

## ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 MAY 2016

Present: County Councillor McKerlich(Chairperson)  
County Councillors Dilwar Ali, Howells, Hyde and Weaver

### 76 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Javed and Simmons.

### 77 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Weaver, who declared a standing personal declaration of interest in that he is Assistant Cabinet Member for Libraries.

### 78 : MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 7 April 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

### 79 : BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - PRE DECISION

The Chairperson welcomed The Leader, Cllr Phil Bale, Cllr Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member - Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise) and Neil Hanratty (Director – Economic Development) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Leader to make a statement in which he said that this was an opportunity to bring together the business community and identify strategic priorities for the City Centre. He added that whilst Cardiff is a vibrant City, it has to compete with others who continually improve their offer therefore there was a need to compete and work with businesses more closely; this would be decided by ballot in June. The leverage could add funding for the City Centre and a better offer for businesses and residents. Engagement with businesses would be ongoing. There is a process to re-ballot after 5 years, at which time support can be withdrawn if BID felt to not have delivered, although the vast majority of BID's have continued (90% re-ballot rate for existing BIDs).

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which Councillor Bradbury added that it was right to bring the report to Scrutiny prior to Cabinet as Scrutiny inputted to the Cabinet Report, and he paid tribute to the work that Officers had put into this.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Cardiff Business Improvement District which included information as follows: Overview; Cardiff BID Development; Task Group; Proposal Overview and Issues.

The Chairperson thanked officers for the presentation and invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members asked about the management and governance of the BID and asked if it would be a limited company. Officers stated that it would be a not for profit limited company. Members noted that £120k per annum administration and management cost and asked how many staff this included. Officers did not have information relating to staff numbers as yet.
- Members sought views on the Late Night Levy. Councillor Bradbury stated that nothing could be ruled out however while asking for the BID levy it could be foolish to also ask for a late night levy; it was important to see if the BID was successful first. Officers added that no business should have to pay twice.
- Members asked about the BID links to City Centre residents and whether it would just be the City Centre Manager that would engage with them. Officers explained that informal links would be encouraged, residents couldn't be on the BID but it was key to have a direct relationship between residents and representatives from the BID board; good advocacy between them was important.
- With regard to the late night levy, whilst Members applauded the BID though it would be a shame to lose focus for the sake of a 1% levy on ratable value. The Leader stated that the BID had an interest in the daytime and nighttime economy, including additional spend on cleansing, and additional investment for cleansing during events etc. He added that rather than losing focus on the public realm, this unlocked a mechanism to engage with key stakeholders in the City Centre. Officers added that the BID provided an opportunity to spend more than what the late night levy would raise and it gave a sense of ownership to business owners.
- Members noted the major developments in the City Centre and considered that it could be built into new developments that they had to invest in additional facilities in the City Centre such as public toilets. The Cabinet Member added that the recommendations from the CASSC Night Time Economy report had been built into the Cabinet Report.
- Members noted that Swansea had a machine that froze chewing gum on the pavements and gave this as an example of things that could be invested in. It was noted that a BID board member from Swansea was on the Task group so ideas could be shared.

The Chairperson thanked officers for attending the meeting, giving their presentations and statements and for answering Members questions.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee's behalf to the Leader to convey their comments and observations. [View Letter](#)

## 80 : QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE

The Chairperson welcomed The Leader, Cllr Phil Bale, Cllr Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member - Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise) and Neil Hanratty (Director – Economic Development) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Leader to make a statement in which he said that it had been a busy quarter culminating in the signing of the City Deal; there had been lots of work on big projects including the Arena and options for City Hall.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Economic Development Directorate Quarter 4 Performance, which included information on the following: End of Year Budget Position; Corporate Plan Commitments for Central Square, Multi-Purpose Arena, International Sports Village, Tourism Strategy, City Deal, Heritage Quarter and Cultural Venues; and Performance Indicators.

The Chairperson thanked Officers for the presentation and invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members asked if the GVA dropping by 9% was a cause for concern. Officers stated that whilst the GVA had dropped so had the employment rate, the rationale behind this was the reduction in public sector workers, which was around 4000 less, and also the employment rate for the 50+ age group. Officers added that the 9% figure also included the Vale of Glamorgan as it is calculated on a different boundary area than previously.
- With reference to the Coal Exchange, Members noted that questions had been asked at the last meeting and Members were told that information would be provided at the next meeting, yet the next day there was a press release. Members wanted to have an opportunity to Scrutinise this issue. Officers explained that they were unaware that the developer would be issuing a press release the next day as they thought it would be in 2-3 weeks' time; the matter is on the agenda for the next scrutiny committee.
- Members asked if the Civic Centre scheme was on schedule for quarter one. The Leader stated that it was a central issue, City Hall would remain integral part of the Civic Centre and that proposals regarding City Hall, the public realm and the movement of people through the area into the City Centre would be brought to committee.
- Members asked when they would see the parameters of the procurement of the Metro. The Leader explained that it was a Welsh Government driven project with an element of co-commissioning, agreed in the Heads of Terms City Deal. He added that it was still early for local government to influence and shape but they were partners in the infrastructure project.

The Chairperson thanked officers for attending the meeting, giving their presentations and statements and for answering Members questions.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee's behalf to the Leader to convey their comments and observations. [View Letter](#)

## 81 : CARDIFF CENTRAL MARKET - UPDATE FOLLOWING 2014 T&F INQUIRY

The Chairperson welcomed Neil Hanratty (Director – Economic Development) and Helen Jones (Strategic Estates Manager – Economic Development) to the meeting. The Committee was running ahead of schedule and it was agreed to consider the item without the Cabinet Member.

Members were provided with a presentation on Cardiff Central Market which included: Introduction as to what has been done so far; Waste Management and

Building Improvements; Market Branding; Marketing; Market Management and Future Direction.

Officers added that historically there were tensions between the CCMTA and the Council based on the approaches taken towards rent and service charges. Over the last 12 months' officers had worked hard to resolve issues and they were very close to setting this and moving into tenancy agreements across the piece. Officers stated that they want tenants to be proactive in the management of the market and were looking at Governance changes to give increased responsibility to tenants, especially with regard to service charges.

The Chairperson thanked officers for the presentation and invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members asked if there had been any issues with the business rates and exemption from Welsh Government. Officers were not aware of this and said that the issues they were aware of were rent and service charges rather than business rates.
- Members noted the success of the market was the uniqueness of the traders and asked what processes were in place to ensure that when filling vacant units, only good quality units were installed. Officers stated that they advertise vacant units and try not to get conflicting uses; longer term they would like higher end units and possibly extending the market into evening use. Officers added that there was an issue of single tenants occupying too many stalls, using friends and family to run them, this needed to be reviewed; they now advertise all vacant opportunities, the market should be a place for aspiring businesses to set up and start out on a low costs basis.
- Members asked about the turnover rate of units. Officers explained that traders don't move that often, vacant units are snapped up by existing traders so there is now a limit to the number of stalls one business owner can occupy.
- Members asked what aspirations there were for the types of businesses that officers would like to see in the market. Officers stated they would like a diverse mix, street food, farmers market, ethical type units.
- Members noted the temporary stalls outside of the market and asked if they have been approached to occupy units inside. Officers stated that they had been.
- With regard to the number of empty units at present, officers said there were only 1 or 2, they were consistently full. Officers were also checking existing use to ensure that units were not being used as storage facilities, or only opening for short trading hours; these issues would be part of the tenancy agreements going forward and the in house on site manager would also assist with this.
- When asked of Sunday trading and the by-laws around this had been considered, officers stated that lots of the traders work six days a week and don't employ any staff, but it was a matter that would be looked into further; an option would be Sunday opening when the City Centre is busy and closing on a quieter day.

The Chairperson thanked officers for attending the meeting, giving their presentations and statements and for answering Members questions.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes on the Committee’s behalf to the Leader to convey their comments and observations. [View Letter](#)

## 82 : ANNUAL REPORT

Members were provided with the Draft Annual Report of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee 2015/2016; prior to its consideration at Full Council in June 2016.

The Annual Report listed all the items considered by the Committee between July 2015 and May 2016 and highlighted those topics where the Committee had had greatest impact.

Members were asked if they had any amendments or observations to make to the draft Annual Report prior to its consideration by Full Council. It was noted that the report would be updated to include details of today’s meeting and the Chairs Foreword would be produced.

AGREED – That the Draft Annual Report of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee 2015/2016; be submitted for consideration at Full Council in June 2016.

## 83 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to take place on Thursday 9 June 2016 at 4.30 pm in Committee Room 4, County Hall, Cardiff.