

COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT

Background

1. This report provides Members with:
 - i. A correspondence update;
 - ii. A copy of the Consultation Budgetary Proposals relevant to this Committee's terms of reference;
 - iii. A copy of the Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Return 2017-18; and
 - iv. Details of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee minutes 15 October 2018.

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.
3. At the Committee meeting on 6 December 2018, Members received a report detailing the correspondence sent and received up to that meeting. Since then, correspondence has been sent following the Committee meeting on 6 December 2018.
4. The list below details the position with regard to responses to correspondence:
 - i. *Response Awaited* – from Councillor Russell Goodway, to the Chair's letter following scrutiny of plans to regenerate the Dumballs Road area, considered at Committee on 11 October 2018.

- ii. *Response Received* – from Councillor Peter Bradbury to the Chair’s letter regarding the Cabinet Response to the Funding of Parks Inquiry report recommendations, considered at Committee on 11 October 2018.
 - iii. *Response Awaited* – from Councillor Bradbury and Councillor Goodway to the Chair’s letter regarding the report to Cabinet on Heritage Buildings, considered at Committee on 8 November 2018.
 - iv. *Response Awaited* – from Councillor Goodway to the Chair’s public letter regarding the report to Cabinet on the Indoor Arena, considered at Committee on 8 November 2018.
 - v. *Response Awaited* – from Councillor Peter Bradbury and Councillor Michael Michael to the letter of Councillor Ramesh Patel, Chair of the Joint Committee meeting held on 19 November to scrutinise the Public Spaces Protection Order: Dog Controls.
 - vi. *Response Received* – from Councillor Lynda Thorne to the Chair’s letter regarding Employment Services, considered at Committee on 6 December 2018.
 - vii. *No response required* – from Councillor Goodway to the Chair’s letter regarding the scrutiny route for the Economic Development White Paper, considered at Committee on 6 December 2018.
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*’.

Consultation Budgetary Proposals

6. Attached at **Appendix A** are the 2019/20 Consultation Budgetary Savings Proposals that relate to the portfolios and directorates falling within the remit of this Committee.
7. The Council’s *Changes for Cardiff* budget consultation survey launched on the 16 November 2018 and ran until 2 January 2019. Residents were able to take part online by visiting the Council’s main website and hard copies of the consultation document were available at hubs, libraries and council buildings.

8. The *Changes for Cardiff* budget consultation document highlighted several consultation budgetary proposals, seeking residents' views on these savings. Of these, the following fall within this Committee's terms of reference:
 - a. Community Sport Buildings
 - b. New Theatre Cardiff
 - c. City Events

9. The relevant extracts from the *Changes for Cardiff* budget consultation document are provided below:

Community sports buildings

We are continuing to transfer sports buildings to local sporting clubs, organisations, leagues and governing bodies. Benefits to local clubs and organisations include a greater security in their tenancy and an increased ability to attract external investment and grant aid. In turn, there is a reduction in the costs to the Council in managing these facilities. Further transfer of these facilities would result in savings to the Council of £25k. (CONSULT 8)

Do you support the further transfer of park assets to local sporting leagues and governing bodies?

New Theatre

New Theatre Cardiff has a vibrant and varied theatre scene, attracting a wide range of performances and audiences. Venues including the Millennium Centre, St David's Hall, the Sherman Theatre and Chapter Arts provide an array of entertainment choices. Cardiff Council wants to ensure that, as the capital city of Wales, we are able to ensure the continuation of high quality theatre productions in the city. An opportunity exists for the Council to secure a new private theatre tenant for the New Theatre building to develop the current theatre offer in the city. This proposal could secure savings of £404k to the Council. (CONSULT 7)

Have you visited the New Theatre in the last 12 months?

Have you visited a theatre elsewhere in Cardiff in the last 12 months?

Do you support the proposal to secure a private tenant to develop and sustain the current theatre offer in the city?

City Events

Cardiff Council currently subsidises a number of entertainment and art events throughout the year. Whilst many of these events are free to the public and contribute to the wider economic and cultural vitality of the city they involve significant costs – of around £245k - to the Council in terms of funding support, event management, staffing and lost income (CONSULT 18). We are seeking to reduce this subsidy and work to ensure that all future events are financially sustainable. Events that could potentially be affected are Artes Mundi, Speedway Fan Zone, Step into Christmas, Cardiff 10K Run, Tafwyl, Classic Motor Rally and Welsh Proms.

We have not decided a specific figure for reduction, but want to hear your views on the principle of subsidising these events.

Do you support the proposal to reduce the subsidy?

10. Consultation Equality Impact Assessments have been prepared for the savings proposals that rate Red or Red/ Amber in terms of their Equality Impact, which are:

- Consult 7 – New Theatre;
- Consult 17 – Closure of public conveniences in Caedelyn Park; and
- Consult 18 – Reduced subsidisation of Events.

These are available to view on the Council's website, via the hyperlink below:

<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Your-Council/Council-finance/Council-Budget/2019-20/EIAS-2019/Pages/default.aspx>

11. This Committee is scheduled to scrutinise the draft Corporate Plan and Budgetary Proposals at its meeting on Tuesday 19 February 2019. The results to the above consultation questions and overall budget consultation will be available at that meeting. The Committee's consideration of the budget will allow Members to pass their comments or recommendations to the Cabinet for consideration when it considers the draft budget proposals on 21 February 2019. The proposals will then be presented to Full Council on 28 February 2019.

Welsh Public Library Standards: Annual Report 2017/18

12. At the work programme forum meeting on 5 July 2018, Members decided to receive the Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report as part of Committee Business in order to identify any performance issues that require further scrutiny.
13. Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide library services under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. The Welsh Government launched the first set of Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS) in 2001. The sixth set of Welsh Public Library Standards 2017-2020 '*Connected and Ambitious Libraries*' can be accessed via: <https://gov.wales/topics/culture-tourism-sport/museums-archives-libraries/libraries/public-library-standards/?lang=en>
14. The sixth set of Standards has 12 core entitlements and contains 16 quality indicators, of which ten have targets. There are also three indicators aimed at assessing the impact of library use on people's lives.
15. Every year, Cardiff Council submits an annual return to the Welsh Government, detailing how it has met the core entitlements and providing information against quality indicators and impact measures. The Welsh Government undertakes an assessment of the return and provides a report on this, summarising performance. The report for 2017/18 is attached at **Appendix B** and includes comparator data with other Welsh library services.
16. The evaluation found that:
 - i. Cardiff is meeting 11 out of 12 core entitlements in full; it is not meeting core entitlement 12 that requires the local authority to have an overall library strategy. However, the narrative in the annual report highlights that this will be addressed during 2018/19 by the newly formed Library and Strategy Development Team;
 - ii. Of the ten quality indicators which have targets, Cardiff achieved:
 - Seven in full;
 - Two in part, which are Quality Indicator 12 - *% of requests satisfied within 15 days* - and Quality Indicator 13 - *qualified staff per capita*;

- And is failing to achieve one of the indicators, which is Quality Indicator 9 – *Up to date and appropriate reading material.*

17. The impact measures are detailed on page 3 of the annual assessment report, attached at **Appendix B**. On page 4 of the annual assessment, there is a list of quality indicators with benchmark data showing how Cardiff measures against other library services in Wales.
18. The Communities and Housing Directorate has prepared a response to the Annual Report, which is provided at **Appendix C**. This sets out the actions to be taken to address the core entitlement and quality indicators that have not been met, an update on the next steps re well-being hubs and detailed data for the quality indicators.

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

19. At the last Committee Meeting, 6 December 2018, Members requested sight of the minutes of the first meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) for the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal, held on 15 October 2018.
20. The draft minutes for this meeting have been emailed to Members. These minutes are due to be considered for approval at the next meeting of the JOSC, scheduled to be held on 5 February 2019. The papers for this meeting will be circulated to Committee Members upon publication and will be available via the Council's website using the following hyperlink:
<http://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=304&LLL=0>

Way Forward

11. During their meeting, Members will have the opportunity to reflect on the correspondence update, note the consultation budgetary proposals that fall within this Committee's terms of reference, provided at **Appendix A**, note the Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report 2017/18, provided at **Appendix B** and the response provided at **Appendix C**, and note the draft

minutes provided re the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cardiff Capital Region City Deal meeting on 15 October 2018.

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:

- I. Reflect on the update on committee consultation;
- II. Note the consultation budgetary proposals that fall within this Committee's terms of reference, attached at **Appendix A**;
- III. Note the Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report 2017/18, attached at **Appendix B** and the response attached at **Appendix C**; and
- IV. Note the draft minutes of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Cardiff Capital Region City Deal meeting on 15 October 2018.

Davina Fiore

Director - Governance and Legal Services

11 January 2019