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**STATEMENT OF LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS)**

**AGENDA ITEM 7**

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**Corporate Plan**

The Council's draft Corporate Plan was circulated to all Scrutiny Committees this week for their consideration in early February alongside the draft budget proposals for 2015/16. In developing the Plan the Cabinet has sought to be as open as possible. I attended the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting in December to outline the Plan's structure and how it would address the points raised by the Committee in recent years and by the Wales Audit Office Corporate Assessment. The draft Corporate Plan was considered by the Challenge Forum in early January and received positive feedback, particularly in relation to its tight focus on a limited number of priorities and the balance struck between being ambitious for Cardiff and tackling the stark financial realities facing public services. Last week, all Members were also invited to a workshop with the Cabinet and the Council's Senior Management team to hear about, and to give views on, the development of the Plan.

The Corporate Plan will come back to Cabinet and Council for formal consideration in March. This marks a departure from previous years when it was considered alongside the budget at Council in February. This change reflects the Cabinet's intention to afford a greater opportunity for members to engage with the Plan, and not to have it overshadowed by sharing a Cabinet and Council agenda with the budget. A short, public facing version of the Corporate Plan will also be published at this time.

**Artes Mundi**

Last week I attended the [Artes Mundi](#) 6 Awards Ceremony that was held at the National Museum of Wales in Cathays Park. Artes Mundi has now established itself as one of the UK's biggest and most exciting contemporary visual art awards and this year attracted very positive media coverage for Cardiff, being covered by the New York Times, The Independent and the BBC.

**Building high quality, affordable homes in Cardiff**

Development Company, Bellerophon and Registered Social Landlords, RCT Homes, held a 'ground-breaking' event on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January to mark the start of the construction of 152 new affordable homes on brownfield land in the Cardiff Bay Sports Village. It is an important development, not least because of the new finance model developed and applied in Wales by Bellerophon and partners Porthcwlis (a subsidiary of RCT Homes). The new finance model is designed to lessen the requirement for public subsidy, hopefully allowing Wales

to deliver much needed high quality affordable homes. The project has been backed by one of the UK's biggest investment firms, M&G, who have invested £19m in order to deliver over 100 affordable and social rent properties across three sites without the need for grant funding.

We know that Cardiff is projected to be the fastest growing UK core city over the next 15 years. Whilst this is great news for Cardiff, it does mean that the city and wider region must provide sufficient affordable housing in well designed, connected and sustainable communities. To deliver our vision of being a liveable city, new homes in Cardiff must be surrounded by great public spaces, must be served by great public transport and not viewed as "new homes", but one new community.

### **SPIDER: Public Service Innovation and Eurocities**

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, the SPIDER Project Conference on Service Design for Public Services will take place in Cardiff. Through the SPIDER (Supporting Public Service Innovation using Design in European Regions) project, the Council is working in partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University and partner cities and universities in France, Belgium and Ireland to develop new ways of delivering services through designing them around the needs of the users. The project has focussed on two areas: services which tackle youth unemployment and those extending independent living for older people, specifically those suffering from dementia. Cardiff's involvement in the project is wholly funded by the European Commission and the Welsh Government. More detail on what the project has achieved can be found at: <http://www.thespiderproject.eu/welcome-to-the-spider-project/>

To coincide with the SPIDER Conference, the Eurocities working group on smart social inclusion will also be meeting in Cardiff. The meeting will be chaired by The Hague and attended by Eurocities members from Milan, Riga, Tallinn, Nantes, Brno and Cardiff - all coming together to discuss, share knowledge and exchange ideas around public service innovations.

**COUNCILLOR PHIL BALE**  
**LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS)**  
**28 January 2015**

**COUNCIL: 29 JANUARY 2015**

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**STATEMENT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION &  
SKILLS**

**AGENDA ITEM: 7**

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**School Standards**

A report on the annual performance of Cardiff schools has been considered by Scrutiny and Cabinet earlier this month. Since the 2014 monitoring visit by Estyn, I have been appointed as Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service and Paul Orders has taken on the role of lead Chief Executive. Cardiff now has a central role within the Consortium and we been working in partnership towards significant re-focusing of the work of the Consortium with Cardiff schools, alongside the development of a peer-to-peer, schools-led improvement strategy, known as the *Central South Wales Challenge*.

In Cardiff, the Local Authority *Education Development Plan* and the *Estyn Action Plan* priorities address the six recommendations made by Estyn in February 2014. The focus is on improving standards, provision and leadership in schools.

The results for the 2013-14 school year in Cardiff indicate that the priority actions in these plans, taken together with the refocusing of the work of the Consortium and the development of school-to-school improvement practices, are beginning to have positive impact.

Notable features of improved outcomes are:

- a significant rise of 3.9% on the level 2+<sup>1</sup> measures at age 16;
- improvement in the percentage of pupils making two levels of progress in the first three years of secondary school;
- a reduction in the number of secondary schools where less than 40% achieve Level 2+ from 11 in 2013 to 6 in 2014;
- attendance at both primary and secondary school has improved from a very low base 5 years ago - Cardiff is now ranked 7 and 10 respectively out of the 22 Wales local authorities, compared to 17 and 18 three years ago;
- a welcome reduction in the attainment gap between pupils eligible for free schools meals and those not eligible; and
- improvement in attainment for all minority ethnic learners at Key Stage 2<sup>2</sup>, and at Level 2<sup>3</sup>, narrowing the gap with White UK pupils.

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<sup>1</sup> Level 2+: 5 GCSE's graded A-C, including English/Welsh and Mathematics

<sup>2</sup> Key Stage 2 is completed at the end of Primary School education

<sup>3</sup> Level 2: 5 GCSE's graded A-C in any subject

However, more remains to be done including:

- the extent of the variation in outcomes between schools with similar contextual factors indicates that the good practice in some schools is not being extended to all;
- At age 16, the wider attainment measures of Level 2 and the Core Subject Indicator<sup>4</sup> are not improving fast enough;
- Mathematics remains the weakest of the core subjects in secondary schools; and
- Whilst Estyn has judged some schools in the city to be excellent, some have been judged in monitoring visits or inspection by Estyn to be making insufficient improvement.

Priorities for further improvement in view of these results are:

- further strengthening of the tracking of pupil progress and targeted follow up for those who are underachieving;
- supporting improvement in the teaching of literacy and numeracy, and especially in mathematics in secondary schools;
- sharpening the focus and improving consistency of challenge and support to schools, through the work of Consortium challenge advisers and through the use of local authority powers where this is warranted;
- increasing steps to improve governance in schools;
- building on the peer-to-peer improvement strategies to extend and disseminate the most effective practice in schools in the Central South region so that it becomes the standard for all schools; and
- identifying, supporting and developing school leaders at all levels in schools.

## **School Organisation Developments**

In November 2011, the Council submitted a 21st Century Schools Programme bid to Welsh Government. The level of Capital investment contained within that Programme (predicated upon 50% Welsh Government funding, 50% Authority funding) known as “Band A”, was £137m and this was approved in principle in December 2011. “Band A” is in place until March 2019, on the 1st of April 2019 “Band B” will commence.

Since 2011, nine school projects have been successfully completed under “Band A” and some £25.5m of grant funding has been utilised.

- Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna - new 3FE Welsh Medium Primary
- Pencaerau Nursery - English medium consolidation & new nursery unit.
- Trelai Primary – increased nursery places.
- Whitchurch Primary – consolidation of 2.5FE English Medium Primary
- Ysgol Melin Gruffyd – consolidation of 2FE Welsh Medium Primary
- Ysgol Gymraeg Y Wern (phase 1) – remodelling to 2FE
- Coed Glas Primary (phase 1) – remodelling to 2FE & nursery unit.
- Llysfaen Primary – consolidation at 2FE & nursery unit.
- Thornhill Primary – consolidation at 2FE & nursery unit.

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<sup>4</sup> Core Subject Indicator: GCSE’s in English/Welsh Language, Mathematics and Science

There are currently nine further projects for which investment has been committed within "Band A":-

- Millbank Primary – consolidation at 1FE & new nursery unit
- Hywel Dda Primary - consolidation of 2FE English Medium Primary
- Adamsdown Primary - remodelling to 2FE & nursery unit.
- Mount Stuart Primary - remodelling to 2FE & nursery unit.
- Pontprennau Primary – New 2FE Primary School with Community Centre
- Coed Glas Primary (phase 2) – consolidation of 2.5FE
- Ysgol Gymraeg Y Wern (phase 2) – consolidation of 2.5FE
- Eastern High – New 8FE High School and partnership with Cardiff and Vale College
- Fitzalan High - New Science Block

Total Investment in projects committed: - approx £70m (subject to tenders)

The Programme is in the process of being realigned to take account of changes since 2011. The realigned programme will address the current administration's priorities to raise attainment as well as ensuring sufficiency of places in the most cost effective way possible. It will also address the unacceptable sharp differences in educational attainment in different parts of the city.. Cardiff has also experienced notable population growth in recent years which leads to challenges with the sufficiency and supply of school places. Wherever possible are also seeking to maximise the wider use by communities of school facilities.

Future housing development within the Local Development Plan will require significant additional expansion of schools provision in the future up to 2026.

### **Eastern High**

Eastern High was inspected by Estyn between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014. An Acting Headteacher, Mr Armando Di Finizio, has been appointed and is working with the Governing Body to draw up the school's improvement plan in response to Estyn's recommendations. These will be set out in the inspection report which is expected to be published on 6 February. We are continuing to work closely with the school to support its improvement under their new leadership.

**COUNCILLOR JULIA MAGILL**  
**CABINET MEMBER (EDUCATION & SKILLS)**  
**28 January 2015**

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**STATEMENT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT  
AGENDA ITEM: 7**

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**Volunteering**

I am pleased to report that at the close of quarter three, the parks service has recorded in excess of 17,000 volunteer hours through the partnerships and networks in place with constituted Friends Groups, volunteers and third sector stakeholder organisations that include Vision 21, the Cardiff Rivers Group, Keep Wales Tidy and the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company, formerly the Wales Probation Trust. The opportunities provided by the Council meet a variety of needs for participants and also serve to add value and capacity to services delivered by the Council.

**Green Flag Status of our Parks**

I can also report that a number of the Council's Green Flag parks were subject to assessment prior to Christmas and through a mystery shopper approach. This assessment which falls outside of the more formal assessment process ensures that local authorities are maintaining standards throughout the entire year and not just at the time of formal assessment. The outcome of the mystery shopper assessment was positive with the Council retaining status for the parks assessed.

**Organic Waste**

At the meeting of Full Council on 23 October 2014, a report was presented concerning the appointment of a Preferred Bidder for the Organic Waste Treatment Project – a 15 year partnership between the City of Cardiff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council for the treatment of Organic Waste.

The Final Business Case which was appended to the October report was submitted to Welsh Government, and the Welsh Government have awarded a Revenue grant of £282,380 per annum to support the food waste element of the contract. This is the total grant supporting both partner Authorities. The grant award remains subject to Terms & Conditions, as well as the successful completion of the Fine-Tuning stage of the procurement.

The submission and approval of the Final Business Case was also the final milestone in relation to the Food Waste Treatment Procurement grant from Welsh Government. The City of Cardiff Council therefore received the final instalment of £250,000 on 16 January 2015.

**Waste Consultation**

Our consultation on the outline waste strategy concluded on the 12 January 2015 and I'm pleased to say over 1400 people took part in this important survey. We are now looking carefully at the responses as we shape the future of our recycling and waste service. It is vitally important we raise our recycling rates and we are working with Welsh Government to ensure our new strategy achieves the challenging new recycling targets and brings about a more efficient and better value for money service for our residents. Gauging the public view as we take this crucial strategy forward is hugely important to us and I look forward to the consultation results.

### **Really Rubbish Campaign**

Central to my philosophy on the future of recycling is the education of our children and young people and I'm pleased to be able to tell you that our Really Rubbish education campaign is now 10 years old. I have been to a number of their events in schools and their work is totally inspirational.

I recently visited Greenway Primary School to see The Gregory Brothers perform their recycling education show and the reaction of the children was inspirational. The kids could teach us a thing or two about our attitude to the environment and I have been invited to attend 10 year celebrations at some of the first schools involved in the campaign.

### **Chinese Lanterns Ban**

As of the 1 January 2015 we have banned the release of Chinese sky lanterns and large bunches of balloons into our skies from Council buildings and venues, due to growing evidence of environmental damage and danger to wildlife.

While we accept the popularity of mass balloon releases for charity and Chinese sky lanterns as it can be a striking sight, people have to realise that what goes up must come down. We are increasingly concerned that livestock and wildlife are swallowing or becoming entangled in a lantern's wire or bamboo frame.

We hope many more Councils and organisations will follow our lead on this and use their powers to stop this messy and hazardous practice.

**COUNCILLOR BOB DERBYSHIRE  
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT  
28 January 2015**

**COUNCIL: 29 JANUARY 2015**

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**STATEMENT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE  
SERVICES & PERFORMANCE**

**AGENDA ITEM 7**

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**Contact & Assessment Team – Implementation of the service and team  
into Connect to Cardiff**

I recently visited the Connect2Cardiff, which now includes the Council's Contact & Assessment service, whose integration into C2C has recently been completed, having begun in May 2014.

Over the last 6 months the performance of the team has significantly improved and a more streamlined service delivered, with no break or interruption of service as the service became part of C2C. This success can be attributed in part to the amount of time spent engaging with the team, scoping out the processes and understanding the service prior to the move. Close working between staff in C2C and social care to deliver the service and to meet the needs of often vulnerable people has been a great example of the One Council approach.

**Challenge Forum**

The Challenge Forum in January discussed the Draft Corporate Plan for 2015-17 that will be considered by Scrutiny in the coming weeks. This year's plan has a tighter focus on the Council's priorities, reflecting the practice in Core Cities, and responding to previous Wales Audit office criticism of previous plans. The Forum endorsed this approach, and welcomed the clarity of the document and the clear lines of accountability that it contained. The Forum also welcomed the distinction drawn between work with partners to secure city wide outcomes, and the delivery of key outcomes for which the Council is singularly accountable.

The Challenge Forum also received feedback on improvements to the Council's performance management arrangements, and on the accelerated improvement work in both Children's Services and Education. Across all of these important areas of work progress was noted, but it was equally recognised that there remains much to be done to secure the level of performance to which we aspire.

When the Forum next meets it will consider the Council's progress against the whole range of issues raised in the Wales Audit Office Corporate Assessment, and use this to determine its future work programme. I will be reporting to Policy



Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee's March meeting on the work of the Forum alongside the Quarter 3 performance report.

**COUNCILLOR GRAHAM HINCHEY**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE**  
**28 January 2015**

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**STATEMENT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR EARLY YEARS,  
CHILDREN & FAMILIES** **AGENDA ITEM: 7**

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As part of my commitment to keeping council in touch with key developments in Children's Social Services I would want to draw your attention to the following 4 areas of focus:-

- 1. Child Sexual Exploitation** - as I indicated, in my last statement, this issue remains a key priority for me as the cabinet member and I am encouraged that further dialogue continues at senior level with the police both in Cardiff and on a South Wales wide basis involving the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Executive. A recent initial review of partners' readiness to meet the challenges, indicates that we have reason to be confident that all known individual cases are robustly followed up, leading to serious consequences for offenders. An initial local plan is now being jointly prepared by a lead senior police officer and senior council officers to project manage the key steps that we need to take in order to improve our strategic attack on this very serious issue.
- 2. Disabled Children** – members will know that the needs of disabled children are a matter of long-standing concern for me. I am pleased to be able to advise you that joint agreement has been reached with education, health and social services partners to joint fund a change manager post in order to re-design services for disabled children based on a national best practice model for 0- 25 year olds; this post will be advertised in the very near future and it is my hope that we will see a new service in operation during early 2016/17. This is a very exciting agenda and will be welcomed by members who had close involvement in the 2013 Scrutiny Enquiry which I chaired.
- 3. Improved Performance** – overall performance is steadily improving in children's services as a result of greater stability, a significantly improved recruitment position and a clearer and stronger focus on good practice. Sickness absence has declined, better use is being made of the Performance and Development Review Process and we are attracting growing interest to work in Cardiff from social workers in other councils.
- 4. Education of LAC** – my colleague cabinet member for Education and Life Long Learning Julia Magill joins me in welcoming the significantly strengthened joint commitment of children's services and education directorate to improving the life chances of looked after children as reflected in a joint plan focusing on this and other key areas of interest in common, including safeguarding.

**COUNCILLOR SUE LENT  
DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER (EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN &  
FAMILIES)  
28 January 2015**