

COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT

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**Background**

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

**Correspondence update**

2. Following most Committee meetings, the Chair writes a letter to the relevant Cabinet Member or officer, summing up the Committee's comments and recommendations regarding the issues considered during that meeting. At the Committee meeting on 5 October 2017, Members received a report detailing the Committee-related correspondence sent and received by the Committee relating to committee meetings held this municipal year to date.
3. Attached as **Appendix A** is a correspondence schedule which provides an update since then, containing the following information:
  - i. Date the letters were sent;
  - ii. To whom the letter was addressed;
  - iii. The key recommendations set out in the Chair's letters;
  - iv. Date the response was received; and
  - v. The response of the Cabinet Member(s) to those recommendations.
4. The schedule attached at **Appendix A** shows:
  - i. *Response Received*– from Councillor Thorne to the Chair's letter following scrutiny of Employment Services at Committee on 14 September 2017.

- ii. *No Response Required* – from Councillor Merry to the Chair’s letter following scrutiny of Adult Community Learning at Committee on 5 October 2017
  - iii. *No Response Required* - from Councillor Goodway to the Chair’s letter following scrutiny of a Multi- Purpose Indoor Arena, considered at Committee on 5 October 2017.
5. Copies of the Chair’s letters and any responses received can be found on the Council’s website page for the relevant Committee meeting, with a hyperlink provided at the top of the page, entitled ‘*correspondence following the committee meeting*’.

### **Funding of Parks in Cardiff Inquiry**

6. At the Committee Meeting on 18 July 2017, Members considered items for inclusion in their work programme, including a number of suggested areas for scrutiny regarding Parks. Members tasked scrutiny officers to undertake initial paving work on the suggestions and report to Committee on 14 September 2017.
7. The paving work identified that the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, in its role as the Council’s crime and disorder scrutiny committee, was best placed to scrutinise issues relating to safety in Parks. At Committee on 14 September 2017, Members decided to refer this suggestion to the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
8. The paving work on the suggestion regarding exploring how best to increase the sustainability of funding for Parks demonstrated that there was scope for scrutiny to play a constructive role in identifying possible solutions. At Committee on 14 September 2017, Members therefore decided that further scoping work be undertaken and agreed the membership of the task group, consisting of Councillor Howells, Councillor Gordon and Councillor Gavin Hill-John.

9. Further scoping work has been completed and a proposed terms of reference and scoping document is attached at **Appendix B**, for Committee Members consideration and amendment.

### **Consultation re Budget Savings Proposals**

10. On 2 November 2017, Cabinet approved Budget Savings Proposals for 2018/19 for public consultation, running from 2 November – 14 December 2017. The full proposals are available to the public either online (at <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/budget> ) or via hard copies (at libraries, leisure centres and hubs, by email or phone).

11. The budget consultation papers state that demand pressures allied to rising cost pressures mean that the Council is facing a budget gap of £23m for 2018/19 and £73m for the next 3 years.

12. In order to close the budget gap the report sets out a number of proposals, which are subject to change based on the consultation, the final settlement, and a full assessment of financial pressures. These proposals include:

- A 3.7% Council Tax increase
- 30% cap on schools' financial pressures (except for pupil number growth)
- £2.35m use of reserves
- Making £14m of savings

13. The budget savings proposals include efficiency savings from collaboration, improving business processes, prevention and early intervention, review of external spend and income generation.

14. The Budget Savings Proposals are attached at **Appendix C**, with those that fall within the remit of this Committee highlighted in yellow for Members information and for noting. These proposals fall within the City Operations, Communities, Housing and Customer Service, Corporate Management and Economic Development Directorates, as follows:

### City Operations

- 1 – Improved Charging and Income Generation Projects - £212,000
- 3 – Leisure Services – Cardiff International White Water - £9,000
- 7 – Parks - £141,000
- 15 – Review Delivery of Maintenance Works - £40,000

### Communities, Housing and Customer Services

- 26 – Phased Removal of Council Subsidy re Adult Community Learning - £17,000
- 30 – New Approach to Employability Services - £50,000
- 35 – Reduction in Libraries Book Fund - £50,000

### Corporate Management

- 39 – Reduction in the amount available to support events and market the City - £210,000

### Economic Development

- 42 – Planned removal of International Pool Subsidy - £973,000
- 43 – Increase in income – Strategic Estates - £253,000
- 44 – St David’s Hall - £150,000
- 45 – New Theatre - £150,000
- 46 – Cardiff Castle - £ 238,000
- 53 – Reduced Service in Tourism - £47,000

## **Way Forward**

15. During their meeting, Members may wish to:

- i. reflect on the response received to the Chair’s letter
- ii. discuss and agree any amendments required to the scope for the Inquiry
- iii. note the contents of the consultation budget proposals.

## **Legal Implications**

16. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be

within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

17. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. note the content of the letters contained in **Appendix A**;
- II. discuss and agree any amendments to the proposed scope for the 'Funding of Parks in Cardiff' Inquiry, attached at **Appendix B** ;
- III. note the contents of the Consultation Budget Savings Proposals that fall within this Committee's terms of reference, attached at **Appendix C**.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director - Governance and Legal Services**

**3 November 2017**