

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 MARCH 2023

Present: Councillor Wong(Chairperson)
Councillors Henshaw, Jenkins, Lloyd Jones, Naughton and Thomson

66 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies have been received from Councillor Rodney Berman, Councillor Stephen Cunnah and Zack Hellard – Youth Council representative.

67 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from; Cllr Lloyd Jones who declared a personal interest as a member of the Red Wall; Cllr Henshaw declared a personal interest as she has family members who work for the Council. The Leader declared personal interests as he is a member of the Red Wall and as a Director of the Millennium Stadium PLC. The Chief Executive declared a personal interest as a Director of Millennium Stadium PLC.

68 : EURO'S 2028

The Chairperson advised Members that this item was to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of a report to Cabinet that seeks approval for Cardiff to submit a final bid to be a host city for the UEFA European Football Championship Final Tournament 2028 (“Euro 2028”).

The Chairperson reminded Members that he had agreed that this item be deemed ‘urgent’, as set out in the Constitution, and therefore Call-In is disappplied. Member noted that the item contained confidential information at Appendices 1-7 – and were asked not to refer to these in open session.

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Thomas – Leader, Cllr Burke - Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events, Paul Orders – Chief Executive and Kathryn Richards – Head of Culture, Venues, Tourism and Events, for this item.

The Leader and Chief Executive were invited to make opening statements after which the Chairperson asked Members for any questions, comments or observations.

Members noted the benefits of hosting the Euro 2028 tournament but asked about the key risks if the bid was successful. Members were advised that the key risk was cost escalation, but the Chief Executive said officers would seek to manage this through the budget process. It was added that the delivery of major events always must consider external factors. Discussing the management of such an event, Members were advised that there are tried and tested partnership arrangements in place, with many levels of expertise between the Council and its partners.

Referring to transport issues at major events, Members sought assurance around commitment and confidence in dealing with a tournament of this scale. The Leader

explained that the capacity of the Stadium is known, so this would be planned for in the approach taken. Previously there have been issues in relation to industrial action and transport infrastructure works, but previous experiences can be reflected upon. The Leader added that transport for the Champions League was tightly managed with partners, especially Transport for Wales and a similar approach would be taken. The Chief Executive added that due to the scale of the event, the level of Government and Public Sector support would be significant and would be detailed at the transport planning stage.

Members referred to communication around the event and reflected on the messaging given out during the Champions League, which resulted in a reduction in footfall in the City Centre. The Leader stated that the Communications message would be carefully considered and would aim to increase stays in the City.

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 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.

69 : ATLANTIC WHARF

The Chairperson advised Members that this item is a pre-decision scrutiny item, focusing on the recommendations to Cabinet regarding the Atlantic Wharf scheme.

Members were reminded that the item contains confidential information at Appendices 2 -6 and 8-13 of Appendix A – and were asked not to refer to these in open session.

The Chairperson welcomed Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development and Chris Barnett – Operational Manager – Major Projects, for this item. Cllr Goodway's apologies were noted.

Members were provided with a presentation on information in the public domain, after which the Chairperson invited questions, comments and observations.

Discussing the Red Dragon Centre, Members sought clarification on the capital cost of buying it, when it was bought and how it is costed into the development. Members were advised that it was bought in 2020, the amount paid was in the public domain. Currently the income exceeds the costs so that surplus is ringfenced and contained for bad debt. There is also provision made from the Welsh Government hardship fund for bad debt. Members noted that the capital cost was still outstanding on the balance sheet and that there would not be any income when the centre goes into the Atlantic Wharf development. Officers explained that the detail around recovering the initial capital outlay would be in the outline business case.

Referring to the review of the wider infrastructure, Members sought assurance that there would be positive impacts for the local residents. Officers explained that there had been a review of the design to recover monies and a review of the infrastructure and how it would be brought forward. Officers didn't consider there would be any compromise at all on the quality of the development and the design of the green spaces/public realm, these would still be delivered in accordance with the planning permission.

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 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.

70 : REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - JOINT SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Principal Scrutiny Officer outlined the report and sought Members expressions of interest in sitting on the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

The following Members expressed an interest: Cllrs P Jenkins, Thomson, Lloyd Jones, Henshaw, Brown-Reckless.

71 : DRAFT SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Principal Scrutiny Officer explained that this report seeks Members' approval of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee pages of the joint Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23, attached as Appendix A.

Members were asked for any amendments/additions that they may have and Members wished to include the Ice Rink as an item that had been considered.

Discussing future priorities, Members expressed an interest at looking at the Taff Water Trail from Tongwynlais to Cardiff Bay, and the Llanrumney Bridge Project .

72 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

73 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25 April 2023 at 4.30pm

The meeting terminated at 7.20 pm

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