

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 APRIL 2018

Present: Councillor Howells(Chairperson)
Councillors Ebrahim, Gordon, Gavin Hill-John, Robson and Stubbs

68 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Thomas Parkhill

69 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee was advised they had a responsibility under Article 16 of the Members' Code of Conduct to notify at the start of the meeting.

70 : MINUTES

The minutes of the 12 February 2018, 13 February 2018, 8 March 2018 and 27 March 2018 were approved as a correct record.

71 : TARGETED REGENERATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

The Chairperson welcomed:

- Councillor Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member, Housing & Communities
- Councillor Russell Goodway, Cabinet Member, Investment & Development
- Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities
- Neil Hanratty, Director of Economic Development
- Don Davidson, Neighbourhood Regeneration
- Jon Day, Economic Policy Manager

This item enabled the Committee to receive an update in the Welsh Government's new regeneration programme and the work underway in Cardiff to determine appropriate bids for this. The papers included the Welsh Government guidance on this and the recent report to Cabinet which detailed priority themes and projects for Cardiff.

Don Davidson gave a presentation which outlined the following:

- The Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP) was a new Welsh Government funding programme aimed at supporting regeneration projects
- At it's meeting on 15 March, Cabinet received a report on TRIP, noted the funding opportunities and agreed priority themes for bids.
- Aim of TRIP was to invest in Capital Projects which supported economic regeneration, activity was defined in regeneration areas.

- The all-Wales budget for the 3 year programme was £100M with a national allocation for SE Wales region of £44M.
- All project must have a minimum contribution of 30% from non-WG sources. £1.3M was included in the Council's capital programme to assist with match funding requirements.
- WG guidance required programmes to be aligned with regional working arrangements, which in South East Wales equates to Cardiff Capital Region.
- Specific requirements included (i) an overall regional regeneration plan and (ii) regional endorsement of projects proposals, prior to submission to WG.
- There was, however, no mechanism to deal with these matters as part of the current city-region arrangements.
- A regional regeneration plan was currently being drafted, based on contributions from the ten authorities.
- For the purposes of TRIP, the Southern Arc – which contains the city's most deprived neighbourhoods was identified as the target regeneration area.
- Two project themes identified were Business Corridors and Community Hubs to mirror the 'place' and 'people' strands of economic development.
- Business Corridors - Selected on basis of socio-economic need, physical conditions and links to regionally significant City Centre development.
- Priority 1 – South Riverside covers Tudor Street, Lower Cathedral Road and Cowbridge Road East.
- Priority 2 – Roath/Adamsdown includes City Road, Clifton St and surrounding areas.
- Potential project include commercial property improvements, re-use of vacant premises, provision of business start-up units, public realm improvements and 'gateway' improvements to City Centre.
- Community Hubs – Opportunity to build on success of the network of 11 Community Hubs which have already been delivered.
- Focus on extending 'into work' training and advice services, economic outcomes for young people and health & wellbeing barriers to economic activity.
- TRIP was a 3 year programme starting in 2018/19, although WG anticipate that much activity in the first year would focus on project development and bid preparation.

- Regional plan and processes need to be finalised, prior to funding bids being fully developed.
- Feasibility stage work on Business Corridors would be taken forward this year, along with design work on Hub projects.

The Chairperson thanked the Officer for the presentation and invited Members to asked questions.

The Committee was keen to know if the business corridor geographically would extend into Splott.

The Officers explained that Year 2 would focus on City Road, linking into Crwys Road and Clifton Street and further work was required on the scope of the project.

Members of the Committee were concerned with the Welsh Government's guidance requirements on Regional Working not being established with no mechanism in place to deal with this matter. Further, would Appendix 2, the Projects Delivery Plan suggested template, be completed following a successful bid.

The Committee was advised that Regional mechanisms needed to be established and work was on-going to develop this. The Joint Working Arrangement with City Deal was not the appropriate body to govern this and the plan would have to come back to the ten local authorities for approval. Local authorities proposal bids would go to the Regional Board for approval but, as yet there was no mechanism for the Board to make that decision. No structure was in place to date, but an officer's working group had been established to take this forward.

The Committee was further advised that the Projects Delivery Plan suggested template form was to be used as a guide.

Members of the Committee welcomed the business corridors, with South Riverside benefiting from the proposals. These type of projects made a difference to an area with Ann Street, once a dark lane, now being light and rubbish free.

In relation to regeneration measures, Members were keen to see community property enhancement develop in Tudor Street and Cowbridge Road East, with empty units being filled, especially when located above shops.

The Cabinet Member explained empty units were continuously being monitored and accommodated accordingly.

The Members were informed that it was unclear how the funding of £44M had come into being. Lloyd George Avenue and Bute Street were priority areas, with upgrading being made to the landscape. However, this area was not identified in the report as a candidate in the first instance. Further, no specific allocation of funding had been identified for Cardiff and all ten local authorities in the South East Region could bid for funding for specific projects.

The Committee was advised this was a competitive process and there were no guarantees to what Cardiff could get. The Vibrant and Viable Communities bid put together previously wasn't successful initially but subsequent key deliverables put together were successful and Project bids should be genuinely deliverable in order to achieve the funding.

The Members were keen to be consulted on projects and asked that all Ward Member consultation be carried out at the planning stage before formal projects were established.

Members welcomed the paragraph on competitive business starter units and sought further information on community engagement and, thoughts on how projects would fit into other current projects Central Square and Bus Station for example.

The Committee was assured that consultation would commence at the earliest stage of the process. Officers had attended conversation events in parts of the southern arc of the city in order to gain an insight into the issues experienced in communities.

In relation to existing business units and start-up units being encouraged into areas; finding and securing funding was the key, as projects should not be established without knowing if funding was going to be successful.

The Committee was informed that risks in relation to development had been identified where the establishment of Central Square and Central Quay becoming powerful economically, could result in the same issues experienced in Cardiff Bay. It was imperative that communities were not left behind if gentrification of these areas occurred.

RESOLVED: that the views of the Committee would be discussed during the way forward section of the meeting and a letter sent to the Cabinet Member in due course.

72 : LOCAL SPORTS PLAN 2018-19

The Chairperson welcomed the following:

- Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member, Culture & Leisure
- Steve Morris, Parks & Sports Development Officer
- Laura Williams, Senior Sport Neighbourhood Coordinator from Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Apologies had been received from Kathryn Thomas, Sport Wales.

The item builds on previous scrutiny last November, where the Committee received a progress report on the Joint Venture with Cardiff Metropolitan University to deliver sports services. The Local Sport Plan set out the projects and actions for Cardiff in 2018/19 which were summarised in the cover report at point 10, showing the spread across Cardiff and priority groups.

Councillor Bradbury Statement

There was no presentation as the information was covered in the plan, which sets out projects and actions designed in the agreement.

The Chairperson invited the Committee to ask questions.

Members of the Committee welcomed the attendance at major events, noting the three events proposed, including the Cardiff 10k Race for Life plus one more. The Committee were keen to see if there was scope to increase beyond three events, a possible 4th cycling event.

Members were advised that a cycling partnership had been developed with HSBC, which hopefully encouraged children to start cycling more frequently. It was essential to ensure that more children and young people participated in sporting events and to ensure there were educational pathways to support this.

Major Events had played a pivotal role for Cardiff, with its legacy from 2012, football events, which actively generated high volumes of volunteers. Tennis Wales also ran smaller events, which encouraged young people to join and become part of tennis clubs.

The Committee drew attention to Governing Bodies and asked how the Council could ensure the Governing Bodies reached out to communities that were less likely to participate in sporting events.

The Committee was informed of the review of Sport Wales and how that organisation engaged with communities. There was a wide range of resource talent in the southern arc of the city and not enough work was taking place to increase participation. Sport Wales had been advised of this and to work closely with Governing Bodies to encourage children into organised sport. It was recognised that challenges in Cardiff were unique with its large BME community and aiming to get all communities involved in sport.

It was explained to Members that Governing Bodies engaged with Cardiff Met, unfortunately the workforce of Sport Wales had diminished, and its funding had been reduced to support the activities. One of the suggestions was to up skill local people in the communities and focus on local sporting engagement and participation.

Sport Wales focused on elite aspects of sport and increased participation numbers. The 21st Century Schools funding could be allocated to leisure and sport in schools to increase and encourage participation. Engaging with local sporting clubs was also essential, along with monies from Community Chest Grant's.

The Committee was keen to see concentration being focused on organised sport and bringing local sporting events into communities. The 21st Century School's programme could provide funding to enhance schools sporting facilities, along with possibilities of income generation.

Members were informed of events engagement ventures, setting up neighbourhood sporting boards with engagements from Leisure Centre Managers and teachers

obtaining local intelligence on sporting requirements. Focus was also being directed towards facilities available at Hub's and development of existing sports clubs to increase participation. School Sporting facilities should be developed for the community with priorities directed towards increased participation by children and young people.

The Committee was advised that school's had access to the White Water Rafting provision for taster sessions and further rowing activities at Channel View Leisure Centre. There was also Llandaff Rowing Club which provided a variety of water based activities in that area. As a result of health & safety measures it was not possible for young people to access both the Ely and Rumney rivers as they were too shallow at present to use for water activities.

The Committee Members drew attention to the high amount of targets in the report and asked how they were going to manage performance against the targets. Further, requested costs were listed and were these bids that have been accepted, or going in to Sport Wales for consideration.

Members were advised that an offer letter from Sport Wales had been received for fully funded grant aid. Over the past five financial years funding had declined, almost £100k less than 2014. The service continued to be delivered and it was recognised providers were managing to do the same with less resources. Planning and mitigating for further cuts were on-going until eventually Sport Cardiff stopped providing a facility.

Members drew attention to budgets efficiency savings being missed over the years and inquired whether Sport Cardiff could deliver more services for less money, as a result of a possible underspend.

Officers assured the Committee that Sport Cardiff could not deliver more for less and it was disappointing that Sport Wales was not present at the meeting to answer questions. Sport Cardiff had continuously challenged Sport Wales on its reduction in funding with cuts being made this year to the lottery element. It was recognised that reducing funding for small projects had an impact over time as these small elements added up and had an impact on resources.

The Committee was advised that as a result of the joint partnership between Sport Cardiff and Cardiff Metropolitan University, programmes were delivered. The targets were challenging to demonstrate the viability of projects including further engagement with women's groups and encouraging students participation in projects as a resource.

The Committee was provided with an update on the position of Community Chest. The organisation was run as a single unit dealing with annual repeat applications year on year. Changes had now been made and Cardiff were the first in Wales to do this differently where Community Chest allocations were taken to Sports Boards to make decisions on funding, as they had local knowledge of the what was needed in the community.

RESOLVED: that the views of the Committee would be discussed during the way forward section of the meeting and a letter sent to the Cabinet Member in due course.

73 : COMMITTEE BUSINESS

This item enabled the Committee to consider correspondence and the draft inquiry report.

The Committee were informed that Officers were actively chasing the update regarding the awaited response from GLL Leisure Centre Partnership to the queries raised by service users. The Chairperson stated that if no information was forthcoming by the end of the 24 April 2018, he would write again to Councillor Bradbury.

The Committee noted the correspondence schedule, which provided an update since 8 March 2018.

The Committee welcomed the Funding of the Parks in Cardiff Inquiry and provided the following feedback:

- A clear statement from the administration was required on the vision for Parks.
- This was in-depth study with challenging circumstances
- Members were pleased with the findings and the report reflected how the parks of the city contributed towards the wellbeing of the citizens of Cardiff.
- This was an extensive piece of work and parks worked differently in certain areas of the city. A communication strategy was required and a response on this was required.

RESOLVED: The Committee AGREED:

- Noted the content of the consultation schedule attached at Appendix A.
- Considered the 'Funding of Parks' task group report, attached at Appendix B and endorse the report, subject to any amendments the Committee wish to make for submission to the Cabinet.

74 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10 May 2018 at 4:30pm

This page is intentionally left blank