

**UEFA EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL TOURNAMENT 2028  
(UEFA EURO 2028) EXPRESSION OF INTEREST': PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

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*Appendix 1 of the Cabinet Report attached at Appendix A is not for publication as it contains exempt information of the description contained in paragraphs 14 and 16 and 21 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It is viewed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.*

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report enables Members to provide pre-decision scrutiny of a report seeking approval from Cabinet at their meeting on 10 March 2022 for Cardiff to become a bidding host city for the UEFA European Football Championship Final Tournament 2028 ("Euro 2028").
2. Members should note that **Appendix 1** of the Cabinet report is exempt from publication. Members are requested to keep this information confidential, in line with their responsibilities as set out in the Members Code of Conduct and the Cardiff Undertaking for Councillors.

**Scope of Scrutiny**

3. At their meeting on 10 March 2022, the Cabinet will consider a report seeking approval from Cabinet to support the submission of an expression of interest by 23 March 2022 to become a host city for the UEFA European Football Championships Final Tournament in 2028 (UEFA EURO 2028).
4. During this scrutiny, Members can explore:
  - a. The proposal to express an interest
  - b. The proposed partnership working

- c. The financial, legal and property implications for the Council and any risks to the Council
- d. The next steps and timelines involved, and
- e. The recommendations to Cabinet.

### **Structure of the meeting**

- 5. The Chair will move that this item be considered in two parts: an open session, where Members will be able to ask questions on the issues and papers that are in the public domain; and a closed session, where members of the public will be excluded, where Members can ask questions that pertain to **Appendix 1**.
- 6. Members will hear from Councillor Huw Thomas (Leader) and Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member – Culture and Leisure), Paul Order (Chief Executive) and Kathryn Richards (Head of Culture, Venues, Tourism and Events). Members will be able to ask questions of the panel of witnesses.
- 7. Members will then be able to decide what comments, observations, or recommendations they wish to pass on to the Cabinet for their consideration prior to making their decisions.

### **Report to Cabinet**

- 8. **Points 2-3** of the report to Cabinet provide background information on the EUROS and the partnership work to date between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland's governments and Football Associations.
- 9. **Points 4 -8** of the report to Cabinet set out issues, including that the submissions of interest for the 2028- and 2032-EURO tournaments are required by 23 March 2022 and that the Welsh Government has requested that Cardiff Council indicate its position, which it is proposed is captured in an in-principle letter of commitment in respect of the Council's projected obligations and associated costs.
- 10. **Confidential Appendix 1** sets out the projected requirements and associated cost implications.

11. **Point 8** of the report to Cabinet states that following UEFA's announcement on the 5 April 2022 and receipt of the UEFA EURO 2020 Technical Specification, all partner agencies will be working closely together to finalise the bid document, and that at this point a further report will be presented to Cabinet to consider the city's obligations and commitments prior to submission of the final five nation bid.
12. Members are advised to consider the **Legal Implications at Points 10-17; Financial Implications** are set out in **Confidential Appendix 1**, and there are no property or HR implications set out in the report.
13. **Points 21 – 23** of the report to Cabinet set out the reasons the decision has been certified by the Chief Executive as urgent. Councillor Howells, Chair Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee, has agreed that this report should be certified as urgent.

### **Proposed Recommendations to Cabinet**

14. The report to Cabinet contains the following recommendation:

*Cabinet is recommended to support the submission of the expression of interest for Cardiff to become one of the Host Cities to host the UEFA European Football Championship Final Tournament in 2028 subject to confirmation of in principle financial support being confirmed by all bid partners.*

### **Previous Scrutiny**

15. In April 2014, Members undertook urgent pre-decision scrutiny of a report to Cabinet regarding becoming a host city for the UEFA European Football Championship Final Tournament 2020 Bid ("Euro 2020"). The resultant Chair's letter and response from the Cabinet Member are attached at **Appendix B**.
16. In 2018, this Committee undertook an Inquiry into Events in Cardiff, which found that events are worthwhile for Cardiff, both economically and socially. The Inquiry made a series of recommendations, including:

- a. lobby for increased funding to meet the costs incurred by statutory services,
- b. respond to the concerns of communities affected by events, by improving our communication and consultation processes, and
- c. increase the legacy and impact of events, so we maximise the benefits for our residents and our economy.

## **Way Forward**

17. Councillor Huw Thomas (Leader) and Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member – Culture and Leisure) will be invited to make a statement. Paul Order (Chief Executive) and Kathryn Richards (Head of Culture, Venues, Tourism and Events) will attend, and all witnesses will be available to answer Members' questions on the proposals.

18. All Members are reminded of the need to maintain confidentiality with regard to the information provided in **Appendix 1**. Members will be invited to agree the meeting go into closed session to enable discussion of this information.

## **Legal Implications**

19. 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/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**

20. 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider the information in this report, its appendices and the information presented at the meeting
- ii) Determine whether they would like to make any comments, observations, or recommendations to the Cabinet on this matter in time for its meeting on 10 March 2022, and
- iii) Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance & Legal Services**

**4 March 2022**