

CYNGOR CAERDYDD

CARDIFF COUNCIL

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 DECEMBER 2017

CARDIFF CENTRAL TRAIN STATION: UPDATE

The Chair will move that the presentation and discussion of this item be heard in closed session as it contains confidential information by virtue of paragraph 14 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of part 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Purpose of Report

1. This item will provide Members of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee with an update on the feasibility study undertaken into regenerating Cardiff Central Train Station.

Background

2. In 2013, Network Rail confirmed their intention to seek financing for upgrading Cardiff Central Station in order to manage the predicted increases in passenger and train numbers and to boost customer experiences by improving retail facilities at the station. Network Rail also stated their wish to regenerate the area to the South of Central Station, mooting the possibility of developing offices on the car park they own.
3. Since then, there have been several significant developments that impact on proposals for regenerating Cardiff Central Station:
 - a. wide-scale regeneration at Central Square, with the BBC, HMRC,

Cardiff University School of Journalism and others committed to moving into the Square;

- b. proposals developed for a Bus Transport Interchange in Central Square;
 - c. on-going electrification of the Great Western mainline; and
 - d. Welsh Government commitment to a south Wales Metro system.
4. Recent figures released regarding passenger usage show that passenger numbers are growing rapidly and are forecast to rise by 5% each year for the next five years. In 2015/16, 12.7 million passengers used the station; this is predicted to rise to 16.2 million by 2020/21¹.
5. Network Rail investment decisions rest with the Department of Transport and are packaged into five-year development periods, known as 'control periods'. The next control period runs from 2019-2024 and the investment decisions included in this period are due to announced later in 2017/18. Network Rail have indicated that they hope the next control period will include investment for Cardiff Central Station and stated:
- "We want to create a scheme that provides a real difference for passengers, an impressive gateway to our capital city and delivers value for money for the taxpayer."*²
6. Cardiff Council's Capital Ambition five year plan contains a commitment to '*grow the city centre as a location for businesses and investment*' which includes '*completing a new business district and gateway to Wales to the north and south of Cardiff Central Station*' and '*delivering a new transport interchange which will be at the heart of the Cardiff Metro*'.

¹Figures taken from: <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/commuters-face-daily-major-event-13754089>

² As above

Scope of Scrutiny

7. This item will enable Members to:
 - a. Receive an update on the feasibility study for regenerating Cardiff Central Station
 - b. Explore with witnesses key factors shaping future regeneration plans, such as financing and technical issues determining station design
 - c. Explore with witnesses the potential improvements for customers, such as platform and concourse improvements
 - d. Explore with witnesses the discussions to date regarding improvements to the north and south of Cardiff Central Station
 - e. Gain an understanding of the fit between these discussions and the wider Central Square and Cardiff Enterprise Zone regeneration plans
 - f. Gain an understanding of the next steps and timelines involved.

Way Forward

8. The Chair will move that this item be considered in closed session allowing Members and witnesses to discuss the information to be provided at the meeting, which is deemed commercially sensitive.
9. Councillor Russell Goodway (Cabinet Member: Investment and Development) has been invited and may wish to make a statement. Neil Hanratty (Director – Economic Development) will attend and will provide a short presentation. They will also be available to answer any questions that Members may have.

Legal Implications

10. 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

11. 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.

Recommendation

12. The Committee is recommended:
 - a) Note the contents of the report, presentation and discussions during the meeting;
 - b) Consider whether it wishes to make any comments to the Cabinet.

Davina Fiore
Director, Governance and Legal Services
1 December 2017