

**INFORMATION REPORT:
CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT BY THE ECONOMY & CULTURE
SCRUTINY INQUIRY – HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION IN CARDIFF**

Purpose of report

1. To update Members on the Cabinet response to the Scrutiny inquiry 'Higher Education Innovation in Cardiff'. This inquiry was completed as a short scrutiny exercise undertaken at the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee's July 2013 and September 2013 meetings.

Background

2. As a part of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2012-13, the Committee agreed to consider Higher Education Innovation in Cardiff. The scope of the scrutiny was to provide an overview of innovation in the context of higher education institutions and to identify the role the Council can play in supporting higher education institutions.
3. The following terms of reference were used as the basis for this short scrutiny exercise:

The short scrutiny will look at Innovation in general and will examine:

- What is innovation and what role do Higher Education Establishments play?
- The benefits for Cardiff that can emerge from innovation supported by Higher Education Establishments
- The policy context surrounding innovation in Wales

- The Council's current levels of support for / and partnership arrangements with Higher Education Establishments in Council
 - The appropriateness of these levels of support
 - Whether there is scope to improve and expand support for Higher Education Innovation
 - Examples of good practice from relevant local authorities and universities.
4. This short scrutiny exercise was part of a suite of work focussing on the economic regeneration of Cardiff undertaken by Committee to assess the emerging needs of the city's new businesses, also including reports on **Small Business** (Spring 2014) and **Cardiff Central Market and Historic Arcades** (Spring 2014).
5. Members received evidence from Councillor Goodway, the then Cabinet Member - Finance, Business and the Local Economy and a range of Council officers. Evidence was also received from representatives of the four major higher education institutions in Cardiff, Manchester City Council, and representatives of innovative companies that originated from ideas and research in Cardiff based Universities.
6. The report for this short scrutiny exercise was taken to the Cabinet meeting held on 16 January 2014. The full report can be found at: https://formerly.cardiff.gov.uk/objview.asp?object_id=27903

Cabinet Response to Recommendations

7. A full copy of the Cabinet paper, outlining the recommendations made and the Cabinet response to each, is attached at **Appendix A**.
8. Overall, the Committee made fifteen recommendations to the Cabinet. The Cabinet response shows that:
- Nine of the recommendations are accepted – R1, R2, R3, R9, R10, R12, R13, R14, R15

- Six of the recommendations are partially accepted – R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, R11

9. It should be noted that the responses take into account the fact that the City of Cardiff Council is just one partner involved in the wider innovation eco-system for the city. The lead organisation in delivering many of the recommendations would be the Welsh Government and higher education.

Legal Implications

10. 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

11. 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.

Recommendation

12. The Committee is recommended to receive the Cabinet response and agree the way forward for receiving progress reports on the work required in response to the recommendations in the report.

MARIE ROSENTHAL

County Clerk and Monitoring Officer

2 January 2014

The following Appendices are attached:

Appendix A: Cabinet Response to the Report by the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee entitled “Higher Education Innovation in Cardiff” – 11 December 2014