

ECONOMY & CULTURE COMMITTEE PAGE - Draft copy for Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Our Membership – photos to be sourced from library

Councillor Pete Wong (Chair)

Councillors Rodney Berman; Catriona Brown-Reckless; Stephen Cunnah; Jane Henshaw; Peter Huw Jenkins; Helen Lloyd Jones; Daniel Naughton; Sara Robinson; Leonora Thomson

Youth Council Representative – Zack Hellard (*photo to be provided*)

Our Purpose

- The Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee drives improvement across economic development, regeneration, parks, leisure, sports, libraries, hubs, culture, events, venues and tourism.
- We hold to account those in charge, to make sure decisions are transparent and right for Cardiff.
- We listen to people who live and work in Cardiff, using their views and experiences to inform our scrutiny to help ensure the Council and partners deliver the right services for citizens.
- We make recommendations to enhance the use of resources, performance and service delivery.

Our Achievements

- **Shaping Cardiff's Post Pandemic Economic Recovery** – Aware of changing work and retail patterns, Members used the Ask Cardiff survey, a Scrutiny Research survey, an FSB Cymru survey, and face to face evidence sessions to seek views on how the Council could best help, bearing in mind its limited resources. Members heard from remote and co-worker individuals and providers, small businesses, independent artists, traders in local and district centres, city centre businesses, residents, and key bodies including Creative Cardiff, For Cardiff and the Royal Town Planning Institute Cymru. Members also explored the 15-minute city concept, looking to learn lessons from how this has been applied elsewhere. The Inquiry made 19 recommendations, focusing on how best to move forward on the 15-minute city and how to respond to specific areas highlighted by stakeholders. The report was submitted to Cabinet in March 2023 and a response to the recommendations is awaited.
- **Supporting public engagement** – As well as enabling the public to engage with their Inquiry, the Committee responded positively to requests to address the Committee. On the proposed way forward for St David's Hall, Members received a presentation from Cardiff Civic Society and 20 submissions made by members of the public via Scrutiny Viewpoints. In addition, Members received a petition and address from Cardiff Civic Society on the Museum of Cardiff budget consultation option. Committee Members also received written representations from AWEN@thelibrary, the Whitchurch Library Charity Group, and from the Save Maindy Velodrome campaign group.

- **Preparing to Scrutinise** – in recognition that 8 out of 9 committee members were new to the committee, Members attended confidential briefings on the Atlantic Wharf, Red Dragon Centre, Indoor Arena and International Sports Village, and a briefing on progress with implementing the Allotment Strategy, supporting the National Park City, and addressing the areas agreed by the previous motion to Council on *'Making Cardiff Healthier, Greener and Wilder'*. Members also visited the Cardiff Bay Yacht Club, the International Sports Village site, and Bute Park Heritage Centre.
- **Scrutinising Major Projects** – Members scrutinised the next stages of regeneration projects, including Cardiff Bay, International Sports Village including the Ice Rink, Atlantic Wharf, Red Dragon Centre, and Llanrumney. Members recommended as much non-confidential information as possible be put into the public domain, to provide access for interested stakeholders and the general public.
- **Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)** – Members scrutinised the approach to accessing SPF monies, including proposed projects and governance arrangements, and explored how SPF monies will be used to tackle inequalities by working synergistically with existing schemes.
- **St David's Hall** – Members devoted several hours to scrutinising proposals on the future management of St David's Hall. Members considered written submissions from members of the public and received a statement from Cardiff Civic Society. Members made four recommendations, three of which were accepted in full by Cabinet, with the remaining recommendation partially accepted. These led to the expert acoustics report being put into the public domain, something interested stakeholders had requested.
- **Playgrounds/ Play Areas** – Members discussed the refurbishment of playgrounds and play areas across the city, noting the palpable sense of purpose and progress since the last scrutiny in October 2020, and that sites are being future-proofed.
- **Leisure and Sport** – Members received updates for Year One of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and for progress against six recommendations accepted by Cabinet, following the Community Sport Inquiry by the previous Committee. Members also scrutinised GLL's service provision, recovery from the pandemic, financial position, and the Council's risk and contract management approaches. Members were pleased to note good progress across all these areas.
- **Corporate Plan, Budgetary proposals, performance and budget monitoring** – Members examined the proposed Corporate Plan and Budget. During the year, Members were briefed on budget and performance monitoring reports and did not identify any areas of concern.