



County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

Committee	COUNCIL
Date and Time of Meeting	THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2023, 4.30 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, ATLANTIC WHARF, CARDIFF, CF10 4UW
Membership	Councillors Ahmed, Ahmed, Dilwar Ali, Ash-Edwards, Berman, Boes, Bowen-Thomson, Bradbury, Bridgeman, Brown-Reckless, Burke, Carr, Carter, Chowdhury, Cowan, Cunnah, Davies, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Driscoll, Ebrahim, Elsmore, Ferguson-Thorne, Gibson, Goodway, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Hinchey, Hopkins, Humphreys, Hunt, Jenkins, Jones, K Jones, Owen Jones, Joyce, Kaaba, Lancaster, Latif, Lay, Lent, Lewis, Lister, Littlechild, Livesy, Lloyd Jones, Mackie, McEvoy, McGarry, Melbourne, Merry, Michael, Molik, Moultrie, Naughton, Owen, Palmer, Jackie Parry, Proctor, Reid-Jones, Robinson, Robson, Sangani, Sattar, Shimmin, Simmons, Singh, Stubbs, Taylor, Huw Thomas, Thomson, Lynda Thorne, Waldron, Weaver, Wild, Williams, Wong and Wood

- 11 **Cabinet Statements**(Pages 3 - 78)
To receive statements from the Leader and Cabinet Members

Davina Fiore
Director Governance & Legal Services
Date: Friday, 15 September 2023
Contact: Democratic Services, 02920 872427,
democraticservices@cardiff.gov.uk

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COUNCIL:

20 JULY 2023

LEADER & CABINET STATEMENTS

1. Leader Statement – Councillor Huw Thomas
2. Deputy Leader & Education Statement - Councillor Merry
3. Social Services Statement - Councillors Mackie and Lister
4. Climate Change Statement – Councillor Wild
5. Culture, Parks & Events Statement - Councillor Burke
6. Finance, Modernisation & Performance Statement –
Councillor Weaver
7. Housing & Communities Statement - Councillor Thorne
8. Investment & Development Statement - Councillor
Goodway
9. Tackling Poverty, Equality & Public Health Statement -
Councillors Bradbury and Sangani
10. Transport & Strategic Planning Statement – Councillor
De’Ath

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COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2023

LEADER STATEMENT

Cardiff Cycle City

On 28 June 2023, I attended an event organised by Cardiff Cycle City at the Bike Lock in Windsor Place, where I spoke about the Council's plans to improve cycling facilities in the city and answered lots of questions from the audience on a range of issues, including how we can make cycling safer and more accessible, improve traffic light phasing, provide more bike storage facilities and address bike crime in the city. The Q&A session and opportunity to engage directly with cyclists and representatives of cycling organisations was really useful from my perspective, with the debate being described by the organisers on Twitter as "*lively and encouraging*".

Centre for Cities Conference

I joined the Leaders of Swansea and Newport Councils in participating in a panel discussion at a conference on 29 June 2023 in Cardiff, which was organised by the Centre for Cities. The debate focused on the significance of Cardiff, Newport and Swansea to Welsh and UK prosperity, the challenges and opportunities facing each of our cities, and how we are working with the Welsh and UK Governments to further improve our respective city's performance and contribution to the regional, Welsh and UK economies. The event also included a discussion involving Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, about the challenges and opportunities for cities, experiences of devolution and the future for city-regions in England and Wales.

Move More Cardiff Strategy

I was pleased to attend and speak at a celebration event held on 3 July 2023 at the Cardiff City Stadium to mark the first anniversary of the 'Move More Cardiff' Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2022-27. The event provided an opportunity to share the progress achieved so far, examine related data on physical activity in the city, and explore how partner organisations can all work together towards achieving the vision for Cardiff to be the best city in the UK to be physically active and renowned as one of the most physically active cities internationally, from walking, cycling and activities in daily life to playing and competing in sport. The event also saw the launch of the Active Soles campaign in Cardiff, which aims to get people to wear comfortable shoes at work and embrace a more active lifestyle throughout their daily routines.

Butetown & Grangetown Citizens ‘Brighter Future of Young People’ Action Plan

The Butetown and Grangetown Citizens ‘Brighter Future for Young People’ Action Plan was launched on 6 July 2023 at St Mary’s CIW Primary School in Butetown. The event was organised by Cardiff Citizens and I was pleased to join the Executive Director of the Youth Endowment Fund, Jon Yates, and the South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner, Alun Michael, at the event, which was also attended by my Cabinet colleague, Councillor Sangani, as well as some of the local councillors for Butetown and Grangetown. The Youth Endowment Fund has provided funding to support the development and delivery of the action plan, and the event celebrated the work that has been undertaken to date to develop the action plan, which has been led by community organisations from Butetown and Grangetown, working in collaboration with Cardiff Council, South Wales Police and the Wales Violence Prevention Unit to develop and deliver the action plan.

Tafwyl 2023

This year’s Tafwyl festival is being held in Bute Park on 15-16 July 2023. The annual Welsh language arts & culture festival has relocated this year from Cardiff Castle to Bute Park, and the Council is pleased to have been able to support Menter Caerdydd in their transition to the new venue. The free, two-day festival offers something for everyone, with three music stages showcasing over 40 artists, in addition to a sports area, kids’ village, street food and market stalls. Tafwyl was also listed recently among The Guardian’s [best free festivals in the UK of 2023](#).

Cardiff Bay Rugby Codebreakers Statue

On 19 July 2023, a new statue celebrating three legendary Welsh ‘Rugby Codebreakers’ from Cardiff Bay is due to be officially unveiled at Landsea Square in Mermaid Quay. The new statue has been created by sculptor Steve Winterburn following significant fundraising efforts over the last three years, which have been led by businessman and philanthropist, Sir Stanley Thomas OBE, who chaired the fundraising committee and kick-started the fundraising campaign with his own significant personal donation.

The statue celebrates three Rugby League legends – Billy Boston MBE, Gus Risman and Clive Sullivan MBE – who grew up within a 3-mile radius of the Cardiff Bay area and who were selected following a public vote. It will be the first statue in Wales ever to feature non-fictionalised, named black men and will serve as a fitting tribute to three sportsmen who did so much to improve race relations across Britain. It will also be the first formal recognition of the three sporting heroes in their hometown of Cardiff, which is both long overdue and much deserved.

Cost-of-Living Crisis in Devolved Nations

On 19 July 2023, I am also due to participate in an online panel discussion organised by Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP) and the Inclusive Growth Network (IGN), of which Cardiff Council is a member. The discussion will focus on the cost-of-living crisis from the perspective of the UK's devolved nations. It will provide an opportunity for me to outline the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on Cardiff and what is being done by the Council to try and support local people and communities. The event will also coincide with the publication of new research by the CPP and IGN, which looks at the cost-of-living crisis across the devolved nations.

Councillor Huw Thomas
Leader of the Council
14 July 2023

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COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2023

DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION STATEMENT

'What Next'

The Cardiff Commitment team, Youth Service and Into Work Advice Service are working with the Council's Communications team to coordinate 'What's Next' messaging to ensure that young people in Cardiff aged 16-24 years and their families are well-informed of the support, provision and opportunities that are available, in the lead up to, during and after A Level and GCSE results days next month. The Cardiff Commitment team is sending a letter to young people in Years 11, 12 and 13 (approx. 7,000 young people) to provide information about the support that is available via the Into Work Advice Service and Youth Service, as well as signposting to the ['What's Next' website](#) and related information. The Into Work Advice Service will also be distributing marketing materials across the city's Hubs on behalf of the Youth Service and Cardiff Commitment to ensure that young people can be signposted to any support they need. In addition, 'Class of 2023' messages have been collated by Cardiff Commitment partners and they will reinforce to young people that, whatever the outcome on their results days, their futures are bright, and support is available to assist them in whatever pathways they choose to take.

Estyn Inspections

A recent inspection of Adamsdown Primary School found that the school creates a warm and welcoming environment where its diverse school community thrives. Estyn noted that pupils are ambitious, respectful and very happy. They settle into school quickly, love learning and benefit greatly from the school's highly effective approach to language acquisition. With a significant proportion of pupils coming from countries affected by conflict, the school's School of Sanctuary status is firmly at the heart of its work. Teachers, leaders, support staff and governors are committed to providing the support each pupil needs to access the curriculum, beginning with wellbeing and emotional support. The inspection report also stated that the strong partnership with parents and nurturing ethos of the school ensure that all pupils feel safe and develop a strong sense of belonging. The school's effective partnerships with its community also contribute to its success in supporting pupils' wellbeing and providing an engaging curriculum.

Greenhill Special School in Rhiwbina has been recognised by Estyn for its unwavering commitment to fostering a supportive atmosphere that significantly contributes to the wellbeing, personal development and achievements of all learners. During a recent visit, inspectors found that the school takes great pride in offering a diverse array of learning activities, with a strong focus on outdoor education. The thoughtfully designed curriculum aligns with students' interests and aptitudes, ensuring an engaging and personalised educational experience. The report also notes the positive and trusting

relationships formed between the staff, pupils, and their families, and the school's dedication to offering a range of beneficial interventions that cater to students' additional learning needs is also commended.

Estyn has also recently published its inspection report on St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Primary School in Butetown. The report recognises that the school provides an inclusive, caring and welcoming environment for pupils, with all staff working closely together to celebrate the rich diversity of languages and cultures within the school community. Provision for promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development was found to be strong, with the school having highly effective practices for the integration of newly arrived pupils with no English into the school, which has had a positive impact on their well-being. Overall, the quality of teaching was found to be good; however, Estyn made three recommendations. These relate to ensuring that self-evaluation and improvement planning is focused on strengthening pupil outcomes, and that teachers use pupil progress information effectively to plan for sustained improvement for all pupils. In addition, the effectiveness of the governing body needs to be increased in terms of supporting the school and holding it to account.

Edible Playgrounds

The Council has recently signed the partnering agreement with Trees for Cities for the next six Edible Playground projects in Cardiff schools. The match-funded Edible Playground projects create areas to grow fruit and vegetables, whilst also working with schools to develop bespoke education change plans. The additional projects will take the total number of Edible Playground projects delivered in Cardiff to 32.

Legislative Theatre

The Child Friendly Cardiff team is delivering a programme of work with a focus on gender equity. The team is working with children and young people to explore the topic through an innovative and creative programme that includes using a citizen-centred approach called Legislative Theatre. The work with young people has been taking place throughout June and culminates this month with a final interactive theatre performance where the young people act out situations of inequalities in front of decision-makers in an effort to influence their thinking and address inequality through the development of new policies or procedures.

Rights Respecting Schools Update

I am pleased to report that 87% (111) of Cardiff schools are on their journey to becoming Rights Respecting Schools and have registered for the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) programme. The RRSA programme recognises schools that put child rights into practice, creating a safe and inspiring place to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured, and they are able to thrive. Of these 111 schools, 73% (93) have a RRSA action plan in place having received their Bronze, Silver or Gold awards. The latest schools to achieve the Gold award are St Phillip Evans R.C. Primary School, Mount Stuart Primary School, Gladstone Primary School, St Albans RC Primary School and Danescourt Primary School. Currently, 64% of all pupils from nursery to high school attend a school with Bronze award or above.

Food and Fun

Cardiff's multi-award-winning Food and Fun programme will be delivered in 27 schools this summer. It is our eighth year of delivering the Food and Fun programme. Since being developed by the Cardiff Food and Fun team in 2015, adopted by the Welsh Government in 2016 and rolled out across Wales in 2017, the programme has been used as an example of best practice across the UK. This is something that the Council is very proud of, and Wales is also now recognised as having the most advanced holiday provision in the UK. Partner organisations will provide a range of enrichment activities, with each child being able to enjoy at least one hour of physical activity, a healthy breakfast and lunch, and nutrition and food sessions each day, all delivered in a fun, safe and friendly environment.

Debate Mate Cup 2023 Grand Finals

On 23 June 2023, the debating team from Willows High School travelled to London for the Debate Mate Cup 2023 Grand Finals and I want to thank the Principality Building Society for sponsoring their trip. The team competed against schools from across the UK and debated motions on topics such as university admissions criteria, the acceleration of fast fashion and a pause in the development of Artificial Intelligence. The Cardiff Commitment team is proud of the debating team's achievements and knows that the pupils involved will use this experience to propel them into a bright future. Debating develops key transferable skills and improves a range of higher order thinking skills such as teamwork and leadership, critical and creative thinking and communication and confidence. Other skills include collaboration, listening, and responding appropriately, articulating, and justifying an argument, using evidence and structuring speeches as well as developing style and quality of spoken language. All skills which employers value in the future workforce. In the evaluation from the last two years, all pupils who participated indicated they had improved confidence, better teamwork and leadership skills, and all teachers stated they had seen an improvement in academic performance.

Open Your Eyes Week

Open Your Eyes Week provides a great opportunity for primary school pupils in Cardiff to learn more about the world of work and be inspired to pursue a range of future careers or occupations. This month, 7,260 pupils in Years 5 & 6 from primary schools across the city had their eyes opened to the different opportunities available in the world of work by speakers from 10 employers, which included Goggleminds, Clear Channel, LCB, Wales Millennium Centre, Clayton Hotel, Bengo Media, Space Forge, Virgin Money, Stable and Welsh Water.

Research by the OECD suggests that pupils need to learn about career options early to combat ingrained stereotyping that sets in at primary school age. Open Your Eyes Week helps to challenge gender and class stereotypes and provide 'lightbulb moments' for pupils by bringing a variety of inspiring professionals into the classroom. It also enables pupils to discover their passions, develop their dreams and explore their place in the world of work.

The Cardiff Commitment team has also highlighted to the city's secondary schools that, as a result of their participation in Open Your Eyes Week, pupils in Year 7 may have had up to 40 engagements with employers from the city's growth sectors before even arriving in secondary school. This has the potential to transform the way in which pupils access the world around them, how they view their future selves, and the opportunities and resources they need to support them on their education journey.

The next Open Your Eyes Week will be held in November 2023.

Space Academy Cardiff

Space Academy Cardiff 2023 was a week-long education programme that took place earlier this month to help 13- and 14-year-olds to learn more about global efforts for space travel and the colonisation of Mars. This is a scheme that has been created for children from secondary schools across the city, especially those from under-represented groups, to inspire them to pursue STEM-based careers in the space industry, which is one of the Cardiff Capital Region's growth sectors.

Pupils from six secondary schools in Cardiff worked together to explore the challenges that would be faced during a mission to Mars to develop a new settlement able to sustain human life. They were invited to engage with a series of mission to Mars challenges and team events required pupils to work together to produce proposals for the construction of a base to house a human colony on Mars. The series of challenges also required pupils to work creatively to produce designs for a rocket launch and Lego robotics to explore the terrain and life on Mars using the latest research evidence.

Pupils had opportunities to work with leading researchers from Cardiff University's School of Physics & Astronomy and the School of Engineering, alongside leading local employers from the aerospace sector, including Space Forge and Small Spark Space Systems, and a variety of other external experts. Through engaging in these varied learning experiences, they were able to apply and extend their knowledge of science and technology, as well as other integral skills that form the pillars of the new curriculum. Finally, at the end of the week-long Space Academy Cardiff programme, a special showcase event and celebration of the pupils' achievements was held on 7 July at CultVR, a ground-breaking digital arts centre on Penarth Road in Grangetown. I was pleased to attend this event alongside the Leader of the Council and join him in presenting certificates to this year's participants.

Space Academy Cardiff is helping to raise aspirations and inspire more school children in Cardiff to consider taking up STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and open their eyes to future career opportunities in space industry. This is an excellent example of partnership working and events like this help to equip young people with the right knowledge and skills they need to succeed. The learners are also provided with experiences, information and advice on the exciting career prospects that Cardiff has to offer, which in turn helps employers to access a generation of young people who are informed, enthusiastic and excited to work in Cardiff.

Councillor Sarah Merry
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education
14 July 2023

SOCIAL SERVICES STATEMENT

ADULT SERVICES

Independent Living Service Roadshows

The Independent Living Service Roadshow began their program of events on 6 July 2023 at Rhydypennau Hub and North Cardiff Medical Centre. Every fortnight, the Independent Living Services will be at different locations across the city to provide information and on the wide range of help that is available to support people to retain their independence.

These events are being promoted across Cardiff, through our partners and on social media to encourage individuals, families, and carers to come along and see how the Independent Living Service can help them, but also how people can help themselves to improve their independence and wellbeing and to live healthier, happier, and more connected lives.

A full schedule of events has been arranged until the end of August and can be found on the Council's Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Supporting Choice in Care through Microenterprises

We are committed to giving people more control over their own care, and one way to achieve this is through direct payments. This allows the service user to commission their own care, rather than using the Council's commissioned care providers. Direct Payments can be particularly helpful for those individuals with specific language or cultural needs. Unfortunately, the use of Direct Payments to employ a personal assistant can be quite daunting to some service users as they need to take on the role of employer. There is also a shortage of personal assistants which can result in delays in putting the care in place.

To address these issues, we have teamed up with Community Catalysts, a community interest company, to support the development of new microenterprises to provide care and support services. Microenterprises are very small businesses, often sole traders. By using a microenterprise, the individual has all the flexibility and choice that direct payments can offer, while taking on less responsibility. The scheme will also support people into employment, providing more flexibility in working arrangements. A new Community Catalyst Project Manager will support the microenterprises, ensuring they know how to run a business and that they understand the required quality standards. I am very pleased to say that our first microenterprise has registered with the scheme, and I am sure that this will be the first of many.

Hospital Discharge

We are constantly working in partnership with colleagues in the University Health Board to improve the pathways out of hospital. One new pathway is known as Discharge to Recover and Assess (D2RA); this is a rapid domiciliary care service that allows a person who requires home care to be discharged from hospital quickly and for their needs to be assessed in the more appropriate setting of own home. This complements our CRT Homecare service which focuses on providing reablement support for those who need a short period of care at home. Both these services prevent long stays in hospital, which can result in poor outcome for patients.

I am pleased to say that since January of this year, 1,118 discharges with care have been facilitated by the Cardiff Hospital team, 651 through our CRT homecare service and 200 through the rapid D2RA pathway. We will continue to work with our health colleagues to build on this work and support appropriate, safe, and timely hospital discharges.

Playlist for Life

Playlist for Life is a charity that was founded in 2013 with a simple mission: to help people living with dementia through the power of meaningful music. Ten years on, the charity has helped thousands of families, carers, and health and social care professionals create and benefit from personalised playlists. Personalised music playlists can help to reduce anxiety, improve mood, make difficult tasks more manageable and evoke memories that can help families and carers to connect.

Last month, the organisation celebrated its 10th birthday with a face-to-face event in Glasgow and an online conference. Last year I attended a launch and saw the Playlist for life in action at Ty Enfys and Shire Hall Care Homes. It was so fantastic to see the positive effect that music can have on people living with dementia.

I am pleased to say that Cardiff Hubs and Libraries and Care Hubs have recently signed up as Playlist for Life Help Points, enabling them to use and distribute the wide range of resources available, including conversation starter and song books. Staff at these locations also have access to Playlist for Life e-learning which will help them to better support those with dementia and their carers in the community. If anyone wants to use a playlist or share the power of music in their community, they can visit www.playlistforlife.org.uk or pick up a leaflet from a local community Hub.

The Pound, Llandaff

I would like to send my warm congratulations to the Innovative Centre for Older People at the Pound in Llandaff on their first Anniversary. It is hard to believe that it has been a year since I attended the launch of this exciting project on 23 June 2022. Llandaff 50+ was first formed in 2008 and has gone from strength to strength over the following 15 years. The group worked in collaboration with the Council to convert a derelict toilet block, next to the medieval castle, in the heart of Llandaff village. I know that a lot of work went into fundraising and planning and, of course, the Covid-19 pandemic had an effect on the building schedule; however, it opened with a fanfare last year. The building is run by older people for older people who visit the centre to participate in activities such as Tai Chi, Talks and Art.

I was very sorry not to be able to attend the first anniversary event at The Pound that was held in late June, but I am looking forward to seeing what will be achieved at the centre, this is an excellent example of older people staying active, getting support from each other, and staying connected to their local community. Further information about this innovative project can be obtained by emailing: info@llandaff50plus.com

Ty Canna Photography Exhibition

Ty Canna will be launching their latest photography exhibition on 18 July 2023 at Llanover Hall. The title of this year's exhibition is "Taith – Journey", which depicts the journey of people with mental health through recovery. To some, it is the journey back to their true self; to others, it is a slow process of adaptation. This exhibition is another example of the great partnership working between Ty Canna and Llanover Hall, which is making full use of local resources. Service users and volunteers are very excited and are currently working on preparations for the launch event. The exhibition will be showing from 18 July to 15 September 2023.

The Prince's Trust Cymru

On 7 July, I joined my Cabinet colleague, Councillor Lister, in visiting The Prince's Trust Cymru's Cardiff Centre and attending a celebration event that was held at the end of their 'Get Started with Digital Skills' programme. We were both pleased to meet the young people involved in the programme and hear about their experiences. After the event, we also met with Prince's Trust Cymru senior staff to discuss their programmes, organisational priorities and overall strategy.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

My Things Matter

I am very pleased to confirm that Cardiff Council has pledged support for the 'My Things Matter' campaign, an initiative that helps to make sure that children and young people in care are treated with respect and dignity when they move home. The campaign, run by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS), pushes to ensure that when children in care move home, they have an appropriate means of transporting their belongings (e.g. use of a holdall, rather than a bin bag). We have also pledged to provide written guidance for children and anyone helping them to move, to never move or throw away their belongings without their consent, to support them to make a complaint if any of their belongings have been lost or damaged during their move, and to communicate with them about their move and ask how the move went.

Fostering Update

Members of the Foster Wales Cardiff team attended Cardiff Pride last month to raise awareness of Fostering for Cardiff in the LGBTQ+ community. The team was joined by one of their supported lodgings providers and a regional representative from Foster Wales. The event always provides an excellent opportunity to engage with the community and promote our in-house fostering services, and to welcome and encourage questions and applications from the community. Every year, the team is engaged in conversations with attendees and, this year, there were a number of people interested in moving on to the next stage of the assessment process.

Teen Scheme

One of the young people involved in an in-house Teen Scheme in Cardiff, which provides short-term foster care placements for young people aged 12-16 years, has won an award for the most improved pupil in the whole of his secondary school (800+ pupils). He was presented with the award at a ceremony that was held on 5 July 2023 at Leckwith Athletics Stadium, and I would like to congratulate him on such a wonderful achievement.

Royal College of Nursing Wales Nurse of the Year Awards 2023

I am delighted to announce that Cardiff Flying Start Early Years Bladder and Bowel Assistant Practitioner, Heather Fleming was a winner at this year's Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Wales Nurse of the Year Awards. A member of Early Help's Flying Start Health team based at Glan Yr Afon Primary School in Llanrumney, Heather won the Health Care Support Worker Award at the annual awards ceremony, which was held at City Hall on 29 June 2023. The awards recognise innovation and excellence in practice, and acknowledge the outstanding efforts, commitment and achievements made by the whole of the nursing community across Wales. Nominated nurses, midwives, nursing students and health care support workers have demonstrated a passion for their profession and exemplify distinction in care, leadership, service and innovation. It is amazing to see Heather's hard work and dedication being recognised and would like to congratulate them on their award.

Cardiff Family Advice & Support Referral Form and Webchat

I am pleased to say that Early Help's new online referral form is now live on their website and the team has been busy promoting this and the new webchat function across all social media platforms. The aim is to make the service more accessible by providing an alternative method to request support, enabling the team to reduce their processing times and providing a service that is easy to use.

Disability Index Registration Process

The Disability Index is Cardiff's voluntary register for children and young people with disabilities or additional needs. It ensures families are kept up-to-date with information that is both relevant and beneficial to them. On 10 July 2023, a revised registration process for the Disability Index was launched. The process has been simplified and digitalised and takes account of changes following the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act Wales (ALNET).

The revised registration process is now being promoted to families and professionals, and there is also a focus on contacting the families already registered to review the information held and to ensure that they wish to continue with their registration. The team is also working closely with health colleagues to see if there could be automatic registration of children and young people who are on the Neurodevelopmental pathway.

Hafan Supported Housing for Lone Parents

As members will know, the pressures on homelessness services are high at present with a large number of homeless families living in temporary and supported accommodation and it is very important that these families have the support and advice they need. I am pleased to say that the Flying Start Parenting team has increased engagement at Hafan supported housing for lone parents on Cowbridge Road West. The team hopes to work closely with mothers and their babies, offering support to promote the parent-infant relationship, supporting bonding and attachment with the aim of promoting wellbeing of parent and baby. Support can be offered via one-to-one support or group sessions to help parents in their role in supporting their baby's development. Further work will be undertaken to establish the needs of the families on site and tailor the programme to their needs.

Cardiff Parenting – Money Advice Workshops

Parents attending parenting groups have highlighted financial issues as one of the main contributing factors to stress within the family home. As a result, the Cardiff Parenting team is planning to offer money advice workshops during the summer holidays and is joining up with the Council's Money Advice team to do this. This will be just one part of a series of other events planned for Flying Start families this summer.

Childcare Offer

To date, 1,246 applications have been received via the Digital Service for the Childcare Offer, with 1,040 applications, relating to 1,054 children, now approved. These families are eligible to receive funded childcare for up to 17.5 hours per week during term time for their 3- to 4-year-old children, complementing the 12.5 hours of funded early education provided by the Council, and up to 30 hours of funded childcare in 9 of the 12 school holiday weeks. Altogether, the total number of approved children is now at 2,293, which is 6.7% above the previous highest number of beneficiaries that was achieved previously in July 2022.

Birth Registrations

Information about Cardiff Family Advice & Support (CFAS) and Cardiff Parenting services is now going to be included in birth registration packs provided by the Council's Registration Service. This will help ensure that families receive information about the Council's early intervention and prevention services. Pens and keyrings with contact details for these services will also be available at the Cardiff Register Office at City Hall. This is part of the work being undertaken to promote more widely the services and assistance that is available to families in Cardiff.

British & Irish Council Visit

I had the pleasure of meeting representatives from the British and Irish Council, together with Welsh Government officials, when they visited Bryn Celyn Primary School and the on-site Flying Start childcare setting recently. The visit was arranged for delegates to look at the work that Cardiff's Flying Start team is doing to support children's speech, language and communication skills in Wales. Delegates were able to see the child's speech, language, and communication journey through one of Cardiff's Flying Start settings, and how this supports the child's transition into school. The visit was a success with many delegates commenting on the excellent work that is being done by the team.

Councillors Norma Mackie & Ash Lister
Cabinet Members for Social Services (Job Share)
14 July 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

Electric Vehicles

The first phase of Electric Vehicle Charge Point (EVCP) road map work is underway, with consultants examining future business scenarios for infrastructure. From this, the Council will then look at potential spatial distribution and delivery models. To support this work, the Council has also secured over £1m, over the next three years, from Welsh Government for the development of the road map and commencement of infrastructure delivery.

I was also really pleased to be able to support the start of this year's EV Rally Capital City Challenge in Cardiff earlier this month. The rally saw over 50 electric vehicles embark on a 5-day, 1200+ mile rally of the UK and Ireland, visiting Cardiff, London, Edinburgh, Belfast, Dublin and many other towns and cities along the route. The EV Rally provides an opportunity to showcase both the capabilities of the participating electric vehicles and the charging infrastructure that exists currently across the UK and Ireland.

Local Area Energy Plan Workshop

I was pleased to attend a workshop to establish the Cardiff Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP). The workshop was attended by a wide range of key partners and infrastructure providers, including housing developers, housing associations, local businesses (including Associated British Ports, Celsa, Cardiff Bus, Admiral Group), National Grid, Wales & West Utilities and local public sector partners (including Natural Resources Wales, Emergency Services, Cardiff Universities & Colleges, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board).

The Cardiff LAEP provides a significant opportunity for the public and private sectors to work with communities to understand the opportunities and constraints in the decarbonisation of Cardiff's power, heat and transport needs for the future and to develop a shared understanding of the current and future energy landscape of Cardiff. The Council is working closely with Cardiff Capital Region to ensure the Cardiff LAEP is linked regionally and nationally. The LAEP process will continue over the next eight months and the Council will continue to work closely with partners as part of this process.

Urban Diplomacy Exchange German-British Partnership Conference

I was pleased to attend the Urban Diplomacy Exchange (UDE) conference in Leeds last month, which focused on city partnerships for an inclusive and sustainable future. Funded by the Federal Government of Germany, the UDE provides existing German-British city-to-city partnerships with the opportunity for professional and political exchange. Our twin city of Stuttgart invited Cardiff, along with Stuttgart's other UK twin city, St Helens, to participate in the year-long project and the cities are working together on issues defined by the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The Leeds conference was attended by German and British Mayors, Lord Mayors and city leaders with discussion centred around the role of cities and city partnerships in addressing the climate crisis, shaping living spaces in urban areas in challenging times, sustainable mobility and biodiversity. The Council will continue to work in partnership with Stuttgart to exchange best practice and explore areas of future collaboration in our joint objective to address the climate emergency and move towards more sustainable urban development.

Bin Ordering and Delivery

The first phase of the digital improvement work on bin ordering has been completed. These improvements relate to how orders are processed through the Council's internal systems. This phased programme will work to input all orders for bins and containers into a single digital system, with crews receiving orders and closing down their work digitally when deliveries have been completed. This will result in improved delivery times and tracking of customer orders, removal of duplication and, ultimately, a better customer experience for residents. There will be no change in process for residents, who will still be able report a damaged container and request a replacement via the Council's website.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Climate Change
14 July 2023

COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2023

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT

Cardiff Food & Drink Festival

I would like to thank all the officers, producers and partner agencies involved in supporting the return of the Cardiff Food & Drink Festival earlier this month. This is the first year post-Covid that the festival has really felt like it was back at full strength, with over 100 producers enjoying three days of strong trading. The festival included a range of new exhibitors alongside many old favourites, and the feedback received from both has been very favourable.

Welsh Proms 2023

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the official opening of St David's Hall, the National Concert Hall of Wales. I am delighted and immensely proud that, for one week a year, St David's Hall hosts the Welsh Proms, which present a variety of different music, ranging from some of the city's youngest and most talented musicians to international quality symphony orchestras, soloists and conductors. The Welsh Proms have been held this month at St David's Hall (8-14 July 2023) and, once again, have delivered a rich and diverse variety of music, including folk, jazz, organ and children's concerts, which complemented the evenings' classical concerts.

Summer Events Programme

The Cardiff Bay Family Fun Park will return to Roald Dahl Plass from 22 July to 29 August 2023. Operating daily from 11am to 8pm, the fun park will include outdoor funfair attractions, family game stalls and a selection of sweet and savoury takeaway food.

Music concerts continue to take place at Cardiff Castle during the summer, including Tom Jones (21 & 24 July; 5 August) and Ben Howard (23 July). Luna Cinema will also be returning to Cardiff Castle on consecutive evenings from 31 August to 2 September for outdoor screenings of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Pretty Woman and Top Gun: Maverick.

Over 40 life-sized dinosaurs will be moving and roaring in Bute Park once again from 17 August to 3 September as part of the 'Dinosaurs in the Park' attraction.

The FIM British Speedway Grand Prix will return to Cardiff's Principality Stadium on 2 September for its 21st year. The Council will also be working with the event organisers to, once again, host the Speedway Fanzone on City Hall Lawn between 10.00am and 3.00pm on race day.

Fans will be able to buy merchandise and see classic bikes on display at the Fanzone. There will also be autograph sessions with current Speedway riders, Q&A sessions with current and past riders, BMX trick displays and a Monster Truck. Food and drink concessions will also be available on site.

Further details of our exciting summer events programme can be found on the Visit Cardiff website at: www.visitcardiff.com/events

Trainee and Apprenticeship Schemes

The recruitment of a new cohort of trainees and apprentices has commenced this month, with new opportunities being made available as a consequence of the success of previous participants in securing permanent posts. A total of seven posts are being advertised – four horticulturally-based posts and one landscape-based post within the Parks Service; and two posts within Cardiff Harbour Authority in the disciplines of mechanical and electrical engineering. All schemes provide the opportunity of employment for up to four years with a tailored programme of practical experience, including the opportunity to gain experience in other public sector and third sector organisations. All scheme participants will benefit from courses of day release study in specialised subject areas that lead to industry recognised qualifications. The employment of apprentices and trainees in my portfolio area is integral to workforce planning and it is particularly pleasing that the opportunities being advertised are evidence of successful delivery of our succession plan. Members may recall that last year, Teaka Scriven, one of our Horticultural Trainees, was named by the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) as the UK Apprentice of the Year in the Parks and Horticultural Services category.

Green Flag Awards

The Green Flag award scheme is a benchmark standard used in the UK and throughout the world, which recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces. Integral to the awards are the contributions made by Friends of Groups and volunteers who add significant value to our management plans and local environmental improvements. Earlier in the summer, the Council's current 16 Green Flag parks and green spaces were subject to a regime of formal and mystery shopping assessment. As members may be aware, this is an annual exercise which ensures that sites holding the status continue to meet the required standards. Two new Green Flag award entries were also submitted for 2023 – Tredelerch Park in the Rumney ward and Western Cemetery in the Ely ward – and I have received positive feedback from officers regarding the assessments for these new sites, in addition to the assessments of those sites in the city that currently have Green Flag status. The outcomes from the award assessments are due to be revealed later this month.

Councillor Jennifer Burke
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
14 July 2023

FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Cardiff Living Wage City Partnership

I am delighted to report that, this year, the number of accredited living wage employers in Cardiff reached over 200 employers, with 207 now accredited in the city. I'm very pleased to say that one of the recent employers to be accredited is Admiral, the only Welsh FTSE listed company. Admiral employs over 11,000 staff across its workforce. It is a flagship Cardiff company and has been named as one of the best places to work in the UK for its progressive culture, core values, and commitment to diversity and inclusion. The Cardiff Living Wage City Partnership is therefore thrilled that Admiral have been accredited, joining many other large and small organisations that have done so in Cardiff in recent years. Cardiff is recognised as a leading city in the UK for its work to promote the real Living Wage and has some of the highest number of employee uplifts to the real Living Wage of any UK city.

I'd like to take the chance to remind members of the Living Wage Accreditation Support Scheme, which the Council runs to support SMEs in the city that wish to become accredited living wage employers. Depending on the size of the business or charity, we offer financial support to help cover accreditation fees of up to £720. This applies to organisations employing up to 250 people. More details and an application form can be found on the Living Wage pages on the Council's website at: [Living Wage Accreditation Support Scheme \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/living-wage)

Cardiff Gov Mobile App

At the end of June 2023, the Cardiff Gov mobile app had been downloaded 78,187 times since its launch, with 1,245 downloads taking place last month. A new service for reporting street lighting issues has been introduced this month and testing has also begun on changes to the drug littering reporting service, which will allow residents to report on drug litter on public land not maintained by the Council, namely in the area around Callaghan Square and Lloyd George Avenue, which falls under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) agreement with the Welsh Government.

Website

The Council's website (www.cardiff.gov.uk) had 216,000 visitors in June 2023 who viewed 485,000 pages of information. Last month, 74.6% of website visitors accessed the website using a mobile device. This figure has continued to increase since May and is the highest monthly percentage figure to date. In addition, 98.7% (20,500) of recycling centre bookings were made online and 23,600 online payments were received via the website, totalling £1.3 million.

BOBi Chatbot

The Council's chatbot, BOBi, handled a total of 5,608 conversations last month, with only 436 (8%) resulting in a handoff to an agent from Connect to Cardiff (C2C). The main topics discussed via the chatbot related to Council Tax, how to obtain waste bins and bags, reporting of missed collections and queries about parking. In June, the team focused on content/scenario development work in relation to elections and voting, waste bins & bags, and taxi information.

Connect to Cardiff (C2C)

Last month, Connect to Cardiff (C2C) handled 23,366 phone calls, responded to 3,933 contact forms via the website and conducted 1,436 live webchats. In addition, C2C responded directly to 1,069 of the 9,471 messages received via the Council's social media platforms. Each message is assigned a subject tag by C2C to capture what issues are being raised via social media. The top three tags in June related to events, concerts and road closures taking place in the city.

Wales Interpretation & Translation Service (WITS)

In the period from April to June 2023, WITS has seen a 25% increase in requests for BSL (British Sign Language) interpreter support and a 12% increase in requests for linguistic support compared to the same period last year. The most requests made to WITS by Cardiff Council during this period related to the following languages: Arabic, Kurdish Sorani, Bengali, Polish and Pashto.

Councillor Chris Weaver

Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance

14 July 2023

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES STATEMENT

Homelessness Demand

The homelessness and housing services are continuing to experience exceptionally high demand for homeless assistance.

The Council's focus remains on preventing homelessness whenever possible. The demand for assistance for our homeless prevention services remains high. 700 people at risk of become homeless were being supported at the beginning of this month, with notice to quit from private landlords being the cause in 62% of the cases. The Housing Solutions and Prevention Team continue to work hard to help tenants to remain in their private rented accommodation or to secure new accommodation before they become homeless.

Family notice to quit also remain a significant cause of homelessness, there were 19 immediate notices received over a six-week period. An emergency mediation service is in place following an immediate notice. Officers will visit the home and mediate with the family regarding their current housing situation and alternative housing solutions. The service has prevented 16 out of the 19 immediate notices from being enforced, either by gaining an extension on the notices to quit while alternative accommodation is sourced, or by the applicant withdrawing their application altogether. Officers will also visit elderly applicants, and those with substantive medical needs, to ensure the housing advice provided and pathway recommended is suitable for their needs.

Despite this prevention work the demand for temporary accommodation remains exceptionally high, with 377 households waiting to be accommodated. The majority of the demand is coming from people currently living within the private rented sector, as the number of "no-fault evictions" by landlords remain high. Whilst the number of households is not decreasing, the teams are taking steps to ensure that better planning is taking place for those we know will need accommodation and ensuring an offer of accommodation is made as early as is possible.

Unfortunately, a large number of families are housed in hotels; in addition to those hotels currently used as family hostels, there are 43 families accommodated in ad-hoc hotels across Cardiff. All households in hotel accommodation are being offered support via the Floating Support Teams and regular meetings are also taking place to discuss the most appropriate options for the family.

The Landlord Enquiry Tenant Support (LETS) team work to secure additional suitable settled accommodation in the private rented sector. A range of options are offered to landlords, including the Welsh Government leasing scheme which allows the private landlord to lease their property to the Council for a longer period of time. 44 properties are now signed up to this scheme in Cardiff allowing more families the opportunity to settle in suitable, affordable accommodation within an area of their choice. The Private Rented Sector Team are working closely with Empty Homes and Rent Smart Wales to ensure landlords are aware of the services and support available to them. The team also continue to attend landlord forums to advise on the services and support that are available.

Housing Design Awards 2023

I am very pleased that one of the Council's housing development projects, which will deliver 13 new apartments for older people in Splott, alongside a new community facility, has been shortlisted in the UK [Housing Design Awards 2023](#). The scheme at Moorland Road is one of a number of new residential developments across the city that the Council is building as a result of priorities set out in the Older Persons Housing Strategy. The scheme includes flats designated for over 55-year-olds, comprising 11 one-bed and 2 two-bed independent living apartments, a community centre and shared garden on a tight corner site in Splott. I am delighted to see recognition for the fantastic work of the Housing Development Team. The winners of this year's awards will be announced later this month.

Family Activity Bridge

Family Activity Bridge (FAB) is a new initiative that has been created by the staff from the Family Supported Accommodation Team who work in several supported housing projects across the city. FAB has been set up to increase engagement and awareness of services across the Council. In the spirit of unity, joy, and togetherness, FAB held its first event at the start of July, bringing families from the different projects together to celebrate Eid at Yr Hafan Community Centre. The event was a great success, filled with laughter and cultural richness. Families from diverse backgrounds came together to celebrate their shared values and traditions, fostering a sense of community and strengthening the bonds of friendship. Through lively entertainment and traditional food, the event provided an opportunity for all families to create lasting memories and strengthen their bonds. It served as a reminder, not only of the significance of Eid, but of the importance of bringing families together.

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge returns for another year – with Ready, Set, Read! being the theme. This year it will be centred around the power of play, sport, games and physical activity with lots of free activities for families. The challenge is a great way to get children reading, imagining, and staying active throughout the summer. It is also a fantastic opportunity for parents, carers and families to get involved and share a much-loved pastime, which keeps children's literacy levels up even when they aren't in school and introduces them to the excellent Hub and library facilities that we have on offer in Cardiff. The scheme launched on 8 July 2023 and information on the activities on offer can be found on the Hubs website at: www.cardiffhubs.co.uk

Welsh Public Library Standards

The Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS) are set by the Welsh Government to assess if library services in Wales are complying with their duties and delivering library services effectively. Each year, Cardiff Hubs and Libraries Service submits a performance report to Welsh Government detailing the progress that the service has made over the year. I am very pleased to say that the 2022/23 report has recently been presented to Welsh Government and the service is currently awaiting the official performance assessment report; however, I wanted to make you aware of some initial very impressive results. During 2022/23, we have seen:

- 27% overall increase in physical book issues
- 103% increase in children's physical book issues
- 116% increase in Welsh language physical book issues
- Use of E-resources (E-Books, E-Audio Books and E-zines) has risen from 139,782 to 1,245,359
- 258% increase in digital visits

I am very grateful to our Hubs and Libraries staff for their hard work over the last year. It's wonderful to see how well used our Hubs and Libraries continue to be.

Councillor Lynda Thorne
Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities
14 July 2023

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COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2023

INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT

Inward Investment

Councillors will be pleased to learn that a global media digital company is in the process of announcing a major investment in central Cardiff creating 150 new digital jobs. Officers from the Council's Economic Development team have been negotiating with the business for the last year and a decision to proceed with investment in Cardiff will be made shortly.

Councillor Goodway also met recently with a multinational manufacturing business that is looking to set up a new engineering centre in the UK, creating 150 new well-paid jobs. Ongoing negotiations have taken place with council officers and a local property owner, and the company is expected to announce the investment shortly.

International Sports Village

The report to Cabinet this month on the International Sports Village (ISV) confirmed that the Council has identified a purchaser who intends to bring forward successive phases of development to deliver a high quality, vibrant local neighbourhood. As part of the Disposal Strategy that was approved in January 2023, the Council has further negotiated the legal arrangements for an Option Agreement with the appointed developer for the disposal of the residential and commercial plots at the ISV.

Business Support Funding

The Cardiff Growth Fund was launched recently, which will provide businesses with up to £10,000 on a match funding basis towards growth projects in the city. In addition to this, a new Grassroots Venue fund will be launched in the coming weeks that will look to support existing Cardiff venues to invest in their venue to make them more financially or environmentally sustainable. A Cardiff venue, which has been trading for 2 years or more and whose primary purpose is cultural performance, can apply for up to £7,500 on a match funding basis. The Grassroots Venue grant will be available to Cardiff Local Authority based small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with a trading history.

Transforming Towns Loan

The Economic Development team has received applications for funding from developers looking to utilise loans under our Transforming Towns scheme to regenerate and bring back into use dilapidated buildings in the city. Officers are currently appraising applications, which include listed buildings whose future has been uncertain such as Custom House in Cardiff Bay and Park House in the city centre.

Councillor Huw Thomas
Leader of the Council
14 July 2023

TACKLING POVERTY, EQUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH & EQUALITY

Vaccinations

Although we are only halfway through the year, it is important to prepare ourselves for the months ahead. Covid-19 and flu are expected to be circulating at the same time this winter, so it's really important for people at greater health risk within our communities to get protected to reduce the risk of being admitted to hospital due to these infections and passing the infection on to those at higher risk of severe illness.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that plans should be made for those at higher risk of severe Covid-19 to be offered a booster vaccination in autumn 2023. This offer will also include any unpaid carers of those at higher risk of severe Covid-19. Further details on eligibility are due to be released shortly and any updates can be found on the Public Health Wales website (see link below).

Covid-19 and flu vaccines will be available for all eligible individuals from September 2023. Covid-19 vaccinations are available from the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board Mass Vaccination Centre at Woodlands House on Maes-Y-Coed Road in Heath. Registration for vaccinations can be made by contacting the call centre on 029 2184 1234 (Monday-Sunday, 9am–5pm) or by completing the [online vaccination form](#).

The flu vaccine will be available at GP surgeries and at some community pharmacies. Eligible individuals should contact their GP or pharmacist for an appointment. Anyone who looks after someone by helping them with their daily activities and needs (unpaid carer) is also eligible for annual flu vaccinations.

Further information on vaccines offered in Wales is available on the Public Health Wales website at: <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/>

Participation Strategy

The Cabinet approved the draft Participation Strategy 2023-27 for public consultation on 13 July. The new strategy is a requirement of the Local Government & Elections Wales Act 2021 and aims to amplify the voices of people who are currently less likely to get involved in the decision-making process with a focus on improving engagement with seldom heard voices. As part of the development of the strategy, the Council engaged with stakeholders including local ward councillors in areas of low response, community organisations, representative bodies and Council Employee Networks to understand barriers to engagement and develop proposals for improvement.

The public consultation will run for six weeks from 24 July until 4 September. The consultation will be available in Welsh, Arabic, Bengali and Polish as well as English. Hard copies will be printed and made publicly available as part of the consultation process in addition to the online version. Targeted engagement will also be undertaken with the stakeholder groups identified in the strategy as being under-represented within consultation and engagement work; they are older people (+75 years old); children and young people; Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities; and people who identify as disabled. Following the public consultation, a further report on the Participation Strategy 2023-27 will be considered for final approval by the Cabinet in Autumn 2023.

The online consultation will be available on the [Consultation page](#) of the Council's website from Monday 24 July.

Everywoman Festival

I am pleased to note that the inaugural Everywoman Festival held on 24 June at Insole Court was a great success. Founded by a consultant surgeon working in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, the event included speakers such as Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health, workshops, and information stands covering a range of women's health issues from periods to menopause, mental health to sexual wellbeing. The Council's Wellbeing Support Service attended and were able to promote menopause workshops, accessible exercise sessions and the Wellbeing Mentor Service to partners in health, as well as the many attendees throughout the day. One of our Inclusion Officers also delivered a Tai Chi taster session in the gardens which was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants.

Sustainable and Healthy Food

Phase 1 of the £2.1 million Cardiff Capital Region Production and Supply of Sustainable Food Challenge is finishing. Three applicants have progressed through the feasibility stage – two are controlled environment agriculture projects (one is a hydroponics system and the other is an aeroponics system) and the third is a surplus food redistribution project. The demonstrator stage is due to commence this month following evaluation of applications from phase 1 participants. In addition, the Council has engaged consultants to assist with developing a framework for the provision of healthy and low carbon food in Cardiff schools. This work is due to commence this month and will involve staff from the Council's Sustainability and Education Catering teams.

TACKLING POVERTY & SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Employment Support

Cardiff Works continues to prioritise making Council jobs more accessible to all the city's communities and ensuring that the Council workforce is representative of the community that we serve. The agency has reviewed its processes over the past 12 months to ensure a better experience for both the candidate and the recruiting service within the Council. Improvements include digitalisation, streamlining processes, greater accessibility and greater visibility in the community.

As a result, the average time taken for a candidate to be accepted into the Cardiff Works pool has improved from 40 days to 48 hours; the percentage of Black and Minority Ethnic applicants applying and successfully entering the Cardiff Works pool has seen a significant increase from 7% in June 2021 to 37% in March 2023; and overall, there has been a 12% increase in the placements provided via Cardiff Works.

Cardiff Works is closely aligned with the Council's Into Work Advice Service and Adult Learning to ensure suitable candidates for roles are identified and, where required, upskilled as quickly as possible. These teams did a tremendous job last year, helping 135 people secure a care worker role, either with the Council or contracted care providers via the Cardiff Cares Academy.

The Cardiff Works Community Engagement Officer has been linking in with community groups, schools, parents and toddler groups, places of worship and local businesses, mainly in the southern arc of the city, to raise awareness of the job opportunities available through Cardiff Works. The aim is to connect with communities who are under-represented in the Council's current workforce.

A new initiative, 'Cardiff Works for You', offers work placements to young people and people from under-represented communities, who may struggle to secure employment due to little or no work experience. I am delighted to see that positive steps are being taken to deliver the Council's commitment of making our workforce more representative and look forward to seeing the progress that the initiative makes.

Such is the success of Cardiff Works that several other local authorities have either sought advice from the team about setting up an in-house agency or enquired about using Cardiff Works as their agency provider, which is testament to the progress that the team has made over recent years.

Money Advice During School Holidays

The Money Advice team has been busy refreshing publicity materials and promoting support available to parents and families in readiness for the school holidays. The team experiences an increase in demand leading up to school holidays from people who are concerned about feeding their families during the summer break.

The Money Advice team has put together information packs on low-cost or free food available to those on qualifying benefits, together with information on local initiatives such as Food & Fun programmes, local food pantries, community fridges and food co-ops. This information will be made available online via the Money Advice team's website (www.cardiffmoneyadvice.co.uk) and hard copies of the information will be available in all Community Hubs.

I would urge anyone who is struggling or worrying about their financial situation to seek advice, either by phoning the Advice Line on 029 2087 1071 or in person at a Community Hub.

Youth Work Week

At the end of June, Cardiff Youth Service marked Youth Work Week in Wales (23-30 June 2023) with a showcase of open, honest, and often heart-warming accounts into what the day of a youth worker in Cardiff looks like. I used to attend North Ely Youth Centre myself when I was younger, so I am very aware of the invaluable provision, support and help that the Youth Service provides. Our city-wide provision welcomes hundreds of young people, providing a lifeline for many young people in the local area, giving them a place to go, someone to talk to and an opportunity to take part in informal education based on their needs. Stories from Cardiff Youth Workers can be found on the Council's social media channels or viewed at: [Day In The Life Of A Youth Worker - Diwrnod Mewn Bywyd Gweithiwr Ieuenctid \(padlet.com\)](#)

We are always seeking enthusiastic new recruits into the Youth Service and I would encourage anyone who is interested in starting a career in youth work to find out more and join this invaluable and important team that helps and supports so many. The Youth Service has also made a film featuring young people, speaking in their own words about the impact the provision has made on them, which can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9LyzANDmyQ>

Youth Work Celebration Event

On 7 July, I was fortunate to attend a presentation event at Eastmoors Youth Centre, which was attended by over 50 young people. The event was organised by the Post-16, Powerhouse and Eastmoors Youth Work teams to recognise and celebrate the success and contributions of young people to the youth service and their local communities. Young people were awarded with certificates for projects, courses and community engagement, with 84 awards being given out in total under the following categories:

- Certificates of Accreditation
- Certificates of Participation
- Certificates for Contribution to Cardiff Youth Service
- Certificates for Contribution to the Community

During the event there were performances, presentations and videos by young people and it was a chance for youth service members from centres across the city to get together and share ideas and make new connections. In the year ahead, we will be aiming to continue to showcase the achievements of young people supported by the Youth Service.

Summer with a DIFF'ERENCE

Cardiff Youth Service has launched 'Summer with a DIFF'ERENCE', a city-wide activity and event programme aimed at young people aged 11-25 years. Delivered through youth clubs, street-based youth provision, online and targeted projects across Cardiff, the line-up includes a range of activity such as day trips, taster sessions in creative arts, construction, music and beauty, E-sports programme and a Cardiff Youth Service takeover of the Aqua Park and Cardiff International White Water Centre.

As well as a range of sports, wellbeing groups and creative activity, Cardiff Content Creators are offering a unique opportunity for young people aged 11-17 to take part in a digital summer camp and Storey Arms Outdoor Education Centre will be providing a series of outdoor experiences.

Cardiff Youth Service is also hosting two youth exchange groups this summer – one group is from California and the other group is from Stuttgart. Throughout the duration of their visit, the young people will spend time with groups of young people in the city, experience Cardiff and be immersed in Welsh culture. These opportunities will be life changing for young people in this city and one which will enable them to develop friendships with people in Europe and America.

Youth clubs will be open across the service offering a safe space and support for young people to take part in a range of activities such as cooking, arts and crafts, gaming and sport.

A host of events to help young people decide on their next steps following exams will also take place, in partnership with the Into Work Advice Service and Cardiff Commitment team, as well as mentoring sessions providing support into employment, education, training, volunteering.

The Summer with a DIFF'ERENCE programme will be updated regularly online. Further information can be found at: [Upcoming events \(cardiffyouthservices.wales\)](https://cardiffyouthservices.wales)

In addition to this, I welcome the Welsh Government's funding and commitment to working with local residents and other partners to develop a grassroots-led Community Plan for Ely and Caerau, helping to meet the needs and aspirations of local people with a strong focus on supporting children and young people. A programme of activities will commence at the end of the school term, aiming to offer positive experiences and opportunities for children and young people aged 0-25 years, delivered by the Youth Service, Play Services, Leisure and a variety of community organisations. This work will help to inform wider sustainable engagement programmes across Cardiff and the rest of Wales.

Councillors Julie Sangani & Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Members for Tackling Poverty, Equality & Public Health (Job Share)
14 July 2023

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COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2023

TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

Constructing Excellence in Wales Award

I am pleased that the Council's work to transform Wood Street as part of the Central Square development, which includes a new road layout, new bus lanes, rain gardens to manage surface water drainage, improvements to the public realm and a highway network that gives priority to buses, has been recognised by winning the Civils Project of the Year at this year's Constructing Excellence in Wales (CEW) Awards.

The transport scheme includes additional planting and 'bee bus stops' installed to increase biodiversity in the city centre. The Council has also worked very closely with disability groups to install a bespoke pedestrian crossing that has been built specifically to assist blind and partially sighted people. I know this has been warmly welcomed by the RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People) and put forward as a model of best practice for when other new pedestrian crossings are implemented across the city.

Active Travel to School

Gwaelod Y Garth Primary School has started a 'bike bus' for pupils travelling to school. The inaugural ride between Taffs Well and the school took place on 23 June 2023 and saw a solid turnout from pupils, parents, and school governors. This initiative follows the successful development of a popular walking bus.

Data from the latest School Health Research Network's Student Health and Wellbeing Survey in Wales has indicated that, in Cardiff, 48.6% of respondents in Years 7 to 11 said they chose an active form of travel to school in 2021. That is significantly above the Welsh average of 35% and is an improvement on previous data for Cardiff, recorded at 47.5% in 2019 and 43.3% in 2017. This underlines the importance of the great work being done by the Council's Active Travel Schools and Road Safety Teams to enable more young people to walk, cycle and scoot to school.

The Council's Road Safety Team offers free cycle training to anyone who lives, works, or studies in Cardiff. Since January 2023, they have also trained 14 Police Community Support Officers to National Standard Cycle Training Level 3, and this has allowed them to use bikes in their patrols in the community.

Registration Service

The Fraud and Disclosure Unit and the Public Protection and Counter Fraud Teams, who operate across the UK under the General Registry Office, have singled out Cardiff's Registration Service for thanks and praise in stopping a significant fraud. Colleagues in the Cardiff Register Office were able to prevent incorrect details being included in a birth registration after they identified the mother was being coerced by the father into agreeing to include a false father's details on the child's registration. Due to the staff members' training, diligence and quick thinking, they were able to recognise multiple discrepancies within the information being provided, as well as acknowledging potential safeguarding concerns and unusual behaviour, which led to police interception. Subsequently, two males pleaded guilty to making a false statement for financial gain and immigration advantages, and have both received imprisonment sentences.

The Registration Service is in the final testing phase for customers to be able to apply and pay for copy certificates online. Currently, customers can only order online and an officer then has to call them back to take payment. This new online ordering and payment facility will reduce call handling and free up staff to undertake face-to-face appointments and deal with those customers who are unable to use the online facility.

A second phase of this project will be the creation of a marriage & civil partnership portal, which will bring all documents and payments into one online 'account' that couples can access 24/7 at a time and place that suits them. This will again reduce call handling and improve accessibility for those wanting to 'self-serve' online, thus freeing up phone lines for those who need to speak to an officer.

Both of these innovative improvements will improve customer service and form part of the digital transformation strategy for the Registration Service.

Councillor Dan De'Ath
Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning
14 July 2023

COUNCIL:

21 SEPTEMBER 2023

LEADER & CABINET STATEMENTS

1. Leader Statement – Councillor Huw Thomas
2. Deputy Leader & Education Statement - Councillor Merry
3. Social Services Statement - Councillors Mackie and Lister
4. Climate Change Statement – Councillor Wild
5. Culture, Parks & Events Statement - Councillor Burke
6. Finance, Modernisation & Performance Statement –
Councillor Weaver
7. Housing & Communities Statement - Councillor Thorne
8. Investment & Development Statement - Councillor
Goodway
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Councillors Bradbury and Sangani
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De’Ath

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COUNCIL: 21 SEPTEMBER 2023

LEADER STATEMENT

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Annual Conference 2023

I was pleased to join Cabinet colleagues and councillors from across Wales at the WLGA Annual Conference in Llandudno on 14 September 2023, which was being held for first time in five years. Speakers at the conference included the First Minister and Minister for Finance and Local Government. Both emphasised that Wales is facing the most challenging financial circumstances since devolution, citing the £900m in-year budget challenge facing the Welsh Government due to the impact of inflation and the erosion of the funding allocated to Wales by the UK Government. This means that the Welsh Government's 3-year funding plan is now significantly devalued.

The First Minister acknowledged that he had real concerns about the resilience of local government given decades of pressure and cuts. He made clear that the mood music from Westminster was not positive and he did not anticipate HM Treasury acting to restore the real term value of the Local Government Settlement any time soon. The Welsh Government does not anticipate a more favourable financial settlement for at least two years, even under any incoming Labour Government at Westminster following a General Election which is due to be held within the next 12 months or so.

The UK Government Chancellor of the Exchequer is due to give his Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023, which will mean that Welsh Government will need to defer the publication of its draft budget until 19 December 2023.

Both Welsh Ministers acknowledged the critical role of Local Government and commended in particular the role played in supporting refugee and asylum seekers from Ukraine and Afghanistan, an area where Cardiff has taken the lead in responding. What was evident was the critically important role that Local Government has played, and will continue to play, in responding to a range of challenges. Across Wales, Local Government plays an instrumental role in supporting communities, supporting the most vulnerable and delivering on behalf of local areas.

Official Opening of Llanishen and Lisvane Reservoirs

I was pleased to attend the official opening of Llanishen and Lisvane Reservoirs, including the new visitor centre, by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water on 7 September 2023. The visitor centre is really impressive and includes a café, three meeting rooms, a grab & go service, as well as shower and changing facilities for watersports. It is great to see both the Llanishen and Lisvane Reservoirs being re-opened to the public again and the reservoirs being brought back into operational use for watersports, alongside work to protect and enhance the ecology of the site.

Cardiff City Football Club Academy and Sports Complex

On 19 September 2023, I was pleased to attend and speak at the official opening of the new Cardiff City Football Club Academy and sports complex in Llanrumney, alongside Cardiff City Board members Steve Borley and Ken Choo; Academy Manager, Gavin Chesterfield; First Team Manager, Erol Bulut and Llanrumney ward members. The £8 million project provides state-of-the-art training facilities, which will help attract new footballing talent to Cardiff and will benefit the football club, community and city.

I want to thank Cardiff City Football Club, Cardiff University and House of Sport for their investment in Llanrumney and what must be the best sports pitch complex in Wales. Cardiff City Football Club's Academy will occupy the site alongside the University pitches, which now includes 5 floodlit 3G pitches accommodating football, rugby, hockey and American football.

It's also great to see the reuse of an old Council building – the former Dr Who building that used to be located in Cardiff Bay – which has been repurposed to create a learning environment with classrooms for the youngsters who attend the Academy. The two-storey building includes offices, a lecture theatre, canteen, changing rooms and a gym. The building also houses an indoor academy-standard 3G training pitch.

Local clubs and local people will benefit too. We have ensured through the Council's investment that local teams will get regular access to the 3G pitches at affordable rates, including at peak times. There are also dedicated grass pitches for the community and a new community hub building with changing rooms, facilities for match officials and a new community room. As part of our partnership, Cardiff University has also committed to working alongside local clubs to maintain and improve the quality of the grass pitches.

This investment in Llanrumney forms a big part of the Council's regeneration plans for the east of the city – an area that has long been overlooked for investment.

Councillor Huw Thomas
Leader of the Council
21 September 2023

COUNCIL: 21 SEPTEMBER 2023

DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION STATEMENT

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

As Members will be aware following the update sent by email on 12 September 2023, RAAC inspections in our schools have concluded and no RAAC has been found in any of the city's Local Authority maintained schools, which will be reassuring for parents, pupils, staff, and governors.

School Buildings Investment

I am pleased to inform you that we have successfully completed four major school projects for the start of the new school term. The following projects handed over were:

- Fitzalan High School (new build)
- Ysgol Gymraeg Groeswen Primary School (new school)
- St Mellons CiW Primary School (new build)
- Cantonian High School (temporary school ahead of new build)

Despite the school closures that have been required at Cantonian High School, the completion of these four schools has been a tremendous effort. The new buildings will transform the teaching and learning environments for thousands of pupils for years to come. In addition, they have all been delivered in a climate of increasing costs and rising interest rates.

GCSE and A-Level Exam Results

This year marks the second year that learners have undertaken summer exams marked and graded by exam boards since 2019. The national picture across Wales is that the results fell broadly midway between those awarded in 2019 and 2022. This means, for each subject, results at national level are higher than they were in 2019, and lower than they were in 2022 where additional measures were put in place. I am pleased to say that the results were yet again above the Welsh average. A summary of our achievements is below:

GCSE

- 29.3% percent of GCSE results for 2023 are graded A* to A in WJEC examinations, compared to the Wales figure of 21.7% percent.
- The percentage of GCSE entries resulting in C grades is 70.9% percent, which is above the Wales figure of 64.9% percent.
- For entries graded A* to G, the 2023 figure for Cardiff is 97% percent, compared to the Wales figure of 96.9%.

A-Level

- 42.1% percent of A-level results for 2023 are graded A* to A, compared to the Wales figure of 34% percent.
- The percentage of A-level entries resulting in A* to E grades is 98.4%, compared to the Wales figure of 97.5%.
- For entries graded A* to C, the 2023 figure is 85.1%, compared to the Wales-wide figure of 78.9%.

Universal Primary Free School Meals

The roll-out continues with all pupils from reception to Year 2 successfully receiving universal free school meals by June. From the start of this autumn term, Year 3 are now being offered free school meals. It is planned that Year 4 pupils will receive free school meals from 20 November 2023, which is currently on track with Welsh Government's expectations. It is worth acknowledging that the roll-out to date has been achieved by the work of officers, school kitchen staff and school leaders across the city despite many challenges.

Food and Fun

Welsh Government's Food and Fun funding support enabled another successful year of Cardiff Education's multi-award-winning school holiday programme, Food and Fun. The initiative, now in its eighth year, helps ease the financial pressures on many families across the city during the school holiday period by providing healthy nutritious meals alongside an exciting programme of educational, skills and sports provision as well as sessions in nutrition education.

This summer the programme was held in 27 schools (two Welsh-medium primary schools, one special school, one Pupil Referral Unit, three English-medium secondary schools and 20 English-medium primary schools). In Cardiff, we again extended the programme to include communities beyond the traditionally funded targeted areas. More than 1,700 children accessed the provision this summer, with over 30 citywide partners providing enrichment activities to enable them to learn new skills, socialise and have fun.

Food and Fun also supported the Flexible Supported Employment Pathway. This enabled pupils from Specialist Resources Bases at Cantonian and Llanishen High Schools to gain valuable hands-on experience in a commercial school kitchen during the summer term, enabling transition into paid employment through the Food and Fun initiative.

Following on from the work undertaken with last year's Vegetable Pilot, this year the programme again worked with local growers, Food Cardiff, Cardiff Council and the city's school meal supplier, Castell Howell. The work was expanded to the Welsh Vegetable in Schools Programme to look at scale, variety of vegetables, replicability and to further interrogate financial mechanisms that might work to bridge the gap between conventionally grown imported vegetables and vegetables grown sustainably in Wales. The initiative supports our commitment to supply two portions of vegetables in all school lunches and the drive to increase local food production and distribution; reduce carbon footprints; benefit local economies, ecologies, and communities; and connect learners with the origins of the food they eat.

Again, I want to express my sincere thanks to everyone involved in delivering a successful programme this summer, which has provided much-needed provision during the summer break.

Cardiff Commitment

Last month, Cardiff Commitment hosted a number of workshops for partners to discuss the opportunities and provision needed to inspire the next generation of young people to develop the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow. Over 150 partners attended the workshops.

The Cardiff Commitment team has also been working with Eastern High and their cluster primaries to develop a Green Skills Project with Year 6 pupils over the summer term. This month, over 275 pupils on their first day at Eastern High School took the initiative with Cardiff Commitment partners such as Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Wates Group, LCB Group, VVB Engineering, Wardell Armstrong, and Morgan Sindall to explore sustainable solutions and prove that the future is bright and sustainable. Other exciting projects included the commencement of a social enterprise project at Greenhill Special School, which involves growing shiitake mushrooms hydroponically in a shipping container. Partnership working with John Lewis provided work experience over the summer for five young people who have experienced care. This September, as part of the scheme, the young people will participate in a supported interview process, providing an opportunity to truly explore the John Lewis Partnership and start a meaningful career.

In relation to the Additional Learning Needs Supported Employment Pathways programme, this month, a cohort of 16 pupils will start the full-time pathway in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and BBC studios. There is also work ongoing with the schools catering service in Llanishen, Cantonian, Cardiff West and Eastern High Schools to provide further opportunities. This summer saw all 10 pupils in the 2022/23 cohort graduate at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board be successful at gaining and sustaining employment.

Finally, a joint bid with iungo Solutions, Coleg Y Cymoedd, WJEC and partners from the Semi Compound Conductor Cluster has been secured from Innovate UK, which will enable us to better connect and support pupils in Year 12 to transition in the jobs of the future within the industry.

Passport to the City

Passport to the City is a programme with the goal of raising aspirations for all by providing opportunities and access to all the world class amenities Cardiff has to offer. During the summer, the programme delivered a suite of exciting opportunities, including the ION Gym programme, which provided access to exercise sessions. Free access was provided for over 100 young people to The Hundred cricket matches at Sophia Gardens, which allowed young people from some of the city's most vulnerable groups to watch both women's and men's cricket. Dungeons & Dragons sessions were also provided in collaboration with our partners Geek Retreat and Exceptional Beasts. In addition, the programme provided access for both families and young people to this year's Family Fun Fair at Cardiff Bay, as well as bespoke tours of the BBC studios.

Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes National Quality Award

The Welsh Government's Healthy Schools Scheme and the National Quality Award consists of seven core areas of school life that directly affect the health and wellbeing of children and young people. These include food (nutrition) & fitness (physical activity); mental & emotional health and wellbeing; personal development & relationships; substance use & misuse; environment; safety; and hygiene. To achieve the National Quality Award, schools are required to go through a lengthy and rigorous process, which recognises the hard work of staff, pupils, and their wider school community. To date, 14 Cardiff schools have achieved this prestigious award, and I am pleased to confirm that St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School is the latest school to be awarded national recognition for its work to promote health and wellbeing throughout its school community at the very highest standard.

Councillor Sarah Merry
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education
21 September 2023

SOCIAL SERVICES STATEMENT

ADULT SERVICES

Age Friendly Website

The Council wants to make it easier for older adults to find the help they need to live independently and stay engaged in their communities. I am therefore pleased to announce the launch of the new Age Friendly Cardiff website (www.agefriendlycardiff.co.uk), which offers a central location for information about local services, activities, and support which can help older people in Cardiff to live well. I want to thank everyone who took part in the consultation and whose responses were used to shape the content and structure of the website, which will be launched officially during the International Day of Older Persons celebration event at Central Library Hub on 29 September 2023. The event will feature a range of organisations raising awareness of their services, as well as some fun activity taster sessions for older people to take part in.

Cardiff Age Friendly Forum – Ageing and Climate Change Workshop

At the start of August, I hosted the second Cardiff Age Friendly Forum meeting at Central Library Hub, which facilitated the second part of a nationwide study on healthy ageing and climate change. Researchers from the University of York and Heriot-Watt University were joined by a range of stakeholders, including older people and representatives from various organisations, to capture the experience and opinions of older people relating to the challenges of global warming, climate change and resilience. The study will build on the World Health Organisation's [Age-Friendly Cities and Communities](#) work, which encourages people to age well by creating improved opportunities for health, community participation, and to enhance people's quality of life as they age. I want to thank all the members of the public who took the time to give their valuable insight and I am really looking forward to learning the results of the study when they are published.

Creating Dementia Friendly Communities

I am pleased to give you an update on the Council's work towards becoming a Dementia Friendly City. Dementia Friendly Ambassador Volunteers and Dementia Friendly Community Officers are supporting local shops, businesses, and organisations to work towards becoming dementia friendly. Volunteers and Community Officers help organisations recognise the impact of dementia, understand how it changes customer needs and how to support those affected by dementia. So far, 155 organisations in Cardiff have pledged to undertake dementia friendly action, which is a great step towards the Council's aim of becoming dementia friendly. Information about dementia friendly businesses in Cardiff can be found on the Dementia Friendly Cardiff website at: www.dementiafriendlycardiff.co.uk

Care'Diff

The Care'Diff team continues to host support groups for unpaid carers in Hubs across Cardiff. Groups meet monthly and provide an opportunity for carers to take a break, meet others who have experience of caring, take part in fun activities, and get support. There is no need to sign up; carers can drop in for as long as they like and are free to bring the person they look after. The third edition of the Care'Diff News has been published this month and distributed widely to ensure as many carers as possible have access to helpful advice and information. The newsletter is available via post or email. Paper copies are available from Community Hubs, GP surgeries, pharmacies, and other community locations across Cardiff. Carers can also sign up to receive future editions as they are published. To be included on the newsletter mailing list, carers can email: carediff@cardiff.gov.uk or phone: 029 2087 3419.

Grants for Unpaid Carers

I am pleased to inform you about three grants currently available to support unpaid carers living in Cardiff who are facing unprecedented pressures due to the cost-of-living crisis.

The first is Welsh Government's Carers Support Fund, where eligible unpaid carers are offered vouchers for respite activities or items that are most suitable to meet their individual needs and circumstances.

The second is the Amser Short Breaks Scheme which provides grant funding for personalised, flexible and creative short breaks by unpaid carers in Wales.

Thirdly, the Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board has also provided funding for a short breaks grant scheme, which aligns with the 'life alongside caring' priorities proposed by Welsh Government. Funding will enable carers, including young carers, to access a range of enjoyable activities.

For more information and to apply for any of these schemes, carers can visit: <https://thecarecollective.wales> or contact the Care Collective's Carers Gateway by phone: 029 2192 1024.

Early Help Project with South Wales Police

The Council's Independent Living Service has recently commenced a project in partnership with South Wales Police with the aim of providing better support to Cardiff's vulnerable and older citizens who may have engagement with the police as either a victim or perpetrator. The project will see a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) refer directly to the Independent Living Service where lower-level interventions would benefit the individual, and a more preventative approach can be taken. PCSOs will meet with the service fortnightly to review referrals, and to share expertise in how vulnerable adults can be best supported. It is great to see that the Independent Living Service is building on the work that they already do to care and support the older citizens in our community.

Supporting the South Asian Community

The Independent Living Service has created a new weekly coffee morning for older people and family members of the South Asian community living with dementia. This comes after the service attended an engagement event aimed at breaking down stigma and taboos about living with dementia within South Asian communities. The event saw several speakers from communities within Cardiff give first-hand accounts of family members living with dementia and the impact of cultural barriers on getting support. One speaker explained how despite trying to take her mother to participate in dementia groups, her cognitive condition and language barriers had caused this to be distressing. The Independent Living Community Co-ordinator engaged with the event facilitators and members of the Alzheimer's Society to discuss this identified gap in service provision which resulted in the launch of the coffee morning. Alongside this, the Independent Living Service is liaising with the Alzheimer's Society to offer training and awareness for volunteers and members of the South Asian Community to become Dementia Friends.

Ty Canna

It is an exciting time for Ty Canna as they continue to work with the IBI Group design team on proposals for a new building for the service. Volunteers, with lived experience of mental health issues, have been present in these meetings and provide input into the design for the new scheme. It is a very exciting time for the project, and I look forward to keeping Members updated as this work progresses.

In addition, Ty Canna has been awarded £4,000 from the Awards for All Lottery Grant to put towards the Family Project activities for the forthcoming year. Ty Canna's Family Project helps families where either a parent or guardian suffers from poor mental health. The activities delivered by the service provide an opportunity for parents/guardians and children to come together, and are important in developing social skills, gaining knowledge and self-confidence, and giving children the opportunity to make lasting friendships outside of school. A diverse range of activities is already provided by the service such as cinema trips, beach visits, and creative art workshops. With this funding, Ty Canna will now be able to expand the activities and events they provide and offer even more support and opportunities to families across Cardiff.

Falls Prevention

Falls and fractures are costly to the NHS, to social care and to the individual and their family or carer. In Cardiff, reducing the number of falls and improving quality of life is a priority.

This month, the Health and Wellbeing Engagement Team has built on its falls prevention work by linking up additional Council services with the Falls Prevention Team in Public Health Wales. This has included Telecare, who have recently improved their data collection and now produce monthly infographics detailing falls that they have attended. The information includes the time of the fall, the reason, and the room the person was in when they had the fall. There are opportunities to provide early interventions that could potentially stop people falling over again, which can have a big impact on an individual's further health and ability to remain independent.

Public Health Wales will now provide Falls Brief Intervention Training and information materials to Telecare and Meals on Wheels staff. This training will provide staff with practical information to identify those at risk of falling, give them an understanding of where people can get support to reduce their risk of falling, improve their skills and provide techniques that are useful in starting conversations about falls.

Training will also take place within teams in Adult Services who work closely with older people, with sessions booked in for the Independent Living Service and Occupational Therapy Teams.

FaME (Falls Management Exercise)

A new Falls Management Exercise (FaME) programme is being launched on 28 September 2023 at Ely & Caerau Hub following the success of the existing programme in STAR Hub. Run by Elderfit, the course will be delivered over 24 weeks in weekly one-hour group exercise classes plus directed home exercises. The course is a structured exercise programme for adults aged over 65. Clinical trials have shown that this helps to prevent or reduce falls, reduces the fear of falling, and increases habitual physical activity and fitness.

The evidence-based elements of the programme include:

- Functional leg muscle strengthening and balance retraining that progress in difficulty
- Functional progressive trunk and arm muscle strengthening
- Bone loading, targeted prime fracture sites
- Endurance/cardiovascular training (including walking) and flexibility training
- Functional floor skills and skills to rise from floor (preventing long lies)
- Adapted Tai Chi

If you know anyone that you feel would benefit from taking part in FaME, please encourage them to contact Elderfit by emailing: gareth.elderfit@gmail.com or by phoning: 07731 382224.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Youth Justice Summer Programme

Over the summer, Cardiff Youth Justice Services ran a successful programme of activities to provide young people with the opportunity to take part in constructive pursuits and group interventions. There were a range of options for young people to choose from, from sporting activities to sessions with animals and weapons awareness workshops. The most popular activities throughout the summer include go-karting sessions, fishing, and a trip to Cefn Mably Farm. For those who enjoyed creative activities, Youth Justice Services also hosted an art project at their offices to help design and decorate one of the rooms to ensure that they have an appropriate space for young people to learn and relax in. Staff found it very rewarding to be able to see young people being carefree and just enjoying being children.

Foster Wales Event

It was a pleasure to join the team at their fun day in Bute Park where I had the opportunity to speak to children, foster carers, and staff in our quest to continue promoting Fostering for Cardiff. The team hopes that their ongoing attendance at events such as this will result in enquiries from new families wanting to become fostering families as they continue to recruit foster carers to match our diverse and exciting city. The team welcome interest from all families, whether single, a couple, LGBT+ or with a disability – please can I ask for your continued support in promoting Fostering for Cardiff and encourage anyone who has an interest to get in touch. Information is available at: <https://cardiff.fosterwales.gov.wales/>

Bright Sparks Event

A special presentation was held during the summer to celebrate the achievements of a group of young people on the Bright Start scheme, a programme that provides training and work placement opportunities for care-experienced young people across a range of businesses and organisations in Cardiff, including roles in the local authority. There was great feedback from participants and it's good to hear that the Council is supporting young people with opportunities to experience the world of work and providing them with the assistance they need to have positive experiences in their traineeships.

Cardiff Family Advice & Support

I am pleased to announce that following an annual re-assessment, Cardiff Family Advice and Support has been successful in retaining the Families First Quality Award for a further 12 months. The award recognises the high quality of information, advice and assistance provided by the team and is testament to the hard work of practitioners across the service. My congratulations to everyone involved.

The Index

Following my previous announcement about the new online Index registration form, more than 100 new registrations have been received since the launch in mid-July. This has both digitalised and streamlined the process, and ensures that families have quicker access to information about specialist services, groups, and activities. The Index is Cardiff's voluntary register for children and young people with disabilities or additional needs and is part of the Council's Cardiff Family Advice and Support Service. Caregivers and professionals working with children and young people aged up to 25 with disabilities or additional needs can register to receive an e-bulletin providing information about a range of services, events, and activities in and around Cardiff, including holiday provision. The new online Index registration form can be accessed at: <https://www.cardiffamilies.co.uk/the-index/>.

Cardiff Parenting

In July 2023, two Educational Psychologists from Cardiff Parenting presented about the work of the service here in Cardiff at the World Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health held in Dublin. The service is recognised as being an example of good practice in specialised parent-infant work in the early years.

Over the summer, Flying Start Parenting delivered the biggest and largest attended, programme of events in the history of the service! 3,392 parents and children attended a variety of family fun days in community venues and days out to local venues and some further afield, organised by practitioners for both Flying Start and non-Flying Start families.

Other Early Help teams also attended and engaged with families on the fun days. Families were grateful for the opportunity to access activities and trips with their children that they could not otherwise afford at the moment. In addition, over the summer, family fun packs were provided to more families temporarily living in hostels and hotels, offering additional activities to do together.

Childcare Offer

In August 2023, a total of 2,312 children were benefitting from the Childcare Offer, the highest this year. This represents a new 'high tide mark', exceeding the previous highest number of beneficiary children which was 2,149 in July 2022.

Flying Start

I am pleased to report that officers are making good progress with the procurement arrangements for the expansion of Flying Start childcare. Where possible, variations have been made to existing Flying Start childcare contracts to accommodate additional childcare places for eligible children. Letters have been sent out to eligible families in the city which provide a QR code and a link to a Council online portal. Here families can provide relevant information that will enable officers to offer them a childcare placement. Also included with the letter is an information leaflet provided by Mudiad Meithrin about the benefits of Welsh language education and bilingualism/multilingualism, along with information detailing the support that can be accessed by Hubs and the Council's Cardiff Family Advice and Support Service. Responses to date have been good and officers have been able to allocate their children a childcare place starting from this term.

Workforce Update

Work to recruit social workers continues and we have made good progress with the percentage vacancies falling from 27% earlier in the year to 15% in August 2023 – comfortably achieving our target level (24%). In addition to this, we have eight social workers appointed and due to take up post in the coming weeks with an additional 12 students also due to start in the next few months who will qualify later in the year. Five students have joined us as Social Work Assistants while they are waiting on their qualifications. This has had a positive impact on our agency social worker numbers – reducing them by 10 since March 2023. All our locality team managers are now permanent and work to develop our operating model in support of prudent social work continues.

Early Years Pathfinder & Neurodiversity Workstream

I recently had the opportunity to meet with the Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board (RPB) to discuss the work being done by Cardiff & Vale University Health Board to improve services for neurodiverse children and young people, as well as during their transition to adulthood. I also visited the Neurodevelopment Assessment Unit at Cardiff University with the Deputy Leader, where staff shared some of their research

with us and talked about the focus on support and alternative ways to help children and young people without focusing on diagnoses.

The RPB is supporting the regional delivery of the Early Years Innovation and Transformation programme. This regional programme provides additional financial support, alongside the Neurodiversity programme, to deliver improvements for children aged 0-7 years who have been referred into the Neurodiversity Team for assessment. Currently, there are long waiting lists for assessment across the age range, with limited access to support while waiting. For children aged 0-7 years, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has begun piloting a range of activities which provide access to support without the need for a diagnosis, ensuring that the right support is given at the time needed.

Three Community Connectors have been recruited into the Neurodiversity Team who have supported over 100 families since April to access information workshops and connect to a wider range of services which can support their child and family while they wait for diagnostic assessment.

An “Early Positive Approaches to Support” programme has been delivered across Cardiff to support parents who have infants with additional learning needs to develop strategies and support in the early years. This includes parents who have children under five waiting for assessment and those already with a Neurodiversity diagnosis. Since April 2023, 53 families have been supported and additional courses are planned for later in the year. Alongside this, Action for Children are delivering a small pilot of support for families that includes stay and play workshops, running through the holiday periods when many other services pause.

Cardiff Early Help is increasing capacity in the Cardiff Family Advice and Support Service to reduce waiting times for support. Whilst there is still some way to go in reducing the length of time for those waiting for assessment, this partnership approach to supporting children with support when needed as opposed to when diagnosed is a positive outcome in the right direction.

In terms of our statutory services, Children’s Services work with a large number of children and young people who are neurodiverse, many of whom experience barriers to accessing the right services at the right time. Children’s Services have identified that delays in accessing specific and timely support for children often leads to an escalation and the need to offer increasingly large specialist support packages to the child and their family. Children’s Services are working with partners from the University Health Board to consider how we can better use limited resources for children who are neurodiverse that moves away from the medical model of diagnosis and seeking to work alongside families to understand what interventions will help them improve outcomes for the individual child.

Cardiff Parenting Waiting Times

Waiting times for psychology-led one-to-one parenting support has been reduced to 10-12 weeks; this is a significant decrease from the waiting times of up to 30 weeks the team saw at the end of last year. Cardiff Parenting continues to work hard to further reduce waiting times as far as possible in order to support families at the point that they are asking for help. For families, this has meant the team has helped with:

- their ability to support their child's learning and developmental needs;
- improved family resilience;
- helping change in family lifestyle and behaviours; and
- improvements in family relationships.

So far, the team has recorded an avoidance of onward remedial costs for other public services of £1.7m.

Councillors Norma Mackie & Ash Lister
Cabinet Members for Social Services (Job Share)
21 September 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

Innovate UK Funding

I am pleased to report that the Council has been awarded £300,000 by Innovate UK to support Cardiff's journey towards becoming carbon neutral. The funding will increase staff capacity to help ensure that low-carbon thinking is built into the day-to-day behaviour of Council employees and the wider public sector, as well as the Council's decision-making, and investment strategies.

Race to Zero Workshop

Last month, the Council was pleased to host a Race to Zero workshop with Welsh Government and a number of partners, working together on how various public and private sector partners can speed up the progress to a zero emissions economy. Workshop attendees included Cardiff Capital Region, the Future Generations Commissioner's Office, Natural Resources Wales, the Welsh Local Government Association, Transport for Wales and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. Race to Zero is a UN-backed global initiative rallying businesses, cities, regions and investors to take immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change. Cardiff Capital Region covering the 10 member authorities is in the process of joining Race To Zero with the aim of leading accelerated regional efforts to tackle climate change.

Coastal Protection Scheme

Following a comprehensive tendering process, Knight Brown have been appointed as the principal contractor for the scheme and JBA as the principal designer. The on-site construction phase is programmed to commence during October 2023 and will continue for a period of approximately three years. Aerial Photography Wales have been appointed as official photographers to create a visual timeline throughout the project to its completion.

Greener Whitchurch

The project design of the Whitchurch Flood Alleviation Scheme is well underway and is continuing to be developed. The first stakeholder meetings have taken place with positive feedback and a project website has also been created <https://greenerwhitchurch.virtual-engage.com/>. A tender process to undertake ground investigations is being developed to enable the progression into detailed design stages.

'Take Away' van update

As part of the Recycling Strategy commitment to increase opportunities for residents and communities to recycle, the recycling engagement team have trialled a 'Take Away' van over the summer. The van was located in three different locations, one Saturday per month, and accepted items such as small electricals, textiles, batteries, scrap metal and books/CDs/DVDs. The events were successful, with over 100 residents visiting and the team recovering 1.3 tonnes of items for recycling.

Recycling Performance

Cardiff's recycling rate in Quarter 1 of 2023/24 is estimated at 63.42% (this remains unvalidated). This is an encouraging step in the right direction. We are confident that we will see continued performance increases, with the implementation of the commitments outlined in the Recycling Strategy.

Trade Waste & Recycling Update

The recycling performance of our trade waste service continues to improve, with the service moving towards the Workplace Recycling Regulations ahead of the April 2024 implementation date. The team has invested in further digital improvements, for example on-board vehicle weighing, which identifies customers producing excessive levels of residual (non-recyclable) waste. When identified, officers are using the data to engage with the businesses to provide education and advice about how to reduce their non-recyclable waste and target recyclable material, particularly food. Schools and council buildings all have a part to play in improving recycling performance in this area. The team will be working across all buildings to make recycling improvements and we will be asking all staff to engage with this process.

Love Your Parks

The Love Where You Live team held six 'Love Your Parks' roadshows over the summer. The team visited parks across the city to encourage children and community members to litter pick and take seeds home to grow in a pot of Cardiff's own soil improver (generated by garden waste collected from Cardiff homes). The team spoke with over 100 residents of all ages, collecting 40 bags of litter during the events.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Climate Change
21 September 2023

COUNCIL: 21 SEPTEMBER 2023

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT

St David's Hall

Members will be aware that, following recent changes to advice on Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in public buildings issued by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Council took the disappointing decision to temporarily close St David's Hall to undertake additional checks on the RAAC panels in the building.

The Council has been consistently clear on the need for investment in St David's Hall to secure its long-term future and this has included addressing the RAAC and other maintenance issues, all of which was confirmed in the report that was considered by the Cabinet in December last year.

We have been aware of RAAC in St David's Hall and the need to manage it from a health and safety viewpoint since 2021 and have always followed government guidelines and advice to ensure the safety of the building. This has included the implementation of a building management and health & safety strategy for the past 18 months, which included regular inspections by independent structural engineers with specific RAAC expertise.

Throughout this time, no issues were raised about the condition of RAAC in the building and there was no evidence of deterioration – and this remains the case. However, the Council has continued to engage with its insurers and expert structural engineers and based on advice received from those experts, we believe that it is prudent and responsible to carry out intrusive surveys to further reassure ourselves and the public on the safety of the venue.

Consequently, we will be bringing structural engineers – who are RAAC experts – back onsite to do fresh tests on the RAAC panels in the building, which will include drilling into panels to confirm their interior construction and to determine if any further work is required to ensure continuing safety. We expect this procedure could take at least four weeks, and we will look to re-open St David's Hall as soon as possible, dependent on any action which may or may not be required.

We know this will result in inconvenience and disappointment for many people, and we would like to apologise to all our customers. I am grateful for the understanding demonstrated by many of our patrons and promoters that the safety of audiences, staff, artists, volunteers and everyone at the venue is paramount, and that the Council is obliged to act in response to the updated HSE guidance and expert advice.

I would like to pay special tribute to the staff at St David's Hall, who have worked tirelessly to contact promoters and hirers to discuss the potential for rescheduling performances and to review all other options, which have included the relocation of some events, whilst also ensuring all our patrons were promptly informed of the cancellations.

We continue to work to progress the transfer of St David's Hall to Academy Music Group (AMG). Ahead of taking over the operation of the venue, AMG had already undertaken its own inspections and has plans in place to undertake remedial work required in the medium to long term. We will be keeping them apprised of the actions we are taking.

Once again, we apologise to customers of St David's Hall for the late cancellation of shows and want to reassure them that we will be in touch to discuss rescheduling of performances and/or alternatives. I would be grateful if Members could encourage any residents who are affected by any of the cancellations to check the St David's Hall website's 'News' section for any updates.

Christmas in Cardiff 2023

On 16 September 2023, Cardiff launched its 100-day countdown to Christmas. This year will see the return of many seasonal favourites, including Winter Wonderland and the Christmas at Bute Park Light Trail, which will be 50% longer this year. The Cardiff Christmas Market also returns alongside the ever-popular Festive Quarter on Working Street. Further information about this year's festive offering can be found on the Visit Cardiff website at: <https://www.visitcardiff.com/christmas>, where residents and visitors can ensure they stay updated on all the city has to offer by signing up to the mailing list.

Principality Cardiff Half Marathon

I look forward to attending the Principality Cardiff Half Marathon on Sunday 1 October, which is Wales's largest mass participation and charity fundraising event. This year, the Cardiff Half Marathon will also be celebrating its 20th anniversary. The event is now one of Europe's most exciting road races, forming part of the SuperHalves, a global series of the world's most prestigious half marathons, which includes races in Lisbon, Prague, Copenhagen and Valencia. The Principality Cardiff Half Marathon has also been awarded an Elite Label by World Athletics.

As well as making significant economic impact to both the visitor economy and to Wales's international profile, the event also provides a platform to champion health and wellbeing, mental health, equality, diversity and inclusion, women's running, community regeneration, volunteering, charity fundraising, environmental sustainability and the Welsh language and culture. I am sure that Members will wish to join me in wishing the event organiser Run 4 Wales and all those participating an enjoyable and successful event.

Green Flag Awards

In late July 2023, Keep Wales Tidy confirmed that the Council was successful in retaining Green Flag Awards for the 16 parks and green spaces that previously held the status – Bute Park, Cardiff Bay Barrage, Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve, Cathays Cemetery, Flat Holm Island, Forest Farm, Grange Gardens, Hailey Park, Heath Park, Hendre Lake, Parc Cefn Onn, Roath Park, Rumney Hill Gardens, Thornhill Cemetery and Cardiff Crematorium, Victoria Park and Waterloo Gardens. Furthermore, the Council was successful in both of its two new Green Flag Awards submissions for Parc Tredelerch in Rumney and Western Cemetery in Ely.

This success would not be possible without the significant contribution made by our network of 'Friends of' groups and volunteers who engender a real sense of ownership, delivering environmental improvements, together with our staff within parks and the bereavement and registration service. This achievement underlines the Council's commitment to providing well-managed parks and green spaces.

In addition to submissions made by the Council that achieved full Green Flag status, 22 Green Flag Community Awards were made across Cardiff and I would like to congratulate all the community groups involved on their achievements. These were awarded to Canolfan Beulah Garden, Chapter Community Garden, Chris McGuigan Memorial Garden, Coed Y Felin, Dusty Forge Garden, Forest Farm Community Allotment, Grow Well Riverside, Howardian Local Nature Reserve, Lansdowne Surgery Garden, Llwynfedw Gardens, Maes y Coed Community Garden, Nant Fawr Community Woodlands, Old St Mellons Community Playing Fields and Park, Pengam Pavilion Allotments, Plasnewydd Community Garden, Railway Garden, Riverside Community Garden, StarGarAllot Community Allotment, St Mellons Community Garden, St Mellons Pantry Garden, St Peters Community Garden and Whitchurch Community Garden.

Parks Investment Schemes

Last month, I was pleased to join local ward members in attending events to celebrate the substantive completion of two park investment schemes at Parc Mackenzie in Cathays and Maltings Park in Splott. The total investment of circa £1.5m has transformed both sites, which will be enjoyed by current and future generations.

Horticultural Trainees

The Council has concluded its recruitment to a new cohort of Horticultural Trainees on four-year schemes. The schemes include a comprehensive programme of practical experience and day release studies, leading to a recognised qualification in amenity horticulture and work experience placements with external partners. The provision of such schemes forms part of the Council's commitment to training and development and ensures the succession of skilled staff required to manage our network of parks and green spaces.

Councillor Jennifer Burke
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
21 September 2023

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FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Cardiff Living Wage City Partnership

The Council's work in promoting the real Living Wage has been recognised in a Welsh Government Case Study. The case study highlights how the Cardiff Living Wage City Partnership has driven the increase in accredited Living Wage employers in Cardiff from around 80 in 2019 employing 27,000 employees of whom 4,000 had received a pay rise to the real Living Wage to the position now where there are over 210 accredited employees, employing 75,000 people of whom over 13,000 have had a pay rise to the real Living Wage. Since 2012, an additional £65million has gone into the local economy. The case study can be read at: <https://www.gov.wales/cardiff-council-living-wage-case-study>

Local Broadband Fund – Improving Connectivity to Poorly Served Premises

Members may recall that in March 2022 the Council was awarded £7.7million from Welsh Government as part of the Local Broadband Fund. The funding was to be used to address connectivity issues in areas of the city which were not covered by roll-outs planned by the commercial operators. Without fast and reliable broadband, those premises would fall behind other parts of the city in being able to access the various services available online, many of which enable our citizens and businesses to grow.

Telcom, the Council's delivery partner, has now started work on the first phase of the project which will deliver fibre connectivity to 79 sites, both residential and commercial. The Council's approach is that premises identified as high on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) should be the first to be addressed.

Along with the significant improvements to broadband infrastructure, Telcom is also offering a Social Value Tariff, as well as local employment and training facilities through their Telcom's Engineering Bootcamp which is due to be launched to Cardiff residents this winter. More information can be found at: <https://recode.org.uk/courses/telecoms-bootcamp/>

Phase One is programmed for completion in January 2024.

Digital Leadership Board

In June 2023, the Welsh Local Government Association's Digital Leadership Board, which I am a member of on behalf of the WLGA, approved the establishment of a Digital Cabinet Members Network. The purpose of the network is to share information and facilitate discussion of key digital topics of interest amongst those cabinet members holding the digital portfolio in each council in Wales. I was pleased to be at the network's official launch, which was also attended by the Minister for Finance and Local Government Rebecca Evans MS, at the WLGA conference last week.

Digital Customer Services

Officers from the Council presented a case study on the work done on digital customer services at a fringe meeting I attended at the WLGA conference last week, highlighting in particular the success and work of Bobi the chatbot, the Cardiff.gov app, and the customer-focused approach we take to digitalising services. The presentation was well received by the attendees at the fringe meeting and so I'd like to thank the officers who presented and did an excellent job of highlighting the positive progress in this area over the last few years.

Councillor Chris Weaver
Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance
21 September 2023

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES STATEMENT

Homelessness Demand

The Homelessness Service remain under immense pressure, which is anticipated to increase further. As well as the increase in demand, we are also experiencing a reduction in move on, creating longer stays in temporary accommodation.

This picture is reflected across the UK and is a combination of different factors, which include rising private rent levels and landlords leaving the market. In Cardiff, the number of landlords selling their properties is up by 122% compared to pre-pandemic levels. We are also seeing many clients presenting to the Homelessness Service that would have previously accessed private rented accommodation, including people in full-time work. Legislative changes such as the introduction of the Renting Homes Act, an increase in homeless duties to single people and changes to intentionality legislation has also led to an increasing demand on the service.

We are also seeing a sustained increase in demand on our emergency out-of-hours service for single people, with upwards of 80 presentations per night. Efforts are ongoing to locate suitable grounds for new emergency accommodation provision. Work is also ongoing daily to ensure that assessments are carried out on all individuals so that we can provide the most suitable long-term accommodation for applicants. We continue to scope proposals to increase our emergency accommodation further.

Waiting lists for temporary accommodation have increased by 537% in two years and the number of families accommodated in hotels continues to increase. To help with this increased demand and end our reliance on ad-hoc hotel bookings, we have secured more than 150 additional units of family accommodation through exclusive use of a hotel.

Working with our Registered Social Landlord partners, further plans are underway to continue increasing our temporary accommodation, with an expansion of new units across the city.

The ongoing development of the Gasworks site by the Council, known as Yr Hafan, is continuing with seven additional modular units currently on site. The modular units – an innovative solution to the pressures we are facing – enables us to boost our supply of accommodation quickly, in considerably less time than via traditional building methods. Once completed, the site will provide 155 homes, with a mixture of one, two, three and four bedrooms. The units are bright, spacious and highly energy-efficient, incorporating renewable technologies in line with our One Planet Cardiff Strategy. We hope that residents will be moving in early next month.

In addition to increasing our temporary accommodation, we are also implementing new arrangements to make the best use of the private rented sector. This includes a new Move On team and a new scheme to support clients to afford private rents by creating bespoke packages, which will include into work and money advice.

Even with all this additional activity, I am concerned that the homelessness situation in the city remains enormously challenging. It is becoming increasingly difficult to support everyone who needs our help, and I am concerned that difficult decisions will soon have to be made to ensure that we are supporting the most vulnerable in the city and those with the greatest need. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Homelessness teams for their continued work and dedication in finding new ways to decrease the current pressures on the Homelessness Service.

Private Sector Housing Enforcement

During Quarter 2 of 2023/24, the Cardiff Housing Enforcement Team within Shared Regulatory Services undertook a prosecution of a company and its sole director for failure to licence or maintain two houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) in the Roath area of the city. The owner and his company were fined a total of £68,000 for failing to obtain HMO licences or carry out works of repair. With costs and victim surcharge, the total financial penalty was in excess of £72,000.

The Housing Enforcement Team was also successful in securing a conviction for obstruction where an owner of a filthy and verminous premises prevented access by council officers and contractors who were there to clear up the premises. There are several important cases in the Court schedule for a variety of offences, most notably where an owner has wilfully contravened 11 Emergency Prohibition Orders served on a large building in Roath. This is a most serious case, and the Cardiff team is being supported by South Wales Fire & Rescue Service to secure both a conviction and the safety of more than 25 residents living in seriously unsafe conditions.

Annual Tenants Conference

The Annual Tenants Conference was held on 6 September at City Hall and was attended by over 90 tenants who had a wonderful day. The conference provides an opportunity for tenants and leaseholders to engage with the Tenant Participation Team and senior housing managers. Throughout the day, presentations were delivered relating to the cost-of-living crisis, the Community Living Project, Cardiff Wellbeing Support Service and on-line repairs. The information provided was invaluable for our tenants as these council services will make a real difference to the quality of their lives. Workshops were also held advising tenants on topical issues such as Credit Union, welfare reform, digital inclusion and Age-friendly Cardiff.

It was lovely that so many partners were in attendance on the day, including Age Cymru, Specsavers, Action for Warm Homes and many others, as well as representatives from other council services, such as waste management and the Local Action Team, who were on hand to provide information and guidance on a wide range of issues that can help improve the lives of our tenants.

The most anticipated moment of the conference is always the hotly contested Blooming Marvellous competition, where prizes are given to the schemes with the best community garden. Once again, the standard was exceptionally high, with the Community Living Scheme in Wheatley Road in Ely coming out as winners for 2023. I want to say 'well done' to everyone who competed.

Summer Reading Challenge 2023

I am pleased to report that the Libraries and Hubs team had a very successful Summer Reading Challenge. This year's theme was 'Ready, Set, Read!', which was all about sports and games, and it continued to promote the importance of reading during the school summer holiday period. This year 8,537 children joined the Summer Reading Challenge, which is almost double that of last year, which is fantastic. Alongside this, over 1,300 children signed up to be new library members. It's clear from the number of books read and children taking part in the events, as well as feedback from parents, that the Summer Reading Challenge remains an effective way of maintaining literacy levels, providing free activities and lots of fun throughout the summer holiday period.

Sanctuary Seekers Space at Cardiff Central Library Hub

A new group has been set up in Cardiff Central Library Hub, with the aim of providing a welcoming space for people who are new to the city. The Sanctuary Seekers Space is a weekly creative wellbeing session for sanctuary seekers in Cardiff, in partnership with Creative Lives. The group meets every Thursday in the fourth-floor meeting room and gives people the chance to meet other new people and make friends, explore hobbies with Creative Lives and get involved in their new local library service. Whether people are interested in finding books in different languages, a place to study, finding out about the events and activity programme, browsing the internet, seeking information and advice from the Hub Service or just have a cuppa and a chat, the Sanctuary Seekers Space provides information to help people find their feet in a safe environment. The group and refreshments are free, and no booking is required.

Ely & Caerau Health and Wellbeing Hub

I am pleased to say that funding has been secured with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to move the proposed Health and Wellbeing Hub in Ely to the next stage of design and the completion of a full business case. This project will build on the recent successful partnership projects at Cardiff Royal Infirmary and the Maelfa in Llanedeyrn, and demonstrates the Council's commitment to partnership working and jointly delivering vital services for the residents of Cardiff. The principles of the project also align strongly with the ethos of the Council's Community Hubs programme, which has embedded joined-up service provision and partnership working in priority neighbourhoods at its heart.

Cowbridge Road East Shopping Area

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Team has carried out community engagement with residents, shoppers and visitors to gather their views on the improvement of Cowbridge Road East district centre shopping area, which is located within the Riverside Ward. Over 150 people attended the sessions and a full evaluation report

on the findings has been produced, which will be used to help shape future regeneration plans for the area. Further engagement on proposals is being planned for the end of the year.

Councillor Lynda Thorne
Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities
21 September 2023

INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT

Economic Update

Despite the UK's precarious economic health, Cardiff's economy continues to show signs of positivity. City centre footfall data continues to show recovery post-Covid, and the city continues to create jobs and opportunities. The latest data from the UK Competitiveness Index, released last month which measures the performance of local economies based on a range of indicators from economic activity to wages, highlights the increasingly competitive nature of our city's economy, and the continued focus we have on delivering more and better jobs for our communities. The data shows that Cardiff has risen a place in the Index, placing us 4th in the 'extended' Core Cities list included in the 2023 edition of the competitiveness rankings.

Of course, performing well on paper needs to translate into real outcomes for residents, which we have seen from recent announcements such as that of Rocket Science, a US specialist games company with offices in New York and Texas, which is to set up its new European headquarters in Cardiff. Rocket Science will create 50 highly paid and skilled jobs for games industry graduates and professionals, one of the creative industry's biggest and fastest growing sub-sectors.

We have also seen the news of new investment in Seren Studios in Cardiff, where US-based production company Great Point Studios have plans to double the capacity of the studios, reflecting the confidence in the city's film and TV sector. The Council has been closely involved in working with Great Point's local management and their international team in consolidating their interest in the Seren Studios and land at Wentloog. The Council has hosted several visits from the US management team to reinforce support for the investment and advise on the development options available for the company. Great Point have also signed up to the Cardiff Commitment, recognising the value in connecting with schools in the east of Cardiff to inform local children of the opportunities arising at the company's studios in Wentloog and in the creative industries generally.

It is clear, however, given the stagnation of the UK economy that we will need to continue to work hard to support our city's economy.

Cardiff Market

Members will have seen the recently announced plans for the significant restoration of Cardiff's historic Grade II* Listed Central Market. This £6m plus investment will help secure the future of the building as part of a thorough restoration that will reveal original design features, restore the traditional entrances and original stalls, repair the roof, and make improvements to the Victorian drainage system.

This investment is needed to protect the future of the building, which has not seen any significant restoration or renovation for over 30 years. Members should note that this is a restoration and renovation of our iconic market, not a regeneration or redevelopment. The Council is investing in supporting existing businesses within the market and helping them to thrive. The importance of this investment is recognised in our Corporate Plan, reflecting our commitment to working with partners to support the retail and hospitality sectors in successfully re-emerging from lockdown, and specific reference made to the need to progress proposals for investment in Cardiff Market.

Atlantic Wharf Masterplan

This month, the Atlantic Wharf Masterplan took another step forward as the Council presented the redevelopment opportunity to the market. The regeneration opportunity covers around 30 acres and includes the planned Indoor Arena and the existing County Hall and Red Dragon Centre sites. Around 7 acres of land north of Hemingway Road, containing the current County Hall site, will be taken forward through a procurement process, where the Council will specify some elements of the redevelopment including the delivery of offices and a creative industries production studio.

The remaining 11.3 acres of land south of Hemingway Road containing the Red Dragon Centre and land immediately adjoining will be marketed as a land transaction. The marketing process will run for eight weeks and will seek to secure a developer to enter into an 'Option Agreement' to bring forward a phased mixed-use development including the relocation of tenants of the Red Dragon Centre into new purpose-built space.

The marketing of the site will deliver the ancillary facilities for the Indoor Arena, as well as modern office space and a production studio, which will create further jobs and investment into this part of Cardiff Bay. Despite the challenging economic climate, the Council is committed to transforming this part of Cardiff Bay which will benefit local people by creating much-needed jobs and opportunities.

The process builds on the continued commitment from Live Nation to deliver the new Indoor Arena, with enabling works due to start on-site prior to Christmas and construction due to start in 2024 for the Arena to be opened in 2026.

Cardiff Growth Fund

The Cardiff Growth Fund provides up to £10,000 for existing businesses, on a match-funded basis, with the focus on creating a fairer, greener and prosperous future for Cardiff businesses. The fund has been popular with businesses to date, with investments in areas such as energy efficiency, new machinery to reach new markets and supporting business expansions. Information on the Growth Fund can be found at: <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Business/Support-and-Finance-for-Business/cardiff-growth-fund/Pages/default.aspx>

Business Roadshow

Members will recall that the Council have held business park roadshows where a team of officers and external organisations have met businesses on local business parks to provide guidance on funding support and advice. A recent event held at Ty Glas Business Park was a success and a new event in Cardiff Castle will be held for city centre businesses on 10 October 2023.

In the current challenging business climate, businesses are keen to understand new funding sources and advice to support their business, and this event brings together business and infrastructure organisations including the Development Bank for Wales; Business Wales; Transport for Wales and FOR Cardiff in addition to Council officers from Economic Development, Finance and the Into Work Advice Service to provide an overview of available funding support and business advice. The event will be free for businesses in the city centre.

Councillor Huw Thomas
Leader of the Council
21 September 2023

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TACKLING POVERTY, EQUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH & EQUALITY

Autumn 2023 Covid-19 Booster Vaccination Programme

Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (UHB) will be closing the Mass Vaccination Centre located at Maes-Y-Coed Road in the Heath this month.

The UHB will instead open two Mass Vaccination Centres at alternative locations in the city – at the Maelfa Wellbeing Hub in Llanedeyrn and at Rookwood Hospital on Fairwater Road in Llandaff. These alternative sites, together with the Mass Vaccination Centre at Barry Hospital, will be used from September 2023 to March 2024 to deliver the autumn Covid-19 booster vaccinations to citizens and staff within the Cardiff and Vale UHB area.

The autumn booster vaccination campaign serves to protect those at greatest risk from Covid-19 and its complications, as well as frontline health and social care workers. Eligible groups include:

- Adults aged 65 years and over
- Residents in a care home for older adults
- Persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group
- Persons aged 12 to 64 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- Persons aged 16 to 64 years who are carers and staff working in care homes for older adults
- Frontline health and social care workers

Further information is available on the Cardiff and Vale UHB website at: <https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/covid-19/cavuhb-covid-19-mass-vaccination-programme/>

National Eye Health Week

This year's National Eye Health Week takes place between 18 and 24 September, promoting the importance of good eye health and the need for regular eye tests for all. Throughout the week, drop-in events are being held in Hubs where members of the public can obtain useful information relating to eye health and local sight loss support services.

The Council's new Community Services Age Friendly Advice Officers work with a variety of partners to provide advice, information and guidance to support anyone with sight loss in Hubs across Cardiff. These include Sight Life (formerly the Cardiff Institute for the Blind) and Care and Repair's Managing Better service, a free home visiting service offering advice and practical help for people over the age of 50 who have sight loss, hearing loss, dementia, or have had a stroke.

Hub Health Screen Update

I have been really pleased with the progress on the Hub Health Screen Project. The model is similar to that used by Public Health Wales for GP surgery waiting rooms. Flat screens have been placed in prominent positions within Hubs where visitors can view public health and other important public messages whilst they are in the buildings. Health engagement officers have been working with both internal and external partners, to provide quality content promoting public health campaigns and messaging which can help people to improve their health outcomes. Topics currently being promoted include:

- Dementia Friendly Cardiff website
- Bowel cancer screening videos in English, Welsh and various community languages
- Cardiff C-Card Scheme (sexual health)
- Chat Health
- Help Me Quit (smoking cessation)
- Childhood immunisations
- Stay Steady Clinics
- Cardiff Wellbeing Support Service

Work will continue to take place to identify preventative health programmes in partnership with Public Health Wales and keep content current and fresh with an emphasis on supporting key campaigns and seasonal topics (such as warm welcome spaces or carbon monoxide alarm testing).

Sustainable Production and Supply of Food Challenge

The second round of the Sustainable Production and Supply of Food Challenge launched on 29 August. The Challenge is a partnership between the Cardiff Capital Region Challenge Fund, Cardiff Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Welsh Government, and the SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) Centre of Excellence. The partnership is seeking innovative solutions around the themes of:

- Approaches to encourage and enhance knowledge within schools of the health benefits by sourcing from local food supply chains.
- Dynamic integrated tools that optimise the supply and distribution of local food supplies.
- Maximising renewable energy generation and local utilisation from farm (and growing) assets whilst maintaining agricultural yields.
- Innovative farming practices to reduce carbon emissions and increase yield.

Applications close on 9 October. Further information is available at: <https://sdi.click/sbrifoodchallenge>

TACKLING POVERTY & SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Summer Activities

Teams from across the Council and partners made sure that children and young people from every part of the city had a great summer this year.

The Butetown Pavilion Youth Hub Summer Camp 2023 was a huge success. The camp is part of the 'Fit and Fed' programme which helps keep children fit and active throughout the school holidays, while also alleviating the stress on families in disadvantaged areas by providing free breakfast and lunch for children on the day. Delivered in collaboration with Foundation 4 Sports Coaching (F4SC), over 180 children signed up for activities including sessions with Tennis Wales, the Welsh Rugby Union and local clubs such as Tiger Bay Boxing.

The Children's Play Service, including the Disability Play team, delivered a total of 140 play sessions. These play sessions were attended by a total of 3,981 children and young people from areas across Cardiff such as Butetown, Grangetown, Splott, Llanrumney, Creigiau, Riverside, Ely, Gabalfa and Danescourt. Sadly, National Playday was postponed due to storms, but work is now ongoing with partners to reschedule this for the October half term holiday period. With the help of Central Library Hub, the Children's Play Service will take over the whole building and provide a wonderful extravaganza of 'Play on a Shoestring!' for children and families.

Youth Services 'Summer with a DIFF'erence' programme offered an inclusive, fun-filled programme for 11–25-year-olds. Working with partners within and beyond the Council, the programme included day trips, taster sessions in music, arts, pottery, construction, beauty, outdoor activities, and a range of sports including a Cardiff Youth Services takeover of the Cardiff International White Water Centre. There will be lots more activities, clubs and opportunities taking place throughout the autumn.

Cardiff Youth Services also offered six weeks of free health and exercise classes for children and young people through the ION StrongKidz Summer Initiative. The initiative aims to make exercise accessible for all by removing the financial barrier that can restrict children from participating in holiday activities. 930 young people aged 7-18 accessed 54 hours of free exercise at ION Llanishen and ION@Space2B in Splott. Cardiff Youth Services were able to do this thanks to amazing sponsors and partners who are committed to helping provide a service that keeps the next generation fit and healthy, both physically and mentally. Youth Services aim to build on the success of this initiative over the coming year and will also encourage and support staff wellbeing through a joined-up approach with this programme.

Cardiff Youth Services Youth Action Group are continuing to work together to support the Ministerial Community Reference Group in Ely and Caerau, to ensure youth work continues to play a full and meaningful role in supporting the young people of the community. A specific community-led programme of summer activities proved very successful, and the team will follow this with further activities during the autumn period with the support of South Wales Police and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the area. The team is also supporting the Community Safety Team, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, and South Wales Police to help build relationships with young people and break down barriers to engagement.

Youth Employment Support

August is an important milestone for many young people; pupils in Year 11 receive their GCSE results while those in Year 13 hear about their A-Levels. For some of those young people, results day was a time for celebration, but for others, the day brought uncertainty over their next steps. Into Work Youth Mentors were available in Hubs across the city for both results days to provide support and guidance, and additional Into Work teams such as Adult Learning and Cardiff Works were on site to provide further training and employment opportunity support. Following the results days last month, the Into Work Youth Team and Post-16 Youth Service Team hosted a summer youth event, 'Explore Your Future', aimed at making young people aware of their employment, education and training options. Over 60 young people attended to speak with over 30 providers, with 37 young people registering for more information and nine completing new self-referrals for youth mentor support.

Riverside Festival

The Into Work Advice Service, in partnership with South Riverside Development Centre, hosted a community open day in Despenser Gardens at the end of August. Over 400 local residents enjoyed a range of fun activities, including face painting, a parade, live music and a range of food stalls. The Engagement Team were on hand to provide employability advice to attendees on the day. The festival is part of the increased delivery from the Into Work Advice Service in the Riverside area including a weekly job club, weekly digital support service, Adult Learning courses and dedicated employment sessions delivered by Cardiff Cares Academy and Cardiff Works.

Family Disability Benefit Support Team

The Family Disability Benefit Support Team, part of the Money Advice Team, help families who have a child or children living with a disability, providing benefit advice and support up to and including representation support at appeal tribunals. The team have helped 21 families since April and have identified £118,300 in weekly benefits and £21,088.72 in one-off payments. The team have also expanded to provide a surgery in the University Hospital of Wales concourse to raise awareness of the support available.

Cost of Living & Winter Pressures Action Plan

A Cost of Living & Winter Pressures Action Plan has been created to ensure that support is in place for households throughout the city who may struggle during the colder months. Plans are in place to reopen warm and welcome spaces in Hubs and libraries across the city. A new 'Fuel Champion' has been appointed as part of the Money Advice Team who will act as an advocate for customers when dealing with utility companies.

The focus remains on ensuring that citizens are aware of the help available to them. Updated information leaflets will be available in all Hubs, translated into community languages. The Cardiff Money Advice website has also been refreshed with up-to-date information, it can be found at: <http://www.cardiffmoneyadvice.co.uk/>. A wide-ranging publicity campaign is to be launched which will include local newspapers, radio and social media. Teams will also be promoting the help available in different engagement

and outreach events across the city, including parents' evenings, jobs fairs and coffee mornings.

As part of the action plan, the Money Advice Team alongside the Welfare Liaison Team will contact those who received assistance through the Cost-of-Living Discretionary Fund last year, offering further support and conducting benefit health checks, providing advice on grants and discounts available, and making referrals for serious debt.

The Council will keep the action plan under constant review to ensure there are adequate resources to support all residents who need help and will continue to bid for external funding as it becomes available.

Youth Exchanges

Cardiff Youth Services hosted two youth exchanges this summer with young people from Stuttgart and Carlsbad in America. 12 young people from Cardiff's twin city of Stuttgart and seven regular youth club attendees from Ely and Caerau attended a residential placement in the Gower together and visited historical landmarks in and around Cardiff. The focus of the exchange was to increase young people's wellbeing: one young person commented, "It has been the best experience I have been involved in, I have built confidence and made friends for life."

The exchange with American young people focused on film making and content creation. Seven young people from Carlsbad, California met with 10 young people involved with the Digital Youth Work Team. The Carlsbad students volunteered to run Cardiff Content Creators alongside Youth Services, giving the attendees opportunities for peer-led work around filmmaking. The students from Carlsbad also visited London, Bannau Brycheiniog and Barry Island.

The Welsh Rugby Union kindly donated tickets for both groups to watch the Wales v England rugby match at the Principality Stadium in August.

Cardiff Youth Services will continue to work with young people to seek opportunities and shape plans for further youth exchanges in the future.

Sky Digital

As part of the Council's new groundbreaking three-year partnership with Sky Digital, four youth centres (Eastmoors, Grassroots, North Ely and Gabalfa) have had fibre optic broadband fitted for free, which will enable young people to safely access the worldwide web and social media. The partnership will also see a new digital space being created at Eastmoors, where a digital room will have a 3D printer, MacBooks, workstations for podcast equipment as well as a range of software provided for staff and young people. Sky will also seek to improve the digital skills of young people with training and a range of workshops to address digital literacy.

Councillors Julie Sangani & Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Members for Tackling Poverty, Equality & Public Health (Job Share)
21 September 2023

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TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

New School Streets

The following three new School Streets went live at the start of this month:

- Lawrenny Avenue in Canton – serving the new Fitzalan High School, Ysgol Pwll Coch and Y Nyth, the Pupil Referral Unit;
- Railway Terrace in Riverside – serving Kitchener Primary School
- Parts of Bromsgrove Street, Oakley Place, and Hewell Street in Grangetown – serving St Paul’s Church in Wales Primary School

School Streets are areas around school entrances, which are closed to vehicles during peak drop-off and pick-up times. Closing the streets to general traffic for these short periods in the morning and afternoon during term-time helps children to access school safely, reduces air pollution and supports families to actively travel to and from school. The School Street scheme now includes 19 streets and 22 schools across the city. Positive feedback has been received from schools, parents and local residents who have benefitted from this initiative.

Road Safety Cycle Training

Over the summer, the Road Safety Team ran eight cycling courses for children in Cardiff. 48 children attended the Learn to Ride courses and were able to ride by the end of the course. 42 pupils attended the on-road National Standard Cycle Training (Level 2) courses.

Highways Resurfacing

Highway resurfacing and surface treatment schemes have continued to be delivered throughout the city. So far this year, approximately 50 highways (i.e. either the road or pavement) have either been resurfaced or received treatment to improve the surface condition and prolong the life of the asset. This amounts to an investment of approximately £2.2M into the highway asset. In addition, localised resurfacing works, such as installing smaller patches and repairs, continue to be delivered to ensure that the asset is kept in a condition that is safe and appropriate for use.

Cardiff Dogs Home

Cardiff Dogs Home has been recognised with two RSPCA Pawprints Awards – a Silver Award in recognition of the standard of kennelling provided and a Gold Award for the team’s care of stray dogs. This latest recognition by the RSPCA means that the team at Cardiff Dogs Home have now received at least one RSPCA Pawprints Award every year since 2008. This is a remarkable achievement, which demonstrates the Council’s commitment to looking after and rehoming stray and rescue dogs in Cardiff.

Councillor Dan De’Ath
Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning
21 September 2023