

**CABINET MEETING: 18 APRIL 2019**

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**CABINET RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT ENTITLED 'COUNCIL WORKSHOPS & INNOVATION PREMISES'**

**INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT (COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)**

**AGENDA ITEM:6**

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**Reason for this Report**

1. To respond to a report of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee received at Cabinet in January 2019, entitled 'Council Workshops & Innovation Premises'.

**Background**

2. In Autumn 2018 a task group comprising Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee was established to investigate the Council's role in the provision of workshop premises and support for encouraging innovation in the Cardiff Economy.

**Issues**

3. The inquiry sought to investigate the Council's role in the provision of business workshop and innovation support. In particular the inquiry looked at:
  - Examining current Council provision – e.g. location, unit size, demand and property condition
  - Examining alternative provision – currently available and planned
  - Identifying whether there are overlaps and/or gaps in provision
  - Examining funding models worldwide, testing transferability
  - Hearing the views of stakeholders with regards to the above
4. The Scrutiny report makes nine recommendations all of which are accepted or partially accepted. The Cabinet response is outlined in Appendix A.

**Reason for Recommendation**

5. To enable the Cabinet to respond to the report published by the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee of November 2018 entitled 'Council Workshops & Innovation Premises'.

## **Financial Implications**

6. Appendix A sets out the Cabinet response to the nine recommendations. The Council approved Capital Strategy highlights the use of capital receipts and prioritises the £40 million target for General Fund Capital receipts (net of fees) assumed in the 2018/19 – 2022/23 Capital Programme and indicates that any excess sums over the target are to be considered to be used to reduce the level of debt. The Capital Strategy also highlights that the earmarking of capital receipts can be done where Cabinet approves the receipt to be ring-fenced for specific projects or strategies.
7. Any initiatives which expand the Capital Programme will need to have funding sources identified either through external investment or grants or capital receipts in excess of the £40 million target which was approved in the Council's Budget and Capital strategy.
8. The currently anticipated workshop income for 2018/9 is in the region of £800,000. Any proposed changes to the schedule of charges needs to consider the impact on the income stream and the directorate's overall budgetary allocation. Any shortfall would need to be found from that budgetary allocation.

## **Legal Implications**

9. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and is globally responsible.
10. In discharging its duties under the Act, the Council has set and published well being objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the national well being goals. The well being objectives are set out in Cardiff's Corporate Plan 2019-22. When exercising its functions, the Council is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its well being objectives. This means that the decision makers should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the well being objectives and must be satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those objectives.
11. The well being duty also requires the Council to act in accordance with a 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Council to act in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, the Council must:
  - Look to the long term
  - Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems

- Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals
  - Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions
  - Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them
12. The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible using the link below:  
<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>
13. The Council has to be mindful of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards when making any policy decisions and consider the impact upon the Welsh language.
14. The Council has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties) – the Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED). These duties require the Council to have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of ‘protected characteristics’. The ‘Protected characteristics’ are:
- Age
  - Gender reassignment
  - Sex
  - Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality
  - Disability
  - Pregnancy and maternity
  - Marriage and civil partnership
  - Sexual orientation
  - Religion or belief – including lack of belief.
15. Where a decision is likely to result in a detrimental impact on any group sharing a Protected Characteristic, consideration must be given to possible ways to mitigate the harm. If the harm cannot be avoided, the decision maker must balance the detrimental impact against the strength of the legitimate public need to pursue any policy decisions. The decision maker must be satisfied that having regard to all the relevant circumstances and the PSED, the proposals can be justified, and that all reasonable efforts have been made to mitigate the harm.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Cabinet is recommended to agree the response to the report of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee entitled ‘Council Workshops & Innovation Premises’ (Appendix A)

<b>SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<b>Neil Hanratty</b> <b>Director Economic Development</b> <b>12 April 2019</b>
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*The following appendix is attached:*

Appendix A: Cabinet Response to the Report published by the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee of November 2018 entitled ‘Council Workshops & Innovation Premises’.