

**UEFA EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL TOURNAMENT 2028
(UEFA EURO 2028) BID: PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

Appendices 1-7 of the Cabinet Report attached at Appendix A are not for publication as they contain exempt information of the description contained in Part 4 paragraphs 14 and Part 5 paragraph 21 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act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 23 March 2023 for Cardiff to become a bidding host city for the UEFA European Football Championship Final Tournament 2028 (“Euro 2028”).
2. Members should note that **Appendices 1-7** of the Cabinet report are 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 23 March 2023, the Cabinet will consider a report seeking approval from Cabinet to support the submission of a final bid 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:
 - The proposed final bid
 - The proposed partnership working
 - The financial, legal and property implications for the Council and any

risks to the Council

- The next steps and timelines involved, and
- 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, namely the report to Cabinet attached at **Appendix A**; and a closed session, where members of the public will be excluded, where Members can ask questions that pertain to **Appendices 1-7**.
6. Members will hear from Councillor Huw Thomas (Leader) and Councillor Jennifer Burke (Cabinet Member – Culture, Parks, Events and Venues), 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 2-5** 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 6 -8** of the report to Cabinet set out that the final bid submission for the 2028 EURO tournament is required to go to print by 24 March 2023 and that the confidential appendices set out the Host City Agreement and associated guarantee letters.
10. The report to Cabinet has seven appendices, as follows:
 - **Confidential Appendix 1** - Host City Obligations and Finance
 - **Confidential Appendix 2** – EURO 2028 Host City Agreement
 - **Confidential Appendix 3** – Sustainability Guarantee
 - **Confidential Appendix 4** – Rights Protection Committee and Enforcement Guarantee

- **Confidential Appendix 5**- Confirmation letter for Accommodation Capacity and Fair Pricing
- **Confidential Appendix 6** – Use of Figurative Elements Guarantee – Host City Cardiff
- **Confidential Appendix 7** – Host City Budget - Cardiff

11. Members are advised to consider the **Legal Implications** at **Points 10-22**; **Financial Implications** are set out in **Confidential Appendix 1**, and there are no property or HR implications set out in the report.

12. **Points 26 – 28** of the report to Cabinet set out the reasons the decision has been certified by the Chief Executive as urgent. On this basis, Councillor Wong, Chair Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee, has agreed that this report should be certified as urgent.

Proposed Recommendations to Cabinet

13. The report to Cabinet contains the following recommendation:

- i. Approve the submission of the European Football Championships Final Tournament 2028 Bid.*
- ii. Approve the Host City Agreement and all associated guarantees for submission to the UK&I Bid team by the deadline of the 24th March 2024 subject to confirmation of in principle financial support being confirmed by all bid partners.*
- iii. Delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Culture, Parks & Events) to consider any further matters relating to the bid to continue to support and develop the UK&I bid, subject to the terms of the financial commitment agreed by Cabinet on 10 March 2022.*

Previous Scrutiny

14. 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:

- lobby for increased funding to meet the costs incurred by statutory services,
- respond to the concerns of communities affected by events, by improving our communication and consultation processes, and

- increase the legacy and impact of events, so we maximise the benefits for our residents and our economy.

15. In March 2022, this committee undertook pre-decision scrutiny of a report to Cabinet seeking approval for Cardiff to submit an expression of interest in becoming one of the Host cities for EURO's 2028. The public letter from the then Chair, Councillor Howells, to Councillor Thomas, Leader, is attached at **Appendix B**, and the confidential letter has been circulated to committee members separately.

Way Forward

16. Councillor Huw Thomas (Leader) and Councillor Jennifer Burke (Cabinet Member – Culture, Parks, Events and Venues) 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.

17. All Members are reminded of the need to maintain confidentiality regarding the information provided in **Appendices 1-7**. Members will be invited to agree the meeting go into closed session to enable discussion of this information.

Legal Implications

18. 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

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 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 23 March 2023, and
- iii) Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance & Legal Services

17 March 2023