

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 JANUARY 2023

Present: Councillor (Chairperson)
Councillors Brown-Reckless

52 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Naughton.

53 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wong declared a personal interest in Item 3 as Chair of Governors at Cathays High School.

Cllr Brown-Reckless declared a personal interest as user of facilities at ISV.

54 : INTERNATIONAL SPORTS VILLAGE

The Chairperson advised that this item enabled the Committee to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet, attached at Appendix A of its papers.

The scope of the scrutiny is set out at point 4 of the cover report and includes exploring the proposals in the report to Cabinet as well as testing the financial, legal and risk implications for the Council, what the next steps are, and the recommendations to Cabinet.

This item contains confidential information at Appendices 2,3, and 5-13 of Appendix A, Members were reminded not to refer to these in open session.

The Chairperson welcomed:

- Cllr Goodway – Cabinet Member – Investment and Development
- Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development
- Chris Barnett – Operational Manager – Major Projects
- Jo-Anne Phillips – Project Manager

The Cabinet Member was invited to make a statement, after which Officers were asked to make their presentation with the public slides.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members.
Disposals Strategy

Members welcomed the proposed disposals strategy for residential and commercial plots. Members noted:

- the proposed hybrid approach will enable the master developer to ensure a comprehensive approach across the site that meets the Council's masterplan, for example a uniform Bay edge
- the contract will include 12-month long stops within an overall 5-year programme, to enable the Council to monitor progress by the master developer and address non-delivery.

Leisure Destination

Members noted the argument for a Full Business Case for the whole leisure destination is that this will provide certainty that all elements will be delivered.

Members noted that all elements will have to stack up individually and overall, and that the Full Business Case will need to demonstrate this.

Operator Strategy

Members noted that the report to Cabinet seeks approval to appoint operators for the Ice Arena and Velodrome, as set out in Confidential Appendix 5. Members noted that this would enable the Full Business Case for the Leisure Destination to be finalised.

Velodrome

Members sought to understand the impact on the leisure destination element of the ISV if the Velodrome were not to proceed. Members noted that the Council would seek other attractions for the site and that Officers are sure another viable proposal would come forward.

Members explored the work with local cycling groups, cycling governing bodies, and other sports groups, regarding the design of the velodrome, and were keen to understand whether the concerns on this, which have been raised with Members, have been addressed. Members noted:

- a workshop has been held to enable local cycling groups, cycling governing bodies, and other sports groups to speak directly with the track designer and discuss any concerns they had
- officers' views are that the workshop was positive, with many attendees reassured by the responses received; Maindy Flyers still have some concerns and further workshops are being held to enable continued dialogue
- the track designer has given assurances that the proposed design is capable of being used by road and track bikes, all ages and all abilities
- the proposed design includes an inner-field, in the centre of the velodrome, that is level and capable of being used by beginners.

Members noted officer's assertion that it is still the intention to provide the velodrome in the ISV before the Maindy Velodrome is de-commissioned, subject to the Charities Commission decision. Members noted that Officers are seeking clarification of what would be the impact of a delayed Charities Commission decision, regarding the Maindy Trust Land issues, on the Schools Organisation Programme and whether there would be a knock-on impact on the ISV velodrome. Members asked that they be kept abreast of developments in this area.

Members thanked Neil Hanratty for his clarification that there would be an opportunity for this committee to scrutinise the velodrome proposals in detail when the Full Business Case comes forward.

Energy Strategy

Members welcomed the proposed focus on green energy for the ISV site. With regard to the potential use of wind turbine power, Members requested that officers speak with the Cardiff Bay sailing community to understand any impact on their activities that this could cause.

Single Management Organisation

Members sought to understand how the various aspects of this would work in practice. Members recognised that further work was required to provide clarity on specifics; Members were interested to explore this in more detail when the Outline Business Case is brought to Cabinet, including examining proposed governance arrangements.

Park & Ride/ MSCP

Members were interested to understand the proposals for the Multi Storey Car Park and Park and Ride and recognised that many of Members' specific concerns could only be addressed when work is completed on the Outline Business Case and Full Business Case; therefore, Members await further information from these. When these come before the Committee, Members wish to receive information on:

- the consultation undertaken with business on the charging regime to understand potential impacts on existing and new businesses
- the consistency of the proposed charging regime with other charging regimes operating in Cardiff.

Members were also keen to understand the rationale for a park and ride facility at the ISV and how this fits with the Council's wider Park & Ride Strategy and Transport Strategy. Zack Hellard, Youth Council representative, highlighted the need to communicate available transport options effectively with communities so that they know the choices available to them and also to communicate effectively with bus users regarding potential changes to bus routes. Members noted that this would fall under the remit of the Environment Scrutiny Committee and these points would be passed on.

Inclusive Programming

Members welcomed the work to ensure the ISV results in more people from local communities, community groups and schools using the leisure and sports facilities, as highlighted in the Equalities Impact Assessment at Appendix 14 of the report to Cabinet.

Community Benefits

Members welcomed and noted:

- the Council's social and affordable housing provision policies will apply to the ISV

- health facilities are able to be provided on site, via Ground Floor units, and this forms part of the masterplan approach
- officers are working to achieve s106 agreements that are payable without occupancy level triggers.

Risks

Members noted that the Council can manage and mitigate risk but cannot eradicate risk completely.

Budget

Members noted the budget spend as set out in Confidential Appendix 13, required to enable the development of the various Businesses Cases and planning applications needed to move to the next stage of the ISV.

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded from the meeting at this point during consideration of this item as the Committee discussed exempt information of the description contained in paragraph 14 and 16 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The public may be excluded from the meeting by resolution of the Committee pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during discussion of this item.

AGREED: that the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

55 : SHAPING CARDIFF'S POST PANDEMIC ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The Chairperson advised Members that the draft report for Committee's Shaping Cardiff's Post Pandemic Economic Recovery Inquiry, which the Chairperson and Cllrs Berman, Henshaw, Jenkins, Lloyd Jones have undertaken, with Cllr Robinson contributing to the initial scoping and terms of reference, was being considered to enable the whole Committee to consider the report and identify any amendments, prior to agreeing the report for submission to Cabinet.

The Principal Scrutiny Officer outlined the key points from the cover report including the key findings and recommendations.

Members wished to acknowledge the Principal Scrutiny Officer's hard work in the report.

RESOLVED: to endorse the report for submission to the Cabinet.

56 : CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL - JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - UPDATE REPORT

Members were advised that this item provided them with an update on the work of the City Deal Scrutiny Committee.

The Principal Scrutiny Officer outlined the report for Members.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

57 : CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

RESOLVED: to note the report and to request the Principal Scrutiny Officer seek a response to the outstanding information regarding the confidential letter re St David's Hall.

58 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

59 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

28/02/23 at 2.00pm – Budget Scrutiny

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