

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 JANUARY 2018

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

38 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

39 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

40 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

41 : WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARIES STANDARDS & CHIEF LIBRARIANS
UNIVERSAL OFFERS UPDATE

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Sarah McGill, Director Communities, Housing and Customer Services, Jane Thomas, Assistant Director Communities and Housing and Nicola Pitman Central Library Manager to the meeting.

Members were provided with a presentation on Welsh Public Library Standards which included information on the Fifth Quality Framework 2014 – 2017, including Core Entitlements Year 3 Result; Quality Indicators with Targets – Met; Quality Indicators with Targets – partially met; Quality Indicators – Benchmarking; Case Studies; Assessment Report Feedback; Improved Performance over the 3 year lifetime of the 5th Framework and information on The Sixth Framework 2017 - 2020 – Connected and Ambitious Libraries.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

- Members asked if the book prescription scheme was still operating and were advised that it was, over the past year Officers have been lobbying Welsh Government to revamp the scheme as it needs more resource. Officers added that progress was being made with regards to stock specifically for dementia. A Ministerial brief had been submitted asking for a £250k budget to launch across Wales. Officers added that the engagement of Health colleagues especially in the Hubs will make this easier.
- Members asked why, in the letter from the Chief Executive to Welsh Government, Cardiff was ranked out of 21 local authorities rather than 22. Officers advised that one local authority hadn't submitted information by the deadline.

- In relation to Cardiff being ranked 21st with regards to Staffing, Members asked what could be done to address this. Officers explained that Standards did not allow the staff working in the Hubs to be counted in the figures. These were combined roles and duties were undertaken by Hub staff, this was a genuine efficiency but was not recognised by the Standards. Members asked if Welsh Government would accept the figures and Officers explained that they would make a case as the staff would be on the establishment and that other local authorities intended to do the same as Cardiff.
- Members considered the summer reading challenge to have been a huge success and asked if there were any opportunities for local Members to help promote this further in schools. Officers stated that they do promote on Facebook and Twitter but any support from Members would be welcomed and Officers would ensure that they are communicated with for this year's challenge.
- Members noted the targets for Children's Books and Welsh language books and asked if there was a demand for books in any other language. Officers advised that they buy books in 24 different languages, mostly in Central library but they do go out to satellite sites.

Members were provided with a presentation on 'Cardiff Libraries – Universal Offer' which included information on The Children's Offer; Digital Offer; Health Offer; Information Offer; Learning Offer; Reading Offer; Culture Offer and Next Steps.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

- Members were reassured to hear of the engagement with the Dementia Friends programme and asked if Dementia training for staff could be extended to all Hub staff and that the training incorporates a rounded view of the challenging behaviour of different types of Dementia. Officers stated that the training does cover this and they would look at extending the training to all organisation that provide services out of the Hub.
- Members asked for a list of the Code Clubs and Raspberry – Pi Clubs to be circulated to Members.
- Members were interested to see more information on the Commonwealth being available in libraries across the City.
- Members asked how they could promote the services on offer to wards that do not have a library or Hub. Officers explained that they will be developing promotional information around each of the services and these will be placed around the City but any other help would be appreciated. Members considered that the Community Councils could also help to promote these services.
- Members welcomed a statement made earlier in the year by Cllr Thorne that libraries would not be cut and sought reassurance that the mobile library service would continue and were advised that it would, there were no plans to reduce the service, and it was being reviewed to ensure that it was going where it needs to. This would be part of the neighbourhood librarian's role.

- Members asked what percentage of schools took part in the summer reading challenge, Officers didn't have that information to hand but schools across the City had been involved although it could be a challenge to get into 100% of schools.

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.

42 : 'BUILDING MORE AND BETTER JOBS' CONSULTATION GREEN PAPER

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Russell Goodway, Cabinet Member – Investment and Development, Neil Hanratty, Director of Economic Development and Ken Poole Head of Economic Development to the meeting.

Members were provided with a presentation on the 'Building More and Better Jobs' Consultation Green Paper, which provided Members with information on the Aim of the Green Paper; Strategic Context; City Comparators; Spatial Context; Focus on City Centre - Business, Cardiff Bay - Leisure, Cardiff West - Sport, Cardiff East - Industry, Cardiff North - Innovation, Further consultation; Timeline and Next Steps.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

- Members considered that it was important for local, small and medium business to also be included in the consultation. Members hoped that there would be a good response from businesses and networks as their views are vital. Members considered it would be interesting to see what they think is not achievable too. The Cabinet Member stated that they would be consulting with people from across the City as well as people from outside the area who were likely to make this happen. There was a positive relationship with Welsh Government with regards to Economic Development and Investment which was encouraging and there needed to be a relationship with developers and planners, take early views in the pre-consultation process and only go with what is likely to work.
- Members liked that Cardiff was broken down into West/North etc. but urged that there were no piecemeal developments, like the International Sports Village.
- Members sought assurance that Cardiff was future proofing the opportunity for the South Wales Metro in the City. Members considered this was imperative to get the Bay and the International Sports Village to work as it is currently car dominant and in need of cycling and walking access and improvements. Members were advised that links to the Bay and ISV were being looked at; public transport needs to be of good quality, and a cheaper and better alternative option to the car. Members were assured that there had been early conversations regarding the early phase of the Metro, light rail solution, opening up all sorts of opportunity for the Bay such as reconfiguration of Lloyd George Avenue and making Bute Street the link to the City Centre. Members

were assured that all emerging projects would be discussed with local ward Members.

- Members were concerned about planning applications and buying up pockets of land for stations alongside the railway line; the Cabinet Member advised that he would look into this.
- Members sought assurance that small business were being consulted as they are an important part of the economy and do have an input. The Cabinet Member advised that consultations are being sent out in tranches of 400/500 businesses at a time, which would be afforded the opportunity to respond. Officers advised that small business can contact the Council to be added to the list to be included in the official consultation process; there would be roadshows around the City too.
- Members considered that speed was of the essence, and asked if the City Deal was bureaucratic and would impact progress. Members were advised that at the moment Cardiff's bid regarding Central Railway Station and the public realm around it was being addressed, Members were advised that the Council wasn't relying on the City Deal to resource this agenda, but on private sector and third sector partners.
- Members made reference to planning an Industrial Zone in the East of the City and the mosaic of land ownership that exists in that area; asking if this would cause difficulty. Members also asked how confident the Cabinet Member was in the planning process and whether some landowners could splinter off and cost them their ambition. Members were advised that the Council has a good record of land assembly; lessons had been learned from Central Square when the Council published its aspirations before they had control of the board. Early discussions were needed with landowners and this was happening already.
- Members asked if there would be consultation with neighbouring local authorities and were advised that this would be done at the City Deal Joint Committee. A City Region Business board was also being established.
- With reference to the development of the Bay, Members considered that local people have not really benefitted from this and asked what lessons have been learnt for developments across the City and to reassure the community that they are part of the solution rather than the problem. The Cabinet Member stated that they need to make sure that they don't make promises they don't keep, which is what happened in Butetown. Ambition was needed to improve the housing quality of people living there as well as improving the City scape from the City Centre to the Bay. Going forward there needed to be a commitment that local people have the opportunity for any jobs created.

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.

43 : COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT

Members were provided with a correspondence update report.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

44 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12th February 2018 at 4.00pm, Committee Room 4, County Hall.

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