

PRESENTATION BRIEFING: *PROGRESS UPDATE RE CARDIFF COMMITMENT*

Purpose of the Report

1. To set the context for Members ahead of a presentation briefing at Committee on the results of the work carried out to implement the 'Cardiff Commitment'.

Scope of Scrutiny

2. To consider the results of the work to date to implement the Cardiff Commitment and make comments, observations and/ or recommendations to inform the way forward for this work.

Structure of the meeting

3. Members will hear from Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Education and Lifelong Learning), Councillor Russell Goodway (Cabinet Member – Investment and Development), Ken Poole (Head of Economic Development), Suzanne Scarlett (Operational Manager – Partnerships and Performance - Education), Victoria Poole (Business Development & Marketing Officer), Hannah Jenkins (Schools Liaison Officer) and Carly Davies (Cardiff Commitment Programme Manager). There will be a presentation taking Members through progress to date with the Cardiff Commitment and future plans.
4. The presentation will be followed by Members questions. Members will then be able to decide what comments, observations or recommendations they wish to pass on to the Cabinet for their consideration.

Background

5. The Administration's policy programme, Capital Ambition, states that the Administration will prioritise delivery of the '*Cardiff Commitment: helping young people, particularly those from disadvantaged and deprived communities, into employment, education or training*'¹ and ensuring that every child has access to these opportunities when leaving school.
6. This commitment has been embraced by the Public Service Board and is included in their Well Being Plan 2018-2023; it is also in the Council's Corporate Plan. It forms part of the Capital Ambition Delivery Programme and Cardiff 2030 vision for education and learning in Cardiff.
7. Cardiff Commitment connects the Education Directorate and Economic Development Directorate and works across the Council and with partners. It contributes to partnership work on Inclusive Growth and complements the *Improving Employer Engagement* Capital Ambition programme, which aims to coordinate and manage the range of training, apprenticeships, work experience and employment opportunities in Cardiff. A recent review of the Capital Ambition Delivery programme states that:

*'Employer engagement officers are co-located within the Economic Development Team, linking in with community benefits and holding major and local job fair events. The project will identify and understand the skills needed in the city in order to inform training and apprenticeship programmes. This work will include an understanding of the skills requirements of employers moving to Cardiff. The employer engagement officers will match and link in people with employers, offering a service for those who are looking to recruit.'*²

8. The Annual Wellbeing Report 2018-19 states that the Council secured 206 businesses pledges to the Cardiff Commitment, building a strong partnership

¹ Capital Ambition 2017

² Capital Ambition Delivery Programme Review and Self-Evaluation 2018, included as Appendix 2, Annual Well-Being Report 2018/19.

between employers and schools. The pledges offered a range of opportunities, including work experience, across the public, private and third sector.

9. Cardiff Council has increased the range of opportunities it offers young people, including a new round of apprenticeships, traineeships and work placements, with numbers increasing from 123 in 2017/18 to 181 in 2018/19.

10. The Council has also worked to implement 'Open Your Eyes' week, which provides an opportunity for schools to engage with businesses around opportunities and career pathways. In 2018/19, 47 primary schools and 8 secondary schools held *Open Your Eyes* events. In 2019/2020, *Open Your Eyes* week will be delivered across 54 primary schools and 9 secondary school, focusing on year 6 and year 7 pupils.

11. The percentage of young people 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) as at the end of the academic year 2017/18 was 1.9%, which is an improvement on previous years. However, the percentage of all care leavers NEET 12 months after leaving care rose from 50.6% in 2017/18 to 60% in 2018/19³. The text accompanying these performance figures states that :

*'..there continues to be opportunities to better connect young people with career opportunities and pathways beyond school, particularly those from vulnerable groups who may be facing challenges to secure positive destinations.'*⁴

12. The Annual Wellbeing Report 2018-19 highlights that the Inclusive Growth programme will be retained as a priority, with the following projects to be delivered in 2019/20:

- Improve employer engagement.
- Improving the use of work experience and volunteering as pathway into work.
- Improve data sharing with the DWP, Careers Wales and partners.

³ Data taken from Annual Wellbeing Report 2018-19, Appendix 1

⁴ As above

- Ensuring Community Learning fully aligns with needs of the job market and reviewing vocational and entry-level training and pathways into careers.

13. The Economic Directorate Delivery Plan 2019/20 contains the following action:

‘Support young people into education, employment or training by delivering the Cardiff Commitment:

- *Creating school/ business partnerships that target skills development in the key economic growth sectors of the Cardiff Capital Region*
- *Rolling out the ‘Open Your Eyes’ careers week to seven secondary school clusters.’*

14. The Economic Directorate Delivery Plan contains the following key milestone for 2019/20 for the above action:

- *‘Achieve 300 at total of commitments from local businesses by the end of Quarter 4’*

Way Forward

15. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Education and Lifelong Learning) and Councillor Russell Goodway (Cabinet Member – Investment and Development) will be invited to make a statement. Ken Poole (Head of Economic Development), Suzanne Scarlett (Operational Manager – Partnerships and Performance - Education), Victoria Poole (Business Development & Marketing Officer), Hannah Jenkins (Schools Liaison Officer) and Carly Davies (Cardiff Commitment Programme Manager) will attend to give a presentation and answer Members’ questions.

Legal Implications

16. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising

from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

17. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider the information in this report and the information presented at the meeting;
- ii) Determine whether they would like to make any comments, observations or recommendations to the Cabinet on this matter; and
- iii) Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance & Legal Services

10 January 2020