



County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting MONDAY, 14 JUNE 2021, 4.30 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

14 **Correspondence Following Committee Meeting** (Pages 3 - 10)

This page is intentionally left blank

My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 15 June 2021



County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member – Strategic Planning & Transport
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Wild,

City Centre Next Steps: Castle Street and City Centre East (Phase 1 + Canal)

Our thanks to you, Andrew Gregory and Gethin Shields for attending Committee on 14 June 2021 to discuss the report to Cabinet regarding the above item.

Members note the results of the recent public consultation, which received an unprecedented number of responses for a transport scheme consultation. Members were interested to understand how businesses were consulted and were pleased to hear letters were sent to all businesses within a 150-metre radius as well as contact made with businesses on the Council's database. Members note responses were mixed, with some businesses wishing Castle Street to be opened whilst other businesses were supportive of the current wide pavements enabled by its closure.

Members recognise the complexity of Cardiff's transport network and the way that changes in one area may create an impact in another area. At the meeting you and Andrew Gregory, Director of Planning, Transport and Environment, set out how various approved schemes being delivered over the next eighteen months, such as Wood St, Westgate Street, Newport Road, Station Road and the City Centre East scheme, will cause temporary disruption whilst being constructed. Members appreciate these schemes aim to deliver modal shift benefits and thus improve air quality, with cycle lanes and bus lanes, and that they fall within the Council's Transport White Paper and Clear Air Plan. Further to this, Members note it is

proposed to take a Bus Strategy report to Cabinet in the near future and that this will seek to increase bus ridership.

Previously, Members have had concerns that schemes to change Castle Street will have a detrimental impact on air quality in adjoining residential areas, as raised at earlier meetings of this Committee and the Environmental Scrutiny Committee. Members note Andrew Gregory's comments that modelling shows that any of the proposed schemes for Castle Street will have some impact but that the modelling shows the level of NO₂ will be compliant with the legal limit. Members further note the aim of the Council, as set out in the Clean Air Plan, is to try to achieve NO₂ levels as low as reasonably practicable.

These factors form part of the backdrop to decision-making on the future transport scheme for Castle Street. The need for city centre recovery and renewal, to support local businesses and help Cardiff's economy thrive, and the need to respond to the Climate Emergency we face are also key factors.

Members therefore acknowledge a thoughtful and measured response on how to progress is best, and note the report to Cabinet puts forward a provisional scheme based on the original Clean Air Plan scheme, which will be subject to further monitoring and analysis. Members agree that it is important to monitor the impact of this scheme and network schemes elsewhere, to understand displacement impacts on the network and air quality. It is also important to monitor the economic impact of this scheme, compared with previous schemes, although Members recognise that this is hard to do in practice, as it is difficult to disentangle the impact of transport schemes from other factors such as changes resulting from Covid-19 lockdowns.

In terms of the provisional scheme, Members note that access from north Cardiff will revert to as pre-covid, with traffic from North Road joining onto the Kingsway as previously.

Members wish to undertake further scrutiny of the proposed permanent scheme and ask that this be brought to Committee early enough for Members to be able to inform the development of the permanent scheme.

Thank you again for attending Committee.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Andrew Gregory Gethin Shields
Imelda Seymour
Lili Thompson Cabinet Support Office
Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14, 16, 21 of Part(s) 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14, 16, 21 of Part(s) 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank