

Cyf/My Ref: CM45296

Eich Cyf/Your Ref: Scrutiny/PRAP/Comm Papers/Correspondence

Dyddiad/Date: 24 February 2021

Cllr David Walker
Chairperson, Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee
City of Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear David

Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee: 24 February 2021 Draft Budget Proposals 2021/22

Thank you for your letter dated 24 February 2021 and the useful comments raised. I can assure you that Cabinet was able to reflect on the points raised prior to our meeting on 25 February 2021.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Committee for their work in supporting the development of the Corporate Plan, the members who participated in the Performance Panel and Councillor Walker for once again chairing Performance Panel session. I believe that this has strengthened policy development and performance monitoring in the Council and further enhanced the role of scrutiny. A full response to the observations and recommendations made by the Performance Panel has been included as an appendix to this letter (Appendix A). I am pleased to note that a number of the proposals made by the Performance Panel, and this Committee, have been included in the Corporate Plan, alongside the recommendations of the other Scrutiny Committees.

The discussion on the safe restart of Schools, regaining lost ground and wider learner wellbeing was welcome, and note the recommendation that research is carried out to compare achievements and methods of schools in deprived areas of Cardiff with those highlighted as excellent in comparable London boroughs. The Council is currently working towards the Curriculum for Wales 2022, in accordance with The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill 2020. The Curriculum for Wales framework gives every school in Wales the opportunity to design their own curriculum within a national approach that ensures a level of consistency. It will provide scope within a national framework for

GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



schools to shape a curriculum, which connects, meaningfully to the local community and the experiences of learners. It would therefore not be appropriate to be comparing 'methods of schools' with London Boroughs. Further to this, the Welsh Government are currently consulting on New School Improvement Guidance: a Framework for Evaluation, Improvement and Accountability, which propose reforming current arrangements to ensure that accountability systems are aligned with the new Curriculum. As you're aware this has resulted in the removal of all shared pupil attainment data, categorisation and at the moment Estyn inspections too. It would therefore be inappropriate at this time to consider how school performance would be compared to Schools outside of Wales. The focus must remain on embedding the new arrangements for Wales.

I agree with the Committee that, following the pandemic, it is likely that working and travel patterns will be modified. As part of the recovery work the Council will take forward, a programme of measures to support district centres, as well as the City Centre and Bay. Committee members considered that the Plan would benefit from a rewritten emphasis on supporting local communities, and I would therefore draw attention to Step 6.21 *"Create better places through the delivery of new, high-quality, well-designed, sustainable and well-connected communities, as described by the Council's Master Planning Principle, by Applying place-making principles to major new settlements and developments, as well as existing communities, to support local centres and support the '15-minute city' principle and Utilising Section 106 contributions to help facilitate these improvements."*

I particularly welcome the Committee's support for the programme of work to establish Cardiff as a Dementia Friendly City. As all members of this administration have attended the Dementia Friendly training, I can strongly recommend attending and, in response to the Committee's specific request, I have agreed with Democratic Services that Dementia Friendly Training will be added to the Member's Development Programme for the year ahead.

As outlined at meeting of the Committee, the Council will progress a comprehensive programme of organisational recovery and renewal to capture the innovation and productivity gains achieved during lockdown. This work will include a full consideration of key metrics such financial, staff productivity and value for money measures.

In respect to the specific comments in your letter in respect to the Budget and Capital, I provide the following;

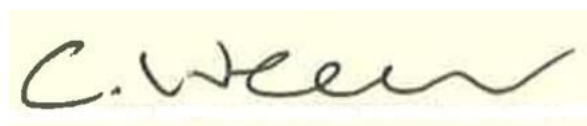
- I can confirm that the work on the Roath Park Dam is as a result of an instruction from Natural Resources Wales and is aligned with the flood relief work. The proposed works to the Dam at Roath Park will be scoped in consultation with Natural Resources Wales and ensure that opportunities for mitigating the impacts of the final phase of the Roath Brook Flood Scheme are secured.
- I can confirm that Officers will continue to refine the presentation of Covid-19 costs in future budget monitoring reports and will consider how RAG ratings for the Capital Programme can be best incorporated into future reports and will report to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting.

I hope that this letter captures all the points raised in your letter and thank you again for your support in the budget process this year.

Yn gywir
Yours sincerely



Y Cyng | Cllr Huw Thomas
Arweinydd Cyngor Caerdydd | Leader, Cardiff Council



Y Cyngorydd/Councillor Christopher Weaver
Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad/Cabinet member for
Finance, Modernisation & Performance

cc Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee
 Paul Orders, Chief Executive
 Chris Lee, Corporate Director Resources
 Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities
 Ian Allwood, Head of Finance
 Anil Hirani, OM Capital, Corporate & Treasury
 Gareth Newell, Partnership and Community Engagement Manager
 Dylan Owen, Head of Cabinet Office
 Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services
 Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Support Office
 Debi Said, PA to Leader