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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting TUESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2024, 4.00 PM

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

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

9 **Correspondence following Committee Meeting**(Pages 3 - 20)

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My Ref: SharePoint/E&C Library/Correspondence/Jan24

Date: 17 January 2024

Councillor Burke
Cabinet Member – Culture, Parks and Events
Cardiff Council
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Public Letter

Dear Councillor Burke,

SKATEBOARD AMENITY STRATEGY

Our thanks to you, Steve Morris and Mark Synan for attending committee to answer our questions about the proposed Skateboard Amenity Strategy. Overall, Members are content with the recommendations to Cabinet and are supportive of the Strategy and are particularly pleased it is based on thorough community engagement. Members have asked that I pass on their following comments and observations.

Strategy Aims

Members note the Strategy aims to ensure that replacement skateboard amenities have an enhanced design that provide more challenging spaces compared to existing facilities. In addition, Members note the Strategy aims to reduce long-term repair and maintenance costs, with the move away from wood and steel towards concrete structures.

Funding Strategy

Members were interested to understand how Section 106 monies would be prioritised for use on skateboard amenities and note that there will be discussions with ward councillors, who decide the prioritisation of Section 106 monies. Members highlighted the need to ensure all members understand the importance of this Strategy for improving health and wellbeing and also as a useful tool in tackling anti-social behaviour and improving community cohesion and are pleased to note that you will be reaching out to ward members and that officers will also meet with members and other stakeholder groups to explain the Strategy and answer questions.

Members also note that officers will also discuss proposals with national sports bodies, seeking grant funding from these. Members note the hope that future capital programme bids may be able to support the Strategy, to be determined through future budget-setting processes.

Lighting

Members asked whether there would be lighting around skateboard amenities, to enable use into the evening and note that this would be considered on a case-by-case basis and would depend on the outcome of consultation with local residents and on whether there is the budget to meet these costs. Members also note that it is possible to have lighting and to apply a 'curfew' to this to minimise disruption to nearby residents.

Location of Hubs

Members asked how the proposed location of the skatepark hubs had been determined and note these are based on consultation responses coupled with good access via public and active travel routes. Members asked whether there was scope to review these locations if other factors came into play, citing as an example Cardiff West and the impact of the Plasdŵr development. Members note that there is scope for additional provision to be added to the plan as needed, with delivery dependent on funding and consultation with local residents.

Link to Active Travel

Members note there has been liaison with colleagues in relevant sections, including Highways, Housing, Planning, and Economic Development, to ensure officers are aware of the Skateboard Amenity Strategy and take this into account when designing new developments, to assist in provision alongside active travel routes.

Contractor Availability

Members note the Parks, Play and Infrastructure Delivery Plan highlights issues in procuring contractors with the required skillset and therefore asked whether procuring contractors to deliver skateboard amenities will be an issue and whether we are developing in-house apprenticeships so we can tackle this work ourselves. Members note officers are actively addressing the supply of contractors by building relationships with suitably qualified contractors and will ensure these are signposted

to Sell to Wales when the Council advertises contracts, to ensure there is a better pool of applicants. Members note that, on larger contracts, the Council can utilise the social value element in the procurement process to support apprenticeships and that officers will explore this possibility as part of delivering this Strategy. Members were also pleased to hear that the existing in-house Design and Installation apprentice will shadow work on delivering this Strategy, enhancing their learning.

Impact on Informal Spaces

Members are supportive of the need for formal spaces for skateboarding and recognise that informal spaces are also an important part of skateboarding and are therefore concerned that the introduction of formal spaces does not lead to an across-the-board intolerance of informal skateboarding. Members recognise the need to clamp down on informal skateboarding where this is causing issues, such as on The Hayes, but believe skateboarders should be able to use other locations, for example Callaghan Square and Central Square, unhindered. Members would welcome your response to this point.

My thanks again to you and officers for attending Committee and answering our queries.

This letter contains requests for further information and so requires a response:

Requests:

- A written response to the approach to be taken to informal skateboarding spaces and whether the approach will differentiate between different types of spaces.

Yours sincerely,



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

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

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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: [CE:0046185]

Eich Nghyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 6 March 2024

Cllr Peter Wong
Chair, E&C Scrutiny Committee

Annwyl / Dear Peter,

RE: Skateboard Amenity Strategy

Thank you for your response to the Scrutiny item "Skateboard Amenity Strategy". I am delighted to see that the committee share my positive views on the formalisation of a plan for Skateboard facilities across the City and all the positive benefits that this activity can have, particularly for the youth demographic in Cardiff.

The questions, discussion and lively debate were most welcome as are the summary comments in your letter demonstrating the value in providing close scrutinising on such matters.

In terms of the one follow up query in relation to the approach being taken for informal spaces, the Strategy sets out the need for formal, robust, well designed and easily maintained facilities, it is hoped the the creation of such facilities be them Spots or Dots in local communities and parks or destination sites, will encourage the participants to utilise these new spaces resulting in a reduction in the need to use City Centre pedestrian areas and associated annoyance and conflict between the general public and skate boarders.

In addition, where major new inner city developments are built, we will point the developers to the strategy to see if skate facilities can be incorporate into the design of the public realm without impacting on the residents or space users.

We will have to monitor the transition from the city centre locations to the new facilities through our stakeholder partners as and when each new facility is introduced. We will also carry out engagement activities to promote each new facility. it will take time, but my hope is that we have thriving formal skateboard spaces for all and a decrease in the informal use of space.

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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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**STRONGER
FAIRER
GREENER**



I hope the above satisfies the question from the committee, please come back to me should you require further clarification on this matter.

Once again, thank you and your committee for their positive support of the emerging strategy.

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

Date: 17 January 2024

Councillor Goodway
Cabinet Member – Investment & Development
Cardiff Council
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Public Letter

Dear Councillor Goodway,

ATLANTIC WHARF REGENERATION UPDATE

Our thanks to you, Neil Hanratty, Donna Jones and Chris Barnett for attending committee to answer our questions about the next stages of the Atlantic Wharf Regeneration; it was good to have you back at Committee.

This letter deals with Members' comments and observations on the open/public information contained in the Cabinet report and appendices. I have sent a separate letter capturing our comments and observations on the confidential information.

For ease, I have structured this letter into the sections used in the report to Cabinet, with an overarching section at the end capturing our comments regarding transport.

Red Dragon Centre

Members were interested to understand the next steps in redeveloping the Red Dragon Centre and were keen to explore how the Aviva Consortium proposals align with the Council's masterplan vision. Specifically, Members examined the following:

- Local Jobs – Members note the Council will work with the successful bidder to ensure there are local jobs, including construction jobs. Members note your comment that the Council will seek alternative funding for apprenticeships, given the recent Welsh Government decision to reduce funding in this area.
- Housing – Members note the commitment to 500 housing units for the Cardiff Partnering Scheme, detailed in the report to Cabinet in July 2023, is still achievable with the Preferred Bidder proposals, as housing colleagues have

selected Plot 22, which runs alongside Bute East Dock, as their preferred site and so this site is separate from the Red Dragon Centre redevelopment proposals. Members note the point made by officers that Plot 22 is, however, contingent on the decision on the future of County Hall and that, therefore, these two aspects will be brought forward together for future decision, so that there is transparency about whether this commitment can proceed on Plot 22, with alternative provision on the Red Dragon Centre site if required. In addition, Members note the Council will apply 20% affordable housing requirement to residential sites that are part of the Red Dragon Centre redevelopment, in line with the Council's planning policies.

- Increasing density – Members were pleased to hear your intention to meet with Aviva Consortium to ensure they are aware of the Council's vision for Atlantic Wharf, including the need to ensure that increased density does not result in reduced provision of accessible, affordable facilities for families, which not only increase dwell time but ensure the redevelopment is inclusive.

Car Parking Strategy

Members sought to understand the car parking strategy, what this means for the Council financially, and its impact on existing businesses in Cardiff Bay. Members note:

- Number of spaces – the acquisition of Pierhead Street MSCP alongside the new MSCP required as a condition precedent, providing the 900 spaces required by lease conditions, results in an overall increase in the number of car parking spaces available as part of the Atlantic Wharf redevelopment but this amount is still less than is available at other similar arena locations.
- Income stream – whilst general car park income has a declining profile, officers stated that event parking will compensate for this, with studies indicating that event parking income levels alone will be sufficient to meet the costs of the car parks and that the fact that there are fewer spaces compared to other arenas means it is likely that all spaces will be utilised on event days.
- Pierhead Street MSCP –
 - o Until the Indoor Arena is open, the intention is to utilise spaces for council staff and contractors arriving on-site by car, rather than larger vehicles, such as tractors etc.

- Other users will have to pay for spaces unless their organisation has a lease agreement, as the Council needs to maximise income levels
- Once the Indoor Arena is open, event-day parking will operate.

During our way forward discussions, Members agreed that it is important to understand the impact of event days on car parking for existing businesses in Cardiff Bay. Members are interested to see the data analysis on this and therefore **request** that this be shared with Committee in the response to this letter.

Lloyd George Avenue

Members were keen to understand the proposed consultation on changes to Lloyd George Avenue, particularly in light of the Council's proposed Participation Strategy and the need to ensure consultation is accessible, inclusive and meaningful.

Members note:

- Consultation is starting right at the beginning of the process, meaning that local residents and stakeholders can influence the final proposed scheme
- The only fixed aspects are the need to reduce the carriageway and the need to ensure a better walkway route that reduces the impact on local residents of an increased volume of people using Lloyd George Avenue
- There is an opportunity to improve both sides of the Avenue, working with partners such as Transport for Wales, to ensure the Council's work and their work complements and is joined up
- Discussions on cycleways, where these are positioned and whether these are segregated, will form part of the consultation process.

Appropriation of Land

Members highlighted that Appendix 7, point 7(f) - page 539 of the pack of papers – is incomplete and does not give a judgement on whether the proposals are reasonable, in contrast to the preceding points, where a view is given. Members note that you will seek legal officers' advice on this. Members **recommend** that you receive this advice before Cabinet makes a decision on this report.

Transport Links

Several of our questions focused on the need to ensure improved public and active travel routes are in place to enable car-free access to Atlantic Wharf, in order to

reduce the impact on local residents and meet our air quality and One Planet Cardiff goals. Members note:

- Metro – there is confirmed funding and work underway to enhance the links between Cardiff Central and Cardiff Bay, which will mean that trains will be able to go to Cardiff Bay without passengers having to change trains; given that currently all passengers have to change at least once, this will make a big difference to the ease and timeliness of journeys and should increase usage
- Park & Ride – discussions ongoing about new sites at ISV and Cardiff Parkway.

Members recognise that responsibility for transport falls to your Cabinet colleague Cllr De'Ath, supported by Andrew Gregory, Director of Planning, Transport and Environment and officers in that directorate. At the meeting, Members asked the following questions on transport issues, which you explained your colleagues would need to answer; we have consequently cc'd them into this letter and **request** they work with you to ensure answers are provided to the following:

1. Will the Pentwyn Park and Ride site remain focused on providing a service to the University Hospital Wales or will it become a park and ride service for Cardiff Bay?
2. Will there be public transport provision from Cardiff East and Cardiff West straight through to Cardiff Bay, without having to go via the city centre and having to change?

Members note your intention to discuss with your Cabinet colleague, Cllr De'Ath, the need for a full report detailing the public and active travel route provision for accessing the Atlantic Wharf redevelopment, to provide a holistic overview that includes answers to the questions above. Members **request** that this report be shared with them as soon as possible and either before or alongside their consideration of the Full Business Case for Atlantic Wharf.

My thanks again to you and officers for attending Committee and answering our queries.

This letter contains several requests and a recommendation and so requires a response:

Requests:

- To share with Committee, in the response to this letter, the data analysis undertaken to understand the impact of event days on car parking for existing businesses in Cardiff Bay.
- That Cllr De'Ath, Andrew Gregory and relevant officers work with you to ensure answers are provided to the following:
 - a. Will the Pentwyn Park and Ride site remain focused on providing a service to the University Hospital Wales or will it become a park and ride service for Cardiff Bay?
 - b. Will there be public transport provision from Cardiff East and Cardiff West straight through to Cardiff Bay, without having to go via the city centre and having to change?
- That the report you are requesting from colleagues to provide an holistic overview of public and active travel route provision for accessing the Atlantic Wharf site be shared with committee members as soon as possible and either before or alongside their consideration of the Full Business Case for Atlantic Wharf.

Recommendation:

That officers receive legal officers' advice and judgement as to whether it is reasonable to affect and interfere with third party rights, as set out in Appendix F, point 7(f), page 539 of the agenda pack, before Cabinet makes a decision on the Atlantic Wharf Regeneration Update report.

Yours sincerely,

P Wong

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

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Group Leaders - Cllr Lancaster, Cllr Berman, Cllr Gibson
Gavin McArthur – Chair, Governance & Audit Committee
Neil Hanratty Donna Jones Chris Barnett
Cllr De'Ath Andrew Gregory
Mel Jackson
Chris Pyke Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys

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Date: 17 January 2024

Councillor Thomas
Leader
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Public Letter

Dear Councillor Thomas,

SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

Our thanks to you, Louise Bassett, Jon Day and Natalie Southgate for attending committee to answer our questions about the next stages of the Shared Prosperity Fund. This letter deals with Members' comments and observations on the open/public information contained in the Cabinet report and appendices. I have sent a separate letter capturing our comments and observations on the confidential information. Overall, Members are supportive of the recommendations to Cabinet.

Spending

Members recognise the amount of spend in 2024/25 is significantly higher than in previous years and are pleased to hear you are reasonably confident that the Cardiff spend will be achieved, based on the good track record to date. Members also note your comment that there is recognition regionally of the need to increase the pace of spend.

Community capacity building

Members sought clarification on the proposed usage of the £1M allocated for community capacity building projects in 2024/25. Members note this money is to ensure there is assistance available for organisations currently receiving Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF), to help them transition and find alternative funding when SPF funding ceases, as well funding available for communities to find alternative provision.

Open Call inclusivity

Members were keen to understand whether or not the Open Call process had been inclusive. Members note the Open Call process was promoted across Cardiff, with a presentation at City Hall and engagement with C3SC to ensure smaller organisations were aware of the process and timescales. Members note your point that the number of successful smaller organisations, detailed in Confidential Appendix B, gives you confidence the process was inclusive and that there was awareness of the process.

Evaluation

Members are keen to understand the difference that the SPF programme has made in Cardiff, in terms of outputs and outcomes, and are pleased to note work is in hand to capture these and produce a report that documents the impact. Members note it is important to not only assess the programme against the SPF criteria but also against the Council's Stronger, Fairer, Greener criteria and to highlight learning from the programme on what works well, as this will help shape transition post-SPF. Members **request** that this evaluation report be brought to Committee, to assist our future scrutiny of similar initiatives, and that it includes all the elements detailed above.

Post 2025 continuation

Members sought clarification of what will happen post-2024/25 when the existing SPF programme ends. Members note your comments that the WLGA is discussing this and the interface with the General Election, due some time in the next year. Members support your view that a 1-year extension of the programme would enable continuity over the election period and give time for a new government to determine their approach and communicate a longer-term direction.

This letter contains requests for further information and so requires a response:

Requests:

- that the SPF programme evaluation report be brought to Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee, to assist our future scrutiny of similar initiatives.

Yours sincerely,

P Wong

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

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
 Group Leaders - Cllr Lancaster, Cllr Berman, Cllr Gibson
 Gavin McArthur – Chair, Governance & Audit Committee
 Louise Bassett Jon Day Natalie Southgate
 Neil Hanratty
 Debi Said
 Chris Pyke Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys

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**SWYDDFA'R ARWEINYDD
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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CE:0046256

Dyddiad / Date: 14 March 2024

Councillor Peter Wong
Chair, Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Cardiff Council
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Via email: AHolt@cardiff.gov.uk; Naomi.Tomic2@cardiff.gov.uk

Annwyl/Dear Peter,

RE: Public Letter - Shared Prosperity Fund

Thank you again for the invitation to attend the January session of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee and for your subsequent letter.

I can confirm that we will bring an item during the calendar year to Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee that will provide an update on the impact of the Shared Prosperity Fund in Cardiff.

Yn gywir,
Yours sincerely,

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

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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