
CITY RECOVERY & RENEWAL STRATEGY: ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides Members with a brief overview of this issue. Members will receive a presentation at this meeting regarding the City Recovery & Renewal Strategy engagement process and key themes emerging.

Background

2. In May 2021, Cabinet considered a report entitled '*Greener, Fairer, Stronger: City Recovery and Renewal Strategy*'. Cabinet approved the draft Strategy for engagement purposes. Cabinet delegated authority to '*the Director of Economic Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Investment & Development, to establish a programme of engagement, including a Child Friendly engagement process, in respect of the draft Strategy, and to return to Cabinet in the autumn with a final draft Strategy for approval.*'
3. The draft City Recovery & Renewal Strategy set out immediate steps for recovery, encouraging footfall from visitors, shoppers, and workers. It also set out how the city should respond and renew to build a stronger, more inclusive, and sustainable post-pandemic economy, via key missions:
 - Mission 1: Reimagine the city centre
 - Mission 2: A City for Everyone
 - Mission 3: City of Villages
 - Mission 4: Culture and sport - led renewal
 - Mission 5: Tech City
 - Mission 6: One Planet Recovery
4. The report to Cabinet set out that there would be a programme of engagement over the summer with the public and city stakeholders, including dedicated child-friendly events, with outcome presented back to Cabinet later this year.

The programme would be designed in collaboration with Cardiff University with a series of online events, including a webinar with key city stakeholders, a series of workshops with representative groups, a web-based survey open to all residents, and dedicated child-friendly events. There would be specific engagement with the Cardiff Youth Council, the Race Equality Task Force, the Public Service Board, and business representative groups such as the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

Previous Scrutiny

5. This Committee undertook pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet at its committee meeting on 13 May 2021. Regarding the proposed engagement and consultation, Members stated:
 - They were pleased that the consultation includes specific strands for children, young people, and representative groups, as well as the public and stakeholders
 - Welcome that the consultation will be used to finesse the final strategy.¹
6. With regards to the draft Recovery & Renewal Strategy, Members noted:
 - A mixture of public and private funding will be needed to deliver the proposals set out in the Strategy
 - Cardiff is attracting investment attention from the private sector, despite the pandemic
 - There is on-going demand for Grade A office space, both locally driven and due to potential relocations from elsewhere in the U.K., and that therefore the current Key Performance Indicator for Grade A office space is still appropriate
 - There is interest in communal workspace provision in the city centre and across the city, and officers are in discussions regarding this
 - It is important to make it easier to visit local centres and to highlight to all residents the worth of visiting local centres across Cardiff.²

¹ Extracts from the letter from Councillor Nigel Howells, Chair Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee, to Councillor Huw Thomas, Leader, dated 17 May 2021

² As above

7. Members also recommended including the Wales Coastal Path in the Strategy, emphasising its role as a visitor attraction and benefit to local residents, and were pleased that this recommendation was accepted.

Issues

8. The presentation, attached at **Appendix A** – marked '*to follow*' - will take Members through the details of the Recovery Engagement to date, identifying key themes and seeking Members' input prior to a future report to Cabinet.

Scope of Scrutiny

9. This briefing enables the Committee to be made aware of the Recovery Engagement process and key themes emerging and provides Members with the opportunity to input their views into the way forward.

Way Forward

10. At the meeting Councillor Huw Thomas (Leader), Neil Hanratty (Director, Economic Development), and Jon Day (Operational Manager, Economic Policy) will be in attendance to make a presentation and answer any questions Members may wish to ask.
11. Members may wish to review the information presented at the meeting and determine whether there are any comments, observations, or recommendations which they would like to pass on to the Leader.

Legal Implications

12. 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 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

13. 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 will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to review the information provided at the meeting and provide any comments, observations, or recommendations to the Leader.

DAVINA FIORE
Director of Governance and Legal Services

10 November 2021