

APPENDIX B: CABINET RESPONSE TO CARDIFF'S POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMIC RECOVERY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. Within 6 months, the Cabinet articulates its vision for Cardiff as a 15-minute city, explaining how this will take into account the economic role Cardiff plays as a capital city and regional centre and that different areas of Cardiff require different approaches to being a 15-minute city.

R2. Within 9 months, the Cabinet shares their vision for Cardiff as a 15-minute city with residents, communities and stakeholders by:

a. tasking officers to use the evidence gathered by this Inquiry regarding participatory planning mechanisms to develop an approach to engage residents, communities and stakeholders, which ensures all voices are able to be heard.

b. engaging in dialogue with residents, communities and stakeholders to help develop and refine local implementation plans.

R3. Within 6 months, the Cabinet sets out how its vision for Cardiff as a 15-minute city will be embedded in Council strategies and policies.

THESE RECCOMENDATIONS (R1, R2 AND R3) ARE ACCEPTED

Our Corporate Plan- 2023-26, Delivering a Stronger, Fairer, Greener Cardiff acknowledges that Communities are at the heart of wellbeing. They play a vital role in connecting people with the social networks and the day-to-day services we all depend on. It recognises that our city's communities – old and new - must be well-planned and well-connected, with infrastructure and public services that are fit for the future. Given this the Corporate Plan includes the commitment to invest in our local communities by “Preparing and adopting a new Regeneration Strategy to support district and local centres, and 15-minute city principles, and creating better places through the delivery of new, high-quality, well-designed, sustainable, and well-connected communities.”

Work has commenced to understand the principles of 15-minute cities and how the underlying principles of this concept could be utilised to guide programmes, policies and investment in communities. A team of officers spanning Regeneration, Economic Development, Planning and Transport are working on the development of a toolkit which will help explain in simple terms the concept and how elements of it could be applied across the wide range of work within communities.

Consultants have been appointed to support the drafting of a regeneration strategy for district and local centres and a 15-minute toolkit. We will look to bring forward a Cabinet Report to seek support for the strategy later in 2023.

R4. Within 12 months, the Cabinet ensures the 15-minute city for Cardiff is enshrined in the Local Development Plan and future Supplementary Planning Guidance, utilising the recommendations of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee's Supplementary Planning Guidance Inquiry (October 2022).

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

The Replacement Local Development Plan vision and objectives approved by Council in September 2021 acknowledge the important role the new plan plays in providing the social and community infrastructure to support the concept of the 15-minute city for Cardiff.

As the plan preparation process progresses this concept is being embedded in the plan through:

- Ensuring urban design and placemaking policies sit at the heart of the new plan;
- Protecting and enhancing district and local centres across the city;
- Promoting active travel (through walking and cycling) and public transport; and
- Wider work on delivery of new infrastructure (through both Section 106 contributions and direct funding) to support existing and new communities across the city. This new infrastructure includes elements such as schools, health care facilities, parks and play and community buildings.

Once the new plan is adopted these policies will be supported by more detailed Supplementary Planning Guidance which will give detailed advice and guidance to developers and landowners on how the concept of the 15-minute city for Cardiff will be delivered across the city.

In preparing and consulting on this Supplementary Planning Guidance the Council will take into account the recommendations of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee's Supplementary Planning Guidance Inquiry (October 2022).

R5. Within 12 months, the Cabinet tasks officers to ensure that future masterplans and planning policies clearly articulate the expectation for developments to support Cardiff being a 15-minute city, in terms of infrastructure and community provision, to enable developers to bear these in mind as part of their viability calculations.

THESE RECCOMENDATIONS (R4 AND R5) ARE ACCEPTED

The principles of a 15-minute city neighbourhood are broadly captured in existing planning policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance, the need for appropriate infrastructure, health and community provision is captured as part of the planning process and consultation with other internal service areas. This is evidenced in a wide range of forthcoming schemes such as Plas Dwr and other strategic sites. Discussions regarding the use of the emerging 15-minute city toolkit and how it can be incorporated into planning policies will continue as the draft toolkit evolves.

R6. Within 12 months, the Cabinet tasks officers to work with stakeholders to address the public transport needs of a 15-minute city, including consideration of the need for late-night public transport provision.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

The Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) will aim to join up 15-minute nodes and set out the aspiration for Cardiff to be a 15-minute city. The principles of 15-minute neighbourhoods are central to the RLDP alongside the Council's key strategic policies. Current uncertainty in the bus market and reduced bus patronage is however going to result in changes in local services that reflects demand. The Welsh Government will also be seeking to transition to a franchising arrangement that will be facilitated through the Bus Bill.

R7. Within 12 months, the Cabinet tasks officers to ensure that, where sustainable transport infrastructure is negotiated to support Cardiff being a 15-minute city – including active travel and public transport – this is provided upfront and prior to residents moving in, so that residents' habits are shaped from first occupation.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

The master planning of strategic sites strongly supports the 15-minute city principles. Negotiations on s106 funding and what transport improvements are required need to meet the planning tests of being necessary, relevant and reasonable and involves a balancing of a wider range of priorities than just transport.

Transport officers seek to maximise the s106 contributions to achieve sustainable travel outcomes including travel vouchers alongside the implementation of travel plans. Appropriately designed s106 contribution triggers linked to the phased build-out of the development also ensures that the timing of the delivery coincides with sufficient occupation of the sites to give sustainable travel options for new residents and existing residents in the surrounding areas to encourage them to travel by sustainable means.

This approach also gives subsidised bus services the opportunity to be supported on a commercial basis in the long-term as the travel patterns become more established.

R8. Within 12 months, the Cabinet signs up to the Placemaking Wales Charter, which supports 15-minute city neighbourhoods.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

The Council already adheres to the principles of the Placemaking Wales Charter (and beyond) and can commit to signing up to the charter.

R9. Within 12 months, the Cabinet considers whether an outcome-focused planning approach would assist Cardiff in its journey to be a 15-minute city.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

Cardiff Council's approach is outcome focussed and this is embedded across all services areas.

R10. Within 6 months, the Cabinet commences an annual review of the Recovery and Renewal Plan and City Centre Recovery Action Plan, to ensure actions are altered as required to respond to the fast-changing economic landscape.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

Officers will review the Recovery and Renewal Plan and City Centre Recovery Action Plan, but this should be seen in the context of embedding appropriate actions and commitments within existing strategic documents rather than updating individual plans annually.

R11. Within 12 months, the Cabinet tasks officers to work with local and district centre traders to find ways to establish trader forums, including investigating the feasibility of establishing Business Improvement Districts in some District Centres.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

The emerging district and local centres strategy will guide future regeneration work on priority centres. Work has recently taken place to engage with residents and businesses for Cowbridge Road East which is the next centre earmarked for improvements and a placemaking/master plan.

A business group has recently been formed for this area and we are working closely with them on gathering information on priorities for change. Interest has also been expressed regarding a Business Improvement District for Cowbridge Road East and discussions with FOR Cardiff and economic development have taken place.

Officers working on specific priority areas will support the formation of traders' groups and forums, but this will clearly be restricted by officer capacity and will be reliant on being led by the local business community. In addition, officers can provide initial policy support in establishing Business Improvement Districts, but any further support (such as revenue support) will be dependent on leveraging investment or support from areas such as Welsh Government's Transforming Towns initiative.

R12. Within 3 months, the Cabinet passes on to Welsh Government the views expressed to this Inquiry regarding extending the discretionary Business Rate Relief programme, as set out in KF15 of this report.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS PARTIALLY ACCEPTED

We will write to the Welsh Government expressing support for the extension of the discretionary Business Rate Relief programme where appropriate. However, it is important that this is considered through the lens of the purpose of the discretionary Business Rate Relief programme which has been to support

employment in businesses exposed to pressures as a result of the pandemic. The businesses included as part of this were considered as a specific function of the building rather than targeting sectors per se. Officers will explore how any changes to the discretionary Business Rate Relief programme can be explored in the context of the cost-of-living crisis and how we can support employment across our all of our city's communities.

R13. Within 3 months, the Cabinet tasks officers to explore the benefits of utilising more modern ways of using data to understand usage and behaviour patterns in the city centre, local and district centres and 15-minute neighbourhoods.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

Officers are currently exploring ways of using telecommunication data to provide more usage information on the city centre and local and district centres.

R14. Within 3 months, the Cabinet considers the suggestions for improving the experience of those using the city centre and local and district centres, as set out in Key Finding 32a-c, clarify whether resources allow for any of these to be implemented, and report back to the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee on the proposed way forward on these suggestions.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

The Council is already in the process of establishing enhanced city centre management arrangements that will consider a number of the issues raised in Key Finding 32a-c. This has included supporting more tables and chairs in the city centre. A busking approach based around voluntary guidelines has also been adopted by the Council which is under review to consider its efficacy and effectiveness from the perspective of visitors, businesses and residents.

Officers are also working with partners, including the Police, within the city centre to consider anti-social behaviour. Any proposed PSPO however will need consideration by all partners and the necessary consultation, engagement and communication required as part of establishing a PSPO.

R15. Within 3 months, the Cabinet task officers to support FOR Cardiff to market and promote their 'Give DIFFerently' homelessness project, as set out in Key Finding 32d.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

Officers will work with FOR Cardiff to offer support to promote their 'Give DIFFerently' homelessness project.

R16. Within 6 months, the Cabinet tasks officers to undertake a cost/ benefit analysis of the different models for providing Destination Marketing for Cardiff, to determine the best way forward for this service, as highlighted by KF37.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

The Council will be exploring different models of destination marketing as part of a new Tourism Strategy that it will develop in consultation with the visitor economy sector. This will also consider the potential use of the Tourism Levy to provide greater resources, as well as greater regional collaboration to provide additional scale to marketing resource.

R17. Within 6 months, the Cabinet tasks officers to explore the viability of setting up a scheme to provide small sums of monies to support entrepreneurs and the growth of start-ups in Cardiff, similar to the scheme operated by Newport City Council.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS PARTIALLY ACCEPTED

Cardiff Council has established a business grant scheme based on an outcome-based approach to support existing businesses in the city to invest in activities or assets that support a more productive, sustainable or inclusive business. The scheme specifically does not target start-up businesses due to the far higher levels of due diligence required to administer such a scheme that arises from the significantly different risk profile compared with businesses with an existing revenue stream, and experiences of previous schemes that did not provide value for money in terms of outcomes. Furthermore, as outlined in the most recent Centre for Cities Outlook report, Cardiff has the highest start-up rates of the UK Core Cities and therefore support is focussed on growing existing businesses. Stats Wales data also highlights the number of business births in Cardiff as being almost three times higher than in Newport, reflecting the different focus of priorities as part of an outcome-based approach.

The Council will however explore other means of supporting the city's start up community via the Shared Prosperity Fund.

R18. Within 3 months, the Cabinet tasks officers to work with key active travel stakeholders – such as Sustrans Cymru and Living Streets Cymru – to address the issues set out in Key Finding 25 and 26.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS ACCEPTED

The Council is happy to meet with officers from Sustrans Cymru and Living Streets Cymru to consider the issues raised in Key Finding 25 and 26.

R19. Within 12 months, the Cabinet tasks officers to prepare an Affordable Workspace Policy, for inclusion in the replacement Local Development Plan, which includes consideration of the efficacy for Cardiff of space and risk registers as well as vacant unit incentives and disincentives for landlords.

THIS RECCOMENDATION IS PARTIALLY ACCEPTED

The Council is exploring ways of ensuring new developments bring forward more affordable workspaces with communities, and to ensure there is a range and choice of premises. In addition, officers will continue to provide support on a targeted basis for high streets as part of its approach to neighbourhood

regeneration, alongside funding from the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns scheme and the Shared Prosperity Fund.

Whilst officers will explore the potential for intervening directly in the commercial property market by providing vacant unit incentives and disincentives for landlords this needs to be considered against value for money considerations, the risks involved in seeking to actively manage the commercial property market and any unintended consequences that may arise from market interventions and distortion.