

## **ECONOMY & CULTURE COMMITTEE PAGE - Draft copy for Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22**

**Our Membership** – photos to be sourced from library

Councillor Nigel Howells (Chair)

Councillors Jane Henshaw; Iona Gordon; Gavin Hill-John; Chris Lay; Thomas Parkhill; Adrian Robson; Abdul Sattar; Ed Stubbs.

Youth Council Representative – Eshaan Rajesh (photo provided)

### **Our Purpose**

- The Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee drives improvement across economic development, regeneration, parks, leisure, sports, libraries, hubs, culture, events, and tourism.
- We hold to account those in charge, to make sure decisions are transparent and right for Cardiff.
- We listen to people who live and work in Cardiff, using their views and experiences to inform our scrutiny to help ensure the Council and partners deliver the right services for citizens.
- We make recommendations to enhance the use of resources, performance, and service delivery.

### **Our Achievements**

- **Community Sport in Cardiff** - Members carried out an Inquiry focusing on Regional Sport Partnership proposals. Members heard from Sport Wales, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Sport Cardiff, as well as Cardiff Council's Cabinet Member and officers. The final report was presented to Cabinet in February 2022. Members recommended maintaining our current Joint Venture with Cardiff Metropolitan University, which boosts engagement and participation in community sport for our most disadvantaged residents. However, if maintaining the status quo proves impossible, due to funding changes, Members recommended reducing the footprint of the Regional Sports Partnership, clarifying governance arrangements, and productive engagement with politicians, to ensure the partnership meets the needs of Cardiff's communities. The Cabinet response to the recommendations is awaited.
- **Regeneration and Recovery** – this Committee considered a significant number of reports to Cabinet on high-profile **regeneration projects**, including the International Sports Village, proposed Velodrome, Atlantic Wharf, Indoor Arena, James Street Regeneration and Cardiff Bay regeneration. Many of these reports contained confidential information and our comments on this is likewise confidential. However, we can report that Members recommended liaison with the Access Forum to ensure accessibility issues are considered and addressed from the start of the

Atlantic Wharf footbridge design process; this recommendation was accepted and expanded to include local community groups. Committee Members also scrutinised reports to Cabinet on the **Council's response to the pandemic**, including the City Recovery and Renewal Strategy and Action Plan and Castle Street proposals, focusing on how these proposals will assist businesses, workers, and residents of Cardiff.

- **Service Delivery** – Committee Members scrutinised reports to Cabinet on changes to services for Into Work and Adult Community Learning, community engagement and safety in parks, the delivery of leisure services via GLL, the Old Library and the Norwegian Church. Members recommended exploring the possibility of increasing the Into Work Finder's Fee to the market level; this recommendation was accepted. Members encouraged the use of eco-friendly, low-tech, and sustainable lighting for parks, where this was needed and in line with promoting biodiversity, which was welcomed by the Cabinet Member. Members also recommended using the Council's social media channels to encourage use of GLL leisure centres, including providing information about how to access these via public transport; this recommendation was accepted.
- **Strategy & Bid Development** – Committee Members scrutinised the draft Physical Activity & Sport Strategy and Allotments Strategy as well as exploring progress in implementing the Music Strategy. Members scrutinised the bids for UK Government funding for levelling-up and received a report on one of the specific projects to use this funding, the proposed Ely Youth Zone.
- **Corporate Issues** - Committee Members have scrutinised corporate issues, such as the Corporate Plan, Budgetary Proposals and the first stages of the replacement Local Development Plan. Committee Members have been briefed on budget and performance monitoring reports and did not identify any areas of concern.

## Quotes

*'As ever, your consideration of the matter is very much appreciated' – Cllr Thomas – Levelling-Up*

*'I thank Members for their considered reflections on the proposed schemes' – Cllr Goodway – James Street Regeneration*

*'The Committee raised some very important points concerning the installation of lighting... I can advise that the use of low tech, sustainable lighting options will be considered and, furthermore an environmental appraisal undertaken.' – Cllr Bradbury – Parks Safety*