
**CARDIFF STUDENT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP – 2015 to 2018
ACTION PLAN**

Purpose of Report

1. To enable Members to provide scrutiny to the Cardiff Student Community Partnership – 2015 to 2018 Action Plan that has been prepared to reflect on the achievements since the original Plan's implementation and consider the proposed plans for the next three years.
2. Members will find the 'Cardiff Student Community Partnership – 2015 to 2018 Action Plan' and the 'Cardiff Student Community Partnership – 2015 to 2018 Action Plan Matrix' attached as attached **Appendices 1 & 2**. These set out the objectives, milestones, activities and actions of the Cardiff Student Community Partnership. The appendices are in draft – the final document will be available once the information from the stakeholder event is collated and analysed.

Background

3. Cardiff's large student population is drawn from three expanding universities, namely Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the University of South Wales, each with an international reputation for teaching and learning excellence. Students from an integral part of the community in Cardiff and bring many benefits to the City. However, the high concentration of students residing within small geographical areas of the City can result in housing and lifestyle pressures that lead to a negative impact on communities. Issues such as waste, noise, anti-social behaviour, poor housing and feelings of 'loss of community' are all concerns that have all been widely recognised as needing attention for the benefit of students and residents alike.
4. In recognition of the need to address these issues, the City of Cardiff Council, and the university trio made up of the Universities' three Vice Chancellors, Deputy Leader and

Corporate Director of the City of Cardiff Council, developed Cardiff's Student Community Action Plan 2007-2011. The Plan provided a platform upon which collaborative working has been developed to address those issues, to improve a sustainable community for permanent and transient residents alike.

5. The plan set out a number of key actions to address a range of issues, including improving the quality and quantity of student accommodation across the city, promoting a clean, attractive and sustainable environment, reducing crime against students and encouraging neighbourliness and respect.
6. The new and revised Student Community Action Plan 2015 - 2018 provides a collective strategy for delivering improvements that address the housing and lifestyle issues associated with high levels of students living in small geographical areas of the City. The Plan recognises that only through joint working and collaboration improvements can be progressed.
7. Whilst key partners consist of the City of Cardiff Council and the three universities, much progress has been made to integrate a wide range of key partners from public, private and charity enterprises. This wider joint working is secured by the Student Liaison Officer who liaises with a range of stakeholders, including, for example, the student body, local residents, landlords and letting agencies, universities, student unions, council services, public and private stakeholders.
8. Since its inception, the Action Plan has been a living and working document that have been continually updated. Desktop reviews have enabled stakeholders and partners to amend the Plan and annual Action Plan Events have provided opportunities to revise the Plan when necessary.

Issues

9. **Appendix 1** gives overview of five outcomes adopted by the Partnership and outlines their background, achievements and plans for future. The outcomes are:
 - Securing better accommodation for students;
 - Encouraging neighbourliness and community respect;
 - Improving community health and safety;

- Promoting environmental sustainability;
- Developing communications to create better informed communities.

10. The appendix to Cardiff Student Community Partnership Action Plan sets out the specific actions to be undertaken to achieve the above outcomes. The Plan outlines the objectives, milestones, responsibilities and activities to date.

Way Forward

11. The meeting will provide the Environmental Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise and comment on the 'Cardiff Student Community Partnership – 2015 to 2018 Action Plan'. Any comments and observations made should be sent to the relevant Cabinet Member(s) for their consideration.

Legal Implications

12. 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

13. 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:

- Consider the information in the report, appendices and provided at the meeting;
- Decide whether they would like to make any comments to the Cabinet;
- Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

MARIE ROSENTHAL

County Clerk and Monitoring Officer

8th April 2015