

COUNCIL: 26 JANUARY 2017

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER

Cardiff Business Improvement District

The official launch of the Cardiff Business Improvement District (BID) took place on 30 November 2016. Cardiff BID will be investing £7.5m into the city over the next five years to help in the transformation of Cardiff.

The Cardiff BID team worked in partnership with the Council and South Wales Police to support Operation Mistletoe during the Christmas period and is working with the Council on an intensive street cleaning programme in the city centre. Cardiff BID is also liaising with BT to investigate the possibility of upgrading the area to superfast broadband, which will increase digital connectivity for both workers and visitors.

Economic Development

In December 2016, the Economic Development Directorate won two prestigious global business awards for promoting, attracting and retaining investment. Cardiff came top in the following categories of the fDi Strategy Awards 2016:

- the Bespoke Award for a Regeneration Scheme; and
- the fDi Strategy Social Media Marketing Award.

The Bespoke Award for a Regeneration Scheme was awarded for work on the Cardiff Central Enterprise Zone. The City Council beat competition from Belfast, Cork, London and Lyon.

The Social Media Marketing Award was won for work on the Choose Cardiff Campaign, which promoted the city as a destination to visit, meet and invest in the UK using the tagline 'The World's Closest Capital to London.'

Cardiff Capital Region Growth & Competitiveness Commission Report

The independent report on the future economic strategy for South-East Wales was published on 16 December 2016. The report has been endorsed by the Cardiff Capital Region Shadow Joint Cabinet, which has also accepted unanimously the need to develop the recommended regional economic growth strategy with immediate effect.

Liveable City Forum

The first Liveable City Forum was held on 12 January 2017 at Cardiff & Vale College. The event followed a meeting of the Cardiff Public Services Board and involved a range of stakeholders from across the city, including South Wales Police and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board. The Forum provided an important first step in identifying priorities for action to make our city an even better place to live, work and visit.

The Cardiff Liveable City Draft Report 2017 was also launched at the event. The report looks at how the city is performing across a number of key indicators including health, crime, the environment, the economy and education. It clearly sets out the challenges facing the city, but also illustrates the opportunities open to us. Public consultation on the draft report has commenced and will continue until 26 February 2017.

Bilingual Cardiff: Five Year Strategy

Following public consultation in October a detailed action plan for the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy has been developed to promote the Welsh language.

As part of the consultation, a workshop was held with over 26 partner organisations. This is in recognition that successful delivery will require joint working between the public, private and education sectors, as well as the people of Cardiff. The strategy, which builds on existing work, is one of the statutory requirements of the new Welsh language standards. The Strategy will set out Cardiff's contribution to help meet the Welsh Government's vision of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

UEFA Champions League Finals

Work is progressing on preparations for the Champions League Finals, the biggest sporting event in the world this year. The women's final will take place on 1 June and the men's final is on 3 June. Both finals will take place at the Principality Stadium which will be re-named the National Stadium of Wales for the occasion. With an expected worldwide TV audience of 200 million the event is expected to boost the local economy by £45m and attract tens of thousands of foreign visitors to Cardiff.

The Football Association of Wales is asking for over 1,000 volunteers to work in various roles including accreditation, transport, marketing, ticketing and VIP services. This is a great opportunity for residents to be part of this event and to show the world what a welcoming city we are.

Maelfa Regeneration

Work will commence shortly on the multi-million pound redevelopment of the Maelfa which, when completed, will deliver new shops, public spaces and affordable housing.

Cardiff Community Housing Association have been appointed as the developers, with the regeneration scheduled to take 3 years. It will provide nine new retail units and 111 new homes. As part of public realm improvements, new pedestrian crossings, parking and public spaces will be created. The project will also benefit the community by offering work placements and training opportunities to local residents as well as providing an opportunity for young people to experience a real construction project.

Councillor Phil Bale
Leader of the City Council
26 January 2017