

COUNCIL: 22 JULY 2021

INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT

Atlantic Wharf Regeneration & Indoor Arena

I know that Councillors welcomed the most recent update on the Atlantic Wharf regeneration scheme and the progress being made in connection with the development of the Indoor Arena project.

The Council will acknowledge that the delivery of the arena with a capacity for 15,000 is the key element in the Council's Atlantic Wharf Masterplan, which is designed to kick start the next phase of regeneration in Cardiff Bay. However, Councillors will appreciate that the scheme is about more than just the indoor arena. We are committed to a wider regeneration that kick-starts the next phase of Cardiff Bay's regeneration, and in a way that benefits the communities on its doorstep.

As part of that regeneration, the Council is developing plans with the Wales Millennium Centre to establish a cultural partnership that will help create sustainable jobs and make sure that Cardiff will not only stage the best international performances in Cardiff Bay, but also showcasing the talent that we have in the city. This is a sector that, whilst being hit hard by the pandemic, is one where the Council expects there to be continued growth in the future and the onus is on us to ensure that the benefits of this growth are felt by local communities.

The Council has agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wales Millennium Centre to establish this partnership, with the goal of raising the international profile of our creative sector which supports a diverse talent pipeline which will sustain the city's creative contribution.

The Administration has also set out details of the next steps in the redevelopment of Atlantic Wharf, including the new council-operated, 1,300-space, multi-storey car park which will contain electric charging points, a solar farm and other green initiatives including a 'living green wall' and a hydroponics facility. Importantly, this will ensure that the area retains the overall parking provision in a people focussed way

The Administration has also set out details of the options for delivering a replacement for the Red Dragon Centre which will be completed in two phases, allowing the development of the replacement complex to proceed in advance of the current centre being demolished. This is important to minimise disruption to all existing tenants.

International Sports Village

The Administration has now also provided an update on the proposed velodrome and cycling facilities at the International Sports Village in Cardiff Bay, which will be delivered over the course of the next financial year. The plans allow us to progress the procurement, design and construction of the velodrome to replace the current facility at Maindy. As well as becoming home to the city's new Velodrome, the entire Village could be encircled by a 1km long circuit.

The facility will see further consolidation of sporting infrastructure on the peninsular, which already includes the International Pool, Ice Arena Wales and Cardiff International White Water. The Council has undertaken detailed engagement with cycling groups in bringing forward these proposals. The Council will welcome the fact that the new facilities will not be for elite athletes only but also very much about community use.

The intention is to have design works ready to submit to planning by September so construction could begin in early 2022.

Business Support

I am pleased to report that the Council's Economic Development team continues to work hard to support local businesses, and I can report that in the last month alone the team has approved some 1,500 grants totalling almost £4 million. Further support will also be provided later this month to support businesses who remain affected by any on-going Covid-19 restrictions.

Councillor Russell Goodway
Cabinet Member for Investment & Development
15 July 2021