

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF CARDIFF

The County Council of the City & County of Cardiff met at County Hall, Cardiff on 26 March 2015 to transact the business set out in the Council summons date not specified.

Present: County Councillor Margaret Jones (Lord Mayor)

County Councillors Ali Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed, Dilwar Ali, Aubrey, Bale, Bowden, Boyle, Bradbury, Bridges, Carter, Chaundy, Clark, Richard Cook, Cowan, Kirsty Davies, Chris Davis, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Elsmore, Evans, Ford, Gordon, Govier, Graham, Groves, Hinchey, Holden, Howells, Hudson, Hunt, Hyde, Javed, Keith Jones, Margaret Jones, Kelloway, Knight, Lent, Lomax, McEvoy, McGarry, McKerlich, Merry, Michael, Mitchell, Murphy, Parry, Patel, Phillips, David Rees, Dianne Rees, Robson, Sanders, Simmons, Stubbs, Thomas, Ben Thomas, Graham Thomas, Lynda Thorne, Walker, Walsh, Weaver, Craig Williams, Darren Williams and Woodman

160 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Burfoot, Ralph Cook, Goddard, Goodway, Joyce, Lloyd, Love, Magill, Marshall and Morgan,

161 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson, subject to the inclusion at Min No. 148 - the Declaration of Interest by Councillor Dilwar Ali as a Local Authority School Governor.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

162 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Lord Mayor reminded Members of their responsibility under Article 10 of the Members' Code of Conduct to declare any interest, and to complete Personal Interest forms, at the commencement of the item of business.

The following declarations were made:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Councillor Woodman	Item 9	Personal Interest as Honorary President of Diverse Cymru who administer Direct Payments
Councillor Groves	Item 9	Personal Interest as a Direct Payment recipient relating to Direct Payments

In addition the Lord Mayor advised that Directors affected by the Pay Policy Item 10 have a pecuniary interest and will leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

163 : ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

The Lord Mayor welcomed all visitors present in the gallery to the meeting.

Ewart Parkinson OBE

It was with great sadness that Members learnt that Ewart Parkinson OBE passed away on 9 March. The Lord Mayor attended his funeral on 20 March 2015 and has written to his widow Pat and family on behalf of the Council to express sincere condolences.

Many tributes have been paid from across the world of business, industry and politics to Ewart as an inspirational, creative and visionary town planner who was key to the transformation of Cardiff from the early 1960s. Ewart was appointed the first City Planning Officer for Cardiff in 1964, becoming Director of Environment and Planning for South Glamorgan in 1974 before retiring in 1985. He was awarded the OBE for voluntary and community services in Cardiff in the 2015 Queen's New Year's Honours. He was a truly remarkable individual that some Members and officers had the opportunity to work with and be inspired by.

Lord Lisvane

The Lord Mayor was delighted to host Lord Lisvane, Sir Richard Rogers at a very successful Member Chairing Skills event on 25 March 2015. Lord Lisvane former Clerk of the House of Commons and Chief Executive of the House Service was delighted to visit his home city and the City Hall which was built by his great great grandfather's company E Turner and Sons, along with many other civic buildings and the Cardiff Royal Infirmary. His portrait hangs behind the reception in the entrance hall.

Lord Mayor's Charity

The Lord Mayor thanked Councillor Dilwar Ali who had arranged a Lord Mayor's charity fundraising event on 28 March at Nahin Spice Centre, Caerphilly Road, Cardiff.

164 : PETITIONS

The following petitions were submitted:

Councillor Michael - 71 residents and 125 members of St Mellons Golf Club requesting prompt action to resolve the issue of illegally parked vehicles at Vaendre Lane/Close and the unauthorised road markings at Pascal Close and Fountain Lane;

Councillor Darren Williams – 75 signatures petitioning for the construction of a pedestrian crossing over Neville Street – suggested position being near Rawden Place.

Councillor Gordon - 170 adults and 30 Year 7 children from Fitzalan High School requesting speed cameras to be put on Ninian Park Road;

Councillor Dilwar Ali - 121 signatures petitioning for an increase in the No 35 bus service running from Gabalfa along Whitchurch Road. (I have sent a copy of this to Cardiff Bus);

165 : ORDER OF BUSINESS

A motion without notice under Council Procedure Rule 25 (a) (iii) to alter the order of business to consider Item 13 Notice of Motion 2 at this point was proposed by Councillor Hunt and seconded by Councillor Howells.

The Motion was Agreed

166 : NOTICE OF MOTION

(Councillors Bowden, Cowan, Holden, Robson and Sanders left the meeting during consideration of this item)

The Lord Mayor moved to Motion 2 and invited Councillor Thorne to propose the Notice of Motion and Councillor Weaver to second. No amendments had been received:

Cardiff is home to a large number of Somaliland people and Somaliland communities have lived here since the 1850s. They play a huge part in the life of the City and many have served honourably in the armed forces, NHS and the merchant navy.

Many Somaliland citizens remain concerned about the international status of Somaliland and are asking the Cardiff Council in its civic role as the Capital City of Wales and as part of its duties under the Equalities Act and as gesture of friendship to this Cardiff community to represent their concerns to the Commonwealth, UK and Welsh Governments.

As such this Council resolves to endorse the recognition of the Republic of Somaliland, which has now operated peacefully with democratic elections for nearly 25 years as an independent republic. We respect the UN concept that recognition should start with the Regional Government body but notes that the African Union has for many years failed to act on its own report recommending recognition.

We therefore call on the UK and Welsh Governments to recognise Somaliland as a sovereign state and in the meantime resolve to fully acknowledge the ties of friendship with Somaliland.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on Motion. Following the debate the motion was put to the vote and voting was as follows:

For (47)

Ali Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed, Dilwar Ali, Aubrey, Bale, Bradbury, Carter, Chaundy, Clark, Richard Cook, Davies, Davis, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Elsmore, Evans, Ford, Gordon, Govier, Groves, Hinchey, Howells, Hunt, Hyde, Javed, Keith Jones, Knight, Lent, Lomax, McEvoy, McGarry, Merry, Mitchell, Murphy, Parry, Patel, Phillips, David Rees, Simmons, Stubbs, Ben Thomas, Thorne, Walsh, Weaver, White. Darren Williams and Woodman

Against (0)

Abstain (4)

Councillors Graham. McKerlich, Graham Thomas and Walker

167 : LORD MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

To consider nominations for the positions of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor for the 2015/16 civic year.

Councillor Woodman proposed the nomination of Councillor David Walker as Lord Mayor elect. Councillor Jayne Cowan seconded the proposal.

Councillor Bale proposed the nomination of Councillor Dilwar Ali as Deputy Lord Mayor elect. Councillor Dianne Rees seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED – That the nominations of Councillor David Walker and Councillor Dilwar Ali for the positions of Lord Mayor elect and Deputy Lord Mayor elect respectively for the 2015/16 civic year, be approved.

168 : STATEMENT FROM LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

City Deal

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his recent budget that the UK Government had formally entered into negotiations with the City of Cardiff Council over a City Deal for the region. This represented an exciting opportunity for Cardiff and the whole city region, with potential funding for a number of key infrastructure priorities including transportation, regeneration, housing and skills.

The detailed process of preparing a City Deal proposal, working with Welsh Government and local authority partners across the city region would now commence and it was expect to be in a position to submit a proposal to Central Government towards the end of this year.

Great Western Cities

A Great Western Cities event took place on 20 March, hosted by Business Insider, and attended by over 200 of the region's business leaders.

The Unleashing Metro Growth report published by the RSA City Growth Commission in October was clear that the Western corridor was one of the 6 powerhouse super-city regions upon which the UK economy relies. The Great Western Cities have a combined economic output of £58bn, larger than any other major conurbation in the UK outside London. The region also has a population of over 1.8 million and more graduates as a proportion of the working age population than any of the other UK urban area

This is an important initiative that complements our work with the Cardiff Capital City Region. We're working hard to create a great city-region here in South East Wales, and Bristol are doing the same in their city-region across the Severn. The Great Western Cities is about better connecting these two successful city-regions, working together to make the most of our shared natural assets, like the Severn Estuary, and creating a 'Western Powerhouse'.

This approach has been well-received by business leaders, with widespread agreement that it absolutely makes sense to work together on a number of key issues, particularly transport projects that can make a real difference to our area.

Super Connected Cities

Cardiff was announced as one of ten UK Super Connected Cities in 2012. A super connected city offers high-speed, high-quality seamless broadband, which is important if Cardiff is to be a leading destination for business and investment.

It is also important from a quality of life perspective. More than 150 public buildings now offer free Wi-Fi across Cardiff including two traveller sites, homeless hostels and residential homes. This is in addition to the Cardiff Bus network having enabled e-ticketing and Wi-Fi on bus services. Residents and visitors can also now access free Wi-Fi in the city centre and Cardiff Bay.

Progress has been further supported by the launch of Cardiff's own internet exchange last October, one of just four outside London, which reduces the cost and improves the speed of data access to businesses. It is already the third most successful in the UK behind London and Manchester. The Council has also already received over 600 applications for its Cardiff Connection vouchers from businesses and the third sector which provide grants of up to £3,000 to enable access to high speed broadband. Our success has led to officers supporting colleagues within Wales, including implementation of the scheme in the Cardiff City Region and the Swansea Bay Region, and in English Authorities, such as Bristol.

Power to Local People White Paper

The 'Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper - Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People' is open for consultation, by the Welsh Government, until the 28th April 2015.

The White Paper is the Welsh Government's statement of intent about the future of local government in Wales and sets out proposals for reform in: local democracy; the

roles and remuneration of Elected Members and senior officers; community governance; community rights; corporate improvement and service performance; scrutiny, audit, inspection and regulation; and finance.

Over the coming weeks, the Council would be engaging with key stakeholders to shape a response to the White Paper proposals to ensure Cardiff is well-positioned to participate in any programme of change.

A number of questions were received from Members on the Leader's statement in relation to the City Deal and engagement with the public sector and Welsh Government; delivery across the city of the Super Connected Wi-Fi; the opportunity for Members to feed into the Cabinet Response to the Power to Local People White Paper in particular in relation to term limits.

169 : CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Finance Update

Financial monitoring work continues as we approach the end of the financial year. The latest position shows a net improvement to the projected directorate positions of circa £250,000 despite a further worsening of the position in Children's Services of £537,000 since that reported at Month 9. This position reaffirms the statement at Month 9 that the Council is on target to achieve a balanced Outturn in 2014/15.

Performance

Performance and Improvement in key areas are being monitored through a series of Challenge Sessions which are now embedded into the 'business as usual' of the Council. These sessions are part of the cultural change that needs to take place and are being held to ensure that performance is debated as part of an honest conversation which helps us to understand the key issues faced by directorates in delivering their services. These conversations focus our collective attention on the key areas and have enabled a greater understanding of not only the issues and challenges that we face but also on determining the things that we need to do differently.

The management of our staff is a key area if we are to make the improvements that we have planned. Our ability to engage our staff during this time of significant change and challenge is vital. The Challenge Sessions are providing assurance that the Council's Personal Performance and Development Reviews (PPDRs) are taking place. Moreover that staff feel engaged and understand their contribution to service delivery and how their individual performance impacts on service delivery. As at the end of quarter 3 of the current financial year compliance figures for staff having had a PPDR and a six month review is 85.8% at of the 12th January 2015.

We are ensuring that we continue to improve our management of sickness absence. The Challenge Sessions are providing assurance that directorates are complying with the Attendance and Wellbeing Policy and that difficulties are highlighted and actions put in place to make the required improvements. As at the end of quarter 3 of the current financial year the sickness absence levels for the Council was 7.43 days

lost per person. The range being from 3.36 days lost per person (Democratic Services) to 12.48 days lost per person (Health & Social Care).
Property (Operational Estate)

The adoption of the Corporate Property Strategy by Council last November has enabled us to make significant progress in establishing a sound foundation and framework for the future management of the council's extensive operational property

The Asset Management Board, under the chairmanship of the Chief Executive, has been established to oversee the implementation of the strategy, provide leadership and clear direction in the management of the estate, coordinate major cross cutting property related initiatives, and work more closely with other public sector property owning organisations in the city to jointly explore opportunities for co-location of services, collaborative use of buildings, and to promote joint land assembly initiatives for development of sites.

Service Property Plans with each Service Area have been drafted, setting out Services' future property aspirations. These are now being refined and in future will become the principal means by which the council will coordinate its future property priorities and target future investment.

Human Resource

The Partnership for Change agreement was signed off as part of the Council's Final budget setting at Council on 26 February 2015. Some actions arising from this agreement include the Joint Partnership Board, a new Purchase of Additional Annual Leave scheme and policy, new ways of working and payroll rationalisation. Following agreement of Council last month the three new director posts have now been advertised with closing date of 8th April 2015. Member Appointment Committee's will then shortlist potential candidates with final interviews expected to be held late May.

Cardiff Manager training programme

Currently we have approximately 300 managers who are at various stages of the Cardiff Manager Programme. The programme is run jointly with Cardiff & Vale College and Cardiff Council Academy with part funding from Welsh Government. The purpose is to develop middle managers to a consistent level in the context of the changing environment of the Council and the budget pressures. The programme itself has 4 themes covering: Solving Problems & Making Decisions; Understanding Innovation & Change; Financial Skills in the Public Sector; and, Behavioural Change. Part of the programme includes the completion of assignments which could lead to a qualification.

C2C (Connect To Cardiff)

Cabinet Member has spent time with managers, supervisors and front line staff again this month to gain further understanding of operational issues, customer queries and talk about Council wide issues.

As of Monday 16th March C2C extended its opening hours from 8.30am – 5pm to 8.30am – 6pm Monday to Friday. Due to call volume growth over the last 3 years, the extra hour will mean that citizens that work will find it easier to contact C2C for assistance and will also be adding time to handle calls more effectively. This can be done at no additional cost to the Council and will have a positive impact on C2C's performance level. In the first week of the extended hours we have been able to handle an additional 346 calls whilst achieving our answer rate target of 93%.

The 24/7 Team based within Customer Services is currently developing a state of the art Category 1 Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC). The project team undertook a review of centres across Britain in order to understand best practice and pull together a model fit for the needs of Cardiff.

As part of the development of the service review, staff at all levels were consulted, including a number of sessions held at Litchfield Court & Loudon House where residents have also had a chance to comment on the new proposals. Development of the ARC and also the upgrades at the city wide blocks is well underway and “go live” is scheduled for July 2015.

Web – Cardiff, first Local Authority in Wales to get a 4 Star rating

On March 2nd The Society of Information Technology Management (Socitm) released their “Better Connected 2015” report. Cardiff has made significant improvements as a result of the web refresh project which delivered a new site in the summer of 2014, moving from a 1 star rating to a 4 star rating. Cardiff is the only Local Authority in Wales and one of only 34 Local Authorities in the UK to achieve 4 stars. For the first time Cardiff also made the top 20 for best developed websites.

Socitm also took the opportunity to use Cardiff as a case study and example of successful redesign.

The Cabinet Member responded to a comment made in relation to accommodation and support for staff working in C2C with the enhancement Alarm Receiving System.

170 : ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Apprenticeships

The Cabinet Member was delighted to report the creation of a new Apprenticeship Scheme that the Council has developed for Cardiff Harbour Authority and in conjunction with Welsh Government. The new Mechanical Engineering Apprenticeship will be for a four year term and linked to day release study leading to a Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering award. This opportunity which is due to be advertised in early May will contribute to the Harbour Authorities overall succession plan and will also address the skills void that exists within the industry. The Mechanical Engineering Apprenticeship is one of three new Apprenticeship opportunities that will be introduced within this Cabinet Portfolio over the next twelve months, demonstrating, through the Parks, Sport & Harbour Authorities People Programme a clear commitment to employment opportunities, training and development.

Volunteering

The Cabinet Member also report a positive development in the area of volunteering within the Parks Service that recently saw the formation of a new and exciting partnership between the Council and the third sector in the form of a Volunteer Development Partnership Group. The Parks service already interacts extensively with third sector organisations and the groups Terms of Reference seek to strengthen and build on existing arrangements by providing a wider and more diverse range of opportunities for engagement, developing local campaigns and participating in national campaigns that promote environmental issues, enhancing opportunities for securing external funding and promoting and engendering a sense of ownership within local communities. The Cabinet Member will follow the progress of and outcomes from the work of the group with interest over the coming months.

Partnership Project with the RSPB 'Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff'

At previous Council meetings Members had been advised on the progress of the Council's partnership project with the RSPB, 'Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff'. The project is delivering free outreach sessions to all primary schools in Cardiff, together with a City Wide programme of events to help inspire thousands of children and their families to help look after Cardiff's wildlife. The initiative will be formally launched at the RHS Cardiff Show which is taking place from 17th - 19th April 2015.

Cardiff Pollinators Project

The Council will shortly be launching the Cardiff Pollinators Project, and a number of Ward Members have received a letter advising of changes to grassland maintenance regimes at 16 sites across the City. Britain's pollinators have been in decline in recent years and for a number of reasons including the use of pesticides, farming practice and the loss of wild flower meadows. The Cardiff Pollinators Project seeks to create new areas that increase the population of wild flowers, attracting pollinators, providing interest, habitats for bio-diversity and educational interest, also enabling the Council to make more effective use of its resources. Our commitment to this project is not insignificant and the changes being implemented during the forthcoming season will result in conversion to more informal maintenance regimes for a total area equating to 40 Senior Football pitches.

Sustainable Food City Status

On 17 March 2015, Cardiff was awarded Sustainable Food City status bronze award, recognising pioneering work promoting healthy and sustainable food.

Cardiff joins Brighton & Hove, the London Borough of Lambeth and Plymouth as an example of what motivated people can do to make healthy, sustainable and local food, a defining characteristic of where they live. Through a network of dedicated partners including Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, City of Cardiff Council, Cardiff University and WRAP Cymru, Cardiff is driving change at a city level and is working to tackle social, economic and environmental issues in the city.

Really Rubbish Campaign

To celebrate its 10th Anniversary year of operation the Really Rubbish Campaign to celebrate Yogi the national organisers and our very own Caddyman are going to celebrate with pupils of Albany Road Primary School which was the first school that signed up 10 years ago, well done to Albany Road and to all the schools engaged in this fantastic and engaging campaign. At the school we will “launch” the celebrations and the start of this year’s new competition, which despite all of the financial difficulties we have been able to maintain through working with Yogi this year to find an alternative competition sponsor.

A number of comments were received from Members on the Environment Statement in relation to the Cardiff Pollinators project, wild meadows and increasing bio-diversity and extending the project across the city; and concerns about the loss of valuable agricultural land and greenfields with the impact o the Local Development Plan.

171 : COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CO-OPERATIVES & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE STATEMENTS

Neighbourhood Partnership Fund

The new Neighbourhood Partnership Fund will be open for applications from 1st April. The new Fund will be focussed on promoting health and wellbeing and is aimed at encouraging community participation in developing new service delivery models and community buildings.

This source of funding is really important for helping to assist communities in delivering services in different ways to previously and the Cabinet Member would welcome Members assistance in sharing this information through your networks so as many people apply as possible.

Sport Leisure & Culture

Welsh Banquets at Cardiff Castle were awarded the Best Overall Event and Dinner and Entertainment Venue in Britain by the leading tour operator, CIE Tours International. The award was given on the basis of customer feedback during 2014. The Guided Tour of Cardiff Castle also achieved an Award of Excellence for scoring an overall average client satisfaction rating of 90%. T he Castle faced stiff opposition from leading visitor attractions, hotels and venues nationwide.

The Cardiff Story Museum has been awarded the Highly Commended Award in the Best Leisure and Tourism Venue category in the Cardiff Life Awards.

More than 1,000 children will attend free school sessions during the Cardiff Children`s Literature Festival, which commenced on 24 March.

A number of comments were received from Members on the Cabinet Members statement in particular welcoming the Neighbourhood Partnership Fund and the

funding of community partnerships. A question was raised about the timescale for repair of the clock at Cardiff Council Clock tower.

172 : ORAL QUESTIONS

Lord Mayor advised that questions to the Cabinet Member, Education and Skills would be taken by Councillor Hinchey in Councillor Magill's absence.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, TRANSPORT, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Question: *County Councillor Aubrey*

Would the Cabinet Member describe the 150+ action points raised by the Inspectors at the LDP Examination as apocalyptic or merely catastrophic?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

I would respectfully suggest that the language used by Councillor Aubrey would better describe the previous Administration's failure to produce an adopted Plan and indeed produce a Plan that was so flawed that it had to be withdrawn before the Hearing Sessions.

I would call that apocalyptic

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Aubrey*

I am unsurprised to discover that the Cabinet Member's complacency is as predictable as it is upsetting. We have 150 action points and I would urge Members to read through those action points and see that they are not just little drafting errors – they are absolutely fundamental and they are about areas where the plan has errors and areas where the plan completely ignores the evidence.

But, as I don't have time to ask you about all 150, I will ask you specifically about action point HS14.4. I am not alone in this chamber in having told you and previous Cabinet Members time and again that the e line to north-west Cardiff, is not a luxury – it is a non-negotiable part of delivering any sort of growth in the north-west of the city. Action point HS14.4 is the inspector telling you in no uncertain terms that I am right and I have been vindicated in that approach.

Will you now ensure – because this is a critical element – will you now ensure that we take the plan forward only on the basis that the Metro is fundamental and that the master plans absolutely reflect the delivery of the Metro is fundamental, it is not a luxury?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

As you are well aware, this is a partnership between us as a Local Authority and the Welsh Assembly Government; and the Welsh Assembly Government is leading on

this, and clearly we are working closely with them. Our ambition is certainly to introduce the Metro.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

I don't really want to talk about the last Local Development Plan – I'd rather talk about this one. I attended a lot of the hearings which took place and I was quite disconcerted to see that, at the ones I attended, none was attended either by a Senior Officer or by a Cabinet Member; and, had they done so, they would have found fairly stark evidence of some of the shortcomings of the Local Development Plan.

Have you yet been briefed or had a chance to look at the 150+ remarks and questions posed by the Planning Inspector, because many of them were put forward by the north-west Cardiff group, and the volume of these topics for further investigation and the nature of them must make you disconcerted by the original Local Development Plan you and your Officers submitted.

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

What I can tell you is that it's standard practice for Inspectors to issue large numbers of action points at this stage of the process. Indeed, all recently adopted LDPs have followed this format, so this is nothing unusual and we will answer those questions as the Inspectors have asked us to do so.

QUESTION TO LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question: *County Councillor Graham Thomas*

Following last week's Budget Announcement about the City Deal for Cardiff, this appears to be our golden opportunity to secure the funding so desperately required to support the future transport requirements of the City Region. The biggest debate on the Local Development Plan proposals has focused around the lack of transport supporting such a huge expansion project. So please update us on the deal and what the plans are for this potential funding?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I have stated previously in the Chamber, that the potential to secure a city deal presents a golden opportunity for Cardiff.

However we are at the start of the process of the development of a Cardiff City Deal and it will involve developing, in partnership with the UK and Welsh Governments, a more detailed proposition that includes agreed objectives for the deal.

It is also important to understand that the City Deal is not about developing a wish list of projects. Those projects that are funded will be required to meet strict criteria in terms of the economic uplift they will generate for Cardiff and the city region.

Whilst we would expect a fund to be developed that would support investment in transport infrastructure – and this is exactly what has taken place elsewhere – these issues are still to be determined.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Graham Thomas*

Of course, we do encourage these negotiations for the City Deal and we all hope that it bears the fruit that it promises. However, my question is not so much around the merits of the scheme, but more around what the intended use of the funds are; and we of course all assume that the intended use of those funds are for transport improvements, which you touched upon.

The north-west of Cardiff has long been identified as having the most problems to solve in terms of the LDP and the transport gaps therein – a point which has been raised time and time again at the independent examination hearings – and we're waiting for a response on that from the Council.

So, if you could just touch on whether the funds – you must have an intended use for the funds - and whether they will be for the transport - the north-west of Cardiff being the area that needs that investment the most.

Is this an ace up your sleeve or the get-out-of-jail-free card? Will this city deal solve the north-west Cardiff transport paradox?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

As I mentioned in my earlier reply, transport has been a really important part of those City Deals elsewhere. I can't give any guarantees or assurances – we really are at the start of some really intense and detailed negotiations. But I will say a very big thank you to the Officers in the Council and indeed other partners that have got us to this stage so far, and I think there is every intention on the part of this administration to make sure that we drive forward a scheme of projects that are beneficial not just to Cardiff but to the wider capital region.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

Last year when I brought up the issue of the proposed train line running through my ward, through housing, I was called a scaremongerer. I was called dishonest. I was said to be misleading people. Yet now, in this chamber, there are questions put to you about the completion of the Metro, Councillor Patel over there confirmed that the Council wants to go ahead with the Metro.

So, my question to you is what do we tell the people in my ward who are frightened a train line is going to go right through their properties?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I'll just reiterate what I said to the previous Member. This deal is a fantastic opportunity for this city to develop infrastructure in a competitive environment – not just in the UK but internationally – and we will be doing everything we can as a Council to make sure that we put the case for investment and infrastructure, including

transport, as part of any conclusion to the City Deal negotiations with both UK and Welsh Government.

QUESTION TO CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Question: *County Councillor Holden*

In recent months I have witnessed several developers blatantly flouting planning law and proceeding with developments before formal permission has been given. Under these circumstances do you have any plans to tighten enforcement to punish those who contravene planning law?

Reply: *County Councillor Michael*

The carrying out of development without the necessary planning permission is not a criminal offence, although the Council actively discourages the undertaking of unauthorised development. That the breach of planning control is resolved. A resolution to an enforcement

In considering enforcement action, the decisive issue should be whether the breach of planning control would unacceptably affect public amenity or the existing use of land and buildings meriting protection in the public interest. Enforcement action should be commensurate with the breach of planning control to which it relates and it is usually inappropriate to take formal enforcement action against a trivial or technical breach of control. The intention of enforcement action must be to remedy any effects of the breach of control, not to punish the party responsible for carrying out the breach. Nor should enforcement action be taken simply to regularise development for which permission has not been sought, but which is otherwise acceptable.

In summary, the purpose of the enforcement procedures within 'planning law' is not to punish those who contravene planning law, but to remedy unacceptable breaches. Accordingly it would not be proper for the Council to 'tighten enforcement' for the purpose to 'punish those who contravene planning law'. Planning enforcement officers do, however, promptly investigate alleged breaches and take action where required to remedy unacceptable breaches of planning control.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Holden*

Clearly, to me, it seems that if somebody tries to build something before they've got permission to build it, that doesn't seem the right way you should go about doing things. It should be that you get permission first.

Specifically I have been looking at some issues. The one that comes to mind in the last week is at Leckwith Allotments, there is building work going on without planning permission. I have identified this to Officers and I wonder if you might investigate this further.

Reply: *County Councillor Michael*

It won't surprise you that I will not discuss any personal breaches. I am not aware of the case. If you want to meet me I'll be happy to discuss it with you but till then, I am not aware of this case.

Not every development needs planning permission – some may be permitted development, I don't know. So what you think needs planning permission may not, but if you've got anything that you think needs my attention, please come forward.

QUESTION TO LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question: *Councillor McEvoy*

Does the Leader have full confidence in his Cabinet?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Yes.

Supplementary Question *County Councillor McEvoy*

A very succinct answer.

The question really comes from the chaos that this city finds itself in and, as I said at the last meeting, the buck stops with you because you are the Leader. What I object to is, for example, three Councillors, according to the declaration of interests – three Cabinet Councillors – also work outside of the Council. If that is not correct then maybe the Councillor could clarify.

My question to the Leader is: how can you permit this?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I am absolutely proud of the achievements of this administration.

This is a Council that is delivering in terms of a new transport interchange for this City. This is a Council that is delivering investment into new schools to give our children every possible chance in life.

This is an administration that is fighting to lobby for the best in terms of UK government, in terms of Welsh government for a City Deal.

That is not, to me, a part-time Cabinet – that is very much a full time Cabinet that is absolutely committed to getting the best deal for this city.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Holden*

Obviously, you have a wide Cabinet, some of whom produce lots of reports – and I welcome those, especially from Councillor Derbyshire.

Would you consider making it mandatory that your Cabinet produce a report each month? Because, obviously, they're working on things and it would do well for the Council to be aware of those things that they're working on as a statement each month as we come to Council.

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I am happy to meet with the Member to discuss his ideas in terms of how we can improve democracy in the Council at any times. By all means, please come and see me.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, EDUCATION & SKILLS

Question: from County Councillor Darren Williams

Could you please give an update on the latest developments with regard to the proposed starter class at Ninian Park for a new Welsh Medium school in the 'Four Wards' area?"

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

Decisions have now been made regarding the management of the additional Welsh-medium places to serve the Grangetown area for September 2015. This is to be located in the classroom accommodation that previously housed Ysgol Tan Yr Eos.

Consultation regarding the permanent arrangements for both Welsh-medium and English-medium primary places will take place during the summer term where information regarding the proposals to open a new Welsh Medium starter class from September 2016 will be included.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Darren Williams*

Given that there has been a degree of uncertainty about the temporary provision for Welsh-medium education, what assurances can you give parents of pupils who will be starting classes in the autumn that they will have information about the updated options open to them in plenty of time for them to make an informed choice? Also, given that the plan is for the permanent Welsh-medium school to have nursery education tied into it, are there plans for nursery provision in the temporary school as well?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

I am fairly sure that we have communications drafted that we can produce for you to give you those assurances. I'll certainly pass those comments on to Councillor Magill and get those across to you.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, ENVIRONMENT

Question: *from County Councillor Bridges*

Under your proposals to reduce the number of stockists for green bags, why have you chosen to make Gabalfa and Penylan the only wards in the city with no stockists of green bags within the ward boundary?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Cardiff is one of the few Local Authorities that provide recycling bags and food liners for free to their residents. Unfortunately this service is being taken advantage of by residents outside the authority boundary which is unfair for the rate payer of Cardiff. It is therefore important that we identify local stockists that can ensure the provision of free bags to Cardiff residents.

Green bags can be sourced from over 100 outlets across Cardiff and can be requested online or over the phone for delivery to the door. We are also reinstating direct delivery from the collection fleet vehicles to alleviate the need for more stockists.

I am happy to work with ward members to identify other local solutions where feasible with secure areas to provide.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Bridges*

Well, I can only say that the Cabinet Member has made no effort to answer the question that I actually put to him, which was as to why it is that Gabalfa ward and Penylan ward have no local stockist within their ward boundaries. I am aware from other Councillors that there are problems in other areas – I know Adamsdown, Roath Library is closed at the moment and in Heath, Jubilee Gardens Community Centre is about to be closed so there are problems in other areas.

Given this, I would have hoped that the Cabinet Member might have actually engaged with the problem that I identified.

I would like an assurance from him that he will make sure that every ward – every ward – in this city has one stockist in the area that residents can go to for green bags. I think it is absolutely fundamental, otherwise you are never going to hit your recycling targets and residents are never going to want to engage in recycling if they cannot have a stockist within walking distance.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I'm afraid you didn't listen to my answer if you think I didn't answer you. I did answer you. I pointed out that, apart from the outlets, that's not the only place that you can get green bags – you can ask for them over the phone, you can go over the internet and also what I did say to you very clearly just now was that we intend to bring back the delivery on the refuse vehicles so when your residents, and all other residents, run out of a bag, the tag will go out, they will be supplied with another roll.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Gordon*

I am pleased to hear that eventually the bags will be available on the delivery vehicles because I just want to say that Riverside ward is also another ward where we don't have any local stockists within the ward, and the corner shops that did have them before always had them under the counter, as it were, for the genuine local people who they knew weren't going to waste them or take them out of the area. I do want to make a point about the difficulty that particularly older people have about going online, which often isn't an option for them, but also even using the phone. When you phone Connect to Cardiff, you have the different options and when you've got a hearing problem, it is extremely difficult. So I really think we've just got to be sensitive to the fact that it isn't a very good option for people to get new bags. And I would like to say that we've got local shops to have them back again in Riverside and I'll come and talk to you about this.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I think you've also answered Councillor Bridges' question about the only ward because Riverside have just said that they also don't have any. So it just goes to show that we're not penalising your ward in particular, Councillor Bridges.

What I would say is just to re-emphasise the point: I'm more than happy at any time to speak to any local Councillors. If they can come along with some good suggestions about where we can securely keep those and I can be confident that those stores will only provide them to the residents who need them, I'm more than happy to discuss it.

QUESTION TO LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question: *County Councillor Craig Williams*

Will you outline your view of the City Deal on offer to Cardiff following the UK Government budget, and what role do you see for the private sector within it?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Whilst last week's announcement is encouraging it is important to note that we have yet to see the details. This Labour led Council has been working since the summer to secure this deal and it represents a significant opportunity for our city and has the potential to result in a step change in infrastructure investment for Cardiff.

The private sector has played a role in supporting other local authorities in delivering city deals throughout the UK. We do not think this will be any different in Cardiff and we will ensure that the business community is engaged in the process.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Craig Williams*

I'm more than happy to be generous in our paying tribute to the Officers of this Council and indeed the Leader himself. My generosity is pushed a bit when he says

he's done it single-handedly, but I will say that I think it's important to re-emphasise that point about the private sector and really getting them in.

We have got the Ministers coming down to Cardiff tomorrow, to meet with the private sector to discuss the opening negotiations that are going to start now. It is a long process but this could be really game changing for Cardiff – as much as the Cardiff Bay Corporation did. So I really want the Leader to reach out and engage the private sector and really deliver a City Deal that Cardiff can be proud of.

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I think it is important to take on board the views of the private sector. As I said earlier, the profiling of schemes is the result of some extended negotiations at government level and, obviously, we have to take on board other partners as well – not least local authorities in the region that want to be involved in this process as well. So I take on board your comments, and I'm sure that we'll be having many more communications not just with the business community, but actually also your own Committee about how we make the most of this opportunity for the city and the wider region.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

Speaking in Cardiff the day after the budget statement, your party leader Ed Miliband said of the proposed City Deal, and I quote, "It is, frankly, window dressing and I don't think people will buy it." Why is that? Is it because he sees it more Primark than Prada?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I'm not sure I quite get the question Councillor Cowan, but what was very clear and what I indicated in my earlier answer, was that you have got a great opportunity here; and I think from the City Deals that have been struck to date, there is a clear benefit for us to working with partners outside of Wales, particularly when we can attract additional investment into Wales outside the Barnett formula when we are seeing the impact of austerity cuts on revenue budgets

QUESTION TO LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

You have welcomed the budget announcement by Chancellor George Osborne that a future Conservative Government will look seriously at offering Wales a Cardiff City deal.

Why, as Welsh Liberal Democrat Leader, Kirsty Williams, told Sunday Politics was it necessary to go above the Labour controlled Cardiff Council to secure the announcement?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I want to be clear that these deals are between cities and Government.

Be under no illusion therefore that the opening up of these negotiations has been the result of the work of the political and officer leadership of the City Council, working in partnership with the Welsh and UK Governments.

Given the transformational impact this could have on Cardiff – and on the whole city region – I would hope that the whole chamber get behind our efforts to secure a City Deal, and I can assure you that this administration will fight hard to secure a deal.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

Do you think the obvious division in the Labour group could jeopardise the start of the City Deal?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

What would jeopardise a deal are comments such as you've put in this question by the Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, who I have to say has never met with me, has never discussed anything to do with the City Deal during my time in post. And, we had an administration in Cardiff – a Liberal Democrat administration – for eight years that didn't make any progress on this, either.

So I'm quite comfortable that we are doing everything possible to get the best deal possible for Cardiff.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Aubrey*

I'm delighted that Councillor Bale has broken the Council's long-standing record for most numbers of repeats of the same answer to the same question – your soundbite training is excellent.

In your previous answer you mentioned my question which is we have - as Councillor Bridges points out in his later question - a Council which we're not entirely certain of its name; we're not entirely certain what area it covers because it wants to cover different areas; there's also a capital city region; and there's also various other things.

I think the big question I have at the moment is I am not surprised at all it is central government that are announcing this deal and I'm not surprised at all that they haven't talked to you about it, because what I would like to know is who on earth is representing Cardiff and who on earth is actually going to actually have this deal?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I don't think the Councillor was actually listening to what I said at the start which is that these deals are intrinsically about negotiations between a city and the central government, and that's exactly what we're doing here – it's no different to anywhere else. As I said, I've not come across any involvement or engagement from the Leader of your party in Wales. If they wanted to engage with me then I'm more than happy to have those conversations.

QUESTION TO LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question: *from County Councillor McEvoy*

Does the Leader support an elected Mayor?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Whilst I believe that leadership is more important than leadership arrangements, this is ultimately a matter for the people of Cardiff.

We currently have a Leader and Cabinet model that allows the Council to benefit from the energy, experience and views of an entire Cabinet. This also allows for clear lines of accountability for different aspects of service delivery.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

I'm just wondering whether the Leader thinks that his legacy will be an elected Mayor for Cardiff in 2017.

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I think, as I said, everybody is entitled to their views in terms of an elected Mayor structure. We've seen very clearly, in fact, that across the UK when there have been referendums, overwhelmingly the public have said that they don't want that model.

As I said, I'm more than happy to be tried and tested on my record in the next election, as well, so I'm not too concerned about an elected Mayor model coming into the mix at that time.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Govier*

Does the Leader agree with me that the introduction of elected Mayors by a Labour Government was one of the most significant contributions to representative local government in this country? And does he agree that the most important thing is that local people are given the right to choose whether they want an elected Mayor or not? Therefore, will he commit to supporting us with an early referendum so that Cardiff people are given that choice?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

What I would agree with in that question is that people have to decide and choose what model they want. And I haven't come across any groundswell of opinion in terms of Cardiff in terms of searching for a different model of governance in this city. If you've got evidence to the contrary, then by all means bring that forward.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE
PORTFOLIO

Question: *County Councillor Dilwar Ali*

Can you confirm how much it cost Cardiff Council for the Extraordinary Council meeting which was held on 5th March?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

We do not have actual costs of this Extraordinary Meeting, although I would estimate that it was around £1000.

However in my opinion the real cost of this meeting was an opportunity cost with senior Members and Officers being required to divert their time and energy away from working towards making Cardiff a better place.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Dilwar Ali*

Was this extraordinary meeting necessary to hold and at the heavy cost to this Council?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

Definitely “no”.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

Given what happened at the budget meeting, for an opposition not to attempt to pass the motion of no confidence would have been a sign that they were not capable or worthy of doing the job. If you are proceeding to find out what it cost in financial terms to run the meeting, I hope you will add to that figure the much greater figure of how much it cost in extra expenditure over your original budget to buy off your backbench opposition.

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

I would not agree with you, obviously. The comments you made I wouldn't like to respond to and you wouldn't expect me to in that regard.

I would say that the vote took place, it was a democratic vote. I think, now you've given me the opportunity to comment on the budget, I make no apologies for the couple of hours extra we took to get a budget through. What we should concentrate on is the fact that, given the consultation period and the issues that were raised, I think we did an extremely good job, and I commend Councillors across all parties coming forward with alternatives – I think that's healthy, I think that's what the Cardiff citizens want, we did what we were here to do – we passed the budget. The extraordinary meeting afterwards – I'm sorry, I can't agree that was a worthwhile time.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, EDUCATION & SKILLS

Question: *County Councillor Clark*

Does the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills believe that school governing bodies are fully responsible for head teacher appointment decisions?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

The Governing Body of a school has a range of staffing powers and employment law responsibilities. The Staffing Regulations determine the role and responsibilities of governors in respect of the appointment of Head teachers and deputy Head teachers. The governing body always leads the process of making permanent appointments to Head teacher or deputy Head teacher posts.

The Director of Education, or his or her representative, is entitled to give advice and attend the appointment proceedings and the governing body must consider this advice before making a decision.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Clark*

As you say, the Local Education Authority (LEA) does have a key role in the appointment of Head teachers and it's not only the responsibility of the governing body. And, as you say, if the authority makes written representations to the head teacher selection panel that any applicant is not a suitable person for the appointment, the panel must not recommend that person to the governing body for appointment unless the panel has taken proper account of those representations.

Can you assure the Council that the LEA has always discharged its duties in this area?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

I can give Councillor Clark that assurance.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, EDUCATION & SKILLS

Question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

Band B projects which were agreed in the 21st Century bid to Welsh Government in December 2011 are now being dropped. I understand that the original proposals were for expansion and/or upgrade of dilapidated premises at 12 schools, mostly primary but two secondary and that those schools and their governing bodies were expecting the work to be funded in the next tranche of 21st Century projects. Those plans are now recommended for deferral and you are proposing to replace those twelve projects with six new build projects which were nowhere to be seen in the first applications.

Can you explain the reasons for the proposed changes, why there is a preponderance of faith schools (Church in Wales and RC) in the schools which have

been removed from the Band B list and whether this causes you concern and what evidence do you have that amalgamating the two Ely schools on one site will drive up standards when this policy has not worked to date in Eastern High School?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

The majority of school projects that were removed from band A were specific to providing nursery places. The remainder were to address suitability issues. Whilst the Council has a statutory duty to be able to offer a sufficiency of nursery places, nursery provision is non-denominational and admissions to nurseries work on a different model to primary admissions.

There was no deliberate decision to remove faith settings from the list rather a focus was placed on how to best resolve the strategic issues.

These issues include improving educational standards, capacity issues specific to each area and the costs associated with the different ways that these could be resolved.

Secondary school provision in Ely/Caerau area benefits from previous years of federation between the two schools with evidence of positive integration of some year groups to date. This is being built upon and would continue to be extended if the proposed transfer of both schools to one site is able to progress to implementation. Clearly this would provide a good basis for further integration should the proposed new school proceed.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

The delayed projects included expansions to St Paul's, St Patrick's RC, Christ the King RC Secondary, St Mary the Virgin Church In Wales, Ninian Park, Oakfield, Meadow Lane, and Herbert Thompson Primary School, Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Secondary School, and also an upgrade of Willows High is put on the backburner.

My question is: why is it that faith schools are in demand, particularly with the influx of Eastern European immigrants, so how can the Council argue that the schools were dropped because of a sufficiency of school places?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

I wouldn't argue the point with Councillor Rees that increased demand is there – that is fairly obvious. I am sure that Councillor Magill would happily sit down with her when she returns and go through some of the other issues that you've raised.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH, HOUSING & WELLBEING

Question: *County Councillor Sanders*

In the amended budget for next year budget line 98 within Health and Social Care states there is a plan to reorganise the way community meals are delivered with proposed savings quoted as £75k.

How many residents are currently in receipt of these meals on wheels?

Which wards are they in?

How many have had their need for such meals reviewed in the last three months? If this isn't all of them when will these reviews be completed?

How many residents identified as needing these meals on wheels will need to leave their homes for an alternative arrangement due to the reorganisation?

Will the cabinet member give an assurance that each resident identified as requiring this provision has an alternative meal provision that adequately meets that identified need?

Reply: *County Councillor Elsmore*

Thank you, Councillor Sanders for your question, which rather skilfully gets in more than one. I know we both share a passion for an inclusive Cardiff that supports people in vulnerable situations.

Turning to the detail of your question.

A total of 190 individuals currently receive community meals. I cannot provide a division by wards. What I can say, however, is the runs are undertaken by the service as follows:

To Ely North -29
To Gabalfa -29
To Llanishen -28
To Rhiwbina – 26
To Grangetown -27
To Llanrumney- 25
To Roath -26

In terms of reviews, as you know, the Health & Social Care directorate conduct reviews in a holistic way extending to the whole person, which includes the provision of community meals.

Until the reviews are undertaken, it is not easy to predict the numbers who will require particular solutions. However, it is anticipated that a number will continue to need meal provision within their own homes, as they would find it difficult to access community options. The current solutions for these individuals would include commissioning lunch provision as part of their domiciliary care package or supporting

them to purchase delivered meals from an organisation such as Wiltshire Farm Foods.

Alongside this, the directorate is working in partnership with Age Connects Cardiff, who are mapping/developing community and volunteer schemes which can support older people in a range of ways. Some more creative opportunities are also being explored, e.g. a 'casserole club' model – neighbours willing to prepare a cooked meal for an isolated vulnerable person – which has been tried and tested elsewhere. Where either the provision of meals or support to access meals is confirmed as an eligible need, I am pleased to give the assurance requested. Moreover, the directorate guarantees the necessary arrangements will be in place prior to these changes occurring. The reviews will take place over the next 6 months, by which time a clearer picture will emerge about the range of needs and requirements of individuals, as well as giving time to ensure the alternative opportunities are in place.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Sanders*

Thank you for that response, which doesn't really reassure me but anyway... I think I'm right in thinking that this service will be reorganised from the 1st of April, so if there are some residents who at the moment are yet to have a review in the holistic way as you describe, my concern is – and particularly, as we know, there is an increase in residents with a dementia-spectrum diagnosis across the city and that's ever-increasing – the assurance I'm seeking is that those residents who, from April onwards, haven't yet had a review won't be known if there is some potential withdrawal of that hot meal during the day.

Reply: *County Councillor Elsmore*

Let me be absolutely specific in the reassurance: the reviews come first. No services will be impacted in relation to individuals until a review has been completed.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Carter*

I welcome the prospect of a review to look at this service and see where improvements can be made.

Clearly, no service should stand still and this shouldn't be exempt from that. But I think myself and others on CAASC have been concerned about getting the saving but making sure that services are maintained and that people have a greater choice and are supported. I'm conscious that this is not just about meals – it's about human interaction.

Can you assure me that, during this review, service users or at least representatives of those service users will be consulted to make sure that people don't lose out in terms of eligibility and that human interaction and socialisation?

Reply: *County Councillor Elsmore*

You make very valid points in relation to the review, in relation to community meals. You're right – no service can stand still. The reviews will very much be looking at

individually tailored solutions which will be linking people much more to their communities. In terms of ameliorating social isolation, that's going to be key.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, ENVIRONMENT

Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

How much does Cardiff face in fines in 2014-2015 due to recycling issues?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

As it stands, Cardiff does not face any fines for 2014/15, though the results will not be known until later this financial year.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

The answer seemed to be a bit of a contradiction there. You said at the moment we don't face any fines even though one of your officers saying we face £3.4m in fines. So, how much do we really face?

What I'm asking you to do is to confirm in public, as the person who closed – or agrees with closing Waungron – confirm in public that we face £3.4m in fines at the end of this year.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I've given you the answer. It's in public so that is your answer

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, ENVIRONMENT

Question: *County Councillor Dilwar Ali*

I was really shocked at the dog attack which took place on Friday, 20 March, when a 64-year-old woman in Ely died as a result of her injuries. My thoughts and condolences are with the family. This dog attack brings the total of deaths caused by dog attacks to 29 in the UK – 16 children and 13 adults. I remain of the opinion that Dog Control Notices, as in use Scotland and Northern Ireland, ought to be introduced in Wales. Please can you give me an update?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Firstly on behalf of the Council we offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mrs Greve at this very difficult time.

I can confirm that the Council fully supported the original proposals developed during the consultation on the Control of Dogs Wales Bill, including the use of Dog Control Notices.

I can assure Councillor Ali that we will continue to work with partners such as the Police to utilise the powers contained in the new Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and

Policing Act 2014 to try and minimise as far as possible the impact of irresponsible dog ownership on our communities. One further option under consideration is “public space protection orders” for dog controls and these powers are being reviewed under our neighbourhood services work.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Dilwar Ali*

Can you confirm any response received from Welsh Government on the control of dangerous dogs in Cardiff reports by this Council?

How many more lives must be lost before effective action is taken by this Council and Welsh Government?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I fully understand your concerns and, obviously, we can only do what we can do in terms of putting this forward. But I can assure you we are working hard as I know you are to try and make some progress on this. You made the point very clearly in your question, people are being very seriously maimed and injured, and people are dying as a result of dangerous dogs. And I’ve always said it’s usually the owners rather than the dogs that we have to blame for this – let’s be realistic about it. We will continue to work and continue to support what you’re trying to do to try and make some progress.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Boyle*

The control of dogs in parks, particularly small enclosed parks, is a live topic in parts of Penylan, and the enforcement of appropriate dog walking depends upon proper enforcement by park rangers.

How does the reduced budget for park rangers put that proper enforcement under threat?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

It does make life more difficult. I won’t make any bones about it. I’ve never said at any stage that by losing park rangers it isn’t going to have any impact at all on Council services – of course it will. We have to accept that. I did it with a very heavy heart. I went back to my officers time and time again to ask “can we justify cutting the number of park rangers?”

The problem is we had to make significant savings, and we all know the reasons why – I don’t have to reiterate them but I will, just in case there’s anybody out here who doesn’t understand it. The national government have imposed very serious cuts all around the UK and we have to do something about it, unfortunately, as a Council because those cuts have been passed on to us. That’s the difficulty we face and that’s where we are.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Question: *from County Councillor Bowden*

As we know, Governors in Cardiff schools play a vital part in the leadership of a school and need to be able to provide support and challenge. There is currently no course on the programme of Governor Training specifically on the role of being 'a critical friend'. Given the increased expectations of Governors by the LA and WG why is there no specific training provided on this important subject?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

One of the key roles of a School Governor is to act as a 'critical friend' to the Head teacher and other members of the school management team.

This role is picked up in a number of the training courses currently on offer to Cardiff Governors including the induction course for new governors and the mandatory training course on Understanding Data.

These courses highlight the sort of questions a governor should be asking the Head and senior management about pupil performance.

The future Training Programme is being updated and this aspect of the role of Governors will be included in the future Programme.

Supplementary Question: *from County Councillor Bowden*

When I've looked on the Governors Wales website and I've met with the review team of Governors Wales this week, one of the areas that we talked about was critical-friend training. There is training material on the Governors Wales website and I don't see why this could not be used to form the basis of a training course specifically on being the critical friend, and I wonder if we could pass this back for education to consider?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

I would agree with Councillor Bowden that updating and reviewing the governors training programme, as I said, is underway and we'll certainly take that comment on board. It's vitally important that governors feel comfortable to be able to question and be the critical friend of head teachers and fellow governors as well. The most important thing of a governing body meeting, as many of us will agree, is to have that openness and to have communication channels open so that everybody can participate in an open and trustworthy manner.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

At the Constitution Committee recently, there was discussion of the formation of a governing-body panel, which will discuss nominations for Local Education Authority (LEA) Governors, and I know there was much discussion at the Committee because I was actually there.

I understand that every governor through that panel will have to have the DBS check. But I'm just wondering what we as a Council can do, because I think there is very much a differentiation between LEA governors and co-opted governors and community governors. I think every governor needs to be treated the same. I'm pleased to see you're nodding, Graham.

I'm just wondering what we as a Council can do just to write to the schools to see if they will adopt the same approach that the Council have to make sure that everyone has these checks because it's not fair to sit around a table at a governing-body meeting where the LA representatives have had the checks and the community and the other governors don't have those checks. Perhaps you can share your view on that.

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

It won't be a surprise to you because we had this discussion just a few days ago. Yes, I think the panel is certainly supporting that enhanced DBS checks for all LA governors take place. And I think that's a good thing, given the current climate we're in, unfortunately.

What we will be encouraging is that panel to also widen out that LEA DBS check to other governors co-opted and other parties. I think if it's proper to us as LEA governors, the difficulties and security issues around other governors is obvious. So, yes, I would agree that it should be widened and that the LEA should be writing and encouraging other governors to do that.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Question: *County Councillor Woodman*

How is the amount of time that a school can utilise for Educational Psychologists to work with children as necessary, calculated for each school each year? If that amount of time allocated to each school is fully used up before the end of the school year, how does a school get further Educational Psychologist time for the children that require their help?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

Cardiff schools have access to a comprehensive Educational Psychology Service and are allocated an amount of time from the service at the start of each financial year.

The distribution between schools is based upon the following factors;

- Number of pupils on roll
- % of pupils eligible for Free School Meals
- Number of pupils in receipt of a Statement of Special Educational Needs

Schools, with their attached Education Psychologist, plan the utilisation of the time allocated to the school.

Over and above the schools allocation, the Educational Psychology Service has a small amount of contingency time which is used to manage situations where there is exceptional need and may require an additional visit.

A review of the visits provided to each school is undertaken at the end of the academic year.

If a school requires additional support they should contact their attached EP directly.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, ENVIRONMENT

Question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

In recent weeks I have received a large number of complaints from residents who have noticed a huge increase in the amount of litter in the outlying suburbs of the City and roads and lanes leading into the City. Grass verges and hedges are strewn with plastic bags, fast food cartons, cans and general detritus which has accumulated over the winter and is not being cleared by scheduled street cleansing in outer areas. What are your plans to deal with this serious issue which reflects very badly on Cardiff?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Routes into the city require appropriate traffic management measures to be put in place so that staff undertaking highway maintenance activities, including cleansing, can do so in a safe environment.

The maintenance work must therefore be scheduled periodically, which limits the frequency with which routes can be cleansed. The next schedule is due to commence in the new financial year and an improvement in cleanliness will be seen over the following months.

The responsibility of the trunk roads cleansing and maintenance is the Welsh Government's who delegate it to their agent SWTRA – the South Wales Trunk Road Agency, who commission Councils to cleanse these routes on its behalf, only twice per year.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

This is a problem that happens every spring. This is something that becomes perfectly obvious and you will have seen letters in the South Wales Echo about this matter. I've been bombarded with complaints from people about the Eastern Avenue, about tires that remain cast off in the central reservation, about the build-up of rubbish, and I would ask you not to just complacently accept that this is the position but to actually try to activate so that, next year, the same thing does not happen again and that we don't have this annual build-up of rubbish, which looks disgraceful when you enter the city, and it is particularly bad coming from the east – it really is bad.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I do get a little frustrate with this issue simply because, if people didn't drop the litter in the first place, we wouldn't have an issue to worry about, would we? And we could get on and worry about things that would be a much more important use of Officer time. But there we are – we are where we are.

Just to point out to you – you said about trying to do more, we have made representations to Welsh Government to ensure greater frequency of cleansing on a number of routes leading into the city in the past, up to three or four times a year, but so far the Welsh Government say that they can't afford it.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER TRANSPORT, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Question: *County Councillor Robson*

In recent days the Cardiff Business Council has put forward innovative ideas for a seaplane service and cable cars which would assist with improving transport links with neighbouring authorities. Do these ideas suggest that the Metro is not going to get off the ground?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

In the current climate, the Council's absolute priority has to be the development of an effective and efficient transport system – for Cardiff and for the wider city-region. The Metro project will be central to this.

Even though it's a Welsh Government led initiative, the City of Cardiff Council will have an important role to play, together with other local authorities and the private sector, in the formulation and delivery of the Metro.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Robson*

It's a relief to hear the clear statement that the Metro is the preferred option. I welcome the fact that the Business Council are throwing out these different ideas for sea planes and cable cars, but I hope that they won't look to this council to fund them – we have to have the Metro for the whole city, and that's needed urgently.

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

What I can assure you is that I understand that Council Officers did discuss the option of cable cars across the bay with the Council's development partner for the Sports Village as an alternative to the big wheel star visitor attraction, which started during the time of the previous administration. I also understand that, following initial feasibility, the idea was shelved as it could not be delivered commercially and would have required a substantial amount of public-sector subsidy at a time when the Council had significant other priorities for its scarce capital resources. No further work on this idea has taken place by Council Officers since this time.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Bradbury*

Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that any sustainable economic development project needs a good strong transport link at the heart of it. And, as you've stated, would you agree that the Metro is the best way forward for a long-term sustainable transport agenda in this city?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

The Metro is absolutely crucial for the future. If you look at all the other cities – look around places like Manchester, you'll see the examples quite clearly – once you've got a Metro, people will want the Metros to be extended. Clearly, it's a really good fast process which delivers people all over the city in a very quick way without people having to jump in their cars, etc. So, certainly, we are supportive of the Metro.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, ENVIRONMENT

Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

Could the Cabinet Member for the Environment expand on his previous comment to Council that new build housing estates are more biodiverse than hedgerows and fields?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

As the Member is aware, new developments can provide the opportunity of not only protecting existing features of importance but also put in place effective biodiversity management and enhancement measures.

In this way, long-term biodiversity interests can be maintained and enhanced alongside improving public access and raising awareness.

As a simple example, new ecological corridors can be created containing new habitats such as new ponds responding to biodiversity priorities within the area. Such areas can be more biodiversity-rich than existing improved agricultural land and add to the diversity of habitat.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Question: *County Councillor Chris Davis*

Please can you give an indication as to how many meetings the newly reconstituted Corporate Parenting Panel has had?

Reply: *County Councillor Lent*

The newly reconstituted Corporate Parenting Panel has met twice, with a further meeting scheduled for mid-April.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Chris Davis*

Can you explain how the makeup of this newly reconstituted body will look to improve outcomes for looked-after children in comparison to its previous incarnation?

Reply: *County Councillor Lent*

The first thing to say is that it isn't really a Panel, actually – it's an Advisory Committee, so the status is lifted and there are three Cabinet Members who sit on it. So it has more opportunity to influence policy, in that sense.

It also receives regular reports, including complaints and regulatory reports, inspection reports. So it means that those will be more in the public view. There will also be members of the advocacy project permanently sitting on the Advisory Committee, which means that children's views will be represented all the time.

And there will be a programme of training and visits to keep everything well in sight of the Cabinet and of the Leader and Deputy Leader. So that's basically what it will do.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

Councillor Lent, it's good to see that it's meeting occasionally but, so far, the number of meetings of the Corporate Panel hasn't even approached the number of people who have held the post that you currently occupy. I think you're lagging six to two. So it'd be nice to get up to at least having the same number of meetings of the Corporate Parenting Panel as you've chosen to have Cabinet Members representing looked-after children since 2012.

Will you accept that this Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee has got serious work to do? Because, on page 36 of the Corporate Plan, you indicate that you want to improve the O-Level results – the GCSE results – of looked-after children. That figure is currently languishing at eight percent, and the target is 12 percent, which is scarcely better. So there is a lot of very serious work to be done – these people deserve better than that.

Reply: *County Councillor Lent*

I suppose one thing I should have added is that there is a permanent representative from education who has a brief for looked-after children and their performance in schools, so that's also important.

I think the number of times it's actually met is just the normal cycle, because it's going to be every two months, there's going to be another one in April. So there hasn't been a gap at all and the whole point of it is that it's not a committee that just sits – it's a working Committee that goes out and does visits, visits all the teams, and goes out on the various – not so much the regulatory visits themselves, but takes evidence from those. So it's very much a working group.

QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question: *County Councillor Bridges*

What is the current name of this local authority? “Cardiff Council”? “City of Cardiff Council”? Are we still County Councillors of the City & County of Cardiff, or has that changed?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

As previously stated, the short hand term ‘City of Cardiff Council’ is used to refer to the corporate body, that being the “County Council of the City and County of Cardiff”.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

There has been much debate – I’ve written to the Chief Executive, I’ve spoken to him, I’ve spoken to you – because I want to know if there’s going to be a report for us to consider on the change of name, or is it just merely a branding exercise? Because it is confusing for the public and frustrating for us as Councillors because we weren’t elected under this term. So, perhaps you would like to bring a report to allow us to have a full and open report and allow a decision to be taken.

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

So, if I could just remind the Member that, previously, the shortened version of “Cardiff County Council” was often used, being its original name, or “the City and County of Cardiff”. So since May of 2014, we’ve been using “the City of Cardiff Council” as an informal name, much as we’ve done in the past. So I don’t see any particular change in that. And, absolutely, the focus on branding and identity is a really important part of what we’ve been trying to do in the Council, certainly since I became Leader in March last year.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, SAFETY, ENGAGEMENT & DEMOCRACY

Question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

Are you content that our procedures for the count of the vote in the General Election have remedied procedural errors in the 2012 council elections and that these procedures have been reviewed after consideration of best practice elsewhere. It is important that we deliver accurate results both quickly and competently.

Reply: *County Councillor De’Ath*

Yes I am. The Acting Returning Officer and her staff have reviewed all the verification and count arrangements for the forthcoming election to ensure delivery of the key principles using best practice and Electoral Commission Guidance.

The key principles are as follows:

- All processes are transparent, with a clear and unambiguous audit trail.

- The verification produces an accurate result.
- The count produces an accurate result,
- The verification and count are timely.
- The secrecy of the vote is maintained at all times.
- The security of ballot papers and other stationery is maintained at all times

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, EDUCATION & SKILLS

Question: *County Councillor Simmons*

Following on from the Cabinet's decision for a new school to serve the communities of Ely and Caerau on the western side of the city, could the Cabinet member give further details regarding the process and timescales involved?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

I am delighted that the realignment of the 21st Century Schools Programme includes proposals for a significant investment in the West of the city. The investment in a new build high school to serve Ely and Caerau specifically targets the improvement of educational attainment at Key Stage 4 in the Southern Arc of the city.

As part of the first step towards greater integration, the results of the recent consultation regarding the co-location Glyn Derw and Michaelston High Schools onto the Michaelson site will be reported to Cabinet in May.

A further statutory consultation process will need to be held on the proposal to build a new High School in the West. This will determine the site for the new school's permanent location and will take place later this year. Design and procurement associated with the new school will commence during Spring 2016.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Simmons*

I'd just like to say Councillor Bradbury, Murphy, and myself represent constituents from the most deprived area of the city and this is very welcome news for us. We would like to thank the Cabinet Member for Education for moving the decision to go ahead with the new school. And would you put that on record, please?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

I'd like to comment on this exciting project, absolutely. You're looking at the former head boy of Glan Ely High School, which you attended as well, probably about five years below me.

I think it's exciting for the west of Cardiff. Ely and Caerau absolutely deserve a new high school and it gives us the opportunity to bridge those gaps that we've talked so often in the Council chambers and around about building a high school with leisure

facilities and, looking forward, there are certainly great examples around south Wales – Blaenavon, I know that Councillor Phillips has been out to look at and we're progressing, Pontprennau Primary School as well. It gives us a great opportunity and those people in the west of the city deserve it, absolutely.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, ENVIRONMENT

Question: *County Councillor Carter*

How many times since May 2012 has the probation service been used to clear woodland areas in Pentwyn and Llanedeyrn? Could these figures be presented per municipal year?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I can report that for the municipal periods from May 2012 the Probation Service have been utilised for both deep cleansing of the woodland areas and perimeter cleansing as follows:

May 2012 – April 2013	16 occasions
May 2013 – April 2014	17 occasions
May 2014 to present	15 occasions

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Carter*

Would you make a commitment today or at least go away and think about whether your officers can share information at the time as to when these events are so that we can help publicise and make people aware of them? Because I think those figures are very positive and it would be great to be aware nearer the time when those things happen.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Yes, I'll speak to officers about that and see what we can do in terms of passing on that information.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Evans*

Could you actually confirm that it will continue to be the role of the probation service to supervise this valuable work in the community?

I ask for clarification on this point because, under the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda of the UK coalition government, many of the core supervisory functions that were hitherto the responsibility of the probation service will now be undertaken by private companies. Companies that – incidentally - have limited experience and expertise in risk assessing and supervising offenders in the community.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I certainly hope that is going to be the case but, obviously, I don't have responsibility for the probationary service so I can't actually confirm it is, but I'll certainly try and find out and let you know.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE

Question: *County Councillor Govier*

Understandably writing off £4.4m of the £6m loaned to Glamorgan Cricket Club has caused much anger in the City. Cabinet has been privy to the advice available supporting this write-off, and the advice provided in 2006 and 2011 supporting the loans. What lessons have been learned?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

The former Liberal Democrat and Liberal Democrat/Plaid Cymru Executives approved loans to Glamorgan Cricket club in 2006 and 2011 which were supported by an independently assessed business plan which highlighted the commercial risks.

Since then an independent and Council assessment indicated little likelihood that all sums due are recoverable. The Council has acted with other creditors to avoid an administration scenario having significant cost and reputational implications for the Club and loss of test or other major matches.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Woodman*

Could I just ask when did the Council first become aware there was a problem with repaying the loan please because my residents are asking me that question and I don't know?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

An interesting question Councillor Woodman because I have got the actual report of 2011 in front of me which I presume you were a Member of the Executive at that time. If you turn to paragraph 13 it says in there about the bank overdraft for the club of £300,000 pounds and they had cash flow challenges at the time so I guess you must have been aware.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE

Question: *County Councillor Phillips*

Can you please assure me that the current Pontprennau Community Centre, which is soon to be amalgamated into the school premises, will be reopened in September when the work is complete and be available again for the local community to use after school hours and at weekends?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

The community facilities will be incorporated into the primary school and will be available after school hours and at weekends when the school opens in September and after the work of merging the two facilities is completed.

This new “combined” model will have dedicated staff that will be able to serve the needs of the local community of Pontprennau.

The new head teacher will take up post in April and as part of this role she will be looking at the school and community resources as a whole and how these can continue to respond to the needs of the community in the future. Local members should have received assurances in line with this answer via their email earlier today

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

Thank you, Councillor Hinchey, for your extensive briefing note, which we received this morning at 11 o'clock and thank you also to my fellow Councillor for asking this important question, which is of great interest to the people in the community. I think this is the first since her re-election in 2012.

Will there be additional funding to support this facility in the school in employing a coach to enable the customers to access classes on a pay and play basis?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

I think the briefing note that we sent out today covers the fact that it is a new model, as you can understand, Councillor Rees, and our intention and aspiration is to serve the communities across education and community facilities and I'm sure that local members, both education and community people will be monitoring and looking forward to that new model going forward but, most importantly, we want to tie in the community facility, which was with the school and part of the announcements made as part of the property strategy is to have fewer but better buildings and I think that's important that whatever opportunity we can take that, as Councillor Phillips has pointed out, it's certainly important for us to make use of those buildings and I think the head teacher and the local community will be encouraged by that.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, TRANSPORT, PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO

Question: *County Councillor Gordon*

Following the fatality of a 12-year-old schoolboy on Ninian Park Road at the end of February, what is Council doing to progress residents' requests for speed monitoring on this road and for a 20 mph zone to be implemented across the ward.

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

The Council is able to monitor the road for traffic speeds but we are unable to enforce speed limits as this is a police matter.

A scheme to develop cycle route 50 – along Leckwith Road and Ninian Park Road - will be implemented in the next financial year. Due to the recent fatality the scheme is currently being reviewed and will incorporate a 20mph 'zone'. The scheme will also include traffic calming features such as speed tables to reduce vehicle speeds and make the street safer for child pedestrians and other local residents.

I can inform you that two Driver Feedback Signs will be purchased and installed on Ninian Park Road at the earliest opportunity. The Driver Feedback Signs contain a data-logger that will monitor the speed of traffic. The signs will be procured and installed by the end of May 2015

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Gordon*

That's very encouraging, and I think Riverside Residents will be very pleased to hear that.

Are there any measures which are working to reduce traffic speeds in other parts of the city?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

There's obviously lots of schemes which we're working throughout the whole of the city to reduce the speeds. This is one of the reasons we are very positive towards the 50/50 modal shift because, obviously, what we're trying to do is encourage people to use public transport, cycling, walking, etc. So, certainly, that is the direction we're going in and we'll be looking at virtually all the areas.

For example, if you look at Cathays and Roath and around there, you've got the 20 miles per hour, which is the pilot scheme and we're obviously going to wait for the results to come back from that and we're going to see what's going to happen. We're also going to be introducing two driver-feedback signs in the area of Riverside, which will tell people, basically, what speed they're travelling at and asking them to reduce the speed. And that we're hoping to be implemented before the end of May 2015.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Boyle*

The big difficulty, of course, with 20 mile per hour zones is the point at which they transform into a 30 mile per hour zone, because drivers, a sense of freedom, speed up.

Can I, therefore, bring to your attention and ask that you look at seriously the point at which – and I know it's the trial zone – Ninian Road ends at 20 miles per hour and then moves into Marlborough Road and becomes a 30 mile per hour zone, just as it goes past Marlborough School, which is increasingly drawing children from the south side? And that's a really dangerous point – it was raised at Marlborough Governors just this week – and I think, as cars move towards the roundabout at the end, and it's a big through road on the way to Newport Road, that stretch of Marlborough Road really needs to be looked at so that that juncture between the 20 mile per hour to the 30 mile per hour doesn't result in a fatality such as we've seen on Ninian Park Road.

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

I certainly understand where you're coming from – this is a problem which is happening in lots of areas where there are these sudden changes in the speed from 20 to 30, and that is something, certainly, we're looking at, which is why this pilot is so important because, by having this pilot, if the pilot is successful, which I'm hoping it will be, and if it is, we can start looking at it as a whole city, rather than sections becoming 20 and then suddenly 30, because certainly that is not the way forward – we have to look at it in a proper manner. But if you have got concerns within your own ward, please write to me or contact me and I'll be willing to look into that.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, ENVIRONMENT

Question: County Councillor Gordon

Every time it rains there are streets in Riverside and Pontcanna where the rainwater cannot drain away because the drains are blocked. The vast puddles mean it is difficult to cross roads at the dipped kerb facility and pedestrians get soaked by passing vehicles. What is the regime for clearing out street drains and how often are they meant to be cleared?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

Parked cars along tree lined streets make it difficult for teams to access road channels for the purposes of cleansing and gully maintenance. The Council has therefore implemented the tidal parking scheme which involves requesting local residents to relocate their cars for a short period of time so that teams can access the road channels for maintenance purposes.

The highway gully cleansing programme is currently being reviewed to target localised flooding issues around the City. The existing highway drainage cleansing cycle varies from monthly, annually and two yearly.

Residents should report any problems of the type you have described to the Council via Connect to Cardiff. However, if there are any particular streets causing you concern, please let me have details and I will ask Officers to follow these up.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER, ENVIRONMENT

Question: *County Councillor Weaver*

Can you please give an update on the actions taken in the area of Cathays in which properties were issued a 'Section 46' notice earlier this year?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Following consultation with the local Councillors it was agreed to target Cathays in terms of the numerous waste issues.

As a result since January, four enforcement officers have targeted 11 streets in Cathays, totalling 770 properties. Many are multiple occupancy households that were incorrectly presenting their waste.

Following supportive measures, including an education and awareness raising initiative, these households were put under formal notices to ensure they present their waste correctly and don't leave their bins on the pavements.

I would note that 71 investigations are currently under way for suspected commercial waste and littering offences and that 65 Fixed Penalties Notices have already been issued as a result of breach of the notices.

The approach is delivering positive results. Further streets will be identified in the coming weeks and the area containing properties under notice will be expanded.

In 2015/16 we will be supporting another 16 officers to address the issue of waste presentation and littering as well as a further 4 officers dedicated to educating people on recycling.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Weaver*

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hat's excellent news, especially the news that you're looking to roll it out and expand it to other streets. I can tell you the feedback we're getting is very, very positive.

Do you remember in 2013, when this Labour Council with Councillor Govier first raised the idea of the fixed-penalty notices of £100 for putting your waste out incorrectly, the MP for Cardiff Central declared herself outraged at the amount people would have to pay. Can I please ask whether or not you will ensure that you listen to the residents who actually want the minority of people who continue to breach our waste rules to be fined? And, for that to be enforced, will you listen to them and not our soon-to-be-ex-MP?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I am very happy to confirm that the case is that we will always listen to the residents and the issues that local Councillors raise with us and not somebody else's opinion. I've always said that, for me, I would be more than happy to see a headline in the local press showing somebody very upset at being fined because that shows that we're actually doing what people want us to do, which is target those people who flout our rules.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Clark*

Thank you very much for clarifying those issues.
Could you tell us the number of the Section 46 notices which were specifically issued for not putting out recyclable waste correctly?

Reply: County Councillor Derbyshire

In terms of the waste, I think it was 65 penalty notices that have been issued in terms of a breach of that particular notice.

172: CORPORATE PLAN 2015 - 2014

(Councillors Groves and Woodman declarations personal interest under the Members' Code of Conduct and remained in the meeting in for consideration of this item).

The Council received and considered the Corporate Plan 2015 -2017 and to authorise the Chief Executive to make amendments required to the draft Corporate Plan in consultation with the Leader of the Council following this meeting.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Bale to propose the Corporate Plan which was seconded by Councillor Hinchey.

The Leader presented the Corporate Plan. The Plan sets out what the Council will do, and how it will work with partners from the public, private and third sector and the residents of Cardiff to deliver its ambition and vision of becoming Europe's most liveable capital city. He detailed the pressures and challenges of the budget and its effect on quality life.

This plan is structured around the Council's 4 priorities:

- Education and skills for people of all ages - the under performance of schools
- Supporting vulnerable people including adults and children as well has housing provision
- Sustainable economic development and improving growth and jobs the Capital City working within the City region and work on the City Deal.
- Working with people and partners to design, deliver and improve services.

Plan aims to be open and inclusive and the Cabinet have been involved with the Policy Review & Performance scrutiny Committee; Challenge Forum and Member Workshops.

The plan is a clear statement of the Council's priorities and makes clear that in the current financial climate and statutory obligations; targets and performance management necessary to secure a strong focus on a small number of priorities where significant change is required. This approach is consistent with the approach undertaken by other UK Core Cities. For each priority, a limited number of high-level improvement objectives have been established and for each improvement objective a number of commitments and performance indicators have been identified to measure progress. The priorities of the Corporate Plan are all consistent with the organisation's co-operative values.

The Lord Mayor opened up the item for debate and the following matters were raised around the content and style; language and interpretation of the content of the plan; issues around benchmarking; focussed outcomes; concerns around safeguarding; issues around transport and the integrated transport hub and infrastructure modelling; the Metro; Council housing; Youth provision including; looked after children; closer directorate working; the budget and

financial challenges. Concerns were raised about the timing of the presentation of the Corporate Plan which was not now aligned with the Budget setting process.

It was proposed by Councillor Bridges and seconded by Councillor Aubrey under Council Procedure Rule 25 (iv) that the matter be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

The proposal was put to the vote and the vote was LOST.

A vote was taken on the recommendations as proposed and the vote was CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the Corporate Plan 2015-2017 be approved;
- (2) delegate authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make any consequential amendments to the Corporate Plan.

173 : PAY POLICY 2015/16

(Directors affected by this item declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting during consideration of this item).

The Council was asked to agree a Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16, in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Hinchey introduced the report and moved the recommendations.
Councillor Hunt seconded the report.

RESOLVED - That

- (1) the Pay Policy Statement 2015/16 be noted and approved;
- 2) it be agreed that in light of the issues outlined in paragraphs 7-10 of the Authority's Pay Policy Statement will include the following paragraph:

14.2 The JNC for Chief Officers negotiates on national (UK) annual cost of living pay increases for this group, and any award of same is determined on this basis. Chief Officers employed under JNC terms and conditions are contractually entitled to any national JNC pay rises. This Council will therefore pay these nationally agreed pay awards as and when determined unless full Council decides otherwise.

- (3) the national pay award for JNC Chief Officer from 1st January 2015 be agreed. The pay award is 2% for salaries below £99,999. There is no pay award for salaries above £100,000.

174 : FAIRWATER COMMUNITY POLL

The Lord Mayor invited the Cabinet Member for Safety, Engagement and Democracy, Councillor De'Ath to present the report which was seconded by Councillor Hunt.

The Cabinet 19 March 2015 received the outcome of the Fairwater Community Poll, and referred it to Full Council for decision on actions to be taken. The Council is therefore asked to receive and consider what action should be taken in response to the Fairwater Community Poll held on 5 March 2015. It was noted that in answer to the question "Do you want the Council to re-open the Waungron Road Recycling Centre?", a 'Yes' vote was returned. The closure of Waungron Road Recycling Centre was agreed as part of the reduction of Household Waste Recycling Centres in the Budget for 2014/2015; and that no provision was made to allow the re-opening of the Centre in the 2015/16 Budget. The call to re-open Waungron Road Recycling Centre could not be achieved within the approved budgetary framework. It was therefore proposed that no action be taken.

The Lord Mayor invited the Local Ward Members to speak on this item and opened the matter for debate. Local Members asked the Council to note the value of community polls in representing the views of the community and underlined the need to consult and with residents not only from the Fairwater Ward but wider community that has been affected by the closure.

A vote was taken on the recommendations as proposed and the vote was CARRIED

- (1) the results of the Fairwater Community Poll held on 5 March 2015 be noted;
- (2) it was agreed that no further action should be taken in response to that Poll.175 :
CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE - 19 MARCH 2015

The report was to enable Council to consider and approve the recommendations of the Constitution Committee on 19 March 2015 The report was proposed and introduced by Councillor De'Ath and seconded by Councillor Hunt.

Councillor De'Ath presented the report which set out details in relation to establish a Local Authority Governors' Panel to support the appointment of LA Governors. There was currently over 50 vacancies and a need to provide support and diversity to the Governing Bodies. It had been agreed that the Panel would be cross party. Council was also requested to approve and amend the Officer Scheme of Delegation to give authority to the Director of Education to appoint additional governors and deal with other matters in relation to schools causing concern.

The Council was also requested to make amendments in relation to the Constitution to amend the definition of "inappropriate business" to include matters outside the powers of the Council; to amend the rules relating to business at Extraordinary meetings to make it clear that the rules of debate for ordinary motions will apply; and to revise the rules relating to Order of Business at Council meetings to require all matters requiring decision to take precedence.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on proposals. There were a number of comments raised in relation to the proposed Local Authority Governors' Panel and intervention in schools that maybe failing; the importance of the role of all governors; the need for the appointment system to not only apply to La governor appointments; and the need for transparency in the process.

In relation to the changes to the constitution in particular the Order of Business Councillor Cowan proposed under Council Procedure Rule 25 (iv) a reference back to the Committee for further consideration and this was seconded by Councillor Holden.

The proposal was put to the vote and the vote was LOST.

A vote was taken on the recommendations as proposed and the vote was CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That

(1) Local Authority Governors Panel

A Local Authority Governors' Panel be established as part of the Constitution with the following Terms of Reference:

Terms of reference

For School Governing Bodies constituted under The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005 to advise the council on appointments and removal of governors to those places allocated to the Local Authority;

To consider and make decisions relating to the recruitment, training and vetting of potential governors and any other matters that may be referred to the Panel by the Cabinet or the Constitution Committee.

Membership -Seven members

(2) School causing concern – Officer Scheme of Delegation

Part 3- Responsibility for Functions .Section 4F, Insert a new delegation:

'Director of Education, Delegation Reference 'DEd1'

To exercise the Council's powers of intervention under Part 2 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, including for the avoidance of doubt, the powers to serve a Warning Notice; appoint additional governors or an Interim Executive Board'

Section 3, Amend allocation of the following local choice function as follows:

'The appointment of any individual:

To any office other than an office in which he / she is employed by the authority;

To anybody other than:

(i) The authority;

(ii) A joint committee of two or more authorities; or

To any committee or sub-committee of such a body,

And the revocation of any such appointment'

Decision Making Body – Council / *Cabinet*, for appointments pursuant to powers of intervention under section 6 or section 7 of the *School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013*

Delegation – [For appointments pursuant to powers of intervention] - Director of Education under delegation reference DEd1 (Scheme Section 4F)

- (3) Motions at Extraordinary meetings
Amend Rule 4 of the Council Meeting Procedure Rules relating to make it clear that Notices of Motion can be considered at extraordinary meetings, and that the rules of debate for Ordinary Motions as set out in Rule 22 will apply as modified in relation to notice.
- (4) Inappropriate Business
Amend Rule 35 of the Council Meeting Procedure Rules to include any matter which is unlawful or ultra vires the Council.
- (5) Order Of Business
Amend Rule 3 of the Council Meeting Procedure Rules to move items 9 (viii) and (ix) [Leader and Cabinet Statements and Oral Questions] of business to follow Ordinary Motions;
- (6) Consequential Amendments
Authorise the County Clerk and Monitoring Officer to make any consequential amendments to other Constitution provisions.

176 : NOTICE OF MOTION

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Cowan to propose the Notice of Motion and Councillor Holden to second. No amendments had been received:

This Council calls upon the Cabinet to:

1. Reconsider its policy on introducing smaller wheelie bins.

Instead

2. Provide support to the education team to allow officers to be out and about in our communities talking with residents on a regular basis.
3. Promote the use of fines for perpetual offenders.
4. Work closely with Local Members who should have extensive knowledge of problem areas, and plan action events to tackle the problems.
5. Continue to service local shops and businesses with small supplies of green bags, white bags and food bags.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the motion. Following the debate a vote on the motion as proposed by Councillor Cowan was taken.

The Motion was LOST

177 : URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with the pilot Council Procedure Rule 3(xv) the Lord Mayor advised that she had not been notified of any urgent matters for this meeting.

178 : APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

The Council was recommended to approve the appointment of Local Authority School Governors as listed in the Appendix to the report. There were no contested seats.

RESOLVED - That the following appointments of to LA School Governors be approved as follows: -.

<u>School</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Start of Vacancy</u>	<u>Applications received</u>
Gabalfa Primary School	Llandaff North	19/02/2015	Councillor Dilwar Ali
Llanedeyrn Primary School	Pentwyn	14/07/2014	Mrs Sarah Lewis
Pen-Y-Bryn Primary School	Llanrumney	10/03/2015	Mrs Claire Deguara
Pentyrch Primary School	Pentyrch	19/05/2014	Mr John Lewis
Tongwynlais Primary School	Whitchurch	11/12/2014	Mrs Sharron Dore
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	Caerau	09/04/2014	Mr Alexander Loane
Ysgol Pen Y Pil	Trowbridge	10/11/2012	Mrs Siân Poole
Grangetown Nursery School	Grangetown	07/05/2014	Mrs Wendy Thomas

179 : APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY LA GOVERNORS TO HOWARDIAN COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE

Members were asked to appoint Local Authority, Parent and Staff School governors to a new temporary governing body for the proposed new primary school on the site of the Howardian Community Education Centre.

The report was proposed by Councillor Hunt and seconded by Councillor Howells.

RESOLVED – That the appointment of Local Authority, Parent and Staff School Governors to the Temporary Governing Body and as included on the amendment sheet be agreed as follows: :

<u>School</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Nomination Agreed</u>
Howardian Community Education Centre Local Authority	Penylan	Councillor Joe Boyle Councillor Sue Lent
Howardian Community Education Centre Parent Governor	Penylan	Dr Chris Bettinson Mr Huw Burrows Mrs Penelope Lloyd

180 : CARDIFF COMMUNITY BOUNDARY REVIEW

The report sought agreement of Council on the outcome of the consultation that had been undertaken in relation to the Community Boundary Review on draft proposals for changes to community boundaries in Cardiff endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting 19 February 2015.

RESOLVED - That:

- 1) the following 10 initial draft Community Boundary changes contained in Appendix A are supported and adopted:
 - CR001 – Change of name of community from “Gabalfa” to “Gabalfa and Mynachdy”.
 - CR002 – Pentwyn/Cyncoed Boundary Change. Consequential change to corresponding Cardiff Council electoral wards.
 - CR004 – Llanishen/Cyncoed Boundary Change. Consequential change to corresponding Cardiff Council electoral wards.
 - CR005 – Cyncoed/Pentwyn Boundary Change. Consequential change to corresponding Cardiff Council electoral wards.
 - CR006 – Creation of a new community of Llanedeyrn.
 - CR010 – Trowbridge/Rumney Boundary Change. Consequential change to corresponding Cardiff Council electoral wards.
 - CR012 – Change of name of community from “Rhiwbina” to “Rhiwbina with Pantmawr”.
 - CR013 – Creation of a new community of “Tremorfa”.
 - CR016 – Creation of a new community of “Pontcanna”.
 - CR021 – Creation of a new community of “Thornhill”.

- 2) the following Community Boundary change is slightly amended from the original draft proposal, and the final draft proposal attached within Appendix A is supported and adopted:
 - CR009 – Llanrumney/Rumney Boundary Change. Consequential change to corresponding Cardiff Council electoral wards.

3) the following 10 initial draft Community Boundary proposals contained in Appendix A are not endorsed, and are recommended to be rejected:

- CR003 – Creation of a new community of “Ty-Gwyn”.
- CR007 – Creation of a new community of “Cardiff Bay”.
- CR008 – Creation of a new community of “Leckwith”.
- CR011 – St Fagans/Ely Boundary Change. Consequential change to corresponding Cardiff Council electoral wards.
- CR014 – Ely/St Fagans. Creation of a new community of “Michaelston-super-Ely”.
- CR015 – Llandaff/Fairwater/Canton Boundary Change. Consequential change to corresponding Cardiff Council electoral wards.
- CR017 – Creation of a new community area of “Danescourt”.
- CR018 – Llanishen/Lisvane Boundary Change. Consequential change to corresponding Cardiff Council electoral wards.
- CR019 – Llanishen/Cyncoed Boundary Change. Consequential change to corresponding Cardiff Council electoral wards.
- CR020 – Lisvane/Llanishen Boundary Change. Consequential change to corresponding Cardiff Council electoral wards.

181 : PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING POLICY UPDATE - HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

The report sought Council approval for amendments to the Private Sector Housing Policy including new arrangements for awarding private sector Home Improvement Loans making use of Welsh Government repayable funding.

RESOLVED - That:

1. approve the amendments to the revised Private Sector Housing Policy including the proposals set out in this report to provide Home Improvement Loans to elderly owner occupiers and Houses into Homes Loans to the private rented sector to bring empty properties back into use.
2. approve the use of Welsh Government repayable funding to meet the costs of these loans
3. agree that authority be delegated to the Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Service to put in place the detailed arrangements relating to the Home Improvement Loan schemes and to make minor changes to the schemes as necessary to their ensure effective operation.

(The meeting closed at 21.35pm)

182 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules Written Questions received for consideration and response are recorded in the minutes. The following Written Questions were received in accordance with the Procedure:

CORPORATE SERVICES AND PERFORMANCE (COUNCILLOR GRAHAM HINCHEY)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER

What are the total projected costs for 2015/16 for salaried employee TU representative and officer time to be paid from Council funds? Add the value of accommodation and any other costs and subsidies to aggregate the total annual cost to the Council. Please include all Trade Unions in your calculations.

Reply

The Council does not corporately fund the salaries or other costs of Trade Union representatives therefore we do not have the information available.

As part of the Council's commitment with working with the Trade Unions, it allows Trade Union time off which is subject to agreement by each Directorate. This is in accordance with the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act (TULR(C)A) 1992. The Council also recognises the contribution that can be made by the Trade Unions, and their representatives, to the effective operation of the Council's services.

The ACAS Code of Practice includes the following examples of the reasons for time off for Trade Union duties:-

- collective bargaining
- grievance procedures
- joint consultation
- communicating with members
- communicating with other union officials also concerned with collective bargaining with the employer
- prepare for negotiations
- inform members of progress
- explain outcomes to members
- prepare for meetings with the employer about matters for which the Trade Union has only representational rights.

Based on recent research as published in the People Management Magazine (March 2015), it states that "Having a union representative in the workplace can reduce employees' stress levels, improve their work-life balance, and increase their well-being overall. By boosting job quality via voice effects, onsite union representatives are contributing indirectly towards a range of socio-economic outcomes including: higher overall individual well-being, higher job satisfaction, higher productivity, fewer workers quitting, lower absenteeism, smoother labour market transitions and higher labour market participation rates,"

The report showed that respondents' perceptions of job quality were more favourable in organisations where an onsite representative was present.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER

It was noted that my question at the January Council on standby payment costs enabled some of this cost to be factored into projected savings within the 2015/16 Budget. Will the cabinet member be looking into this substantial cost further to ensure that all such expenditure is essential and provides value for money? If he agrees to do so, when will relevant scrutiny committees be presented with his findings and recommendations?

Reply

Some of this work has already been done, as Councillor Walker will know from his role as a member of the Audit Committee, which raised the issue of standby cost as part of its value for money work. We are now looking to work with service areas to ensure savings on standby costs are driven forward and this again will be reported to the Audit Committee during 2015/16.

ENVIRONMENT (COUNCILLOR BOB DERBYSHIRE)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER

What decisions on ranger deployment to support Friends Groups were reached following your meeting with representatives of these Groups? What will the 2015/16 budgeted staffing and expenditure be for this area?

Reply

I did meet with Officers and representatives from a number of Friends of Parks Groups on Tuesday 24th February.

Specific details relating to the deployment of Park Rangers were not agreed, as you will be aware programmes of work / volunteer activity is not fixed and is indeed fluid, fluctuating from park to park, season to season and project to project. I can however advise that a commitment was given to make every effort to support current levels of activity across the City.

In terms of budget for the 2015/16 financial year I can confirm that our total forecasted expenditure for the entire Park Ranger Service is £ 861,150, £ 742,760 of which is employee related expenditure. This expenditure is offset by income of £ 63,040, therefore the forecasted net expenditure for 2015/16 is £ 798,110.

I fully recognise the benefits of Friends Group and Volunteers and there are other staff groups within the service, in addition to our Park Rangers that facilitate such activity, including our gardening and cleansing teams.

HEALTH, HOUSING AND WELLBEING (COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELSMORE)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER

Llanishen Good Neighbours continues to provide excellent volunteering services to the lonely, sick and vulnerable, including to people in my ward. It barely survives financially following the withdrawal of a small Council grant. Could the cabinet

member make contact with this organisation to look at the services it provides and identify whether financial and other support from whatever source could be directed towards them? Will you do all you can to protect this invaluable volunteer service from closure and help it to thrive?

Reply

As an Administration we are committed to supporting communities and neighbourhoods, and supporting people in vulnerable situations. I met with members of Llanishen Good Neighbours at an event last year and am aware of the work they do.

As you will be aware the intention behind the Council grants review was to commission services which support the strategic & operational aims of the Council and which support neighbourhoods across the whole of Cardiff. Officers maintained close contact with Llanishen Good Neighbours leading up to and following the withdrawal of the grant on 31 March 2014. These contacts included arranging for Cardiff Third Sector Council to provide advice about funding, financial sustainability and grant finding processes. Llanishen Good Neighbours also received a one-off grant from a transition fund in May 2014.

As part of the 'Stepping Up' Programme of community support, I have asked officers to contact the group to offer them the opportunity of a 1-2-1 support session with community development professionals to discuss practical assistance which may be available.

The new Neighbourhood Partnership Fund, which was agreed as part of the 2015/16 budget, is being launched on 1st April 2015 with a specific focus on promoting health and wellbeing. Llanishen Good Neighbours will be welcome to apply for support from this Fund and I will ask officers to send them details and discuss the process should they need any further guidance.