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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting WEDNESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2022, 5.00 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

13 **Correspondence Following Committee Meeting**(Pages 3 - 12)

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My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 20 January 2022

Councillor Huw Thomas
Leader
Cardiff Council
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Dear Councillor Thomas,

City Centre Recovery Action Plan

Thank you for attending the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee on 19 January 2022, along with Andrew Gregory, Michael Barnett, and Jon Day, to discuss the report to Cabinet regarding the proposed City Centre Recovery Action Plan. This letter captures the comments and observations from Members, as discussed during our way forward.

Overall, Members support the recommendation to Cabinet to approve the Action Plan. Members support the nine key themes, which reflect the findings from consultation with stakeholders. Members agree that implementation of the Action Plan is key. Members note that there are over 100 actions in the Plan. At the meeting, Members sought assurance that these were deliverable. Members note the response that a substantial percentage of these actions are already being delivered or have business cases being prepared and costed. Members note the points made by Andrew Gregory that proposals will only be implemented if there is a robust business case, with agreed costings, and that the aim of the Action Plan is to give focus and to pull work into a single programme, thus giving clear sight of actions underway and proposed.

However, Members remain concerned that some of the actions, particularly the larger transport scheme actions, relate to schemes that have been talked about for years with little sign of progress to date. Work with partners will be essential to deliver these schemes and Members note that work via the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

has assisted discussions with the Department of Transport and Network Rail regarding Cardiff Central Train Station.

Members also discussed the need for other partners, such as the Police, to be involved in the delivery of the Action Plan and are pleased to note your assurance that the Police have given commitments.

Members are particularly concerned to ensure that this Action Plan supports delivery of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2022-2027, which we also considered at this meeting. Members questioned whether planned developments from Central Quay through to Dumballs Road redevelopment included sufficient open and green space, particularly alongside the riverfront, to enable increased levels of physical activity and sport. Members note your response and Andrew Gregory's response that these developments incorporate new open and green public spaces, new bridges, and a continuous riverside park to join these developments and spaces together.

Members raised the specific issue of decluttering streets and note Andrew Gregory's response that the Equalities Group is involved in assessing the plan to declutter St Mary Street and Queen Street. In the response to this letter, Members request clarification as to which Equalities Group this is and whether the RNIB is represented on this group.

Finally, Members sought to understand how the Council would know if some of the aims of the Action Plan had been achieved, for example that the city centre becomes more child-friendly and wondered whether footfall data would assist with this. Members note Jon Day's response that current footfall data does not supply this level of detail but that other sources, such as Google Analytics, may. In the response to this letter, Members seek clarification on these possible data sources.

Requests following this scrutiny:

This letter contains two requests, as follows:

1. In the response to this letter, please clarify which Equalities Group is assessing the plan to declutter St Mary Street and Queen Street and whether the RNIB is represented on this group.
2. In the response to this letter, please clarify which possible data sources could be used to evidence changes in footfall that would demonstrate the action plan

is achieving its aims, for example that the city centre is becoming more child friendly.

Thank you again to all for attending committee. I am sure a future committee will wish to scrutinise progress in implementation and outcomes. We wish you well in delivering the Action Plan, which should assist Cardiff to move from having a good city centre to having a great city centre, to the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Goodway – Cabinet Member, Investment & Development
Cllr Wild – Cabinet Member, Strategic Planning & Transport
Cllr Robson – Group Leader
Cllr Taylor – Group Leader
Cllr K Parry – Group Leader
David Hugh Thomas – Chair, Governance & Audit Committee
Andrew Gregory Michael Barnett Jon Day
Neil Hanratty Clair James Imelda Seymour
Cabinet Support Office
Chris Pyke Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys

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My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 20 January 2022

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member – Culture & Leisure
Cardiff Council
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Dear Councillor Bradbury,

Physical Activity & Sport Strategy

Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee have asked me to pass on their thanks to you, Steve Morris, Laura Williams, and Lauren Idowu for attending Committee for pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet titled '*Physical Activity and Sport Strategy*'. Members have asked that I pass on the following comments and observations from their discussion at the Way Forward.

Members are impressed by the scale of the work to date to prepare the systems map that shows the breadth of work across Cardiff and the Vale and the linkages between factors. The results are a credit to all parties and the Strategy provides a good foundation to build from. Members note officers' points that this work will take time and that communication is key, to ensure knowledge of ongoing work and resources is shared and that silo working is avoided. Members are particularly pleased to see Public Health involved so strongly in the work to develop and implement the Strategy and note that the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board are partners in this process also; the role of physical activity and sport in preventing illness and promoting wellbeing are well-documented and it is good to see health bodies embedded in the work to deliver these.

In terms of the governance, Members note the role of the Leadership Group, reporting to the Public Service Board, and drawing in key partners across the public sector. Members further note the Action Groups will report to the Leadership Group and include a Research, Insight and Evaluation Group to enable partners to learn what works well and adjust accordingly, and to provide positive feedback loops.

Regarding implementation, Members note the need to undertake further mapping and auditing to list community-based physical activity and sports clubs, to enable linkages to be made and resources to be focused accordingly. Members made the point that ward councillors are a valuable source of information and are pleased that this point was acknowledged in the meeting and that ward councillors will be invited to contribute to the mapping.

Members were interested to hear that barriers identified by community-level work will be highlighted to the Leadership Group so that members of this group can ensure appropriate action is taken to remove these barriers. This is promising but, as was raised at the meeting, there is a need for resource to fix some of these barriers, particularly if the Strategy is successful and physical activity and sports participation rates increase. Members note that it is hoped to increase resource by identifying new sources and by utilising an Events levy. Currently, however, there is no additional resource to implement the Strategy, which emphasises the need for enhanced partnership work to maximise the value and reach of existing funding.

Members note the points you made at the meeting regarding needing to ensure the Strategy leads to action that improves participation rates, particularly amongst girls and women and people from BAME communities. Members were interested to see the Year One plan and note that work is ongoing to develop the plan for Years Two-Five. In Year One, Members note the intention to pilot a place-based approach in one or two deprived communities and that discussions are on-going to select these communities, with these currently focusing on linking to the new community schools, either Eastern, Western or the planned schools in Fairwater or Cathays.

Members touched on how this Strategy approach fits with the proposed approach from Sport Wales for Regional Sport Partnerships. Members note your response that this Strategy covers Cardiff and the Vale, aligns with Health bodies footprints, covers a population of 450,000 people, 13% of the Welsh population, and includes some of the most difficult challenges for increasing engagement and participation and that therefore, if the Strategy can work here, it will provide valuable lessons for elsewhere in Wales. Later in our meeting, Committee endorsed our Inquiry report 'Community Sport in Cardiff', which recommends remaining with the existing Joint Venture or, if

this proves not feasible, to engage with Sport Wales and partners to reduce the proposed Central South footprint to either Cardiff or Cardiff and the Vale. These recommendations accord with the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy.

Once again, thank you to everyone for attending our committee and we wish you every success in implementing the Strategy. I am sure that a future Committee will wish to monitor progress in this area, given its central importance to health and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Robson – Group Leader
Cllr Taylor – Group Leader
Cllr K Parry – Group Leader
David Hugh Thomas – Chair, Governance & Audit Committee
Neil Hanratty Steve Morris
Laura Williams – Cardiff Metropolitan University, Sport Cardiff
Lauren Idowu – Cardiff & Vale Public Health Board
Clair James Cabinet Support Office
Chris Pyke Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys

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Dear Councillor Bradbury,

Community Engagement and Safety in Parks

Our thanks to you and Jon Maidment for attending Committee on 19 January 2022 to discuss the report to Cabinet regarding the above item. This letter captures the comments and observations from Members, as discussed during our way forward.

Members note the update on ongoing work to promote community engagement and safety in parks, led by the community and urban park ranger teams, who deliver fantastic work, involving teams across the Council and across partner and volunteer networks. Members recognise that our liaison with the Police and Fire and Rescue Service is particularly important to tackle safety concerns and that work with ward councillors is equally important to identify issues and suitable solutions to rectify these. Members are pleased that urban park rangers are aligned to specific areas, to enable them to build relationships with local ward councillors, neighbourhood police officers and others.

Most of our discussions at the meeting centred on lighting in our parks. Members note the proposed design guide for lighting in parks will be shaped by the principles set out at point 29 of the report to Cabinet and by the findings of work underway by lighting consultants to inform proposals for lighting for cycle superhighway 4.

Members recognise the need for some lighting in parks, for example to boost safe access and travel routes, and are pleased that you and officers acknowledged the need to ensure this lighting is as eco-friendly as possible, to lessen the impact on nature and to be in line with actions to tackle our climate emergency. During our way forward discussions, Councillor Gordon raised the possibility of using low-tech,

sustainable alternatives to lighting, such as reflective paints or cat's eyes that a cyclist/ pedestrian's torch would pick out, to show travel routes and wondered whether this is being considered as part of the work on cycle superhighway 4. In your response to this letter, please advise.

Members accept your assurance that the proposed consultation on locking parks, planned for Roath Park, including Roath Pleasure Gardens, will include ward councillors in Penylan as well as Cyncoed and Plasnewydd, and that the consultation for Parc Cefn Onn will include Lisvane councillors.

Finally, Members note the financial implications of the report to Cabinet highlight that *'additional financial implications are not identified but reference is made to various budget pressures within the service and budget constraints in taking any new proposals forward'*. Members note that detailed proposals will be set out in the budgetary proposals 2022-23 and hope that additional monies to support community engagement and safety in parks can be found without detrimental impact to anything else that the Parks service provides.

Requests following this scrutiny:

That, in the response to this letter, information is provided on whether the work on cycle superhighway 4 includes consideration of low-tech, sustainable alternatives to lighting.

Thanks again to you and Jon for attending Committee and providing an update on work to progress the motion agreed by Council in October 2021.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Group Leaders – Cllr Robson, Cllr Taylor, Cllr K Parry
David Hugh Thomas – Chair, Governance & Audit Committee
Neil Hanratty Jon Maidment Clair James Cabinet Support Office
Chris Pyke Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys