

CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD

Item 12 – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER STATEMENTS

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COUNCIL: 24 SEPTEMBER 2015

STATEMENT OF LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS)

AGENDA ITEM: 12

Core Cities Visit

On the one year anniversary of the Scottish independence referendum, the Core Cities held their first Cabinet meeting in Cardiff. The Core Cities are ten of the UK's largest cities outside London, are home to 18 million people and generate around 25% of the UK's wealth. It was a great opportunity for the Welsh capital to host the Leaders or Mayors of the major UK cities and experience Cardiff on the eve of hosting some major Rugby World Cup matches.

In September 2014, Cardiff and Glasgow became the first cities outside of England to join the network. As a Group, the Core Cities advocate the devolution of powers to cities to create more jobs, deliver effective services and make an even greater contribution to the national economy. Cardiff is more than playing its part. Two out of every three net new jobs in South East Wales were created in Cardiff over recent years and the city is projected to be the fastest growing major city in Britain over the next 15 years – a reflection on how desirable a place it is to live and work. Despite this, compared to other European cities like Munich and Barcelona, Cardiff and the other core cities are underperforming.

As members of the Core Cities, Cardiff has an opportunity to address this. Working with Welsh Government, Cardiff is uniquely placed to make use of the flexibilities of Welsh devolution and the lessons learnt from other UK cities to deliver on behalf of the wider city region and for Wales as a whole. The Core Cities Cabinet was also addressed by the Minister for Finance and Government Business who outlined the benefits of Welsh devolution. It was also an important opportunity to learn from the cities that have successfully negotiated and delivered City Deals in other areas of the UK, and who are currently negotiating further devolution and/or city deals.

The Core Cities also held interesting discussions with representatives from the Arts Councils of Wales, England and Scotland on how the arts can contribute to public service reform and social and economic inclusion. Over the next 12 months the Core Cities have agreed to do a major piece of work on economic inclusion that will help shape the national agenda on this issue.

City Deal and Great Western Cities Submission to HM Treasury

The Cardiff Capital Region has now provided an initial submission for a City Deal to Her Majesty's Treasury ahead of the 4th of September deadline, following agreement by the Leaders of the ten local authorities of South East Wales. It confirms a collective commitment to negotiating a City Deal.

The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal is being developed in time for the UK Government's March 2016 Budget and will require a period of intense work through the rest of this calendar year in order to inform the Spending Review and Autumn Statement. The next steps will involve a detailed programme of stakeholder engagement to develop the City Deal further. Though the timescales will be challenging, this represents an important opportunity for the region.

Cardiff, Bristol and Newport have also provided a submission to Her Majesty's Treasury about how the Great Western Cities (GWC) can help grow the wider economy of the Western region and rebalance jobs and prosperity across the UK.

The Great Western Cities are in one of the six 'powerhouse super-city-regions' that were identified by the RSA's City Growth Commission as being fundamental to powering the British economy over the coming decades. The GWC investment proposition and the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal are independent but entirely complimentary developments. Both the Bristol City Region and the Cardiff Capital Region are in the process of developing city deals to further enhance regional prosperity. The GWC proposal will enhance local opportunities by better connecting two successful city regions. The proposal focuses on investment into national connectivity, energy infrastructure and better marketing the region to global businesses. This autumn a report will be launched which sets out the strategic economic case for the Great Western Cities, alongside the investment propositions for the key projects.

China Trade Visit

Following a private visit to Xiamen in August 2014, during which I met the Mayor of Xiamen and agreed to explore new ways to develop the long standing friendship between our cities, I was invited to attend the China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) in Xiamen earlier this month. CIFIT is currently China's only international investment promotion event aimed at facilitating two-way investment in participating countries.

These links are increasingly important as platforms for more mutual trade, investment and research opportunities. Large and growing markets for Welsh goods and services, like China, therefore offer real economic benefits to the wider Cardiff Capital Region and can support jobs.

It provided an excellent opportunity to meet with investors, promote Cardiff and the wider Cardiff Capital Region, and help build connections with businesses in one of the world's biggest economies. It also helped further cement the twin city ties between Cardiff and Xiamen.

Cardiff Business Awards

On the 18th of September I addressed over 400 attendees present at the inaugural Cardiff Business Council Awards at City Hall. It was an opportunity to celebrate the best of the capital city's business and the huge contribution that our city's entrepreneurs make to Cardiff. From successful pop-up food events, to outdoor cinemas, new music festivals and unique retail offerings – entrepreneurs help make Cardiff one of Europe's most liveable cities. The nominees for the awards were all testament to this.

Cardiff's economy is also growing, with business start-up rates in the city having increased considerably in recent years. The Capital is now home to a strong small business sector, international companies, top universities, and has a skilled workforce. These are the building blocks of success which will be supported by investment in the infrastructure and environment that supports business. The Cardiff Business Awards provided an opportunity to hear about how businesses see the future of the city, as well as celebrate their contribution to life in Cardiff.

Cardiff's Central Square regeneration

Legal & General have invested £400m in Cardiff's Central Square Regeneration scheme. This represents the single biggest private investment for over a decade in Cardiff and the biggest property deal ever seen in Wales. The investment will support the redevelopment of one million square foot of land – transforming the area around the city's train station into a thriving business district. The redevelopment of this part of the city is a key priority for the administration.

There is no doubt that the City Council has to look at innovative ways to deliver vital projects and this is an excellent example. The redevelopment of Central Square will be overseen by **Foster** and Partners, award winning British architects who have an innovative, modern and sustainable approach to architecture and integrated design. The development will therefore not only significantly improve the landscape of Cardiff for those arriving from Central Station, it will also deliver growth and investment, bringing approximately 10,000 jobs to the area in the heart of Cardiff's Enterprise Zone.

This major commitment from Legal & General provides new impetus for the delivery of the Central Square regeneration scheme, having agreed to support the Central Square redevelopment. This will include the proposed new BBC Headquarters building which is set to receive final approval to proceed in October. Legal & General's decision is a major vote of confidence in Rightacres, and the City of Cardiff, where they employ around 1100 people. Whilst the investment deal stands on its own merits, Cardiff is now well known to Legal & General, and in an increasingly competitive city-regional investment market. It is clear that the city is now well established as a location for blue-chip investment.

Councillor Phil Bale
Leader of the Council
23 September 2015

**STATEMENT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE
SERVICES & PERFORMANCE**

AGENDA ITEM: 12

Employee Engagement

- Over 3,200 employees took part in this year's Employee Survey, a full 1000 more employees than in 2013, which represents a 51.6% return rate. In addition, almost one thousand comments and ideas were submitted by staff as part of the survey process, which will provide valuable detail to feed into new corporate initiatives. Next steps include further staff roadshows in November to look at commitments in response to the findings.
- The e-learning Attendance & Wellbeing module was launched as part of the compliance for all managers for completion by no later than 31 October. Consultation has commenced on proposed changes to the Disciplinary Policy in order to ensure the process is managed as efficiently as possible.
- The Cardiff Manager programme is progressing with some 350 managers from Grades 7 to 10 enrolled across the Council.

Digital Cardiff

- Following the expansion of C2C opening hours and a review of the working practice, the peaks in demand have little impact on the performance to customers. This is seen in 11,840 Waste Management cases last month which is a 27.7% increase from this time last year and comes as a result of the completion of phase 1 of the Waste Restrictions programme. Despite this increase, calls to the Waste and Highways line were answered within an average of 15 seconds.
- Customer Satisfaction remains high within C2C 153 telephone surveys were completed in August, resulting in an actual satisfaction rate of 99% and 20 surveys were also carried out through the medium of Welsh and resulted in a Satisfaction rate of 100%.
- In August customers spent an average of 2 minutes 19 seconds on the website during which time they viewed an average of 2.65pages. These statistics continue to support feedback from the latest Ask Cardiff Survey and SOCITM report that indicates customers are able to quickly find the information they want on our website.
- The Council's free Wi-Fi super connected cities project has been very successful with residents and visitors using the service for over 4.5 million minutes every month.

New ICT Schools SLA

A revamped ICT Schools SLA is now in place offering schools more information about the services they might wish to subscribe to from ICT. There has been a very good take up with many asking for more services than previously. There

are teething problems where some schools have failed to read the options and have neglected to sign for services they require and we are working with these schools on options.

ICT Apprentices / Work Experience

This year ICT have employed their first two apprentices. One has recently been appointed to a permanent role which is very pleasing for both the individual and the council. ICT is also providing work experience for an individual under the Looked After Children (LAC) work experience initiative.

Blaenau Gwent CRM contract

From 1st October we will no longer provide CRM services to Blaenau Gwent as their ICT is now being provided by the Shared Resources Service in Blaenavon. This brings an end to a very successful co-operative working arrangement that has been in place for the last 6 years.

Strategic Estates

- Good progress continues to be made with improving the way the Council manages its property assets.
- Following the approval and publication of the Corporate Property Strategy and the Corporate Asset Management Plan earlier this year, we are starting to see a more joined-up corporate approach across the Council. New Service Area asset plans and Neighbourhood Area asset plans are being put into place.
- The Asset Management Board now meets monthly with a view to ensuring the Council targets to rationalise and modernise the estate are delivered and to improve collaboration with local partners.
- The office rationalisation programme is also working towards several key moves including the vacation and possible assignment of Global Link, whilst more staff continue to be relocated within County Hall. We have also initiated significant work around other buildings occupied by staff, such as depots, in advance of considering alternative delivery model proposals.
- Good progress has been made with CATs at Pentrebane and Maesycoed Community Centre, and further CATs are being prepared including the impending advertisement of Roath Library and Canton Community Hall.
- A new strategy for the management of the Council's investment estate will be presented to Cabinet for consideration prior to Christmas

Resources

- The Financial Statements for 2014/15 have now been audited and appear on the agenda for approval. The accounts are unqualified and the Audit Committee complemented officers on the successful outcome of a complex set of tasks.
- Budget preparation for 2016/17 and the medium term is progressing with the intention of public consultation commencing during November.

Councillor Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance
23 September 2015

STATEMENT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM: 12

Improving educational opportunities for our City's children is one of our corporate priorities. It is vital for the economic prosperity of the city and for the life chances of our children.

The results for the 2014-2015 academic year build on last year's improvements. The actions we have put in place to address longstanding shortcomings in provision are now having a positive impact on improving outcomes for learners. Standards of attainment continue to improve in all key stages and in many indicators at a faster rate than across Wales as a whole although outcomes at the end of each key stage are not yet high enough.

In the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 the rate of improvement has increased in Cardiff in each of the past three years, whilst across Wales the rate of improvement has slowed. Cardiff is now at least in line with the national average in all the main indicators in the primary phase.

At Key Stage 3 performance is still improving albeit the rate of improvement has slowed. At Key Stage 4, outcomes improved in nearly all the main indicators. In the level 2+ threshold Cardiff's performance increase rose again, making a 9 percentage point (ppt) improvement over the last two years; in 2011 8 schools fewer than 40% of their pupils achieved level 2+, now only 2. Whilst there has also been improvement in the wider level 2 measure, the rate of improvement on this and the currently available data on the level 1 measure are of continuing concern in a number of secondary schools.

An increasing number of pupils of all ages attain the highest levels at each key stage. Girls continue to outperform boys at all key stages, but the gap in performance has reduced in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. The difference in performance of pupils who are eligible for free school meals and those not eligible is reducing at each key stage.

The improvement is not consistent across the board so there is no room for complacency. We will continue to work with the consortium and schools to lift standards further. There is increasing partnership work between schools to enable best practice to be shared but as a Local Authority we have shown that we are prepared to intervene where there is continuing concern about standards.

Some schools have had particularly good results this year. Amongst Secondary schools Fitzalan achieved above 50% on level 2+, Cardiff high and Corpus

maintaining high standards and a big rise in Radyr and Whitchurch High Schools. Two Primary schools, St Joseph's RC and St Mellons achieved 100% in both FPOI and CSI. Many primary schools achieved big improvements in the number of children reaching the FPOI: Bryn Celyn Primary, Pentreban Primary and St Fagans Church in Wales Schools all achieved more than a 20ppt improvement.

I am sure that members across the chamber would like to congratulate staff and pupils on the results this summer and thank them for their work. Without the efforts of teachers none of this improvement could have taken place.

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member for Education
23 September 2015

STATEMENT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR SKILLS, SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 12

Questions to Scrutiny

In October the Council's five scrutiny committees will introduce arrangements for citizens to directly ask questions at their meetings. This measure, one of the first changes stemming from the Council's recently adopted *Improving Scrutiny* Project, is designed to increase citizen involvement with local democracy. It aims to fulfil a recommendation from the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee's *Public Engagement with Scrutiny* Inquiry.

An initial pilot in October and November, arranged in partnership with Cardiff Third Sector Council, will see third sector organisations asking one question at each scrutiny meeting. The pilot will be evaluated with a view to making this an ongoing feature of scrutiny committee agendas.

Strategic Equality Scheme 2016-20

The Council is required under the Equality Act 2010 to publish every four years a Strategic Equality Plan, setting out its medium term equality objectives, and how through delivering these objectives the Council will work to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and promote good relations between different groups.

Various local stakeholders and individual citizens will be invited to contribute their views on draft Plan, which will be published in October. From the feedback received, a final Plan will be published in April 2014. The Plan will reinforce a number of related initiatives, including the recently adopted Ageing Well Delivery Plan

Members of Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee will consider the draft Plan in October and provided their structured feedback, but more generally Members of this Council will be warmly invited to provide individual feedback on the draft Plan.

Artist In Residence

The Council has been asked to participate in an Artist in Residence Programme led by "Made in Roath" taking place across Cardiff this Autumn.

Artist-in-residence programmes exist to invite artists, academicians, curators, and all manner of creative people for a time and space away from their usual environment and obligations. They provide a time of reflection, research, presentation and/or production. They also allow an individual to explore his/her practice within another community; meeting new people, using new materials, experiencing life in a new location. Art residencies emphasize the importance of meaningful and multi-layered cultural exchange and immersion into another culture.

They have proposed a Public Democracy project at no cost to the council which would invoke a local artist observing committee and council meetings . More detail will follow but I encourage members to support this initiative as part our public engagement work across the council.

Councillor Dan De'Ath
Cabinet Member for Skills, Safety & Engagement
23 September 2015

COUNCIL:

24 SEPTEMBER 2015

STATEMENT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 12

Cardiff Allotments Service – Local Management Agreement

Over the past 12 months Officers and the Member Champion for Community and Food Growing have been working closely with Allotment Communities to revise the Allotment Local Management agreement, through a review designed to encourage more Site Associations to enter into local management agreements. The review has resulted in the provision of three levels of agreement tailored to meet the capacity and expertise within individual Site Associations. A grant payable is based on a percentage of site income from the previous year and reflects the level responsibility adopted by the Site Association, selected from the menu of options. 2015/16 is the pilot year and ten Site Associations have entered into an agreement and two have indicated that they wish to enter into an agreement from April 2016 bringing the total to twelve of twenty eight Site Associations. The process of involving the Allotment Community in developing the new agreements has been a very beneficial experience and seeks to address the commitment to, where possible devolving responsibility and engendering a greater sense of ownership. I anticipate an increase in the uptake of agreements in 2016/17.

Conservation and Repair Work to Bishops Palace and Llandaff Bell Tower

I am pleased to report that Cadw has awarded two Scheduled Ancient Monument grants to the Council of £21,067.77 and £20,049.83 to implement conservation and repair work to the Bishops Palace and Llandaff Bell Tower respectively. This funding, along with £104,000 of capital funding within the 2015/16 capital programme, will be used to repair cracked and collapsed masonry to stabilise vulnerable sections of both monuments and provide seating and interpretation within the Bishops Palace to help to restore the amenity value of the garden and understanding of the monument. The work will be undertaken during the three month period from October – December 2015 and is anticipated to be completed by Christmas, subject to weather conditions.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Funding 2015/16

The Council has received two awards of funding from the NRW 2015/16 grants programme. A Joint Working Partnership award of £45,000 has been allocated for a range of small access, conservation, educational, biodiversity and environmental projects across Cardiff. These will be implemented by the Parks Service, Rights of Way Team and County Ecologist, working in association with Friends Groups and other organisations. A second Competitive Programme

grant of £25,000 over three years has been allocated for the development of a volunteer hub at Forest Farm and will be used to develop the capacity of the Parks Service and Rights of Way Teams to support volunteer working throughout Cardiff as well as improving the infrastructure at Forest Farm.

Alzheimer's Society

I am delighted to announce that the Council's Parks Service, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society UK is developing a project designed to provide support and therapy to individuals suffering from the disease and through the development, design and management of annual bedding displays. The project which is at an early planning stage demonstrates the Council's commitment to working with partners and supporting the Society in Leading the Fight against dementia.

Horticultural Heritage Skills Scheme

I am also very pleased to confirm that as part of the City Operations Directorates People Programme the Parks Service has been successful in recruiting a Horticultural Trainee through the Horticultural Heritage Skills Scheme and for a period of fourteen months. This Bursary Scheme is funded by Heritage Lottery and is aimed at increasing the number of skilled Gardeners available to sectors through the provision of training programmes within Gardens of special heritage interest.

Waste Changes

I hope you find the weekly updates on the collection changes helpful and evidences that the scheme is on track and progressing well. The collection changes are now in full flow; an additional 9754 households now have a bin service instead of a sack service; just over 16,000 households have settled into the new striped bag service well and the city wide exchange programme has now completed over 15,000 household bin exchanges. We have also seen a good increase in people requesting food caddies as they begin to recycle more.

Residents are signing up to the new reusable sack service which started on 7 September 2015 and they are starting to use the orange stickers on the green bags to reorder more bags.

This month we are welcoming back our student community with recycling packs (bags, liners and information) to encourage them to understand the need to recycle and present their waste correctly.

Work continues to yield results in the neighbourhood trial areas. The initial LEAMS (street cleanliness surveys) independently surveyed by Keep Wales Tidy have noted an improvement in our streets in just one quarter. We improved from 66% to 66.4% in just a few months.

This is a significant contribution to the Council's "One Planet Cardiff" strategy which aims to reduce the overall environmental footprint of the city.

Councillor Bob Derbyshire
Cabinet Member for Environment
23 September 2015

COUNCIL: 24 SEPTEMBER 2015

**STATEMENT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY,
DEVELOPMENT, CO-OPERATIVES & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

AGENDA ITEM: 12

BALL IN THE WALL

You will no doubt be aware that commuters, residents and visitors woke up to a surprise on the first day of Rugby World Cup 2015 last week, as Cardiff's most iconic landmark became the centre of attention when a giant rugby ball appeared to have crashed into the side of Cardiff Castle.

The '*Ball in the Wall*' spectacular was created as part of a nationwide initiative funded by ER2015 to support the promotion of host cities and cause a stir in the Welsh Capital.

In fact it caused such a stir that coverage went global and reports featured in French, Irish, New Zealand and even Palestinian press outlets.

The images went viral across social media and soon selfie's of the ball were being shared and the 'Ball in the Wall' hashtag out-trended #RugbyWorldCup putting Cardiff well and truly on the world map!

The initiative was developed collaboratively by the authority's events team and Wild Creations, a local Cardiff company helping to further showcase the excellence of the Capital's creative sector.

FANZONE

ER2015 have established fifteen Official Fanzones around the UK giving fans an opportunity to soak up the tournament atmosphere and join in the nationwide celebration of rugby.

On behalf of ER2015, the Councils Events Team working in partnership with Cardiff RFC have created a Fanzone at the Arms Park which is second-to-none, welcoming nearly 40,000 fans through turnstiles in the first weekend!

Not only can visitors watch live coverage of all matches across the tournament on a 40m sq. screen; they are also being treated to live entertainment including street theatre performers, DJs and music, S4C Regional Choirs, a Haka Day Out and Fijian Fire Eating.

They can also take part in sponsor activations and rugby activities such as a Kicking Cage, 3D Scrum, Batak Response Test and Speed Pass.

Again, media headlines and reports have been outstanding, proving that the Fanzone is a hit with supporters. The coverage has featured amazing quotes from visitors like Brian Swane - an Irishman from Cork, now living in London.

It was reported that he was completely smitten with Cardiff, and the Fanzone in particular saying, "Cardiff is amazing," he said. "It's the best city in the world to watch rugby and the best stadium in the world to watch rugby. The Fanzone has been brilliant today. I love that there is something for everybody. I know officially it's an England World Cup but it's a Welsh World Cup as well."

Source: Wales Online <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/the-best-city-world-watch-10096341>

TIME CREDIT LAUNCH

I am really pleased to highlight the recent launch of the first UK city-wide Time Credit scheme in City Hall on 10th September.

The new scheme is being branded as "*Strengthening Cardiff Together; One hour at a time*" and is about rewarding individuals for every hour of their time they give to supporting local services or community activities.

As many of you will know, over the last three years the presence of time credits has grown in Cardiff as it has been taken on by a range of different organisations. However, this new scheme means that time credits are now being extended throughout the Families First programme and the City of Cardiff Council's Youth Service, so that timecredits can be accessed by individuals and communities right across Cardiff, not just in certain areas.

As the Elected Member for the Caerau ward, I have certainly seen first-hand the difference time-credits can make to our communities through the work that Communities First have been doing with Spice in this area.

I am confident that working with organisations such as Communities First, Families First, Dimensions, Age Connects, The Sherman, the Youth Service and residents from communities like Tongwynlais, that we can bring services closer to people and give areas the opportunity to shape the services they receive. I would strongly encourage you all to think about how we can make use of the new scheme in you own areas and be part of this innovative approach, and I look forward to seeing the change that time credits are going to bring to Cardiff.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise
23 September 2015