

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 APRIL 2019

Present: Councillor Howells(Chairperson)
Councillors Henshaw, Gordon, Gavin Hill-John, Robson, Sattar
and Stubbs

65 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

66 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

67 : MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 February 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson. The minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 19 November 2018 were noted.

68 : DRAFT ECONOMIC STRATEGY; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHITE PAPER

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Russell Goodway (Cabinet Member – Investment & Development), Neil Hanratty (Director of Economic Development) and Jonathan Day (Operational Manager – Economic Policy) to the meeting.

Members were advised that this item gives them the opportunity to consider the draft Economic Strategy and to pass on comments, observations and any recommendations they wish to make to Cabinet prior to decision.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he said that this White Paper provides a focus on what the administration wants to achieve, it gives a signal to the market on the administration's priorities and it builds on the record of successful partnership working. It was noted however that there were still significant issues to be addressed and that not everyone has benefitted previously from growth in the City. Going forward the Council is working with partners such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to try to ensure that all communities benefit from the City's success.

The Cabinet Member added that the White Paper has been developed with other Directorates, including Communities, City Operations and Education amongst others; it was not intended as a detailed plan but further details would be provided as projects near the detailed phases. It was important to note that not all projects are Council led, some are partnership-led and some are an extension of what the Council are doing already. More detail would go to Cabinet in the coming months and where appropriate, there would be an opportunity for scrutiny. Scrutiny views were welcomed in driving forward the City's agenda.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Draft Economic Strategy; Economic Development White Paper, after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

Members asked how this White Paper fits with other strategies such as the LDP and the Transport Strategy to ensure there is no conflict. The Cabinet Member stated that he worked with the Cabinet Member for Transport to align with the Transport Strategy, there were likely to be some tensions as there were different priorities, the same with the LDP, these would be respected and there would be an opportunity to review this in the future.

Members were concerned there may be creative tensions between economic development, transport and environment issues and asked how this could be resolved. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that it was a challenge, but it was important to get it right, there needed to be jobs in the City centre and people needed to be able to get to them, there are a majority of components of a good infrastructure and this needs public sector investment from Welsh Government.

Members asked what the current position was with regards to the M4 relief road and were advised that the Council supports it, its absence would be a huge inhibitor in the development of Cardiff and the region.

Members asked what the position was with the train station at Gabalfa and were advised that it had been identified in the transport strategy as one in a number of stations, funding was now required.

Members asked about connectivity to the International Sports Village and were advised that it was recognised that the ISV needed to get a critical mass of activity to make increasing public transport viable and attractive.

Members discussed the indicators and asked how these could be used to track and measure progress especially in areas such as tackling poverty. Officers explained that indicators such as looking at better performing wards, unemployment data etc. would be used to look at how issues are dealt with locally and where to target services. Cardiff Commitment works with primary schools upward, raising aspirations and talking about sectors and jobs to young people. There would be a focus on targeting support and services to under-performing areas, considering impacts locally of intended projects to increase positive impacts and shaping council projects to deliver economic outcomes for people.

Members noted the improvement in the paper and considered it was good that it noted that not all have previously benefitted from the City's Growth, asking how this would be addressed going forward. The Cabinet Member explained that there were lessons to be learned from what had previously happened in Butetown and it was important to ensure what happens in the Bay penetrates through that wall, especially with the Arena and that the jobs created provide an opportunity for local people. There would be links with business and education in the area too.

Members asked if there were enough resources in the Economic Development team to deliver this and whether there were opportunities to work with partner organisations if not. Officers agreed that resources were tight and that it was

necessary to work effectively in partnerships both with the private and public sector and also the Welsh Government. There was an experienced team within Economic Development who were capable and would continue to look at ways to work constructively and innovatively.

Members asked if the environmental impact of attracting industry to the city had been considered and were advised that it needs to be a fundamental aspect, along with environmental improvements such as green spaces and access to jobs.

Members noted that, during the debate at Full Council, the Council Leader had acknowledged a number of areas including NEET's that needed addressing and asked if any changes had been made as a result of this. Officers explained that they had revised the indicators to align with what they want to achieve, with additional indicators included for youth unemployment and more indicators focusing on Inclusive Growth. In relation specifically to NEET's, Cardiff does perform well but this would be monitored. The Cabinet Member added that this was not a final document and that there was an opportunity to reinforce messages before the report goes to Cabinet.

Members referred to the slide presented on Successful City Centre's and noted that only London has more than 3 times office space. Members asked if Cardiff has been affected by the increase in Student accommodation and decrease in office accommodation in the City Centre. The Cabinet Member stated that this was a planning issue but he didn't consider that this had had any impact, adding that it was important to note that it was not just land space but air space and height of buildings that sometimes raise planning concerns. He also added that the Council Policy was to build on brownfield sites for City Centre Living.

Members noted that this was a high level strategy and that there would be further reports coming forward, asking what can be expected. It was explained that the strategy was the framework and a number of plans would lie under it; Members were assured that there were discussions all along the process with transport and environment colleagues.

Members noted that there were lots of proposals to build infrastructure but asked that Green and Open spaces are considered and that there was also a need for more trees in the City. The Cabinet Member stated that the emerging masterplan including the canal quarter will show improved open and green spaces and public squares. He added that at the ISV, there was an aspiration for open spaces and outdoor experiences available to the public.

RESOLVED: that the views of the Committee would be discussed during the way forward section of the meeting and a letter sent to the Cabinet Member in due course.

69 : INFORMING A MUSIC STRATEGY FOR CARDIFF REPORT: MUSIC ECOSYSTEM STUDY & STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member – Culture and Leisure), Neil Hanratty (Director of Economic Development) Jonathan Day

(Operational Manager- Economic Policy) and Ruth Cayford (Creative Industries and Culture Manager) to the meeting.

Members were reminded of the Save Womanby Street campaign, which led to the Leader, Cllr Thomas, giving a commitment to work with partners across Cardiff to develop a Music Strategy. The Council has employed Sound Diplomacy to undertake initial work on this and this item provided Members with a briefing on the work of Sound Diplomacy to date and sets out the timeline moving forward.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he thanked Committee for their interest in this issue which was a direct result of the grass roots campaign to save live music in Womanby Street. The Council has worked with Sound Diplomacy to establish a Music Strategy and there is a report to Cabinet in April to respond to the 12 recommendations. The headline recommendation was to establish a Music Board but response would be given to the other 11 recommendations too. The Cabinet Member added that this was a very exciting piece of work driven by the music sector and it put music at the heart of what the Council wants to achieve in the City.

Members were provided with a presentation entitled 'Cardiff Music City' based on the report from Sound Diplomacy after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

Members asked what the Music Board would look like and were advised that there would be a representative of the Council on the Board as Chair, there would also be representatives from Schools, the Music Industry and Public Sector partners. The make-up would mirror the London Board's, which provides a good model and works well.

Members asked how local/young people's skills could be developed to ensure all communities benefit from the proposed approach. Officers stated that Cardiff would be the first authority to take such an inclusive approach using music as a force for regeneration; education would be a big part of it through partnership. Welsh Government were investing in Music Education and the Anthem Fund was in its early stages; the Director of Education and Cardiff and Vale Music Services were involved as it is a priority for them. The Cabinet Member added that the new High School in the West of the City would provide music opportunities and work with music partners and the authority was keen to continue that link and build on it at other schools and colleges.

Members asked if there would be any opportunity for feedback from the other music stakeholders to the Sound Diplomacy report, the Cabinet Member explained that Sound Diplomacy had been tasked with looking at the industry as a whole and their report was based on round table discussions with other stakeholders and it provided an honest overview. Officers explained there would be a partnership approach to responding to Sound Diplomacy's recommendations, via the proposed music board.

Members found the report interesting with good comparators and asked where the bigger picture comes in and how Cardiff can obtain a reputation for holding worldwide events. The Cabinet Member stated that the report is of the industry as it is now, there were aspirations however which would be announced at a later date.

Members asked, once the board has been established, how voluntary organisations would fit into it. Officers said they were keen to ensure that the voluntary sector were engaged and they were taking an inclusive approach; there would be sub boards established for venues/public/professional services/volunteers etc.

Members were keen to know how the Board would be resourced. Officers assured Members that the Board would not need a lot of resources, the secretariat would be managed from existing resources, and they would look to attract funding to deliver the Music Strategy.

Members wondered if this would give scope to reintroduce music lessons back into schools. The Cabinet Member explained that these decisions were taken by individual Governing Bodies and Welsh Government, it was not in the scope of the Council. He added that the new schools have improved facilities so there may be more linkages with schools and partners to plug the gap.

RESOLVED: that the views of the Committee would be discussed during the way forward section of the meeting and a letter sent to the Cabinet Member in due course.

70 : COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Members were advised that the Correspondence was now up to date.

Members were reminded that they had previously asked to have sight of the minutes of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) for the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal. The draft minutes of the first JOSC meeting were circulated to Members ahead of their meeting on 17 January 2019.

The JOSC had held further meetings on 9 February 2019 and 28 March 2019 and the Agenda and Minutes were available on the Bridgend Council website.

Members were provided with an overview of the two meeting and an update of the JOSC tour of the Semi-Conductor Foundry building near Newport, which took place on 9 February 2019.

Members discussed the Forward Work Programme and prioritised items that they would like to see at Committee in the coming months.

71 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

72 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9 May 2019 at 4.30pm, Committee Room 4, County Hall, Cardiff.

The meeting terminated at 6.40 pm

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