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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2023, 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: SharePoint/E&C Library/Correspondence/June 2023

Date: 22 June 2022



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Councillor Burke
Cabinet Member – Culture, Parks and Events

By Email

Public Letter

Dear Councillor Burke,

PENTWYN LEISURE CENTRE

Thank you for attending the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee on 20 June 2023, along with Neil Hanratty, Steve Morris, Chris Barnett and Matt Seymour, for pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet titled Pentwyn Leisure Centre. Members have asked that I pass on the following comments and observations on the public information; I have sent a separate confidential letter capturing our comments on the exempt information.

Community Usage

Members note and welcome:

- that Cardiff Rugby have demonstrated a willingness to work in partnership with local communities, accommodating community usage and community meetings, including but not limited to PACT meetings
- that the area next to the café will be available for smaller community usage
- that the 3G pitches will be available for community use when not in use by Cardiff Rugby, who have indicated they will require usage weekdays 10am – 3pm
- that there will be a diary/ programme facility in place to enable the above.

Sustainability Improvements

Members were pleased to hear the proposed solar scheme will reduce the leisure centre's carbon footprint by 22%, and that this will be significantly improved by the Ground Source Heat Pump. Our Youth Council representative, Zack Hellard, suggested that other environmental improvements could be made, in line with Cardiff Council's One Planet Cardiff commitments, for example water collection. Members

were pleased to hear the response from Neil Hanratty, Director of Economic Development, that leisure centres remain part of the Council's estate and are subject to the Council's commitment to reach net carbon zero by 2030 and therefore there is scope for Pentwyn Leisure Centre to benefit from further environmental improvements.

Costs

Members note that the budget for the scheme has reduced by £0.5M from £5M to £4.5M, and that £1M-£1.5M is no longer available from the Pentwyn Park and Ride scheme to fund this scheme. Members note the Council's investment is on an Invest to Save basis, with all monies to be repaid.

Pool Dimensions

Members note there is high demand for learning to swim courses in Cardiff and that the proposed pool is a learner pool, 20metres x 8metres, with a depth of 1 metre, and that these dimensions have been informed by detailed work with engineers, the Amateur Swimming Association, and Health and Safety Executive to determine the most cost-effective pool size that meets the needs of those learning to swim.

Members are struck that Swim Wales has not been involved and are aware they have specialist consultants able to advise on pool energy usage. Members therefore **recommend** that officers have a dialogue with Swim Wales regarding Pentwyn Leisure Centre swimming provision, to ensure all available efficiencies have been utilised.

Members note officers' assurances that the reduction in pool size is linked to the need to keep operating costs affordable, not only energy costs but significantly, staffing costs, with more staff required when a pool exceeds 20metres length.

Members note that other pools are available in Cardiff to meet the needs of competitive swimming, and that the previous pool in Pentwyn Leisure Centre was a free form pool and so unsuitable for competitive swimming.

Equality Impact Assessment

Members queried the use of the 2011 Census data in the EIA rather than the 2021 Census and request an explanation of why this was done.

Community Consultation

Members were pleased to hear your willingness to engage with local communities to inform them about the proposals and seek their feedback. Members note the suggestion in the meeting that the recommendation to Cabinet be amended to say that the scheme is agreed, subject to consultation. However, in our way forward discussion, a majority of the members in the meeting felt that this did not go far enough, and we therefore **recommend** that the Cabinet defer this report and defer making the decision until the community consultation has taken place. Members also **recommend** that meaningful community consultation takes place as quickly as possible, over this Summer, to enable progress with the scheme to be kept on track.

Changing Rooms

Members note there is an opportunity to consult and engage with communities regarding the specific design of changing rooms, which it is intended will be family friendly. Members note that officers are seeking to learn from the experience of Cardiff International Pool to inform the design at Pentwyn Leisure Centre. A member referenced their personal, positive, experience of using gender neutral changing rooms in Western Leisure Centre.

Accessibility

Members were pleased to hear that the swimming pool lease will include criteria to ensure the pool is accessible to all, including Muslim women and girls, with suitable design and operation to meet their needs.

DBS checks

Members note that it is an accreditation requirement of sport governing bodies that their members have robust safeguarding protocols and procedures in place, including DBS checks. Members note that, as part of the Council's procurement framework, DBS checks will be required for contractors.

Modular Building

During the meeting, Members raised the possibility of this scheme utilising the modular design approach to enable future opportunities to increase provision; Members are pleased that officers agreed with this.

This letter requires a response, please, to the following:

Request:

- An explanation of why the 2011 Census data was used in the Equality Impact Assessment rather than the 2021 Census data.

Recommendations to be monitored following this scrutiny:

To summarise, the Committee makes 3 formal recommendations which are set out below. As part of the response to this letter, I would be grateful if you could state whether the recommendation is accepted, partially accepted, or not accepted and summarise the Cabinet's response. If the recommendation is accepted or partially accepted. I would also be grateful if you could identify the responsible officer and provide an action date. This will ensure that progress can be monitored as agreed by Cabinet.

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted, or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
Members recommend that officers have a dialogue with Swim Wales regarding Pentwyn Leisure Centre swimming provision, to ensure all available efficiencies have been utilised.				
Members recommend that the Cabinet defer the Pentwyn Leisure Centre report and defer making decisions on Pentwyn Leisure Centre until the community consultation has taken place				
Members recommend that meaningful community consultation takes place as quickly as possible, over the Summer 2023				

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR PETER WONG
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Group Leaders - Cllr Robson, Cllr Berman, Cllr Gibson
Gavin McArthur – Chair, Governance & Audit Committee
Neil Hanratty Steve Morris Chris Barnett Matt Seymour
Clair James Cabinet Support Office
Chris Pyke Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys

SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM49929

Dyddiad / Date: 22 June 2023



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Councillor Peter Wong
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Alantic Wharf
Butetown
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl/Dear Peter

E&C Pentwyn Leisure Centre - Public Letter

Thank you for your letter and for the opportunity to discuss the Council's proposals for Pentwyn Leisure Centre with you.

As you will note, the Cabinet is scheduled to meet this afternoon and the Pentwyn Leisure Centre report is on the agenda for approval.

Whilst accepting the principle of the recommendations you have set out in your letter, I am not prepared to delay the decision and therefore the report will still progress. However, I have requested an amendment to the recommendation to delegate authority to allow a public consultation before we proceed with works.

You will appreciate that the scope for changing the plans will be fairly limited, given that they have been driven by the very limited budget available for investment and our desire to retain a swimming pool on site. I do accept though that there are opportunities for local input on certain aspects of the proposals, including the future operational arrangements.

I have already committed to meet local representatives next week, and we will establish a drop-in arrangement for the public, and publicise it in the local community, to enable local people to review the plans and provide their feedback on a form.

In terms of your recommendation to contact Swim Wales, we will also do that before progressing with the plans.

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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.

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Whilst I am not prepared to delay the report, I do hope this letter provides you and the Committee with an assurance that we will engage with the community before progressing and I am prepared to make adjustments where they make operational sense and can be delivered within the budget we have available.

Yn gywir
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'jen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cynghorydd / Councillor Jennifer Burke
Aelod Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant, Parciau, Digwyddiadau a Lleoliadau
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks, Events and Venues

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

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Cabinet Member
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Public Letter

Dear Councillor Burke,

TENNIS IN PARKS

Our thanks to you and Steve Morris for attending committee to answer our questions about the proposals for Tennis in Parks set out in the report to Council. Members have asked that I pass on the following comments and observations.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Members note:

- Phone numbers will be available on notice boards at Tennis in Wales sites to enable those not able to book online to book sessions and access the courts
- Officers will check with Tennis Wales what else is proposed to address digital inclusion/ exclusion and will pass their response on to this Committee
- Officers will check with Tennis Wales what the qualifying criteria are for gaining a Student Pass and will pass their response on to this Committee
- The agreement with Tennis Wales includes ensuring that there is free access and free equipment at all sites in the scheme, and that these free access sessions will be at different times and on different days across the week
- The agreement with Tennis Wales includes a full-time tennis coach, paid for by Tennis Wales grant funding, who will work proactively to boost participation, with free taster sessions, free 'come and try' sessions, free 6-week courses, free tennis leagues and free tennis ladders, across all sites
- That UK Government DCMS and Lawn Tennis Association funding criteria includes the need to increase participation amongst under-represented

groups, including Black and Minority Ethnic Groups, and that there are outcomes measures for this.

Members are pleased to note the above and highlight the importance of publicising these points to residents to ensure the scheme is inclusive and accessible.

Demand

Members discussed the level of tennis provision in Cardiff, noting there are several private facilities available and sought assurance that there is demand for municipal provision. Members are pleased to note that Tennis Wales has undertaken research into the latent demand in Cardiff and are confident that the six sites will be a success. Members were interested to learn that similar schemes in England, including in deprived urban areas, have significantly boosted participation.

Members were pleased to hear that low level lighting, which will not disturb local residents, will be used to ensure courts are usable all year round.

Members discussed indoor tennis, particularly given the weather conditions in Wales. During our way forward discussions, a member mentioned that the House of Sport indoor tennis provision is no longer available. Members would be grateful to receive an explanation of why this provision has ceased and whether it is possible to re-open.

Encouraging talent

Members note that players who show promise will be supported to access talent pathways and development centres.

Trusts

Members note that several of Cardiff's parks are subject to Trust arrangements. Members note work is ongoing by Strategic Estates and Legal Services to establish a way forward and that, where the Council is the appointed Trustee, a separate decision report will need to be taken to Cabinet in their capacity as Trustee.

Capital Investment and Maintenance

Members note your point that this is a rare opportunity to lever in funding and investment into municipal courts, which is greatly needed. Members heard that

Tennis Wales will take on the maintenance responsibilities for courts; however, we do not think we had these details in our papers and therefore request information on the maintenance responsibilities they will take on and whether this appropriately protects the Council from costs in future years.

Charges

Members were interested to see the comparators of the proposed Tennis Wales costs and the costs of other sports. During the meeting, several members cited costs at tennis facilities in Cardiff. Members believe it would be helpful to members of the public if there were an overview of charges at tennis facilities in Cardiff and other sports, as set out in our papers, to provide clarity and also to raise awareness of the good value that the Tennis Wales scheme provides.

This letter requires a response, please, to the following:

Request:

- To provide the responses received from Tennis Wales regarding addressing digital inclusion/ exclusion and qualifying criteria for Student Passes
- An explanation of why the House of Sport indoor tennis provision has ceased and whether it can be reopened
- Information clarifying the maintenance responsibilities Tennis Wales will take on and whether this appropriately protects the Council from costs in future years.

Once again, thanks to you and Steve for your attendance and we wish you well in implementing this scheme to boost participation in tennis and ensure municipal tennis court provision for the residents of Cardiff.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR PETER WONG
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Group Leaders - Cllr Robson, Cllr Berman, Cllr Gibson
Gavin McArthur – Chair, Governance & Audit Committee
Neil Hanratty Steve Morris
Mel Jackson Clair James
Chris Pyke Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys

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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM49932

Dyddiad / Date: 22 June 2023

Councillor Peter Wong
Cardiff Council
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Annwyl/Dear Peter

E&C - Tennis In Parks

Thank you for inviting myself and officers to your committee, for scrutinising the report for Tennis in Parks and for the positive and constructive queries and responses during the meeting. I'm delighted that the committee are supportive of this initiative to lever in external funding from the LTA/DCMS for the improvement of community facilities in Cardiff.

In terms of the specific points of clarity you are requesting on behalf of your committee members, I can outline as follows:

1. To provide the responses received from Tennis Wales regarding addressing digital inclusion/ exclusion and qualifying criteria for Student Passes

Tennis Wales will employ coaches at each site who will have their phone numbers available on signage at each site. There will also be an office number for Tennis Wales headquarters enabling members of the public who are unable to use or access digital means to call both numbers to arrange a court booking.

The criteria for Students to be able to purchase the student rate membership is that they must demonstrate University/College email address "JBloggs@ ac.co.uk" for example

2. An explanation of why the House of Sport indoor tennis provision has ceased and whether it can be reopened

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Whilst I don't recall this being raised during the committee meeting, I can confirm that the House of Sport are utilising the indoor space for Netball and are unlikely to re introduce tennis. You will recall from the answer Steve Morris gave to members that the best use of prime indoor space is to maximise footfall to drive income and participation. Indoor tennis courts allow for a maximum of 4 playing at one time versus the 20 involved in a netball game, for example. Indoor tennis provision is currently being offered at Cardiff Metropolitan University Cyncoed Campus and community slots are available to book.

3. Information clarifying the maintenance responsibilities Tennis Wales will take on and whether this appropriately protects the Council from costs in future years

The sink fund generated from income serves two purposes, to grow a fund that can fully replace the court surface at end of life and to provide an annual revenue budget for court maintenance to include items such as Jet Washing, moss and weed treatment, replacement nets and posts, re lining and court painting. This will be fully covered and managed by Tennis Wales with no financial risk to the Council.

I hope these points of clarity are helpful and should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or Steve Morris.

Yn gywir
Yours sincerely



Cynghorydd / Councillor Jennifer Burke
Aelod Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant, Parciau, Digwyddiadau a Lleoliadau
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks, Events and Venues