

**COUNCIL: 28 MARCH 2024**

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## **INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT**

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### **Recent Investments**

Members will have undoubtedly read the news about Rolls Royce's decision to create 130 highly skilled jobs in Cardiff. The investment in St Mellons will support the ongoing UK Submarines Programmes and is the first phase of an investment that could potentially deliver thousands more jobs.

The Council has been actively working with the company, the developer, and other partners, to secure the investment in the city. As part of this process the Council hosted a trial recruitment fayre in City Hall, supported by Cardiff University and Cardiff and Vale College, which allowed Rolls Royce Submarines to meet local talent. The discussions with the company also cited the ambitions for a new station in St. Mellons was also a factor in attracting them to invest in the east of the city. Rolls Royce have also cited Cardiff Parkway as an ideal site for expansion in the future. This ties in with the ambition for the development which is to attract high-skilled, well-paid employment.

The decision by Rolls Royce to invest in St Mellons is a major boost not only for the economy of Cardiff and its city region but also Wales. Our involvement in this project shows our commitment to supporting much needed development in east Cardiff, as well as the confidence of businesses like Rolls Royce to invest in the area. The Council continue to work with Rolls Royce on their recruitment campaign in Cardiff which we hope will commence shortly.

We have also seen investment from existing occupiers in Cardiff too – including the opening of the new Welsh Headquarters for the BT Group in Cardiff this month. The new premises for 1,000 staff opened in the Capital Quarter development in the city centre and will become a hub for workers across the BT Group, including BT Business, Openreach and EE. The multimillion-pound investment in the city has secured a significant presence in the city for BT and reflects the fact that major employers are still keen to locate in Cardiff and is in addition to recent investment by companies such as Veezu who have recently moved into renovated space in Hodge House in Cardiff city centre as part of their expansion plans.

Our Economic Development team also continues to support a range of activities to support businesses and employers, ranging from loan funding to support the regeneration of the Grade II listed Custom House building on Bute Street to securing accommodation for a R&D spin-out from Cardiff University at our premises in CBTC. We have also recently hosted a large party of overseas Department for Business and Trade staff at an event at Cardiff Edge Business Park at Coryton to promote Cardiff as a destination for international life sciences businesses.

Cardiff was also represented at MIPIM this year, as ever supported by the city and wider city-region's business community. The delegation, including representatives from the Cardiff Capital Region promoted major investment opportunities in the city including commercial, residential and leisure developments.

To support local business, we are also hosting a seminar next month with the Department for Work and Pensions for up to 100 local companies to promote the in-work support available for workers in the city.

### **Economic Outlook**

Further evidence of the confidence in our city can be seen in the proposed investment from Landsec, the owner of St. David's Shopping Centre. They have recently launched a consultation on proposals to transform the old Debenhams store into a new open-air square, with the intention to attract more people into the city centre.

This confidence is also mirrored by forecasts for the city's economy. In Avison Young's Cardiff Outlook, they predict that the city economy will outgrow both the UK and Welsh averages over forthcoming years in both jobs and GVA. The report which cites Oxford Economics forecasts, which highlights knowledge intensive services and leisure as key sectors. Indeed, it predicts double-digit growth for Cardiff's hi-tech industries and accommodation and food sectors. This aligns with our economic strategy which seeks to develop and attract well paid service sector jobs, and to support growth in our hospitality sector by investing in key infrastructure such as the new arena.

### **Shared Prosperity Fund**

We continue to support businesses through the Cardiff Growth Fund and a number of new investments has seen a number of our SMEs invest in upgrading their premises, as well as supporting greener more energy efficient business. We would encourage businesses to apply for the grant which is funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund by searching online for the Cardiff Growth Fund.

**Councillor Russell Goodway**  
**Cabinet Member for Investment & Development**  
**22 March 2024**