



DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD  
CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF

**COUNCIL SUMMONS**

THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2024

**GWYS Y CYNGOR**

DYDD IAU, 25 IONAWR 2024,

You are summoned to attend a multi location meeting of the **COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF** which will be held at Council Chamber - County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, CF10 4UW on Thursday, 25 January 2024 at 4.30 pm to transact the business set out in the agenda attached.

**D Marles**  
**Interim Monitoring Officer**

County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Friday, 19 January 2024

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Promotion of equality and respect for others | Objectivity and propriety | Selflessness and stewardship  
Integrity | Duty to uphold the law | Accountability and openness

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<i>Item</i>		<i>Approx Time</i>	<i>Max Time Allotted</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <i>To receive apologies for absence.</i>	4.30 pm	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> <i>To receive declarations of interest (such declarations to be made in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct)</i>		
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes (Pages 9 - 28)</b> <i>To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting.</i>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Public Questions</b> <i>To receive previously notified questions from Members of the Public.</i>	4.30 pm	5 mins
<b>5</b>	<b>Petitions</b> <i>To receive petitions from Elected Members to Council.</i>	4.35 pm	5 mins
<b>6</b>	<b>Lord Mayor's Announcements</b> <i>To receive the Lord Mayor's announcements including Recognitions and Awards.</i>	4.40 pm	5 mins
<b>7</b>	<b>Governance &amp; Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/2023 (Pages 29 - 60)</b>	4.45 pm	10 mins
<b>8</b>	<b>Cabinet Statements (Pages 61 - 108)</b> <i>To receive statements from the Leader and Cabinet Members</i>	4.55 pm	45 mins
<b>Break - 17:40pm</b>			
<b>9</b>	<b>Notice of Motion - 1</b> <b>Proposed by Councillor Lancaster</b> <b>Seconded by Councillor Melbourne</b>  <i>This Council notes:</i>	5.55 pm	30 mins

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Local Government funding is devolved to the Welsh Government.</i></li> <li>• <i>Cardiff has had the second highest increase in settlement from the Welsh Government of 4.1%, above the Welsh average.</i></li> <li>• <i>The increase in settlement by Welsh Government is partially offset by their withdrawal of some grant support.</i></li> <li>• <i>A projected funding gap of £30.5M for the forthcoming financial year.</i></li> </ul> <p><b><i>This Council further notes:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Council Tax rises place financial pressure on all households, particularly lower income ones.</i></li> <li>• <i>Non-Domestic Rates collected in Cardiff are pooled centrally by the Welsh Government and redistributed around Wales. Cardiff receives back less than it contributes.</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposals in the budget consultation include reduction in frontline services.</i></li> </ul> <p><b><i>This Council resolves:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To listen to residents’ needs &amp; focus on protecting and improving core services, with the need to keep Council Tax as low as possible and deliver value for money.</i></li> <li>• <i>To oppose three-weekly black bin collections, charging a separate fee for the collection of garden waste, removal of litter bins and reduction of street cleaning.</i></li> <li>• <i>To eliminate our funding gap and improve core services by negotiating with Welsh Government to retain 100% of the Non-Domestic Rates collected by Cardiff Council.</i></li> </ul>		
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Notice of Motion - 2</b></p> <p><b>Proposed by Councillor Rodney Berman Seconded by Councillor Robert Hopkins</b></p> <p><i>This Council notes that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>In financial year 2023-2024, one special school, 35 primary schools and two secondary schools set deficit budgets at the outset.</i></li> <li>2) <i>Many other schools were able to set a balanced budget only through the one-off use of their</i></li> </ol>	<p>6.25 pm</p>	<p>30 mins</p>

reserves.

- 3) *The proportion of schools having to set a deficit budget is unprecedented.*
- 4) *Given the concerns expressed about the significant budget gap for the council as a whole in 2024-2025 and warnings given to the council's school budget forum, there are widespread fears that the situation will only worsen with even more schools falling into deficit.*
- 5) *Employee costs account for between 80% and 90% of schools' budgets.*
- 6) *Schools are still continuing to work hard to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and are dealing with multiple demands and pressures as a result. These demands include the need to: improve attendance which at the end of the 2023 academic year was 6% below pre-pandemic levels in secondary schools and 5% in primary schools; engage with families to increase support for vulnerable pupils; improve help for the mental health and well-being of children and young people.*
- 7) *Schools' leaders and teachers are heavily involved in the implementation of curriculum reform and reform to the provision for pupils with additional learning needs.*
- 8) *The current Medium Term Financial Plan places the council on a continuing trajectory of significantly increasing its level of borrowing together with associated revenue costs, whilst the Cabinet has also recently committed to fund around half of its agreed £27.3 million capital contribution towards the planned new Indoor Arena through undertaking additional borrowing, and this is having a significant knock-on effect on the availability of revenue funding for key council services including for schools' delegated budgets. £1.5 million of annual revenue funding is already contained within the council's base revenue budget to cover borrowing costs associated with the Indoor Arena project and the Cabinet has now agreed that the revenue provision for this borrowing in the budget should increase to £2.9 million a year during the construction phase and early years of the project.*

*This Council believes that:*

- 1) *All schools must have the resources necessary to maintain a high quality of education.*

	<p>2) <i>This requires a level of delegated funding that will avoid damaging job losses and safeguard the capacity of schools to meet the needs of all their pupils.</i></p> <p>3) <i>The Welsh Government should develop a longer-term Covid-19 recovery plan that recognises the impact that the pandemic has had, and continues to have, on each and every school.</i></p> <p>4) <i>Action is needed if Cardiff is to protect its status as the UK's first city to be awarded Child Friendly City Status.</i></p> <p>5) <i>A situation where schools increasingly need to rely on setting deficit budgets to operate is simply not sustainable.</i></p> <p><i>This Council calls on the Cabinet to bring forward a funding strategy as part of the Council's future budget consideration that ensures Cardiff's schools can be more adequately funded in order that the proportion of the city's schools that need to set deficit budgets can be substantially reduced</i></p>		
11	<p><b>Notice of Motion - 3</b></p> <p><b>Proposed by Councillor Moultrie Seconded by Councillor Green</b></p> <p><i>Local Authorities across the country such as Cardiff are currently preparing their annual budgets for 2024/25.</i></p> <p><i>After 13 years of public sector austerity by the Conservative-led UK Government, exacerbated in recent years by the continued impact of Brexit, the long tail of the Pandemic, rampant inflation, and stagnant growth, Councils now face unprecedented levels of demand but wholly insufficient funding. Such is the severity of the situation, that several councils in England have issued Section 114 notices to severely curtail day-to-day spending.</i></p> <p><i>Cardiff Council has faced a cumulative budget gap of over £300 million since 2010, and prudent, decisive action has been needed to protect the Council's financial resilience, whilst still delivering an ambitious Stronger, Fairer, Greener vision.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, the Council notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The continued improvements delivered within our schools, which has seen a dramatic reduction in the number of schools in Estyn Monitoring, NEET figures held at near historically low levels, exam</i></li> </ul>	6.55 pm	30 mins

*results now comfortably above the Welsh average, and the sustained investment over 11 years into both our schools and the Education estate.*

- *The progress made in support of children who are looked after, in particular the careful expansion of kinship care, and the delivery of the accommodation strategy. This work is improving the Council's ability to home and care for our most vulnerable young people closer to home.*
- *The rebuilding of our Youth Service capacity, with budget growth across multiple years, and proposed protection to the service in the forthcoming financial year, enabling the service to build on the success of initiatives like the Cardiff Commitment and the UNICEF Child-Friendly City award to ensure all our young people, regardless of background, can benefit from the opportunities our city offers.*
- *The pioneering partnership work between our Social Services teams and the NHS which enables timely discharges from hospital to mitigate against Winter Pressures. This partnership ensures our older people - particularly those with conditions such as dementia - get the specialised care they need, and which is supporting people to live independently at home, with a better quality of life, for longer.*
- *The success of our award winning Council House building programme, which is transforming lives and communities in every part of Cardiff, and which is also supporting the delivery – at scale – of innovative and rapid housing solutions to help address the latest homelessness crisis affecting all cities.*
- *All of this is and more is delivered with the Council setting amongst the lowest Council Tax levels in Wales.*

*Nevertheless, despite the relative protection afforded by the Welsh Government to local authorities, the latest budget round leaves the Council facing significant challenges, and difficult decisions, the results of which residents will feel keenly.*

*Therefore this Council resolves to:*

- *Condemn the continued attack on local government finances by the Conservative UK Government, and the detrimental impact this has on the provision of public services;*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Call on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to announce additional resources targeted at local authorities in his March budget.</i></li> <li>• <i>Endorse the proposed prioritisation of Education and Social Services, as set out within the 2024/25 Budget Update report to Cabinet, but notes any further cuts to local authority funding will leave many non-statutory areas of Council spending essentially “on life-support” until a change of direction is secured at UK Government level.</i></li> <li>• <i>Welcome efforts by Welsh Government to protect Welsh local authorities as far as possible, and calls on the future First Minister to continue this approach, with a particular focus on supporting preventative services.</i></li> </ul>		
<b>12</b>	<b>Oral Questions</b>  <i>To receive oral questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members; Chairs of Committee and/or nominated Members of the Fire Authority.</i>	7.25 pm	80 mins
<b>13</b>	<b>Urgent Business</b>	8.45 pm	
<b>Unopposed Council Business</b>			
<b>14</b>	<b>Committee Membership (Pages 109 - 112)</b>  <i>Report of the Interim Monitoring Officer</i>	8.45 pm	5 mins
<b>15</b>	<b>Appointment of Local Authority Governors to School Governing Bodies Pages 113 - 116)</b>  <i>Report of the Interim Monitoring Officer</i>	8.50 pm	5 mins
<b>16</b>	<b>Written Questions</b>  <i>In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, Rule 17(f) Written Questions received for consideration and response will be included as a record in the minutes of the meeting.</i>		