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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM30627

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 30th April 2015

Councillor Nigel Howells
Chair
Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee
City Of Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Nigel,

**RE: POLICY REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
31 March 2015**

Thank you for your letter dated 2nd April 2015, which set out the Committee's comments on the Council's draft response to the Power to Local People White Paper. As you acknowledged in your letter, I have apologised previously for the late receipt by the Committee of the Council's draft response to the White Paper.

With reference to the proposed implementation of a system of key decisions in Wales, I can confirm that the Council's response to the White Paper has been amended (see Para 111) to press for the provisions and criteria for call-in to be a matter of local discretion for councils, thereby removing the need for the Welsh Government to legislate specifically on this matter. However, I would emphasise that the Cabinet believes that any locally designed system must be robust and not open to abuse.

The Committee has somewhat misunderstood the position set out in the Council's response (see Para 91), which relates specifically to the proposals set out in Chapter 7.2 of the White Paper and addresses only the issue of the proposed contents of the Corporate Plan. The Cabinet supports improved accountability for performance improvement, but believes that the proposals in the White Paper move away from the approach taken by the Council in developing the Corporate Plan 2015-17 and will be particularly onerous in terms of the amount of detailed, technical information that is required to be contained within the document, which will not assist in improving accessibility and public engagement with the Corporate Plan.

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO:

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Whilst noting the Committee's support for the White Paper proposal to rule out further devolution of powers to local authorities until any structural reforms have been undertaken, I can confirm that the Council's response has not been amended and continues to make the case for further devolution of powers to local government where appropriate. Cardiff and the Cardiff Capital Region cannot be left behind by the devolution of powers and responsibilities to other UK Core Cities pending future local government re-organisation in Wales and any subsequent 'bedding-in' period for the newly merged councils from April 2020 until further council elections are held in May 2022.

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the final version of the Council's response to the White Paper for the Committee's information, which has been amended following Cabinet approval of the draft response on 2nd April 2015 to take account of some of the comments that have since been received from various Committees and individual Members.

Yn gywir,
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Bale', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

**CYNGHORYDD / COUNCILLOR PHIL BALE
ARWEINYDD, CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD
LEADER OF THE CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL**