
**CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT BY THE ECONOMY & CULTURE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE INQUIRY – ‘EVENTS IN CARDIFF’**

Purpose of report

1. To update Members on the Cabinet response to the recommendations made in the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee February 2019 inquiry report ‘*Events in Cardiff.*’

Background

2. During discussions to inform the Committee’s work programme for the municipal year 2018-19, Members received a request to undertake an inquiry into the way forward for the role of the Council re events in Cardiff.
3. The Committee agreed the following membership for this task group: Councillor Gordon; Councillor Henshaw; and Councillor Parkhill. The Inquiry had the following terms of reference:
 - i) To explore with key stakeholders what the programme of events in Cardiff should look like, taking into account the following factors:
 - Role of events re economy of city and region
 - Impact of events on citizens, the council and the city.
 - ii) To explore with key stakeholders what the Council’s role should be re events, looking in particular at:
 - Role of the Council and Partner organisations re attracting, promoting, delivering, managing and retaining events
 - How much Council resource should be focused on events?
 - How other Councils manage similar programmes of events
 - iii) To make evidence based recommendations to Cabinet on a future events strategy for Cardiff and the role of the Council re events in Cardiff.

4. The task group heard evidence from a number of internal and external witnesses, including relevant Cabinet Members, senior officers, Welsh Government representatives, event organisers and providers, FOR Cardiff BID, South Wales Police, Cardiff & Vale UHB, Cardiff Hoteliers Association, a consultant working for Sound Diplomacy, and Stevens Associates. Members also invited written submissions and received evidence from Artes Mundi, Pontcanna & Riverside Residents, Public Health Wales and South Wales Fire & Rescue Services.
5. As part of the Inquiry, Members visited the Principality Stadium to hear their views on events in Cardiff, the role of the Council and the future programme of events in Cardiff.
6. In order to inform the Inquiry, desk-based research was undertaken into approaches used elsewhere by the following local authorities, in terms of resourcing and managing events: Belfast, Leeds, Liverpool, Monmouthshire and Bristol. High-level desk-based research was also carried out into recent developments regarding an 'events levy' and 'tourism tax'.
7. The task group Members used the evidence to identify findings and to develop recommendations. The report for this task and finish inquiry was taken to the Cabinet meeting held on 21 March 2019. The full report for this inquiry is available at:

<http://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=3545&LLL=0>

Cabinet Response to Recommendations

8. The Cabinet agreed their response at their meeting on 13 June 2019. Attached at **Appendix 1** is a full copy of the Cabinet paper, outlining the recommendations made and the Cabinet response to each recommendation.
9. Overall, the Committee made **twelve** recommendations to the Cabinet. The Cabinet response shows that:
 - **6** of the recommendations are accepted – *R3, R4, R6, R9, R10, R11*;
 - **5** of the recommendations are partially accepted – *R1, R2, R7, R8, R12* ;
 - **1** of the recommendations is not accepted– *R5*.

10. Of the recommendations **partially accepted**:

- *R1 –to develop a catalogue of event spaces and specify which types of events are suitable for each space, in order to promote large spaces with clear escape routes and avoid spaces that funnel and tunnel attendees.* The Cabinet Response lists the main event spaces in Cardiff and outlines the current process of meetings with event promoters/organisers and presentations to the Events Liaison Panel to ensure events are planned appropriately. The Response states that *‘whilst we welcome the recommendation and will investigate the value and resource involved in creating and sustaining a catalogue we would not wish to lose the invaluable relationships forged through current engagement processes.’*
- *R2 – to investigate whether it is feasible to replace the cobbled road divider on Boulevard de Nantes with a safe, flexible alternative that would allow the area to be opened up to provide a wider space for major events.* The Cabinet Response states there is a proposal to upgrade Boulevard de Nantes, in 2021-22, including removing the central reservation but that this proposal is subject to funding and consultation.
- *R7 – to develop a standardised consistent approach to communicating and involving communities involved in events.* The Cabinet Response explains the existing processes for communicating and involving local communities impacted by major events and states that officers welcome the opportunity to consider the recommendation to improve and standardise practices where possible.
- *R8 – contains 4 elements re maximising marketing possibilities of events, including: registering with the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA); meeting the costs to televise Cardiff Triathlon 2019 in English; ensuring Visit Cardiff includes business events in Cardiff; and whilst promoting sporting, cultural and community events signpost to major attractions in Cardiff.* The Cabinet Response details that the recommendations re registration with the ICCA and

promoting events and signposting to major attractions are accepted. The recommendation to meet the costs to televise Cardiff Triathlon 2019 in English is not accepted for the following reason *'Decisions regarding event funding were taken as part of the budget process and a decision has already been given to Always Aim High with regard to their request for support. Cabinet cannot allow budget considerations to be overturned by specific scrutiny recommendations'*. The recommendation to ensure Visit Cardiff includes business events is also not accepted for the following reason *'Most business events are closed events and accordingly event owners would not normally require them to be publicised on an event listing. However, any business event owner that asks for support in promoting their events would be supported to do so.'*

- *R12 - to explore the options to boost hostile vehicle mitigation and cut long-term costs. The Cabinet Response is 'Officers will continue to work with statutory partners to consider HVM requirements, but for clarity, this would need to include the identification of partnership funding to support such investment. The financial burden for such investment cannot fall on the Council alone.'*

11. Recommendation 5 is **not accepted**, for the following reasons:

- *R5 –to work with partners to proactively plan more events in the current downtime, including accessible and inclusive events that allow local people to benefit from Cardiff's role in hosting events. The Cabinet Response states that the recommendation is not accepted. The narrative states that the Council works proactively to plan events, with a strategy to attract more events throughout the year, and that officers will continue to work with partner venues to ensure the city operates effectively and yield is maximised. It also states the Event Focus Group will be re-established to draw together key organisations, venues and attractions to ensure wider, collaborative development of the event calendar.*

Way Forward

12. Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member – Culture & Leisure), Neil Hanratty (Director – Economic Development) and Kathryn Richards (Head of Culture, Venues, Tourism and Events) have been invited to present the response to the inquiry and present any progress made in addressing the issues raised and recommendations approved.

Legal Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to receive the Cabinet response and agree the way forward for receiving progress reports on the work required to implement the agreed recommendations.

DAVINA FIORE**Director of Governance & Legal Services****28 June 2019**

The following Appendix is attached:

Appendix 1: Cabinet Response to the Report by the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee entitled “Events in Cardiff”