

COUNCIL, 25 SEPTEMBER 2014 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CORPORATE SERVICES AND PERFORMANCE **(COUNCILLOR GRAHAM HINCHEY)**

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></p> <p>How many of Cardiff Council's Corporate Directors and Chief Officers live within the city & county of Cardiff?</p> <p>How many do not?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>In terms of the Council's Senior Management Team, 5 persons live within the City & County of Cardiff and 13 do not.</p> <p>Please note that there is no requirement for any council employee to live within the city's administrative boundaries.</p>
W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER</u></p> <p>What specific steps is the cabinet taking to reduce agency spend in the current year and in preparation for the projected future budgetary constraints?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Management actions to restrict spend were set out by the Chief Executive earlier in the year as part of the measures to address the Council's overspend in the 2014/15 financial year. This was outlined in detail in paragraph 7 of the 'Budget Monitoring – Month 4 Report', which was considered by the Cabinet on 18 September 2014.</p> <p>The specific wording contained in that report in relation to Staffing Arrangements and agency spend was as follows:</p> <p><i>“review and limit any new agency engagements or extensions to current agency engagements”</i></p> <p>Monthly monitoring data on agency spend is provided to all Directors to enable the review of ongoing requirements.</p>

W3

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER

What is the projected spend on statutory and discretionary redundancy payments (itemised separately) for the current year and forecast for the 2015/16 financial year?

Is there an intention to review current policy on Council compromise agreements?

Reply

1. The spend in relation to redundancy payments for 2014/15 up until the end of August 2014 is £1 million. The breakdown between statutory and discretionary payments will be provided following a reconciliation exercise which is currently being undertaken. In 2013/14, the split was 39% statutory costs and 61% discretionary costs.

The projected spend for the full year for 2014/15 and 2015/16 is not known as the figure is dependent upon financial pressures and savings proposals within directorates and the individual circumstances of employees.

The Budget Report for 2014/15, which was approved by Council in February 2014, included a financial model in respect of the costs in relation to redundancy payments and how these would be funded. The assumptions within this model were that redundancy payments would be around £10.055 million in 2014/15 and £8.155 million in 2015/16. As noted above, these costs are complex to model and dependent upon an individual's circumstances.

2. Yes, a review of settlement agreements (previously known as compromise agreements) is proposed as part of the corporate review of the Council's voluntary severance scheme.

EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
(COUNCILLOR SUE LENT)

W4	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>How children are on the child protection register?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>At 31st July 2014, there were 285 children on the child protection register.</p>
W5	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>Does every child on the child protection register have an allocated social worker?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Yes.</p>
W6	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>With reference to all social workers who are dealing with children on the Child Protection Register, as of 31-07-14 how many cases does each social worker have for their entire case workload?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>50 social workers had responsibility for one or more of the 285 children on the Child Protection Register as at 31st July 2014.</p> <p>Of the 50 (6 of whom are not full-time equivalents), the overall caseload ranged from 11 to 39, which represents an average of 25.5.</p>
W7	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>How many children are Cardiff Children's Services dealing with as of 31-07-14?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>2,861</p>

W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>How many families are Cardiff Children's Services dealing with as of 31-07-14?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There is no single definition of what constitutes a 'family' given that many children move between different branches of the same family. Based on the number of children that we were working with as at 31st July 2014, Cardiff Children's Services were dealing with 1,390 families.</p>
W9	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>How many social workers are employed by Cardiff Children's Services on full time permanent contracts as of 31-07-14, please specify gender?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As at 31st July 2014, there were 102 permanent, full-time Social Workers employed within Children's Services. Of these, 81 are female and 21 are male.</p>
W10	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>How many part time permanent social workers does Cardiff Children's Services employ, please specify gender?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As at 31st July 2014, there were 30 permanent, part-time Social Workers employed within Children's Services. Of these, 28 are female and 2 are male.</p>
W11	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>How many agency staff is Cardiff Children's Services using as of 31-07-14?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Cardiff Children's Services were using 77 agency staff as at 31st July 2014, inclusive of all grades, levels of qualification and designations.</p>

W12

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

What was the total annual budget spent by Cardiff Children's Services from 1999 to 2014?

Reply

The Cardiff Children's Services expenditure budget from 2000 is detailed below. Prior to this, it formed part of the wider Social Services Department.

Year	Budget £'000
2014/15	44,921
2013/14	45,946
2012/13	42,480
2011/12	40,658
2010/11	37,212
2009/10	36,498
2008/09	36,345
2007/08	36,540
2006/07	34,468
2005/06	26,893
2004/05	20,504
2003/04	20,690
2002/03	18,856
2001/02	16,440
2000/01	16,049

W13

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How many children on the Child Protection Register are educated in school, please give in figures and as a percentage?

Reply

At 31st July 2014, 150 of the 285 children on the child protection register were of statutory school age (53%). These children are all entitled to full time school education. The number who are provided with specialised home tuition or educated otherwise at any one time is low.

W14

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How many social workers in Cardiff Children's Services would be described as "managers", please give grade and salary as of 31-07-14?

Reply

Of the registered Social Workers employed by Cardiff Children's Services, the following have a management post:

- Director x 1
(Spot Salary = £120,000)

- Operational Manager x 1
(Level 1 with salary range of £52,545-£64,032)

- Operational Manager x 1
(Level 2 with salary range of £43,002-£51,945)

- Service Manager x 3
(Grade 10 with salary range of £36,676-£39,351)

- Team Managers x 21
(Grade 10 with salary range of £36,676-£39,351)

- Registered Manager x 1
(Grade 9 with salary range of £33,998-£36,676)

- Team Managers x 1
(Grade 8 with salary range of £30,311-£33,998)

- Team Leaders x 1
(Grade 7 with salary range of £26,539-£30,311)

W15

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

To which domestic abuse charities can Cardiff Children's Services refer females for non judgemental support?

Reply

The organisations who are involved in working and engaging with either victims or perpetrators of Domestic Abuse do so in a non judgemental way such as Cardiff Women's Aid and Safer Wales alongside BAWSO and Barnardo's.

W16	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>To which domestic abuse charities can Cardiff Children's Services refer males for non judgemental support?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The organisations who are involved in working and engaging with either victims or perpetrators of Domestic Abuse practice in a non judgemental way. Both the Safer Wales Dyn Project and Refuge Against Domestic Violence offer both practical and emotional support. The NSPCC facilitates group programmes for fathers.</p>
W17	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>What venues are used for child protection conferences by Cardiff Children's Services, please specify those in or next to schools?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The following venues are used on a regular basis for child protection conferences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mellons Family Centre – next door to school • Llanedeyrn Family Centre – school in the vicinity • Rainbow House in St Mellons <p>A specific school may be used to host a child protection conference if considered appropriate and necessary.</p>

EDUCATION AND SKILLS
(COUNCILLOR JULIA MAGILL)

W18

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER

Whereas it is reassuring to hear of incremental improvements of Key Stage 4 outcomes they remain below those of many comparable English cities. We understand that new educational structures have been set up to improve performance, particularly at secondary level. What would be useful would be a clear outline of any new policies and initiatives which have been produced through the establishment of these new structures. Additionally, the specific targets and their rationale which individual schools have been set to improve KS4 and A level results.

Will the cabinet member make this information available to me and other members?

Reply

A number of educational structures are in place to improve performance, particularly at secondary level.

The Welsh Government has introduced the Schools Challenge Cymru (SCC), which is a focused effort to break the link between deprivation and attainment. There are four main themes for the Challenge – leadership; learning and teaching; the pupil; the school & the community.

The 40 schools involved across Wales (including Cantonian High School, Eastern High School, Glyn Derw High School, Michaelston Community College, St Illtyd's Catholic High School and Willows High School in Cardiff) are receiving additional resources and expertise to undertake a programme of swift, sustainable improvement.

Each school has been assigned a SCC Adviser who will take an active role in each school's improvement process. They will support the school in drafting a Single School Development Plan that will drive improvement and include stretching targets for success. Cluster primary schools will also be involved. An Accelerated Improvement Board (AIB) for each school will meet monthly to ensure that the improvement strategies are being implemented effectively and that rapid improvement is being made. A representative from the local authority will sit on the AIB.

In addition, the Central South Wales Challenge is a strategy to

develop a self-improving school system across the five local authorities that constitute the Central South Wales Consortium. It is based on the evidence that schools usually have a greater capacity to improve themselves than is currently being mobilised. In other words, schools know more information than they use and working together has enormous potential to drive improvements.

Over 40 School Improvement Groups (SIGs) have been created, involving schools from all five authorities, which will include a mix of schools at different stages of development. Their aim is to improve the performance of every school and all groups of learners, thus increasing the number of good and outstanding schools.

At Key Stage 4, the minimum expectation is that schools set targets which if achieved would place them in the top 25% of similar schools taking into account pupils' prior attainment and school level context factors. These targets are discussed with the school's Challenge Adviser and agreed by the local authority before being finalised and submitted to the Consortium.

At A-level, school targets for Key Stage 5 are not a statutory requirement, but are submitted to the Consortium as part of a local agreement.

School	2014/15 Target L1	2014/15 Target L2	2014/15 Target L2 EWM	2 x A level
Cantonian	92	81	47	98
Cardiff High	100	96	84	100
Cathays	94	79	50	57
Corpus Christi	100	81	81	
Eastern High	88	57	36	
Fitzalan	95	85	51	100
Glyn Derw	95	78	51	
Llanishen	100	83	70	100
Mary Immaculate	96	86	45	
Michaelston Community College	95	70	45	
Radyr	99	90	79	100
St Illtyds	96	71	45	
St Teilos	97	83	65	98
The Bishop of Llandaff	100	87	74	100
Whitchurch	95	74	64	100
Willows	89	68	45	
Ysgol Gyfun Glantaf	98	85	70	98
Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr	99	91	84	100

The above targets were submitted last year by Cardiff schools for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 and will be subject to discussion and

	<p>challenge by the Challenge Adviser as part of the visits in the autumn term.</p>
W19	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER</u></p> <p>It was agreed in principle that the data formerly available which compared Cardiff schools' performance with that of other comparable English cities would be reinstated and circulated to members. When will this information be available regarding the 2013/14 results recently published?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>This information is published annually and was available in the Annual Schools Performance Report that was published in January 2014. It is not the case that it needs to be reinstated. It will be updated in January 2015 as usual.</p> <p>The provisional data for comparable English cities will be published by the UK Government Department for Education on 23rd October 2014.</p> <p>Provisional Summary of Secondary School Performance (SSSP) data for Wales will be published on 25th September 2014.</p> <p>Members will receive this information formally in January 2015 in the report on the Performance of Cardiff Schools.</p>

ENVIRONMENT
(COUNCILLOR BOB DERBYSHIRE)

W20

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

Please set out by ward the number of streets which have had missed refuse collections in each of the last twelve months.

Reply

Whilst records are kept of instances where collections are delayed, this information is not stored in a manner that would allow it to be presented in the format requested (i.e. number of streets per ward). However, further to a similar request, customer reports of missed collections have been recorded on a ward-by-ward basis since April 2014 as follows:

	MISSED COLLECTIONS BY WARD				
	May 2014	June 2014	July 2014	August 2014	TOTAL
Adamsdown	10	9	35	15	69
Butetown	21	29	72	34	156
Caerau	31	64	54	31	180
Canton	35	19	83	39	176
Cathays	23	96	70	41	230
Creigiau & St. Fagans	14	44	27	13	98
Cyncoed	58	48	46	82	234
Ely	67	72	91	61	291
Fairwater	50	50	115	36	251
Gabalfa	13	43	28	63	147
Grangetown	35	59	86	64	244
Heath	36	32	84	19	171
Lisvane	17	18	42	16	93
Llandaff	43	109	67	64	283
Llandaff North	25	92	17	19	153
Llanishen	95	52	88	40	275
Llanrumney	31	45	141	47	264
Pentwyn	41	88	66	49	244
Pentyrch	3	3	48	8	62
Penylan	40	85	51	103	279
Plasnewydd	30	41	95	57	223
Pontprennau & Old St. Mellons	23	36	59	35	153
Radyr	26	112	35	40	213
Rhiwbina	38	32	60	28	158

Riverside	54	58	84	37	233
Rumney	18	30	98	21	167
Sploott	46	48	48	45	187
Trowbridge	52	58	104	77	291
Whitchurch & Tongwynlais	42	81	50	46	219
TOTAL	1017	1553	1944	1230	5744

To put this data into context, the Waste Management service undertakes 3 collections per property per week. With approximately 152,000 properties in Cardiff, this equates to over 450,000 collections per week and over 23 million collections per annum.

Therefore, to have only 5744 reported non collections out of nearly 8 million scheduled collections over a 4 month period represents less than 0.1% of the total collections undertaken.

That said, the service continues to address any causes within their control to avoid missed collections, including round rebalancing and improved support services provision such as fleet management.

W21

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

Will the council re-consult residents in streets like Soberton Avenue and Manor Street to see if they would be amenable to having wheelie bins instead of bag collections?

Reply

I am currently in discussion with officers on the logistics and costs of new proposals for a wheeled bin expansion programme.

The benefits of wheeled bins are clear – less litter and seagull attacks; they are safer for operatives and residents and, most of all, they encourage recycling as people can no longer put out an unlimited amount of black bags.

Detailed plans will be developed and shared with the relevant local members over the coming months.

W22

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR FORD

Since the closure of Waungron Road re-cycling centre there has been a vast increase in Fly-tipping in Cardiff West, at what extra cost?

Reply

There has been no “vast increase” in fly tipping in Cardiff West.

W23

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER

At this time of year footways can become narrowed by overgrowth from private gardens. In response to local complaints about this matter, officers have confirmed that ‘there are no set criteria for adequate footpath clearance’. They also state that even when shrubs and branches intrude on public access that they ‘do not ask householders to cut back overgrowth unless it is causing an obstruction’.

Could the cabinet member look at policy in this area so that pavements and rights of way remain unhindered by overgrowth, establishing the criteria and rules for dealing with this nuisance which those with enforcement responsibility currently lack?

Reply

The Council take public safety very seriously and, by way of background, the Council exercises the provisions as set out under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 in order to deal with the scenario that you describe.

There are not set criteria contained within the relevant section(s) of the Act which explicitly define what constitutes an obstruction, the Act determines that :

“Where a hedge, tree or shrub overhangs a highway or any other road or footpath to which the public has access so as to endanger or obstruct the passage of vehicles or pedestrians, or obstructs or interferes with the view of drivers of vehicles or the light from a public lamp, or overhangs a highway so as to endanger or obstruct the passage of horse riders, a competent authority may, by notice either to the owner of the hedge , tree or shrub or to the occupier of the land on which it is growing , require him within 14 days from the date of service of the notice so to lop or cut it as to remove the cause of danger, obstruction or interference’

In the absence of an explicit definition inspecting officers are required to apply logic and exercise discretion at the time of inspection in order to reach a decision as whether or not to issue a notice, in doing considering the pertinent factors which are predominately, the degree

of overhang, the width of the footpath or roadway and / or proximity of the highway in and some instances disputes between neighbours / within the local community.

In view of the above inspecting officers do not always issue notices on owner / occupiers where vegetation overhangs a footpath, roadway or highway. The council will however issue notices on owner / occupiers where vegetation overhangs to an extent that causes an obstruction and as a result poses a risk to public safety in accordance with the Act. Indeed to issue notices as a matter of routine to owner / occupiers and whereby overhang exists could be seen as a heavy handed, unreasonable approach and not the best use of Council resources.

LEADER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS
(COUNCILLOR PHIL BALE)

W24	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DIANNE REES</u></p> <p>What is the current position with Central Bus Station?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As you will be aware, we are working closely with partners to deliver a new world-class ‘Integrated Transport Hub’, which will replace the existing city centre bus station.</p> <p>At present, a consultation exercise is currently ongoing to seek views from the public regarding the future development of the station. Details regarding the future development of the station will be developed using the outcomes of the consultation.</p> <p>The consultation period ends on 3rd October. A report on the outcome of the consultation is due to be presented to Cabinet in December for a decision on the way forward.</p>
W25	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DIANNE REES</u></p> <p>What effect will the plans for Central Bus station have on National Express Bus stops in the near future?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Details of the future impact on existing National Express Coach facilities at Central Bus Station will emerge from the current consultation exercise and subsequent report to Cabinet in December 2014.</p>
W26	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DIANNE REES</u></p> <p>What effect will the proposed changes have on the taxi rank at the Central Bus station and the pick up, drop off bays there?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Details of the future impact on existing taxi facilities at Central Bus Station will emerge from the current consultation exercise and</p>

	subsequent report to Cabinet in December 2014.
W27	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER</u></p> <p>Will the cabinet member update Council on recent meetings with Celsa regarding the refilling of Llanishen Reservoir, their timing, content and outcomes?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I have to declare a personal interest in this matter.</p> <p>I am aware that recent discussions have been held between the Directors of Economic Development and Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transport with the Managing Director of Celsa.</p> <p>Company officials reiterated their willingness to engage with the local community regarding plans for the reservoirs. However, they did point out that they are still waiting to conclude negotiations with Welsh Water and, as soon as these have been finalised, further discussions will then take place.</p>

TRANSPORT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY
(COUNCILLOR RAMESH PATEL)

W28

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

Please will you update me on the Cabinet's response to the petition which I submitted in September last year calling for a resurfacing of Heathfield Road and Heathfield Place?

Reply

I am pleased to confirm that Heathfield Road and Heathfield Place have been selected for inclusion in the surface treatment programme for the current financial year. Details were circulated by email to all Members on 10 September 2014.

The treatment is weather sensitive and, as a result of this and the scale of the programme, a precise date cannot be provided at the present time. However, the anticipated programme start date is February / March 2015.

When a firm programme has been agreed and dates set, the communication process will begin where members and residents will be provided with key dates prior to commencement of works on site.