

My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 9 March 2018

Public Letter:

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Dear Councillor Thomas,

Economy & Culture and Environmental Scrutiny Committee: 8 March 2018

Thank you for attending our meeting to present the draft City Deal Joint Working Agreement Business Plan. In previous scrutinies, this Committee has indicated its support for the City Deal approach; Members are therefore pleased that the work to date has proved fruitful, with agreement at Regional Cabinet on the proposed strategic objectives and themes.

Overall, Members welcome the approach set out in the draft Business Plan and believe it will bring significant benefits to the City Region.

As discussed at the meeting, better connectivity is key to driving regeneration and economic success, and Members look forward to further scrutiny of work re the Metro, Metro Central and the roll out of the Digital Strategy. Members note that the Welsh Government is progressing the Metro, with the aim of announcing a preferred bidder by the end of May 2018, and that you have been reassured there will be engagement with local authorities after this to discuss desired routes. I will be liaising with the Chair of Environmental Scrutiny Committee to enable joint scrutiny of the Metro proposals.

With regard to Metro Central, Members are pleased to hear that there are constructive relationships with the main partners. This Committee would welcome the opportunity to contribute to discussions on the Metro Central and Members were

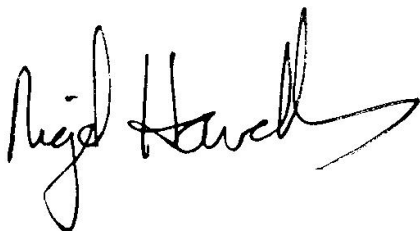
pleased to hear your comment that early input from scrutiny would be beneficial. I will make sure that time is available on our work programme to accommodate this.

Members of this Committee will also be interested in the roll out of the other themes (Skills & Employment, Innovation and Regeneration & Infrastructure), where these impact on Cardiff. I am sure that this will form part of our work programming for 2018/19.

Finally, Members were pleased to hear both you and the Chief Executive explain that relationships forged by the City Deal process are being capitalised on to discuss further collaborative working and shared services; given the current financial climate for local authorities and the needs of the region, this is to be welcomed.

Thank you again for ensuring this Committee had the opportunity to scrutinise the draft Business Plan. We look forward to scrutinising City Deal proposals that affect Cardiff and its residents, as these emerge.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Ramesh Patel – Chair, Environmental Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Goodway Paul Orders Neil Hanratty Jon Day
Rhian Jones Clair James Cabinet Support Office