County Councillor Russell Goodway
Cabinet Member, Investment & Development

My ref : RVG/Scrutiny

4 August 2017

County Councillor Nigel Howells
Chair, Joint Economy & Culture and
Environmental Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear County Councillor Howells

FUNDING THE NEW BUS TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE
JOINT ECONOMY & CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 18 JULY 2017

I refer to your letter dated 19 July 2017 in the above connection which was presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 27 July 2017. Cabinet colleagues were grateful for the supportive comments contained in the letter.

Can I thank you for the invitation to attend your meeting and I am grateful that you decided to undertake a pre-decision scrutiny of the changes that the new Administration is proposing in order to facilitate early delivery of the bus station facility. As you know, those proposals were set out in the Cabinet Report *"Funding the New Transport Interchange".*

I trust that your colleagues appreciate the challenges that remain to be overcome but also that the new Administration has chosen to adopt a new spirit of openness and transparency with regard to the bus station proposals and the potential solutions.

I am grateful that the joint committee supports our intention to adopt a market driven approach which will allow the development partners to market the site in a less constrained manner than has hitherto been the case. We will, of course, seek to achieve the best possible return on the council's investment to ensure that we can deliver the best possible facility but also taking account of the timescales we need to work to if we are to deliver the facility in an acceptable timeframe.

I take on board all of the points you make regarding the need to put in place robust arrangements that will ensure proper due diligence and I will ensure that council officials adopt such an approach.

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Chair, Joint Economy & Culture and
Environmental Scrutiny Committee

I note also the joint committees request to be kept informed of progress with regard to the bid to Welsh Government for funding to help finance the fit out costs of the bus station. I guess that the joint committee would equally like to be kept informed of progress with regard to the overall development and of key issues which are likely to emerge as we take it forward. I am eager to respond positively to the joint committee's request. Please can you ask Scrutiny Officers to liaise with the Cabinet Office to explore what arrangements can be put in place to help ensure this happens.

Yours sincerely



RUSSELL GOODWAY
CABINET MEMBER, INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT