
STATEMENT OF THE LEADER

Cardiff Breakfast Club

I was pleased to attend and speak at a meeting of the Cardiff Breakfast Club on 11 November 2016. This provided an opportunity for me to set out our vision for Cardiff to become Europe's most liveable capital city and the current position in terms of the City Deal and the economic strategy for the Cardiff Capital Region. I also argued for Wales to have an industrial strategy which exploits the power of its cities. In particular I stressed that there needs to be a much stronger relationship between generating economic growth and the funding of local infrastructure, and that Cardiff could achieve far more economically for Wales if some of the benefits of growth were reinvested back in to infrastructure to support the city economy. I also called upon the business community to support Council programmes, including the Cardiff Commitment.

WLGA Annual Conference 2016

The Welsh Local Government Association Annual Conference was held on 3 November 2016 at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff and I was pleased to welcome delegates to Cardiff for the event. The conference programme included a keynote address from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford AM, which set out his proposals for local government reform and further consultation, which is expected to take place in December and into early 2017.

Google Garage

This month officers recently met with representatives of Google to identify a location for a new 'Google Digital Garage' which provides support and training for business to take advantage of the latest web based tools to access new markets, gain new customers and develop an international customer base. Google have looked at a number of locations across the city and are due to announce shortly their preferred location.

HMRC

HMRC have recently announced their shortlisted sites in Cardiff that will house a new regional tax centre that will provide additional jobs and investment. The shortlisted sites are all within the city-centre and whilst the initial requirement is for 280,000 sq. ft. there is also potential for a further 200,000 sq. ft. to house additional non-devolved government organisations in Wales.

City Deal

The Growth and Competitiveness Commission has concluded its evidence gathering exercise and will deliver its findings next month. The Growth and Competitiveness Commission will be the first delivered commitment of the City Deal signed in March this year. The Chair of the Commission, Greg Clark, has spoken to over 100 people personally, contributing to what will be a substantial piece of work that will underpin the City Deal investment programme.

Cardiff Commitment

Work has also begun to connect schools with business, which includes the development of the 'Cardiff Commitment', and businesses and schools will be brought together on December 7th at an event where we will explore further collaboration. I believe it is essential that business in the city links with our education agenda to help link supply and demand for schools, but also to engage as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility agenda.

Councillor Phil Bale
Leader of the City Council
23 November 2016