

s c r u t i n y



**A Report of the
Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee**

Annual Report 2014 - 15

June 2015



The City and County of Cardiff Council

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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP



Councillor Craig Williams
(Chairperson)



Councillor Dilwar Ali



Councillor Gareth Aubrey



Councillor Ralph Cook



Councillor Nigel Howells



Councillor Mohammad Javed



Councillor Ed Stubbs



Councillor Christopher Weaver



Councillor Darren Williams

Former Committee Member

Councillor Siobhan Corria (until Aug 2014)

COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

To scrutinise, measure and actively promote improvement in the Council's performance in the provision of services and compliance with Council policies, aims and objectives in the area of economic regeneration

The Committee is responsible for looking at the following areas:

- Cardiff Business Council
- Inward Investment and the marketing of Cardiff
- South East Wales Economic Forum
- Economic Strategy & Employment
- European Funding & Investment
- Small to Medium Enterprise Support
- Cardiff Harbour Authority
- Lifelong Learning
- Leisure Centres
- Sports Development
- Parks & Green Spaces
- Libraries, Arts & Culture
- Civic Buildings
- Events & Tourism
- Strategic Projects
- Innovation & Technology Centres
- Local Training & Enterprise

To assess the impact of partnerships with and resources and services provided by external organisations including the Welsh Government, joint local government services, Welsh Government Sponsored Public Bodies and quasi-departmental non governmental bodies on the effectiveness of Council service delivery.

To report to an appropriate Cabinet or Council meeting on its findings and to make recommendations on measures, which may enhance Council performance or service delivery in this area.

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

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Councillor Craig Williams

Chairperson, Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
(May 2012 – May 2015)

2014-15 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

The Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee plays an important role in assessing service performance and informing policy development across a range of Council services. The Directorates predominantly covered by its terms of reference are Economic Development; Sport, Leisure & Culture; and Communities, Housing and Customer Services.

The 2014 – 15 work programme (found at **Appendix 1**) included items across several Cabinet Portfolio areas, notably those of Economic Development & Partnerships; Community, Development. Co-operatives & Social Enterprise: Environment; and Education & Skills.

This report presents the Committee's primary activities during 2014 -15 and, wherever possible, identifies the impact of the Committee's work upon the areas within its remit.

Between June 2014 and May 2015 the Committee has scrutinised a wide range of topics, which are listed below under a number of headings:

Inquiries – Where the Committee has undertaken an examination of a topic over a period of time, resulting in a formal report or letter to the Cabinet.

- 'Cardiff Central Market and Historic Arcades'
- 'Alternative Delivery Models in Leisure and Culture'
- 'Cardiff Central Transport Hub'
- 'Cardiff's Maritime Heritage – the Economic Potential'

- Cabinet Response – 'Small Business'
- Cabinet Response – 'Higher Education Innovation in Cardiff'.

Policy Development and/or Review - Where the Committee has contributed to the Council's policy development processes, for example by considering draft policy

documents, and/or where the Committee has considered the implementation of policies, looking at whether this has happened in a timely manner and the impact of the policy, giving the Cabinet the opportunity to know Scrutiny Members' views about whether any changes are required.

- Directorate Delivery Plans
- Parks and Green Spaces Strategic Framework
- Future Provision of Library Services in Cardiff
- Cardiff Tourism Strategy
- Cardiff Contemporary Festival
- Cardiff International Sports Stadium
- Sports Development Joint Venture – Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Allotment Strategy
- Great Western Cities.

Pre-decision - Where the Committee has evaluated and commented on policy proposals before they go to the Cabinet, giving the Cabinet the opportunity to know Scrutiny Members' views prior to making their decision.

- Central Square Regeneration Scheme
- Cardiff Film Unit
- Chapter Arts Centre – Asset Transfer
- Roath Library.

Monitoring - Where the Committee has undertaken monitoring of the Council's performance and progress in implementing actions previously agreed.

- Corporate Plan and Budget 2015/16
- Quarterly Performance Reports – Economic Development; Sport, Leisure & Culture; Community, Housing and Customer Services (Libraries and Adult Community Learning)
- Cardiff Business Council
- Welsh Public Library Standards
- Summer Reading Challenge

- Cardiff and Vale ACL Partnership – Estyn Monitoring Report
- Adult Community Learning – Cost Recovery Model
- European Capital of Sport 2014.

Briefing Papers

- Cardiff Economy and Labour Market
- Economic Development Team Activities.

Over the year the Scrutiny Committee held 11 committee meetings and wrote 32 (plus may comm) letters to the Cabinet, officers and external partners, sharing their comments/ recommendations and concerns following the scrutiny of items at committee meetings. The Committee also produced an in-depth task and finish report and wrote three letters to Cabinet Members as part of their inquiry work.

Members from this Committee also formed a sub-committee which, along with sub-committees from the Community and Adult Services and Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committees. This met in September 2014 to scrutinise community provision in Cardiff East, community hub proposals for the STAR area and the strategy for the future provision of community hubs.

The following pages highlight the Committee's activities during 2014 - 15 and identify the comments and recommendations made.

IN-DEPTH INQUIRIES

Where the Committee has undertaken an examination of a topic over a period of time, resulting in a formal report or letter to the Cabinet.

Cardiff Central Market and Historic Arcades

In recognition of the importance the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee places on small businesses in Cardiff, the Committee has in recent years undertaken three in depth pieces of work focused on this area of the economy. Commencing as part of the Economy & Culture 2013-14 work programme, and being completed as part of the 2014-15 work programme, this Inquiry gave attention specifically to Cardiff Central Market and the historic arcades in the city centre. It built upon the findings of the 'Small Business' Inquiry published in January 2014 and the 'Higher Education Innovation in Cardiff' short scrutiny published in November 2013.

The Members volunteering to take part in this Inquiry were Councillors Craig Williams (Chair), Weaver, Phillips, Holden and Darren Williams. Subsequent to the Inquiry being initiated, Councillors Holden and Phillips resigned from Committee membership.

The terms of reference of the Inquiry were to:

- Understand the Council's role in running and supporting Central Market and the Arcades
- Understand the importance of Cardiff Central Market and the Arcades to the local economy
- Explore options for the future of Cardiff Central Market and the Arcades
- Review good practice from other Local Authorities in their support and promotion of Markets and Arcades
- Review public opinion and awareness of Cardiff Central Market and Arcades
- Understand the views of market stall owners and arcade store owners

- Understand the implications of a potential Business Improvement District proposed for Cardiff and the impact this will have for Central Market and the Arcades.



Cllr Williams meets Arcade and Market traders to capture views and opinions during the Inquiry

The Inquiry received evidence from a range of sources, including representatives of Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cardiff Central Market Traders Association, Ashdown Phillips, Curzon Real Estate, Cardiff Council, Rules of Play, the National Association of British Market Authorities and Wrexham Council.

A public perception survey was also undertaken by the Scrutiny Research Team, with almost 2,000 members of the public providing their views, and each market stall holder and arcade shop owner given the opportunity to give their opinions.

The report for this Inquiry was received at the December 2014 Cabinet meeting and made 17 recommendations. These recommendations focussed on the Council developing a vision, business plan and performance framework for Cardiff Central Market, aimed at resolving ongoing disputes, increasing dialogue with traders, addressing maintenance issues and working practices within the market. The Inquiry recommendations also looked to resolve perceived footfall issues near the castle, review information on way finders and explore the potential to support a local currency.

A Cabinet response to this Inquiry report was published in April 2015, and is due to be presented to Committee at its June 2015 meeting). All but one of the recommendations made to Cabinet were accepted or partially accepted, and progress has been made addressing a number of the issues raised.

Alternative Delivery Models in Leisure and Culture

Last year, as part of the 2013-14 Work Programme the Committee undertook an in-depth piece of work reviewing the approach of the Council in exploring future management options for the Council's leisure centres, the New Theatre and St David's Hall. The Committee supported the decision to commence the procurement process of one or more management partner organisations.

In November 2014 Members again considered this procurement exercise in a Task & Finish inquiry meeting. Members' views were sought by the Director – Sport, Leisure and Culture on the evaluation principles that were being written into the specifications of any contract award. Members were also to be updated on the reasoning behind the decision to push ahead with the sporting venues procurement and delay the procurement for arts venues.

Following this meeting, Members wrote to the Cabinet Member – Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise, to raise the following points:

- Members welcome the aspiration to achieve a net zero subsidy, but would not insist that this result is achieved if suitably attractive bids are received that do not provide a net zero subsidy position for the Council.
- Members welcomed the focus being placed on the achievement of desired outcomes when evaluating the bids received, rather than the Council being overly prescriptive with the specifications that bidders must satisfy. Members felt this approach will enable innovation from the market and allow bidders to outline new opportunities and options for service delivery.
- Members welcome the Lot allocation, with three single facility Lots providing the opportunity for smaller operators/organisations to participate in the procurement, which would not been possible had the Council gone with fewer, larger Lots, while at the same time retaining a more substantial Lot that will be attractive to larger organisations.
- Members are pleased in-house service provision is being used as a benchmark throughout the process, and welcome the fact that the Council's provision of services is still being driven to reduce costs and improve quality of

service. Members were keen to stress that they would welcome the retention of the service if the Council's service provision is found to compete with the options provided by the wider market.

- Members expect social objectives, such as such as the payment of the living wage to staff, reduced charges for Children who are Looked After and increased access for disadvantaged customers, to be considered and explored with bidders as the procurement process progresses.
- Members reiterated a point made in May 2014 - that working with a partner organisation driven by social goals (such as a trust, charity or social enterprise) would be the Committee's preferred option. They felt that this approach would provide a natural role for Elected Members and the Local Authority to contribute to the running of facilities, and feel these organisations would better address the social elements of the services provided in Leisure and Cultural facilities

At the May 2015 Committee Meeting, Members were informed by the Director for Sport, Leisure and Culture that the competitive dialogue process for the Leisure facilities procurement was progressing well. As agreed by the Chair of the Inquiry, Members will be sent the leisure centre management specifications for their input, prior to them being implemented within the procurement process.

Cardiff Central Transport Hub

At the Committee's 2014-15 work programming forum meeting, the Leader updated Members on next steps for the regeneration of Central Square, including arrangements for taking forward the City's Transportation Hub. He requested the assistance of the Committee (possibly in partnership with Environmental Scrutiny Committee) in helping assess options for the location of the bus interchange, and in managing related issues including the short term disruption likely to ensue during the demolition and re-build period. The Chair of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee affirmed his Committee's interest in the piece of work, and due to his Committee's other commitments proposed the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee would take the lead organising role.

Given the tight timescales prior to a Cabinet decision it was deemed unlikely that Scrutiny could provide the full rigour of a task and finish Inquiry within the time available. As such, it was agreed that a series of individual meetings would be arranged, with letters and recommendations submitted following each meeting.

The first meeting considered the public consultation that had been carried out with regard to the location and facilities within the new bus station. The Chair subsequently wrote to the Cabinet Member - Transport, Planning & Sustainability to:

- Note concerns in relation to the range of stakeholders involved in informing the Cabinet decision, the viability of both proposed locations for the new bus station, and the impact the changes will have on journey times in the city.
- Query the number of people living outside of Cardiff who have completed the consultation. It was felt their point of view would be lost or overwhelmed by the responses from those who live within the city, and that they may have different priorities from residents. Members requested that further analysis was undertaken, extracting and analysing responses solely from individuals who do not live in the city.

The response received from the Cabinet Member assured Committee that the survey was targeted to people outside Cardiff. Anyone with access to the internet worldwide could access and fill in the survey and the media coverage publicised this. A cross

sample comparing responses from Cardiff residents and respondents from outside Cardiff was carried out and did not provide evidence of any significant difference of opinion amongst residents and non-residents, and that the results previously reported hold true.

Based on the additional information the Cabinet Member provided, Members of the Inquiry accepted the position given in the letter.

The second meeting of the Inquiry was undertaken to test the merits of the December Cabinet report which outlined the closure of the current bus station and proposed the location and footprint of the new facility. Following the meeting Members wrote to the Cabinet Member to state:

- They could not escape the feeling that the plans for a new bus station had been development-led rather than led by transport priorities. Rather than designing the new facilities around the priorities for the transport network in the city, it appears the Council has prioritised the development of Central Square and the new bus station has been left to fit around the remaining space. The fact that Cardiff will be without a central bus facility for approximately two and a half years was indicative that this solution has not been driven by transport priorities.
- Concerns with regard to the footprint allocated to the new bus interchange, and the capacity this leaves for adequate numbers of bus stands. Members were disappointed that the Council is making do with an area of land and exploring how best to fit a bus station into it, rather than dictating the land requirements for a world-class bus interchange.
- Members felt that plans had not been future proofed, and were concerned that this facility will not be able to meet increased demand, particularly in light of population growth estimates for the city and the emphasis the Council places on encouraging the public to use public transport rather than private cars

The response received from the Cabinet Member stated that:

- The Council is committed to providing a new modern bus interchange that improves the experience for bus users and bus operators. The Council wants to put in place a facility that significantly improves operator efficiency, passenger safety and passenger security.
- The Master Plan for the much needed regeneration of Central Square has been designed around the potential to deliver a bus interchange solution on the NCP Car Park / Marland House site if a site north of the station was ultimately chosen as the preferred location for a new bus interchange.
- Officers can reassure Scrutiny that as the detail design of the bus station progresses, the maximum benefits for both bus operators and passengers will be paramount to the final plan. Traffic modelling for the bus station will test an increase in growth of bus usage and look to cater for the predicted increase as part of the detail design. One of the design requirements for the new facility was the ability to accommodate existing bus demand plus 15% growth in normal services.

A third meeting of this Inquiry took place in May 2015, where Members considered the design principles and brief for the bus station that has been provided to architects and scrutinised the interim arrangements that are proposed for the period while the central bus terminal is closed and how these arrangements will be communicated to bus users and the public. Following this meeting Members wrote to the Cabinet Member to raise the following points:

- **Insert following approval of letter**

The Cardiff Central Transport Hub Inquiry will continue into the 2015/16 work programme as Members will scrutinise the chosen design for the Integrated Transport Hub, seek stakeholders' views on the internal priorities for the station and provide the Cabinet Member with recommended facilities and features within it.

Cardiff's Maritime Heritage – The Economic Potential

In May 2015 the Committee commenced an Inquiry looking at Cardiff's Maritime Heritage and the buildings in the Cardiff Bay area that could be utilised for Economic regeneration.

The Terms of Reference for this inquiry are:

- Gain an understanding of Cardiff's Maritime Heritage and the buildings that are important;
- Understand what the 'Cardiff Bay' area is in relation to Maritime Heritage
- Understand the role and responsibility of Cardiff Council in relation to protection and rebuilding;
- Understand Councils approach to restoring and preserving historic buildings
- Explore options for the future of Cardiff's Maritime Heritage;
- Buildings and how they can be used for economic benefit and regeneration;
- Review good practice from other Local Authorities in relation to preserving and restoring Heritage Buildings.

At the first meeting Members ... Insert once first meeting is undertaken

It is anticipated that this inquiry will be completed in September 2015, with recommendations being submitted to the Council's Cabinet following its approval.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Where the Committee has contributed to the Council's policy development processes, for example by considering draft policy documents, and/or where the Committee has considered the implementation of policies, looking at whether this has happened in a timely manner and the impact of the policy, giving the Cabinet the opportunity to know Scrutiny Members' views about whether any changes are required.

Committee was pleased to have been asked to provide cross party Member feedback to support areas of economic and cultural policy being developed by Cabinet Members and service directorates.

6 November 2014: Parks and Green Spaces Strategic Framework

Reviewing the Strategic Framework developed for the management and development of the parks and green spaces within Cardiff. Members were keen to recommend increased Member involvement in the 'Land Rationalisation' work stream, given its potential to be highly emotive to local residents, and questioned whether wider opportunities to work with other services, were effectively captured within each work stream.

4 December 2014 & 8 January 2015: Future Provision of Library Services in Cardiff

The 2015/16 Budget Proposals public consultation included an options paper titled 'Future Provision of Libraries Services in Cardiff' which the Committee reviewed in December. Members questioned whether the 'Stepping Up' toolkit went far enough in assisting organisations who may be interested in taking over the running of a library, and also questioned whether demand for e-books was a genuine driver for change given the tiny proportion of books loaned in this format.

Members revisited the future provision of Library Services in January, where a public consultation item allowed interested groups and stakeholders to present their views. Members heard representations regarding Whitchurch, Rhiwbina and Radyr libraries, and the proposals more generally. The Committee wrote to the Cabinet Member to raise the following points:

- concern that these proposals could result in the loss of important community 'hubs'.
- reflection that a number of the libraries proposed for removal of Council funding are in fact some of the most well used libraries in Cardiff.
- fear that the northern half of the city could be left with limited access to Library services.
- feel that the time and money simply isn't available for community groups to come forward with suitable alternative operating models for the libraries, and question whether it is realistic to expect community or friends groups to have the knowledge, skills and access to finance that will be required to take over a library.
- question whether the relatively small levels of savings to be achieved through these proposals were worth the significant public feedback created and the potential loss of important community facilities.

8 January 2015: Cardiff Tourism Strategy

The Committee was given the opportunity to shape the priorities of the Tourism & Heritage Strategy for Cardiff which was being developed. Members supported the drive to develop signature events or unique attractions for Cardiff rather than relying on major stadium based events. Members also recommended the strategy focus on partnership working with organisations like CADW and that the tourist 'City Card' be developed in line with the existing 'Iff' card.

2 April 2015: Cardiff Contemporary Festival

Members received an overview of Cardiff Contemporary Festival 2014 and explored the plans for the Council's ongoing support for this event. The Committee felt the event was a clear success but raised the fact that it was hard to fully evaluate without a robust Economic Impact Assessment being undertaken. Members

welcomed the Council's continued support for this festival and recommended a review of the funding sources, business models and governance structures of other larger contemporary art festivals in the UK.

2 April 2015: Cardiff International Sports Stadium

A review of the decision to remove CISS from the Leisure Facilities procurement exercise and lease the Stadium and grounds to Cardiff and Vale College. Members welcomed the speed with which this asset transfer had been agreed – given the delays seen in transferring Community Centres, and welcomed clear evidence of stakeholder engagement and involvement.

14 May 2015: Sports Development Joint Venture – Cardiff Metropolitan University

Members undertook a review of the joint venture agreement between Cardiff Council and Cardiff Metropolitan University for sports development in Cardiff. The Committee was positive about this agreement in terms of safeguarding jobs, adopting a neighbourhood management approach and the feedback given by Sport Wales.

4 June 2015: Allotment Strategy

Insert following consideration of this item

4 June 2015: Great Western Cities

Insert following consideration of this item

4 June 2015: Directorate Delivery Plans

Insert following consideration of this item

At the end of each of the above policy development meetings, Members wrote to the appropriate Cabinet Member with their observations, comments and recommendations to boost the performance, accessibility and efficiency of these services. Cabinet Members considered the ideas, and wrote back to indicate which of the ideas they would be able to adopt. Any readers interested in finding out more are welcome to contact Scrutiny Services for further information.

PRE DECISION SCRUTINY

Where the Committee has evaluated and commented on policy proposals before they go to the Cabinet, giving the Cabinet the opportunity to know Scrutiny Members' views prior to making their decision.

5 June 2014: Central Square Regeneration Scheme

Members received a presentation outlining the proposed next steps with the regeneration of Central Square, including the BBC site and Integrated Transport Hub. The Committee raised a number of issues around potential disruption, access to information on route changes and connectivity with the proposed Metro system. These points have been picked up within the Integrated Transport Hub Inquiry detailed previously.

6 November 2014: Cardiff Film Unit

Members considered, and subsequently supported the proposals taken to Cabinet to continue to provide a Cardiff Film Unit, moving towards a model that reflects annual forecasts of expected income. Members noted that this is a good example of where the Corporate Initiatives Fund could be effectively used, if it were not already fully allocated.

6 November 2014: Chapter Arts Centre – Asset Transfer

The Committee received an overview of the proposal to grant Chapter Arts Centre a 125 year lease with peppercorn rent. Members welcomed the positive impact Chapter has had in the community and supported the proposals, following evidence of a comprehensive economic impact assessment that demonstrated the benefits to the city.

2 April 2015: Cardiff Tourism Strategy and Action Plan

Members requested that the Tourism Strategy came back to Committee following the policy development item that was undertaken in January 2015. Members welcomed its ambitious approach, underpinned by the aspiration to double the value of overnight tourism by 2020 and welcomed the Cardiff Visitor Card which was been launched. Members recommended that the use of a '.wales' domain name was given due consideration going forwards.

Any readers interested in learning more about the feedback provided by Committee are welcome to contact Scrutiny Services for further information.

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CORPORATE PLAN & CABINET BUDGET PROPOSALS 2015/16

At its February 2015 meeting the Committee considered the Council's draft Corporate Plan and draft budgetary proposals for 2015 – 16.

Members reemphasized concerns they had previously raised on the proposals for the future of library services, namely;

- a number of the libraries proposed to have Council funding removed were in fact some of the best-used libraries in Cardiff.
- whether it was realistic to expect community or friends groups to have the knowledge, skills and access to finance that will be required to take over the running of libraries.
- Committee considers Libraries to be one of the core services provided by local authorities, and would have major reservations about proposals which may result in Libraries across the city closing.

The Committee also raised concerns that the development of a City Centre Superhub within Central Library would detract from the identity of Central Library and feel that this building and service must continue to be recognised as a Library that contains additional services, rather than the Library services on offer being deprioritised.

The Cabinet Member – Community Development, Co-Operatives and Social Enterprise, wrote to the Committee to indicate that its comments, along with the public response to the budget consultation resulted in the removal of the proposed £283,000 saving from libraries for 2015/16 and an amended strategy was developed.

Members welcomed the ambition for the Economic Development Directorate to reach a position where it is self financed, and welcome the range of initiatives and funding mechanisms that are being explored in order to achieve this.

Members were also reassured by the confident assertion that Cardiff Business Council will be able to bear a reduced revenue budget allocation from the Council. The Committee made clear that this is a situation they will continue to monitor going forwards.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Where the Committee has undertaken monitoring of the Council's performance and progress in implementing actions previously agreed. Committee asked to monitor budgetary and service performance of various aspects of service delivery falling within Committee's terms of reference during the year.

Quarterly Performance Reports

Scrutiny Committees are responsible for scrutinising performance, thereby facilitating challenge and public discussion which should help to drive improvement of the services provided. This Committee has reviewed performance of the following Directorates each quarter – Economic Development (ECD); Sport, Leisure and Culture (SLC); Communities, Housing and Customer Services (Libraries and Adult Community Learning elements) [CHC].

Below is a summary of the key areas picked up through performance monitoring quarterly reports (the relevant directorate is notes in brackets):

- Members challenged the appropriateness of indicators across all directorates reviewed as they appear to be easily achieved and rarely reported anything other than green. Members feel challenging targets will drive improved performance.
- Progress with the Business Improvement district (ECD).
- Progress with the Coal Exchange (ECD).
- Cardiff Business Council funding arrangements and membership targets (ECD).
- Roath Library closure (CHC).
- Income opportunities in Libraries (CHC).
- Sickness absence rates (SLC).
- Achievement of savings through Alternative Delivery Model exercise for Leisure and Culture venues (SLC).
- Delays in asset transfer of community halls (SLC).

2 October 2014: Cardiff Business Council

Members met with the Chairman of Cardiff Business Council and the Leader to review the achievements of the Cardiff Business Council in its first year and the plans going forwards. The Committee welcomed this as a good example of public private partnership and noted good progress against the first year objectives. They also raised concerns that the membership target would be missed by a long way.

4 December 2014: Welsh Public Library Standards

CyMAL's evaluation of Cardiff's performance for 2013/14 showed that the Council is currently meeting the requirements of seven of the nine Welsh Public Library Standards, and partially achieving the remaining two. Members were pleased with this performance but raised concerns that proposed changes to the Library Service in Cardiff would be damaging to future performance.

14 May 2015: Cardiff and Vale ACL Partnership – Estyn Monitoring Report

In January 2013 Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education Estyn provided an "Inadequate" rating for the Cardiff Community Learning Network. A monitoring visit was undertaken by Estyn in January 2015, and Members heard that strong or very good progress has been made against each Estyn recommendations. As a result, Cardiff and Vale Adult Community Learning Partnership has been removed from any further follow-up activity.

14 May 2015: Summer Reading Challenge

Given the Committee's interest in Libraries around the budget setting period, Members agreed to monitor performance of the Summer Reading Challenge (despite crossover with the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee terms of reference). Members noted significant improvements in performance in the 2013 and 2014 results and welcomed the challenging targets set for 2015.

14 May 2015: Adult Community Learning – Cost Recovery Model

For the 2014/15 academic year, a new 'Learning for Life' cost recovery programme was established for non priority learners, a provision which isn't eligible for Welsh Government grant funding. Members were pleased to be informed that the service is achieving a break even position and that enrolment numbers have not been hit by the changes.

14 May 2015: European Capital of Sport 2014

The Committee received a review of Cardiff's year as European Capital of Sport 2014. Members were informed that this helped create new relationships with local sports clubs and media, played a crucial role in securing the World Half Marathon 2016 for Cardiff and has seen an increase in women's and girls participation in sport.

Members hope that the verbal and written feedback they provided the officers and Cabinet Members during these monitoring sessions will be of benefit in optimising service provision in the future. Any readers interested in finding out more about this are welcome to contact Scrutiny Services for further information.

BRIEFING PAPERS

Where Committee seeks understanding of a particular topic to improve their future scrutiny of that topic.

4 September 2014: Cardiff Economy and Labour Market

Committee received the Cardiff Economy and Labour Market for January to June 2014. The report provided statistical data to examine Cardiff's economy and labour market, as well as providing comparisons with the national picture. It included sections on unemployment, economic activity, employment, earnings, commuting patterns, Gross Value Added (GVA), active enterprises, qualifications and commercial planning permissions.

2 October 2014: Economic Development Team Activities

Committee received an update from the Council's Economic Development Team, which sits within the Economic Development Directorate. It is responsible for attracting, supporting and retaining businesses within Cardiff and for generating inward investment in the city. Members wrote to the leader to note they were encouraged to hear about the positive performance of Cardiff across the range of indicators.

2015/16 WORK PROGRAMME

Work is currently underway to draw together issues for the new Committee to consider as possible items in the Committee's 2015/16 work programme. A draft work programme will be developed and brought to Committee for approval. The Committee would welcome suggestions for scrutiny items from other Members.

Over the course of its deliberations this year, the Committee has highlighted a number of items for consideration that have either not been possible to include within the 2014/15 work programme or have been recommended as follow up from items considered during the year. It is recommended that the following items be considered as candidates for inclusion in the Committee's 2015-16 work programme:

- Major Events Strategy
- Cardiff Bay Development Strategy
- Cardiff Brand.

Items identified during the year that could merit consideration as part of the 2015 – 16 work programme:

- Multipurpose Arena
- Cardiff Business Council (review)
- Business Improvement District
- Flat Holm Island partnership
- Cardiff Heritage Trust
- Civic Centre Master plan (Cardiff University)
- City Deal.

Cabinet responses to Committee's Inquiry Reports

- Alternative Operating Models in Leisure and Cultural Venues
- Cardiff Central Market and Historic Arcades
- Integrated Transport Hub
- Cardiff's Maritime Heritage – the Economic Potential.

Appendix 1

Work Programme

2014 - 15

Scrutiny Work Streams	4 Sept (CR4)	2 October (CR4)	6 November (CR4)	4 December (CR1)	8 January (CR4)	Budget meeting 5 February (CR4)	5 March (CR4)	2 April (CR4)	14 May (Digi Suite)	4 June (CR4)
Corporate and Strategic Development		Labour Market Initiatives	Chapter Arts Centre	Central Library?	Tourism Strategy	Budget and Corporate Plan		Tourism Strategy	Sports Development Joint Venture	Great Western Cities / City Deal
		Cardiff Business Council	Cardiff Film Unit					Cardiff Contemporary	European Capital of Sport	
				Welsh Public Library Standards					Summer Reading Challenge	
Re-shaping Services			Parks and Green Spaces Strategic Framework	Rumney Library Petition				Cardiff International Sport Stadium	Roath Library	Allotment Strategy
Performance and Improvement	Q1 Budget and Performance Report	Econ Dev - Q1 Budget and Perf Report		Q2 Budget and Performance Report	Budget Consultation Item		Q3 Budget and Performance Report		Q4 Budget and Performance Report	Directorate Delivery Plans
									Cost Recovery Model- non priority A CL	
									Cardiff and Vale A CL Partnership - ESTYN	
Governance								Scrutiny Improvement Project		Committee's Annual Report for 2014/15
Improvement Reviews		Markets and Arcades Draft Report			Small Bus Cabinet Response					
					Innovation Cabinet Response					
Committee Business Items	Committee Work Programming					Committee Work Programme Update				
	Correspondence		Correspondence		Correspondence			Correspondence		Correspondence
Committee Improvement Inquiries								Heritage Buildings	Heritage Buildings	Heritage Buildings
			ADM - Specs and Evaluation	ADM - Specs and Evaluation					ADM - Specs and Evaluation	ADM - Specs and Evaluation
				Integrated Transportation Hub	Integrated Transportation Hub				Integrated Transportation Hub	Integrated Transportation Hub
	Corporate			Sport, Leisure and Culture						
	Economic Development			Communities						

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