

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: NRS/RM/BD/04.06.15

Dyddiad / Date: 29 June 2015

Councillor Bob Derbyshire  
Cabinet Member for the Environment  
City of Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW



Dear Councillor Derbyshire

### **ECONOMY AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 4 JUNE 2015**

Thank you for providing your apologies for the June meeting of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee, where we considered the City Operations Directorate Delivery Plan. Councillor Bradbury and Chris Hespe were able to address all questions raised from your area of responsibility, and I write to you with a few comments and observations the Committee made following the meeting, which are set out below.

#### **City Operations Directorate Delivery Plan**

Members are mindful that the recent senior management restructure has resulted in the creation of the City Operations Directorate, with Parks and Green Spaces being moved to this new directorate. In previous Committee meetings it has been clear to us that you have had a good working relationship with the Director of Sport, Leisure and Culture, and we hope that as responsibility transfers to new director Andrew Gregory, you will be able to build a similar relationship where you are enabled to challenge and drive projects forwards.

At the meeting, Members were pleased to hear that income opportunities have been identified in a number of areas such as tree maintenance, plant production and landscaping and would encourage you to push ahead with these initiatives, while being mindful of the limitations that apply to local authorities.

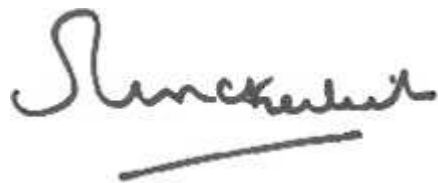
During the Scrutiny of this item, Members strayed on to discussing items that are more suited to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee terms of reference. Despite this, Members wish to note that we welcome the plans to increase and protect biodiversity across Cardiff. We were informed during the meeting that there is the equivalent of 40 football fields of land allocated for wildflower meadows, which is particularly pleasing given that we wrote to you in November 2014 to give our support for this approach.

Similarly, Bereavement Services is probably more suited to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee but we wish to record our praise for the job Martin Birch is doing in relation to providing Muslim Funeral services. While we appreciate the Director's offer of a visit to the Crematorium, we feel this would more relevant for Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, and as such we have cc'd the relevant Principal Scrutiny Officer for information and to explore the offer should the Members wish.

A final note from this Delivery Plan is that the Committee notes the assurances given that a Strategic Framework for Sport and Leisure Facilities should be in place by September 2015. We will keep this in mind as we look to set the work programme for the 2015/16 calendar of meetings and will invite you to attend alongside Councillor Bradbury as we note that the Quarter 2 milestone for this directorate commitment is to explore delivery models for grass sports pitches.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments, observations and recommendations, and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. McKerlich', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Councillor Roderick McKerlich**  
**Chairperson, Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee**

cc Chris Hespe – Director, Sport Leisure and Culture  
Principal Scrutiny Officer – Environmental Scrutiny Committee  
Andrew Gregory – Director, City Operations  
Alison Taylor – Cabinet Support Office  
Members of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee