

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 NOVEMBER 2017

Present: County Councillor Howells(Chairperson)
County Councillors Gordon, Gavin Hill-John, Parkhill, Robson
and Sattar

21 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ebrahim.
Councillor Parkhill advised that he would be late attending the meeting due to travelling from a meeting in North Wales.
Councillor Gordon advised that she would need to leave the meeting at 6.15pm.

22 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Gordon, who declared a personal interest in Item 6 as a Trustee of South Riverside Community Development Centre.

23 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

24 : SPORTS JOINT VENTURE: UPDATE

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member – Culture and Leisure), Steve Morris (Parks and Sport Development Manager) and Emma Hill (Cardiff Met) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he said that this was a very good example of partnership working between the Council and Cardiff Met. There had been an increased number of coaches trained through the partnership which the Council alone would not have been able to achieve. The partnership has seen very good attendance and participation rates. The Cabinet Member considered that it was an excellent partnership that was working well and the Council had got a lot out of it.

Members were provided with a presentation after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments;

- Members asked if Cycling was included within the Joint Sports Venture and were advised that there is partnership working with HSBC Cycling Wales and British Cycling, which links with the general strategic direction. It is an 8 year partnership with corporate sponsorship linking with Active Travel. It was noted that there was infrastructure work being undertaken to support cycling on roads. Members were further advised that within the Joint Venture itself, there was a cycling scheme called Wheel Women.

- Members considered that cycling needed to be considered not just in terms of Sport but also everyday cycling and that work needed to be done with schools to provide equipment especially in the Southern arc of the City. The Cabinet Member stated that there was a Cabinet Paper due to be published on Active Travel which deal with this; cycling schemes in schools still happen and there were campaigns to improve cycling infrastructure.
- Members considered that the report was a good news story, the volunteer hours contributed were considerable and it was good to have them quantified; Members were keen to learn how this was done.
- Members asked what the main challenges were facing the Joint Venture and were advised that finding the right procurement route was an ongoing challenge; the Joint Venture had established an amenable partner in Cardiff Met, circumventing what could have been a cumbersome procurement process and has also allowed the unlocking of vacancies that had been frozen. The Cabinet Member added that politically it had been a challenge, it had been the first time that partnership working had been used in discretionary services and they had had to prove that the Council was not abdicating its responsibilities by doing so.
- Members asked if there were any comparative figures from before the partnership and were advised that different things were recorded now; data is available for the last 10 years but there were now different structures in place and the nature of the programmes had changed, with a move to a neighbourhood approach; some programmes are very focussed on children for instance, or are quite labour intensive and heavily resources for bigger impact.
- Members asked with regard to hard to reach communities, how representative is the workforce. Officers advised that there is diversity in the sports Cardiff Staff and also in the programmes they develop; for example female programmes and disability programmes. Officers further explained that they actively recruit and train from the local communities to have that representation. The Cabinet Member added that it has always been difficult to engage children from the BME communities into organised sport and this was a focus still, the neighbourhood approach was working but further work with Sport Wales was needed. Officers agreed with this but expressed their frustration with regards to the Annual funding arrangement with Sport Wales, which provided a challenge to deliver some programmes.
- Members asked if there were programmes provided for all age groups and were advised that there were, there were programmes aimed at the whole community.
- Members asked if there was still good working relationships and good responsiveness with staff since the Joint Venture and were advised that this was still the case; officers have daily and weekly contact with staff and good relationships.

RESOLVED that the views of the Committee would be discussed during the way forward section of the meeting and a letter sent to the Cabinet Member in due course.

25 : TRAIN STATION: UPDATE

This item was deferred until the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee meeting scheduled for 7th December 2017, in order to receive an urgent confidential item.

26 : URGENT CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

Members were advised that this item contained confidential, exempt information that Committee were required to consider in a closed session, in accordance with paragraph 14 of Part 4, and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Chairperson moved that Committee resolve to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting at this point.

RESOLVED:

- i. to deem this as an urgent item and therefore the item would not be subject to call-in
- ii. to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting at this point and the meeting moved into closed session.

27 : EMPLOYMENT SERVICES - PRE DECISION

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member – Housing and Communities, Sarah McGill, Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Services, Jane Thomas, Assistant Director of Communities and Housing and Louise Bassett, Partnership Delivery Team Leader to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which she said that she was pleased with the number of responses to the survey. The Cabinet Member thanked the Committee for their comments following the presentation of this item at the last committee meeting.

Members were provided with a presentation after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments;

- Members asked which staff would be eligible for TUPE transfer. Officers explained that all posts will be looked at and a list compiled of those posts that would be replaced. There was then a complicated legal process to go through and the Council's HR and Legal team would look at the list and form a view.
- Members were pleased with the single gateway and considered this best for the service users. Members noted the question on the survey asking if people felt they had a say in their local community and the low percentage stating that they felt they did have a say. Members considered that this was a challenge for the Council to make this figure change. Officers agreed but noted that this was part of Building Resilient Communities which came under the Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee terms of reference.

- Members made reference to the demographic of the respondents, noting that only 15% that answered were unemployed. Members considered that more people actively looking for work needed to be included. Officers stated that they had tried, they had worked with the Job Centres etc., however it was noted that some people had not wanted to answer certain parts of the survey. It was also noted that the responses did match with the demographic of Cardiff and that the views of those who were unemployed were not different to the majority view.

RESOLVED that the views of the Committee would be discussed during the way forward section of the meeting and a letter sent to the Cabinet Member in due course.

28 : COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Members were provided with a correspondence update report, which sought agreement to the proposed terms of reference for the 'Funding of Parks in Cardiff' Inquiry, and provided Members with a copy of the Council's budget consultation savings proposals that fall within the remit of this Committee.

RESOLVED: to note the report and agree the terms of reference for the 'Funding of Parks in Cardiff' Inquiry.

29 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to be held on 7th December 2017 at 4.30pm.

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg