



DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD
CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF

COUNCIL SUMMONS

THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2023

GWYS Y CYNGOR

DYDD IAU, 21 MEDI 2023,

SUPPLEMENTAL PAPERS

Item	Description and Page Number(s)
21	Written Questions and Answers (<i>Pages 3 - 26</i>)

Davina Fiore
Director of Governance & Legal Services

County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Friday, 15 September 2023

COUNCIL, 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS**CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**
(COUNCILLOR ED STUBBS)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Will the council be taking any action against the responsible developer for Guildford Crescent, following the recent demolition of the building facades contrary to planning permission?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>An application to demolish and rebuild the façade of Guildford Crescent (ref. 23/01925/VAR) will be brought before the Planning Committee, most likely at a re-arranged meeting on 19th October 2023, at which time all matters relating to the demolition and proposed rebuild will form part of the Committee's consideration of the current application, including related enforcement issues.</p> <p>It would not be appropriate for me as Chair of Planning Committee, or Committee Members, to make any further comment on this in advance of the formal consideration of the application at a future meeting of the Planning Committee.</p>
----	---

CLIMATE CHANGE
(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR NAUGHTON</u></p> <p>How many fines have been issued for dog fouling in Cardiff over the last 12 month period?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Two Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for breaches of the Public Space Protection (Dog Control) Order 2021 in relation to dog fouling across the city. Patrols are undertaken by enforcement officers within reported hotspot locations, parks and cemeteries. It is notoriously difficult for our staff to legally enforce against dog fouling, but enforcement officers also work to educate and challenge inconsiderate dog owners.</p>
----	---

W3	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR NAUGHTON</u></p> <p>How many fines have been issued for dog fouling in Pentwyn over the last 12 month period?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>No Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for a breach of the Public Space Protection (Dog Fouling) Order 2021 specifically in relation to dog fouling in Pentwyn. Officers have undertaken a number of patrols in hotspot areas that have been reported. It is notoriously difficult for our staff to legally enforce against dog fouling, but enforcement officers also work to educate and challenge inconsiderate dog owners.</p>
W4	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR NAUGHTON</u></p> <p>At present in different parts of Cardiff the warning signs for dog fouling have different fine amounts, some being higher than others. Would the council consider one fixed amount for dog fouling across the city so the system will be fairer?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Cardiff Council sealed a Public Spaces Protection (Dog Control) Order (PSPO) on 30th September 2021, under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, which then came into force on 4th October 2021. This replaced the offence of dog fouling under The Dog Fouling of Land Act 1996.</p> <p>The amount of the fixed penalty for a breach of the PSPO is £100 city-wide; however, stickers affixed to lampposts and bins throughout the city may still display the penalty that applied under the previous Act and a different fixed penalty amount. Where any such old stickers are identified and/or reported to the Council, these are removed.</p> <p>As part of the PSPO, affixed signage related to Schedule B areas (public cemeteries) and Schedule C areas (all enclosed children's play areas, games areas and schools) display the correct legislation and Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) amount of £100.</p> <p>Schedule A areas are all public spaces within Cardiff and do not require additional signage. The £100 FPN will be issued for the following breaches:</p>

- not cleaning up dog waste (dog fouling);
- not having means to clean up dog waste; and
- not putting a dog on lead when directed to do so.

W5

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What is the total number of reports of fly-tipping or mis-represented waste in the Gabalfa ward since April 2022 and how many enforcement notices and FPNs have been issued in that time?

Reply

41 reports of fly-tipping or incorrect presentation of waste in Gabalfa were received via C2C or the CardiffGov app between April 2022 and March 2023. Details of enforcement activity undertaken in Gabalfa during this period is provided below:

Fly-tipping:

- 19 search and removal investigations of fly-tipping where evidence was found.
- 169 search and removal investigations of fly-tipped waste where no evidence was found to support enforcement action.
- 60 reports of fly-tipping where no waste was found upon arrival.
- 3 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) of £400 issued for small scale fly-tipping.

Incorrect Waste Presentation:

- 6 search and removal investigations where evidence could be obtained for commercial businesses.
- 34 search and removal investigations where evidence could be obtained for domestic properties.
- 58 Section 46 Notices (warning notices) issued.
- 15 FPNs issued for breach of Section 46 Notices.
- 8 FPNs issued for littering.
- 4 FPNs issued for commercial waste offences.
- 38 reports of incorrectly presented waste where no waste was found upon arrival.
- 93 search and removal investigations where no evidence was found to support enforcement action (90 domestic waste; 3 trade waste)
- 83 properties educated in waste presentation.
- 23 Notices issued to landlords/owners of properties instructing them to remove waste accumulations from front or rear gardens. If the Notice is not adhered to, the Council can remove accumulations and charge the landlord/owner.

W6

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

Subways around the Gabalfa interchange and North Road are persistently littered with broken glass. Do the council agree that this does not encourage the use of subways or uptake of active travel, particularly by children traveling to local schools?

Reply

The subways are cleansed on a regular basis by cleansing teams. Whether or not people feel safe using subways is a much wider issue than just street cleansing, but the Council does recognise that litter and broken glass is detrimental to the street scene and people's perceptions of personal safety.

The service cleanses hotspot areas on a regular basis and also works with the Love Where You Live team to support community volunteers to help keep the city's streets clean. The Welsh Government's aim to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme by 2025 is also intended to reduce the amount of drink-related litter within the street scene, including glass.

I would encourage Gabalfa residents and ward councillors to report any broken glass found within local subways using the CardiffGov mobile app.

W7

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

After a sweeping team visits a location, does the council undertake any subsequent assessment/inspections to monitor and/or provide feedback to help improve performance?

Reply

Cleansing teams are routinely checked by cleansing supervisors and the level of cleansing is assessed accordingly. This enables the supervisor to assess whether the frequency of cleansing is sufficient and the method of cleansing is appropriate (i.e. the use of a mechanical sweeper or a transit litter picking team). In conjunction with this, the Council conducts street cleanliness surveys using the LEAMS (Local Environmental Audit and Management System) methodology, which is a nationally recognised tool for measuring street cleanliness. LEAMS data is used to provide a performance indicator for the street scene, which helps measure how local authorities are performing in relation to their duty to keep the streets clean.

	<p>It is important to note that the LEAMS approach only represents a snapshot in time of the wards surveyed. As such, performance can vary depending on whether the survey is undertaken on the day of waste collection or the day after street cleansing has taken place. Notwithstanding, this is the nationally recognised approach for measuring street cleanliness.</p>
W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>Can the cabinet member say if he has discussed banning log burners in Cardiff with colleagues and does he have plans to introduce such proposals to ban them in this council term?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>No, I haven't discussed this issue with my Cabinet colleagues and neither do we have any plans to ban them.</p>

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS
(COUNCILLOR JENNIFER BURKE)

W9	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member provide a progress report on Drovers Way Park?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I can advise that the drainage works have been completed and the playground installation works are scheduled for the week commencing Monday 2nd October, ground conditions permitting.</p>
W10	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>In a recent Public meeting I attended about saving Pentwyn Leisure Centre, Cllr Burke stated that "Pentwyn is the poorest performing leisure centre based on membership". If membership allows you to access any leisure centre, how is this calculated? Please can evidence be provided to prove this statement.</p>

What was the footfall of each Leisure Centre in the same period she referred to?

Reply

Whilst 'Better' members are able to use any of the centres operated by GLL, they enter into a membership with a single centre, normally their local one. Membership is attributed based on their home centre (i.e. the centre they joined at) and the home centre is periodically checked and updated if usage patterns indicate that a member is using another centre more often.

Generally, GLL measures the performance of centres based on their financial performance. As was set out in the report considered by Cabinet on 22 June 2023, Pentwyn Leisure Centre is the poorest performing centre in the GLL portfolio, primarily due to the costs associated with operating the leisure/beach pool, low gym membership and poorly attended dry-side activities. This is a longstanding position that was also experienced by the Council when it operated the centre prior to the contract with GLL.

In the years running up to the Covid-19 pandemic, the leisure centre had the following operating deficits:

- 2018/19: deficit = £810,517 (largest operating deficit)
- 2019/20: deficit = £534,528 (largest operating deficit)

Total income at Pentwyn Leisure Centre is normally in the region of £750,000, with the main income lines as follows:

- £245,000 (33%) from health and fitness
- £200,000 (26%) from swimming lessons
- £105,000 (14%) from facility hire
- £79,000 (10.5%) from casual swimming

If Pentwyn Leisure Centre is compared to Llanishen Leisure Centre, which has the most similar pool and building layout, Llanishen takes nearly double the income with a very similar cost base.

W11

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
LITTLECHILD**

At the same public meeting Cllr Burke stated "there will be no Pentwyn Leisure Centre without the rugby". Why haven't all options been explored in a transparent manner with an open tender process?

Reply

The opportunity for Cardiff Rugby to support the Council's plans to upgrade Pentwyn Leisure Centre was fortuitous given their occupation of the leisure centre during the Covid-19 pandemic. It represents a unique opportunity to secure essential rental income from a tenant that will help repay the capital investment made by the Council and also add value to the offer available to the public at the leisure centre.

It is worth noting figures (based on data from Sport England) that were published in The Guardian in March 2023, which showed that there has been a net decline of 382 swimming pools in England since 2010 and the onset of UK Government austerity, which has only been made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic and rising energy costs. In addition, in 2021, Swim England estimated that 1,868 of the 4,336 public pools in England could be forced to close by 2030. Leisure centres and swimming pools in Wales are facing similar pressures.

In this context, it is precisely why the Council is having to be innovative in order to keep Pentwyn Leisure Centre open by working in partnership with Cardiff Rugby. Our focus has always been on retaining the key elements of the leisure centre for public use, whilst securing income to help off-set the cost of our 'invest to save' capital investment.

The Council has explored other funding options, including a proposal from a local university that was withdrawn subsequently. If nothing else, the nature of those discussions with the university confirmed that the opportunity with Cardiff Rugby is a very good one for both the Council and the local community.

As and when Cardiff Rugby's occupation becomes formal (i.e. once they have signed a lease and have long-term security of tenure), they will bring forward a community programme that will benefit local people and add value to the Council's investment in the centre.

This underlines the importance of the Council working in partnership with the city's leading sporting teams/clubs to support the provision of high quality training facilities for elite level sport that can also be accessed and used by the local community. Another great example of how such partnerships can work successfully is located just across the River Rhymney at the new Cardiff City Academy and sports complex in Llanrumney, which was officially opened earlier this month.

W12

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
LITTLECHILD**

Can the cabinet member provide details of the lease and rental arrangement with Cardiff rugby over a 25 year period?

What income will be received in total to Cardiff Council, and how much will be paid to GLL? (Pentwyn Leisure Centre)

Reply

It is proposed that Cardiff Rugby will enter into a 25-year lease. The starting rent will be £170,000 per annum and it will be subject to Retail Price Index (RPI) increases. All of the income will be retained by the Council and will contribute towards the repayment of the 'invest to save' capital funding required to enable the refurbishment of the building. All of the costs associated with Cardiff Rugby's occupation of the building are being met by Cardiff Rugby, which means that none of the Council's investment will be used to pay for any upgrades required in the areas to be occupied by Cardiff Rugby.

W13

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
LITTLECHILD**

Have Hub facilities or medical Hub been explored to be housed in Pentwyn Leisure Centre?

Reply

The focus for the leisure centre has been to retain all of the key facilities, whilst reducing the operational burden of the leisure pool. The proposal from Cardiff Rugby aligns with the purpose of the leisure centre and will add value to the offer available at the centre once their tenancy is secured and the Council's investment is made.

There are no plans to further extend the Hub facilities in the Pentwyn ward. The Council has already invested £2million in the refurbishment of the Powerhouse Hub, including the co-location of youth provision, which is located alongside the new Wellbeing Hub that was developed in partnership with Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, Llan Healthcare and other key stakeholders following investment of £14million by the Welsh Government.

These new community facilities form part of the wider multi-million pound Maelfa regeneration scheme in Llanedeyrn, which included the refurbishment of the Maelfa House high-rise housing block; the development of a new, modern shopping centre; affordable new homes; a new Multi Use Games Area for young people; better road infrastructure, as well as parking and public realm improvements. A new community living scheme for older people to help them live independently within their own homes is also being constructed as part of the Maelfa site.

These examples, together with our investment in the refurbishment of Pentwyn Leisure Centre, clearly demonstrate the Council's commitment to investing in the communities of Llanedeyrn and Pentwyn.

W14

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

Can officers provide details on the frequency of the cleansing regime at Roath Park Lake to remove weeds, other overgrown vegetation and to keep the footways clean?

Are any plans in place to clean or renovate the boathouse?

Reply

As you may be aware, the lake level is lowered annually during the autumn period and a programme of vegetation clearance and debris removal is implemented. In terms of the water within the lake, weed cutting is also undertaken. The frequency and timing of the operation will depend on the level of weed present, which will vary depending on climatic conditions.

Footpath areas are mechanically swept and power washed. There is no set frequency as these operations are condition-led and subject to resource availability. Footpath weeds are treated on emergence during the period from March to September with an approved herbicide.

The boathouse structure is cleansed as part of the wider autumn programme covering the wider boatstage facilities. There are no current renovation plans.

W15	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>Will consideration be given to removing the unsightly and extensive build-up of silt at the northern end of Roath Park Lake to aid water management as part of the future engineering work concerning the Roath Park Dam?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Addressing the silt issue in the lakebed will be considered as part of the broader Roath Park Dam project. It's worth noting that the budget allocated by the 1999-2004 Labour administration to support a regular de-silting programme was unfortunately reduced by the former Liberal Democrat administration in 2005/06. This reduction has been discussed in response to previous questions on this issue, and it's regrettable that this budget cut occurred.</p>
-----	--

DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION
(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W16	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Education confirm the schools operating in deficits and the sum of their financial reserves?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The 39 schools in Cardiff that are currently operating with a deficit budget position in 2023/24 were listed previously in a reply provided to a Written Question from Councillor Berman in July 2023. The total deficit projection of these schools' governor-approved budgets for the 2023/24 financial year is -£5,337,854.</p>
W17	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>How many free period products were given out in Cardiff schools prior to summer holidays? Please provide details of schools, number and type of products recorded.</p>

Reply

Through the Council's period dignity programme, all maintained schools are provided with ample supplies of period products in advance of the summer holidays. Primary schools currently receive single-use period pads, and Secondary schools received single-use pads, tampons, reusable pads, period pants and menstrual cups. Schools are reminded through emails and social media to ensure that they give out period products prior to the summer holidays. It is for the schools to decide on how to organise this and, therefore, the number and type of products given out is not recorded centrally by the Council.

INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT
(COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)

W18

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

It's been identified that schools in Cardiff could have been constructed with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete. Do we have a list of what other council owned buildings in the city have been constructed using these materials and if so, which buildings are they?

Reply

A review of school buildings between May and September this year, by assessment and inspection, confirmed that no Council maintained schools have Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) within their construction.

As was set out in the Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events' Council Statement this month, St David's Hall was inspected towards the end of 2021, at which time it was identified that the mansard roof was constructed using RAAC Panels. Until the beginning of this month, the panels had been subject to a programme of inspection both internally and by an approved RAAC structural engineering company. Updated advice on the safety of RAAC panels was issued by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) at the end of August 2023 and, following consultation with the appointed structural engineering company and the Council's insurers, a decision was made to close St David's Hall on 7 September 2023 to permit further invasive inspections of the RAAC panels to identify if any remedial action is required to ensure the safety of all building users.

	<p>County Hall and City Hall have been inspected and there is no presence of RAAC in these buildings. The wider estate has been initially assessed and 137 buildings require more detailed review and inspection. This work is currently ongoing and is anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2023. Should any premises be identified as having RAAC within its construction, then the Council will implement immediate safety measures.</p>
W19	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What steps has the council taken to ascertain whether Companies House could be a suitable site for Cathays High since the Government Property Agency announced it would sell the site?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council is in regular dialogue with the Government Property Agency regarding Companies House. The site will only become available once suitable alternative accommodation is found for the existing occupiers of the building. The relocation of a massive historical archive of company information held in micro-fiche format will be one of the main challenges affecting the timescale for disposal. The Council has registered its interest in acquiring the site, but as yet terms have not been discussed.</p>
W20	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>When does the council expect the lease for the Mynachdy Community Centre to be signed?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council is currently working on revised Heads of Terms to share with the trustees of the Our Mynachdy Community group and their lawyer following a recent meeting regarding the lease of the community centre. The Council's Legal Services team will prepare the lease documentation based on the agreed terms, and all parties will need to ratify this and then sign it. Work is ongoing to conclude this process within the next few months.</p>

LEADER
(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

W21	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What is the council's view on ensuring a gender-informed approach to economic development, and how does the 'City development meeting' of eight cabinet members and senior management reflect that principle?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The 'City Development Meeting' is simply a briefing meeting that is usually held on a monthly basis and involves me and both Cabinet Members and senior managers with responsibility for planning and economic development matters. I do accept that the attendees are often male, reflecting current Cabinet Member and senior manager appointments; however, the attendees do change depending on the subjects being considered at the meeting.</p> <p>Our commitment to ensuring a gender-informed approach to economic development and investment in Cardiff is underlined by the fact that two-thirds of the officers that form part of the Council's Invest in Cardiff team are women. Five of the twelve members of my Cabinet are women and are able to provide a gender-informed perspective as part of our collective decision making on economic development matters. In addition, five of the nine members of the Council's Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee are also women, thereby ensuring gender-informed scrutiny of economic development matters and related decision making by the Council.</p>
-----	---

SOCIAL SERVICES (JOB SHARE)
(COUNCILLORS ASH LISTER & NORMA MACKIE)

W22	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>In June 2019 I proposed a composite Autism Motion 1 seconded by Susan Elsmore and unanimously supported by the then council. Can the cabinet member make a statement on what measures the council has undertaken, also what recommendations were made as to what more the council has done to support those living with autism in Cardiff?</p>
-----	---

As called for in the motion, can the cabinet member also provide the letters sent by the Leader to the Minister for Health and Social Services, and Minister for Education, also the responses from the Welsh Government Ministers to his letter, and details of any reviews with relevant scrutiny committees?

Reply

Following the motion passed by the Council in 2019 and the Covid-19 pandemic, the Welsh Government's statutory [Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services](#) was implemented from September 2021. This followed a previous commitment made by Welsh Ministers in 2017 to develop the Code of Practice, which highlights and reinforces the existing duties of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the NHS (Wales) Act 2006 as an alternative to a separate autism legislation in Wales. The Code of Practice places clear statutory duties on both Local Authorities and Health Boards in Wales and emphasises the importance of having an effective, trained and knowledgeable workforce that can deliver the duties on behalf of the organisations. Further details of some of the measures that have been implemented by the Council since 2021 are provided below:

Training

In response to the Code of Practice, Autism Wales produced the National Autism Training Framework for Wales to look at the training and workforce implications of the Code of Practice for the delivery of autism services for organisations. The Council's Social Care Training and Development team is providing bespoke learning and development opportunities for council staff; regulated and non-regulated providers covering social work and social care; unpaid carers; Direct Payment recipients; personal assistants; third sector partners; volunteers, and micro-enterprises.

Integrated Autism Service

The regional Integrated Autism Service covering Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan provides autism spectrum disorder (ASD) assessments and post-diagnostic support and counselling. The service is primarily health-focused and led by a psychologist and occupational therapist with nurses and support workers. Since the introduction of the Code of Practice, the need to improve services for individuals with autism and other forms of neurodiversity has been recognised by the Council. Adult Services are currently in the process of setting up a social work-led neurodiversity service, to bring more expertise to this area, which is due to be in place by the end of this month.

The Adult Services Learning Disability team also has a long history of developing services that meet the needs of adults with learning disabilities and autism in Cardiff. The team works to develop mainstream opportunities with appropriate adjustments to meet local needs. The team has also developed a range of specialist local services, which meet the needs of autistic people with learning disabilities and complex needs. The pilot of a new neurodiversity social work team will enable us to gather data on local need in this area and to consider whether we need to encourage further reasonable adjustments in local facilities and services, including the development of any specialist services for people with autism and complex care and support needs.

Hubs and Libraries

Cardiff's Hubs & Libraries have, for some time, been supporting neurodiverse adults, young people and children by offering useful resources and materials that aim to improve their experience when visiting the network of Community Hubs and Libraries in the city. This includes targeted book resources, including Reading Well books, some of which have been selected by people with lived experiences. There are also collections of dyslexia inclusive books for both adults and children. The story times and rhyme times programme, which is available in all our Hubs, incorporates sensory and tactile elements. In addition, as part of the recent refurbishment of the children's floor at Central Library Hub, a tactile wall was provided to increase sensory stimulus in response to feedback that had been received from parents of neurodivergent children.

Currently, the service is working with Scope UK to offer sensory study boxes at Central Library Hub to help customers who find levels of noise and a busy environment difficult. Each box contains a range of study aids, such as fidget spinners, squishy items and desk timers. Noise cancelling headphones are also made available to block out sound levels.

Into Work Service

Frontline staff in the Council's Into Work Advice Service (e.g. Employment Mentors, Job Club Advisors, Adult Learning & Digital Trainers) have all completed Continued Professional Development (CPD) approved autism awareness training, with each team having an Autism Champion. The team holds regular jobs fairs, recruitment and engagement events across the city and, at the start of each event, a 'quiet hour' is scheduled for those with autism – this hour includes dimmed lighting and reduced noise by restricting the number of people.

The team has recently been awarded Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) funding to deliver a supported employment project, which supports individuals with learning disabilities or autism to move into sustainable employment. The project supports people going into employment by providing a mentor to help them prepare for work and secure employment opportunities. It also helps employers by offering training in order to be able to support employees with learning disabilities or autism.

Education

In Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, the diagnostic process managed by Cardiff & Vale University Health Board can take up to three years. Whilst awaiting a diagnosis, there is the potential for children to miss out on the services they need if these are allocated based on diagnosis. The Council's Education Inclusion Service has therefore been working to ensure that services are allocated according to need, rather than diagnosis.

In 2021, the Education Inclusion Service adopted SCERTS (Social Communication Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support), which is a framework for professionals working with children and young people who have autism or social communication difficulties. The framework is already well-established at The Hollies School. The approach was specifically developed to support children and young people with autism, but it has a wider application and can be used effectively with all learners who present with social communication difficulties, which supports the goal of responding to needs rather than diagnosis. Training in SCERTS is being rolled-out to all educational psychologists, specialist teachers and staff working in specialist settings. The Autism Support team has also provided training and awareness raising support to several independent schools and residential settings to ensure that staff have the skills to support and improve outcomes for children and young people with autism.

Post-diagnostic parent workshops are provided for families of recently diagnosed children with ASD. The Inclusion Service invites families with children aged 5-19 years to the workshops, which are currently run twice a year, usually in the autumn term (held online) and the summer term (held in person).

The Education Directorate has also taken steps to expand the specialist provision for children and young people with autism. This includes additional places at the special schools in Cardiff that specialise in autism (and other needs), including Meadowbank, The Hollies, Riverbank, Woodlands and Ty Gwyn. Funded places have

increased at the autism resource bases at Springwood and Pentrebanne primary schools, Cantonian and the Marion Centre. The resource bases at Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Pwll Coch also now include expertise and capacity to support children with autism in the Welsh medium sector.

I would be happy to speak to the Leader in order to obtain and then provide you with copies of the previous correspondence with Welsh Ministers from 2019. You may also want to speak directly to the Chairs of both the Community & Adult Services and Children & Young People and Scrutiny Committees about any autism-related scrutiny work that either has been or could be undertaken by their respective committees.

TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING **(COUNCILLOR DAN DE'ATH)**

W23

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

Last updated in 1997, when is the Local List of Buildings of Merit going to be next updated?

Reply

On 21st September 2023, the Cabinet approved local listing selection criteria and consultation on a first phase, thematic review of the Local List of Buildings of Merit. The review is expected to be undertaken in late 2023 and will focus on locally significant current and former public houses/hotels and members' clubs. This builds on our policy commitment in 'Stronger Fairer Greener' to: *“protect and celebrate local buildings such as pubs, community spaces and music venues – particularly those rich in the city’s working-class history – by strengthening our planning regulations and continuing to lobby the Welsh Government for stronger powers”*

Ward councillors will be specifically invited to make observations and to propose other buildings for consideration as part of the consultation process, the results of which will be reported back to Cabinet for approval in 2024. Subject to future Cabinet approval, it is proposed that a full review of the Local List will be undertaken in 2024/25 using experience gained from the first phase to guide the process.

W24	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>How regularly in the future will the Local List of Buildings of Merit be updated?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The frequency of Local List updates is still to be determined. We envisage that an expert panel will be created to assess proposed additions to the list. Full details relating to future updates and additions to the Local List will be presented to Cabinet for approval following consultation.</p>
W25	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>Given the Cabinet's preferred LDP strategy does not involve developing beyond its existing land bank, when will candidate sites 60, 61, and 80 be removed from the register?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Based on the analysis to date of housing needs and existing commitments, the Preferred Strategy that we are currently consulting on does not propose any additional greenfield releases beyond the existing land bank.</p> <p>I can confirm that candidate site 80 at Cwm Farm, Morganstown is located within the proposed Green Wedge and this site together with other candidate sites within the proposed Green Wedge have been removed from the assessment process.</p> <p>The reason we are taking forward the remaining sites outside the Green Wedge into the next stage of the candidate site assessment process is because Welsh Government guidance, set out in paragraph 3.76 of the Development Plans Manual, Edition 3, March 2020, states that: <i>"in preparation for the examination the LPA should have a prioritised list of potential reserve sites which it considers could be substituted as alternatives and added to the plan, should additional sites be required following consideration of the plan through the formal hearing sessions."</i></p> <p>Taking forward these sites will enable the Council to assess the suitability of these sites for this purpose. The results of this assessment will be published alongside the consultation on the Deposit Plan in summer 2024 and stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on the findings of the assessment.</p>

	<p>It is also important to note the Development Plans Manual, which states in paragraph 3.77 that:</p> <p><i>“Reserve sites are not allocations, they are sites that the LPA considers suitable and deliverable in relation to the strategy, but are not required at this point in time. There is no requirement to identify them as such. It is essential that all relevant key stakeholders are informed of any reserve sites and have the opportunity to make comments.”</i></p>
W26	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>As part of implementing the Welsh Government's new 20mph default speed limit law, how many new signs have been incorrectly installed by Cardiff Council and what is the calculated cost of rectifying the faults?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Officers were not aware of any incorrect installations prior to the new 20mph default speed limit coming into force in Wales on 17th September 2023; however, the delivery team is checking all of the phase 1 work and will be undertaking the phase 2 works (removal of existing 20mph signs) from now until December 2023.</p>
W27	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>How much money has been spent on installing cycle lanes in the last 5 years?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The table below shows the total capital expenditure invested in cycling infrastructure in the last five years, as per the Welsh Government Annual Active Travel Report. Whilst the majority of spending relates to cycle lanes, the figures also include minor cycle schemes and infrastructure, as well as cycling improvements implemented in conjunction with the delivery of a wider programme of capital schemes.</p>

Spend:	2018/19 £000's	2019/20 £000's	2020/21 £000's	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 000's	Total £000's	%
Cycling	3,312	4,596	6,019	9,519	11,103	34,549	
Funding Source:							
Council	631	590	448	1,015	1,503	4,186	12%
WG Grant	2,630	3,873	5,474	8,480	9,500	29,956	87%
S106/Other	51	133	97	24	101	407	1%
Total	3,312	4,596	6,019	9,519	11,103	34,549	100%

W28

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

Can the council indicate what powers it has to require companies to remove advertising boards on highways and other council-owned property when these are put up without permission?

On how many occasions has the council taken action against companies during 2022-2023 and during the current financial year to date?

Reply

The Council has powers under Section 132 of the Highways Act 1980 and Section 43 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 to remove and issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for any unauthorised marks placed on highway without lawful authority. On average, the Highways Enforcement Team issues 20-25 FPNs per month.

W29

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What actions are being taken to improve safety outside schools in Gabalfa ward?

Reply

The following measures have been implemented around schools in the Gabalfa ward to support road safety:

- **Ysgol Mynydd Bychan:**

School Keep Clear markings are in situ outside the school entrance on New Zealand Road and there are parking restrictions on the opposite side of the road. A controlled, signalised crossing is situated outside the main gate on Whitchurch Road, accompanied by zig-zag markings and parking restrictions. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the footway adjacent to the school frontage on Whitchurch Road between the crossing and junction with New Zealand Road was widened to support social distancing and improve pupil safety. The school is supported by the provision of child pedestrian training and National Standard Cycle Training. Scooters have been provided to the school by the Council and balance bikes are being provided in the near future.

- **Allensbank Primary School:**

Improved pedestrian facilities in the form of a blended footway have been provided at the junction of Llanishen Street and Allensbank Road as part of the Cycleway 1 scheme. School Keep Clear markings are located outside the school entrance. The school has received a bespoke school bike fleet for use for National Standard Cycle Training provided by the Council's Road Safety team, along with child pedestrian training. The school has also been provided with a scooter fleet.

- **St Joseph's R.C. Primary School:**

Officers are currently working with the school and local councillors to overcome the challenges presented by the constrained location of the site, which include congestion and parking issues. The potential for bollards and school parking restrictions is being investigated. Officers are also working with the school to identify a Park and Stride location. The school receives National Standard Cycle Training and child pedestrian training, and has been provided with a bespoke school bike fleet and scooter fleet.

- **Cathays High School:**

Parking restrictions and a zebra crossing in are in place on Crown Way. An additional guard rail has recently been installed opposite school entrance to separate pupils from the road. The school has been provided with a bespoke school bike fleet. Officers are considering further enhancements. Independent Travel Training is also provided to pupils with Additional Learning Needs at the Specialist Resource Base within the school.

	<p>All schools in receipt of scooter and bike fleets also receive lesson plans so that the scooters and bikes can be used for learning activities linked to the school curriculum, as well as training.</p>
W30	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Can an update be provided on progress towards integrated ticketing for all public transport services across Cardiff?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>This is a matter for Transport for Wales, which has been given the remit by the Welsh Government to: <i>“Deliver a fully integrated transport system in Wales with one network, one timetable, and one ticket, in close partnership with both local and central government.”</i> The Deputy Minister for Climate Change issued a Written Statement in February 2023, which confirmed that <i>“the Welsh Government is investing in a Pay as You Go ticketing scheme using contactless debit/credit cards”</i> and <i>“a trial will operate on train and bus services between Cardiff and Newport later this year.”</i> Transport for Wales is working on the programme of this trial scheme and future roll-out timescales, but no further details are available currently.</p>
W31	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>What is the current expected date for the opening of the planned Gabalfa Train Station?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council has been advised by Transport for Wales that the proposed new Gabalfa station was included as part of a programme of revenue funded improvements within the Keolis Amey franchise agreement. However, due to the change of circumstances during the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent loss of passenger revenue, there is no longer any readily available funding to develop this project beyond the passive provision for the new Gabalfa station as part of the Core Valley Lines (CVL) Transformation Programme, which was referenced previously within in the National Transport Development Plan 2022-27. If the new Gabalfa station was to receive additional funding in the future, it is worth noting that there are operational dependencies, network trade-offs and connectivity synergies between Gabalfa and other station propositions, which means that this station could not be considered in isolation.</p>

W32

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

It's pleasing to see three new locations added to the list of School Streets. The residents of Rookwood Close in Llandaff and Bishop of Llandaff High School have also expressed an interest in this scheme. Can you give me an update on what the timescale will be for possible consultation on installing a school street scheme in Rookwood Close?

Reply

School Streets are a key element of the Council's programme for making travel to school safer and have been very successful in other locations across the city in response to safety concerns about the number of vehicles accessing schools. Many of the existing School Streets have been introduced on cul-de-sacs, which are short sections of road with quite low numbers of residents. However, before a School Street is implemented, different factors need to be assessed – for example, the number of residents who would potentially be included in the scheme, the impact on the surrounding area and the layout of the road. These need to be fully understood as they can affect whether a School Street is feasible in a particular location.

An initial investigation of Rookwood Close in Llandaff has highlighted that there are a number of other cul-de-sacs in the immediate area, which could also be affected by displaced parking or traffic if a restriction were to be introduced at Rookwood Close. This has implications in terms of cost and the operational feasibility of a potential scheme. For this reason, a School Street would not be an appropriate intervention on Rookwood Close; however, Active Travel Officers are working with the school to develop an Active Travel Plan to support and promote active and sustainable journeys to/from school.

W33

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

The Cardiff Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Forward Plan, that was approved by cabinet in 2019, on page 45, under the heading Strategic Actions on Biodiversity, it states: To carry out SINC reviews on Private Land. It also states a report will be undertaken every three years. Can the cabinet member provide detail of the last report undertaken on the SINC adjacent to Danescourt Woodland and also provide details of the last report on what the council has done to comply with its duty to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems?

Reply

A Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is a local nature conservation designation and in order for a site to be designated, it must meet the qualifying criteria set out in the [Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales](#).

The Ecology & Biodiversity Technical Guidance Note, contained within the [Cardiff Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance](#), sets out the procedure for designating SINC. As part of the preparation of the evidence base for Cardiff's Replacement LDP, we will be undertaking a review of the Cardiff SINC, which takes into account this guidance. Radyr Community Woodlands SINC has not been formally reviewed since approximately 2012.

The approval of a new Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty (BRED) Forward Plan has been delayed, due largely to the regrettable loss of the Council's previous ecologist in late 2021. Following a new appointment that was made earlier this year, the County Ecologist has been reviewing the BRED Forward Plan with a view to reporting to members on an updated plan towards the end of 2023 or in early 2024.

This important work aligns with the Council's wider aspirations and will require action and investment across the Authority to meet its targets. Alongside this work, the Planning Service consistently strives to ensure that developments maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems, as required by Welsh Government planning policy. In addition, where new developments are proposed on sites which have characteristics worthy of being designated a SINC, consideration will always be given to the features of importance for nature conservation for which it could be designated and identify any mitigation and compensation measures that may be needed.