

ORAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS, 25 SEPTEMBER 2014

1	<p><u>QUESTION TO THE LEADER</u> <u>(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOODMAN</u></p> <p>The Wales Audit Office Annual Improvement Report for Cardiff made painful reading and attacks the failure of performance management to consistently secure improvement. As part of the organisational change, Cardiff will become a member of the Core Cities Group to share information and learn from other cities. Data usage will be crucial as analysis and trend analysis will enable us to see how bad we actually are, and provide early warning signs. When do you envisage the first benefit of benchmarking data to emerge from the Core Cities group?</p>
2	<p><u>QUESTION TO THE LEADER</u> <u>(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER</u></p> <p>Wales and Cardiff were given a rare and special opportunity to showcase themselves to the world by the recent Nato Summit. Most political parties welcomed the event, the decision to host it in South Wales and the positive media coverage which resulted. The exception to this support emanated from the leadership of Cardiff Council. By hosting an alternative anti-Nato meeting in County Hall and through the absence of welcoming gestures (except those of the Lord Mayor) international visitors may have been left with the impression that the city's Labour leadership saw the visit as an intrusion which offended its political sensibilities.</p> <p>At the last Council meeting, the Leader was given the opportunity to give an unconditional welcome to the summit and visiting world leaders during their time in Cardiff. But he turned it down. Does he now wish to recant and clearly state his appreciation for this once in a lifetime opportunity for the city of Cardiff?</p> <p>Will he also outline some of the potential gains and how he intends to take advantage of them?</p>

3	<p><u>ORAL QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR MAGILL (EDUCATION AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN</u></p> <p>What percentage of children in all schools across Cardiff use the free bus services provided?</p> <p>Please breakdown the answer down into individual schools, including all council run schools.</p>
4	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR LENT (EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>What can be done to correct inaccuracies to Children's Services Intake and Assessments reports before inaccuracies form part of the rolling process?</p>
5	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATEL (TRANSPORT, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HUNT</u></p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member give an assurance that the issue of cycling through the city centre will be properly addressed?</p> <p>The vehicular roads are dangerous and not cycle friendly and cycling is largely prohibited in the pedestrian areas. Any responsible cyclist travelling in any direction through the city centre will have to get off their bike for large parts of the journey. I have been in Munich recently where cycle paths comfortably co-exist alongside pedestrian areas in the city centre and the incidence of cycling is high. Could similar measures be introduced in Cardiff?</p>
6	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATEL (TRANSPORT, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLARK</u></p> <p>On 7 August 2014, Wales Online reported the arrangements for Visitors' Parking Permits in Cardiff. It said "<i>After consultation, a £7.50 per year permit will be created for people who only want one visitor permit and don't have a Residents' Permit of their own</i>". Please could you outline how long the Council consultation lasted?</p>

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**QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATEL
(TRANSPORT, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO)**

QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRAHAM THOMAS

The A4119, Llantrisant Road, is a key arterial corridor into Cardiff from the north west. It is already a heavily over used road with several pinch points. Future building and development plans only set to add to existing congestion issues. Given the scale of the LDP in north west Cardiff, does the cabinet member agree that proper long term planning is required along its whole length to expand or straighten this single lane, winding road with poor pavements, before new developments make this impossible?

Additionally, in relation to the same road, over the summer there have been a series of terrible accidents involving motorists and cyclists, in particular at its junction with Croft y Genau Road from St Fagans. This is an extremely busy junction, with little effective traffic control measures and traffic travelling at the national speed limit through the junction. Would the cabinet please commit to reviewing safety at this particular junction as a matter of urgent priority?

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**QUESTION TO THE LEADER
(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO)**

QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN

I understand that the Cabinet has appointed a Peer Review Team to help oversee the improvement programme following the devastating Peer Review and Wales Audit Office reports which are damning about the performance of the council over the past decade.

Can you inform the Council of the names of the individuals that comprise the Review Team, the daily rates paid to each and the total anticipated cost to the Council and the total to be paid by WLGA of the entire exercise?

9	<p><u>QUESTION TO LEADER</u> <u>(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>Cardiff Council forwarded a complaint to the Ombudsman alleging that I had distributed false and misleading material on the local development plan. The Ombudsman concluded that no breach of the code of conduct had taken place because the Ombudsman considered that the material published by me was not misleading and did not contain untruthful or misrepresentative statements. What is the Cabinet Member's view of the Ombudsman's findings?</p>
10	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELSMORE</u> <u>(HEALTH, HOUSING AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ALI</u></p> <p>The Council has developed improvement work to the British Iron & Steel Foundation (BISF) properties as from April 2013, including the option for the removal of the steel cladding, undertaking any necessary repairs to the steel frame and re-cladding using an external insulated render system. Some properties will also need the roofs replaced if they still have steel sheet roofs. Can you give an update on when BISF Properties will start work in Llandaff North / Gabalfa?</p>
11	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH</u> <u>(SAFETY, ENGAGEMENT AND DEMOCRACY PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>Does the Cabinet member believe an 'area-based' approach is a key principle when it comes to installing alley-gates and, if so, explain why?</p>
12	<p><u>QUESTION TO THE LEADER</u> <u>(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER</u></p> <p>In commenting that 'fragmented leadership and management have meant that weak performance in key service areas have not improved', the Welsh Audit Office Report lays clear responsibility for the negative conclusions in this highly critical report at the door of this unstable Labour administration. When half of a political group is constantly working to undermine the ruling half, hoping for it to fail, such instability can only get worse to the detriment of the people you were elected to</p>

	<p>serve. When this administration took control there was much fanfare about putting right the shortcomings of its predecessors but this WAO Report nails the truth that ‘the Council has been unable to develop the culture and framework necessary for continuous improvement’.</p> <p>Will the Leader take this opportunity to be frank and open about the causes of the ‘political instability’ highlighted in this report and in particular how he intends to stop the infighting which brought down his predecessor and threatens his own tenure?</p>
13	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR MAGILL (EDUCATION AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDERS</u></p> <p>How was evidence generated to make the conclusion that Llanishen Fach primary school was unable to be included in the provision of additional primary school places for the Llanishen area?</p> <p>How was the evidence validated to ensure accuracy for the conclusion reached?</p> <p>What discussions were held with the school, its Headteacher or the Governing Body to ensure the assertions were accurate?</p> <p>I should also declare that I am a Local Authority governor at Llanishen Fach primary school.</p>
14	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR LENT (EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>What is the Cabinet member doing about the independent investigator report finding that Cardiff Children's Services is guilty of inaccuracy in its reporting, of not keeping key records on file and that a very serious allegation of child abuse was not investigated to the standard that it should have been?</p> <p>She should be aware of the report. I can forward it if there is any confusion.</p>

15	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR DERBYSHIRE (ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GORDON</u></p> <p>In view of the cost of £175,000 spend on green plastic bags for recycling and white bags for garden waste, could the Council consider a sustainable solution?</p> <p>My constituents would like to put recyclables in separate boxes and use strong plastic garden bags for garden waste which can be reused each week. The boxes and bags would be emptied and put on the kerbside for use again. This would be a far more sustainable and cost effective method to the ongoing cost of providing bags that have a single use. Most other local authorities have this collection system rather than bags.</p>
16	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRADBURY (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CO-OPERATIVES AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOWELLS</u></p> <p>Following the BBC Wales X-Ray Programme in August which highlighted the overwhelmingly unhealthy snacks being sold in our Leisure Facilities, what actions have now been put in place to improve the situation?</p>
17	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATEL (TRANSPORT, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CRAIG WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>Will the cabinet member outline any planned changes to the current bus subsidies operating in Cardiff, in particular the 136 serving the communities of Pentyrch, Creigiau and Gwaelod Y Garth?</p>
18	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR HINCHEY (CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>How much will be generated by moving the planning department into County Hall?</p> <p>How much has the move cost?</p>

19	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR DERBYSHIRE (ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GORDON</u></p> <p>Is the Waste Management service considering charging residents to take rubbish to the household amenity centres?</p>
20	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELSMORE (HEALTH, HOUSING AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>Could the cabinet member outline her proposals to retender the Direct Payment Support Provider Retender contract?</p>
21	<p><u>QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR LENT (EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO)</u></p> <p><u>QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRAHAM</u></p> <p>Following the much publicised and aborted attempt to use 150 Thornhill Road as young offenders centre, the former Cabinet Member for Children's Services was advised that a disposal of the site was in the best interests of all concerned. Taking into account the officers' advice to dispose, the ongoing costs being currently incurred, the £2million original cost and the high resale value of the site, will the current Cabinet Member proceed with the disposal as soon as possible, to release much needed funds into the Children's Services budget?</p> <p>Residents are very concerned over the rumours of the Council planning another inappropriate project at the site and will welcome a swift decision.</p>