



Cardiff

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Cardiff Capital to be Proud of

Council Leader Councillor Rodney Berman



Councillor Rodney Berman Leader of Cardiff Council

Cardiff is a unique city like no other in Britain. It is a city that I am proud to be leader of and a city that has firmly established itself in the last ten years as not only one of the best in the UK but also Europe too.

And that is no idle boast. One of the things that marks Cardiff out, as Capital of Wales, is that it offers so much more than most cities of a similar size whilst retaining a compactness which prevents it from being over-facing.

If you look at the mix the city offers in terms of culture, retail, leisure and sport Cardiff is a city, that I think, is practically unrivalled.

Just take a walk from the city centre to Cardiff Bay and you immediately realise that Cardiff has a wonderful mix of history and the modern.

From Cardiff Castle – dating back to the Romans – to one of the great modern sporting areas, the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff is full of iconic buildings. Most recently we have had the Wales Millennium Centre and the city's new International Swimming Pool, due to open in January 2008, to add to that list.

What makes Cardiff so exciting is that as one of Europe's youngest capital cities it is constantly evolving. In fact the city is currently going through a period of change, in terms of major projects, that by the end of the decade will have literally reshaped the face of the city for the better.

None more so than the St David's 2 development. This is a major retail construction project, providing a massive £675 million investment, that will see Cardiff city centre established firmly among the top five shopping destinations in the UK.

We then have the progression of the International Sports Village in Cardiff Bay, a £1 billion destination resort which will attract more than three million visitors a year and create a truly world class international short break destination.

When you also consider that Cardiff's major football and rugby clubs are building a new 30,000 seater stadium and

Glamorgan Cricket Club is expanding its arena ready to host an Ashes test match in 2009 you start to get a sense of the scope and scale of Cardiff's ambition.

And there is no doubt that all these projects will become as intrinsically important to the future economic prosperity of our city as all other landmark developments of recent times.

Cardiff is the main driver of economic growth in South East Wales, providing employment for more than 70,000 people who live outside the city's boundaries.

Furthermore, Cardiff has experienced the largest percentage increase in total employment of any of the UK core cities, with private sector job growth in Cardiff outnumbering public sector growth.

But we are also aiming for so much more.

Cardiff has very real aspirations of becoming one of the most competitive regional capital cities in Europe.

There is growing evidence that the successful cities of the future will be the more modestly-sized cities. For these cities quality of life is a significant bonus and there is no denying that Cardiff is a distinctive capital that understands the dynamics of growth.

But don't just take my word for it. In a recent survey conducted by the EU Cardiff came out ahead of some of Europe's major cities in a survey of places to live and work.

Residents were more satisfied with living and working in Cardiff than many of their counterparts in cities such as Barcelona, Dublin, Prague and Stockholm.

That to me defines what Cardiff is all about – a quality of life city that is ever evolving and improving.

Some of the initiatives taking place over the last few years have helped achieve this.

Thanks to a £4m council-run recycling plant – one of the largest local authority-run recycling plants in Europe – every street in the city is now gaining access to a doorstep collection of recyclable and compostable materials.

Latest figures show that our recycling and composting rate has doubled in just one year.

In terms of education Cardiff historically has languished near the bottom of the education spending league in Wales, but now school spending per pupil has put Cardiff firmly into the top ten compared to other Welsh local authorities.

The council has also heavily invested in its housing stock and anticipates being the only council in Wales likely to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by 2012.

By developing new hostel accommodation, Cardiff has also become the only large city in England and Wales to eliminate the use of bed and breakfast for housing homeless people.

And we have also added extra numbers of street sweepers and litter enforcement officers to our streets.

So there is no doubt that these are exciting times for Cardiff. What we have achieved to date is most impressive but there is so much more to come and it is vital that we don't rest on our laurels but continue to develop in the right direction.

When you look at what has been happening to this city over the last ten years and think about what is to come I truly believe Cardiff is shaping up to be one of the most exciting and dynamic capital cities in Europe."

Millennium Plaza



Associated British Ports

Cardiff and Barry Ports Help Growth in Cardiff



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The sister Ports of Cardiff and Barry, owned and operated by Associated British Ports (ABP), have a central role in the growing South Wales economy. In recent years, the emergence of new trades, along with gains in existing key sectors, have fuelled growth at the ports that serve the capital city and regional hinterland. Liquid bulks are a vital trade for both ports, with four terminals serving the region's fuel and chemical markets, as well as the developing biofuel markets.

Cardiff Container Terminal, operated by Coastal Container Line, offers regular sailings connecting Cardiff with the Mediterranean, Iberian Peninsula and

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Ireland. Cardiff's proximity to the industrial heartlands of South Wales and the Midlands, combined with its strong road and rail links, mean the terminal is well placed to exploit growth in the containerised sector. Feeder links with deep-sea European hub ports are being pursued to make use of the development land adjacent to the container terminal, which is ideally located for facilities.

Cardiff is well established in general cargo trades handling a mix of steel, timber and other forest products. Steel volumes have continued to grow in 2007 following the signing of term agreements



Associated British Ports



with customers Cardiff Stevedoring & Cargo Handling Company and W.E.Dowds Shipping. These agreements will see the extension of the existing dedicated steel-handling facilities, which currently handle imported steel coil and other steel products from European and deep-sea origins. Exports of steel products for local producer Celsa (UK) Ltd are also contributing to strong growth. Dry bulks are handled for a number of customers and further expansion is planned with the proposed development of a biodiesel production plant for Flex Fuels.

The Port of Barry has benefited from a number of investments in rail infrastructure in recent years, seeing the construction of an inter-modal terminal supporting local chemical industry companies Dow Corning and Ineos Chlor and a terminal for the transportation of

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recycled metals for Dunn (1995) Bros Ltd. Both Barry and Cardiff continued to experience increases in throughput of recycled metals in 2007.

Increasingly, Cardiff is being seen as a port of call for cruise liners. ABP is working in partnership with Cardiff City Council and the Welsh Assembly Government to promote the city as a destination for cruise visits and as a departure port. With the 2010 Ryder Cup being hosted a few miles away, the Port of Cardiff will also be able to offer berths for cruise visits and extended stays.

