

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25 APRIL 2023

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

74 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Brown-Reckless, Cunnah and Thomson. Apologies had also been received from Zack Hellard, Youth Council Representative.

75 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lloyd Jones declared a personal interest as Chair of the Penrhys Pilgrimage Project.

76 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 28 February 2023 and 21 March 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

77 : PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT STRATEGY - IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS UPDATE

Members were advised that this item was to examine progress in delivering year one of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, with an opportunity to explore the role the Council can play in supporting delivery.

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Burke - Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events; Steve Morris – Operational Manager – Sports, Leisure and Development; Jon Maidment – Operational Manager – Parks & Cardiff Harbour Authority; Chris Hadfield – Operational Manager – Leisure; Laura Williams – Assistant Director, Sport Physical Activity and Health, Sport Cardiff/ Cardiff Metropolitan University and Lauren Idowu – Senior Health Promotion Specialist, Public Health Wales

Cllr Burke was invited to make a statement after which Members were provided with a presentation from Laura Williams and Lauren Idowu.

The Chairperson invited questions, comments, and observations from Members.

Members acknowledged that Years 2-5 of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy will be influenced by available data and will specifically target the growing inequalities between population groups and areas. Members were advised that an Equalities Impact Assessment has been conducted and is treated as a dynamic document that is updated as work is implemented. Members appreciated this approach and have requested a copy of the most recent version, understanding that it will evolve as the work progresses.

Members noted that Year 1 of the strategy has made significant progress, with only 3 out of 24 actions unlikely to be completed this year. Members noted the following progress:

- Good governance, leadership, and partnership working have been established, with active involvement at the leadership group level to drive system change.
- Effective partnership working in the place-based pilots has resulted in stronger co-production of actions that address barriers to activity within specific areas and population groups.
- Recruitment of Physical Activity and Sport Activators for the place-based pilot areas is underway, complementing existing community staff.
- There is an intention to recruit additional Physical Activity and Sport Activators for other areas, contingent on securing funding.

Members were informed about the ongoing work with community partners to conduct focus groups and record video stories in May 2023. These activities aim to identify blockers to physical activity for specific population groups, including BAME communities, in the pilot place-based areas. Members expressed interest in receiving feedback on the findings from this work as they are keen to understand if there are ways the Council could provide support in removing these blockers and contribute to addressing physical inactivity.

Members acknowledged the importance of trained staff in supporting individuals on their journey towards increased physical activity.

Members were pleased to hear that community work and volunteering placements are integral to relevant Cardiff Metropolitan University degree courses, benefiting both communities with on-the-ground activities and coaches, as well as students gaining experience with diverse population groups.

Regarding the creation of active people and active environments, Members noted the recognition given to individual and non-competitive physical activities including Yoga, Pilates and Zumba. Members were advised that it will be up to local communities to decide whether these activities will be included in the place-based pilots. Work is being done to audit places and spaces to identify opportunities for people to be active, utilising the 'creating healthier spaces' toolkit.

Members stressed the Council's important role in creating spaces and places that support physical activity, such as ensuring good design of play areas like Maltings Park in Splott and suggested providing sufficient seating in parks to accommodate those with limited mobility.

Members sought clarification on how the impact of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy would be measured. They were informed that high-level indicators would be used, with the understanding that they only offer a partial picture and lack detailed information at the community level. In addition to these indicators, methods such as 'ripple-effect mapping' and a 'progress and learning template' would be employed to provide qualitative data and feedback, identify blockers and system levers, and capture the impact of the work on individuals and communities.

Members considered it was important to track improvements in the pilot areas over time, ensuring they benefit all communities and population groups by reducing inactivity. Members were advised that alongside high-level indicators, local indicators based on issues identified by local communities will be used to focus on progress in addressing specific blockers and system levers.

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.

78 : GLL CONTRACT MONITORING

Members were advised that this item was to undertake monitoring scrutiny of the Council's contract with GLL to run 8 Leisure Centres in Cardiff. This item enabled Members to evaluate the progress made in delivering the contract, including recovery from the impact of the pandemic on participation and usage rates and finances, the capital programme, and whether there are any changes to the Council's commitments or to risks to the Council.

The Chairperson welcomed Jason Curtis – GLL's National Membership Manager and Head of Service; Joanne Smith – General Manager, Llanishen Leisure Centre – GLL and Sarah Stork – Cardiff Council's Leisure Client Services Manager. Remaining from the previous item were Cllr Burke - Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events; Steve Morris – Operational Manager – Sports, Leisure and Development; Jon Maidment – Operational Manager – Parks & Cardiff Harbour Authority and Chris Hadfield – Operational Manager – Leisure.

Cllr Burke was invited to make a statement, after which Jason Curtis and Joanne Smith gave their presentation. Members were asked for their comments, observations, and questions.

Members noted the positive direction of memberships and usage, although they acknowledged that these have not yet returned to pre-COVID levels overall.

Members heard about the ongoing efforts to increase footfall and noted that partnership working, particularly with NHS and GP exercise referral schemes, is crucial.

Members noted that GLL is reviewing the product mix and marketing of individual leisure centres to target specific groups, such as families and older people, rather than solely focusing on students, as seen with the example of Maindy Leisure Centre.

Members heard about the improved income for main and junior categories, with Health and Fitness showing a slower recovery but still demonstrating a positive trend. Members also heard about the measures taken to save energy and reduce utility costs, including the proposed installation of solar panels in 2023-2024, subject to securing funding.

Discussing pool temperatures, Members were pleased to hear that systems are in place to manage unusual peaks in demand for pool spaces during heatwaves.

Members were provided with information on the medium-term financial forecast and noted that GLL is actively exploring ways to increase future income by introducing

new products. Members were assured that the examples mentioned in the presentation were just examples and that no specific centres or areas have been proposed yet.

Members were pleased to hear that GLL has confirmed that these future products will not displace key user groups but will instead aim to enhance under-utilised areas.

Members sought clarification on whether GLL is considering any partial or full closures to secure financial savings. They were pleased to hear the assurances that there are no plans for partial or full closures. Instead, GLL aims to raise income and make slight program adjustments to save expenditure rather than closing facilities.

Discussing Pentwyn Leisure Centre, Members were advised that GLL is working with local community groups and activities to increase usage of available rooms and spaces. Members were further advised that a report to Cabinet on the proposed way forward for Pentwyn Leisure Centre is scheduled for June 2023, and would include proposals on the pool.

Members acknowledged the progress made against improvement actions resulting from Internal Audit and Audit Wales reviews. Members heard that in response to Audit Wales's Recommendation 5 - Follow-Up Review October 2022, the Council has appointed external consultants to produce an options appraisal report. This report will outline contingency service delivery options in the event of contract failure.

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.

79 : COMMUNITY SPORT IN CARDIFF CABINET RESPONSE - IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS - PROGRESS UPDATE

Members were advised that this item was to scrutinise progress in implementing recommendations from the previous Committee's Inquiry into Community Sport Regional Partnerships, which were agreed by Cabinet. A progress update was provided at Appendix A to the report.

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Burke - Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events; Steve Morris – Operational Manager – Sports, Leisure and Development; Jon Maidment – Operational Manager – Parks & Cardiff Harbour Authority and Chris Hadfield – Operational Manager – Leisure for this item.

Cllr Burke was invited to make a statement after which Members were asked for their comments, observations, and questions.

Members noted that progress had been made on all the recommendations put forth by the previous Committee through their 'Community Sport in Cardiff' Inquiry in January 2022. As a result, Members were satisfied in considering these recommendations as completed.

Regarding the proposed Regional Sports Partnership, Members acknowledged the assertion made by officers that they are advocating strongly to ensure that Cardiff is

not disadvantaged in this process. They noted that discussions regarding the roadmap and timeline for implementation are imminent.

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.

80 : COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT

Members noted the current position regarding correspondence.

Members noted the information provided by the Principal Scrutiny Officer regarding the Museum of Cardiff and RLDP task groups.

Members were asked for expressions of interest in participating in a scrutiny about Flatholm, including a visit. Cllrs Berman and Jenkins expressed an interest.

81 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

82 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 4.30pm

The meeting terminated at 7.05 pm

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