

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 JULY 2019

Present: Councillor Howells(Chairperson)
Councillors Henshaw, Gavin Hill-John and Robson

12 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gordon, Simmons, Stubbs and Sattar.

13 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

14 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

15 : CABINET RESPONSE: EVENTS IN CARDIFF INQUIRY

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure and Kathryn Richards – Head of Culture, Venues, Tourism & Events to the meeting.

The Chairperson advised Members that this item enabled Committee to receive the Cabinet response, agreed at their meeting in June, to its Inquiry into Events in Cardiff. This states that, out of 12 recommendations, the Cabinet has accepted 6, partially accepted 5 and not accepted 1 recommendation.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he thanked the Committee for the work on the Task and Finish Inquiry, he stated that, although only half of the recommendations had been accepted in full, those partially accepted were only partially accepted because the Council was already doing something similar, consultation would be needed or there would be funding requirements. He made reference to the 1 recommendation that was not accepted and stated that this was due to the narrative and he explained that the Council could not commit to holding Events throughout the year, as events are market driven. He reiterated that it was a very good report which had been welcomed; he committed to keeping Committee abreast of the full events programme and the Events Strategy.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

Members were interested to know Officers steer on Recommendation 5 which was not accepted. Officers stated that the recommendation talked about smoothing out the events calendar, saying that this was not in the gift of the Council but was market driven as Events come in when they come in. Officers planned to fill the down time as this was an issue previously raised by hoteliers too. The Cabinet Member added that they could have partially accepted the recommendation but this would not have been fully honest, accepting the recommendation was not in the Council's gift as

Commercial factors played a part, so he considered it was more honest to not accept it.

Members made reference to the Events Focus Group being re-established and asked when it had been disbanded and why. Officers explained that the focus group was originally set up during the building of St David's 2; the level of presence fell and it was no longer doing what it was intended to do; it was stopped around 18 months ago. Officers considered there was a need for a more strategic focus and would reinvigorate the focus group after the summer. The Cabinet Member stated that the focus group had taken a hiatus; there had been liaising with hoteliers and others so people know there is an Events Strategy with a focus to plan events all year around.

Members made reference to the phrasing '*Cabinet cannot allow budget considerations to be overturned by specific scrutiny recommendations*' and asked that future Cabinet responses consider this phrasing. The Cabinet Member stated that it was more of a Governance issue; Cabinet cannot accept recommendations outside of the budgetary framework, but they want to consider the recommendations as part of future considerations within the budgetary framework. He added that they work with the Chairs Liaison Forum and Members of the Committee to work through constructively to ensure they accept the premise of the points made.

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.

16 : MULTI-PURPOSE INDOOR ARENA (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Russell Goodway, Cabinet Member Investment & Development, Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development, Chris Barnett, Operational Manager – Major Projects and Paul Devitt from Capita, which has undertaken due diligence checks for the Council.

The Chairperson reminded Members that the non-confidential parts of this meeting are being webcast and that footage will be retained on the Council's website for six months, with a copy kept thereafter in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

This item enabled pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet on the next phase in the Indoor Arena development. The scope of the scrutiny was to examine the recommendations to Cabinet, the financial assumptions in the report, whether there are any risks to the Council, the delivery strategy, timeline and the next steps.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he said that this report takes the project to the next stage, Committee and Cabinet had previously visited the issue in February when Cabinet decided to move to outline business case, working with the owners of the preferred site, getting heads of terms agreement for the land necessary to deliver the arena project. Now need to seek authority to enter into the rest of the undertaking and seek approval for full business case for Cabinet to consider the next stage via the procurement process.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments on the public information only;

Members made reference to the section on Climate Change Emergency and asked why there was no mention of the Eastern Bay Link Road. The Cabinet Member stated that completion of the Eastern Bay Link Road was a political priority for the Administration, not only for the Arena but also for the Economic Development of the East of Cardiff. Officers added that there are a few sentences in the Cabinet Report that reference avoiding traffic through the City Centre by using Strategic Road Networks, although Eastern Bay Link Road may not have been named. The Cabinet Member reiterated Cabinet's commitment to including a paragraph on Climate Change Emergency in every Cabinet Report.

Members made reference to the East to West transport links and asked if there was provision within the design for a stop to service the Indoor Arena. Officers advised there was, the cross-rail which is to be an extension of the Metro to Cardiff Bay at the Flourish which was outside the Arena. Members noted that elsewhere in the UK where there is a transport Hub at an Arena, Concerts finish after the last train, so this is something to be considered.

Members asked if the decision to not build the M4 Relief Road would have any impact on what has been developed regarding accessibility to the Arena. The Cabinet Member stated that the Welsh Government have committed to alternatives to help ease the pressures around the Bryn Glass Tunnels.

The Chairperson advised Members that they are required to consider Appendices 1 to 6 in a closed session to discuss information deemed exempt, in accordance with paragraph 14 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

RESOLVED: –

- I. that members of the public and the press leave the Committee room. The remainder of the item would be in closed session and the webcast would be paused and restarted at the end of the closed session.
- II. 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.

17 : CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

RESOLVED: to note the report.

18 : FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Members were advised that the Forward Work Programme sets out the items scheduled for the September and October Committee meetings.

Currently items for September were New Theatre operating model; Dumballs Road Regeneration; Library Strategy, International Sports Village; Cardiff Bay Regeneration and City Centre/Cardiff Bay linkages.

Items for October were as follows after some items had slipped: Indoor Arena; Music Strategy; Cultural Issues; Council Heritage Buildings.

Members were content with the amendments and for the forward work programme to be published.

19 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

20 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

19 September 2019, Committee Room 4 County Hall, Cardiff.

The meeting terminated at 5.50 pm