

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 APRIL 2016

Present: County Councillor McKerlich(Chairperson)
County Councillors Dilwar Ali, Howells, Hyde and Weaver

69 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Javed and Simmons.

70 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Weaver who declared a personal interest as Assistant Cabinet Member for Active Travel, Libraries and Wellbeing.

71 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 February 2016 and 17 March 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

72 : ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE DELIVERY PLAN

The Chairperson welcomed Neil Hanratty (Director – Economic Development) to the meeting. The Chairperson noted that the Leader had sent his apologies for the meeting.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Economic Development Directorate Delivery Plan which included information on Line of Sight; Directorate Responsibilities; Key Corporate Indicators; 2015/16 Achievements; Corporate Plan Commitments; Other Business Priorities and Performance Measures.

The Chairperson thanked Neil Hanratty for the presentation and invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members asked if they could be provided with information on the split between saving and income generation. Officers did not have the information with them but agreed to provide this to Members following the meeting; Officers did however note that the major savings were the culture ADM and reductions had been through vacant posts, capitalisation of posts and some increases in income from venues the Castle and digital advertising. Officers added that times were challenging and that income from property gets centralised away from the Directorate.
- Members asked for an update on the Cardiff Film Unit and were advised that it was breaking even, and is now engaging with and providing services within the Council.

- Members asked for an update on the Coal Exchange, Officers advised that there was a commercial process ongoing, the Council was encouraging the developer to restore the building; there were proposals for a hotel in the building keeping an element of public access. It was noted that the Council was not the only stakeholder and Officers advised that they would bring a report on the Coal Exchange to Committee in the coming months.
- Members asked if the Ambassadors programme was replacing the old Cardiff Business Council; Officers advised that the Ambassador programme worked with hoteliers to market Cardiff and that it wasn't a replacement of Cardiff Business Council.
- Members asked what the aspirations for City Hall were and advised that the University was looking at its estate, focusing on Park Place to extend its facilities for students. Master Planners had been engaged to look at the Civic Centre and what opportunities exist for development in the area. With regards to City Hall specifically, it was important to consider what other uses it could have, there was no intention to withdraw the Council Chamber, consideration was being given to the 'U' shape section at the back of City Hall and how to open up the gardens at the rear; no work had started as yet. Members noted the huge maintenance backlog at City Hall and that there was a need to look at increasing income to reinvest into the building.
- Members sought information on what was being done to encourage inward investment into Cardiff. Officers advised that they needed to provide targets for the Business Development Team, as there were competing targets for a range of opportunities; these targets were stretched, it had been a long time since there had been significant investment in Cardiff.

Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise joined the meeting.

- Members asked if the European Capital of Culture was now off the Council's agenda; the Cabinet Member stated that the Culture community did still have an appetite for it but the Council was looking to play a supporting role; he added that there was not much Welsh Government appetite for it at the present time in terms of a Cardiff centric bid, and that it would need to be on a more regional basis to secure support.
- Members made reference to the 3k jobs and asked if these were new or safeguarded jobs. Officers advised that these jobs included partnership working; the Council had a role to play in a huge range of job sectors, the majority had been the financial sector and call centres; this figure included a whole range of jobs over a number of projects.
- Members asked for an update on the Brains Brewery regeneration and Officers advised that Brains were now out to the market and working with a development partner. More details would be brought to a future meeting.

The Chairperson thanked officers for attending the meeting, giving their presentations and statements and for answering Members questions.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee’s behalf to the Leader to convey their comments and observations. [View Letter](#)

73 : CITY OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE DELIVERY PLAN

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member - Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise), Councillor Bob Derbyshire (Cabinet Member – Environment) Malcolm Stammers (Operational Manager Leisure & Play) and Jon Maidment (Operational Manager Parks & Sport) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise to make a statement in which he said that many achievements had been made under very difficult circumstances and he thanked Officers for all their hard work.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member Environment to make a statement in which he said that these were challenging times and would remain to be so over the next three years; he added that it would be very hard to maintain things such as the Green Flag Status for parks.

The Chairperson invited officers to make their presentation, which included information on the Policy Framework; Directorate range of services and responsibilities; Directorate Resources; 2015/16 Achievements; 2016/18 Aspirations; Delivery Plan Objectives (Corporate Commitments and Directorate Priorities) and Performance monitoring and review.

The Chairperson thanked the Officers for the presentation and invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members made reference to the Star Hub and asked what date the leisure centre would close; Officers advised the move from the leisure centre to the new Hub would happen overnight at the end of September; the intention was that there would be no break in service.

Members asked if there were any changes to the original specification, the Cabinet Member stated that there was one hall less than originally planned but provision had been sought in Willows High School to accommodate this; work was planned for the summer and hopefully this hall would be open to coincide with the beginning of the September term.

- Members discussed pitch surfaces and 3/4G surfaces; Officers advised that they can be used for proper matches; 3G surfaces were being put into schools and if leagues were happy to use the surfaces then the best use of the pitches could be optimised; the pitches are UEFA accredited. Officers stated that there had been considerable income loss over the winter due to bad weather, this had also impacted leagues and clubs were very disappointed. It was also noted the pitches did need some maintenance.

- Members discussed racquet sports and that the use of squash courts had been withdrawn from the Active Card Scheme; Officers advised that they had been in discussion with Squash Clubs and they were still talking to them to resolve ongoing issues. Officers added that squash had been withdrawn from the Active Card Scheme due to abuse of cards when booking courts and squash bookings decreasing adding that they needed to make better use of the space. Officers commented that in hindsight, the matter could have been handled differently, and the Cabinet Member added that the abuse of the system was clear and couldn't be tolerated

The Chairperson thanked the Cabinet Members and officers for attending the meeting, giving their presentations and statements and for answering Members questions.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee's behalf to the Cabinet Member to convey their comments and observations. [View Letter](#)

74 : COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES DIRECTORATE DELIVERY PLAN

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member - Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise), Councillor Daniel De'Ath (Cabinet Member - Skills, Safety, Engagement and Democracy) and Jane Thomas (Assistant Director – Communities Housing and Customer Services) and Isabelle Bignall (Assistant Director – Customer Services) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise to make a statement in which he said that a lot of good goes on in the directorate and many achievements have been made.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member - Skills, Safety, Engagement and Democracy to make a statement in which he said that this item was a pleasure to introduce; Adult Community Learning (ACL) and Into Work Services had made strong progress at a 87% success rate. Staff aspire to increase achievements further, it was important that the service listens to feedback from its users and partners to ensure what is offered is in sync with the current jobs market. Into Work Services were now more important than ever with the introduction of Universal Credit.

Members were provided with a presentation that included information on; Line of Sight; Directorate Responsibilities; Key Corporate Indicators; Areas for Scrutiny to Consider; Achievements; Corporate Plan Commitments; Delivery Plan Commitments and Performance Indicators.

The Chairperson thanked the Officers for the presentation and invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members noted that Llandaff North library would close at the end of the month and discussed the temporary library arrangements. The Cabinet Member noted that the travelling library would be part of the temporary arrangements and that officers were looking to site a temporary cabin on a piece of housing

land. It was confirmed that the new Llandaff North Community Hub would be delivered by January 2017.

- Members noted the benefits of ACL across many directorates and agreed that priority should be given for training for work; Members asked if there was any scope to obtain money from Health and Social Services for learning for life. Officers noted that enrolment was 4993 and that there was no slippage on this, more venues were being opened; there was a focus of partnership working on Into Work Services (grant funded) but the aim was also for learning for life courses.
- Members discussed courses and take up in the southern arc of the city; Officers agreed to provide this map of courses of venues to the Committee
- Members asked when the Llanedeyrn Regeneration scheme would be complete; Officers advised that would be by the end of March 2017, it had originally been December 2016 but the slippage had been due to the tenders coming in at too higher cost.
- With regard to Into Work Services, Members noted that there had been an increase of 80-98% and asked what this could be attributed to. Officers explained that they had tailored the services more to individual's needs, taken on universal credit and face to face services from DWP.
- Members asked if there is a measurement for who find employment after using the Into Work Services; Officers advised that they measure who goes through for guaranteed interview, which was 300 last year, but they do not measure what whether they then find employment following that.

The Chairperson thanked the Cabinet Members and officers for attending the meeting, giving their presentations and statements and for answering Members questions.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee's behalf to the Cabinet Members to convey their comments and observations. [View Letter](#)

75 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for Thursday 12 May 2016 at 4.30 pm in Committee Room 4, County Hall, Cardiff.