

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JANUARY 2022

Present: Councillor Howells(Chairperson)
Councillors Henshaw, Gordon, Gavin Hill-John, Lay, Robson
and Sattar

61 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Stubbs and Parkhill.
Cllr Wild had also sent apologies for item 4.

62 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Cllr Henshaw as her daughter owns a business in the City Centre.

63 : MINUTES

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

64 : CITY CENTRE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

Members were advised that this item was to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of a report to Cabinet that seeks approval of the proposed Action Plan and seeks delegated authority for decisions '*to bring together and promote key initiatives and programmes that the Council and partners will work towards over the next five years, subject to these being within the budget and policy framework.*'

The scope of Committee's scrutiny was to examine the Action Plan, explore how this would be implemented, monitored, and reviewed, whether there were any risks to the Council, the financial implications for the Council and the next steps. Committee's comments, observations and recommendations would be sent to the Cabinet ahead of Thursday's meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Thomas – Leader; Andrew Gregory – Director of Planning, Transport and Environment; Michael Barnett – Principal Planner – Placemaking and Jon Day – Operational Manager –Tourism & Investment for this item.

The Chairperson invited the Leader and Andrew Gregory to make opening statements. Members were provided with a presentation after which they were asked for any comments, observations and questions.

A declaration of personal interest was received from Cllr Henshaw as her daughter owns a business in the City Centre.

Members questioned how robust and deliverable the plans are, noting that inevitably some will not happen. The Leader stated that some areas of the City are

unrecognisable from 5 years ago and that developments such as St David's 2 have been transformative. He added there are a number of plans in the vision but they will be subject to a robust business case and be value for money. He noted the aspiration and ambition but stated they were backed up with the realisation of what has already been delivered in the City. Members were advised that the costliest plans are Transport which are in the planning stage currently, and some also rely on partners to deliver such as Department of Transport and Network Rail.

Members discussed open and green space, with particular reference to the , flats around Curran Embankment and Dumballs Road. The Leader agreed that density was important, stating that this area is really inaccessible at the moment so there was a need to be creative and enhance the interaction between the public space and the river to make it vibrant and bright. Officers added that the area needs to be well designed and will be an exemplar scheme linking 3 bridges, with 6 open spaces, a riverside park and a foot & cycle bridge.

Members asked if there was a profile of City Centre Users that Cardiff wants to attract in the future. Officers explained that the data they have is not very detailed on the user themselves, this is something they could look at in the future, but currently they use footfall data primarily.

Members asked if there was data that could be used to measure Cardiff as a Child Friendly City. The Leader explained that the this would be different at different time of the day and night as there are different uses. Conversation have taken place around play space in the City Centre and work to involve libraries and museums.

Members discussed illegal cycling in pedestrian areas, street clutter and disabled peoples access, asking what conversation are being had with the Police and Disability Organisations. Officers explained that there is a commitment from the Police at the highest level and work is already underway with the BID on mapping to ensure spaces are safe and secure. On the issue of street clutter, while there is some great public realm, Officers are working to declutter, working with equalities groups who will access all the plans and ensure compliance.

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.

65 : PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & SPORT STRATEGY

Members were advised that this item was to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of a report to Cabinet that seeks approval for adoption of the proposed Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2022- 2027 and seeks endorsement of the proposed governance arrangements and monitoring process through the Public Service Board.

The scope of Committee's scrutiny today was to examine the proposed Strategy, governance approach, including implementation, reporting, and monitoring systems, whether there are any risks to the Council, the financial implications for the Council and the next steps. Our 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; Steve Morris – Operational Manager – Sport, Leisure & Development; Laura Williams – Assistant Director, Sport, Physical Activity & Health, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Lauren Idowu – Cardiff & Vale Public Health Team for this item.

The Chairperson invited Cllr Bradbury and Steve Morris to make opening statements and Members were provided with a presentation after which they were asked for any comments, observations and questions.

Members stressed the importance of involving Ward Members in the audit of what is being done in the City as they have invaluable local knowledge.

Members asked about priority and the greatest concern around the delivery of the Strategy. Officers explained that the greatest concern is that the service is resource-light, it will take time to capture all that is being done across the City, and with whom, all in one place. The Cabinet Member added that the important thing was to back up decisions taken by the Board with actions to achieve results such as increasing healthy lifestyles, reducing Child Obesity and increasing participation of Girls and BAME communities.

Members asked how the Council could ensure that the infrastructure is in place to cope with an increase in demand and how expectations would be managed. The Cabinet Member stated that the work would be cross-portfolio, involving Schools, Highways, Transport, Parks etc. working together to bring down barriers; working with various bodies to ensure facilities for children to use all year around etc. It was vital there was a wide range of partners involved. Officers added that they scan ahead, looking at population and growth, learn from other areas of the UK such as Greater Manchester who have had great success in this area. There would be a whole system approach, with people working together to find solutions to issues and barriers that may not even have been identified previously.

Members wondered whether data on the wider benefits of sport was collected and used as a promotion tool. Officers advised that it was important to find the wins and make Physical Activity everyone's business as there were many benefits, they would access lots of different data to build the case.

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.

66 : COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SAFETY IN PARKS

Members were advised that this item was to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of a report to Cabinet that has been prepared in response to a motion passed at Council on 21 October 2021. The report provides an update on current activities and plans for community engagement and safety in parks. The recommendations to Cabinet also specifically request Cabinet to consider the report as part of the 2022/23 budget proposals, to develop a policy and design guide to inform future provision of lighting in parks, to continue to submit Welsh Government Active Travel funding bids that include lighting in parks, and to conduct consultation for the return of a locking regime for Roath Park and Parc Cefn Onn.

The scope of Committee's scrutiny was to examine the response to the areas outlined in the motion to Council, whether there are any risks to the Council, the financial implications for the Council and the next steps. Any 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 and Jon Maidment – Operational Manager – Cardiff Harbour Authority & Parks for this item.

Cllr Bradbury and Jon Maidment were invited to make opening statements after which Members were asked for any comments, observations or questions.

Members discussed lighting in Parks, noting that not all paths should be lit for wildlife purposes, but paths that link communities should be lit. The Cabinet Member explained that lighting is determined on a 'where appropriate' basis to allow just this flexibility as lighting is not appropriate as a universal solution. Lighting also has to be environmentally friendly and not add to the climate problems and disturb nature. Members understood the issues but noted that Physical Activity also had to be attractive to people in the winter months.

Members discussed ASB in parks, particularly smaller community parks which are well used and asked what was being done to address this. Members were advised that all parks are equally important and issues such as these and off-road bikes etc. would all be addressed as part of the strategy. There would be a City wide approach, liaison with the Police and Fire Service and other partners; park rangers would also liaise with local members across the City.

Members welcomed the report as a result of a Notice of Motion to Council, they were frustrated that it was short on detail and financial information but appreciated that they needed to wait until the Budget. Members were keen to stress the fantastic work of the Service Area.

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.

67 : COMMUNITY SPORT IN CARDIFF INQUIRY REPORT

This item was to enable the whole Committee to consider the draft report for Committee's Community Sport in Cardiff Inquiry and identify any amendments, prior to agreeing the report for submission to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: To endorse the report for submission to Cabinet.

68 : CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - UPDATE

Noted.

69 : CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

70 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

71 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 21 FEBRUARY 2022, 4.30PM

The meeting terminated at 7.35 pm

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