delay due to the General Election. However, the discussions on the Severn Powerhouse to date were positive and local authorities had been written to seeking formal agreement to proceed. The process was still in the early stages. However, a business case would be made before the end of the year. The Welsh Government was engaged from the outset and as any future City Deal would be operating in a devolved setting governance arrangements would differ from those in England. Discussions regarding governance arrangements would take place.

Members asked what lessons had been learnt from the Glasgow City Deal process. The Leader advised that he visited Glasgow. Glasgow's negotiations with the UK Government were held at a local level. Only afterwards was the Scottish Government involved.

The Leader asked the Committee to note that the authority was operating under financial pressures and it was necessary to understand how these would impact.

Officers stated that the Glasgow Joint Committee was a regional body responsible for the Glasgow City Region LDP and therefore, Glasgow City Region had established priorities. Dialogue with Glasgow would continue.

Members invited the Leader to consider inviting representatives from Glasgow's City Deal bid to Cardiff in order to share their experiences.

- Members requested an update on the Transport Interchange project. Officers advised that 5 leading architects had initially been commissioned and that field had been narrowed. The development partner was leading on the costings stage. Officers were hopeful that further details would be shared over the next 4/5 weeks.

Referring to Central Square, negotiations were on-going with the BBC regarding an agreement to lease. Outline planning permission was being sought for the Llandaff Development. Officers gave assurances that detailed plans of the new BBC Headquarters would be released before the former headquarters are closed.

When asked about a potential for conflict of interest for the Council, officers stated that all planning applications will be dealt with professionally and in isolation by the Planning Authority.

The Committee was advised that the Transport Interchange project would provide a significant offering for cyclists including showering facilities and secure storage for over 1000 bicycles.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee's behalf to the Leader to convey their comments and observations (see attached).

84 : CARDIFF AND VALE ACL PARTNERSHIP - ESTYN MONITORING

The Committee received a report enabling Members to assess the performance and progress being made by the Cardiff and Vale Community Leader Partnership (CVCLP) following feedback from the Estyn monitoring visit undertaken in January 2015.

Members were advised that the CVCLP was established in September 2013 in response to Estyn Inspections of adult community learning in Cardiff and the Vale of the Glamorgan which had identified significant shortcomings in respect of leader outcomes, provision and leadership and management. The leading providers within the Partnership are Cardiff and Vale College, Vale of Glamorgan Council, City of Cardiff Council, WEA Cymru and YMCA Wales Community College.

In January 2015, Estyn undertook a monitoring visit to review progress made in relation to the recommendations made in 2013. The 2013 inspection report was attached as Appendix A and the recommendations made were summarised in the cover report. Members were asked to consider any progress made by CVCLP against Estyn's recommendations.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Magill, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills; Sarah McGill, Director; Isabel Bignall, Assistant Director, Customer Services; Kay Martin, Vice Principal for Curriculum and Mark Roberts, Deputy Principal, Cardiff and Vale College. Councillor Magill made a brief statement.

Councillor Magill advised Members that feedback from the Estyn visit in January 2013 was 'chastening'. The only positive was around ESOL/Cardiff and Vale College. However, Councillor Magill was delighted with feedback from the Estyn monitoring visit with progress reported as strong/very strong. A full cost recovery approach was now being undertaken which was held up as best practice. This was a tribute to the Partnership.

Isabel Bignall was invited to deliver a brief presentation. The presentation included an overview of the monitoring visit, the results and the trend analysis of the success rate compared with other Welsh local authorities.

The Committee was asked to seek clarification, raised questions or comment upon the information provided. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members welcomed the improved results and questioned whether Learn Direct's 'Life in the UK'. It was confirmed that those tests would be conducted at the new facility in Canal Parade.
- Officers advised that future priorities for CVCLP are tutor development and performance monitoring as both were identified as areas for improvement. An undertaking was given to subject these issues to future scrutiny.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee's behalf to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to convey their comments and observations (see attached).

85 : COST RECOVERY MODEL: NON-PRIORITY ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING

The Committee received a report and were asked to assess the impact on Adult Community Learning following the introduction of a cost-recovery model for non-priority courses and by subsidising priority courses.

The Committee at its meeting on 10 February 2015 received a presentation on the budget implications for 2014/15. Members heard that in January 2014 the authority was informed of a reduction in Welsh Government grant funding for Adult and Community Learning of 37.5% or £563k from 1 September 2014. In view of this reduction the Committee was informed that the Council would be moving towards a cost recovery model for recreational and non-priority adult community learning courses; meaning that the courses would be delivered on a cost neutral basis with learners fees covering the full cost.

Councillor Magill, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills; Sarah McGill, Director; Isabel Bignall, Assistant Director, Customer Services and John Agnew, Corporate Customer Services Manager, were presented to answer questions from the Committee. The Chairperson asked Members to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information provided in the report.

- Members sought clarification on the proposal to merge the B and C rates charged to learners. Officers advised that it was rare to offer multiple concessionary rates and that rates could be merged in order to mirror the charges in the Vale. Officers anticipated that the learners' 'appetite' would remain, in spite of the changes to the rates charged.

Members were asked to note that a large proportion of learners would be able to enrol on grant funded courses through the Skill for Work Programme.

- Officers advised that the Learners Voice Survey had provided very encouraging feedback from course participants. Some concerns had been received regarding the cancellation of courses when there were insufficient numbers of participants to recover the cost of courses.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee's behalf to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to convey their comments and observations (see attached).

86 : COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE (LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY LEARNING) - Q4 PERFORMANCE

The Committee received a report on the Quarter 4 Performance 2014-15 in Communities, Housing and Customer Services. The Committee has previously recognised the importance of considering service performance and agreed to consider performance as a recurring item through the 2014/15 work programme.

The performance report provided the context within which the service is operating, performance information and the management actions that are being taken to address performance issues. Members were advised that the performance reports had been considered at the 'Star Chamber' sessions where Cabinet Members and Directors will have reviewed and challenged performance and agreed actions that need to be taken to address the issues raised in the report.

The report included a corporate overview of performance allowing the performance of Communities, Housing and Customer Services to be compared to other directorates in areas such as complaints and member inquiries, staff and agency costs, sickness absence, compliance with PPDR targets and FOI requests. Members were asked to note that it was not possible to draw out Library specific contributions to these indicators as a corporate level.

Members were advised that financial information was not included in the Quarter 4 performance report as the year end account were yet to be finalised. However, the Service Delivery section of the report detailed the following:

“Communities, Housing and Customer Services is showing an overall underspend of £796,000. 2014/15 savings targets were all the full year effect and understandably the implementation of major staffing changes in Central Library and delivery of the Community Hubs could only be achieved part of the year.”

In terms of services delivery, the Committee was asked to note the following:

- *Hubs*
 - Grangetown Hub was on course for opening September/October
 - Rumney Partnership Hub on target for September
 - STAR hub construction to start 2015
- *Central Library*

Work is on target with the new Super Hub due to open in July. Bid to CYMAL for a £150k grant was successful and will support improvements to the 5th floor.
- *Adult Community Learning*

Learning for Life programme delivered at cost neutral. Learning for Work programme achieved 72% success rate. Estyn monitoring visit reported strong or very good progress.
- *Cardiff Libraries*

Book issues are down but visits to libraries had increased. Number of new users had also increased. Computer usage down, but all libraries now have free wifi access.

The Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member Community, Development, Co-operatives and Social Enterprise; Sarah McGill and Isabel Bignall were present. Sarah McGill was invited to deliver a brief presentation summarising the financial position, directorate challenges and risks and summary of the directorate's Performance Indicators.

Members were asked to raise questions, comment or seek clarification on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Councillors questioned whether figures reports regarding number of book issues, computer usage and visits to libraries reflected national trends. Officers stated that residents are visiting libraries and bringing their own devices with them and the figures supported that. Councillor suggested therefore, that consideration be given to provided teas and coffees and/or other refreshments as a source of income.

Councillor Bradbury stated that these issues were being investigated and that local solutions would be found for local branch libraries.

Officer considered that the service was open to the fullest range of opportunities. However, some options will require capital investment and other options will require community involvement.

- Members were advised that consultation responses on the proposed Llandaff North/Gabalfa Community Hub were still being analysed but initially indications were that responses were positive.
- Officers stated that sickness levels were improving year on year but not this year. Officers were investigating the link between sickness absence and disciplinary procedure.
- Officers confirmed that there had been no cost to the authority for the roof repairs made at the Central Library.
- Members asked whether the increase in footfall reported was due to residents visiting hubs to access services other than library services. Officer reiterated that whilst footfall had increased, library membership had also increased, and there was a correlation between these figures. It was suggested that people attend the hubs to access a range of services and often use the library whilst there.

Members suggested that officers investigate methods by which it is possible to better identify how many people are using the library.

The Chairperson agreed to write on behalf of the Committee to the Cabinet Member with the following comments and observations (see attached).

87 : ROATH LIBRARY - PROPOSALS

Consideration of this item was deferred.

88 : SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

*Councillor Craig Williams left the meeting at this point in the meeting.
Councillor Weaver replaced him as Chairperson.*

The Committee received a report and were asked to evaluate plans for the Summer Reading Challenge 2015. Members were also asked to consider and evaluate the performance of the Summer Reading Challenge 2014.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a reading promotion aimed at children between the ages of 4 and 11 and takes place across the UK. It is co-ordinated by the charity 'The Reading Agency' through the public library network. The target is to get children to read 6 or more books during the summer holidays.

The report detailed the results of the Summer Reading Challenge 2014. Members were asked to note:

- Overall participation in Wales was down 0.3% (up 2.2% nationally)
- 42,091 children registered to take part at their local library. 44% were boys.
- 25338 children (60%) completed the Challenge by reading six books (national average 58%).
- 2,317 under 4-year-olds took part in the Challenge, using the specially produced Early Years material.
- 4,418 children joined the library as new members during the Challenge
- It is estimated that there were 835,182 children's library issues in Wales over the summer.
- 16 visually impaired children took part using VI resources supplied by RNIB.
- Over 27 young people aged 12 to 24 supported the Challenge through volunteering.

Councillor Bradbury welcomed the Summer Reading Challenge 2014 results and gave credit to the officers involved. The Committee received a brief presentation from Isabel Bignall. Members were advised that in Cardiff 1071 children had participated (an increase of 18%). Cardiff had moved from ranked 17th in 2013 to ranked 1st in 2014 in Wales in terms of participation.

The Chairperson asked Members to comment, raise questions or seek clarification on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members welcomed the challenging objectives set.
- Officers were asked to clarify why results in other authorities had fallen. Members were advised that authorities choose to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge. It was noted that Cardiff's results indicate progression.

AGREED – That the Committee write on behalf of the Committee to the Cabinet Member with the following comments (see attached).

89 : SPORTS UPDATE - EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF SPORT 2014 AND CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY JOINT VENTURE

The Committee received a report on Cardiff's year as European Capital of Sport and to provide information on the joint venture between Cardiff Council and Cardiff Metropolitan University for sports development.

In 2011 Cardiff was awarded the title of European Capital of Sport 2014, recognising the City for sporting excellence; and for community and grass roots sports development. This placed obligations on Cardiff to stage a programme of major events and community sports activity, and to organise a conference. The Committee received a brochure used to promote Cardiff as European Capital of Sport 2014 as

Appendix 1 to the report. The brochure contained a comprehensive calendar of the sporting events proposed and an indication of the range of partner organisations working together to deliver the programme of events.

Members were further advised that in September 2014 the Council signed an agreement with Cardiff Metropolitan University to deliver sports services in the City. This agreement received financial backing from Sports Wales and Cardiff City Football Club and aimed to provide valuable investment in grass roots sport. Members also received details of the joint venture and information on funding streams and governance arrangements.

As part of the agreement the Council's Sports Development Team, known as Sports Cardiff, transferred under TUPE to Cardiff Metropolitan University employment. Services would be delivered based on the six neighbourhood management areas.

The Chairperson introduced Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-Operatives and Social Enterprise; Chris Hespe, Director – Sports, Leisure and Culture; Chris Jennings from Cardiff Metropolitan University and Steve Morris, Parks and Sports Development Officer.

Councillor Peter Bradbury addressed the Committee. Councillor Bradbury stated the 2014 had been a great year for the promotion of sporting participation. Highlights included the Heineken Cup Junior Festival, Cardiff Games and free use of junior sports pitches.

Steve Morris, referring to the report and appendixes circulated, stated that the European Capital of Sport award provided an opportunity to build upon the 2012 Olympics legacy in the development and participation of grass roots sporting activities.

Members were advised that the joint venture with Cardiff Met also provided opportunities to restructure sports development; to understand the needs of sporting groups and organisations in the City; providing services locally delivered by teams based in each of the six neighbourhood management areas; and supported by an over-arching City-wide sports development board.

Events held in the City included the UEFA Super Cup, sailing events, LGBT football and a more extensive sports programme for disabled people which received an award for inclusivity. Investment was also made at the Welsh White Water Centre, 4G pitch at Cardiff Arms Park and in hosting local sporting hero events.

The Chairperson invited Members to raise questions, comment or seek clarification on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members considered that the European Capital of Sport Award for 2014 had brought intangible benefits to the City. Members questioned whether there were any unique events brought to the City as a result.

Officers stated one tangible benefit to the City was the hosting of the World Half Marathon Event in 2016 which would welcome 25,000 runners to the City. In addition to the Heineken Junior Rugby Tournament and the LGBT football tournament (and a subsequent rugby 7's tournament); 2014 had enabled

relationships to be fostered with partner organisations.

- Members questioned whether participation rates in schools had increased during 2014. The Cabinet Member stated that whilst events such as the rugby tournament and the Cardiff Games were hosted, he recognised that more needed to be done to improve participation. The Cabinet Member considered that participation would improve as the facilities provided improve and that the Schools Organisational Plan would provide opportunities to improve facilities.

Members were asked to note the participation rates for women and girls had increased.

- The Cabinet Member stated that the Joint Venture was a great opportunity for the City. The Council had identified a partner and a vehicle through which to secure sustainable delivery a sports development programme in the City. The venture was an example of best practice and would build on the neighbourhood partnership theme.

Officers endorse those comments, stating that without the partnership agreement with Cardiff Met, Sports Development in the City would have been susceptible to budget cuts. The authority would in future play a client role, commissioning services with funding from other sources.

- Referring to a story in the local press, Officers stated there they were unaware at of any concern within the City regarding the partnership agreement. Officers stated that the press article written as a result of a single complaint.
- Members sought clarification of the process taken to arrive at a formal decision to enter into partnership with Cardiff Met. Officers advised that the agreement build upon existing partnership arrangements and as a joint venture, as advised by the County Solicitor, there was not official procurement requirement.
- Responding to a point made by a Member, Officers advised that the authority has had historical arrangements with Sport Wales regarding funding for the Dragon Sport and 560 programmes. Sport Wales had challenged the Sports Development Team to fund new ways of delivering the service. The new model – a local sports plan – had been approved by the Sports Council and the transfer of Sport Development to Cardiff Met had been discussed at meetings with Sport Wales for some time. Sport Wales supported the proposal and were looking at rolling out the commissioning model across Wales. Officers had been approached by Sports Wales to give advice about the process.
- The Committee asked what factors would be taken into consideration in terms of measuring the success of the transfer of services to the new model of delivery. Members were advised that each year an annual plan would set objectives in terms of participation, the number of clubs and a programme of events. There would also key performance indicators. Officers stated that the new arrangements had only been embedded for 1 quarter but initial indications were that targets would be out performed.

Members emphasised the need to set stretching targets.

AGREED – That the Chairperson write on behalf of the Committee to the Cabinet Member with the following comments and observations (see attached).

90 : SPORT, LEISURE & CULTURE - Q4 PERFORMANCE

The Committee received a report on the Quarter 4 Performance 2014/15 for Sports Leisure and Culture. Members were asked to consider the contents of the report and make comments, observations or recommendations accordingly.

The report provided a corporate overview of performance within the directorate and allowed comparison with other directorates in areas such as complaints and member enquiries, staff and agency costs, sickness absence, compliance with PPDR targets and FOI requests. Members were asked to note the following:

- 66% of Member Enquiries responded to on time (up from 52.3 in Q3)
- Comparatively high levels of sickness absence with 13.94 FTE days lost per person (target was 12.1 FTE days)
- 85.6% completion of PPDR reviews (up from 80.9% in Q3)

Appendix 2 to the report detailed the individual performance of the directorate. The following were highlighted:

- Meeting leisure centre income generation targets. The delayed closure of Eastern Leisure Centre has impacted on the projected year end position.
- Achieving £300k saving on new management operator for arts venues – saving was not achieved due to procurement timescales and will be carried forward to 2015/16.

The report also provided an overview of the Directorate's key performance indicator results for the year.

Councillor Bradbury started that most performance targets had been achieved. Officers have been challenge to work mitigation for those targets that were not achieved.

Chris Hespe acknowledged that sickness absence levels were high and would above the Directorate's target. Members were advised that there would particular issues in Childrens Play and Leisure which were being addressed through an action plan.

The Chairperson asked Members to comment raise questions or seek clarification on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members requested an update regarding the transfer of responsibility for Flatholm. Officer advised that a 4-way agreement was being drawn up led by the National Trust and RSPB. A bid for Heritage Lottery Funding bid and UK-wide marketing were also being considered.
- Officers advised that the transfer of leisure centres and arts venues would soon move to the next stage – a move to competitive dialogue. An officer decision report was anticipated. Officer agreed to bring the tendering matrix and specification to a future scrutiny committee meeting. It was anticipated that the

Cabinet would receive a report in November 2015.

- Members asked for clarification on the budget position in the current financial year. Officers provided an update on the budget position. The Cabinet Member advised that income and budget targets were difficult to predict whilst the procurement exercise was ongoing. However, efforts were being taken to ensure savings are achieved by increasing income wherever possible. Member raised concerns that any slippage may affect other services.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on behalf of the Committee to the Cabinet Member with the following comments and observations (see attached).

91 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4 June 2015 at 4.30 pm in Committee Room 4, County Hall.

The meeting terminated at 8.15 pm