

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Councillor Howells(Chairperson)
Councillors Henshaw, Parkhill, Robson, Sattar and Stubbs

21 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lay, Gavin Hill-John and Gordon

22 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

23 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

24 : REPLACEMENT LDP - VISION, ISSUES, OBJECTIVES, INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL - APPENDIX B TO FOLLOW

Members were advised that this item was to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of a report to Cabinet that sets out the results of the consultation undertaken on the first stage of the replacement LDP. The report seeks Cabinet approval for the proposed vision, issues, and objectives and the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal. At Appendix 5, it also sets out the proposed methods for consulting on the next stage of the replacement LDP.

The scope of the scrutiny today covers those areas that fall within the Committee's terms of reference as well as any generic queries Members may have. The sister scrutiny committees are also undertaking scrutiny of this report and a letter combining all committees' comments, observations and recommendations will be sent to the Cabinet ahead of Thursday's meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Bradbury – Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure; Cllr Goodway– Cabinet Member for Investment & Development; Andrew Gregory – Director of Planning, Transport & Environment; Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development; Simon Gilbert – Head of Planning; Stuart Williams – Group Leader, Policy; Ken Poole – Head of Economic Development; Jon Maidment – Operational Manager – Parks & Cardiff Harbour Authority and Jon Day – Operational Manager – Economic Policy & Tourism to the meeting.

Cllr Wild – Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport, was unable to attend the meeting for personal reasons and sent his apologies.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Members to make brief statements and Officers provided Members with a presentation, after which they were invited to ask questions or make comments and observations.

With regard to consultation, Members discussed the importance of engaging with hard to reach, vulnerable groups such as those on the housing waiting list, homeless people and children and young people. Officers explained that these were all cohorts that they planned to engage with by holding focus groups and workshops going forward.

Members also asked how the Music/Sport/Culture sectors would be engaged. Officers acknowledged the importance of this and welcomed any suggestions that Members may have, and that Officers already engage with the Cardiff Music Board but will widen this to larger cultural groups.

Referring to the music eco-system in Cardiff, Members asked how this could be protected through the RLDP. Officers explained that the LDP looks at existing policies but also reflects on the past, they anticipate there will be a stronger focus on placemaking and promoting the Night-time Economy etc going forward.

Members asked how Sports Facilities are being considered and engaged with in the RLDP. Officers explained that they will work on candidate sites, and these will be vigorously tested to ensure that previous issues experienced with UDP sites and flooding are not repeated. Officers also acknowledged the importance of Green open spaces play areas and Blue spaces.

With reference to Employment Land, Members stressed the need to ensure that existing land is protecting and also the importance of future employment land being of high quality and in areas where most opportunities could be provided. The Cabinet Member referred to the fact that this needs to be considered within the administrations policies and the Economic Development strategy, noting that Cardiff already zones land into, for instance, Industrial/Science and Technology/Innovation, so the RLDP should build on this.

Members asked how the RLDP would address the Climate Emergency. Officers drew Member's attention to Objectives 1 and 4 which highlighted the need to protect and enhance the existing natural and built environment and also to align with the One Planet Cardiff Policy.

Members noted that the Population Projection was a single figure and considered there would be more value in providing a range. Officers explained that when they go out to consultation, they will look at a range and provide these with a spatial dimension in order that people can see where they are mapped. Officers stated it was also important to find a middle ground within the range to facilitate more sustainable and less stop/start developments.

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.

25 : INDOOR ARENA FBC AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT - TO FOLLOW

Members were advised that this item was to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of a report to Cabinet that seeks approval of the Full Business Case, land appropriation,

an enabling package of works, and an extension of the Council's cost underwrite, as well as in principle authority to make a Compulsory Purchase Order.

This is a critical stage that will result in the Council confirming the Live Nation consortium as the successful bidder and awarding the contract.

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Goodway – Cabinet Member for Investment & Development; Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development and Chris Barnett – Operational Manager, Major Projects to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a brief statement then Officers were invited to provide their presentation on the Confidential information and Members were reminded that Committee are required to consider this in a closed session to discuss information deemed exempt, in accordance with paragraphs 14 and 16 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED: to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting.

The Chairperson re-opened the meeting to the press and public and invited questions and comments on the open information.

Members sought assurance that the Indoor Arena building would be Carbon Neutral and sustainable. Officers explained that they are working hard on this and that work to date has reduced the anticipated energy usage by 40%, by including the Indoor Arena as part of the Cardiff Heat Network among other measures that were being considered.

Members discussed the recent Welsh Government announcement on Covid Passes for larger events and asked if officers had considered what the impact of this would be. Officers noted that the announcement was very recent, and it was too early to have undertaken an impact assessment. Officers were hopefully however that the position would be more positive after the winter months.

Members referred to the artists impressions of the Indoor Arena and noted that they were all impressions at night-time. Members would like to see some daytime impression too.

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.

26 : ISV UPDATE - TO FOLLOW

Members were advised that this item was to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of a report to Cabinet that seeks authority to formally terminate the Waterfront Development Agreement with GPL and acquire land and property assets at the ISV, including the Ice Arena Wales building.

Committee last scrutinised this in March 2021 and July 2021 and its confidential letters following these meetings have been circulated to all Committee Members.

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Goodway– Cabinet Member for Investment & Development; Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development and Chris Barnett – Operational Manager, Major Projects and Jo Anne Phillips, Project Manager, to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a brief statement after which Officers were invited to provide their presentation on the Confidential information and Members were reminded that Committee are required to consider this in a closed session to discuss information deemed exempt, in accordance with paragraphs 14 and 16 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED: to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting.

The Chairperson re-opened the meeting to the press and public and invited questions and comments on the open information.

Members discussed the Bay Edge Walkway and asked if this was being considered as part of the scheme. Officers explained that it was an aspiration, but the width of the walkway would depend on the developer and costs.

Members made reference to an email they had received from the Save Maindy Group. It was noted that it was not in the remit of the report before Committee, but Officers explained that they are engaging with various bodies and are taking their views and concerns on board.

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.

27 : WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme report was outlined to Members. Members were asked to consider Appendices A&B which outlined the proposed work programme and asked if they had any amendments to the proposals. Members discussed topics including ISV, Norwegian Church and the Tourism Strategy. Members considered they could agree the work programme but noted that there would be flexibility and slippage with some items.

Members were asked to consider the 3 short, focussed inquiries at Appendix C and nominations for each were sought. After some discussion Members considered that due to time constraints, they should focus on 2 inquiries and nominations were as follows:

Sports Wales Reorganisation – Cllrs Howells and Gordon
Events Recovery – Cllr Howells, Robson and Parkhill

Members were asked to consider the Forward Work Plan at Appendix D. Members agreed the Forward Work Plan could be published on the Council's website.

28 : CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

Members were advised that all correspondence was up to date and published on the Council website.

29 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None

30 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 12 OCTOBER 2021

The meeting terminated at 7.25 pm

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