

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF CARDIFF

The County Council of the City & County of Cardiff met at County Hall, Cardiff on 23 July 2015 to transact the business set out in the Council summons dated Friday, 17 July 2015.

Present: County Councillor Walker (Lord Mayor)

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

The minutes were amended by the meeting of Full Council on 24 September 2015 the amendment appear in bold italics

44 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ralph Cook, Graham, Love and Simmons.

45 : WEBCASTING AND RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Members were reminded of a decision of the Constitution Committee on 10 July, 2008 to webcast the Council meeting. Members were also reminded that the Constitution Committee had previously agreed that Council proceedings be recorded for administrative purposes.

Formal approval to record the proceedings was granted.

46 : 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 14 – Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member Early Years, Children & Families.	Personal Interest in National Adoption Service as Family member is a Manager in the Service.

Mr Richard Tebboth	Item 10	Pecuniary Interest as Member seeking re-appointment to the Standards & Ethics Committee.
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47 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 June 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

48 : PENTYRCH BY-ELECTION

The Lord Mayor welcomed Councillor Gavin Hill-John to his first Council meeting following his election to the vacancy in the Electoral Division of Pentyrch on 30 June 2015.

Councillor Gavin Hill-John expressed his thanks to the electorate and supporters and welcomed the opportunity of representing the constituents of Pentyrch and undertaking his role as a County Councillor.

49 : PETITIONS

The following petitions were submitted:

- 1 Councillor Davies-Warner – 13 signatures – requesting double yellow lines because of parking difficulties at Bridge Street, Llandaff.
- 2 Councillor Bradbury - 225 signatures – requesting for the provision of further Welsh Medium School places in the Ely/Caerau area.
- 3 Councillor Boyle - 259 signatures – opposing the introduction of wheelie bins in Kimberley Road and the surrounding roads in Penylan.
- 4 Councillor Clark - 34 signatures – opposing restrictions on the collection of general waste in bag and bin areas in Cathays.
- 5 Councillor Howells - 48 signatures- requesting the repair of and re-opening Roath Library.
- 6 Councillor Darren Williams – 55 signatures – requesting traffic calming measures on Conway Road.
- 7 Councillor Hudson – 150 signatures – requesting that Wedal Road Recycling Centre remain open.

50 : PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Public Question: *Sarah Jones*

The Council's Waste Management Strategy suggests that the consultation relied upon (*Consultation Report: Outline Waste Management Strategy: 2015–2018*) broadly supported a wider roll out of bins as opposed to bags. There is no supporting evidence in the survey or responses for this statement. If the Council already intended to roll out more bins, and specifically sent the survey to 500 existing bag users, why did it not ask the simple question whether those people wanted Bins or Bags?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Three separate city-wide consultations have been undertaken, which helped to inform the waste-collection changes which are underway. 75 percent of respondents to the initial consultation exercise, carried out in February 2014, said we should replace the bag collections with bin collections wheel bin collections. Extra focus was given to those areas of the city with bag collections as there were no waste restrictions in place previously for households and residents and they could put out as many bags as they wished. Those households that already had bins did not have that luxury.

As a result, the impact of current changes will inevitably be greater on bag-collection areas in the city as households can now only put out a maximum of three bags a fortnight, and that is why the last consultation exercise undertaken sought views from residents more within the bag-collection areas.

Where properties are suitable for wheel bins (i.e. they have a frontage and rear in which to keep the bins) the only reason why they don't get bins will have to do with the fact that operational efficiencies have to be carried out and we cannot afford to provide tailored services to each household on the basis of what each individual wants.

Supplementary question: *Sarah Jones*

I'm assuming that the February 2014 survey referred to is the *Future of Waste and Recycling 2025 Vision for Cardiff*. Assuming that is correct, then I note that it is not referenced or referred to in the Cabinet papers to prove the decision to roll out the bins.

Can you confirm, therefore, that the Cabinet papers were incorrect?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

The Waste Strategy as a whole has been approved by Cabinet.

Public Question: *Ian Layzell*

With regard to waste collection changes in south Penylan; why are there different collection methods proposed for Ilton Road and Amesbury Road?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

In response to the question as to why there are different collection methods: it's because of the physical nature of the housing stock in the roads that you refer to. On Ilton Road, for instance, properties on one side of the street have steep steps up to the front door and whilst they do have frontages, they are enclosed by small walls. Therefore, the whole street was left on a bag collection, as I said before, because of the operational side of things.

That's not the case on Amesbury Road, which has accessible frontages on both sides of the street and no issues with steps.

Supplementary question: *Ian Layzell*

That doesn't necessarily explain the inconsistencies that we worry about. Your survey by the Waste Strategy team, presented to Councillors in May shows, for example, that 20 out of 42 houses in Ilton are suited to bins, but they get bags; similar to Deri Road, where 26 out of 56 are suited to bins but they get bags; and Kimberley Road 23 out of 118 are unsuited to bins, they get bins; but the end of Kimberley Road, 26 out of 36 are suited to bins but they get bags. I wonder what's going on sometimes.

One of the key aims of your Waste Management Strategy, I note, is that you want a value-for-money service that is cost effective and efficient, so my question is, therefore: with such an inconsistency of collection methods in such a small area of some 1100 households, why can't you make it more cost effective, more efficient, and at the same time more appropriate to residents' needs and more in keeping with the streetscape? In other words, why can't we all have bags and not bins?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I think we have spoken previously, obviously, and I try to make it clear that a lot of these issues are done for operational reasons (i.e. the actual collection rounds have to fit in in a certain criteria) and that's why we do a lot of the things that we do.

Where you've mentioned, where for instance some houses are suitable for bins and some are not, then we take a judgement on the suitability because obviously, where some are not we can't put bins in there, therefore we often have gone with bag collections for the whole street.

I'll touch on the other issue that you brought up as well: in terms of the way it goes, the bins are there for a specific reason that I wanted bins where we can have bins and where it was appropriate to have them. That's the basis that we looked at it and we looked at it from that basis and what we had to do then was decide where bins were not appropriate, and where they were not appropriate we've left it with bags.

Public Question: *David Davies*

With regard to waste collection changes in south Penylan; if the red/white striped bags are collected by the same type of vehicle that collects the black wheeled bins, why can you not extend the collection of general waste using red/white striped bags?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

The general-waste vehicles may look the same, but they're not the same in respect of why we can't extend the collection using the same vehicles. Vehicles that are used to collect bins have a bin lift at the back, and those used for collecting bags have what's called an open back.

So there are two different types of vehicles and it is the case that we can't use the vehicle for the bins to put bags in because it would be a health-and-safety hazard for the operators. So it's not safe for the waste collection crews to use the bin-configured vehicle to collect bags as it requires them to throw the bags high over the bin-lifting equipment. This could potentially cause more physical injuries to staff and the health-and-safety executive does not support such practices. Therefore, a bin-collection round using the appropriate vehicle cannot service a bag-collection area and *visa versa*.

Supplementary question: *David Davies*

If separate vehicles are required, it'll obviously require a mish-mash of routes throughout the whole of Penylan. How can that possibly improve efficiency and cost of waste collection whilst at the same time angering all residents and blighting what is, or should I say "was", a very attractive part of the city?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I refer you back to what I said earlier about operational matters.

It is the case that the whole of Penylan is not done by one vehicle in one go. There are a number of vehicles that service Penylan, as with other wards. So what we have to do is we look at how many houses that vehicle can deal with on its round. So where you've got a bin-collection vehicle, for instance, it does enough houses with those bins. Once it's finished it then goes back to the depot, and the same for the bag area. So, just because you've got bin and bag areas seemingly next door to each other, that doesn't mean that you're actually making it worse. Operationally, that's what works well and that's why, for instance, in Penylan I was able to make the changes re: the green waste because those houses we could fit in extra bag collections when it came to the green waste.

51 : LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor advised on the following

Condolences

Members expressed their sincere condolences to Councillor Jackie Parry and her family at the loss of her husband Geoff.

Welcome

A welcome was extended to the Chair of the Standards and Ethics Committee Mr Richard Tebboth who was attending to present the Committees Annual report.

60th Anniversary of Twinning with Stuttgart

The Lord Mayor was delighted to host the Deputy Mayor of Stuttgart, Dr. Martin Schairer and his delegation to Cardiff along with the Chair and Members of the Cardiff – Stuttgart Association as part of the 60th Anniversary of our twinning agreement with the city of Stuttgart. The link between Cardiff and Stuttgart are important and have developed over the years and is not only a cultural, educational and social link but an important economic partner from whom we can learn and share best practice and innovative ideas, and look forward to further strengthening of these links going forward.

Lord Mayor's Charity Events

Fund raising for the Lord Mayor's Charity - Velindre Cancer Care has started in earnest, and the Lord Mayor thanked all those involved in arranging events. The Lord Mayor was keen to get all citizens involved in fundraising for this important charity and will be updating Members on a regular basis on the events and activities and the fundraising.

52 : STANDARDS & ETHICS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

The Chairperson of the Standards & Ethics Committee. Mr Richard Tebboth presented the eleventh Annual Report of the Standards & Ethics Committee which detailed the work undertaken by the Committee in 2014/15.

The Chair indicated that the Committee wished their role to be a positive and proactive one, working in partnership with Council Members and officers to promote high standards, as well as fulfilling fairly and scrupulously its re-active role in dealing with complaints referred to us for determination. To this end the Committee meets with group Leaders and Whips to discuss issues and exchange views. In addition the Committee had agreed to introduce a more systematic approach to observing Council and Committee meetings, to enable Members of the Committee to familiarise themselves with the workings of the Council.

The report sets out the Committee's major areas of work during the past year. The table of complaints shows that many are dealt with without formal hearings; when these are required the Local Resolution Protocol for member-on-member complaints the Committee to deal with these more directly and swiftly than when they had to be referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. The Committee have reviewed and revised Council policies that fall within its remit and reviewed the Charter between Cardiff Council and the Community Councils, and continued to monitor hospitality, gifts and other benefits received by Members.

In October 2015 Cardiff would host the All-Wales Standards Conference, and planning for this was already well advanced. It would provide a timely opportunity to reflect on experience and prepare for the future, in a context of likely change for local government as a whole.

In closing the Chair thanked all those concerned with the Committee for their contributions throughout the year and in particular thanked Councillors Lloyd and Dianne Rees who had stood down from the Committee in May for the work they had done supporting and actively participating in meeting. The Chair thanked all County and Community Councillors for the part they play in promoting and maintaining the principles of public life.

The Lord Mayor thanked the Chairperson for attending and presenting the report and invited questions and comments from Members. Members commended the work of the Committee over the last 12 months and in particular the cross party work undertaken on Social Media Guidance. Members welcomed the proposed future priorities in particular the reviewing of the Planning processes and procedures.

A Member raised the matter of Member protocol in relation to Ward matters and the need to ensure that Ward Members are kept informed of matters relating to their wards.

The Chair was keen that the Committee worked with Members to provide the best tools and guidance to undertake their roles to avoid inadvertent mistakes. The Committee would keep Members up to date with the change in guidance issued by Welsh Government and the Ombudsman and will hold sessions periodically for all Members as part of the Member Training & Development programme for 2015/16.

RESOLVED – that the Chairperson and Members of the Committee be thanked for their work and the eleventh Annual report be accepted and noted.

53 : STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE - INDEPENDENT MEMBER RE-APPOINTMENT

(Mr Richard Tebboth declared a personal and pecuniary interest in this item under the Member Code of Conduct as the independent Member seeking reappointment to the Standards and Ethics Committee. Mr Tebboth left the meeting during consideration of this item).

The Council was advised that the four year term of office of Mr Richard Tebboth an independent Member and Chair of the Standards and Ethics Committee was due to expire on 23 September 2015; and the recommendation was to reappointment.

The Regulations provide that an independent Member of a Standards Committee may be reappointed by the authority for one further consecutive term of up to 4 years. Mr Tebboth has indicated that he is willing to stand for re-appointment.

RESOLVED – That Council approved the reappointment of Richard Tebboth as an independent member of the Standards and Ethics Committee with effect from 23 September 2015 for a further four year term.

54 : DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Lord Mayor invited the Councillor Cowan as the former Chair of Democratic Services Committee to present the Committee's third Annual report.

Councillor Cowan thanked Graham Porter, Senior Committee and Members Services Officer, and officers in Democratic Services for their unstinting work over the past twelve months. With diminishing resources and additional pressures, the support has continued and much has been achieved.

The Chair also thanked the cross party Members of the Committee who worked tirelessly on the Committee, in Task and Finish Groups and attending training and development sessions.

The Committee had achieved a lot over the last 12 months in particular the development of Member Development Strategy and programme; Members ICT project; roll out of Modern.Gov and the Member on line Library Service. It had received reports and had input into improvement to the Member Enquiry Line and been able to discuss issues with the Chief Executive as well as linking with the Standards and Ethics Committee and Constitution Committee.

The Lord Mayor invited contributions from Members and Councillor Clark as the new Chair of the Committee informed Members of the on-going work of the Committee in 2015/16 to further develop a range of learning opportunities for Members and different ways of delivering training; working with the All Wales and Cardiff Academy. Councillor Clark looked forward to continuing and building on the good work of the previous Chair and reviewing the support given to Members and the resources available to them.

RESOLVED – That the Chairperson and Members of the Committee be thanked for their work and the third Annual Report of the Democratic Services Committee report be accepted and noted.

55 : BUDGET STRATEGY 2016/17 AND MEDIUM TERM

The Lord Mayor invite the Cabinet Member, Corporate Services and Performance, Councillor Hinchey to present the report on the establishment of the financial strategy for the Council in readiness for the preparation of the 2016/17 revenue and capital budgets and to update the financial strategy to meet the continued significant financial challenges facing the Council in the medium term. In response to the risks attached to delivering savings of the expected quantum on a year on year basis the report sought to put in place savings targets for directorates not just for 2016/17, but for the life of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Cabinet at its meeting on 16 July 2015 had considered and agreed the recommendations in the report.

The Cabinet Member highlighted that it was only a few months since he had stood in the Council Chamber to deliver the Council's budget for 2015/16. It had been a very difficult budget setting process and three months down the line the on-going budget preparation process for 2016/17 was anticipated to be just as challenging with significant cuts in public services funding and public spending.

The Council is facing a budget shortfall of £47.4 million next year, which is anticipated to rise to £117 million by the end of 2018/19 financial year. The budget report highlights an even worse scenario, which could see the budget gap rise to £56.4 million next year and £145.7 million by 18/19. These cuts come on top of around £205 million of council cuts over the last decade.

Cardiff is still ranked 21st out of 22 councils in relation to the funding it receives per head of population from Welsh Government. The Council receives £1170 per head of population in Cardiff, which is well below the Welsh average of £1323 per head.

The Cabinet Member advised on the on-going protection of schools budgets and significant demographic pressures faced by Cardiff which means that other services will be significantly squeezed. Of the overall Council budget of £570 million, the cuts have focussed on just £223 million un-protected budget which includes areas of statutory duty and escalating demand.

The Cabinet Member underlined the importance for the Council of protecting services to the most vulnerable in society; supporting schools and ensuring that there is sufficient housing and the need to maintain services such as waste management. There will be some very tough decisions and choices in the coming years. The Council will have to change the way it operates to build a sustainable future for Cardiff.

The Cabinet Member highlighted areas where change was taking place within the organisational development programme including progress being made on alternative delivery models (ADMs); and different ways of delivering services to identify how we can deliver more effectively the best services at the least cost. The focus is on performance management and ensuring the Council has the best people to take the city forward. Cardiff is Britain's fastest growing city. This ability to attract and keep people is essential to the city's future economic success.

The Cabinet Member in summing up reiterated that it was vital that the Council delivers the organisational development programme; reforms its public services, develops the city, and overcomes the considerable challenges outlined in this report.

The Budget Strategy report set out the timetable for the budget process to allow for the presenting of the Budget Report to Council on 25 February 2016.

The Cabinet Member commended the report and the report was seconded by the Leader, Councillor Bale. The Leader underlined the challenges for the Council and the on-going budget pressures; work being undertaken as part of the change programme and representations being made to Welsh Government. Cardiff as the

Capital City of Wales was unique in its requirements and a key economic driver for the future. The Leader highlighted the partnership work within the region; the Severn estuary authorities and the partnership working on the City Deal.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the budget strategy and invited comments from the Finance Spokespersons and Members in which a number of points were made, including the need to make representations to Welsh Government to redress an inequity in terms of funding received in particular business rates; the need for the Council to clearly assess its priorities and the costs of services; concerns around asset and property management; revenue costs; interest on loans; its level of reserves; capital investment; and the projected increases in Council Tax.

Members raised issue around budget monitoring and savings targets; demand management; budget realignments and future projections. Members also highlighted the need to consider the future budget framework within the context of shared services and the proposed Local Government mergers.

The Cabinet Member responded to the matters raised.

RESOLVED – That Council agreed and adopted the Budget Timetable Framework set out and that the work outlined is progressed with a view to informing budget preparation.

56 : CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS- WEBCASTING,
PUBLIC QUESTIONS AT SCRUTINY AND MINOR CONSTITUTION
AMENDMENTS

The Council was requested to consider the recommendations of the Constitution Committee from 15 July 2015 in respect of the webcasting of Council and Committee meetings; introduction of Public Questions at Scrutiny Committee meetings; the Officer delegations for Discretionary Business Rates Relief and the consequential Constitution amendments.

Councillor De'Ath proposed the report which was seconded by Councillor Hunt. Councillor De'Ath advised on the current procedure for recording of meetings; the Welsh Government statutory Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity; and the guidance on Welsh Local Government Association on Webcasting protocol.

The Constitution Committee had agreed the Webcasting protocol; the provision of additional webcasting hours; and installation of the webcasting system in Committee Room 4 in County Hall with the proposal to webcasting Planning Committee on a six-month trial basis.

The Constitution Committee also agreed to a piloting of Public Questions at Scrutiny Committees in October and November 2015 in conjunction with the Cardiff Third Sector Council.

Members welcomed these proposals and endorsed the recommendations of the Constituting Committee, and noted that the Committee would receive a report back on the pilots in due course.

RESOLVED – That

- (1) it was agreed to continue the official webcasting of full Council meetings, without seeking express consent at the start of each meeting;
- (2) it was agreed the webcasting of Planning Committee meetings on a 6 month trial basis commencing in September 2015;
- (3) the draft Webcasting Protocol subject to the amendments recommended by the Constitution Committee and set out in paragraph 14 of this report and any other amendments agreed by Council, to govern the webcasting trial (if approved under recommendation (2) above) was approved;
- (4) it was agreed to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any amendments to the Planning Committee Procedure Rules and any amendments to the draft Webcasting Protocol which are necessary to facilitate the trial;
- (5) a proposed 2 month pilot of public questions at scrutiny committees, as set out in this report and Appendix 3, subject to any amendments agreed by Council was approved; and
- (6) the amendment of delegation FS9 in respect of Discretionary Business Rates Relief, as set out in the report was approved.

57 : LEADER AND CABINET STATEMENTS

(Councillor Woodman declared a personal interest in the Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Families Statement under the Member Code of Conduct. Councillor Woodman remained in the meeting during consideration of the statement).

The following statements were received: -

Leaders Statement

UEFA Champions League Final – Road to Cardiff 2017

Cardiff will play host to football's biggest club game, the UEFA Champions League Final, at Millennium Stadium on Saturday 3rd June 2017. It is the world's most-watched annual sporting event, shown in more than 200 countries, and will ensure the eyes of the world are on Cardiff.

This will also include hosting the UEFA Women's Champions League Final at Cardiff City Stadium and the Champions League festival, a free four-day event, which includes games featuring football legends and events with the community to ensure the final leaves a lasting sporting legacy.

This presents another opportunity to showcase Cardiff to the world, and will bring a large number of visitors and international media to the city, as well as giving a significant boost to our city's economy. It is exciting news for Cardiff, built on the back of our proven track record of hosting major events, and will raise our city's international profile even further. The Road to Cardiff has begun and work is ongoing to deliver a first class Champions League Final in 2017.

Business Roadshows

The City of Cardiff Council, working with Business Wales and Business in Focus, has held a series of business roadshows across the city. This has been an opportunity to go and speak to businesses, understand their issues, and promote key initiatives, such as the development of a City Deal. It has also provided businesses with direct access to a range of council services.

The roadshows have been positively received by the business community and the Council's Economic Development team is working closely with a number of businesses on growth projects that will help support our priority to create more and better paid jobs in Cardiff. Engaging with local businesses, especially as we work towards delivering a City Deal for Cardiff and the wider region, is extremely important and I am committed to continuing this dialogue.

60th Anniversary of Cardiff-Stuttgart Twinning Arrangements

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the twinning of the cities of Cardiff and Stuttgart. A delegation from Stuttgart recently visited Cardiff to participate in a series of events, including a reception at Mansion House, which all Members were invited to attend. It offered us the opportunity to discuss how we can build on our strong ties in areas such as education, trade and commerce, share learning, and show the delegation all that Cardiff has to offer.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed to mark the 60th Anniversary with an agreement to work together in the financial services sector, the creative industries sector, and to cooperate in wider economic development activities and on EU funding applications. Our relationship with Stuttgart continues to go from strength to strength and further activities will take place throughout the year.

The Lord Mayor invited questions on the statement and the Leader responded.

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Families Statement

Council received an update on developments in Children's Services since my last statement to Council.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to be able to advise that further significant progress has been achieved supported by the Children's Service's Improvement Plan, the continued engagement of the Chief Executive, the ongoing involvement by the Director in the Challenge Forum and the work of the Organisational Development Programme.

The work of the Directorate has also been supported by officers drawing on our development relationship with Leeds City, which I visited with Officers in June to learn about their improvement journey over the last 5 years. In this connection I am very interested in their whole council 'Child Friendly City' concept which puts children and the future they represent at the heart of the public and business community in Leeds and I have asked officers to explore options to consider for developing a similar approach in Cardiff.

There is now a stronger strategic focus on planning for better outcomes and building a sustainable future for children's services over the longer term and I will return to this in a moment

1. Operational Delivery

Turning firstly however to developments in strengthening and securing sound operational service delivery.

The Director's close attention to operational safety and integrity over the last 2 years means that the service is in a much more stable and healthier condition. This is evidenced by

- sustained lower caseloads - down from 24.5 at 30.06.14 to 18.9 at 30.06.15
- stronger performance in key areas
 - Initial assessments 34.6% in Q1 2014-15; 67.1% in Q1 2015-16 (95.7% in June 2015)
 - Core assessments 49.8% in Q1 2014-15; 71.2% in Q1 2015-16
 - Initial CP conferences 91.0% in Q1 2014-15; 96.2% in Q1 2015-16
- a more stable recruitment and retention position with an increase in applications for social work posts from other authorities in the region and from agency staff. Agency staff are down from 55 in June 2014 to 34 in June 2015

The Directorate recognises that there still remains much to do to improve performance further across a wider range of performance dimensions, particularly in terms of enhancing attainment by Looked after Children and in terms of strengthening the offer for disabled children.

This improvement work over the last year, consolidating the 2013-14 year, means that the service has been able to engage in key strategic developments and these include a sustainable and improving future for the service

2. Strategic Developments have included

- Prevention - the preparation of a new preventative and early help strategy which has already engaged partners around a common objectives to reduce the number of looked after children and enable families to get help earlier. This strategy has been developed on the basis of national best practice elsewhere, supported

particularly through our development relationship with Leeds City Council. This strategy will be formally launched in the Autumn.

- Secondly, Child Sexual Exploitation - I know that members will be particularly pleased to hear that a new multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy has now been finalised and will be considered by Cabinet in September. The strategy has been sponsored by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and reflects the latest national thinking about how agencies should work together to take on the lessons from other parts of the country and work more effectively to tackle this pernicious crime.
- Organisational Development Programme - I would also want to highlight the accelerating agenda that is supported by the Organisational Development Programme which is enabling much better cross directorate collaboration and resource sharing to support the Children's Services Improvement Plan. Headlines include the development of
 - a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub otherwise known as a MASH, targeted for early implementation in 2016/17;
 - the much needed mobilisation of social workers with the latest ICT – this will not only be more efficient but will enable social workers to spend more direct time with families - again early 2016/17 implementation is the target;
 - the re-design of our fostering services in to increase the number of local placements for Looked After Children and reduce out of area placements;
 - the development of a new model of social work delivery based on the tried and tested 'signs of safety' practice model that has been successful elsewhere in achieving better outcomes for children;
 - a new model for providing and accessing accommodation for young single homeless and Care Leavers;
 - and finally work to develop an initiative to prevent older children entering the looked after system - again based on national best practice.

These are all large and complex initiatives which place heavy demands on officer time but I am very grateful to the commitment and determination of officers in the service to ensure that these key improvements materialise into tangible change.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to announce that in April we raised the grant to Care Leavers by £800 to £2000 putting Cardiff Care Leavers on a par with their peers elsewhere.

Members were advised that recruitment of an Assistant Director is underway and that appointments to two new joint funded posts initiated by the Director to deliver the MASH and the much needed change programme for disabled children's services, are being made and will be in place in the next few weeks.

In conclusion the Cabinet Member was pleased to welcome the first Annual Report of the National Adoption Service and in particular the part that Cardiff has played in facilitating its success.

This substantial and wide range of significant development reassures members that our improvement journey remains on course and continues to extend its reach.

The Lord Mayor invited questions on the statement and the Cabinet Member responded.

Cabinet Member for Environment

Green Flag Status

Following independent assessment earlier in the year the Council has retained Green Flag status for ten of its Green Spaces, these being, Bute Park, Roath Park, Victoria Park, Rumney Hill Gardens, Victoria Park, Grange Gardens, Parc Cefn Onn, Cardiff Bay Barrage, Cathays Cemetery and Thornhill Crematorium. The Council has been able to demonstrate that it continues to meet the criteria set out within the benchmark standards which include a welcoming place, a healthy, safe and secure place, a clean and well maintained place, conservation and heritage, community involvement and management.

Love Parks Week

The 24 July marks the commencement of Love Parks Week and initiative led by Keep Britain Tidy which promotes the value and benefits of parks and green spaces across the UK. Members may recall that in previous statements the Cabinet Member referred to the Volunteer Development Partnership Group, a group established earlier in the year which aims to bring the Council and communities together for mutual benefit through this group, a series of activities / events, across our Parks and Green Spaces throughout the City has been planned for the Week.

Cardiff Bereavement Services

Cardiff Bereavement Services has this week been shortlisted as a finalist for the APSE Service Awards 2015 in the category 'Best Service Team – Cemetery & Crematorium'. This is an excellent achievement for the service to be named as a finalist in the first year that they have entered and it is a real boost to a dedicated team who work extremely hard all year round to provide a fitting and professional service to the bereaved.

The awards will take place on the evening of 3rd September 2015 at Brangwyn Hall, Swansea and we wish the service area the best of luck in the final.

Waste Strategy Changes

The Waste Management Service has been working very hard ahead of the commencement of waste collection changes on 27 July 2015. Over the past weeks, Teams have been delivering wheeled bins to expand the scheme into areas where waste has previously presented for collection in bags and also delivering bespoke red striped bags to those properties where the use of wheeled bins is not suitable. The changes being made are essential to enable the Council meet the statutory recycling targets and avoid potential fines.

The Lord Mayor invited questions on the statement. A number of Members raised issues around the current roll –out of the waste and recycling changes around the city and the consultation process; ways of improving collection rates . The Cabinet Member responded to these comments.

Cabinet Member Corporate Services & Performance Statement

Cardiff Manager Programme Update

The Cardiff Manager Programme, have had a number of managers achieve their Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) Level 3 Qualification as a result of completing their assignments. Already some 23 managers have gained the full qualification and 37 have gained part of the qualification and working to complete the second part. A further 92 assignments have been submitted and are currently being marked by Cardiff and Vale College. All managers within the target group of middle managers will have completed all four themes by October 2015.

People

The HR team has supported a range of Employee Engagement activities over the last month, including the Chief Executive Roadshows; co-ordinated the Employee Survey, which resulted in over 50% response rate from staff; and facilitated the first Cardiff Manager Forum with the Chief Executive.

The HR team supported the Works Council meeting that was held at end of June, which focussed on the broader agenda of managing attendance & wellbeing, including the Corporate Health Standard, employee counselling and the Welsh Government mental health initiative, Time to Change.

The recruitment process for the posts of Chief Finance Officer and Assistant Director (Children's Services) has been supported by HR.

Enhanced HR support has been provided to Eastern High and the Federation of Glyn Derw High School and Michaelston Community College. HR has also worked as part of the Central South Consortium HR group with a focus on policy development and guidance for schools across the consortium area.

C2C

The expansion of C2C opening hours and review of working practice is delivering excellent results for people contacting the Council. From April to June 2015, the call centre handled 33,000 additional calls, due to annual council tax billing, at the same time as improving the answer rate performance measure for the 3rd consecutive quarter.

The Council has now built up real time analytics of how our customers choose to interact with us. This is through traditional channels such as the phone, but also online and we are exploring the opportunities that this brings with nearly 45% of our customers accessing the website using a mobile device.

The Council has also built up its social media presence with 43,178 twitter followers. This is crucial in managing the customer demand for major changes such as the waste collection changes, where the Council can get messages out quickly and answer common concerns in order to reduce the demand on residents phoning in or visiting a Hub.

Public Building Wi-Fi

ICT have worked in collaboration with the Digital Cardiff project team to install or replace Wi-Fi in 80 council premises. Many of these buildings have not previously benefitted from Wi-Fi but the grant funding from UK Government has enabled free Wi-Fi in the public areas of approximately 200 buildings across the city.

Shared Regulatory Service

The new Shared Regulatory Service between Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend Councils came into being on 1st May 2015. ICT are in the process of migrating the systems currently in use by Cardiff employees to the new service. The new service is recruiting to fill their new establishment and staff are still based in Cardiff premises using Cardiff hosted IT systems. ICT will be transitioning these systems across to the new service over the coming year at the same time as implementing mobile working for the team to support more efficient operation.

Community Asset Transfers

ICT has worked with Directorates to enable the first of the Community Asset Transfers. It is anticipated that there will be many more over the coming year and amongst other aspects that require consideration are any ICT implications including broadband links, telephony (mobile and fixed), printing. Email, Wi-Fi, desktop devices and software licences as well as line of business applications used. This is a complex piece of work and each of the initial sites reviewed have very different requirements requiring a great deal of planning to ensure a smooth transition.

Estate Management

The Cabinet Member was pleased to report that the inaugural Corporate Asset Management Plan has been approved by Cabinet as the delivery action plan of the Property Strategy, Organisational Development Programme and Corporate Plan. The plan explicitly sets out the Council's intentions relating to its operational estate for the next 12 months. The estate has a large proportion of assets in a poor state of repair with a costly maintenance back log of in excess of £100m, and the aim of the asset management plan is to have '*fewer but better buildings*'. The key focus will be on further office rationalisation, Community Asset Transfers and disposal of surplus assets with emphasis on delivering capital receipts. A review of the non-operational portfolio will also be forthcoming in the autumn with a view to increasing revenue income from assets.

Health & Safety

All Directorates completed a Health and Safety Annual Report 2014/15 and have Health and Safety Action Plans 2015/16 incorporating the corporate health and safety objectives 2015/16. Further work is required in some Directorates. New Directorates will also need to bring together the relevant parts of other Action Plans for the new Directorate Action Plan.

A Health and Safety Advisory Forum was held on 17th June 2015. Agenda items included Health and Safety Inspection Reports by Health and Safety advisers in respect of City Centre Management and The Bishop of Llandaff C/W School; Directorate Health and Safety Annual reports 2014/15 and Health and Safety Action Plans 2015/16; and Fire Awareness.

Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Wellbeing Statement

City Centre Advice Hub

The City Centre Advice Hub and the Tenant Resource Centre has relocated from Marland House to the new Central Library Hub making it even easier for customers to engage with Council Services. Major improvement works have hugely improved the range of facilities and services available from the building and the new Library Hub will be open six days a week, making services more accessible.

Homelessness Assessment Centre / Huggard Centre

The Homelessness Assessment Centre and the Huggard Centre. Have excellent facilities as well as dedicated staff involved in our partnership to prevent homelessness where possible and reduce the negative impact that homelessness can have by really effective joint working. Recently, the centre received a visit from the Chief Executive of a Homeless Charity Board in Adelaide who had visited Homelessness centres in America and Europe to take good practice examples back to Australia. His view was that our service provided the best example he had seen of joined up and engaged services.

New developments in the partnership include, the Gateway Project, which is a partnership between Cardiff's Homelessness Service, housing providers and local hostels with the objective of providing a clear route out of homelessness for single, non priority clients. The Project consists of two staff and one volunteer, operating from the Councils Housing Options Centre and in the past year almost 1400 individuals in homeless crisis have been seen. The door to the Gateway never closes and the service offers compassion and consideration to all those who are homeless. The Project is passionate and proactive in integrating homeless clients into appropriate accommodation, reducing rough sleeping in our City and empowering people to move toward a positive future.

Tenant's Voice

The Tenant's Voice meetings are where tenants can come along and meet with me and Senior Managers from Housing Services. The most recent Tenants Voice meeting was held at City Hall on July 8th. It provided tenants an opportunity to hear from us about the services we provide and how we can work together to improve

them. At this meeting, a brief presentation was given on the results from the Annual Tenants Satisfaction Survey, which was very well received by tenants. Approximately 20 tenants attended and found it very useful and informative.

As well as the Tenants Voice meeting, we held a housing regeneration bus tour of the City. This was well attended and participants found it very informative and were particularly interested in the proposals for building new properties to try and address social housing demand. The tour also included the new Hubs in Llanrumney and Butetown, which all agreed was very impressive and prompted positive discussion about the future hub roll-out programme.

Independent Living Service

The Independent Living Service is developing a First Point of Access for Health and Social Care clients. This new service will establish a single point of access for older people including all new social care requests. The Independent Living Service will work with clients and Occupational Therapists to consider a holistic range of alternatives to meet their needs, rather than the more traditional and costly packages of care. This service will be available to the public and health care professionals including our partners at the UHB and aligns with the new Social Services and Wellbeing Act requirements. The service is committed to working with older people to promote independence and choice.

58 : NOTICE OF MOTION

The Lord Mayor advised that one notice of motion had been submitted and was included on the Summons for the meeting. Two amendments had been received to

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Howells and seconded by Councillor Carter as follows:

This Council notes:

- That due to issues with the heating system, Roath Library has been temporarily closed since November 2014;
- That since then, due to a leak in the roof the building has deteriorated further;
- That Roath Library serves one of the most deprived areas of Cardiff, with the four nearest Lower Super Output Areas being in the bottom quartile of the most deprived areas in Cardiff;
- That over 1,100 people have signed petitions calling on Cardiff Council to repair and reopen Roath Library;
- That the Cabinet is seeking to retain the delivery of library services from Roath Library through a Community Asset Transfer solution rather than fund the necessary repairs itself;

This Council further notes:

- That according to the Cabinet report of 16th July 2015, internal repairs and damage are covered by insurance;

- The availability of a significant amount of S106 money from developments in the Adamsdown ward;
- The resolution of Council on 26th February 2015 that ensured continued funding for branch libraries unless alternative delivery arrangements could be found;

This Council therefore:

- Reaffirms its position that branch library services continue to be funded until the end of the Council term unless, and/or until alternative delivery arrangements are operational.

Subject to agreement with Local Members, calls on the Cabinet to explore the use of S106 money as a basis for carrying out the necessary repairs to ensure that Roath Library re-opens as a vital community asset without further delay.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Cowan and seconded by Councillor McKerlich

After 'This Council therefore:

First bullet point first line insert the word '*all*' after that

First bullet point second line insert the word '*satisfactory*'

The amended Motion would read

This Council notes:

- That due to issues with the heating system, Roath Library has been temporarily closed since November 2014;
- That since then, due to a leak in the roof the building has deteriorated further;
- That Roath Library serves one of the most deprived areas of Cardiff, with the four nearest Lower Super Output Areas being in the bottom quartile of the most deprived areas in Cardiff;
- That over 1,100 people have signed petitions calling on Cardiff Council to repair and reopen Roath Library;
- That the Cabinet is seeking to retain the delivery of library services from Roath Library through a Community Asset Transfer solution rather than fund the necessary repairs itself;

This Council further notes:

- That according to the Cabinet report of 16th July 2015, internal repairs and damage are covered by insurance;
- The availability of a significant amount of S106 money from developments in the Adamsdown ward;
- The resolution of Council on 26th February 2015 that ensured continued funding for branch libraries unless alternative delivery arrangements could be found;

This Council therefore:

- Reaffirms its position that all branch library services continue to be funded until the end of the Council term unless, and/or until alternative satisfactory delivery arrangements are operational.

- Subject to agreement with Local Members, calls on the Cabinet to explore the use of S106 money as a basis for carrying out the necessary repairs to ensure that Roath Library re-opens as a vital community asset without further delay.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Weaver and seconded by Councillor Stubbs.

After 'This Council further notes:

The addition of the following words at the end of the first bullet point '*subject to a £100, 000 excess;*'

After 'This Council therefore:

First bullet point deletion of the words '*are operational*' and replace with '*that will allow branch libraries to be financially sustainable for the long-term are found.*'

Second bullet point deletion of the words '*basis for carrying out the necessary repairs to ensure that Roath Library re-opens as a vital community asset without further delay*' and replace with '*contribution to capital costs that may arise associated with a long-term sustainable solution for library services for the people of Adamsdown and Roath.*'

Inclusion of the following additional three bullet points:

- *Welcomes the action taken to provide temporary services in Adamsdown from September, and supports the Councils intention to find a financially sustainable long-term future for library services for the people of Adamsdown and Roath.*
- *Welcomes the constructive pre-decision scrutiny of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee which considered the Cabinet Report on July 9th.*
- *Welcomes the contribution of campaigners and users of Roath Library to highlighting the importance of library services.*

The amended Motion would read:

This Council notes:

- That due to issues with the heating system, Roath Library has been temporarily closed since November 2014;
- That since then, due to a leak in the roof the building has deteriorated further;
- That Roath Library serves one of the most deprived areas of Cardiff, with the four nearest Lower Super Output Areas being in the bottom quartile of the most deprived areas in Cardiff;
- That over 1,100 people have signed petitions calling on Cardiff Council to repair and reopen Roath Library;

- That the Cabinet is seeking to retain the delivery of library services from Roath Library through a Community Asset Transfer solution rather than fund the necessary repairs itself;

This Council further notes:

- That according to the Cabinet report of 16th July 2015, internal repairs and damage are covered by insurance, subject to a £100,000 excess;
- The availability of a significant amount of S106 money from developments in the Adamsdown ward;
- The resolution of Council on 26th February 2015 that ensured continued funding for branch libraries unless alternative delivery arrangements could be found;

This Council therefore:

- Reaffirms its position that branch library services continue to be funded until the end of the Council term unless, and/or until alternative delivery arrangements that will allow branch libraries to be financially sustainable for the long-term are found.
- Subject to agreement with Local Members, calls on the Cabinet to explore the use of S106 money as a contribution to capital costs that may arise associated with a long-term sustainable solution for library services for the people of Adamsdown and Roath.
- Welcomes the action taken to provide temporary services in Adamsdown from September, and supports the Council's intention to find a financially sustainable long-term future for library services for the people of Adamsdown and Roath.
- Welcomes the constructive pre-decision scrutiny of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee which considered the Cabinet Report on July 9th.
- Welcomes the contribution of campaigners and users of Roath Library to highlighting the importance of library services.

Councillor Howells in proposing his Notice of Motion indicated that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 22 (n) he was accepting with the consent of the meeting the a second amendment to the motion from Councillor Weaver, and if workable the first amendment as proposed by Councillor Cowan.

Following a short adjournment Councillor Howells confirmed to Council that he was accepting the second amendment only with the addition of the words that appear in italics

The amended motion as proposed would read as follows:

This Council notes:

- That due to issues with the heating system, Roath Library has been temporarily closed since November 2014;
- That since then, due to a leak in the roof the building has deteriorated further;
- That Roath Library serves one of the most deprived areas of Cardiff, with the four nearest Lower Super Output Areas being in the bottom quartile of the most deprived areas in Cardiff;
- That over 1,100 people have signed petitions calling on Cardiff Council to repair and reopen Roath Library;

- That the Cabinet is seeking to retain the delivery of library services from Roath Library through a Community Asset Transfer solution rather than fund the necessary repairs itself;

This Council further notes:

- That according to the Cabinet report of 16th July 2015, internal repairs and damage are covered by insurance, subject to a £100, 000 excess;
- The availability of a significant amount of S106 money from developments in the Adamsdown ward;
- The resolution of Council on 26th February 2015 that ensured continued funding for branch libraries unless alternative delivery arrangements could be found;

This Council therefore:

- Reaffirms its position that branch library services continue to be funded until the end of the Council term unless, and/or until alternative delivery arrangements that will allow branch libraries to be financially sustainable for the long-term are found.
- Subject to agreement with Local Members, calls on the Cabinet to explore the use of S106 money as a contribution to capital costs that may arise associated with a long-term sustainable solution for library services for the people of Adamsdown and Roath, *including at the site of the current Roath Library.*
- Welcomes the action taken to provide temporary services in Adamsdown from September, and supports the Councils intention to find a financially sustainable long-term future for library services for the people of Adamsdown and Roath.
- Welcomes the constructive pre-decision scrutiny of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee which considered the Cabinet Report on July 9th.
- Welcomes the contribution of campaigners and users of Roath Library to highlighting the importance of library services.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 25 (ix) Councillor Goodway proposed that the question be out to the vote. This was seconded by Councillor Bradbury. The Motion without notice was CARRIED.

A vote was taken on the amended Motion as proposed by Councillor Howells.

The Motion as amended was CARRIED.

The amendment as proposed by Councillor Cowan was LOST.

59 : ORAL QUESTIONS

Question: *County Councillor Clark*

In early July 2015 it was announced the BBC would need to make huge budget savings. Following this announcement, have you received reassurance and written confirmation from the BBC that their scheme to build on the current Cardiff Bus Station site will continue to proceed in accordance with the original timetable for development starting in Autumn 2015?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Meetings have taken place with representatives from the BBC in recent weeks and I have received assurances that work is progressing towards the BBC signing an Agreement to Lease for the new BBC Wales Headquarters building in early October as planned.

I understand the requirement to deliver savings in running costs forms a key part of BBC Wales' decision to move to a new building.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Clark*

I am shocked that the Council plan to close the current bus station next week before final costings and planning permission have been determined for the new bus station. If the BBC plans are not delayed, as you've outlined, will you commit today that the anticipated Cabinet report with all the detailed costings for the new bus station be submitted in October 2015 before the BBC Agreement to Lease is signed?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

We will continue to work towards the development of a signed agreement with the BBC over the summer. Clearly, the priority at the moment was ensuring the transition to new arrangements – transport arrangements. It makes obvious sense to do that during the summer window when there is less disruption to passengers – people are on holiday from work – and that's what we're doing and obviously over that period we'll be doing essential site works on that site to make sure we're ready to construct that building – or the developer is ready to construct that building – once planning permission is received.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Michael*

Earlier on, we touched upon the Standards and Ethics Committee doing a report on the public's perception of planning. I think we can actually include training for Councillors, because sometimes I'm left baffled by them. All applications are treated separately – you can't actually condition one to another like you're trying to do. The BBC application was a standalone application, the bus station will be a standalone building application.

Would the Leader agree that we need some training for Members?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I am well aware that the Member is a strong champion and advocate for Planning training for all Members and I'm sure that's something we'd like to encourage in this chamber.

Question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

I was pleased to see your photo alongside the Cardiff City model on the front page of the July edition of the Cardiff Business Council Newsletter. Will you be supporting the

CBC presence at MIPIM in Olympia this year and will our stand be as large and as prominent as last year?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Cardiff will be represented again at this year's MIPIM event at Olympia in October and I understand that the exhibition stand will be roughly the same size as last year.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

I'm glad that we're going to be putting on a good show at in Olympia because this is a very successful show and a very important part of bringing new industry to Cardiff. But, of course, there are two MIPIM's – there is also the one in France – and we are not exhibiting this year. Do you share my concern that we are not doing so?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I think whenever we look at different venues to exhibit the city and the wider region, we have to be mindful of the costs and the opportunities as well. So, we did go to Cannes last year and I think that that's something that was useful. We were able to meet some investors in the city and talk through opportunities and some of those big projects that are coming through the pipeline in Cardiff.

We can't be at every event and also I think there's a real point here about how we work with other city regions to makes sure that we market ourselves sometimes on an even bigger footprint than Cardiff and the Cardiff capital region. At MIPIM, it was very obvious that cities like Liverpool and Manchester are working much more closely on joint marketing of the combined offer of those city regions for international investors.

Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

Does the Leader of the Council think that Cardiff Council suffers from any kind of institutionalised sexism?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

No, I don't think it does.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

I wasn't going to ask a supplementary question because I expected some kind of reasoned answer, but that hasn't come.

What has happened on this Council over the last three years has been a flurry of complaints from female Councillors of several groups about the way that they are treated by Members of your group. Some of those complaints have come from your group. And, in my opinion, what we are talking about here is an issue of institutionalised sexism. Now you may be glib, you may want to dismiss it, but I'm telling you it's something that needs to be addressed.

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Clearly, if there are issues – and this is the first time you’ve raised this with me – then I am happy to meet with you to discuss through those over the next few weeks, certainly before the summer. I’ve got a meeting planned with you in the next week or so – I’m happy to pick that up with you as part of those discussions.

Question: *County Councillor Davis*

Can we have the figures for Council tenants entering arrears as a result of the Bedroom Tax?

Reply: *County Councillor Elsmore*

Since the introduction of this heinous tax by the previous UK coalition government, indeed, residents in Cardiff have been impacted by it.

Currently this affects 2713 social housing tenants, of which 1522 are council tenants. It’s not possible to say how many council tenants are in arrears solely due to the bedroom tax, as arrears accumulate for a number of reasons.

I can give you the figures for the overall Council tenant rent arrears. These have increased significantly by about 25% from £810,000 in March 2013 – so directly before the introduction of the bedroom tax – and it’s now risen to just over £1m this year.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Davis*

We need to deal with these arrears with compassion, regardless of whether or not they are to do with the bedroom tax.

Can you update the chamber on how we support those who go into arrears?

Reply: *County Councillor Elsmore*

Absolutely. What I can say is that we’ve introduced the most robust support mechanisms. Indeed, every penny of our discretionary housing payment budget is spent on those who need our support. And I actually want to pay tribute – she’s not in the chamber – to the leadership of my predecessor in terms of this part of my portfolio, Councillor Thorne, who led this work on behalf of the administration.

Help comes in the following forms: Discretionary housing payments for those who are prepared to move or who have an overriding need for an additional bedroom. We spend over £1m on discretionary housing payment budget this year – just over £0.5m goes to support individuals impacted by the bedroom tax.

We have a rent-rescue budget. There’s a priority for rehousing to smaller accommodation, help to find an exchange through Home Swapper, funding for

removal costs and other expenses, for those who wish to stay in the property help with budgeting.

So, I think what I can say: we work very proactively with our tenants.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

I'd like you to answer in front of the Council, the whole public, anybody watching: In your portfolio area, why was the offer of a payment made today to begin to clear areas, with a payment plan, which had been overseen by Fairwater Councillors helping our constituent, why did this Council reject a payment and go ahead with a needless eviction? I'd like an answer, please.

Reply: *County Councillor Elsmore*

As you well know, I cannot go into individual cases in this forum. It just is totally inappropriate. We're talking about individuals who will be at a time of great distress. This is not about you it leads me to think that actually you're raising the issue not to help the individual but more to raise your profile.

Question: *County Councillor Woodman*

Given that 14,300 PCNs have been issued between 16/12/14 (when bus lane enforcement commenced) and 31/5/15 at Newport Road/Fitzalan Place, are you concerned that some of these PCNs have been successfully challenged at Traffic Penalty Tribunals on the grounds that Cardiff Council had not put the correct signage on the road at the relevant point to show where the bus lane ended?

What is the council doing to make restitution to those who received and paid PCNs unfairly and will you issue a full and unreserved apology to them?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

If people feel that they have been penalised incorrectly or treated unfairly, then there is the option of appeal within the process.

This would be considered on an individual basis by an independent adjudicator, who will review each appeal and take a view as to whether the appeal should be upheld.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Woodman*

Thank you for your reply, it is really disappointing because many people would have paid their fine and not thought they could appeal. But now, in view of the information I now have following tribunals, I intend to publicise it and I hope that many people do come forward because, clearly, they have been treated **badly** by this Council.

You should be ashamed and it's extremely disappointing that you're not offering up an apology.

We failed. We failed a large number of people – I know not the total 14,300, I'm pretty sure not – but, I have to say, I find your response pretty poor.

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

I'm quite happy to take it, actually.

I think the actual supplementary was quite appalling myself, personally.

What I can say: your question is very clear. It says, for example, that Cardiff Council had not put the correct signage on the road. It's not a question of incorrect signage. In those appeal cases that had been appealed successfully at traffic penalty tribunal, the adjudicator felt the signage was insufficient on a particular approach road to the enforced area.

There is a set procedure, and that set procedure is very clear for anyone: if they wish, they can take it to appeal and, obviously, they can challenge it. If they don't wish to do that, that's up to an individual, I'm afraid, but everyone has that right and that's why that system has been put in place for that.

Question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

How many current Councillors were in arrears with their own Council Tax in 2013 and 2014, how many were issued with summonses and were those councillors allowed to take part and vote in the budget and council tax setting debates?

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

Thank you, Councillor Rees, for the question, which has attracted quite a bit of media attention, as I'm sure we all know.

In 2013/14 financial year, at least one reminder and/or final notice was issued to 11 councillors, two of whom were subsequently served a summons.

In the 2014/15 financial year, at least one reminder and/or final notice was issued to 9 councillors, two of whom were subsequently served a summons.

From a governance point of view, the balance due on each of the summonses was paid in advance of the Council Tax setting meeting in each of those years. So, therefore, the Councillors concerned were able to vote.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

Should Councillors who are in arrears with their Council Tax be expected to resign?

After all, we set the Council Tax for the rest of the citizens of Cardiff and we have a duty – a moral duty as well – to pay our fair share towards Council services. If those Councillors have not, should they not be named and expected to resign, if they fail to pay up on time? It's over 10% of the Councillors that we have in the Council.

Reply: *County Councillor Hinchey*

I must say, I don't know who those Councillors' names is except for one individual because I've just checked with my wife. And I don't want to know, either. It could be Members of your own party, it could be Members of our party, it could be Members of anybody in this chamber.

I think the message in the supplementary I'd like to give back to Councillor Rees is that, obviously, we treat Councillors in the same way we treat anybody else. You would expect that and I'm sure we would agree with that.

On the odd occasion, people do fall into difficulty and I'm sure every Member in this Council would be sympathetic in that case. Anybody could lose their job, anybody could be in a different circumstance within a day at this time of difficult- financial difficult times.

All I would say, really, is that there are means for people to come forward. If there is a message to give back to you, and I welcome the question, is that people should come forward at the earliest possible time if they have problem paying Council Tax and we will help them. We do on hundreds of occasions every day. But we need as Councillors to take that seriously, so whoever they are, you need to be mindful all of you that you are in the public eye, as we all are, and you need to pay your council tax. And if you don't pay your Council Tax, you don't get to vote next February.

Customers can pay by direct debit and they can pay up to four different dates in the year. Well, a bit of a publicity stunt here I know, but you can pay on the 1st, the 8th, the 15th, or the 22nd and we encourage people to pay direct debit.

Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

Does the Leader of the Council think it appropriate for a Councillor to mock residents with legitimate concerns by referring to them as a "flat earth society"?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I'm sure that every Member is acutely aware that they should be responsible for their own comments.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

Do you think we may give the Councillor concerned the opportunity to apologise to the public for her comments?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I'm not going to get dragged into individual comments. There's clearly a code of conduct for Members that governs comments. At the same time, we want a situation where Members are free to express their views as they see fit. So I think it's certainly a balance and it's very much down to individual Members to manage their own behaviour, their own language, and that's why I'm pleased to see the Standards and

Ethics Committee here today to look on us and to reflect the way that we conduct ourselves in public in discussions such as these.

Question: *County Councillor Stubbs*

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the number of homeless people in Cardiff?

Reply: *County Councillor Elsmore*

As of 21st July 2015, there were 563 homeless households in temporary accommodation in Cardiff. Officers are also working with a further 161 households to prevent homelessness.

In the 12 months to 1st July, the number of homeless households housed in temporary accommodation fell by 7%.

The Outreach Service is engaging with the 35 rough sleepers in the city to provide help for them to move positively through the homeless system into stable and safe accommodation.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Stubbs*

Changes to benefits, particularly the introduction of Universal Credit in October, could well – will – place additional stress on individuals.

Homelessness can be caused by many means and individual circumstances always have to be taken into account, but what I'd like now is some reassurance that we won't see steps taken in this city like we've seen in some cities across the country in newspapers and TV of anti-homelessness measures. And by that, I am talking about spikes or additional [mimes an arm rest] put on benches.

Can you commit that we will continue to work in a constructive way and not use these measures?

Reply: *County Councillor Elsmore*

What I wanted to say in terms of our homelessness services, in terms of my statement was that Cardiff, across the partnerships, with our partners and ourselves, we have been recognised as a leading homelessness authority.

I absolutely strongly agree with you – we are not as a Council going to create a deliberately hostile environment for people sleeping rough. This adds to physical and psychological pressures on them already experiencing severe hardship. It's also my intention to discuss with the chair of planning and my planning Cabinet colleague in terms of our design standards and guidance and whether we can ensure that we can put caveats into that.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

I totally agree. Cardiff is a leading homelessness authority. Today, you made two more people homeless in the city. Well done.

The question – and it's a policy question, since you clearly didn't want to answer the previous one: in terms of policy, when somebody in court facing eviction from this Council offers a payment, will you make it a policy that that payment is accepted in order to suspend eviction, so that people do not get evicted needlessly as happened today?

Reply: *County Councillor Elsmore*

Absolutely, we leave no stones unturned in supporting individuals who are faced with homelessness. What we do is seek to engage with them. You will know because it was part of my earlier answer that I cannot respond to the individual case and these circumstances pertaining to them, but I am more than happy to discuss them with you separately.

Question: *County Councillor Howells*

What is the Council doing to address the accessibility issues that musicians face when they are booked to play live music at licensed premises in Cardiff City Centre?

Reply: *County Councillor Bradbury*

There should be ample provision for loading – I suspect you're going to tell me there isn't – and unloading in the city centre. Where specific access is needed, in particular to venues within the pedestrianised areas, the venue will usually contact the City Centre Management team, which will facilitate access into pedestrian areas when it is safe to do so.

Likewise on major event days, musicians are assisted with entry into road closures in order to gain access to premises when it is safe to do so.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Howells*

I actually wasn't expecting you to answer it – I expected Councillor Patel to answer this.

I've been contacted by a number of musicians who have had parking tickets when they've been unloading their vehicles when they've been booked to play gigs at places like Café Jazz, the Yard, and O'Neill's. And, unless some common sense prevails, then these musicians aren't going to be taking these gigs and we risk the prospect of the city centre being turned into a musical desert.

So, can I ask that you look into some sort of voucher scheme or other schemes so that vehicles that are being unloaded – and it's quite substantial some of the equipment that some of these bands have – so that these vehicles can be unloaded and perhaps a period of grace be given enough time for the musicians to unload their vehicles without being fined?

Reply: *County Councillor Bradbury*

On the basic traffic issues, my colleague has heard what you've said and I will attempt to work with him to find some sort of common ground. Absolutely, we do not want Cardiff city centre to not be the vibrant music city that it is. I've got friends who are live artists who love playing in the city centre. It would be an awful shame if, because of- the right thing to do with pedestrianizing the city centre is the right thing to do was hindering the creative music industry in Cardiff. So, yes, I will look at that with you.

If there's specific cases that we need to look at, I'm happy to and City Centre Management have already been made aware by myself that I want this to be a music-friendly place.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Mitchell*

I rise to support Councillor Howells' suggestion. Being a musician playing in four bands and, yes, I've had tickets while I've been unloading.

As a musician of 30 years standing in Cardiff, loading and unloading outside the venues is really difficult. Perhaps a suggestion would be to issue the venues with loading passes so that the musicians can put them in the window so that they know that they're loading for a specific venue and the warden would know that they're not there for a long time, give them half an hour's grace or so.

Reply: *County Councillor Bradbury*

That's something you'll need to discuss with Councillor Patel because we're treading on his area.

I'm glad you've paid your tickets, though, because Councillor Rees would be calling for your resignation if you hadn't so it's vitally important we support we'll chat about that offline with Councillor Patel because we're straying into his area.

Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

What was the cost of sending crews back to collect missed collections over the past year, and what is the total number of black bins being replaced with 140 litre bins and what is the total cost of their replacement?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

You won't be surprised to know we don't hold information relating to the specific cost of sending crews back for missed collections. But I need to point out that the collection rounds have been rebalanced recently in order to increase the efficiency and capacity of the operations and to ensure that services are delivered right first time.

Although, given the amount of rounds that we do, the percentage of collections completed as scheduled is extremely high – not far short of 100%, well over 99%, from the data that C2C collected.

In terms of your second part of your question, 94,000 bins scheduled for replacement, which will cost £1.1m. Putting in context, that's to get to the 58% recycling target – and, just to remind Councillors, we've hit 53% last year, which exceeded our target but if we did that next time, this time around, we'd fail by 5% to hit our target. Five times £400,000 would be the cost. £2m. So that's the difference

So all this detail was available in the budget papers and was set out in the report to Cabinet.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Cowan*

I'd obviously thought about your potential answer to me before today, but I have to say I'm flabbergasted, I have to say it's no wonder we're facing such financial hardship that we do not have the cost implications.

So, if you don't collect a bin in Rhiwbina on Friday, you have to send a crew back on a Sunday with potential overtime rates. You're honestly telling me you cannot tell me how much over the scope of a year that you have spent the council taxpayer's money collecting bins that should have been collected at the time.

I find it deeply unacceptable, completely.

Can I have your assurance that this data will be collected so that this time next year when I'm asking you the question, you will be able to furnish me with an answer? Because this is just completely unacceptable.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

It may be unacceptable to you, but that's because you're not in my position. I've got to think of the costs involved, Officer time. What I'm saying to you that the percentage of collections – I'll read it out to you – completed as scheduled is 99.99%, right? Which means .01% are not collected on time. Nobody is going to do any better than that, are they? You can't expect anybody to get 100%, so what is the point – what on earth is the point – of getting out the cost of it? We've got to do it anyway. If a resident says their bin's not been emptied and it hasn't been emptied, we've got to go back. It doesn't matter what the cost is – it's our responsibility.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

Will a report be brought forward in September detailing the cost of collecting unwanted bins? Will bags be provided to those people? And can people also return unwanted black bins?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

People can return unwanted black bins and then it's up to them what they do with their waste.

Question: *County Councillor Holden*

What is the policy regarding clearing weeds in back lanes?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

The rear lanes throughout the city are treated for weed growth once a year.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Holden*

Obviously that once-a-year spraying, I think we've obviously cut that back. There is a substantial amount of weeds now in the back lanes in Gabalfa. I've had some of them cleared and I wanted your thoughts on whether or not it's permissible to allow the wild flowers that are growing there to continue to then remove those pernicious weeds? And, in that case, I've organised and am organising work parties myself to go and do it to save the Council money. Would you encourage other Members to do the same in their back lanes in their back wards?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Yes, in a fair world with lots of money from central government, I'm sure we'd be clearing weeds on a regular basis once a week or whatever. But you've made the point.

Last year, we stopped doing it altogether in the back lanes but we realised that that was unsustainable given the amount of growth throughout the summer so we have started spraying again but just the once in order to minimise the problem.

I would totally agree with you – if residents are happy to go out and do it themselves then I would encourage it.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

In my ward there's been lots of complaints about the late weed spraying this year on roads and pavements – not just in the back lanes – resulting in blocked drains. Can the schedule of annual weed spraying be published online so at least residents will know when they can expect it to be done and follow up with C2C if it doesn't arrive on time before the weeds have set seed because it's a major problem?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I'd have to check with Officers on that because, obviously, one of the issues would be in terms of time if they state that they need to roll out the schedules. I mean on the main thoroughfares it's twice a year – not once a year – once towards the beginning, once towards the end.

But I'll check with Officers and if it's feasible to do that, I will do.

Question: *County Councillor Stubbs*

Will the Leader make a statement on the number of people living in food poverty in Cardiff?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

In the last financial year, there was a sadly 24% increase in the use of Cardiff Foodbank, with 10,708 people helped, of which 3,200 were actually children. According to the Cardiff Foodbank charity, more than 80,000 people in Cardiff live below the poverty line and 18,000 of those are indeed children.

Question: *County Councillor Stubbs*

A couple of months ago, I launched a project with Jeff Smith and Gareth Jones which we entitled *#cardiffgives*. We put out a tweet and encourage local restaurants to help us in our efforts to feed people who are suffering food poverty whether they're homeless or not.

Fortunately, the wonderful Arbennig restaurant which is based in Riverside, and Greggs the bakers came forward. Greggs have offered to give food on a daily basis from two of their stores and Arbennig are feeding once a month.

Would you congratulate these two outlets and would you also not just give your seal of approval but encourage other Cardiff restaurants to come forward to take part in this project?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Yes, indeed. I am aware of the Cardiff Gives campaign and it's clearly encouraging that organisations like Arbennig, I understand, and Greggs as well has also indicated its support for the work.

I've met with some of those individuals involved, including yourself, and I was very impressed with the work that's been done and I would certainly encourage other restaurants and other organisations that are able to help address some of these issues around food poverty, particularly for the homeless, as much as they can as well.

Question: *County Councillor Boyle*

In his corporate plan, one of Cllr Bale's main targets was to "enhance citizen engagement and widen opportunities for people and communities to shape services around their needs." When the Council fails to meet this ambition, how does it rectify matters?

Reply: *County Councillor De'Ath*

The Council is fully committed to delivering our Corporate Plan and has significantly increased the level of engagement with the public over the last 12 months to enable them to give their views on the difficult challenges facing us to make at this time. I do not believe that we will fail to deliver on that ambition.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Boyle*

I beg to differ. If you look at the answer to two of my written questions today in relation to the imposition of new bins in the Waterloo area of Penylan, you'll see that not one person in that small section of streets was asked specifically what they wanted despite its unique conditions, including being part of a grade four conservation area.

B

y contrast, Penylan's Lib Dem Councillors surveyed the whole area in three short evenings, 80% of whom were opposed to the bins.

So tell me honestly, which represents enhanced citizen engagement - to use the ugly phrase in your corporate plan - your zero responses or our several hundred responses? Which represents enhanced citizen engagement? Will you seek, therefore, a review of the imposition of bins in the Waterloo area of Penylan following an appropriate consultation. Because, if not, your corporate plan commitment is simply corporate bland guff.

Reply: *County Councillor De'Ath*

I recognise there's a range of opinion across the city on these new waste changes. But these are changes that have been consulted upon. Bob's outlined the methods earlier on; he's gone through it at the last full Council meeting; I'm sure he'd be happy to discuss it with you going forward.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Hudson*

A vital part of addressing this is: can we enhance Councillor engagement with citizens? Councillors who are persistently away from the chamber, not engaging in any way with committees, meetings, services, or with citizens. This is a persistent absence and should be addressed. How does it rectify **matters**, please?

Reply: *County Councillor De'Ath*

I would encourage all group whips to impress upon their Members the importance of coming to these meetings and doing their best to take part in their democratic duties.

Question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

The closure of the bus station is set for August this year; can you confirm that the building of the new BBC headquarters will begin very shortly after that closure?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Following the closure of the bus station on Saturday 1st August, hoardings will be erected around the site to ensure that it is secure. This will enable the commencement of preliminary works and service diversions on site.

This will include, for example, the relocation of power and telecommunications cabling, fire hydrant water supplies, telematics, and street lighting. Obsolete equipment such as the old bus shelters and their contents will also be removed at this time.

It is anticipated that building works on the new BBC Wales Headquarters will then begin at the beginning of August, subject to an Agreement to Lease being signed by the BBC earlier that month.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

Can I just have some clarification of that, Councillor Bale? I thought you said earlier that building work would start at the end of October.

Now, the basis of my question was that I assumed that the closure of the bus station would be contingent upon the need to start building the new BBC. So, if the BBC, isn't to start being built until the end of October and the bus station is closing at the beginning of August, I'm assuming that there's been some slippage. If this is the case, could you give us some explanation as to why the slippage has occurred?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Just to be clear, for the avoidance of doubt, that the intention is that it is for the construction of the BBC building to take place towards the end of the October and the issues around August are essentially that that's the best time of year for us to engage in this work. There are people, as I said earlier today in today's debate, who will be on holiday – it's a good time in terms of managing that transition. And we also have, of course, big events in terms of the Rugby World Cup later this year, which mean that it's important for us to manage that transition.

I would like to emphasise, as has been done earlier, that there are two separate developments taking place here. The BBC development is obviously taking place now and is working through the planning process. We've got an engagement event – a big public engagement event – around the detailed design of the bus transport interchange taking place throughout July. There is a clear timetable, now, through to a Cabinet report in October, as well, and that will help inform the decision-making process later this year as well.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Ben Thomas*

With the impending closure of the bus station, Cardiff Bus over the last few months has highlighted the changes and where to actually pick up their bus services as the bus service will now actually be closed. You can go on to the website where all Cardiff Bus services are available.

Can the Leader explain to me for those coming into the city and not specifically using Cardiff Bus – they may be using Stagecoach or other areas – how can they actually get that information straight away at the bus terminal or at least at the train station?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

We're well aware of the importance of communication. Obviously there is a great deal of information that will be going out to the public to build on the information that already has gone out on social media – the Council's Twitter account has taken a big role here in signposting people towards Traveline Cymru and other websites that are being updated on some of that information.

For residents in the city, there's the Capital Times that's going out this month that will have information on the changes as well. But it's important that we do continue to use other channels to communicate to people who, as you, say come in from outside of the city. We will have people on site so when people arrive, certainly at the earlier stages of the transition, that they're able to get face-to-face contact and ask for support and we'll make sure that that site is also fully signposted in terms of movement to some of those temporary bus stands over the next couple of years that it'll have to be in place.

We are used to some of these changes. As you'll be aware, Councillor Thomas, we do host a number of big events in the city – we have done over a number of years – and I think that experience will put us in good stead in terms of some of these transitional arrangements that will have to be put in place.

Question: *County Councillor Carter*

What is the Council doing to encourage healthy eating in schools?

Reply: *County Councillor Merry*

All daily menus are compliant with the *Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measure 2009*. In addition, menu tasters, theme days, and promotions encourage pupils to try new foods. Catering staff also attend ongoing catering skills and nutrition training to improve the nutritional content of meals.

We also have the School Nutrition Action Groups which involve school pupils. And there is a well established Cardiff Network of Healthy Schools Scheme. This provides training, support, and guidance on nutrition, including cooking in the class training for teachers. And schools are encouraged to develop a Food and Fitness Policy in line with best practice examples.

At the start of the day, a Primary School Free Breakfast is served in 90 primary schools. And other media provided by the Welsh Government are also issued to schools illustrating the foods and drinks that are allowed to be served.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Carter*

The answer was far more comprehensive than I expected, so thank you very much for that.

I accept that across the city – up and down the city – we have a lot of schools doing a lot around the healthy-eating agenda. We know that, across the city, school lunch boxes are being scrutinised and sugary drinks and unhealthy foods are being stopped at the gate.

But my concerns are specifically around Cardiff catering. I don't doubt the legality of what the school does and what the Council does – and thank you for your clarification there – but looking for example at the menu for July alone, I see that fish fingers were served four times and sugary puddings were served 11 out of 15 times.

Will you at least agree to look at the issue of the menu again? As I said, I don't doubt the legality, but certainly the spirit of the measure was for healthy foods and trying to do the very best we can to improve children's long-term wellbeing, so would you at least agree to look at this issue again?

Reply: *County Councillor Merry*

I think all Councillors should eat healthily but instructing them is beyond my powers in Education.

Question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

How many children were removed from Cardiff school registers in the 2013-14, 2014-15 school years and what action is taken by the Authority to discover and prevent:

1. Children being taught in unregistered schools;
2. Girls being taken out of the country for FGM (female genital mutilation) or enforced marriage;
3. Boys from being radicalised at home or abroad?

Reply: *County Councillor Merry*

1037 pupils of school age were removed from school registers in 2014-15. This compares with 1610 pupils in 2013-14, but this is likely to increase over the summer. When a child is withdrawn from a Cardiff school without notice or the school being advised of a new school, Officers follow the Children Missing Education procedures and procedures to determine the child's whereabouts.

The Council is working with partners as part of a multi-agency approach in response to issues of radicalisation, forced marriage, and FGM within schools and local communities. The Prevent Strategy deals with the radicalisation of all children, male or female, and the process is well established in Cardiff through effective partnership arrangements.

There is no legal framework for the Council to monitor provision of home education nor an automatic right of entry to these centres to check the standard of education the child or young person is receiving or that safeguarding standards are met. There

are also no registration requirements for those parents electing to home educate their children.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

Will you reassure this Council that those 1037 children who are missing this year from Cardiff registers and the 1610 have had a good outcome, that they are being properly taught? Can you reassure us that there has been no abuse of those children? Do you know where they are? Do you know what their education consists of? And do you know what programmes they're involved in? And, also, can you check whether or not those children – do you know how many of those children have been subjected to FGM or forced marriages?

Reply: *County Councillor Merry*

I've been assured that all the procedures have been followed but, as we know, procedures don't necessarily give us all the answers. All I can say at the moment is that they will do their best to find out where the child has gone. In any of those cases, there will have been poor notice given by the parents to the relevant school.

I have got a more substantive I've given the chamber that I will send to you.

Obviously, they are extremely serious issues and they're actually wider safeguarding issues, I would say, that not only apply across the Council departments but actually every Member in this chamber needs to be aware of.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Sanders*

Can you confirm that before a child is removed from a school register that that school has in fact received information of where the child has been moved to: either registered in a different school in the UK or knows the overseas destination?

This would avoid children becoming lost in the system. And this was an issue that was picked up at the recent human trafficking enquiry.

Reply: *County Councillor Merry*

What I will say is: I will get back to Officers and talk to them again on this issue.

Question: *County Councillor Clark*

Following a Cardiff Council media briefing, the South Wales Echo reported, on 8 July 2015, that "Fines of up to £100 could be dished out to residents who do not comply to new recycling rules set out by Cardiff Council". On 23 October 2014 you listed out the different pieces of legislation this Council uses to deal with inappropriate fly-tipping, littering, dropping and presentation for collection of waste in Cardiff. What additional legislation or processes does the Council anticipate using following the 8 July 2015 reference to £100 fines?

Also, how many additional waste education and enforcement staff will the Council employ from 1 September 2015 to deal with the repercussions of the waste changes?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Two parts to your question. In terms of the first one: we don't plan to use any additional legislation. Fines up to £100 can be issued under Section 46, as you're aware as we've been doing it in your part of the world, of the *Environmental Protection Act 1990* for incorrect domestic waste presentation by those households that can be identified. This provision has been used by officers for a number of years.

In terms of the second part of your question: we will undertake more enforcement of households that present their waste and recycling at the wrong times. An additional 14 waste officers are currently being recruited to support the waste collection changes transition period from July to December. Half of those are already in post to support the changes that are currently underway.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Clark*

Thank you very much for your answer and your visit to Cathays today.

My ward, Cathays, has huge problems with rubbish. For example, in one streets, rats were rife as one house had 50 black bags left out in the back garden for months on end.

From your answer, I still remain concerned that there will remain no real new procedures or there's still not quite enough Education or Enforcement staff to deal with even our current problems.

Do you agree with me that, if the Labour Council's plans to proceed with the plans to reduce the size of wheelie bins on a compulsory basis and leave bags uncollected in the street, it could result in our inner-city areas being much messier and cost much more to clean and could risk being a disaster?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

"No, I don't agree" is the short answer to that.

I think the fact that we are recruiting 14 extra Officers shows our intent around this. There will be a huge education process taking place – a lot of it in your part of the world, as you know.

And, just to give you an example of how things have been changing under the section 46 fines: in the last year of your administration, 2011/12, there were 14 issued; so far this year – *so far* this year – 99 fines have been issued.

Supplementary question: *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

Could you tell me how many successful prosecutions there have been in the last three years for fly tipping, littering, and incorrect waste presentation for collection? And, what methods do you have to ensure that, with what you are proposing, you will be able to successfully enforce the actions you propose

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I'm always amazed that Councillors come up with questions of the hoof and expect me to know the answers off the top of my head.

I've just made the point that, in terms of the fines for incorrect waste presentation, 99 so far this year. I can tell you last year there were 97 and the year before there were 60. Obviously, I can't give the other information but if you care to write in I can give you those answers.

60 : URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to report.

61 : APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Council was recommended to approve the appointment of the uncontested Local Authority School Governors as listed in the Appendix to the report. It was proposed that the appointments to Cantonian High School, Cathays High School and Albany Road Primary School be deferred and considered by the Local Authority Governors Panel which will oversee the appointments process.

RESOLVED - That

- (1) the appointments to Cantonian High School, Cathays High School and Albany Road Primary School be deferred for consideration by the Local Authority Governors Panel.
- (2) the following appointments of School Governors be approved: -

School	Ward	Start of Vacancy	Appointment Approved
The Glyn Derw Michaelston Federation	Ely/Caerau	15/04/2015	Ms Zenny Saunders
Albany Primary School	Plasnewydd	02/07/2015	Councillor De'Ath
Fairwater Primary School	Fairwater	18/06/2015	Mr Rob Larkins
Glyncoed Primary School	Pentwyn	18/07/2015	Mrs Ceri Veysey
Holy Family RC Primary School	Fairwater	25/03/2015	Mrs Carol Cobert
Kitchener Primary School	Riverside	08/09/2014	Mr Gareth Thomas
Lansdowne Primary School	Canton	16/09/2014	Mrs Sacha Davies

School	Ward	Start of Vacancy	Appointment Approved
Mountstuart Primary School	Butetown	17/07/2014	Miss Ruth Williams
Radnor Primary School	Canton	05/02/2015	Mrs Sheila Ansell
Trelai Primary School	Caerau	02/10/2012	Miss Andrea May
Tredegaville CW Primary School	Adamsdown	09/07/2015	Ms Natalie Atherton-Doyle
Windsor Clive Primary School –	Ely	03/06/2014	Mrs Sarah Rose
Ysgol Pwll Coch	Canton	08/07/2015	Mr Gareth Rees-Thomas
Ysgol Y Berllan Deg	Pentwyn	17/12/2014	Mr Jeremy North
Ysgol Y Wern	Llanishen	27/01/2015	Mr Nicholas Brown
Woodlands High School	Caerau	19/7/2015	Mrs Sarah Selleck
Allensbank Primary School	Gabalfa	20/07/2015	Councillor Holden
Bryn Hafod Primary School	Llanrumney	16/09/2015	Councillor Derrick Morgan
Glyncoed Primary School	Pentwyn	22/09/2015	Mr Gary Mitchell
Llanedeyrn Primary School	Pentwyn	16/09/2015	Councillor Carter
Marlborough Primary School	Penylan	22/09/2015 22/09/2015 22/09/2015	Councillor Kelloway Mrs Freda Salway Councillor Burfoot
Stacey Primary School	Adamsdown	16/09/2015 22/09/2015	Councillor Howells Ms Belver Adamson

62 : POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Council was notified of a change in the political balance in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended in 1991. Notification was received from the Plaid Cymru Group on 25 June 2015 that Councillor Holden had joined the Group with effect from 25 June 2015. This effected a change in the composition of the Plaid Cymru Group.

On 30 June 2015 a By Election was held in the Pentyrch Ward and Councillor Gavin Hill-John was elected as a Conservative Group member.

The Council was advised of the changes to the allocation of the seats on committees as agreed at the Annual Council on 21 May 2015 following the change in Composition of the Council in line with the relevant provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Section 15) and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

The Council having determined the allocation of political groups on a Committee, must in accordance with Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 give effect to the wishes of the party groups with regard to the identities of the persons who are nominated by that Group to take up existing vacancies on Committees.

Under the rules on political balance, the Council may adopt an alternative arrangement to strict political proportionality for the allocation of seats on Committees and distribute seats on a different basis provided that notice of such proposal is given in the Council Summons, and the alternative arrangement is approved by Council, without any Member voting against the arrangement (referred to as a '*nem con*' vote). Notice of this had been given on the Council Summons to effect the alternative arrangement for the distribution of seats on Committees as detailed in Appendix A.

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the details of the political balance of the Council as set out in Table 1 of the report be noted;
- (2) the alternative arrangements' for the allocation of seats on each Committee as set out in Appendix A and agreed by Party Group Whips on 13 July 2015 be approved;
- (3) the Committee Membership as detailed in Appendix B to the report be noted;
- (4) effect be given to the nominations to vacancies and changes received from party groups to the Committee Membership as follows:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Nominations</u>
Democratic Services Committee	Councillor Robson
Environmental Scrutiny	Councillor Gordon Councillor Hill-John
Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny	Councillor White

Changes to Current Membership

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Nomination</u>	<u>To replace</u>
Constitution Committee	Councillor Dianne Rees	Councillor Cowan
Community & Adult Services Scrutiny	Councillor Hudson	Councillor Graham Thomas
Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee	Councillor McKerlich	Councillor Cowan

- (5) the nomination to the vacancy for Chair of Environmental Scrutiny Committee be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

63 : URGENT DECISION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF (I) CANTONIAN HIGH SCHOOL AND (II) UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL 2017

The Council received for information the following urgent officer decisions taken in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rule 13(a) in respect of (i) Cantonian High School; and (ii) UEFA Champions League Finals 2017

RESOLVED – That the urgent officer decisions taken in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rule 13(a) in respect of (i) Cantonian High School; and (ii) UEFA Champions League Finals 2017 be noted.

(The Meeting finished at 21.05pm)

64 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CO-OPERATIVES AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
(COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

Some local authorities in the UK have introduced a condition for library membership whereby library patrons have to consent to allowing their data to be passed to third parties. Please can you confirm that this is not the case in Cardiff, and that you will categorically rule out introducing such a condition?

Reply

I can confirm that library membership data is used solely for internal purposes by the Council – i.e. for consultation and information regarding council services. Whilst there may well be a commercial value to this information, we do not consider it in the best interests of our members to pass this information on to third parties.

CORPORATE SERVICES AND PERFORMANCE (COUNCILLOR GRAHAM HINCHEY)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

In light of the imminent restrictions on use of the County Hall car park and considering the need to encourage more people to leave their cars at home, will you agree to register the Council for Cyclescheme? This allows employees to get bikes and accessories tax-free, saving on average about half the cost. It's completely free to join, and easy to administer online.

Reply

The Council has previously had cycle salary sacrifice schemes in place for employees. Both schemes were provided and financed by external companies. The most recent scheme was provided by Cyclescheme Ltd. and finance for the scheme

was provided by a third party. The contract for this scheme came to an end in March 2012 and the Council has not had a scheme in place since that time.

As part of the work being undertaken to implement a new parking scheme at County Hall, the feasibility of a new contract is being explored and it is hoped that, in due course, this will be available again to employees.

Additional cycle parking has been installed on site to support the growing number of cyclists at County Hall and both pool cycles and cycle training are available for employees and Members who wish to use bikes whilst undertaking their duties.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

Has any further thought been given to introducing e-payslips for council staff where possible?

Reply

Yes – when this matter was raised by you in a previous Written Question back in January 2014, you were advised that, at that time, a viable business case could not be made in view of the considerable upfront implementation and on-going support costs required by our Technology Partner.

However, I can confirm that further options are actively being investigated and it is anticipated that a viable solution can be developed and the phased introduction of E-Payslips could commence during the latter part of this financial year. There will be consultation on implementation with the Trade Unions and Members will also be kept informed.

In the meantime, we have successfully transferred approximately 3,000 staff from 4 weekly to monthly payment, thereby reducing postage and stationery costs and have also reviewed our distribution methods in order to reduce the number of payslips sent by post.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

What is the total annual cost of each position on the Council more senior than assistant director, including salary and other contributions made by the Council? Please specify the individual amounts and also the total cost.

Reply

Based on the new Tier 1 Senior Management Team structure that was agreed in February 2015, the following salaries apply (figures include on costs of pension and National Insurance employer contributions):

POSITION	SALARY COSTS (£) (INCL. ON COSTS)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	230,000

CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES	175,000
DIRECTOR CITY OPERATIONS	162,000
DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES, HOUSING & CUSTOMER SERVICES	162,000
DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	162,000
DIRECTOR EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING	162,000
DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES	162,000
DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE & LEGAL SERVICES	162,000
TOTAL	1,377,000

EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (COUNCILLOR SUE LENT)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How many people are on the list from which chairs of child protection conferences are chosen?

Reply

There are 13 officers within the Council's Safeguarding Unit who have responsibility for chairing child protection conferences.

EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How many staff work in the youth service now in comparison to on 01-05-2012 and how many have been lost since 2015 budget day?

Reply

According to the Council's establishment in May 2012, there were 126.95 FTE employed in the Youth Service. 31.46 FTE were released on voluntary severance at the end of March 2015 following approval of the 2015/16 budget by the Council on 26 February 2015.

As of May 2015, there were 55.63 FTE employed in the Youth Service.

To put this in context, you will be aware that the Council has had to make over £85 million in savings during the last three years, as well as savings of £41 million in 2015/16. As a result, the Council and partners is developing a new model for Youth Services as part of a wider youth offer for young people in Cardiff. The proposed model will be delivered less directly by the Council and will involve the local authority and community and youth organisations working together to provide services, including more targeted support and funding being provided through 15 Youth Innovation Grants to support an open access youth provision.

ENVIRONMENT (COUNCILLOR BOB DERBYSHIRE)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

How many residents in Penylan were consulted about the specific changes they would face to their own individual waste collection method (as opposed to being consulted about the general principles of the waste strategy)?

Reply

Let's be clear, we are dealing with waste collection changes affecting 152,000 households across the whole city, not just changes in Penylan. It would be unrealistic to gauge every single opinion from every resident of Cardiff.

We live in the real world and take consultation seriously, but it needs a sensible approach. That is why we undertook three separate city wide consultation exercises in the lead up to these changes.

The changes are based on the most cost effective and efficient changes to the waste collections. Yes, we have to make difficult decisions, but they are the right decisions for the city, not just for an unhappy few.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

It took Penylan's Lib Dem councillors just three evenings to survey the network of streets that currently use bags, in order to gauge the level of opposition or support to the new bins. Why did the administration not consider carrying out its own survey of those streets in the city where the imposition of bins was certain to be controversial?

Reply

As I made clear in answer to your previous written question, we are making changes to over 152,000 households on a city wide basis. We need to provide the most cost effective and efficient service for the city. We can't afford to provide every household with an individually tailored service.

These are changes that should have been addressed back in 2010, but the previous Lib Dem-Plaid Cymru administration failed to deliver what was needed for our city. Sometimes, you need to make difficult decisions to protect the greater good and the current Labour administration is not afraid to take those decisions.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

One section of road in the Roath Mill Gardens Conservation Area will, sensibly, be allowed to continue using bags. Another section of the very same road, together with other roads in the Conservation Area, will have to use bins. Is this logical or consistent?

Reply

The new service is based on the most cost effective round sizes for each waste stream and the number of properties that a vehicle can service in each shift.

We have accommodated properties with no frontages and also had discussions with our conservation officer. Where properties within conservation areas have sufficient frontage space and/or access to the rear of the properties, then bins have been implemented.

Where a particular road has two different schemes, this is because of operational efficiencies, rather than as a result of it being part of a conservation area.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

How many times have refuse collections been missed in my ward of Gabalfa? Please show breakdown in number per street per year?

Reply

We do not hold the information on a street-by-street basis, but each month the number of missed collections ranges from two to five households. This is very low considering the number of households in your ward and the fact that we carry out six different collections per fortnight to every household.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

Has the number of missed refuse collections gone up or down over last ten years? Please give details for every year there is data for?

Reply

Forgive me if I don't list 10 years' worth of missed collections data per month in my written answer. However, I can confirm that the number of queries from missed collections has been fairly constant at just over 1,000 per month for the last few years. This level has been constant since before changes were implemented in 2011, when the collection days were rebalanced and changed from 5 to 6 collections per fortnight for each household.

The percentage of collections completed as scheduled is extremely high at 99.99% based on data collected by C2C (just over 300 missed collection queries and 450,000 collections per week).

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

Please give details of visitor numbers for Wedal Road recycling plant over last ten years? If possible, express in terms of numbers per month and summarise how many are unique users.

Reply

We do not hold this level of detail. However, a recent survey undertaken from 4th to 19th April 2015 identified that the site user numbers at the Wedal Road Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) ranged from 1,454 to 1,960 per week. This can

range from 202 to 289 users per day. To put this in context, a snapshot survey of usage on 1st May 2014 recorded 425 users of the Wedal Road HWRC.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

How many times have the park gates on Roath lake been forgotten to be closed at night in last ten years?

Reply

I am not aware of any occasions when the locking of the gates to Roath Park has been forgotten. The gates are not locked on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

How many reports have we had over last five years either to pest control or c2c with regards to rats in Gabalfa ward? Express in terms of number per month and breakdown to street by street if possible.

Reply

All requests for service for rodents that are received by the Council's Pest Control team are given priority and are dealt with on a city wide basis. The related data is not broken down by ward so I am unable to provide you with the level of detail which you have requested. However, I am advised that Gabalfa is not one of the areas for which we receive a high number of calls.

The figures relating to requests to deal with rats in Cardiff for the last five years are listed below:

2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
1305	1022	1118	942	1312

It should be noted that Cardiff residents are not obliged to use the Council's pest control service to deal with rodents and can treat the problem themselves or use an alternative provider. Therefore, the figures provided above do not necessarily provide an indication of the extent of a rodent problem within the city.

LEADER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS (COUNCILLOR PHIL BALE)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHAUNDY

Residents of Llanedeyrn were delighted to hear one of their councillor's bids under the Neighbourhood Renewal programme was successful in regard to a play area in the Llanedeyrn area. However, since the announcement of the successful bid in October 2013, no more has been discussed about this project with ward councillors and residents are keen for matters to be progressed. Could the Cabinet member advise when a meeting to progress this project will be held please so that local residents can be informed?

Reply

I can confirm that the play area at Coed y Gores, Llanedeyrn is included in the 2014-2017 Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes programme. The notification letter you received in October 2013 outlined that this project was programmed for 2016/17.

Subject to confirmation of funding for neighbourhood renewal schemes in the 2016/17 capital programme, officers will be in touch with local councillors at the start of the next financial year to discuss the project idea in more detail.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

Last month's meeting saw the embarrassing spectacle where a member of the public asked, quite appropriately, a public question to a Cabinet Member, who refused to give them a proper answer. Were you ashamed by your Cabinet Member's conduct?

If the Public Questions agendum now comes with conditions attached, will you make clear what those conditions are, so that members of the public considering submitting questions in the future don't have to waste their time traipsing to City Hall only to be ignored by your Cabinet?

Reply

Not at all. This is not the first time that a public questioner, who also happened to be an election candidate, has used the provision for Public Questions to further his or her electoral campaign in the Council Chamber and on the public webcast. However, concerns were raised by Cabinet colleagues about whether this provision should apply when the meeting of Council occurs so close to polling day.

The rules governing Public Questions are set out in the Council Meeting Procedure Rules within the Constitution and this is published on the Council's website. They are also communicated to public questioners by Democratic Services staff in advance of the meeting. Nevertheless, this is a matter which could certainly be reviewed by the Constitution Committee in order to help clarify expectations on both sides about how Public Questions should work best in terms of promoting public engagement with council business.

Chair _____

Date: _____