

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Reasons for this Report

1. To update Members on correspondence arising from recent scrutiny meetings.
2. To invite expressions of interest in participating in joint scrutiny of Cardiff's Replacement LDP.

Correspondence

3. Following each Scrutiny Committee meeting, the Chair writes on behalf of all Members, to the relevant Cabinet Member and senior officer, summing up the Committee's comments, concerns and recommendations regarding the issues considered during that meeting. The Committee is routinely copied into the letters when they are forwarded to the Cabinet Member. Depending on the issues highlighted, the letter may request a response from the Cabinet Member to any recommendations made, and sometimes requests further information.
4. Where responses are *outstanding* the support officer continues to follow up on the Committee's behalf, particularly where the Committee has made a formal recommendation for monitoring as part of the new model in place to capture the impact of scrutiny. However, there are occasions that the Committee does not formally request a response.

5. The current position regarding Committee's correspondence is set out below for Members' information:

May 2021

- *Response awaited* - from the Chair to the Chairs of the Community Safety Leadership Board providing the Committee's comments and four recommendations on how the Community Safety Partnership can improve drug dealing and drug related crime in Cardiff.

July 2021

- *Response received* - from the Chair to the Cabinet Members for Social Care, Health & Wellbeing and Housing & Communities providing the Committee's comments and recommendations on the Local Authority Social Services Annual Report 2020-21 and Directorate Delivery Plans 2021-22. Members recommend that within the Social Services Annual Report, the Director provides a balanced analysis of the year's performance, highlighting both the successes and challenges of the directorate. The recommendation was accepted, and the Report was amended following Committee feedback before consideration at Full Council.
- *Response not requested* - from the Chair to the Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities providing the Committee's comments and observations on the Housing Development New Build Scheme Cabinet Report.
- *Response not requested* - from the Chair to the Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities providing the Committee's comments and observations on the development of the Prevent Programme.

September 2021

- *Response awaited* – from the Chairs of all five Scrutiny Committees to the Cabinet Members for Strategic Planning and Transport capturing the

collective observations and eight recommendations from the Council's five Scrutiny Committees on the Replacement Local Development Plans draft vision, issues, objectives and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

- *Awaiting circulation to the Committee* - from the Chair to the Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities providing the Committee's comments and feedback to aid the development of the Cardiff Design Standards document.

Replacement Local Development Plan - Joint Task & Finish Group

6. In September 2021 the five Scrutiny Committees individually considered the draft report titled *Cardiff Replacement Local Development Plan: Vision, Issues and Objectives and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report* prior to its consideration by Cabinet. Following this Scrutiny, a collective letter was sent to the Cabinet capturing the concerns and observations of all five committees.
7. The five Scrutiny Chairs consider it would be good practice to pool scrutiny expertise and continue a culture of collaboration on this key policy for the future of Cardiff. It was agreed to progress scrutiny of the next stages of the RLDP via a Task and Finish Group with cross-representation from all five Committees.
8. The Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee has proposed his Committee leads the task group and membership, whilst primarily taken from the Environment Scrutiny Committee, is open to representation from all Scrutiny Committees. Ensuring that all Committees have the opportunity to scrutinise aspects of the Replacement LDP directly related to their Terms of Reference.

9. The Task and Finish group will need to be established as soon as possible to commence work around the RLDP Strategic options, scheduled for consultation in November 2021. Timelines for the work of the task group are therefore to complete and report any findings and recommendations for this stage of the Plan's development back to Cabinet by the end of February 2021. The Terms of Reference will be established by the Task and Finish Group and presented to all 5 Scrutiny Committees for agreement.

10. Committee Members are invited to express an interest in participating in the Strategic Options stage of the Replacement LDP Task group.

Legal Implications

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 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

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- a. Note correspondence between the Committee and the Cabinet.
- b. Express an interest joining a task group of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee to consider the LDP.

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal

7 October 2021