

Date: Wednesday 30 January 2002
Time: 14.00 - 17.30
Venue: Committee Room 3, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay
Title: Cardiff Harbour Authority Business Plan 2000-2005

Purpose

1. A background note to accompany the Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) Business Plan ("the Plan"). A printed copy of the Plan was circulated to EDC members just before the Christmas break by the Secretariat. The Plan is also available in Welsh.

Summary/Recommendations

2. That any comments on the Plan be noted and passed on to CHA via a letter from the EDC Chair. The Committee may also wish to request a meeting with CHA.

Timing

3. Normal course of business.

Background

4. The Plan concerns, primarily, the responsibilities assumed by Cardiff County Council in relation to the management and operation of the Barrage; the Inland bay; and the Outer Harbour. CHA was established on 1 April 2000 for the purpose.

5. Although the principles were established in the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 1 October 1999, the main document, as far as the Welsh Assembly Government is concerned and the basis for funding, is the `harbour authority' section 165 Agreement. That Agreement sets out precisely what CHA's responsibilities are ("the undertaking") and also provided for CHA to take responsibility for a number of land areas and complete projects such as:

- the Barrage project;
- the Oval Basin;
- Widowlands landscaping;
- Bute Terrace (where it meets Oval basin);
- Landsea Gardens (adjacent to Harry Ramsdens); and
- the Graving Docks.

6. The Plan does not, strictly, cover the further responsibilities and related funding, assumed by Cardiff County Council under the 'non-developable assets' section 165 Agreement. These include the Regeneration and Project Funds which are the subject of separate reporting arrangements. However, the Plan does take account of some of the projects supported by those Funds where they are relevant to the CHA's area and plans (for example, the Bay Edge Walkway/Cycleway; the mini wetlands reserve at the Hamadryad peninsula; and developing access to the Barrage from the northern end of the Barrage). Discussions are underway with ABP about developing a Visitor Centre and new Harbour Authority offices as part of a new ABP building at Queen Alexandra Head.

7. The Plan, in its entirety, does not require approval of the Welsh Assembly Government, although there are several aspects of it that Ministers and officials are monitoring carefully to ensure that key targets are met. These include: expenditure against budgets; completing the barrage project; completion of the dredging project; achievement of freshwater impoundment; and maintaining water quality. The groundwater scheme (monitoring, control and properties) is also important.

8. The Plan was largely developed and finalised by Cardiff Harbour Authority in its first year. Many of the milestones and other key targets have been achieved:

- Barrage project completed and automatic operation in the final stages of testing;
- Opening the Barrage to the public and Phase I of the landscaping is complete;
- Dredging complete by 31 March 2001;
- Freshwater Impoundment achieved by 1 April 2001
- Oxygenation/Aeration system procured and installed.

9. The Financial Plan (Chapter 6) is largely out of date now and EDC members are advised to refer to the most recent report presented to the Committee in November 2001 (EDC-16-01 (p5)). Detailed appraisal of the financial aspects is on-going – much of it related to the current NAO review of the first year of CBDC succession arrangements.

Compliance

10. Relevant documents are:

- Cardiff Bay Barrage Act 1993;
- Agreement, dated 27 March 2000, under Section 165 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 (as amended) between Cardiff Bay Development Corporation and Cardiff County Council;
- SI 996 (W53) Urban Development Wales. The Cardiff Bay Development Corporation (Transfer of Property, Rights and Liabilities) Order 2000;
- SI 997 (W54) Urban Development Wales. The Cardiff Bay Development Corporation

(Transfer of Property, Rights and Liabilities) (National Assembly for Wales) Order 2000.

11. Assembly Functions under the above have been delegated to the First Minister and the Economic Development portfolio.

Cross Cutting Themes

12. Cardiff Harbour Authority, as part of Cardiff County Council, follows the Council's policies with regard to Sustainable Development, Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion.

Action for EDC

13. As per Recommendation above.

Contact Point

Economic Policy Division, Branch 2.