

My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 14 July 2021

Councillor Russell Goodway
Cabinet Members
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Public Letter

Dear Councillor Goodway,

Velodrome: International Sports Village (ISV)

Thank you for attending the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee on 13 July 2021, along with Neil Hanratty, Chris Barnett, Steve Morris and Jo-Anne Phillips to discuss the report to Cabinet regarding the next stages in the Velodrome: ISV project. This letter captures the comments and observations from Members with regard to information in the public domain. I will send a separate, confidential letter to capture our views on exempt issues.

Members highlighted that concerns have been raised that not all current users of the Maindy velodrome will be able to use the new velodrome track at the ISV, due to its design. Members sought to understand whether this is the case. Members are reassured by the answers provided by officers that the track designer has been clearly instructed to ensure that the new track at the ISV velodrome is designed to be suitable for all current users of the Maindy velodrome, whether they are young, old, beginners or experienced cyclists and whether they use road or track bikes. Members note that cycling organisations are recommending 330 metre tracks as the optimal distance, which is why the new track is not as long as the track at the Maindy velodrome.

Members note the report to Cabinet states the need to test the market for a third party operator of the velodrome, given the possible VAT implications for the Council meaning it is unlikely to be financially viable for the Council to operate the velodrome. Members note the response from officers that this market testing would be part of the

broader work to inform the Full Business Case for the overall ISV site and that they are optimistic that they will find an operator. Members note that this is a key risk to the Council; this is an area we intend to explore further when we scrutinise the report to Cabinet on the ISV in September.

During our way forward discussion, Members reflected on the critical role active travel routes – walking and cycling – play in terms of ensuring good access to the ISV site. Members own recent experiences of walking and cycling to the Bayside Vaccination Centre and nearby locations demonstrates the poor condition of existing routes, in terms of surface quality, road crossings and connectivity. These need addressing, they need to be improved and made fit for purpose, to provide good access to the ISV site and the velodrome. In the response to this letter, **Members request** that you provide details of the plans to achieve improvements to active travel routes to the ISV site, including access from Cogan Station, the Ely trail, routes around the Cardiff Bay Retail Park and routes within the ISV site and Cardiff Bay. We are seeking reassurance that active travel is being planned into the overall improvement of the ISV site.

This letter requires a response please, to the following point:

Request

That you provide details of the plans to achieve improvements to active travel routes to the ISV site, including access from Cogan Station, the Ely trail, routes around the Cardiff Bay Retail Park and routes within the ISV site and Cardiff Bay.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Neil Hanratty Chris Barnett Steve Morris Jo-Anne Phillips
Clair James Cabinet Support Office Tim Gordon