

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 OCTOBER 2019

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

30 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simmons.

31 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

32 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

33 : CULTURE IN CARDIFF

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure; Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development; Kathryn Richards – Head of Culture, Venues, Tourism & Events; Jon Day – Operational Manager and Ruth Cayford – Creative Industries & Culture Manager to the meeting.

Members were advised that this item was the first part of the Committee's short scrutiny into the current and future role of Culture in the economy of Cardiff. Committee are specifically interested in exploring what the Council and partners need to do to ensure a sustainable way forward for Culture in Cardiff.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he said that this was an important piece of work, which provided scene setting for the Committee's other areas of work. There were two things that were trying to be achieved; to ensure venues have a valuable/sustainable future and to give creative arts/cultural sectors a real voice in decision making in the Council. He added as a disclaimer that there was not enough money to do what was wanted but he was pleased that the Council was not closing the avenue to the sector and were working to provide a sustainable future for venues.

Members were provided with a presentation on Culture in Cardiff after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments:

Members referred to the Youth Pavilion in Butetown and asked if there were enough resources to provide staff and support for young people. Members were advised that this falls in the remit of Councillor Merry's portfolio, but the Cabinet Member stated he would be happy to look at ways existing partnerships are used to promote activities in Butetown and would have the discussion with Councillor Merry. Officers also noted

that there is engagement with other partners to see what can be done to support young people.

Members noted that previously the organisers of the Triathlon were looking for around £8k as a contribution for filming the triathlon in Cardiff Bay and asked if this had been progressed. The Cabinet Member explained that he has met with the Triathlon organisers and discussed how they could make it work, he hadn't heard back from them as yet but if they could make it financially viable then the Council could provide officer support.

Members were pleased to see the reference to a showcase event and asked how this would tie in with smaller cultural events around the City so that everyone could feed into it and participate. The Cabinet Member stated that a showcase event wouldn't be all about the centre of Cardiff, it needed to be relevant to people all over the city. Music would be at the heart of the event so the Music Board would play a critical role in ensuring that grassroots organisations are represented in any showcase event.

Members asked about targets and whether there were any specific targets outside of the Indoor Arena and Signature Events that the Council hoped to achieve. The Cabinet Member explained that there were targets on participation and the number of visitors in some venues and these were longstanding. Officers explained that the Arts Council currently invest £20m in Cardiff and they have very specific targets that are all measured.

Members asked if there had been any work undertaken on the Economic Impact of Culture in Cardiff. Officers explained that there was work undertaken on creative sector analysis and individual events but not on culture itself. Officers added that they would be sceptical of the accuracy of any work on this as there are a huge number of assumptions. Indirect impacts such as visitor numbers are measured.

Members considered that it was important to be able to measure success and determine priorities, whether that is more events, more creative industries, more visitors or all of these. The Cabinet Member stated that culture is judged in many ways; he considered it was important to have a critically acclaimed event in Cardiff and to increase visitors; and how to measure the success of this may be an interesting topic for a task and finish group.

Members asked what the Council's top 3 priorities were. The Cabinet Member stated that current priorities were to safeguard the long-term future of the New Theatre, to move the sector on from feeling like they don't have a voice by establishing the Music Board and responding to the points in the Sound Diplomacy report.

Members noted that to deliver what was wanted there was a need for investment and partnership was key; the Cultural Cities Enquiry had lots of interesting recommendations for raising income for investment such as donations and tourist levy; Members asked if these had been considered. Officers explained that they are working with Core Cities and the Chief Executive is looking Nationally and the tourist levy is high on the agenda, this was work in progress and nowhere near policy development as yet; it was important to reflect on the recommendations of the Cultural Cities enquiry first.

AGREED: that the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

34 : MUSIC STRATEGY - CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX 5

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure; Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development; Kathryn Richards – Head of Culture, Venues, Tourism & Events; Jon Day – Operational Manager and Ruth Cayford – Creative Industries & Culture Manager to the meeting.

Members were advised that this item is to enable pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet on the next stages in developing a Music Strategy. The report sets out the proposed response to the recommendations of the Sound Diplomacy report that Committee considered in April 2019. It also seeks approval to establish a Music Board. The scope of the scrutiny is to examine these, the recommendations to Cabinet, whether there are any risks to the Council, the timeline and the next steps.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he thanked Committee for its previous scrutiny of this item, it had been very supportive and a good cross party piece of work. He explained that in April Cabinet noted the report and committed to a further report on the next steps. There had been a series of recommendations from the Sound Diplomacy report and the Council are responding to these although most will be deferred to the Music Board. Terms of Reference had been established for the Music Board as it was important to have clarity over roles etc. The Closing date for expressions of interest was last Friday, no information could be made public until decisions were made and there would be no announcement until the last person had accepted their position. Applications were being assessed against set criteria.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Music Strategy after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members, reminding Members that Appendix 5 was confidential and if there were any questions on this, then it would be necessary to go into closed session.

Members asked what success of the Music Board would look like and how it would be measured. The Cabinet Member stated that there needed to be a plan for the next 12/24 months; the first 6 months would be working on the roadmap. Initially the Board would look at responding to the Sound Diplomacy Report, once there were detailed responses to the recommendations they would be brought to Committee before going to Cabinet.

Members noted that there had been reports of certain genres of acts feeling discriminated against in Cardiff and asked if there was a need to look at licensing, or even a wholesale review. The Cabinet Member noted the criticism that had been received about the licensing Police Officer. He considered that all genres needed to be represented and it was important to work with the sector on this. The Police had been looking at intelligence, thinking there would be problems and then objecting to licences; this was a key point made by Sound Diplomacy.

Members mentioned Noise Pollution and asked how the Board would be able to deal with these issues. The Cabinet Member said he felt sympathy for established music venues who then have residential developments built around them. The Sound Diplomacy report has been shared with Shared Regulatory Services and the Cabinet Member has asked for a response from them re the issues pertinent to them.

Discussing Transport, Members noted that after large events there was sometimes issues with getting people home and asked what work would be done with regard to timings of trains etc. The Cabinet Member explained that they work closely with Network Rail on strategies to make the flow of people less problematic; things have got better and once the transport interchange is in place more improvements will be seen; he added that the situation is always evolving and the Council was always in discussions with the relevant transport organisations. Officers added that not all solutions are in the Council's gift however and that there are issues such as drivers hours/signalling etc. to consider too. Also it was a dichotomy as people want to ensure they can get home before they book tickets to events, but Network Rail need to see a demand for later trains before they are put on. Major Events do have a transport Strategy and there was a need to look at timetables for public transport; there would be an opportunity to extend the timetable with the Metro, and discussions were ongoing with the Council lobbying for extra hours even for ordinary weekend events.

Members referred to the Governance of the Board, the Terms of Reference and Nolan Standards and asked what happens if one member becomes difficult, hadn't declared conflict of interest etc., and whether the responsibility would be with the Board or Cabinet. The Cabinet Member explained that the Terms of Reference covers this and it would be the responsibility of the Chair of the Board (the Council's Leader) to dismiss.

Members noted that with regards to Finance from a Council perspective, the Council will be the secretariat, and asked how members expectations would be managed in terms of innovative ideas etc. given there is no funding available. The Cabinet Member explained Board members will be aware of this and have been told that the Council cannot fund what it could 20/25 years ago; they also understand it is a partnership and the importance of working together to achieve things. Members of the Board will be used to being in large organisations and the cooperative ways of working. Officers added that lots of money is spent in the sector from various sources and there was a need to make the most of them for Cardiff.

Members asked if Officers were confident that the Board could be supported administratively from existing resources. Officers explained they were confident they could provide the secretariat and anything further would be looked at case by case at the time.

Members noted the reference to a World Class Conference Hall and sought assurance that this was St David's Hall. Members were advised that it was, it hasn't fallen down the rankings, it is still one of the best in the world, it just needs some maintenance.

The Chairperson reminded Members that they are required to consider Appendix 5 in a closed session to discuss information deemed exempt, in accordance with

paragraph 14 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Accordingly, The Chairperson moved that Committee resolve to exclude the Public from the meeting at this point.

RESOLVED: –

- I. that members of the public and the press leave the Committee room. The remainder of the item would be in closed session and the webcast would be paused and restarted at the end of the closed session.
- II. 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.

35 : NEW THEATRE - CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX A AND APPENDICES 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure; Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development; and Kathryn Richards – Head of Culture, Venues, Tourism & Events to the meeting.

The Chairperson informed Members that this item was to enable pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the market process undertaken to secure a theatre operator to rent, operate and maintain the New Theatre.

The scope of the scrutiny was to examine this, the recommendations to Cabinet, whether there are any risks to the Council, the timeline and the next steps.

Members were reminded that Appendix A and Appendices 1 to 5 of Appendix B were confidential and if there were any questions on these it would be necessary to go into closed session.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he said that he was pleased to be at the current position, he was comfortable with the recommendations. He stressed that it was important to note that to get to the current position, all options had been considered, including charitable arm's length, procurement exercise etc. but none had provided the savings required or secured sustainability of the New Theatre. He stated that that what was before Committee was potentially a proposal to safeguard the New Theatre for the next 25 years, with no subsidy and substantial income. The Council would retain the maintenance of the roof and exterior structure of the building and there was an opportunity for Capital Investment into the building. There was a commitment to enhance musical theatre and ballet; the existing staff structure would be retained with good Trade Union relations and the volunteering programme would also be retained. Essentially it was a property lease, therefore there was slightly less control over programming but the proposed company already provides lots of the current programme.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members on the public information.

Members asked what the figures were in relation to the NNDR for the New Theatre and were advised it was around £100k but Officers would check the figure and provide accurate information.

Members referred to the Christmas Pantomime and that it brings in the most revenue of the whole year; Members were assured that the Pantomime was under no threat whatsoever.

Members referred to programming and were concerned over the reference to less control, and worried about the loss of first class drama productions and asked if the programming would be monitored by the Council. Members were advised that the proposed company would likely attract more first class productions as it has its own production arm.

The Chairperson advised Members that they are required to consider Appendices 1 to 6 in a closed session to discuss information deemed exempt, in accordance with paragraph 14 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Accordingly, The Chairperson moved that Committee resolve to exclude the Public from the meeting at this point.

RESOLVED: –

- I. that members of the public and the press leave the Committee room. The remainder of the item would be in closed session and the webcast would be paused and restarted at the end of the closed session.
- II. 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.

36 : CARDIFF EAST INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Russell Goodway, Cabinet Member Investment & Development, Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development and Jon Day – Operational Manager to the meeting.

Members were reminded that this item was to enable pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet that seeks Cabinet approval for the proposed Cardiff East Industrial Strategy and the next stages in implementing it, including requesting Cabinet to consider potential support for the Cardiff Parkway development.

The scope of the scrutiny was to examine the proposed Industrial Strategy and the next steps in delivering it, whether there are any risks to the Council and the recommendations to Cabinet.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he said that the Administration acknowledges in Capital Ambition and Policy Statements that the Southern Arc of Cardiff, if a single local authority, would be the poorest in Wales, although this has been masked by what has happened in Cardiff Bay. There has been no significant investment in Cardiff East for a long time; it suffers from

inaccessibility, Bute Street is the most Eastern train station. The LDP identified the area as having most of the remaining employment land available and the need to maximise accessibility and allow people who live there to access the City Centre. It was important to open up the East of the City over the next decade or so and the Metro would be integral to that and the development of Cardiff Parkway Railway Station, which would provide a catalyst for new employment opportunities in the East of the City. The Strategy is written to align with the UK Government Industrial Strategy, in order to boost the chances of accessing available resources to build the infrastructure necessary to release potential to offer opportunities.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Cardiff East Industrial Strategy after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments;

Members noted that the recent Transport for Wales news report had not mentioned Cardiff Parkway when discussing new stations being built and also had not mentioned Newport Road or Rover Way. Members considered that these were key areas and asked how confident the Cabinet Member was that Cardiff Parkway would be delivered. The Cabinet Member said he was as confident that he could be, he had spoken to the Cardiff Parkway team who would be submitting planning applications in Spring 2020 and who were working closely with planners now with regards to what was required. He was encouraged that Welsh Government wanted to be part of the project and therefore assumed that they would help deliver on it. He did however acknowledge the entire development of the strategy is dependant to a significant degree on the development of the transport infrastructure as an integral part. The Council has the financial interest as land holding become more valuable. Officers added that the Cabinet Report does refer to the train stations at the locations mentioned.

Members noted that the report states that projects without strong green credentials won't have Council support and asked how this could be balanced against planning controls. The Cabinet Member conceded that the Council can't do much if people own the land and proposals meet other criteria, however if the project was reliant on public sector support, without strong green credentials, it would not get it.

Members asked who would sit on the Cabinet Sub Committee and the Cabinet Member advised that this was a decision for the Leader but he thought it would be himself, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport and probably the Leader.

Members asked about the mechanism and whether the reports would go to Cabinet for ratification or if there would be delegations to the subcommittee to deliver the strategy. The Cabinet Member expected that it would have to be endorsed by Cabinet.

Members noted that there was lots of work to be done and lots of it predicated by investment, and asked how confident the Cabinet Member was that it could be delivered. The Cabinet Member said that he has had conversations with politicians in Welsh Government, business owners, leaders in the strategy area and there was lots of support for what was trying to be achieved. He hoped that the private sector will have proposals to dovetail into the strategy that they will deliver themselves. There may be public sector pump priming, there was an early commitment to improve the

transport infrastructure. There was a need for a bridge over Rumney from Llanrumney into the Park and Ride at Pentwyn and a private partner was needed for this.

Members referred to the fact that the Transport Strategy was linked to the wider Regional Strategy of boosting employment opportunities for valley communities and asked how Cardiff was working with the Capital Region/City Deal. The Cabinet Member replied that he was confident with regards to Cardiff Parkway having benefits to the valley communities. He noted that the Ebbw Vale railway should link to Cardiff Parkway and there were discussions with the Leader of Newport City Council around working together as Newport was the next obvious growth area. It was important to get the Metro right and working well and for there to be just one change from Cardiff Central to Cardiff Parkway; road improvements would be needed to service this and Cardiff would be looking to City Deal for assistance. Officers added that they would also be opening relief and freight lines, cross rail for continuous lines. The Cabinet Member added that he was confident in the resources required for the project area, they had identified the mechanism where additional NNDR generated could be used to improve the infrastructure that services it.

Members asked whether any other opportunities for green tourism had been identified at the site. Officers advised that they would be opening up the walkway/cycleway closer to the coast. The Cabinet Member said they hoped to develop state of the art green energy projects, which could become visitor attractions in their own right; Business tourism was also being considered, with creative thinking there were lots of opportunities.

Members noted that creative thinking was not always apparent in Local Authorities and asked if this was an opportunity for Cardiff to lead the way. The Cabinet Member agreed that it could be, he said that when the strategy is launched they would invite the world to come to Cardiff. He wanted Cardiff to be a progressive Authority that welcomes good ideas and delivers leading edge schemes/projects with partners. Officers added that the landscape left behind from previous industrial use offers a great opportunity to clean up the landscape and deliver environmental improvements.

Members discussed the motorbike/scrambling track and Officers advised that it was still open and fully utilised by the Council who were looking at a deal with a company to clean up the site for an environmental project and part of the deal would be the relocation of the motorbike/scrambling facility.

Members asked about timescales and when the strategy was likely to be completed. The Cabinet Member advised it was a 20 year project, looking at the scale and value it is comparable to the non-residential component of Cardiff Bay.

AGREED: that the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

37 : ISV - NEXT STAGES - CONFIDENTIAL APPENDICES 4 & 5

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Russell Goodway, Cabinet Member Investment & Development and Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development to the meeting.

The Chairperson advised Members that this item was to enable pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet on the proposed development strategy for the ISV.

The scope of the scrutiny was to explore the key factors shaping future plans and the fit between these and wider Cardiff Bay regeneration plans, the financial assumptions in the report, whether there are any risks to the Council, the timeline, the next steps and the recommendations to Cabinet.

Members were reminded that Appendices 4 & 5 of Appendix A are confidential and if there were any questions on these, then it would be necessary to go into closed session.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he said that this had all started in 1998, it had been a difficult project to progress due to the struggle to wrestle landholdings from the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation, who had wanted the area as purely residential with high rise flats. Land was later transferred to the Welsh Development Agency and a further struggle to acquire it followed; there were remediation requirements for it to be developable. There had been further difficulties with individual projects such as the International Pool and Ice Rink. He was hopeful that the Council was now in a position to bring landholdings with partners to deliver ambitions for the peninsula of the Bay.

Members were provided with a presentation on ISV Next Stages after which the Cabinet Member invited questions and comments from Members;

Members asked where the hotel would be located and were advised potentially on the waterfront.

Members asked if the plan was modelled on somewhere else and were advised that officers had looked at lots of examples across the world and partners who are working in the USA and Middle East. More locally they were looking at Belfast (Vertigo), but this would be unique in the UK.

Members considered the area needed to have open space, areas for walking and cycling and a park with trees and shrubs. Members noted that the plans showed development right up to the waterfront but thought the ambition was to have a cycle route around the Bay. The Cabinet Member explained that the pedestrian walkways would be separate from the Cycle/Car areas; it was not possible for cyclists to have absolute access, there needed to be some separation, to meet the needs of those with visual impairments and some other disabilities.

Members referred to Community and Sense of Place and the importance of this to residents that live there; it would be important for them to have somewhere other than bars and restaurants etc. The Cabinet Member explained that there would be green spaces and trees; he considered it a valid point that there was a lack of community in some developments such as the Inner Harbour. He agreed to give

thought to a pocket park or community centre or other community space he considered that they could try to engineer a solution to this and perhaps link to existing Grangemoor Park. Officers added that the current plan for Cardiff Pointe does include a small park and that Pont Y Werin Bridge offers access to a park on the other side of the river.

Members asked how linkages and public transport to the City Centre could be achieved. Members were advised that this had been discussed with colleagues and they have explored the potential of park and ride facilities such as Culver House Cross or Junction 33. If parking away and using the bus could be offered it could help underpin the financial costs, but there was a need to ensure that they don't cause traffic backed up to the A4232, solutions needed to be explored in tandem with the development and water based transport was one of these ideas.

AGREED: that the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

38 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

39 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14 November 2019 at 4.30pm in Committee Room 4 County Hall Cardiff.

The meeting terminated at 8.15 pm