

Cardiff Capital Region Growth and Competitiveness Commission – Call for Evidence

(response submitted via email to: commission@cardiffcapitalregioncitydeal.wales)

Dear Mr Clark ,

[...] I will respond under the 3 headings you suggest but my concern in respect of the entire project is the need to produce action. It was a great achievement to get the finance agreed in principle but we must not waste time in navel-gazing. It is necessary to set up a small team to produce a business plan, assign a critical path and then deliver the plan without endless debate involving 10 sets of council officers , 10 cabinets and the Welsh government during a time of almost annual elections of one kind or another.

Enhance supply of better jobs: Cardiff had a very effective Cardiff Business Council, now largely dismantled, which did a great job in selling the “Cardiff Offer” and obtaining both financial and practical support from the business community; it was a less bureaucratic version of the old Welsh Development Agency. Establishing a regional version of that Council should be an immediate priority

Economic and Social issues; a major priority is improving public transport; this has a heading, namely “Metro”, but nothing more. It is essential to agree routes, type of system to be employed and set a challenging timetable for implementation. We do not want to lose the EU contribution to this project through inertia. If this dream cannot be brought to reality within a reasonable time assess, with an open mind, the ways in which the current heavy rail system can deliver more of the transport needs of this region

Maximise economic links and enhance regional economy: improving transport links and the contingent infrastructure spend would bring huge benefits and these improved links would encourage businesses to locate throughout the region; they would also encourage house builders to widen their sphere of operation.

I wish you and your commission well; much depends on your success and the speed of delivering it.

Regards

Rod McKerlich

Chair, Cardiff Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee