

## MUSEUM OF CARDIFF INQUIRY - REPORT

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### Reason for Report

1. To provide Members with the '*Museum of Cardiff*' Inquiry draft report, attached at **Appendix A**, for discussion, amendment, and approval, prior to presentation to the Cabinet for consideration.

### Museum of Cardiff Inquiry

2. Following scrutiny of the budgetary proposals 2023/24, several Committee Members suggested scrutinising the best way forward for the Museum of Cardiff.
3. Following initial scoping meetings, Members agreed the following terms of reference:
  - a. *To gather stakeholders' views and learn from their knowledge and experience of council-run and/ or charitable trust museums regarding:*
    - *Funding models*
    - *Income generation*
    - *Governance models*
    - *Community engagement*
    - *Volunteering*
    - *Inclusivity and representativeness*
    - *Partnership working*
    - *Staffing structures.*
  - b. *To explore with stakeholders the main requirements to ensure a sustainable location and future for the Museum of Cardiff, including identifying likely issues associated with relocation and reprovion.*

- c. *To understand the Council's spend on the Museum of Cardiff, the income of the Museum of Cardiff and whether there are any conditions attached to previous funding provision.*
- d. *To consider to what extent does being the museum of the capital of Wales change its status, if at all, and explore this with relevant local politicians.*
- e. *To use the information gathered during the Inquiry to make evidence-based recommendations to Cabinet regarding how best to achieve a sustainable future for the Museum of Cardiff.*

4. The Committee agreed the following membership for this task group:
  - Councillor Wong
  - Councillor Henshaw
  - Councillor Shimmin
  - Councillor Thomson.
5. The task group heard evidence from several internal and external witnesses, including the relevant Cabinet Member, senior officers, Caer Heritage, Cardiff People First, Development Trustees, Federation of Museums and Art Galleries in Wales, Professor Jane Henderson, Museums Association, and Welsh Government.
6. Members visited the Museum of Cardiff and met with staff and volunteers, listening to their experiences of working in the Museum of Cardiff and views on the future of the Museum
7. Members wrote to several key stakeholders offering them the opportunity to give their views to the Inquiry. Written responses were received from:
  - Andrew RT Davies MS
  - Heledd Fychan MS
  - Rhys ab Owen MS
  - Julie Morgan MS
  - Cardiff Civic Society
  - Glamorgan Archives
  - Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

8. The Inquiry also considered users views via visitor survey responses and school users' feedback, as well as the consultation responses received to the Council's Budgetary Proposals Consultation.
9. To inform the Inquiry, Members were provided with briefing reports ahead of each meeting, including the *Open Up Guidebook*, produced by the Association of Independent Museums. These have been synthesised into the report.
10. The task group used the evidence gathered by the Inquiry to identify suitable key findings and recommendations.
11. Attached at **Appendix A** is the draft report of the task group, which details the key findings and recommendations and summarises the evidence received at task group meetings.

### **Way Forward**

11. During their meeting, Members may wish to discuss and agree any amendments required to the Task Group report '*Museum of Cardiff*', attached at **Appendix A**.

### **Legal Implications**

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having

regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to consider the '*Museum of Cardiff*' task group report, attached at **Appendix A**, and endorse the report, subject to any amendments the Committee wish to make, for submission to the Cabinet.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director - Governance and Legal Services**

**11 July 2023**