

COUNCIL: 23 OCTOBER 2014

LEADER'S STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:8

IXCardiff

The new Internet Exchange (IXCardiff) was launched in the city on Wednesday 15 October, which is located in the heart of Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone. The new Internet Exchange forms part of the digital transformation of Cardiff as one of the UK's 'Super Connected Cities'. To this end, the UK Government has allocated up to £6.78m to upgrade the city's digital infrastructure and the £600,000 investment to connect SMEs in Cardiff to the new exchange is a central part of the programme. The development of IXCardiff will ensure that Cardiff becomes digitally connected and will provide a massive incentive for financial and creative industries to locate their business in Cardiff and the wider Cardiff Capital Region. It will help give the city a competitive advantage and reduce dependency on London by enabling business to connect directly to an Internet Exchange here in Cardiff; giving the benefit of lower overheads, improved internet speeds and increased online capability.

MIPIM UK

On Thursday 16th October, I joined with officers from the Council's Economic Development Team and representatives from the Cardiff Business Council in attending the MIPIM UK conference at Olympia in London, which was held over two days. This event provided a high profile and valuable opportunity to promote Cardiff and to showcase the impressive interactive 3D model of the city. I understand that we have already received some positive enquiries from businesses and prospective investors following the event.

Alert Logic

On Wednesday 22nd October, I joined Gray Hall, CEO of Alert Logic and the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, Edwina Hart AM, at the official opening of the Alert Logic Security Operations Centre and European Headquarters in Cardiff's Capital Quarter. The decision by Alert Logic to locate its European Headquarters here in Cardiff demonstrates the strength of the city's offer to growing technology businesses and underlines Cardiff's status as a skilled and competitive capital city. I look forward to continuing to work with Alert Logic in establishing Cardiff and the Cardiff Capital Region as a leading location in Europe for cyber security.

Core Cities UK – Meeting with Glasgow City Council

Tomorrow, I will be travelling with the Chief Executive to Glasgow to meet with our counterparts, the Leader of Glasgow City Council, Councillor Gordon Matheson, and the Chief Executive, George Black. As a fellow new member of

Core Cities UK, the City of Cardiff Council can learn greatly from Glasgow's experience of bidding for, and hosting, the 2014 Commonwealth Games earlier this year, as well as their recent experience of negotiating a City Deal with the UK Government. We will also be taking the opportunity to learn more about some of the cities landmark regeneration projects, particularly those along the River Clyde.

Cardiff Convention 2014 (CC14)

The Cardiff Convention 2014 (CC14) will be held in the city on 30th October 2014. This one-day event will bring together leading international thinkers and influential stakeholders from the Cardiff Capital Region to debate and set out a new city development vision for Cardiff as part of our commitment to creating Europe's most liveable Capital City. I will also be attending a fringe event with the Mayor of Bristol to debate the important role of the UK's major cities in driving growth and responding to the fiscal and economic challenges of the future.

COUNCILLOR PHIL BALE

LEADER

23 October 2014

COUNCIL: 23 OCTOBER 2014

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CO-OPERATIVES & SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE STATEMENT**

AGENDA ITEM: 8

ECOS Awards

I was delighted to welcome the Cardiff sporting community to the Millennium Stadium last week for the European Capital for Sport Awards. Representatives from our community clubs, schools, universities, professional clubs, Commonwealth Games Council, Sport Wales, National Governing Bodies and Voluntary sector were all present to help support and recognise the achievements of our Cardiff sportsmen and women. It was a great event which paid tribute to grass roots sport; the volunteers that keep sport moving in the city and our elite performers and clubs.

Having Nation Radio as our commercial and PR partner also added some "wow" factor and ensured some excellent publicity both on air and through social media channels.

The big winner of the night was Rhythmic Gymnast Frankie Jones who took home two prestigious awards. Frankie's gold medal in the ribbon event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in what was the last performance of her incredible career was rewarded with a 'Performance of the Season' award.

Dave Haller won Lifetime Achievement award for his contribution to swimming and in the face of tough competition from Ryder Cup Hero Jamie Donaldson, Real Madrid star Gareth Bale and Commonwealth Games Captain and medallist Aled Davies the 'Sportsman of the Year' went to cyclist Geraint Thomas.

This has been another fine year for sport in Cardiff and much of that is down to the men and women who won and were nominated for an ECOS awards. I applaud their achievements, thank them for their efforts and hope they will continue to bring further success to our great city.

Maindy Fliers

I was recently invited to Maindy Stadium to meet the volunteers behind the wheels of the Maindy Fliers.

It was fantastic not only to see so many junior cyclists on the track but also the small army of mums, dads, volunteers and young ambassadors all contributing to the success of what is now the biggest junior cycling club in the UK.

As part of the visit I was taken through their constitution and development plans which demonstrated that the club have a clear long term vision to develop Cardiff talent, recruit new cyclists, recruit, train and deploy volunteers and coaches.

The fliers have produced some World Class Cyclists including Geraint Thomas, Nicole Cook and Megan Barker.

I was really impressed by the operation at Maindy Fliers. I know, that given the savings that my portfolio needs to find they have concerns about the future of facilities. I was able to reassure them, that we would wish to see club provision at our centres maintained if the facilities go under new management; and we will be endeavouring to ensure that this is specified as much as we can within our overall objectives.

Glamorgan Archives

I recently visited Glamorgan Archives, it is a testament to the benefits of joint working, providing a high quality archive services to 6 local authorities.

I was impressed by the Archives' engagement with skill sharing. Volunteers and work experience students have contributed 6,400 hours to the service in the past 12 months. Working alongside staff, individuals of all ages complete projects which would not otherwise be attempted. They include school work experience and university students, retired or unemployed people and a number of placements through agencies such as Quest and Elite for those on the autism/Aspergers spectrum.

The volunteer programme is committed to supporting vulnerable adults and to preparing people of all ages to fulfil their potential and prepare for employment. For the last 4 years the Archives has led a consortium of local heritage organisation in CLOCH (Conserving Local Communities Heritage), a Heritage Lottery funded Skills for the Future project through which bursaries have been provided to train 16 unemployed young men for entry level posts in the sector, which the majority have achieved. Archive staff are certified in assessing vocational achievement and have formal training in volunteer management. The project ends this year, an indication of the continued commitment to skills exchange.

COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY

Cabinet Member (Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise)

23 October 2014

CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:8

Council Budget Update

- The Welsh Government Provisional Settlement was announced on 8 October.. The Settlement covers both revenue and capital funding allocations from Welsh Government for 2015/16 only with no indicative figures for future years.
- The revenue provisional settlement set out a cash decrease in funding from Welsh Government for Cardiff of £12.595 million. After adjusting for transfers, this equates to a decrease of 2.9%. However, once adjusted for a transfer in respect of LGBTI 21st Century schools the true cash decrease is in effect £13.047 million.

The Welsh average decrease is 3.4%.

- As set out in the Council's Budget Strategy Report, which identified a Budget Reduction Requirement of £45.5 million, the Council is already facing significant financial pressures. In particular updated figures in respect of population growth and pupil numbers show that the percentage increases in Cardiff are the highest across Wales. These emerging numbers equate to additional financial pressures which will need to be reflected when our budget is set for next year.
- Added to this are the unique pressures that Cardiff faces as the Welsh Capital with more than 79,000 people coming into the City everyday to visit, work and enjoy the wider range of events and national venues that we host and maintain.
- Despite this Cardiff has contributed £316,000 towards the application of the damping mechanism. There are three beneficiaries of the operation of the floor, Powys (£1.7m), Ceredigion (£0.9m) and Monmouth (£0.1m.)
- Protection for Schools is maintained at 1% above the Welsh Government's block grant.
- Based on the Minister's letter of 24 June, Cardiff had planned for a decrease of 4.5%, or £19.6 million in cash terms. The settlement therefore includes £6.6 million more cash than Budget Strategy Planning assumptions.

- It should be noted however, that the lower than average settlement decrease received by Cardiff is a result of data changes feeding through the funding formula that are reflective of additional pressures. These pressures, along with emerging issues and other risk areas will absorb any benefit of a lower than anticipated funding decrease. In particular, these include:-
 - Substantial increases in pupil numbers
 - The need to make good the 'non-additionality' of 2015/16 LGBI funding
 - Realignment Issues reflected by the Council's monitoring position
 - Reductions in the levels of some specific grants and the lack of clarity
 - The as yet unconfirmed position in relation to Outcome Agreement Grant
- The provisional settlement also contains information in respect of the capital settlement figures. Across Wales capital funding for 2015/16 totals £400 million which reflects a decrease of 1.1% when compared with 2014/15. For Cardiff the capital settlement figure is £13.447 million which represents an increase of £36k which is 0.27%.
- We remain committed to consulting with the people of Cardiff and a range of proposals will be considered over coming months through the Cardiff Debate.
- In summary the financial position facing the Council, due to reductions in Welsh Government funding and financial pressures, remains a matter of extreme concern.

Council Tax collection update

- The current year sees a continuation of the robust but fair and proactive approach that has been developed to manage the collection of Council Tax which has resulted in annual improvements to the collection rate. Particular emphasis has been placed on issuing prompt accurate bills and developing a recovery timetable that has ensured that non payers are pursued in a timely manner. Excellent links have been developed with the Council's Welfare Hub and c2c which also helps to identify vulnerable customers.
- During 2013/14 our in-year collection rate improved by 1% to 96.35% which was the biggest improvement in Wales and so far this year our in-year collection rate is 0.8% ahead of the same period last year.
- Improving Council Tax collection is important to ensure that the spending power of the Council is maximised during this period of significant fiscal reduction.

Cardiff Manager Programme

- 20 October 2014 saw the first day of the Cardiff Manager Programme which is being run in partnership with the Cardiff and Vale College. The programme is aimed initially at grade 8 to 10 officers and covers topics such as managing change, creativity and problem solving, managing within a balanced budget,

performance management and the behaviours needed of managers. It addresses directly the feedback received in the recent WAO assessment.

Pilot Corporate Apprenticeship Scheme

- A number of corporate apprenticeship roles were created to support the Council's commitment to education and skills for people of all ages to fulfil their potential and be well prepared for employment in the Cardiff economy and beyond. Working with Cardiff & Vale College, temporary posts were advertised in September and following the recruitment process, four corporate apprentices were appointed and are due to start on 10 November. These cover two in ICT (Infrastructure and Applications) and two in Customer Services and Business Administration.

ICT update

In terms of new systems in the last year the following have been implemented:

- CMS – new mobile and scheduling solution to mobilise their service and improve efficiencies
- AMX – new consolidated asset management system for Highways
- Sharepoint – new implementation that was used to create the new Cardiff.gov.uk website and is also being used as a new EDRMS (Electronic Document Management System) . It is also being used further for collaborative work spaces such as the new one for the Cardiff Ambassadors initiative
- Adult and Community Learning new online enrolment system
- Electronic Time Monitoring System new analysis system to cut the cost of the domiciliary care providers service

In schools the following initiatives have been delivered over the last year :

- Implementation of wi-fi in all schools giving total coverage
- Upgrading of 56 primary schools from 10 meg internet connection to 100
- Implemented Office 365 capability for all schools allowing free access to the Microsoft suite of Office applications to all education staff and pupils with over 75 schools using this extensively and others migrating to use this
- Implementation of the WG funded HWB virtual learning system to all schools

Changes to existing practices in the last year include:

- Continuation of the PrintSmart project rollout which has reduced printer numbers by 93%, made external savings of over £300k annually and significantly improved functionality for all staff
- New mobile device management role in ICT which has already identified and removed over 400 devices from our EE contract that were being paid for but not in use, as well as significantly streamlining invoicing and billing

Performance Management

Challenge Forum

Last week the second meeting of the Challenge Forum provided further focus on the Council's Performance improvement agenda. The Forum, which we established earlier this year, provides peer support arrangements in response to some of the corporate challenges we have identified. With the support of the Welsh Government and the WLGA, the forum brings together experts in the fields of Education, Children's Services and corporate development to assist the Council deliver robust performance challenge arrangements and consider best practice from across the UK.

Reflecting the work already undertaken as part of the Organisational Change Programme, I was pleased that Members of the Group commented that the Council had sharpened its performance management arrangements. This was the initial reflections of the independent review of Performance Management Arrangements in the Council, which has included discussions with Welsh Audit Office, Performance officers, and Directors.

Recognising the progress made, the Forum emphasised that the next part of the corporate improvement journey must focus on enhancing challenge and accountability within performance management. Securing a strong focus on outcomes- what we want to achieve- and how we will go about achieving them was also identified as a priority.

Accelerated Improvement

We recently initiated a more robust methodology for the management of improvement in key areas of concern. This includes a standing challenge and support process through which service delivery can be tested by Cabinet Members, with the Chief Executive and Director of Resources.

As part of this approach, clear improvements have also been made in key areas within the Council.

- Children's Services- Good progress has been made in addressing recruitment issues, whilst better service management has had a positive impact on social work case-loads. Performance Indicators are also seen to be moving in the right direction, with a recognised need to distinguish between recording process and measuring outcomes. An Independent review of "Front Door" services has also provided positive feedback about Social Work practice.
- Education Improvement- The Council can reflect on improved performance across all levels with the rates of improvement generally above Welsh Average. However we the Forum recognised also that performance was too often below the Welsh Average. Intensive work is currently being undertaken with schools and there is on-going work to identify and build on the activities that are having an impact.

In the coming weeks I will be extending this approach to introduce more rigorous challenge to directorate performance across the board through a "Star Chamber" approach, starting with the Quarter 2 performance position.

This reflects the Cabinet's commitment to address the performance levels within the Council, and to secure improvement in key areas.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM HINCHEY
CABINET MEMBER
23 October 2014

COUNCIL: 23 OCTOBER 2014

EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN & FAMILIES STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 8

Keeping children safe should be the most important priority for any Local Authority. All members will be aware that Children's Services is an area that we have prioritised for improvement and that a great deal has been achieved during the last year to stabilise Children's Services. A major push on recruitment has seen real reductions in agency staff; an injection of extra support to bring individual caseloads down has taken some risk out of the system; and early work to learn from national best practice elsewhere is now helping us to shape our thinking about what the service should look like in the future.

The recent Looked After Children Inspection, which members will be aware of, was a national thematic Inspection of all Welsh Local Authorities focusing on Looked After Children following concerns in Rochdale and Oxfordshire. The Inspection was a positive one and concluded that Cardiff's performance is "reasonable to good" and this is a strong endorsement of the managers and staff in the service and their commitment to Looked After Children. In their verbal feedback the Inspectors said that the service had made a "good start" in terms of overall improvement but this also recognised that there remains a great deal to do and that we are only at the beginning of a major programme of sustained work to get to where we need to be.

Members will be aware of media reports in the last few days regarding dangerously high caseloads across Children's Services Departments in Wales. In this context it is important that members remain conscious that the overall total caseload in Children's Services has not changed and that demand continues to increase. This means we have to be aware that whilst a number of effective work streams have been put in place to continue to improve outcomes and services a fundamental question still remains as to whether the service is sufficiently well resourced to meet rising demand. I will certainly be giving this question my full attention and looking at what options are available to us to sustain recent successes over the longer term and as part of that will be providing members with regular updates as to progress.

COUNCILLOR SUE LENT

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member (Early Years, Children & Families)

23 October 2014

COUNCIL: 23 OCTOBER 2014

ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 8

Green Flag People's Choice Awards for 2014

I am very pleased to report that Bute Park has been placed as the seventh most popular Green Flag standard park in the United Kingdom under the Green Flag People's Choice Awards for 2014. This is a significant achievement given that the poll used to canvas opinion across the United Kingdom included a total of 1,309 parks, attracting in excess of 35,000 votes. On a Wales level, Bute Park was rated as the second most popular park in the Country out of 65 parks. The winner of the award in Wales being Margam Park, managed by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

I am sure that you will agree that this achievement reflects well on this Council and the wide range of stakeholders involved in the management and development of the park.

Cardiff Dog's Home

I'm very happy to announce Cardiff Dog's Home have been awarded the prestigious gold award in recognition of our continued commitment to animal welfare. The Animal Welfare Footprints scheme comprises four areas of service provided by the public sector that has some impact on animal welfare. Cardiff's success in the Stray Dog's footprint category reflects work undertaken to ensure the welfare of the animals during collection and kennelling as well as the proactive work undertaken by Cardiff Dogs Home to educate owners and to reduce levels of straying and numbers of long-term strays.

Of particular importance has been the work to encourage responsible dog ownership, micro-chipping, neutering and assessment procedures used for dogs as well as the work done to ensure, via the prospective owner application process, that re-homed dogs find homes suited to them. I'm very passionate about animal welfare and I'm delighted this excellent facility has been recognised in this way, well done to all involved.

Waste Management

As we continue to work on our Waste Strategy, we were greatly boosted by the news that Waste Management has secured £40k from Waste Awareness Wales to undertake a targeted food recycling campaign. We are absolutely committed

to ensuring people recycle as much of their waste as possible as everyone could and should, do more. This campaign will target traditionally hard-to-reach areas and communities and I look forward to a rise in recycling participation from this project.

Bidding for and winning this funding underlines how big a priority recycling and waste management issues are for this Administration. We are extremely busy with a number of other initiatives including:

- A fly-tipping intelligence sharing trial in conjunction with Fly-tipping Action Wales - Fly mapper system trial continuing to result in enforcement action being taken at the earliest opportunity;
- Sending waste to Viridor will help remove our risk of failing the landfill allowances scheme for 14/15. The risk carries a £200/t fine for each tonne we exceed the limit by;
- We are also trialling a Solar Compactor Bin on the pedestrianised section of St Mary's Street that uses a built-in Solar Panel to power an internal compactor allowing the unit to hold much more waste than a standard street bin. The bin has been successfully used in other cities with benefits including a reduction in operating costs and also litter.

And of course, our staff are central to meeting our recycling and waste priorities. A series of training sessions, tailored for the frontline staff, has been set up at Lamby Way in conjunction with Trade Union Learning Reps to ensure we are all working together in these difficult financial times. The staff often go above and beyond what is expected of them as seen during the NATO events in the city. We tailored services to ensure Cardiff looked its best on a global stage and our staff worked very hard to achieve this despite having no additional resource.

Regulatory Services

Our Food Standards Team also excelled during the NATO events ensuring safe food communicable disease control at official dinners. You cannot underestimate the importance of this work and I commend the team for NOT making the news while the world was watching. In other Regulatory news we have:

- Secured a number of successful prosecutions across food hygiene, trading standards, animal welfare and noise nuisance offences.
- Received a positive report from Food Standards Agency for Food Safety Team following shellfish traceability exercise.
- Worked closely with ASH Wales on launch of Illegal Tobacco Campaign.

Councillor Bob Derbyshire
Cabinet Member (Environment)

23 October 2014

COUNCIL: 23 OCTOBER 2014

SAFETY, ENGAGEMENT & DEMOCRACY STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:8

Youth Council Summit

The Leader and Cabinet Members attended a Youth Summit, with Cardiff Youth Council on October 15 at the Old Library, as part of celebrations for Democracy Week.

“European Local Democracy Week”, is an annual event with national and local events organised by participating local authorities, in all Council of Europe member states. The purpose is to raise awareness of how councils operate, their roles and responsibilities, while also highlighting how local democracy works and how people can get involved in the process.

Cardiff Youth Council was invited to engage with the Council Leader and members of the Cabinet, at an event designed to be educational, inspirational, challenging and interactive.

The Youth Summit fitted into the council's objective of increasing public participation in decisions on public service design and delivery. The core underlying questions which the summit sought to address were:

- How can we get more people voting in elections in Cardiff?
- How can Cardiff Council better engage with young people when making decisions that affect them?
- How can the council better prepare young people to be active citizens in Cardiff?

The Old Library provided a superb but informal setting for the summit with the 58 youth delegates sat at tables in café style groups and sitting with each group a Cabinet Member and facilitator.

Following an initial welcome from the Chair of the Youth Council, and the Leader, I provided delegates with a brief verbal tour of the workings of local democracy in Cardiff. The evening progressed with Members offering an outline of their roles and responsibilities, which was followed by a series of structured debates and discussions.

The conversations taking place at each table were captured graphically as well as verbally. Delegates were encouraged to write and draw their thoughts and/or contributions onto the table cloths. Two Graphic Recorders were on hand, who transferred these contributions into visual representations onto a large wall hung canvass, as the evening progressed.

Following a feedback session, a question and answer session and the closing remarks, delegates were able to view an exhibition of the Cardiff Debate and the new arrangements for Individual Electoral Registration.

The entire event was captured on film by a media company called Burning Red, who also conducted interviews with the Leader, myself and Council officers.

The summit has received a tremendously good response and generated extremely positive feedback.

COUNCILLOR DAN DE'ATH
Cabinet Member (Safety, Engagement and Democracy)

23 October 2014