

GREENER, FAIRER, STRONGER: CITY RECOVERY AND RENEWAL STRATEGY

LEADER (COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

AGENDA ITEM: 2

Reason for this Report

1. To seek approval of the 'Greener, Fairer, Stronger – City Recovery and Renewal Strategy'.

Background

2. In May 2021, Cabinet was presented with a draft Recovery and Renewal Strategy: *Greener, Fairer, Stronger*. This strategy aimed to review and revise the city's development agenda given the impact of the pandemic, and the expectation of changes in the model for economic development. To inform this strategy the Council commissioned Dr Tim Williams, a prominent expert on cities to consider how cities such as Cardiff would respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide strategic advice on how any renewal strategy should be developed.
3. At the May 2021 meeting Cabinet approved the draft 'Greener, Fairer, Stronger, the City Recovery and Renewal Strategy' for engagement purposes; and delegated authority to establish a programme of engagement, including a Child Friendly engagement process in respect of the draft Strategy, and to return to Cabinet with a final draft Strategy for approval.
4. Following the decision, a series of Greener, Fairer Stronger engagement sessions and stakeholder events took place from June to October. These events were hosted online and supported by partners including Cardiff University and Sustrans. Specific sessions were held with Cabinet Members for Economic Development and Inward Investment; Strategic Planning and Transport; and Communities.
5. A series of officer led engagement sessions were also undertaken throughout the same period with third sector representatives, business groups and cultural organisations.
6. The Child Friendly Team were also engaged to ensure that the opinions of the youth were captured, and this was achieved through a series of

workshops that were undertaken in October with both primary and secondary schools across Cardiff. In addition the Cardiff Youth Council have also identified a number of key missions as priorities for their consideration.

7. To supplement our activity further a Recovery and Renewal Survey produced by Cardiff Research Centre was undertaken that was open to all residents. There were 1,746 valid responses to the survey.

City Recovery and Renewal: Greener, Fairer, Stronger – Engagement Results

8. A summary of the engagement results is presented in Appendix A. The exercise showed broad support for the missions and the priorities identified in the draft strategy. There were however a few additional issues raised in the report, as well as emerging and consistent themes from both the survey and engagement events.

Safer, cleaner, greener and welcoming

9. Whilst recognised in the report, the theme of a city and city centre that is safe, clean, green and accessible for all was raised in almost all sessions as well as within the resident survey. Notably safety and cleanliness were also issues raised consistently by the Child Friendly engagement exercise. There was also general support for the notion of protecting and promoting green and open spaces in the city.

Transport as an underpinning theme

10. In all missions transport was raised as a consistent theme, and was seen as a key enabler of each of the missions. Accessibility of transport was seen as a determinant of economic wellbeing, but also links closely with environmental and health issues. Issues were raised in relation to perceived conflict between car and cycle use, though in the open responses a significant number of those completing the survey raised the need for continued investment in cycling infrastructure.

Cardiff as a 'Tech City'

11. The business engagement events noted that the themes of the initial research, notably the opportunity for smaller cities to benefit from the increased costs and congestion plaguing the larger megacities, were beginning to show signs of occurring in Cardiff. Notably the city is increasingly becoming seen as a destination for technology and knowledge based businesses. There was consensus that such an approach was important if Cardiff is to raised productivity, and that given the reliance of agglomeration on the sector, the city offered the best opportunity to Wales to establish a competitive based.

Greater links with health and wellbeing

12. The link between health and wellbeing was outlined in the draft strategy. However feedback recognised the cross-cutting nature of health and wellbeing across all missions, linking the economic, environment and social benefits.

Education and Skills

13. The need to highlight the prominent role of education and skills in the recovery was also noted. This, again, is a multi-faceted issue that would address existing inequalities, as well as being a key component of establishing Cardiff as a 'Tech City' for Wales. The need to embed education in areas such as culture was also noted, in particular in ensuring that developments such as the new arena helped to support more and better opportunities for local residents and businesses and ensuring that the city becomes a focal point for production as well as performance.

Role of the foundational economy

14. Greater recognition of role of public services in economic development, and well as pressures on recruitment in areas such as care and hospitality, meant that there is increasingly concern that constraints could emerge on critical service sector jobs in the city. Improved accessibility by public transport, increased provision of appropriate skills support, and the promotion of new ways of working within the sector were identified as key means of mitigating this impact.

Accessibility to opportunity is critical

15. Whilst embedded in the report, the issue of access was considered important from a number of perspectives. This included physical access, but also raised the need for a greater understanding of the impact of policy decisions on specific groups within the city.
16. In the engagement sessions with young people it was also noted that many had never been to major events in the city, including any of the city's stadium. Many had not even visited Cardiff Castle. Cost, transport and communication were noted as key issues in addressing this.

City Recovery and Renewal: Greener, Fairer, Stronger Strategy

17. Following the consultation exercise, a revised Recovery and Renewal Strategy has been developed, attached as Appendix B. The report includes additional reference to the issues outlined above, as well as a streamlined list of priorities and projects that reflects the engagement exercise.

Reason for Recommendations

18. To approve the Greener, Fairer, Stronger Recovery and Renewal strategy.

Financial Implications

19. This report sets out a series of actions and priorities, some of which have already been fully costed and the financial resource identified from either Council or external funding sources. Where actions and priorities have not yet been fully costed nor funding identified then the development of a robust business case will need to be considered prior to implementation in order to assist the Council budget setting process for Revenue and Capital 2022/23 and ensure appropriate level of funding is in place. In the event of any funding gaps being identified, then consideration should be given to the likelihood of obtaining external funding and the timing of the costs incurred. Where actions and priorities have been identified as requiring additional costs beyond 2022/23 then those matters should be contained and considered within the overall Medium Financial Plan and the council's overall strategy for financial resilience. Robust risk registers should be held at the appropriate service / project / programme level with a regular review in order to ensure that risks remain time appropriate along with the right risk mitigations being in place and being developed.

Legal Implications

20. Cabinet has responsibility for preparing, agreeing, and where appropriate, consulting on the Authority's plans, policies and strategies, which do not form part of the Policy Framework. The proposed strategy appended falls within Cabinet's reserved powers. The outcomes of the public engagement programme referred to in this report must be conscientiously taken into account by Cabinet in its decision making. The proposed strategy identifies a number of future projects, which will require further decision making to implement. Specific legal advice can be provided on those matters as those proposals develop.

Equalities & Welsh Language

21. In considering this matter the decision maker must have regard to the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must, in making decisions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are: (a) Age, (b) Gender reassignment (c) Sex (d) Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, (e) Disability, (f) Pregnancy and maternity, (g) Marriage and civil partnership, (h) Sexual orientation (i) Religion or belief –including lack of belief.
22. When taking strategic decisions, the Council also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage ('the Socio-Economic Duty' imposed

under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010). In considering this, the Council must take into account the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers (WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 (gov.wales) and must be able to demonstrate how it has discharged its duty.

23. An Equality Impact Assessment aims to identify the equalities implications of the proposed decision, including inequalities arising from socio-economic disadvantage, and due regard should be given to the outcomes of the Equality Impact Assessment.
24. The decision maker should be mindful of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

25. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and is globally responsible. In discharging its duties under the Act, the Council has set and published well being objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the national well being goals. The wellbeing objectives are set out in Cardiff's Corporate Plan 2020 -23.
26. When exercising its functions, the Council is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its wellbeing objectives. This means that the decision makers should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the wellbeing objectives and must be satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those objectives.
27. The wellbeing duty also requires the Council to act in accordance with a 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Council to act in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, the Council must:
 - Look to the long term
 - Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems
 - Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals
 - Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions
 - Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them

28. The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible on line using the link below: <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

Property Implications

29. There are no property implications arising from this report

HR Implications

30. There are no direct HR implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to approve the Greener, Fairer, Stronger Recovery and Renewal Strategy attached as Appendix B.

Senior Responsible Officer	Neil Hanratty Director Of Economic Development
	10 December 2021

The following appendices are attached:

- Appendix A: Greener, Fairer, Stronger Engagement Report
Appendix B: Greener, Fairer, Stronger Strategy