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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting TUESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 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

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My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 18 November 2021



County Hall
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Neuadd y Sir
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Councillor Huw Thomas
Leader
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Thomas,

Draft City Recovery & Renewal Strategy - Engagement Update

Our thanks to you, Neil Hanratty and Jon Day for attending Committee on 16 November 2021 to discuss the above item and provide an opportunity for the Committee to shape the proposed report to Cabinet in December 2021.

This Committee considered the draft City Recovery & Renewal Strategy at our committee meeting in May 2021 and were supportive of proposals to consult on the proposals and use the feedback to finesse the final Strategy. Members are pleased to see that a range of engagement events have been held, with child-friendly events, stakeholder events including the business, art and culture sectors, and an open survey for all.

Members wish to thank Jon Day for his presentation that clearly set out the key themes emerging from the engagement events. Members note that the following elements were repeatedly highlighted by respondees: the need for Cardiff to be clean, green, open, safe, and accessible. Members also note that public transport improvements are a key theme running through responses. Members note that children and young people highlighted that the cost of accessing some of the city's facilities is excluding them from being able to participate fully in Cardiff's opportunities.

During the meeting, Members explored a range of issues. In terms of those that cut across the 6 missions set out in the draft strategy, members explored public transport, cleanliness, green spaces and public realm, and hospitality sector issues. Members note the following:

- That the Council is consulting on a Bus Strategy that aims to increase passenger numbers and improve air quality and that an announcement will be made shortly regarding buses over the Christmas period
- That issues regarding bus routes and ongoing active travel improvements are discussed weekly by the City Centre Recovery working group
- That the number of blitz cleansing teams is being increased by 2

- That there is an ongoing restructure of the cleansing team and information on this will be shared with the Environmental Scrutiny Committee
- That the emphasis is on protecting green spaces and improving the public realm
- That various teams, including Into Work, have worked with the hospitality sector to deliver bespoke information and training events to encourage take-up of opportunities and reduce vacancy rates.

During our way forward discussion, Members also raised the following regarding transport:

- The need to publicise clearly where the bus station is and when it will be opening – the suggestion made at the meeting was that a banner could be sited on the bus station, which would be visible to commuters using Cardiff Central and people walking through Central Square.
- The need to ensure drop off and pick up access for taxis at Cardiff Central and platform zero, via Fish Quay, is maintained and promoted.

Regarding mission 2, a City for Everyone, Members highlighted the engagement responses had underlined the need for improved wheelchair access. Members wish to accept the offer for Andrew Gregory, Director of Planning, Transport and Environment, to provide further details on work to provide and improve wheelchair access, including, but not only, disabled parking and pavement enhancements.

Regarding mission 3, a City of Villages, Members are supportive of the concept but are seeking assurance that this will cover the whole of Cardiff and that there is recognition that differing approaches will be needed for the differing areas of Cardiff. Cardiff includes rural villages, such as Creigiau and St. Fagan's, as well as suburb villages, such as Whitchurch and Rhiwbina, and inner-city areas that operate as 15-minute neighbourhoods. The needs of these areas will be different, and Members accept the principle of equity as opposed to equality of provision. However, an assurance that all areas of Cardiff will be included in the City of Villages work, with appropriate approaches taken to meet their differing needs, would be appreciated.

Regarding mission 5, a Tech City, Members sought confirmation regarding 5G coverage. Members wish to accept your offer to provide further details on 4G and 5G coverage rates in Cardiff and would also like comparator information with other core cities.

Overall, Members are supportive of the proposed approach to recovery and renewal and pleased there is recognition of the need to improve links with the City Deal, Welsh Government and UK Government, to align external funding and develop place-based models. Members were interested to see the latest data regarding the recovery of the city following lockdowns, in terms of increased footfall, hotel occupancy and unemployment rates. The proposals will put Cardiff in a good place to

respond positively to demands whilst building a sustainable, inclusive, and accessible future.

Finally, at the meeting Councillor Gordon raised concerns regarding pedestrian access through Bute Park as it appears a Christmas Lights event in Bute Park has led to some paths being closed and through routes between the city centre, Cathays Parks and Llandaff/ Pontcanna being closed. We appreciate the offer by Neil Hanratty to investigate this quickly and to respond directly to Councillor Gordon.

The letter requires a response, please, to the following requests:

1. Andrew Gregory, Director of Planning, Transport and Environment, to provide further details on wheelchair access provision and proposed improvements
2. Assurance that all areas of Cardiff will be included in the City of Villages work, with appropriate approaches taken to meet their differing needs
3. Further details on 4G and 5G coverage rates in Cardiff, with comparator information from other cities.

Thank you again for attending Committee. Members look forward to seeing the final Strategy and how it has taken on board the points made during the engagement and our scrutiny. It is clear a lot of work has taken place to develop these proposals and we thank all involved for their work and contributions.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Neil Hanratty Jon Day
Andrew Gregory
Clair James Imelda Seymour Cabinet Support Office

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**SWYDDFA'R ARWEINYDD
OFFICE OF THE LEADER**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM46760

Dyddiad / Date: 15 December 2021

Councillor Nigel Howells
Chair, Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee

Via email: Angela.Holt@cardiff.gov.uk

Annwyl/Dear Nigel,

City Recovery & Renewal Strategy - Engagement Update

Thank you for inviting me and officials to present at your Scrutiny Committee of 18th November 2021, and for your consideration of the Recovery and Renewal Strategy. As ever your consideration is greatly appreciated.

With regard to your specific comments on the report, we have now included reference to these comments in the final version, including reference to the Scrutiny Committee. Specifically, the City of Villages Mission (now renamed 15 Minute City) notes that:

"The need to ensure that all corners of Cardiff are included in the 'Fifteen Minute City' concept was also raised by the Council's Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee."

The Tech City Mission now also notes that:

"The Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee also highlighted the need for comprehensive digital access across the city."

In reference to this a priority has now been re-written to outline the need to "Embed technology in the future delivery of public services and ensure equality of access across the city and alternative routes for those with difficulties in accessing digital services."

These issues will also be taken forward in any subsequent work relating to regeneration and digital infrastructure in the city.

We will also look into the issue of better communication relating to the bus station with our City Centre Management Team and Visit Cardiff team, and similarly we will look at the issue of Taxi access. It should be noted that Transport for Wales will be operating the new bus station and are responsible for the taxi facilities. Notwithstanding this the Council are working closely with colleagues in Transport for Wales on these issues. Furthermore, Transport for Wales are keen to ensure good access to both the bus and railway stations and have established a working group to consider in detail accessibility issues.

GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



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With regard to details on wheelchair access provision there is now a requirement for any new private development or Council provided open space to incorporate full accessibility (for example by way of inclusion of appropriate dropped kerbing, adequate space to manoeuvre, reduced street furniture, appropriate tactile paving) into the design. All new disabled parking bays within the city centre will also now incorporate dropped kerbs to improve wheelchair access. All permanent bus stops in the city already include raised kerbing to facilitate wheelchair access on to the buses. Additional work is also currently underway at the temporary bus stops abutting the pop-up cycleways to improve accessibility. The council is also currently progressing a proposal to rationalise the street furniture within the city centre, which includes a study that has been commissioned to review all the street furniture on High Street and St Mary Street.

Thank you again for inviting us to the Scrutiny meeting of 18th November 2021 and I look forward to updating you on progress.

Yn gywir,
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Thomas', written in a cursive style.

CYNGHORYDD / COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS
ARWEINYDD / LEADER
CYNGOR CAERDYDD / CARDIFF COUNCIL

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Date: 18 November 2021

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member, Culture & Leisure
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Bradbury,

Music Strategy Update

Our thanks to you, Jon Day, and Ruth Cayford for attending Committee on 16 November 2021 for the above item.

Members were interested to hear about the progress to date, both in terms of building a strong Music Board and the role it is undertaking, and in terms of the work to deliver live music and develop a strong pipeline for 2022. Members note the Music Board is kept informed re planning applications and is involved in discussions to inform the Replacement Local Development Plan and future Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Members were keen to explore whether the original aim of the Music Strategy to be inclusive across all genres, ages, ability levels and areas of the city was being realised. Members were pleased to hear about the Live and Unlocked events at Cardiff Castle, the talent development programmes in Splott, Riverside and Canton, that Butetown Pavilion has been fitted with recording equipment, and that the proposals for the Old Library, Norwegian Church and Indoor Arena will help support delivery of the Music Strategy. However, these are focused on the centre and southern areas of the city. Members acknowledge the impact of the pandemic on the ability to implement the Strategy as originally intended and note that support offered during the pandemic, to venues and freelancers, was cross-city. Members are

pleased that the aim is to have a city-wide approach going forward and hope that the proposed Signature Event will demonstrate this.

In terms of being inclusive of all genres, Members note a Live Music Safety Forum has been established to deal with issues regarding being inclusive of all genres of music and that they discuss potential issues on a case-by-case basis and work in partnership to avoid negatively profiling whole genres of music. Members are pleased to hear this.

Members also raised the real issue for musicians and performers of finding adequate parking close to venues to enable safe loading/ unloading of equipment. Members are pleased to hear officers across the Council are working with venues to find solutions to this issue. Members urge that this approach be applied city-wide, so that venues outside the city centre, such as church or community halls, that host music events have a point of contact with whom to discuss parking and access issues.

Finally, Members note that voluntary guidance for busking has been developed with the industry and is planned to be introduced as a pilot.

Thanks again to you and all who attended with you. This letter does not require a response.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Neil Hanratty Jon Day Ruth Cayford
Clair James Cabinet Support Office

My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 18 November 2021

Councillor Peter Bradbury & Councillor Russell Goodway
Cabinet Members
Cardiff Council
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Dear Councillor Bradbury and Councillor Goodway,

Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee: 8 November 2018

Thank you for attending Committee for pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet titled '*Old Library & Norwegian Church*'.

Members are pleased to see the exciting and interesting proposals for these iconic buildings, which secure their future and are a good proposition for the city.

Old Library proposals

Members note there will be a 99-year full repairing and insurance lease, at a peppercorn rent, with Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD). Members note the lease includes ensuring continued occupancy by Museum of Cardiff and Menter Caerdydd as well as the monies from the Virgin Money lease going to Cardiff Council. Members note discussions are ongoing regarding an early break in the lease, to give the opportunity to review prior to any major investment in the building and that the timing of this break is to be agreed.

Members were pleased to learn about how the RWCMD proposes to use the building and surrounding area, particularly their aim to increase public engagement and to continue public access to the building. Members note that tourist information leaflets will be available in the building.

In the interests of transparency, Members questioned the other bid received and note that this bid had not been as detailed as the RWCMD bid and was more of an expression of interest.

Norwegian Church proposals

Members were pleased that Dr Martin Price, Chair of the newly established Norwegian Church Cardiff Bay Charity, gave up his time to attend the meeting and explain their proposals for the Norwegian Church. Members support the proposals to focus on the heritage and history of the Church, to offer an arts programme and

community venue and to operate a scandi-style café. Members are particularly pleased to hear that links with Hordaland, and Norway overall, will be strengthened and that the charity is building links with its neighbours, such as the Urdd.

Members note the proposal is to write-off the current operating deficit debt and to ensure the building is fit and proper, prior to the transfer of the assets of the existing Trust to the new Charity. Members queried the level of the current debt, as the figures in the draft report to Cabinet are as at March 2021; Members note the response that, as the Church has been closed since then, the debt should not have changed, as it comes from an operating deficit, but that this will be clarified in the final report to Cabinet. Members also sought confirmation that the debt required write-off and we note the response that, as the debt comes from an operating deficit, the Trust would not be able to recoup the debt without changes to the operation which it is unable to do, and that it would not be expected for the new charity to take on the operating deficit of the previous Trust. Members are content with these explanations.

Following consideration of the report and information provided at the meeting, Members are content with the proposals and wish you, the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the Norwegian Church Cardiff Bay Charity every success with implementation. We look forward to the public being able to enjoy these buildings and all they will offer and congratulate you, officers, and partners for finding creative solutions to ensure these heritage assets can be enjoyed in the future.

Once again, thank you for your attendance and for bringing this report for pre-decision scrutiny. This letter does not require a response.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Neil Hanratty Kathryn Richards Donna Jones Jon Day
Dr. Martin Price – Chair, Norwegian Church Cardiff Bay Charity
Clair James Cabinet Support Office