



DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD  
CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF

**COUNCIL SUMMONS**

THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2024

**GWYS Y CYNGOR**

DYDD IAU, 7 MAWRTH 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, 7 March 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, 1 March 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 5 - 36)</b> <i>To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2024.</i>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Public Questions</b> <i>To receive previously notified questions from Members of the Public.</i>	4.35 pm	5 mins
<b>5</b>	<b>Petitions</b> <i>To receive petitions from Elected Members to Council.</i>	4.40 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>	4.45 pm	10 mins
<b>7</b>	<b>Cardiff Council's Corporate Plan 2024 - 2027 (Pages 37 - 174)</b> <i>Cabinet Proposal</i>	4.55 pm	35 mins
<b>Break (15 minutes)</b>			
<b>8</b>	<b>Budget Proposals 2024 - 2025 (Pages 175 - 698)</b> <b><i>Appendix 4 (b) is exempt from publication because it contains information of the kind described in paragraphs 14 and 21 of parts 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.</i></b>  <i>To receive and approve the Cabinet Budget Proposals for 2024 – 2025</i>	5.45 pm	170 mins

<b>9</b>	<b>Council Tax Premiums</b> ( <i>Pages 699 - 724</i> )  <i>Cabinet Proposal</i>	8.35 pm	15 mins
<b>10</b>	<b>Urgent Business</b>	8.50 pm	
<b>Unopposed Council Business</b>			
<b>11</b>	<b>Committee Membership</b> ( <i>Pages 725 - 728</i> )  <i>Report of the Interim Monitoring Officer</i>	8.50 pm	5 mins
<b>12</b>	<b>Appointment of Members to serve on Outside Bodies</b> ( <i>Pages 729 - 730</i> )  <i>Report of the Interim Monitoring Officer</i>	8.55 pm	5 mins

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## THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY &amp; COUNTY OF CARDIFF

The County Council of the City & County of Cardiff met at County Hall, Cardiff on 25 January 2024 to transact the business set out in the Council summons dated Friday, 19 January 2024.

Present: County Councillor Molik (Lord Mayor)

County Councillors Ahmed, Ahmed, Dilwar Ali, Ash-Edwards, Berman, Boes, Bowen-Thomson, Bradbury, Bridgeman, Brown-Reckless, Burke, Carr, Carter, Chowdhury, Cowan, Cunnah, Davies, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Driscoll, Ebrahim, Elsmore, Ferguson-Thorne, Goodway, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Hinchey, Hopkins, Humphreys, Hunt, Jenkins, Jones, K Jones, Owen Jones, Joyce, Kaaba, Lancaster, Latif, Lay, Lent, Lewis, Lister, Littlechild, Livesy, Lloyd Jones, Mackie, McEvoy, McGarry, Melbourne, Merry, Michael, Moultrie, Naughton, Owen, Palmer, Jackie Parry, Proctor, Reid-Jones, Robinson, Robson, Sangani, Sattar, Shimmin, Simmons, Singh, Stubbs, Taylor, Huw Thomas, Thomson, Lynda Thorne, Waldron, Weaver, Wild, Williams and Wood

## 94 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gibson and Wong.

## 95 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Name	Agenda item no.	Nature of interest	Reason for interest
Cllr Williams	8	Personal and Prejudicial	Member of the council's private rental leasing scheme
Cllr McEvoy	8	Personal	Employment as it involves Children's services and housing disrepair
Cllr Williams	9	Personal	Family Members employed by the Council.
Cllr Naughton	9	Personal	Family member employed by the Council
Cllr Carter	10	Personal	Family member employed in a school in Cardiff
Cllr Naughton	10	Personal	Family member employed in a school in Cardiff
Cllr Hunt	10	Personal	Local Authority School Governor
Cllrs Ali, Ash-Edwards, Berman, Bradbury, Carter, Chowdhury, Cowan,	10	Personal	Local Authority School Governor

Cunnah, De’Ath, Derbyshire, Driscoll, Ebrahim, Elsmore, Ferguson-Thorne, Goodway, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Hinchey, Hopkins, Humphreys, Jackie Jones, Owen Jones, Kaaba, Lancaster, Lent, Lewis, Lister, Helen Lloyd Jones, Mackie, McGarry, Melbourne, Moultrie, Proctor, Reid-Jones, Sangani, Shimmin, Singh, Stubbs, Taylor, Thomas, Thomson, Thorne, Weaver, Wild, Williams and Wong			
Cllr Williams	10	Personal	Family member employed by the Council within Education
Cllr Naughton	11	Personal	Family member employed by the Council.

96 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were approved and signed by the Lord Mayor as a correct record.

97 : PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was one public question.

*Richard Hainsworth to Cabinet Member for Investment and Development, Cllr Goodway*

Despite promises of greater transparency from Cllr Goodway on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022, why are local Cardiff Council taxpayers being deprived of detailed information about the viability of the Arena and the hotel and the wider Atlantic Wharf development?

*Reply – Cllr Goodway*

Lord Mayor, I do not accept the assertion that the Council has failed to be completely transparent regarding the costs and viability of the Arena development. The Council’s financial contribution towards the project remains within the financial envelope which was agreed when the original procurement was undertaken, details of which are in the public domain. All subsequent cost increases are being absorbed entirely by the developer.

Despite the recent movement in interest rates which have had a similar global impact on capital projects, including the Arena project, the recently agreed updated funding strategy is still forecast to deliver a small surplus to the Council over the full term of the lease. The lease to Live Nation is backed by a parent company guarantee from the Live Nation Group.

The Arena development is a catalyst for the wider development of Atlantic Wharf. Cabinet is yet to present the costs and financial viability of the wider Atlantic Wharf development as it is only part way through the development of a full business case which I hope to be able to present to Cabinet in the summer. Council will appreciate that where information provided to support a decision contains commercially sensitive information it will remain confidential and will only be made available to decision-makers and those appointed to scrutinise decisions, in order to protect the Council's commercial interests and those of its partners.

*Supplementary question – Richard Hainsworth*

Thank you for the opportunity to ask this supplementary question, we had anticipated an answer of this nature.

I referred to the date 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 when a member of the Atlantic Wharf Residents' Association, Mr Graham Guthridge, also asked the public question and at that time Cllr Goodway said that he would make more available, there would be more detail about the viability of the Arena, and put it into the public domain. Despite this assertion, we have for the last 18 months been trying to find amongst the hundreds of documents that are associated with the whole Atlantic Wharf and Arena development, we have not found any of the information that we thought we had been promised.

So what we're looking at are things like how many people in total does the Council think it's going to be hiring for the Arena, what sort of social funding is going to be available, and I make these questions now because in the last week or so as you will all have noticed when you come in here, roads have been, not closed, there was a closure that caused a tailback, there has been vegetation removed. This whole area is full of quite affluent people with access to lots of lawyers.

We would like, as members of the Atlantic Wharf Residents' Association, some information that we can give to the dozens of people who are now complaining because their personal lives are being affected because the roads are being closed, and what we are looking for are sorts of information that are not commercial, and I do object to some of the ways in which this answer had been given, because it deflects from some of the information that we're asking for. We're asking for concrete data that isn't proprietary, but that will have gone into the viability of the Arena and the whole of the project which could be made public, and if the Council were to provide that information, would make it a lot easier for the residents to put up with the turmoil that's going to be caused by the Arena. The question is, can we get more detailed information?

*Reply – Cllr Goodway*

I will honour the commitment that I gave on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at the appropriate time.

98 : PETITIONS

One petition was received.

<b>Presented by</b>	<b>Number of relevant signatures</b>	<b>Nature of petition</b>
Peter Fortune	275	Maintain or extend the opening hours of Radyr Hub

99 : LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor wished everyone a happy new year and hoped that they had enjoyed some quality time with loved ones during the festive season. Before Christmas, she had attended carol services and other events including the UCAN Fundraising Concert, and since the start of 2024 her duties had included citizenship ceremonies and medal presentations for Kings Awards at Mansion House. These awards recognised some wonderful people who had contributed and achieved greatly through their professional and voluntary work.

The Lord Mayor added that Cardiff was not only a capital city but also a city of sanctuary, and benefitted greatly from its diversity. Across the economy, all sectors benefitted from having a strong and diverse workforce of talents. Migration had been a good thing for Cardiff historically and it would continue to be a strength as the city continued to be welcoming and inclusive. This might bring short term challenges but in order to make long term gains they were prepared to face them. As a migrant herself, she knew that migrants arrived to make better of themselves and contribute to the society they lived in. It was a pleasure to celebrate their dedication and commitment every week during citizenship ceremonies.

On the fundraising front, UCAN Productions had held a concert just before Christmas at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama featuring Rachel Starritt, a blind classical pianist, and many other young artists and talents. This had raised more than £1500, and she thanked all the young people involved and the councillors who had attended the event.

She had also recently attended the Philharmonic Orchestra's 'Night at the Movies' at the New Theatres, which had raised more than £500. The Club 1400 fundraising event at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama had helped to raise over £5000, and she thanked Cllr Chowdhury and the executive team at Club 1400 for their efforts. She also thanked Cllr Michael for arranging a golf fundraiser, and welcomed any further support for UCAN.

100 : GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

Council was asked to note the annual report of the Governance and Audit Committee. The report was proposed by Gavin McArthur, Chair of the Committee.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the report.

RESOLVED: Council AGREED to:

Note the Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/2023.

## 101 : CABINET STATEMENTS

### Leader's Statement

Cllr Thomas responded to questions in relation to:

- the Core Cities UK Cabinet meeting;
- the European Commission's Report on the Quality of Life in European Cities 2023; and
- the economic growth of the city and region.

### Investment and Development Statement

Cllr Goodway responded to questions in relation to:

- the removal of rate relief for hospitality; and
- Cardiff East Park and Ride.

### Tackling Poverty, Equality and Public Health Statement

Cllrs Bradbury and Sangani responded to questions in relation to:

- the 12 week fitness program for children aged 11-17;
- how services for young and vulnerable people were advertised; and
- tackling medical misinformation.

### Transport and Strategic Planning Statement

Cllr De'Ath responded to questions in relation to:

- cycling enforcement on Queen Street;
- the end of the Nextbike scheme;
- temporary pothole repairs; and
- flood prevention works.

### Social Services Statement

Cllrs Mackie and Lister responded to questions in relation to:

- the timeline of becoming a Neurodiverse Friendly City;
- child protection arrangements; and
- hospital discharges.

### Climate Change Statement

Cllr Wild responded to questions in relation to:

- delivery of waste and recycling services;

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- streets transitioning to segregated recycling; and
- taxi emissions.

#### Culture, Parks and Events Statement

Cllr Burke responded to questions in relation to:

- the opening of the Drovers Way play area in Radyr;
- Hammond Way play area in Penylan;
- improvement works on children's playgrounds; and
- the announcement of new skate parks.

#### Finance, Modernisation and Performance Statement

Cllr Weaver responded to questions in relation to:

- how the 2024/25 budget would affect schools;
- public engagement in the budget consultation; and
- the CardiffGov mobile app.

#### Housing and Communities Statement

Cllr Thorne responded to questions in relation to:

- bringing empty homes back into use;
- possible reductions in hours for Community Hubs;
- the condition of homeless accommodation in Cardiff Bay; and
- young adults in temporary accommodation.

### 102 : NOTICE OF MOTION – 1

The Lord Mayor noted that a Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr Lancaster and seconded by Cllr Melbourne had been received for consideration.

The Lord Mayor invited Cllr Lancaster to propose the Motion as follows:

This Council notes:

- Local Government funding is devolved to the Welsh Government.
- Cardiff has had the second highest increase in settlement from the Welsh Government of 4.1%, above the Welsh average.
- The increase in settlement by Welsh Government is partially offset by their withdrawal of some grant support.
- A projected funding gap of £30.5M for the forthcoming financial year.

This Council further notes:

- Council Tax rises place financial pressure on all households, particularly lower income ones.
- Non-Domestic Rates collected in Cardiff are pooled centrally by the Welsh Government and redistributed around Wales. Cardiff receives back less than it contributes.
- Proposals in the budget consultation include reduction in frontline services.

This Council resolves:

- To listen to residents' needs & focus on protecting and improving core services,

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with the need to keep Council Tax as low as possible and deliver value for money.

- 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.
- 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.

The Motion was formally seconded by Cllr Melbourne.

An Amendment to the Motion had been received from the Liberal Democrat Group.

The Lord Mayor called upon Cllr Berman to move the amendment as follows:

Add the following new bullet point at the end of the section headed "This Council further notes":

- As the authority presses ahead with significantly increasing the level of borrowing it undertakes, the revenue costs of servicing that borrowing rise and this can have a knock-on effect by reducing the amount of revenue funding that is then available for the provision of frontline services.

The amended motion would read as follows:

This Council notes:

- Local Government funding is devolved to the Welsh Government.
- Cardiff has had the second highest increase in settlement from the Welsh Government of 4.1% above the Welsh average.
- The increase in settlement by Welsh Government is partially offset by their withdrawal of some grant support.
- A projected funding gap of £30.5M for the forthcoming financial year.

This Council further notes:

- Council Tax rises place financial pressures on all households, particularly lower income ones.
- Non-Domestic Rates collected in Cardiff are pooled centrally by the Welsh Government and redistributed around Wales. Cardiff receives back less than it contributes.
- Proposals in the budget consultation include reduction in front line services.
- As the authority presses ahead with significantly increasing the level of borrowing it undertakes, the revenue costs of servicing that borrowing rise and this can have a knock-on effect by reducing the amount of revenue funding that is then available for the provision of frontline services.

This Council resolves:

- To listen to residents' needs & focus on protecting and improving core services with the need to keep Council Tax as low as possible and deliver value for money.
- 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.
- To eliminate our funding gap and improve core services by negotiating with Welsh Government to retain 100% of the on-Domestic Rates collected by

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Cardiff Council.

The Amendment was formally seconded by Cllr Carter.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the Motion and Amendment.

The Lord Mayor invited Cllr Lancaster to respond to the issues raised during the debate. He confirmed that the Amendment was accepted.

The Lord Mayor called for a vote on the Substantive Motion as amended by Cllr Berman and seconded by Cllr Carter.

FOR (20)

Councillors Berman, Brown-Reckless, Carter, Cowan, Davies, Driscoll, Hopkins, Lancaster, Latif, Littlechild, Melbourne, Naughton, Owen, Reid-Jones, Robson, Shimmin, Taylor, Waldron, Williams and Wood

AGAINST (50)

Councillors Ali Ahmed, Saleh Ahmed, Ali, Ash-Edwards, Boes, Bowen-Thomson, Bradbury, Bridgeman, Burke, Carr, Cunnah, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Ebrahim, Elsmore, Ferguson-Thorne, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Hinchey, Humphreys, Hunt, Jenkins, Jackie Jones, Keith Jones, Owen Jones, Joyce, Kaaba, Lay, Lewis, Lister, Mackie, McGarry, Merry, Michael, Moultrie, Palmer, Proctor, Robinson, Sangani, Sattar, Simmons, Singh, Stubbs, Thomas, Thomson, Thorne, Weaver and Wild

ABSTAIN (1)

Councillor Livesy

The vote on the Motion was LOST.

103 : NOTICE OF MOTION - 2

The Lord Mayor noted that a Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr Berman and seconded by Cllr Hopkins had been received for consideration.

The Lord Mayor invited Cllr Berman to propose the Motion as follows:

This Council notes that:

- 1) In financial year 2023-2024, one special school, 35 primary schools and two secondary schools set deficit budgets at the outset.
- 2) Many other schools were able to set a balanced budget only through the one-off use of their 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

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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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Action is needed if Cardiff is to protect its status as the UK's first city to be awarded Child Friendly City Status.
- 5) A situation where schools increasingly need to rely on setting deficit budgets to operate is simply not sustainable.

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.

The Motion was formally seconded by Cllr Hopkins.

An Amendment to the Motion had been received from the Labour Group.

The Lord Mayor called upon Cllr Merry to move the amendment as follows:

After 'This Council notes', add the following:

1. Education has been a key priority of the current administration.
  2. Education in Cardiff made strides in education over the last ten years going from below the Welsh average on many of the key performance indicators to above – progress that was recognised during the latest Estyn inspection. Cardiff has also recently been recognised as the first UNICEF Child Friendly City in the UK for prioritising the voices of children and young people.
  3. Cardiff has the highest delegation rate to schools in Wales and education and social services accounted for 66% of the council's budget in 2023/24 with the council has seeking to protect funding for education and services for
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our most vulnerable children.

4. Funding of our schools not only comes from the local authority but a significant component comes from grants from Welsh Government which have reduced in value over the last few years. We are waiting to hear the outcome of the reorganisations of grants being undertaken to simplify the process for schools but this must protect funding for our most vulnerable pupils.

Combine bullet points 1-5 and delete and amend as below:

5. In financial year 2023-2024, one special school, 35 primary schools and two secondary schools set deficit budgets at the outset

**Insert** *this is a situation repeated across the UK. With many other schools **Delete** were able to set a balanced budget only through the one-off use of their reserves.*

**Delete** *The proportion of schools having to set a deficit budget is unprecedented. 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*

**Insert** *with widespread fears that the situation will only worsen with even more schools falling into deficit. The teacher's pay increase should be fully funded by the Welsh Government*

6. Employee costs account for between 80% and 90% of schools' budgets.

7. Schools are still continuing to work hard to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic

**Insert** *and the cost of living crisis*

*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.*

**Insert** *We note the importance of the partnership working between education youth and children's services at a time when budgets are under pressure.*

8. Schools' leaders and teachers are heavily involved in the implementation of curriculum reform and reform to the provision for pupils with additional learning needs

**Insert** *The Welsh Government should ensure it adequately funds curriculum and ALN reform.*

9. **Insert** *We thank school leaders for their work on the budget forum and working parties given the concerns about addressing the current financial situation. It is absolutely essential that while calling for more funding for education we continue to work together with our schools to protect children and young people and to continue to deliver improvements in education through innovative practice such as that shown by Cardiff Commitment.*

10. **Delete** *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*

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- provision for this borrowing in the budget should increase to £2.9 million a year during the construction phase and early years of the*
11. **Insert** *This council notes the recent letter to the UK Government by 40 MP's asking for further funding for local authorities and calls on the council to continue to lobby Welsh Government and the UK Government over the importance of funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children*

This Council believes that:

- 1) All schools must have the resources necessary to maintain a high quality of education.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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  
**Insert** *and work collaboratively with local Government to address the impact of Covid 19 and the cost of living crisis on our children and young people.*
- 4) **Delete** *Action is needed if Cardiff is to protect its status as the UK's first city to be awarded Child Friendly City Status. Insert Cardiff will continue to ensure that in line with our Child Friendly City Status the voices of young people are heard when deciding funding priorities.*
- 5) A situation where schools increasingly need to rely on setting deficit budgets to operate is simply not sustainable.  
**Insert** *Cardiff Council will continue to prioritise Education funding and will work with and engage with our school leaders and Governors to support them in setting balanced budgets whilst maintaining and improving standards and protecting the best interests of our children.*

**Delete**

*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.*

**Insert**

*This Council calls on the Council to write to both the UK and Welsh Government in line with the recent letter by 40 Conservative MPs to Rishi Sunak for further funding for councils to avoid cuts in services.*

*This Council calls on the Council to sign up to the NAHT's 'In this Together' pledge – committing to work with the education workforce to lobby for more funding to better education for all.*

The amended motion would read as follows:

This Council notes:

1. Education has been a key priority of the current administration.
2. Education in Cardiff made strides in education over the last ten years going from below the Welsh average on many of the key performance indicators to above – progress that was recognised during the latest Estyn inspection. Cardiff has also recently been recognised as the first UNICEF Child Friendly City in the UK for prioritising the voices of children and young people.
3. Cardiff has the highest delegation rate to schools in Wales and education and social services accounted for 66% of the council's budget in 2023/24

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with the council has seeking to protect funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children.

4. Funding of our schools not only comes from the local authority but a significant component comes from grants from Welsh Government which have reduced in value over the last few years. We are waiting to hear the outcome of the reorganisations of grants being undertaken to simplify the process for schools but this must protect funding for our most vulnerable pupils.
5. In financial year 2023-2024, one special school, 35 primary schools and two secondary schools set deficit budgets at the outset this is a situation repeated across the UK. With many other schools able to set a balanced budget only through the one-off use of their reserves. with widespread fears that the situation will only worsen with even more schools falling into deficit. The teacher's pay increase should be fully funded by the Welsh Government.
6. Employee costs account for between 80% and 90% of schools' budgets.
7. Schools are still continuing to work hard to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis 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. We note the importance of the partnership working between education youth and children's services at a time when budgets are under pressure.
8. Schools' leaders and teachers are heavily involved in the implementation of curriculum reform and reform to the provision for pupils with additional learning needs The Welsh Government should ensure it adequately funds curriculum and ALN reform.
9. We thank school leaders for their work on the budget forum and working parties given the concerns about addressing the current financial situation. It is absolutely essential that while calling for more funding for education we continue to work together with our schools to protect children and young people and to continue to deliver improvements in education through innovative practice such as that shown by Cardiff Commitment.
10. This council notes the recent letter to the UK Government by 40 MP's asking for further funding for local authorities and calls on the council to continue to lobby Welsh Government and the UK Government over the importance of funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children.

This Council believes that:

1. All schools must have the resources necessary to maintain a high quality of education.
2. 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.
3. 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 and work collaboratively with local Government to address the impact of Covid 19 and the cost of living crisis on our children and young people.
4. Cardiff will continue to ensure that in line with our Child Friendly City Status the voices of young people are heard when deciding funding priorities.
5. A situation where schools increasingly need to rely on setting deficit budgets to operate is simply not sustainable. Cardiff Council will continue to prioritise Education funding, and will work with and engage with our school leaders

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and Governors to support them in setting balanced budgets whilst maintaining and improving standards and protecting the best interests of our children.

This Council calls on the Council to write to both the UK and Welsh Government in line with the recent letter by 40 Conservative MPs to Rishi Sunak for further funding for councils to avoid cuts in services.

This Council calls on the Council to sign up to the NAHT's 'In this Together' pledge – committing to work with the education workforce to lobby for more funding to better education for all.

The Amendment was formally seconded by Cllr Bridgeman.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the Motion and Amendment.

The Lord Mayor invited Cllr Berman to respond to the issues raised during the debate. He confirmed that the Amendment was not accepted.

The Lord Mayor called for a vote on the Amendment.

#### FOR (49)

Councillors Ali Ahmed, Saleh Ahmed, Ali, Ash-Edwards, Boes, Bowen-Thomson, Bradbury, Bridgeman, Burke, Carr, Chowdhury, Cunnah, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Ebrahim, Elsmore, Ferguson-Thorne, Goodway, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Humphreys, Hunt, Jenkins, Jackie Jones, Keith Jones, Owen Jones, Joyce, Kaaba, Lay, Lister, Mackie, McGarry, Merry, Michael, Moultrie, Palmer, Parry, Proctor, Robinson, Sangani, Sattar, Simmons, Stubbs, Thomas, Thomson, Thorne, Weaver and Wild

#### AGAINST (23)

Councillors Berman, Brown-Reckless, Carter, Cowan, Davies, Driscoll, Hinchey, Hopkins, Lancaster, Latif, Littlechild, Livesy, McEvoy, Melbourne, Naughton, Owen, Reid-Jones, Robson, Shimmin, Taylor, Waldron, Williams and Wood

#### ABSTAIN (0)

The vote on the Amendment was CARRIED.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the Motion as amended by Cllr Merry and seconded by Cllr Bridgeman.

The Lord Mayor called for a vote on the Motion

#### FOR (58)

Councillors Ali Ahmed, Saleh Ahmed, Ali, Ash-Edwards, Berman, Boes, Bowen-Thomson, Bradbury, Bridgeman, Burke, Carr, Carter, Cunnah, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Ebrahim, Elsmore, Ferguson-Thorne, Goodway, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Hopkins, Humphreys, Hunt, Jenkins, Jackie Jones, Keith Jones, Owen Jones, Joyce, Kaaba, Latif, Lay, Lewis, Lister, Livesy, Mackie, McGarry, Merry, Michael, Moultrie,

Naughton, Palmer, Proctor, Robinson, Sangani, Shimmin, Simmons, Singh, Stubbs, Taylor, Thomas, Thomson, Thorne, Waldron, Weaver, Wild and Wood

AGAINST (14)

Councillors Brown-Reckless, Cowan, Davies, Driscoll, Hinchey, Lancaster, Littlechild, McEvoy, Melbourne, Owen, Reid-Jones, Robson, Sattar and Williams

ABSTAIN (0)

The vote on the Motion was CARRIED.

104 : NOTICE OF MOTION - 3

The Lord Mayor noted that a Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr Moultrie and seconded by Cllr Green had been received for consideration.

The Lord Mayor invited Cllr Moultrie to propose the Motion as follows:

Local Authorities across the country such as Cardiff are currently preparing their annual budgets for 2024/25.

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.

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.

In particular, the Council notes:

- 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 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

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- 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:

1. 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;
2. Call on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to announce additional resources targeted at local authorities in his March budget.
3. 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.
4. 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.

The Motion was formally seconded by Cllr Green.

An Amendment to the Motion had been received from the Liberal Democrat Group.

The Lord Mayor called upon Cllr Taylor to move the amendment as follows:

The amendment makes revisions to the final two bullet points of the motion under "Therefore this Council resolves to:". The revised wording is provided below.

- Bring forward a funding strategy to ensure adequate funding for the city's schools with the proportion of schools needing to set deficit budgets significantly reduced, ensure that the 2024-2025 budget provides protection for Social Services, 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.
- Call on the future First Minister to do more to protect local government funding, with a particular focus on supporting preventative services, noting that, as highlighted by the Welsh Local Government Association, real terms funding for Welsh local government was 12% lower in 2023-24 than in 2009- 10 against a backdrop of a 5% real terms increase in the overall Welsh Government budget during the same period.

The amended motion would read as follows:

Local Authorities across the country such as Cardiff are currently preparing their annual budgets for 2024/25.

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.

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.

In particular, the Council notes:

- 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 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;
- Call on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to announce additional resources targeted at local authorities in his March budget.
- Bring forward a funding strategy to ensure adequate funding for the city's schools with the proportion of schools needing to set deficit budgets significantly reduced, ensure that the 2024-2025 budget provides protection for Social Services, but notes any further cuts to local authority funding will leave

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many non-statutory areas of Council spending essentially “on life-support” until a change of direction is secured at UK Government level.

- Call on the future First Minister to do more to protect local government funding, with a particular focus on supporting preventative services, noting that, as highlighted by the Welsh Local Government Association, real terms funding for Welsh local government was 12% lower in 2023-24 than in 2009- 10 against a backdrop of a 5% real terms increase in the overall Welsh Government budget during the same period.

The Amendment was formally seconded by Cllr Berman.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the Motion and Amendment.

The Lord Mayor invited Cllr Moultrie to respond to the issues raised during the debate. She confirmed that the Amendment was not accepted.

The Lord Mayor called for a vote on the Amendment.

FOR (16)

Councillors Berman, Boes, Carter, Derbyshire, Elsmore, Hopkins, Latif, Livesy, McEvoy, Naughton, Shimmin, Singh, Stubbs, Taylor, Waldron and Wood

AGAINST (58)

Councillors Ali Ahmed, Saleh Ahmed, Ali, Ash-Edwards, Bowen-Thomson, Bradbury, Bridgeman, Brown-Reckless, Burke, Carr, Chowdhury, Cowan, Cunnah, Davies, De’Ath, Driscoll, Ebrahim, Ferguson-Thorne, Goodway, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Hinchey, Humphreys, Hunt, Jenkins, Jackie Jones, Keith Jones, Owen Jones, Joyce, Kaaba, Lancaster, Lay, Lewis, Lister, Littlechild, Mackie, McGarry, Melbourne, Merry, Michael, Moultrie, Owen, Palmer, Parry, Proctor, Reid-Jones, Robinson, Robson, Sangani, Sattar, Simmons, Thomas, Thomson, Thorne, Weaver, Wild and Williams

ABSTAIN (0)

The vote on the Amendment was LOST.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the Motion.

The Lord Mayor called for a vote on the Motion.

FOR (53)

Councillors Ali Ahmed, Saleh Ahmed, Ali, Ash-Edwards, Boes, Bowen-Thomson, Bradbury, Bridgeman, Burke, Carr, Chowdhury, Cunnah, De’Ath, Derbyshire, Ebrahim, Elsmore, Ferguson-Thorne, Goodway, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Hinchey, Humphreys, Hunt, Jenkins, Jackie Jones, Keith Jones, Owen Jones, Joyce, Kaaba, Lay, Lewis, Lister, Livesy, Mackie, McGarry, Merry, Michael, Moultrie, Palmer, Parry, Proctor, Robinson, Sangani, Sattar, Simmons, Singh, Stubbs, Thomas, Thomson, Thorne, Weaver and Wild

AGAINST (11)

Councillors Brown-Reckless, Cowan, Davies, Driscoll, Lancaster, Littlechild, Melbourne, Owen, Reid-Jones, Robson and Williams

ABSTAIN (9)

Councillors Berman, Carter, Hopkins, Latif, Naughton, Shimmin, Taylor, Waldron and Wood

The vote on the Motion was CARRIED.

105 : ORAL QUESTIONS

*Cllr Davies to Cllr Goodway, Cabinet Member for Investment & Development*

Will the Cabinet Member for Investment & Development provide an update on the status of Cardiff Parkway Station following the call-in of the application by the Welsh Government?

*Reply – Cllr Goodway*

I can confirm that an update to Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) was published on 18 October last, following which the Welsh Ministers requested that the appointed Inspector revisit his previously submitted recommendation that the application be granted, to take account of these policy changes. I understand that the changes related to a bid to strengthen the policy in respect of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

The Council will be aware that on Tuesday 16 January 2024, the appointed Inspector reconvened the hearing, which originally sat in July 2023, and which was attended by council officers, the applicant and interested local groups. I am advised that a detailed discussion on all the relevant issues took place during the hearing.

The Inspector will now submit his revised report to Welsh Ministers. The timescale for Ministerial decision is unknown, but it is hoped that a decision will be taken swiftly to allow this important project to move forward at pace.

Cardiff Parkway's potential impact on the city's economy and that of the region, is clearly demonstrated by the recent statement by Rolls Royce Submarines, which was made available to the Inspector of its intention to locate its base for a new UK satellite office on the St Mellons site. The company has emphasised that in arriving at its decision the company was influenced by the region's current talent pool and Parkway's potential, through its rail infrastructure, to extend their catchment area for talent.

In short, it's a no-brainer this application gets granted and I urge Welsh Ministers to approve the application without further delay.

*Supplementary – Cllr Davies*

It sounds like we agree on much Cllr Goodway because it's an essential piece of infrastructure to grow our regional economy and limit traffic in our congested city centre. Of course, from what I've read, originally this was supposed to be open to the public already this year, but thanks to the Labour Government's decision, you know we're still waiting for spade in the ground. It's a shame really because, along with

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further limiting funds for bus services before franchising, banning road-building and imposing 20mph default speed limits, we see the Labour Government's mad and bad decision-making affecting the ability of councils to pursue paths of economic growth. So would the Cllr agree with me that we need to see less Welsh Government interference in Council decisions, and also could he tell us how many years of delay should we expect because of the current call-in?

*Reply – Cllr Goodway*

I don't expect to wait very long at all because there's already been far too long a delay in getting a decision on this particular matter. I reiterate what I said a few moments ago that, as far as I'm concerned, is that I want to see more devolution to local government and less centralisation, and this is a classic example of the things that ought to be decided at local government level.

*Cllr Latif to Cllr Huw Thomas, Leader of the Council*

Can the council update us as to what actions it has taken since the last council meeting to resolve the situation with the Unite union to end its on-going strike, and what are the exact hurdles to reaching a resolution given that it's affecting the hygiene and cleanliness of the whole city?

*Reply – Cllr Huw Thomas*

The Council's continued to engage with Unite over the period on a number of levels informally and formally, and indeed we have sought to move forward with a number of the proposals we have offered to Unite to resolve the dispute, and we have implemented them. For example, improving the position for agency workers with a decrease from 24 months to 12 months before they are offered a temporary contract with a further commitment that we will review that again once we have a greater understanding of the budget implications post the final settlements. We have introduced the new rates of the real living wage early from the start of January to make sure that the lowest members of our staff, responding to the concerns about cost of living, get paid the new real living wage early, as opposed to the April original implementation dates. We do absolutely take incredibly seriously the concerns around culture and bullying, and that's why we've moved forward with commissioning a barrister-led investigation into allegations of widespread bullying within the service. Terms of reference for that have been agreed and accepted by Unite. The investigation will get underway imminently. In that context, and responding as well to the overtures made by Acas the Conciliation Service, we think there are strong grounds now for at least the suspension of the strike, pending that investigation.

*Supplementary – Cllr Latif*

Can Council make another genuine attempt to deal with this situation again as a priority and take this issue as an opportunity to help Unite union workers to get what they deserve, and Cardiff residents will get timely bin collections and clean roads?

*Reply - Cllr Thomas*

We continue to engage with Unite, the offer of dialogue continues to be there, we also clearly continue to engage with the other trade unions recognised by Cardiff Council and recognise that the majority of the workforce within the areas taking industrial action, the majority of the workforce are actually still working, and you see

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that in turn reflected in that, in the main, delivery of vital waste and recycling services are continuing, so we will continue to try and ensure that whilst of course seeking to bring this dispute to a mutually agreed conclusion as well.

*Cllr Robinson to Cllr De'Ath, Cabinet Member for Transport and Strategic Planning*

The introduction of the 20mph speed limit has been a positive step forwards towards safer streets in our communities for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. However, some motorists continue to engage in reckless driving behaviour, especially during school times, jeopardising the safety of vulnerable road users and young children. Can the Cabinet Member say what steps the Council will take to address the road safety concerns of residents of Paget Street in Grangetown; specifically what measures can be put in place to deter and penalise reckless driving behaviour please?

*Reply – Cllr De'Ath*

In terms of enforcement will obviously after these changes came in, there was a grace period, is now coming to an end and enforcement is budgeting, but there's a joint operation cooperation again in South Wales police go safe, looking to penalise and educate drivers found going over the limit as a local authority was doing a lot of analysis around compliance. We're doing it over a 12-month period of which, until we're not really looking to put any physical interventions in by the end of that time, we do a lot of assessments and where we feel that we need extra enforcement or speedbumps. Although much of that time we'll be looking to make decisions based on robust evidence and hopefully the area you raise or full part of that work.

*Supplementary – Cllr Robinson*

Given that the issues here actually long predate the introduction of 20mph, could the Cabinet Member commit to giving urgent consideration to traffic calming measures, including exploring vehicle activated speed signs, on Paget Street please?

*Reply – Cllr De'Ath*

I will certainly discuss with my officials what we might be able to do. We've just started a piece of work with Transport for Wales, road traffic neighbourhoods, and I think it really lends itself to that work, but that won't be quick, I'm afraid. But I'll have to talk to you about what we have planned.

*Cllr Robson to Cllr Wild, Cabinet Member for Climate Change*

Following the short notice cancellation of 2023's Christmas tree collection, what plans will the Cabinet Member make to ensure the 2024 collection occurs should strike action still be ongoing?

*Reply – Cllr Wild*

I am an optimist, so I would hope that by next winter the strike action would be finished, and I'm happy for you to hold me to that Cllr Robson. But obviously we're undertaking some consultation at the moment around garden waste collections, undertaking lots of analysis around how we can provide an efficient service, and it's actually interesting, isn't it, in terms of Christmas trees, because they weren't collected, actually we weren't inundated with calls, it was interesting how people managed to get their Christmas trees to the recycling centre, to the drop off zone, so lots of analysis still to do in terms the most efficient way of collecting Christmas trees.

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*Supplementary – Cllr Robson*

It did cause inconvenience for many people. The drop off at Heath Park was obviously appreciated, but nonetheless there are a number of people who couldn't get to that and especially of course since the Council shut Wedal Road and Waungron Road recycling facilities under a Labour Council, they've been shut over the last decade or so, it really is having an impact and people still miss those. So whilst I will hold you to that plea next year about the Christmas tree collection, I would urge you to actually get the strike resolved, and the rest of the Cabinet as well, to get the strike resolved because it is having an impact on residents and they are getting fed up of it, and to be honest Councillors I think are getting a bit fed up of having to field the calls from understandably frustrated residents when the bin collections, be it a cancelled Christmas tree collection or a miss or cancelled recycling collection changed at very short notice. So get the strike sorted.

*Reply – Cllr Wild*

I don't think there was a question there, but I appreciate your efforts, and it's not easy is it, there has been some pressure on the city, we recognise that, there's no hiding that. We're really grateful to the staff for the work they've done for residents when they call things in. In the main we've managed to just about get the collection completed and keep things ticking over, so that is appreciated.

*Cllr Carter to Cllr Burke, Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Events*

Before Christmas the Council promised to publish the revised plans for the Pentwyn Leisure Centre refurbishment early in the New Year. Could you please confirm when these revised plans will be published?

*Reply – Cllr Burke*

I'd like to thank you and Cllr Naughton and Cllr Moultrie for their understanding and patience. There is a delay attributed to the thorough consideration of consultation responses and an effort to ensure that the financial aspects align effectively. I'm committed with officers to delivering a well-thought-out plan and I anticipate having an updated plan for you soon. I anticipate your supplementary question, I was going to write to you and if you're happy for me to write to you and Cllr Naughton and Cllr Moultrie to invite you to a meeting so we can discuss it in more detail.

*Supplementary – Cllr Carter*

Thank you for the offer of the meeting, I'm sure we all appreciate that diary depending. In terms of a supplementary, I suppose my question is, how can how can we expect residents and indeed ourselves as councillors to respect the timescales given to us when we have very amicable meetings with yourself and officials and we are shown things in private and we agree to wait publicly until these things can be public, and then things are just pushed back and pushed back again? So I'm curious to get your thoughts on how we can ensure that timescales promised are met.

*Reply – Cllr Burke*

I hope that in your dealings with me as Cabinet Member you have come to appreciate that I try and be as honest as I can with the information I have. There are things that are fluid, certainly I'm working with officers to ensure that what we come

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forward with to you and Cllr Naughton and Cllr Moultrie is cost effective, is doable, and takes into consideration the best wishes and hopes of the local community. You have been incredibly patient, you have been amicable, and I thank you for that, and I'm just asking you to hold on for a little bit longer and then hopefully we can get this nailed down and come to you and to the local residents with something that is achievable and cost effective.

*Cllr Ash-Edwards to Cllr De'Ath, Cabinet Member for Transport and Strategic Planning*

What steps are being taken to stop rogue paving companies advertising illegally in public spaces and what process is in place to prevent the installation of frontage paving that doesn't meet appropriate standards for construction?

*Reply - Cllr De'Ath*

Shared Regulatory Services, Highways, and the police conduct joint operations where this kind of behaviour is particularly prevalent, that's mainly Rhiwbina and Heath. We use powers we have under section 132 of the Highways Act to remove this kind of illegal advertising. In the past two months we've removed 400 signs, which is pretty impressive. SRS also does extensive leafletting informing people of their rights as consumers, saying that if you're having work done it needs to be by an accredited business and telling them how to complain if they are not happy with the work that's been done. To date, to my understanding, you might contradict me, we haven't had any complaints about work that's been done in these areas. If you do know people who are unhappy, please let me know and we can take that up with officers.

*Supplementary – Cllr Ash-Edwards*

I just wanted to reference the activities of certain paving companies in the areas of the cities you've mentioned Cllr De'Ath, and in particular the intimidatory environment they are creating, so I just wanted really to ask you to further commit to making sure that those activities are tackled in the way you've talked about to eliminate them from our streets.

*Reply – Cllr De'Ath*

Absolutely Councillor, and if you have any specific examples of that happening, please let us know and we'll investigate.

*Cllr Lancaster to Cllr De'Ath, Cabinet Member for Transport and Strategic Planning*  
Can you please confirm which bus companies will be operating under the new Central Bus Station?

*Reply – Cllr De'Ath*

As you will be aware, the new bus station is being operated by Transport for Wales, I imagine the answer will be most of the companies, but the exact details will be announced by them nearer to the time.

*Supplementary – Cllr Lancaster*

I was hoping for a little bit more detail, because rumours are flying around that the likes of some of the longer distance coach operators such as Megabus and National

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Express won't actually be able to use the new coach station because indeed the bays have been designed too small for them. Is that true and if so, who is responsible for this farce?

*Reply – Cllr De’Ath*

It's not really a question of the design of the bays, but the particular companies you mentioned were never intended to use the bus station, but we're so close to opening, it's going to open, it should be wonderful and its functionality will be announced nearer to the time.

*Cllr Taylor to Cllr Thorne, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities*

What steps are being taken to improve the quality of private rented sector accommodation in the city?

*Reply – Cllr Thorne*

Rent Smart Wales, which is delivered by Cardiff Council, is securing improved property management practices and better standards by raising sector awareness of standards and behaviours required by landlords and agents. This is reinforced with a robust enforcement regime. Service performance is publicly accessible using interactive dashboards on Rent Smart Wales. In addition, the housing enforcement team within Shared Regulatory Services deals with complaints from private sector tenants, carrying out inspections for hazards such as damp and mould, excess cold and fire safety. Complaints continue to be received at a very high level during the current housing crisis. Where landlords fail to comply with the enforcement provisions, the Council may prosecute with fines exceeding £120,000 for a variety of offences.

The housing enforcement team also runs two additional licensing schemes for houses in multiple occupation, with over 1,000 HMOs inspected so far this year to ensure compliance with standards. I would also refer you to page 4 of my statement, which provides information on the LETS scheme which also helps to improve properties in the private rented sector.

*Supplementary – Cllr Taylor*

Thank you for the response and for including that information about the enforcement activity as well. The reason I ask is that before Christmas statistics were already showing that Cardiff was one of the cities with the highest level of mould damp and poor rented accommodation in the UK, and my concern is that our increasing reliance on the PRS to discharge homelessness due to the people who are facing homelessness, is that the supply of quality private rented sector accommodation may not necessarily be available. So I'm interested to know what steps are being taken to ensure that where people who are facing homelessness are offered private sector accommodation, that the accommodation being offered is of high quality and that landlords are engaged with that enforcement process and that maintenance of high standards.

*Reply – Cllr Thorne*

I would urge you to read my statement and the paragraph on page 4 about the LETS scheme, which actually shows that we actually also provide grants for private landlords to improve their properties and the LETS scheme take those properties on

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to let to homeless families, so we do as much as we possibly can to ensure that those people who are homeless and who have found private accommodation by us, it's good quality accommodation, but you need to understand that very often people who are homeless find their own private rented accommodation. We may help them with bonds and rent in advance, but sometimes they can do that for themselves. We do as much as we possibly can.

*Cllr Moultrie to Cllr De'Ath, Cabinet Member for Transport and Strategic Planning*

After the 51/53 bus service was removed in Pentwyn, many residents, especially the elderly, feel that they do not have access to public transport. Can the Council confirm what they are doing to address this, please?

*Reply – Cllr De'Ath*

We have put in place the 101/102 service, which covers the last part of the route of the 51/53. I can confirm to you we are looking to try and bring back the 51/53 service. I can't guarantee we'll be able to do that, it depends on funding and a variety of other things, but officers are working to try and restore that service. I know it's something you and the other members of the ward feel very strongly about, I know Cllr Carter has had a petition, but you particularly have held my feet to the fire at transport team and fight on behalf of your residents and you should be very proud of the work you've done.

*Cllr McEvoy to Cllr Weaver, Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance*

What process exists for service users to amend Council reports with errors in them and about them and their cases, other than formal complaints processes?

*Reply - Cllr Weaver*

There is something called a rectification right under the UK GDPR rules which individuals, residents of the city can invoke if they think the Council holds incorrect personal data about them. Those requests can be submitted in the same way as a subject access request. There is a section on the website around FOI and data protection which has a bit more information about that, so hopefully that's useful and answers your question.

*Supplementary – Cllr McEvoy*

That is very useful information, but it doesn't really answer my question because this is cross-departmental, it involves every council in Wales really, every council in the UK, because there is some really fundamental reports written about people in all different areas of council business, and reports are written and when they go wrong, when there are errors of facts, I don't mean opinion, I mean errors of facts which can be evidenced and disproved, there really isn't any mechanism that I can see to rectify that quickly, and lives are being ruined, absolutely destroyed by mistakes, whether they be deliberate or not. So the question is, would you consider setting up departmental hit squads, so people could complain very quickly, and it could be looked at and evidenced and if it is correct the report is corrected immediately because, as it stands now there is a complaints process which takes months?

*Reply – Cllr Weaver*



I think you might be raising a serious question around personal information, I think it is important. Councils want to keep personal data accurately and correctly and within the law. I am not sure what reports you're referring to, so I'm not sure the extent of the issue you're trying to address. I'd be very happy if you want the team and myself, you said it was cross-departmental, so very happy for that to come to me and to have a look at ways. But there is a right for people who think their personal data is held inaccurately by the Council that currently exists, so I'd encourage people to use that. We're always looking to improve our services in any practical way.

*Cllr Williams to Cllr Wild, Cabinet Member for Climate Change*

Cardiff Council continues to demand Cardiff residents continue to pay more for less. With Council Tax bills continuing to rise and frontline services being cut back, residents are rightly questioning the Council's priorities. The Council are considering moving black bin collections from once fortnightly to once three-weekly. The Council is also considering charging for green bin collections. How much does the Council plan to save by charging for green bin collections and moving black bin collections to once three-weekly? Please provide a breakdown and methodology.

*Reply - Cllr Wild*

The Council has got really stretched budgets, we're having to look at all sorts of different things, we're quite rightly asking the public their views on a variety of different things so it can get us a settled balanced budget. We want loads of people to take part, give us their views on it so we can come up with the best and fairest budget for the people of Cardiff.

*Supplementary – Cllr Williams*

I asked you a very simple question, Cllr Wild, how much does the Council plan to save by charging for green bin collections and moving black bin collections to once three-weekly. In order for you to put that to the public in a consultation, you surely must have a figure in mind for how much you plan to save, so come on, let's hear it.

*Reply – Cllr Wild*

In terms of the budget consultation, there's a figure in there in terms of what it costs in terms of garden waste, £1.5 million a year it costs us. The other stuff we're still having to work through, so we do need people to feed in. But in reality this is all moot. We've been through all the different conversations this evening in terms of the pressures, and the Tory doctrine just isn't sitting comfortably with anyone in Cardiff. You can't just cut public services all over the UK, as even the Tory MPs are agreeing, and then come here and plead poverty and ask that everything is safe. So when we get to those consultations, we'd really like to see what you've got to do, and in terms of interventions, I wonder if there's been any interventions from your group to the Tory government pleading. Have you made any interventions in terms of that? Any intervention your party? The last intervention I saw that you made with a UK parliamentary party was to support the prime minister, Liz Truss.

*Cllr Shimmin to Cllr Burke, Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Events*

Could the Cabinet Member please provide an update for the physical future of the Museum of Cardiff given that it has to move from its current location in the old library, and if no decision has been made, when can we expect this decision and the timeframe for the move?

*This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg*

*Reply – Cllr Burke*

A working party of Council officers and Development Trustees of the museum was set up and established to review the museum's long-term financing and consider options for an alternative site. As part of the work programme a feasibility study has been conducted to assess the viability of the move to a new location and outline how the museum would operate at a curatorial and operational level ensuring a sustainable future. This work is scheduled to be completed in March and presented to the Cabinet later this year. The timeframe for the move would be dependent on the outcome of the feasibility study and the options available to us, however, we have made a commitment to vacate the Old Library after five years.

*Supplementary – Cllr Shimmin*

Could the Cabinet Member please give assurances that any move will adhere to the recommendations put out in the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee's museum inquiry report, especially and including its recommendations around gallery size and location in respect to other attractions and its location in the city?

*Reply – Cllr Burke*

That will be taken into consideration when we have a look at the report, it obviously depends on what's available. We have an idea in mind of what we're looking for, but until we have all the recommendations from the feasibility studies to take into consideration as well, I can't make that guarantee today, but I am pushing for something.

*Cllr McGarry to Cllr Thorne, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities*

I see that the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement announced an increase in the Local Housing Allowance. Will this remove the requirement for many of those renting in the private rented sector to top up their rent?

*Reply – Cllr Thorne*

The indicative Local Housing Allowance rates for 2024/25 were issued recently, with final figures expected at the end of this month. I am pleased to say that the new figures represent a considerable increase. The monthly increase in rates ranges from an increase of £124.66 for a 1-bed flat – that's an increase of 23.81% – to an increase of £394.05 per month for a 4-bed property, which is an increase of 36.84%.

While this increase is very welcome and will help many households on benefit to afford their rent, the demand for private rented properties is so high that the average rent levels in the city are still above these rates, so there will be still some challenges for some households.

*Supplementary – Cllr McGarry*

Do you think that this rise in the local housing rate will make it more affordable for families to rent in the private rented sector, given that the estimated shortfall between the Local Housing Allowance and the average rental is still quite significant, for example for a two bedroom home a shortfall of £172 per month and a three-bedroom home £277 per month shortfall? This is still a large amount of money for families with low incomes to find.

*Reply – Cllr Thorne*

As I said, it is very welcome because people are paying hundreds of pounds topping up, they will pay less, but it will be still challenging, and particularly because we still have austerity on the doorstep and all the inflation things that are with us. So it's welcome but it's not enough.

*Cllr Driscoll to Councillor Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty and Supporting Young People*

The recently published report by 'Centre For Cities' shows that between 2014 and 2021, children in relative poverty in working households in Cardiff has increased by 21%. How does that figure compare to other UK core cities?

*Reply – Cllr Bradbury*

Thank you for the question and raising the important subject of child poverty, a matter which is very important to all of us. The report authors and the DWP, whose data the analysis is based on, are explicit in saying that the data should not be used for comparison between Wales and England as the data from 2019 onwards is not reliable.

If we look at trends up until 2019 however – when the data is reliable – the rise in actual relative child poverty in Cardiff is 11%, not 21%. This is consistent with the increases with other core cities. So, Cardiff is in no way an outlier here, but this is deeply worrying nonetheless.

So, let's talk about why this is happening across all cities and towns in England and Wales. The Cities Outlook 2024 finds that since 2010:

Productivity growth – the key driver of higher wages – is poor across all cities.

Disposable income growth is weak as a result of economic stagnation, so people were £10,000 worse off in 2021 than they would have been if the economy had continued to grow at pre-2010 levels.

Housing became less affordable in almost every place during the 2010s, and, as a result, rates of children in poverty have risen in almost every city.

At the same time, we have seen cuts to the real value of working-age benefits since 2011, the freezing of child benefits, and the capping of local housing allowances.

Here in Cardiff, we are investing record amounts in education, prioritising opportunities for young people through the Cardiff Commitment, creating good quality jobs and making sure everyone can access these opportunities through affordable public transport.

So, for all children and families across Cardiff who are living in poverty, our message is clear, our administration is doing everything we can within the levers we have, to support them.

*Supplementary – Cllr Driscoll*

I suppose, firstly, I should congratulate the whole team on Cardiff Youth Service for the well-deserved Civil Award quality mark for youth work, recognising the positive impact on young people's lives, and I know this we've spoken about this before and is something close to your heart too. I dispute the figure that you have because it was announced in the Senedd last week as well, which wasn't disputed. There's no getting away that this week the Children's Commissioner said the latest report into child poverty strategy is shameful, because it is not measurable and because it has no target dates to achieve long-term goals that have been set.

I know we've both got interest in sports clubs and the community volunteer groups play an important role in providing support for youngsters, improving health and wellbeing, social skills and a sense of belonging. Welsh Government have also removed funding for school meals during school holidays, so I'd like to know, do you regret that Welsh Government have remove this funding for school meals during school holidays for vulnerable families that need it?

*Reply – Cllr Bradbury*

I always regret children going hungry at any time and I think everybody should regret children going hungry at any time during any period or at all, and I made my views perfectly clear on that issue and I've made it clear in this Chamber on that issue. But Sean, we're friends, but you're still member of a party that has seen 2 million more children go into poverty since 2010. The record prior to that, from 1997 to 2010 was the polar opposite, a million children were lifted out of poverty and when you cut benefits value and you cut real-term wage increases, and you limit the opportunity for people to go out and top up their work with working family tax credits like your party has, this is the result, and to coin a phrase that Rishi Sunak's been using, if you ask me what I'd want I'd want us to go back to square one, get a Labour government in that actually will invest in children, in dealing with this issue. Absolute poverty has fallen in Cardiff though by 3.7% between 2014 and 2021.

*Cllr Hopkins to Cllr Merry, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education*

What impact is the three-mile rule having on attendance in Cardiff's secondary schools?

*Reply – Cllr Merry*

The Education Welfare Team does not assess attendance based on impact of ability to travel to schools. Where there is an identified need, then we are supporting families. For example, we used the Welsh Government attendance grant to buy 426 bus passes in the Autumn term. The majority of these were for families in temporary accommodation, but 90 were for families in severe financial hardship who would have been unable to fund the bus fare to get to school.

*Supplementary – Cllr Hopkins*

I know you have expressed concerns in scrutiny about the challenge currently associated with getting attendance rates back to where they were pre-pandemic. You will no doubt have seen the recent Estyn report *Improving Attendance in Secondary Schools*. The report makes the point that pupils who usually walk to school, especially those eligible for free school meals, did not attend as often, and that some young people are missing school because they cannot afford transport and live just under the 3-mile rule. Estyn makes a recommendation that the

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Welsh Government should review the three-mile rule and that free transport should be extended to help get secondary aged pupils back to school. Notwithstanding the provision that you've already outlined, is this something that this administration will support as a recommendation?

*Reply – Cllr Merry*

I would certainly support the Welsh Government reviewing those guidelines. The choice of three miles as a distance is based upon the fact that it's argued that children could walk to school as opposed to the cost of transport. I personally think that 3 miles to and from school is too far, even though I support active travel as my preferred option for children. But as a local authority we wouldn't be able to do that independently unless we were able to see the finances for exactly the reasons we discussed earlier. And we would need to be able to sustain it because to introduce it and then take it back would be the worst option of all.

*Cllr Ferguson-Thorne to Cllr Lister, Cabinet Member for Children's Services*

It has been a year since Cabinet passed the Children's Services accommodation strategy; can the Cabinet member provide an update on the progress of the implementation of this?

*Reply - Cllr Lister*

I'd like to start again by putting on record my tribute and thanks to the Council officers not just in Children's Services, but in Education, Economic Development and Housing, for actually working so hard on the strategy, because in the last 12 months we've managed to source, refurbish, redecorate and recruit staff to work in and register 3 new properties with Care Inspectorate Wales that are now operational. We've got an additional home in the final stages of registration with Care Inspectorate Wales, and another four homes have been purchased by the Council and are currently going through refurbishment with the handover expected within the next six weeks. Another large property, five self-contained flats, which I personally visited with offices, is currently going through registration as well, and is being used with an in-house team of staff to accommodate some of our children and young people who were previously living in properties that were operating without registration. So we're going through those processes as quickly as possible, we are being ambitious, we're working towards the Welsh Government's Eliminate Profit target, but actually focusing on ensuring that we've got the best possible placements for children and young people in the city, that they are within our care or the care of a third party in the not-for-profit sector as well.

*Supplementary – Cllr Ferguson-Thorne*

I welcome your update and would like to extend my own thanks to yourself and staff across Children's Services, who are clearly passionate and committed to ensuring children and families are provided the right support at the right time. I particularly welcome the commitment, through this strategy, to reducing the time children and young people have to spend in residential care settings. Can the Cabinet Member therefore advise us whether there has been a reduction in time spent in residential care settings over the last year?

*Reply – Cllr Lister*

I don't have the figures to hand but I can definitely check on them, because as you say that is the key part of this piece of work, it's not just about removing profit from the sector, it's actually having placements that are available, that suit a young person's needs, and actually that right place model, so will support them in the right place at the right time with the right people means there is a fluid kind of placement. Residential isn't going to be the best for everyone; foster care, kinship care are great options that we're extending as a local authority, but for some children residential care is the best. So I'll definitely look at those figures for you and share them.

*Cllr Melbourne (on behalf of Cllr Cowan) to Cllr Thorne, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities*

Has the Cabinet Member had any discussions during this budget round about potentially closing any libraries?

*Reply – Cllr Thorne*

During the debate on the motion, when Councillor Moultrie wound up, she said about 780 libraries closed. I'm pleased to say across Cardiff we haven't closed one library and in fact the debate has also been about poverty and actually, by being innovative and introducing new services, the hubs, which provide services for those people who really are struggling financially, we've kept all open and all running well, and I know, by all parties, respected.

Our commitment to our hubs and library service is clear, with investment in Rhiwbina, Rhydypenau and Whitchurch libraries, all of which have been refurbished to create new hubs offering a range of facilities. However, as you will be aware, we're currently facing significant financial pressures which will be very challenging, so a wide range of savings options were considered to meet the budget gap, including a number of proposals, some that were rejected by Cabinet. These rejected proposals did include the closure of some hubs and libraries. I am pleased to say that the proposals have been included in the public consultation are those that make savings while minimising the impact on services, such as reducing opening times and the renting out of meeting rooms in hubs. This will ensure that these important facilities remain available across the city.

*Cllr Latif to Cllr Thorne, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities*

Is the Council taking into account that reducing library hours, which could include closing them for an extra day each week and possibly on Saturday afternoons, will have a significant effect on students by reducing their access to education and information?

*Reply – Cllr Thorne*

I would agree that the availability of library services is crucial to supporting young people's educational opportunities, and that's why we've invested in our hub and library information across the city. However, as I said previously, the Council needs to address a significant budget gap and we have no option but to propose some changes to hub and library opening hours. The saving under consideration as part of the budget proposals is a flexible one. The public consultation is still ongoing and we'd like to hear people's views. However, any proposed changes to opening hours have been developed using a careful analysis of current customer footfall, and

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I would advise all Council members, if you look at the written questions, in one of the written answers it gives you the footfall across all of our hubs and libraries so that you can look and see how your hub is faring.

*Supplementary – Cllr Latif*

We do understand the cuts you have to make, but can the Council please commit to doing everything possible to not close libraries during college and university students' exam and holiday times so it doesn't impact directly on their grades and future prospects?

*Reply – Cllr Thorne*

I can certainly ask officers to look at that.

106 : URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

107 : COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Council was asked to receive nominations and make appointments to current committee vacancies as set out in the report and in accordance with the approved allocation of seats and political group wishes.

RESOLVED: Council AGREED to:

Receive a nomination and appoint to the vacancy on the Committee, in accordance with the Party Group wishes, as set out in Table A and on the Amendment Sheet.

108 : APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

Council was asked to appoint Local Authority School Governors to fill vacancies in accordance with the recommendations of the Local Authority Governor Panel.

RESOLVED: Council AGREED to:

Approve the new appointments of Local Authority Governors to the school Governing Bodies as set out in Appendix 1, each for a term of 4 years from the date of the appointment, in accordance with the recommendations of the Local Authority Governor Panel.

109 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17(f), Written Questions received for consideration together with the responses will be attached to the minutes.

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**CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**



**COUNCIL: 7 MARCH 2024**

**CABINET PROPOSAL**

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**CORPORATE PLAN 2024-27**

**Reason for this Report**

1. To enable the Cabinet to consider the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 and recommend it to Council for approval.

**Background**

2. The Corporate Plan forms part of the strategic policy framework set out in the Council's Constitution and is considered annually by the Council. The document outlines the organisation's strategic policy and performance priorities and also discharges the Council's strategic planning responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
3. In July 2022, the Cabinet approved a new policy statement for the next five years, entitled 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener', which sets out the Administration's principles, priorities and ambitions for the city. The Corporate Plan 2024-27, attached as **Appendix A** to this report, translates the Administrations priorities into the Council's planning, performance and budgetary framework.

**Issues**

Delivering Stronger, Fairer, Greener

4. The Corporate Plan is a key document in delivering the 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener' policy commitments and translating the Administration's priorities into deliverable organisational objectives.
5. In accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 the Corporate Plan allows the Council to agree and publish well-being objectives. The following seven well-being objectives are proposed in the new Corporate Plan 2024-27:
  - Cardiff is a great place to grow up
  - Cardiff is a great place to grow older
  - Supporting people out of poverty

- Safe, confident and empowered communities
  - A capital city that works for Wales
  - One Planet Cardiff
  - Modernising and integrating our public services
6. Cardiff Council's Corporate Plan 2024-27 acts as the Council's well-being statement. How the Council will monitor progress is set out in the Council's [Planning and Delivery Framework](#), which was agreed by Cabinet in February 2022. The Corporate Plan also sets out how the Council's well-being objectives will help meet the national well-being goals.
  7. The proposed well-being objectives demonstrate what public services in Cardiff want to achieve, reflect their shared aspirations and the common understanding of the challenges facing the city. Both the Council and the Cardiff PSB will measure progress towards achieving the well-being objectives using the same outcome indicators of city performance. This will enable partners in Cardiff to keep track of how the city is performing and help demonstrate Cardiff's contribution towards achieving the Welsh Government's aims to improve well-being nationally.
  8. The well-being objectives set out in the Corporate Plan are supported by 'steps' that set out what will be done and by when, and sets out clear political and managerial responsibility for each step. The Corporate Plan also includes a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with corresponding targets, selected for their relevance to Cardiff and performance management within directorates. The Council must also publish a well-being 'statement' about its well-being objectives at the same time as the objectives are published. This requirement too is discharged through the Corporate Plan.

#### Development of the Corporate Plan 2024-27

9. In accordance with Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the Council has a duty to keep its performance under review. The process to refresh the Corporate Plan on an annual basis is commenced in line with consideration of the Mid-Year (Self-)Assessment of Performance. This then informs a comprehensive self-assessment undertaken by directorates to explore the extent to which they contribute to each of the Council's well-being objectives, what more could be done and what further action could be taken to make progress towards achieving the objectives. In developing the Corporate Plan 2024-27, this exercise has resulted in a number of new or revised steps being developed and proposed, supported by appropriate performance indicators.
10. Thematic challenge sessions, which are convened according to well-being objective, were held in late January/early February 2024. These sessions are chaired by the Leader of the Council and involve the lead Cabinet portfolio holders, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance, Chief Executive and relevant Directors with responsibility for delivery. The challenge sessions consider progress and challenges in relation to each of the well-being objectives within the Corporate Plan, and provide an opportunity to consider the proposed steps, KPIs and targets for the year ahead. Where targets for KPIs in the Corporate Plan are subject to end of

year outturn data for 2023/24, these will be included in the Quarter 1 performance dashboard, which is available to all Scrutiny Committees. These targets will also be included in the half-year and end-of-year self-assessment reports, which are subject to consideration by Cabinet, the Performance Panel and relevant Scrutiny Committees.

### Reflecting the Progress, Responding to Budgetary Challenges and Meeting Demand Pressures.

11. The Corporate Plan 2024-27 has been developed in in the context of exceptionally challenging circumstances. Inflation levels have continued to place pressure on budgets, the lasting impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis remain drivers of rising demand whilst increasingly complex needs present significant service delivery challenges.
12. Despite the challenging delivery environment, significant progress has been made against a number of the Corporate Plan steps. For example, education results are amongst the highest in Wales, new Council homes have been delivered and more people are being paid the real living wage.
13. Where progress has been made, the Corporate Plan steps have been amended to reflect this. New steps have also been included to reflect the need to respond and adapt to emerging challenges, with a range of preventative actions included to help dampen demand and reduce the need for more costly interventions. Service adaptation of this nature will be vital as more and more people turn to the Council, and its public service partners, for support on issues such as housing, employment, care for older relatives or their family. This means that the Corporate Plan will retain a focus on the delivery of the administration's priorities and ensuring high quality public services.

### Corporate Plan and Budget Alignment

14. To ensure that the Council's resources support the delivery of the Administration's priorities, as set out in 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener', the Corporate Plan 2024-27 has been developed in tandem with the process for setting the Council's budget for 2024/25. It has also been informed by the findings of the annual Ask Cardiff survey and the budget consultation process for 2024/25 to ensure citizen voice form part of the policy development process.
15. The Corporate Plan 2024-27 has been developed in the context of significant financial pressures, including high inflation and the continued operational and financial impact of the cost-of-living crisis. In balancing the budget for 2024/25, the Council will be required to meet a budget gap of £30.327m. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan also estimates a significant budget gap of £142.344m over the medium term from 2025/26 to 2028/29. This is in addition to having had to close a cumulative budget gap of over £350m since 2010.

## Engagement with the Council's Performance Panel and Scrutiny Committees

16. The proposed steps, KPIs and targets contained in the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 were considered by the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee's Performance Panel on 15 February 2024. This session provided an opportunity for the proposed steps, KPIs and targets, to be challenged and for cross-scrutiny committee recommendations, observations and requests (see **Appendices B(i)**) to inform any amendments to the Corporate Plan as part of the drafting and target setting process ahead of formal pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27. The Performance Panel made a total of 6 recommendations, of which 5 were accepted; 1 was partially accepted, and none were not accepted. A copy of the responses to the recommendations made by the Performance Panel is attached as **Appendix B(ii)** to this report.
17. A copy of the draft version of the Corporate Plan 2024-27 and/or extracts detailing various steps and performance indicators relevant to each committee are to be considered formally by the Council's five Scrutiny Committees at meetings scheduled to be held on 26-28 February 2024. This will enable consideration of the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 alongside the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2024/25. Copies of any letter(s) received from the Scrutiny Committees following those meetings will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting on 29 February 2024 as part of **Appendix C** to this report. Cabinet is asked to consider and agree its response to any Scrutiny Committee recommendations which may be made.
18. It is proposed that authority is delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any consequential amendments to the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 that may be required to reflect the acceptance by the Cabinet of any recommendations made by the Council's Scrutiny Committees in advance of consideration by Council on 7 March 2024, as well as any minor amendments that may be necessary post-Council to the approved version of the Corporate Plan 2024-27 in advance of publication on the Council's website
19. Following consideration and approval by the Council on 7 March 2024, a copy of the Corporate Plan 2024-27 will be published on the Council's website by 1 April 2024.

## Directorate Delivery Plans

20. The Corporate Plan 2024-27 will be supported by Directorate Delivery Plans, which will set out in greater detail how the Council's well-being objectives will be delivered, as well as how directorate business will be taken forward.
21. The Directorate Delivery Plans will continue to provide an important link between the Corporate Plan, the work of directorates and the objectives set for individual employees. They will provide clear lines of responsibility and include detailed milestones on how broader objectives will be delivered. This will ensure that team and individual employee objectives are aligned with Council's key strategic priorities. This will also support the Council's

continued drive to improve compliance with organisational performance management requirements, including Personal Reviews.

22. Directorate Delivery Plans capture all sources of relevant corporate intelligence in a structured and systematic way. Directorate Delivery Plans therefore contain a greater range of corporate indicators of performance. They have been enhanced to include indicators of citizen insight. These include:
- Service commitments, which have been identified to deliver the Corporate Plan, as well as any associated service KPIs.
  - Corporate Health Indicators, including data on staff sickness absence, staff turnover, compliance with mandatory training and the number of agency staff employed.
  - Links to the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers, which set out the mitigating actions that the directorate has identified in order to address major risks.
  - Recommendations of external Regulatory Bodies, including the agreed responses to any recommendations or proposals for improvement.
  - Links to Scrutiny Committee recommendations, which have been accepted by the Cabinet and which the directorate is responsible for progressing.
  - Requirements of the Welsh Language Standards, Welsh Language Policy and Equality Objectives.
  - Corporate Safeguarding actions specific to the directorate's business, which have been identified through the Corporate Safeguarding self-assessment process.
  - Indicators of citizen satisfaction with Council Services, ensuring citizen voice is embedded in the Council's planning and performance framework.
23. Directorate Delivery Plans are developed following a directorate self-assessment exercise, which includes a detailed consideration of all sources of performance information. They are also developed concurrently with the Corporate Plan and Budget. They are reviewed as part of the year-end performance and assurance sessions convened by the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer and may also be considered by relevant Scrutiny Committees.

### **Reason for Recommendations**

24. To enable the Corporate Plan 2024-27 to be considered by the Council on 7 March 2024 and published thereafter by 1 April 2024, subject to any consequential amendments that may be required.

### **Financial Implications**

25. This report sets out the Council's Corporate Plan for the period up until 2027. Implementing these strategic priorities and improvement objectives are in accordance with the amounts set out in the 29 February 2024 Budget Report, which includes both revenue and capital budgets for 2024/25, the indicative Medium Term Financial Plan for the period up to 2028/29 and the indicative Capital Programme for the period up until 2028/29.

26. The plan clearly identifies the demand and financial pressures within which the Council is operating in terms of both revenue and capital budgets with associated impact on the level of borrowing. Some of the objectives contained in this report will be subject to further detailed reports which will be accompanied by a robust business case that needs to evidence both cost and funding viability. The detailed reports and business cases will also need to include sufficient financial detail in order to set out the full and robust financial implications, as well as be fully informed of associated risks with particular regard to likelihood and value of funding from external sources such as Welsh Government.

### **Legal Implications**

27. The Corporate Plan outlines the Council's strategic policy priorities and fulfils the Council's statutory duties under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFG Act) with regard to the publication of Well-Being Objectives and a Well-Being Statement, as detailed in the body of the report. Decision makers must be satisfied that the Well-Being Objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan, will contribute towards achievement of the statutory Well-Being Goals (listed in paragraph 4 of the report); and note that once the Well-Being Objectives have been set, decision makers must have regard to the same, and must be satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those Objectives.
28. The duties imposed on the Council under the WBFG Act include a duty to act in accordance with the 'sustainable development principle', which is defined as meaning that the Council must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take into account the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. There are a number of factors which the Council must take into account in this regard, specifically, decision makers must:
- Look to the long term;
  - Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems;
  - Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the seven well-being goals;
  - Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions; and
  - Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them.
29. Decision makers must be satisfied that the Council's formulation of the Corporate Plan is compliant with the sustainable development principle, having regard to the factors above. In considering the requirements of the WBFG Act, due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible using this link:  
<https://gov.wales/well-being-future-generations-statutory-guidance>

30. Effective consultation is required for lawful decision making on policy matters and the WBFG Act imposes express consultation requirements. The report sets out the consultation undertaken in fulfilment of the Council's duties in this regard.
31. In considering this matter, the Council must have regard to its public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties, Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. The Protected Characteristics are: age, gender reassignment, sex, race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, religion or belief – including lack of religion or belief. The Council also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socioeconomic disadvantage ('the Socio-Economic Duty' imposed under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010). In considering this, the Council must take into account the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers and must be able to demonstrate how it has discharged its duty.
32. The Council must also be mindful of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards and consider the impact of its decisions upon the Welsh language.
33. The Corporate Plan is part of the Policy Framework, which is comprised of the key policies and strategies listed in Article 4.2 of the Constitution. The Cabinet is responsible for recommending any policy, plan or strategy which forms part of the Policy Framework, to full Council. The decision on whether to adopt the draft Corporate Plan is a matter for full Council.
34. All decisions taken by or on behalf the Council must: (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers of behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Council Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **HR Implications**

35. There are no HR implications arising directly from this report.

### **Property Implications**

36. There are no further specific property implications in respect of the Corporate Plan 2024-27 Report. The Corporate objectives relating to finance, service delivery, regeneration and One Planet Cardiff align with the previously approved Corporate Property Strategy 2021-26. Progress against these objectives is reported to Cabinet each year via the Annual Property Plan.

37. Where the Council is required to undertake or advise on property transactions or valuations to deliver Council objectives, such work should be managed in accordance with the Council's Asset Management processes and in consultation with relevant service areas, such as Legal, as appropriate.

## **CABINET PROPOSAL**

Council is recommended to:

1. approve the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 (Appendix A).
2. delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any minor amendments as necessary to the Corporate Plan 2024-27 following consideration by the Council on 7 March 2024 and prior to publication by 1 April 2024.

## **THE CABINET 29 February 2024**

*The following appendices are attached:*

Appendix A:	Corporate Plan 2024-27 (Draft)
Appendix B(i):	Performance Panel Chair's Letter and Panel Recommendations
Appendix B(ii):	Cabinet Response to Performance Panel Recommendations
Appendix C:	Letter(s) received from Scrutiny Committees following consideration of the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 and schedule of proposed amendments ( <i>to follow</i> )

*The following background paper has been taken into account:*

[Stronger, Fairer, Greener Policy Statement \(July 2022\)](#)



# Delivering a Stronger, Fairer, Greener Cardiff

Cardiff Council Corporate Plan 2024-27



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd.  
This document is also available in Welsh.



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# Leader's Foreword

This Corporate Plan sets out how we will continue making Cardiff a stronger, fairer and greener city.

It details how we will work to support the economy, with an ambitious programme of regeneration and investment to create and sustain well-paid jobs. It sets out how education in Cardiff will help our young people reach their potential, by investing in school buildings, supporting teachers, creating new opportunities for all learners to experience what the city has to offer and tackling barriers to progress, wherever they may exist.

We will continue to deliver more high-quality affordable housing. Whilst across the UK, a generation of young people continue to be let down by lack of new homes, here in Cardiff we are delivering hundreds of Council homes and have plans for thousands more affordable housing through our wider delivery programme.

We will enhance support for those who are struggling to make ends meet. After more than a decade of austerity and with an ongoing cost-of-living crisis, this Plan sets out how we will help prevent homelessness, support people to access benefits and help people, of all backgrounds, into work.

For the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities, we will make sure they receive the right support at the right time. We will make Cardiff a great place to grow old, providing opportunities for people to stay connected to their community and live safely in their own homes for as long as possible. The important work we are taking forward with the local NHS to help get people safely out of hospitals and back into the community as swiftly as possible will also be taken to the next level.

We will continue to invest in local and district centres, maintain our parks and green spaces, support local sports clubs, promote inclusion and give everyone opportunities to speak the Welsh language.

The Plan also reasserts our commitment to tackling the climate emergency and includes a programme of service transformation to ensure the quality of public services can be maintained in the face of rising demand and declining funding.

A hugely ambitious agenda, yes, but also one rooted in realism. There's little doubt that, after a decade of austerity, Covid-19, the cost-of-living crisis and now austerity once more, councils across the UK are facing challenges unlike any experienced before. For making the progress we have made, in the face of these challenges, I am grateful for the commitment and dedication of officers, teachers, school leaders, elected members and partners across the city for all of their support. Thanks to that collective effort, education results are now amongst the highest in Wales, new Council homes are being built across the city and more people than ever before are being paid the Real Living Wage.

I look forward to working with you all once more over the year ahead.



**Cllr Huw Thomas**  
Leader of Cardiff Council



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## Wellbeing Objectives

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# Delivering a Stronger, Fairer, Greener Cardiff

To outline its ambitions for the city, the Council’s Administration has set out a five-year policy programme, entitled ‘**Stronger, Fairer, Greener**’.

The Corporate Plan, *Delivering a Stronger, Fairer, Greener Cardiff*, translates the Administration’s priorities into the Council’s **Planning and Performance Framework**, providing clarity on what will be delivered, and by when.

In accordance with the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Corporate Plan sets out Cardiff’s Wellbeing Objectives, the steps we will take to achieve them and how we will measure progress. Cardiff Council’s Corporate Plan 2024-27 also acts as the Council’s Wellbeing Statement.

## Glossary of Terms

- **Wellbeing Objective:** sets out what the Council wants to achieve
- **Outcome Indicator:** a measure of city-wide performance
- **Step:** what the Council will do, and by when, to help achieve each Wellbeing Objective
- **Key Performance Indicator:** an indicator of operational performance that shows if the steps the Council are taking are effective
- **Target:** sets out a numerical value on Key Performance Indicators to be achieved
- **Self-Assessment:** a process that the Council undertakes to help shape Wellbeing Objectives and identify the steps for inclusion in the Corporate Plan

## Setting Wellbeing Objectives

All public bodies in Wales must act in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle and must demonstrate that the five ways of working have shaped and inform decision-making.

The Wellbeing Objectives were set following a process of self-assessment and policy development as part of the Council’s planning and performance cycle. The table below sets out how the five ways of working have been applied in the setting of our Wellbeing Objectives:

Way of Working	How has it been applied?
<p><b>Long-term</b></p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the long-term needs.</p>	<p>The Wellbeing Objectives and steps in this plan were informed by a wide-ranging evidence base which considers immediate issues and longer-term trends. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cardiff’s Local Wellbeing Assessment:</b> a comprehensive study of the quality of life in Cardiff undertaken in 2022 by the Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB).</li> <li>• <b>Cardiff Future Trends Report:</b> a report for the Cardiff PSB which sets out the long-term trends facing Cardiff and the impact these will have on the city’s public services.</li> <li>• <b>Cardiff &amp; Vale Population Needs Assessment:</b> an assessment of the care and support needs of the population, undertaken by the Cardiff &amp; Vale Regional Partnership Board (RPB).</li> <li>• <b>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP):</b> this Corporate Plan was created in tandem with the Council’s MTFP 2025/26 – 2028/29. The MTFP forecasts the Council’s future financial position.</li> <li>• <b>2020 Future Generations Report:</b> a report by the Future Generations Commissioner, which provides an assessment of the improvements public bodies should make in relation to their Wellbeing Objectives.</li> <li>• Cardiff’s <b>city-wide dashboard:</b> a live resource enabling progress to be monitored. The Cardiff PSB also publishes a full set of outcome indicators annually, most recently in the <b>Cardiff in 2022 analysis</b>, which provides a snapshot of how the city is performing.</li> </ul>

Way of Working	How has it been applied?
<p><b>Prevention</b></p> <p>How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their Objectives.</p>	<p>In everything that the Council sets out to achieve, a focus is placed on intervening early, addressing the root causes and aiming to, wherever possible, prevent problems before they happen, thereby improving outcomes, and managing demand and budget pressures facing services. Each Wellbeing Objective contains steps which are characterised by early intervention of this nature. Examples of this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shifting the balance of care in Children’s Services;</li> <li>• Working to ensure that appropriate young people are in receipt of a prevention service from the Youth Justice Service;</li> <li>• Supporting older people to live independently at home through strengths-based preventative services;</li> <li>• Promoting the rent arrears pathway and reviewing how rent arrears cases in all tenures are managed, so that they are dealt with rapidly, whilst using the most appropriate financial support to prevent homelessness.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its Wellbeing Objectives.</p>	<p>The complex challenges facing public services cannot be met by one organisation, sector or public service alone – a whole-system response from the city’s public services is needed. Building on the progress made in this area during the pandemic, strengthened partnership arrangements are in place to respond to increased demand and new, complex issues that are arising.</p> <p>The Council’s Wellbeing Objectives were developed in close collaboration with public service partners with the Cardiff PSB seeking to adopt the same seven Wellbeing Objectives in its <a href="#">Local Wellbeing Plan 2023-28</a>. This reflects the shared aspirations and common understanding of challenges facing the city and a clear view on the areas of work that require partnership working between the city’s public services.</p>
<p><b>Integration</b></p> <p>Considering how the public body’s Wellbeing Objectives may impact upon each of the Wellbeing Goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>The Wellbeing Objectives cut across departmental silos, focussing on what all Council services can do to improve the wellbeing of the people of Cardiff.</p> <p>The development of the Wellbeing Objectives involves close cross-departmental and cross-portfolio working and involves the wider political governance of the Council, including Scrutiny Committees and the Performance Panel. This process ensures that interdependencies, opportunities and risks between Wellbeing Objectives can be identified and acted upon.</p> <p>As noted above, the development of the Wellbeing Objectives has been undertaken in close collaboration with public service partners, with clear alignment on policy and delivery through the Cardiff PSB and the Cardiff &amp; Vale Regional Partnership Board.</p>
<p><b>Involvement</b></p> <p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the Wellbeing Goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	<p>The Council is committed to ensuring that the voice of the citizen is at the heart of decision-making through an ongoing programme of consultation and engagement work. This includes the annual Ask Cardiff Survey, engagement work with children and young people, the Budget Consultation and other public engagement undertaken over the course of the year. A Consultation Overview Report has been created to summarise the key findings of consultation exercises undertaken, broken down by Wellbeing Objective.</p>



# Contribution to National Wellbeing Goals

The Welsh Government has set out national Wellbeing Goals under which Cardiff Council and the Cardiff PSB have agreed complementary local Wellbeing Objectives. In order to measure Cardiff's progress towards achieving the seven Wellbeing Objectives, a series of high-level outcome indicators were selected which provide objective measures of the city's performance.

Outcome indicators are high-level indicators which measure long-term trends. They provide an overview of the city's performance, both over time and relative to other cities and Local Authorities. The trends they measure are difficult to influence directly and no single body or organisation can be held accountable for delivering them.

A full set of outcome indicators will be published annually by the Cardiff Public Services Board, which provides an overview of how the city is performing.



# Wellbeing Objective 1:

Cardiff is a great place to grow up

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For many children and young people, Cardiff is already a great place to grow up. Education results are amongst the best in Wales, the outcome of school reports continue to be good in the main and the city offers a wealth of opportunities as part of the new Curriculum for Wales. However, inequality impacts the lives of too many children, young people, and their families, made worse by the lasting impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. The Council remains committed to narrowing the gap in outcomes for our children and young people and to working with schools, families and partners to respond to the challenges relating to attendance and pupil wellbeing in schools.

For our city's vulnerable children, young people and their families, the Council will continue to provide the highest quality of care and support. Families will be provided with the right support at the lowest safe level of intervention, enabling families to remain together where it is safe for them to do so. This will involve providing support in the community and a variety of homes for children, supporting a permanent workforce all supported by good practice and the procedures.

**Our priorities for delivering a stronger, fairer, greener Cardiff in 2024/25:**

- **Being a Child Friendly City: Advancing the rights of children and young people**
- **Learning Entitlement: Providing high-quality education and learning opportunities for all**
- **Wellbeing, Equity and Inclusion: Ensuring all children and young people are ready and able to learn, and enjoy positive health and wellbeing**
- **Delivering Sustainable Communities for Learning**
- **Shifting the balance of care:**
  - Place
  - People
  - Practice
- **Protecting the wellbeing of vulnerable children, young people and families**





# What we will do to make Cardiff a great place to grow up

## Being a Child Friendly City: Advancing the rights of children and young people

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Implement the three-year Sustainability Plan 2024-2027 to further progress Cardiff as a Child Friendly City.	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of Cardiff schools that are bronze, silver or gold Rights Respecting Schools	85%
Of the Rights Respecting Schools, the percentage which are silver or gold	70%
The percentage of young people that know about their rights	90%
The percentage of young people that have heard about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Baseline being set
The percentage of Council staff completing Child Rights training	85%

## A Learning Entitlement: Providing high-quality education and learning opportunities for all

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Refresh the Cardiff 2030 Vision for Education and Learning during the autumn term 2024.	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
Reflect and respond to the outcome of the Ministerial Middle Tier Review of roles and responsibilities of Local Authorities and School Improvement Services.	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
Work in partnership with Welsh Government and education partners to support the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales, and a new qualifications offer within schools, pupil referral units and EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) settings, by 2026.	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Develop and support senior leaders in Cardiff schools</b> by complementing and supplementing the national professional learning offer with a series of local programmes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the knowledge, skills and understanding of current senior leaders to help prepare them for potential headship and to become credible candidates for headship;</li> <li>• With key partners, promote headship as a highly valued vocation in Cardiff;</li> <li>• Provide support for headteachers new to the role and/or new to headship in Cardiff and to provide a career-long support network for Cardiff headteachers;</li> <li>• Delivering a programme to develop executive leadership in schools.</li> </ul>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<p>Develop and implement a recruitment and retention programme to increase the <b>diversity of the school workforce</b>, including within school governance.</p>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<p><b>Continue to enhance the Cardiff Commitment</b> through harnessing the economic, cultural, and social capital of Cardiff for the benefit of children and young people to secure opportunities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and strengthening the capacity of our partner network;</li> <li>• Empowering young people to make informed decisions regarding their next steps by providing easy access to information on the city’s Post-16 offer;</li> <li>• Targeting programmes informed by labour market intelligence to support young people with barriers and challenges to move into paid employment, training, or education.</li> </ul>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<p><b>Support schools to deliver the Curriculum for Wales by strengthening the Cardiff Commitment Curriculum Team offer, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing authentic learning experiences and challenges aligned with the Areas of Learning;</li> <li>• Using a wide range of networks – including the School Business Forums, One Planet Cardiff and the Cardiff Commitment network – to create new learning opportunities.</li> </ul>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of schools in an Estyn follow-up category	<5%
The percentage of all pupils in Year 11 leavers making a successful transition from statutory schooling to education, employment or training	98.5%
The percentage of EOTAS learners leaving Year 11 making a successful transition from statutory schooling to education, employment or training	92%

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of Children Looked After leaving Year 11 making a successful transition from statutory schooling to education, employment or training	92%
The percentage of schools engaged with Cardiff Commitment partners	85%
The number of pupil engagements with Cardiff Commitment partners	15,372
The number of work experience placements developed with Cardiff Commitment partners	60
The number of supported employment internships developed with Cardiff Commitment partners	15

## Wellbeing, Equity and Inclusion: Ensuring all children and young people are ready and able to learn, and enjoy positive health and wellbeing

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<b>Continue to improve attendance at schools and Education Other than at Schools (EOTAS) settings</b> , with a focus on tackling persistent absenteeism and supporting schools experiencing the lowest levels of re-engagement post-pandemic.	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<b>Improve outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs</b> through successful implementation of the <b>Additional Learning Needs Code</b> in line with the Welsh Government deadline of August 2025.	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<b>Work with Welsh Government to improve resources for emotional health and wellbeing for schools and learners</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rolling out the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing (WSAEMW);</li> <li>Further developing school-based counselling.</li> </ul>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<b>Deliver the ‘Rights, Respect, Equality – Challenging Bullying, Hate Crime and Hate Incidents’ Anti-Bullying Strategy for Cardiff</b> embedding guidance and training, and monitoring its impact.	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<b>Support the achievement and progression of EOTAS (Educated Other than at Schools) learners through:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robust quality assurance of all EOTAS provision;</li> <li>Strong support for transition to Education, Employment and Training;</li> <li>Identification of suitable post-16 options.</li> </ul>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
Continue to <b>improve arrangements to assess the education and safeguarding of electively home-educated learners</b> , to ensure that statutory responsibilities are being met and optimum outcomes are secured for children and young people.	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Continue to roll out the 'Passport to the City' with Cardiff University and partners to provide the children and young people who need it the most with access to the wide range of resources and experiences the city has to offer, ensuring the prioritisation of Children Looked After.	Clr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
Building on the pilot work undertaken to date, develop a <b>Team Around the Cluster</b> model which effectively co-ordinates multi-agency intervention around locality issues, in particular for our most vulnerable learners.	Clr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
Complete the <b>Universal Free School Meals roll-out</b> in all Cardiff primary schools by September 2024.	Clr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<b>Launch a new five-year Strategy for Cardiff Youth Service</b> by January 2025, including the implementation of a new locality model for youth work, a strengthened Welsh language offer and digital offer by early summer 2024.	Clr Peter Bradbury	Education & Lifelong Learning

Key Performance Indicator	Target
Percentage Attendance: Primary Schools	92.5%
The percentage of persistent absence (below 50 % threshold) in Primary schools	<2.5%
Percentage attendance of pupils eligible for Free School Meals: Primary Schools	89.5%
Percentage Attendance: Secondary Schools	92%
The percentage of persistent absence (below 50 % threshold) in Secondary schools	<2.5%
Percentage attendance of pupils eligible for Free School Meals: Secondary Schools	86%
The number of fixed-term exclusions per 1,000 pupils in primary schools	5% decrease on the 2022/23 academic year outturn
The number of fixed-term exclusions per 1,000 pupils in secondary schools	10% decrease on the 2022/23 academic year outturn
The number of electively home-educated learners	Monitor KPI, no target set
The number of children and young people engaging with Passport to the City	1,500
The number of children looked after engaging with Passport to the City	50

## Delivering Sustainable Communities for Learning

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Deliver a continued programme of investment in new and existing school buildings informed by a revised School Organisation and Planning Strategy between April 2019 and 2026 to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that there are sufficient schools to provide appropriate education for all learners in the local authority area;</li> <li>• Address the condition of school buildings including asset renewal to existing and new school buildings;</li> <li>• Improve the teaching and learning environment;</li> <li>• Reshape and enhance specialist provision for pupils with additional learning needs;</li> <li>• Begin to develop a strategic framework for prioritisation of future investment.</li> </ul>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<p><b>Ensure access to appropriate education for the increased number of pupils with emotional health and wellbeing and additional learning needs</b> by delivering additional school places to meet presenting demand.</p>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<p>Continue to <b>deliver the Schools ICT Strategy</b>, in line with the Welsh Government's Digital Best Practice, through a sustainable service level agreement for the provision of digital equipment and learning technologies.</p>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<p><b>Deliver the ten-year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)</b> in line with the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy 2022-27 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development and implementation of action plans for the next five years consistent with the approved strategy;</li> <li>• The expansion of Welsh-medium primary school provision by September 2025</li> </ul>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning
<p><b>Deliver the National Framework for Community Focused Schools</b> in three school clusters by 2025 with aims to further support schools from the most disadvantaged communities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a strong partnership with families;</li> <li>• Respond to the needs of their communities;</li> <li>• Collaborate effectively with other services.</li> </ul>	Cllr Sarah Merry	Education & Lifelong Learning

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of people with children satisfied with the quality of their local school	Baseline being set
The number of added formal Additional Learning Needs (ALN) places delivered across the city	132
The percentage of learners with ALN attending Cardiff-maintained specialist placements	Monitor KPI, no target set
The number of children and young people with ALN funded to attend local independent schools	Monitor KPI, no target set
The number of children and young people with ALN funded in other Local Authorities <i>(This may include mainstream or specialist placements.)</i>	Monitor KPI, no target set
The number of children looked after living out of area and funded to attend independent or residential schools	Monitor KPI, no target set
The number of school closure days as a result of building issues	Monitor KPI, no target set
The percentage of children securing one of their top choices of school placement: Primary (of top three preferences)	99%
The percentage of children securing one of their top choices of school placement: Secondary (of top five preferences)	93%

### Shifting the balance of care: place

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<b>Continue to implement the Right Place Model</b> to improve services, support and accommodation options for children in, and on the edge of, care.	Cllr Ash Lister	Children's Services
<b>Develop the in-house Fostering Service</b> to meet demand for placements and ensure that foster carers have the necessary skills to care for children and young people with complex needs.	Cllr Ash Lister	Children's Services
Embed the reunification process across case management teams to <b>ensure that children are able to stay with their families where it is in their best interest to do so.</b>	Cllr Ash Lister	Children's Services
<b>Continue to implement the Accommodation Strategy for 2023-26</b> to address placement sufficiency issues and support the implementation of the Right Place Model.	Cllr Ash Lister	Children's Services

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of children looked after fostered by Local Authority foster carers	160
The number of children looked after fostered by external foster carers	272
The number of children looked after placed in in-house residential placements	25
The number of children looked after in external residential placements	80
The number of children returned home from care during the year	70
The number of newly registered children's residential beds in Cardiff for Cardiff children ( <i>This is a two-year target.</i> )	18
The percentage of children looked after in regulated placements who are placed in Cardiff	60%
The percentage of children looked after in regulated placements who are placed in Cardiff or a neighbouring authority	80%

### Shifting the balance of care: people

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<b>Build on the progress made implementing a locality approach to service provision</b> to maximise opportunities for children to have access to services close to home.	Cllr Ash Lister	Children's Services
<b>Continue to implement the Children's Services Workforce Action Plan</b> to secure a primarily permanent workforce.	Cllr Ash Lister	Children's Services

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of permanent social worker vacancies in Children's Services	15%
The number of schools with a named link worker	128

## Shifting the balance of care: practice

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Continue working with partners to <b>develop and implement pathways and a joint model of service provision for children with serious mental health and emotional wellbeing issues.</b>	Cllr Ash Lister	Children's Services
<b>Continue the implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy 'Building Safer Futures Together'</b> and Improvement Plan to reduce offending and improve outcomes for young people.	Cllr Ash Lister	Children's Services
<b>Refresh the Corporate Parenting Strategy and operational plan for 2024-27,</b> setting out how we will improve outcomes and wellbeing for children looked after.	Cllr Ash Lister	Children's Services

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System	60
The percentage of children re-offending within six months of their previous offence	40%
The number of young people in receipt of a prevention service from the Youth Justice Service	130
The percentage of care leavers in categories 2, 3 and 4 <sup>1</sup> who have completed at least three consecutive months of employment, education or training in the 12 months since leaving care	65%
The percentage of care leavers in categories 2, 3 and 4 <sup>1</sup> who have completed at least three consecutive months of employment, education or training in the 13-24 months since leaving care	65%

<sup>1</sup> Care Leavers in categories 2, 3 and 4 are those aged 16 or 17, those aged 18 or over and those young people who reconnect to care for education or training purposes. ([Section 104, Social Services and Wellbeing Act \(Wales\) 2014](#))



## Protecting the wellbeing of vulnerable children, young people and families

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Continue with Phase 2 of the Flying Start Childcare expansion roll-out</b> through a phased approach following Welsh Government guidance including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that all steps possible are carried out to increase the take-up of the childcare spaces to the maximum allowed by Welsh Government;</li> <li>Investigating the use of a Dynamic Purchasing System to encourage more childcare providers to deliver Flying Start childcare places;</li> <li>Continuing to expand the number of individual Welsh language places available.</li> </ul>	Cllr Ash Lister	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p>Complete a review of the pathways into Early Help and Children's Services <b>to ensure families receive the right help at the right time from the right people.</b></p>	Cllr Ash Lister	Children's Services
<p><b>Take forward actions identified in the Education Safeguarding self-assessment</b> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Pastoral Support Plan processes to improve the capacity of specialist teams;</li> <li>Ensure consistent bullying returns via MyConcern and complete work on feedback from schools to improve the system;</li> <li>Establish an improved school safeguarding audit tool in partnership with schools;</li> <li>Continue to strengthen communication to schools on thresholds and access to services, such as Early Help and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to enable greater understanding.</li> </ul>	Cllr Sarah Merry & Cllr Ash Lister	Education & Lifelong Learning
<p>Take forward the development of an <b>Integrated Model of Services for Adolescents</b>, with a focus upon early intervention and prevention to safeguard young people and promote positive wellbeing and life chances.</p>	Cllr Ash Lister, Cllr Sarah Merry & Cllr Peter Bradbury	Education & Lifelong Learning, and Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p>Pilot the Single View of the Child project to <b>support decision-making and service delivery for young people.</b></p>	Cllr Ash Lister, Cllr Peter Bradbury & Cllr Sarah Merry	Performance & Partnerships, Education & Lifelong Learning and Children's Services

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of people supported through the Family Gateway	9,000
The number of referrals stepped down from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to Family Help	Baseline being set
The number of referrals stepped down from Children's Services via consultations	Baseline being set
The number of referrals stepped up to Children's Services via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub or the Child Health & Disability Team	Baseline being set
The percentage of families referred to Family Help, showing evidence of positive distance travelled	95%
The percentage of referrals to the front door which are received by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	Reduce
The percentage of Section 47 enquiries completed on time	60%
The percentage of initial core groups held on time	60%
The percentage of children re-registered on the Child Protection Register within 12 months of previous registration	<6%



# Wellbeing Objective 2:

Cardiff is a great place to grow older



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The population in Cardiff is ageing, as it is across Wales. As an Age-Friendly City, the Council is committed to doing all it can to support people to live healthily and independently in their own homes and communities as they get older.

Not only is this important for the health and wellbeing of older people, but also for ensuring we can continue to deliver sustainable public services given the current and projected levels of demand for adult social care. These are pressures that are being felt across the public service system, so close working with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and other public sector and community partners will therefore be vital in ensuring that Cardiff is a great place to grow older.

**Our priorities for delivering a stronger, fairer, greener Cardiff in 2024/25:**

- **Supporting older people to stay active and connected in an Age-Friendly City**
- **Supporting older people to live independently at home through strengths-based preventative services**
- **Working in partnership to deliver high-quality sustainable care and support**
- **Supporting unpaid carers and valuing their role**
- **Ensuring our services meet the needs of the most vulnerable**



# What we will do to make Cardiff a great place to grow older

## Supporting older people to stay active and connected in an Age-Friendly City

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Work with partners as part of our commitment to be an Age-Friendly and Dementia Friendly City</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing a full part in the World Health Organisation’s Network of Age-Friendly Cities;</li> <li>• Measuring our success through a city-wide evaluation framework and key performance indicators;</li> <li>• Recruiting volunteer Dementia Friendly Ambassadors to encourage local businesses to become dementia friendly;</li> <li>• Producing an annual report on progress.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Encourage employment and prevent discrimination against older people in the job market</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working in partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions to deliver Adult Learning’s 50+ Employable Me course and engage employers to offer guaranteed interviews to participants who complete the training;</li> <li>• Increasing digital sessions across the city, supporting older people with digital deprivation, continuing with the digital tablet gifting scheme;</li> <li>• Encouraging employers to sign up to the Age Friendly Employer Pledge scheme operated by the Centre for Ageing Better and developing Cardiff-specific reporting to track progress.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Provide opportunities for all people to get involved in their community, and in particular to support older people to stay active and connected,</b> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with community groups and volunteers to broaden the range of activities, events and opportunities to get involved offered in the Hubs;</li> <li>• Further developing and embedding the “Hubs for All” approach, improving access to community activities for those who need additional support;</li> <li>• Following the successful development of the Wellbeing Hub in Llanedeyrn, working with the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board on plans for a similar scheme for Ely and Caerau, and to fully integrate health initiatives into all Hubs;</li> <li>• Continuing to build on the advice and support available in Hubs for older people and carers;</li> <li>• Continuing to review the effectiveness of the actions taken to prevent loneliness and isolation.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie & Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Work with Primary, Community and Intermediate Care (PCIC) to support and embed a preventative approach to reducing demand on GP services</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting a preventive approach through the effective use of social prescribing;</li> <li>Ensuring patients receive the right support at the right time by improving GPs' awareness of available services within the community;</li> <li>Increasing GP engagement and collaboration via the Cluster Multi-disciplinary Teams to support the development of a whole systems approach to address citizen needs.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of digital and face-to-face Dementia Friendly City events held	2,300
The number of individuals who have attended the designated courses for those aged 50+ delivered by the Into Work Advice Service	80
The percentage of people who feel reconnected into their community through direct and digital interventions from the Day Opportunities team	85%
The number of events held to support people to keep active and stay mobile	500
The number of participants at the events held to support people to keep active and stay mobile	8,000
The number of events held to support people to remain connected and stay social	1,400
The number of participants at the events held to support people to remain connected and stay social	15,000

## Supporting older people to live independently at home through strengths-based preventative services

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Provide the right help at the right time to help people stay independent at home</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further developing our First Point of Contact Service to include a multi-disciplinary team approach focused on supporting independence, embedding this in the hospital and fully implementing the approach in the community;</li> <li>• Fully embedding empowering and strengths-based social work through improved training and support;</li> <li>• Working with partners and across services to develop and extend a trusted assessor approach within Council services;</li> <li>• Completing the modernisation of our homecare service to provide both a full reablement service and short-term emergency care by December 2024;</li> <li>• Embedding the use of new technology and equipment to support independence and further developing the proposals for the Independent Living Wellbeing Centre;</li> <li>• Exploring all opportunities for additional funding to support the delivery of disabled adaptations and re-focus use of funding to best meet need;</li> <li>• Building on the support available to help older people move to more appropriate housing and develop a model of housing with care to be delivered in the new older persons housing developments.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Continue to deliver new older persons housing</b> which supports independent living, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing the construction of the community living schemes at St Mellons and achieving a start on site for the Maelfa project by April 2024;</li> <li>• Completing the construction of the Leckwith Road and Bute Street community living projects by March 2025;</li> <li>• Subject to planning approval, commencing the development of the Michaelston Wellbeing Village in November 2024;</li> <li>• Completing Block B of Channel View by summer 2025 and Block A by the end of 2027.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie & Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of clients who felt able to live independently in their homes following support from Independent Living Services	95%
The percentage of new cases assisted by First Point of Contact where a more comprehensive assessment is not required	70%
The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a disabled adaptation (from initial contact to the works certified completed date)	185



Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of service user sessions delivered within Care Hub day services	6,500
The number of care hours delivered by Care Hub day services	40,000
The percentage of people satisfied with services provided by Adult Social Care	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The percentage of service users of the Community Resource Team – Homecare Service who were satisfied with the service received from the carers who supported them	95%

### Working in partnership to deliver high-quality sustainable care and support

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Work to support timely and safe hospital discharge</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring and reviewing arrangements in the Integrated Discharge Hub and Hospital Discharge team to ensure opportunities for hospital discharge are maximised;</li> <li>Reviewing the success of the hospital discharge pathways for Discharge to Assess (D2A), Discharge to Recover and Assess (D2RA), and the Community Resource Team and reporting on the findings.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p>Work with care providers to <b>deliver good-quality care that meets current and future needs</b>, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embedding the Quality Assurance Framework and developing a set of performance indicators to measure the quality of commissioned care provision by September 2024 for domiciliary care and by December 2024 for residential care;</li> <li>Supporting people to remain at home, where appropriate, by effective use of domiciliary care and through effective use of technology;</li> <li>Promoting the development of high-quality nursing and dementia care through more targeted commissioning of services.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Listen to the voices of our citizens</b> and increase their choice in care provision by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving our engagement with older people, seeking meaningful input and feedback;</li> <li>Reviewing the effectiveness of the trusted partnership approach with care providers to further increase flexibility of care;</li> <li>Reviewing current usage of our services, and taking steps to ensure all Cardiff communities are aware of, and have access to, our services.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities



We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Support the social care workforce</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging with Welsh Government to seek to secure appropriate funding to sustain the Real Living Wage for care workers;</li> <li>Further developing the Cardiff Cares Academy to provide training, mentoring and employer support;</li> <li>Providing proactive support to help care workers achieve registration;</li> <li>Further developing carer skills to support hospital discharge and reablement.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Improve recruitment and retention of social workers and occupational therapists</b> by implementing the Workforce Development Strategy Action Plan and by taking a “grow our own” approach to increase qualified staff.</p>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of cases triaged by the Integrated Discharge Hub within one working day	Baseline being set
The total number of discharges with care	Baseline being set
The percentage of permanent social worker vacancies in Adult Services	12%
The total number of domiciliary care workers in Cardiff registered with Social Care Wales	Target to be equal to 2023/24 outturn
The average time from referral to the Brokerage Team to the start of domiciliary care	12 days
The average number of people waiting for domiciliary care at month end	<30

## Supporting unpaid carers and valuing their role

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Listen to unpaid carers and families to ensure we provide the help they need</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing the results of consultation and co-producing services with carers;</li> <li>• Improving arrangement for respite – piloting a sitting service for unpaid carers to allow them to take a break and recommissioning residential respite services to better meet need;</li> <li>• Improving advice services and support for carers – building on the success of Care’ diff by launching a distribution channel for information and signposting to services, support and targeted activities;</li> <li>• Improving take up of carer’s assessments by embedding the service at the First Point of Contact and improving the “offer” to carers by learning from their feedback;</li> <li>• Developing new ways to capture unpaid carers’ satisfaction with the support available.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of eligible carers who were offered a carer’s assessment	85%

## Ensuring our services meet the needs of the most vulnerable

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Support people with dementia to stay at home wherever possible</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing best practice in supporting people with dementia to live in the community and using this to inform the commissioning of new framework arrangements for care homes;</li> <li>• Reviewing the dementia training required to ensure that staff can tailor the correct care and support to the person and their family in their home;</li> <li>• Implementing and embedding a learning network for care home providers to share good practice and learning regarding dementia care in order to improve quality across the care home sector.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of Council staff completing Dementia Friends training	85%
The number of over 75s new to residential care	No target, but year-on-year reduction

# Wellbeing Objective 3:

Supporting people out of poverty

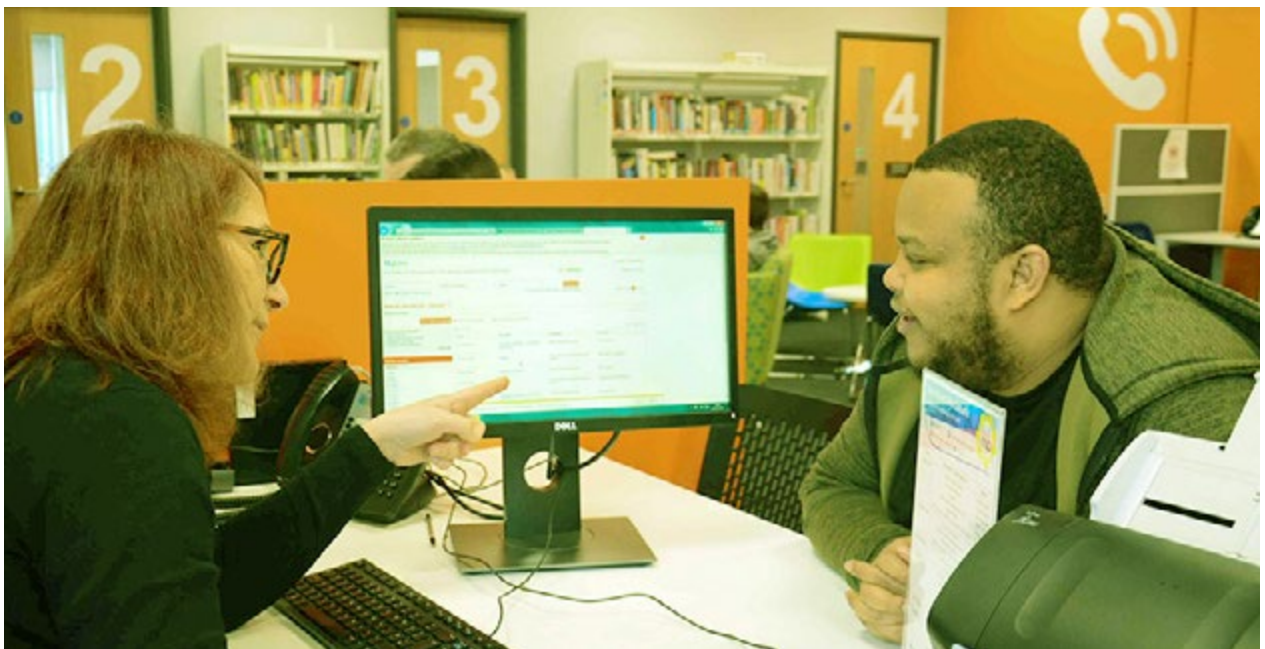
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Cardiff has experienced significant economic growth over the past decades, however persistent patterns of inequality remain evident across the city, with some of the most deprived communities in Wales found in the capital city. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis is amplifying the financial strain on households, making the cost of meeting basic needs ever more expensive, intensifying the pressures that many people face and deepening existing inequalities.

The Council will continue to offer a wide range of support, particularly for those in most need. This will include support to access job opportunities, promoting the Real Living Wage, improving health outcomes, supporting rough sleepers and helping prevent homelessness.

**Our priorities for delivering a stronger, fairer, greener Cardiff in 2024/25:**

- **Supporting those most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis**
- **Supporting people into work**
- **Continuing our Living Wage City ambition**
- **Embedding our new approach to preventing homelessness and ending rough sleeping**



# What we will do to support people out of poverty

## Supporting those most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Continue to support residents who are struggling financially</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that ongoing support is available which can be accessed in person, through the Adviceline, or by webchat or email;</li> <li>Promoting the rent arrears pathway and reviewing how rent arrears cases in all tenures are managed, so that they are dealt with rapidly, whilst using the most appropriate financial support to prevent homelessness;</li> <li>Continuing the legacy of Together For Cardiff, working with charities and businesses to develop a long-term model to support those in poverty.</li> </ul>	Cllr Peter Bradbury	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p>Raise awareness of illegal money lending and <b>support individuals to access responsible lenders and debt advice, rebuild their finances and make a sustainable transition to legal credit.</b></p>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Economic Development

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of customers helped with Universal Credit financial support	5,000
Additional weekly benefit identified for clients of the Advice Team	£18,000,000

## Supporting people into work

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Support people into work</b> by continuing to fill current, and deliver new, apprenticeships and trainee opportunities within the Council.</p>	Cllr Chris Weaver	Resources
<p>Support more people into work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through the newly expanded Into Work Service, <b>creating new bespoke employment and training packages</b> to meet any new or emerging workforce demands in the city;</li> <li>Working alongside <b>major regeneration projects</b>, including the new Indoor Arena, to support local people into the new jobs the projects create;</li> <li>Supporting people who are in work to secure higher paid and more sustained employment, through intensive in-work mentoring and upskilling.</li> </ul>	Cllr Peter Bradbury	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of new apprenticeship and trainee placements provided within the Council in year	100
The total number of apprenticeship and trainee placements within the Council in year	150
The number of Council posts filled through placements from Cardiff Works	2,800
The number of interventions which supported people receiving into work advice through the Employment Gateway	60,000
The number of clients who have received tailored support through the Employment Gateway and who secured work as a result of the support received	1,300
The percentage of customers satisfied with a Learning For Work course they attended	Baseline being set
The percentage of those supported through targeted intervention who ceased engagement with no verified positive destination	<10%
The percentage of Into Work clients who identify as being from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background	Monitor KPI, no target set
The number of new employers which have been assisted by the Council's employment support service	300

### Continuing our Living Wage City ambition

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Play a leadership role in creating a Living Wage City by encouraging and supporting organisations to become <b>accredited Living Wage employers</b> .	Cllr Chris Weaver	Resources

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of accredited Real Living Wage employers in Cardiff	260
The number of workers receiving a pay rise onto at least the Real Living Wage	14,000

## Preventing homelessness whenever possible and ending rough sleeping

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Continue to develop homelessness prevention services, resulting in high levels of successful prevention, by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing waiting time for prevention appointments and ensuring dedicated caseworkers for complex cases by effectively targeting resources;</li> <li>• Carrying out a sympathetic publicity campaign highlighting the help available to those who are at risk of homelessness, with specific focus on seeking help early for maximum prevention support;</li> <li>• Aligning the Prevention and Homeless Private Rented Sector Teams, formalising and promoting the private rented sector offer as an alternative solution to social housing, where affordable and available;</li> <li>• Investigating how a rapid response could be created to provide wrap-around support to prevent homelessness for more complex cases.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Prevent youth homelessness and ensure that young people leaving care are supported by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further enhancing advice and mediation services, with particular regard to young people;</li> <li>• Widening roll-out of targeted interventions and support for school-aged children and their families;</li> <li>• Continuing to ensure the young person’s gateway accommodation meets current needs, reviewing and increasing capacity within the gateway as needed;</li> <li>• Developing new supported housing schemes for young people with complex needs including the scheme proposed for the Citadel site.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Ensure that the complex needs of homeless people are met by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further developing the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) and ensuring clear pathways are in place for move-on to mainstream services when appropriate;</li> <li>• Ensuring that appropriate health and support services are available in hostels and supported accommodation;</li> <li>• Enhancing the long-term partnership between health, third sector and other statutory services to ensure a holistic assessment centre that is fit for purpose and integrated into the health inclusion model;</li> <li>• Fully training staff and focusing on assertive re-engagement with those who may fall out of services as well as providing meaningful opportunities for residents to train and volunteer;</li> <li>• Continuing to support and assist rough sleepers to access and maintain accommodation by reviewing and developing our assertive outreach approach and further developing and promoting the benefits of Diversionary Activities.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Respond to the Housing Emergency declaration</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting on proposed homelessness policy amendments and implementing any changes as appropriate;</li> <li>Increasing Temporary Accommodation capacity to address homelessness pressures by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completing the Gasworks site scheme by May 2024;</li> <li>Increasing the number of managed schemes to improve move-on into permanent accommodation;</li> <li>Increasing the number of property purchases;</li> <li>Working with Registered Social Landlord partners to increase accommodation;</li> <li>Securing grant funding to deliver additional meanwhile use sites for the rapid delivery of new temporary accommodation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Improve access to the private rented sector and promote this to address housing need</b>, through the Landlord Enquiry and Tenancy Service (LETS) and expansion of the Welsh Government Leasing Scheme.</p>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Improve the quality of our Supported and Temporary Accommodation</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completing the phasing out of accommodation that no longer meets the required standards;</li> <li>Reducing the use of hotel accommodation for families.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of households threatened with homelessness successfully prevented from becoming homeless	80%
The percentage of people presenting to the homelessness service who are homeless on the day, without previously seeking prevention help	<40%
The average waiting time for a homelessness prevention appointment	<7 days
The number of additional properties on the Leasing Scheme Wales	40
The total number of rough sleepers in the city (quarterly average)	<20
The percentage of clients utilising Housing First for whom the cycle of homelessness was broken	90%



# Wellbeing Objective 4:

Safe, confident and empowered communities



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The Council will continue to invest in communities, providing the environment, services and support needed for them all to be safe, confident and empowered. This will involve leading the response to the housing emergency by doing everything possible to improve the availability of affordable housing to rent or buy. It will also involve an ongoing programme of investment to regenerate local and district centres, maintaining the quality of the city's parks and green spaces, supporting sports and culture at the community level and promoting the Welsh language.

Cardiff remains one of the safest and most inclusive cities in the UK. The Council will continue to focus on tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and all forms of exploitation in our communities, working in close partnership with South Wales Police, public services and community partners.

**Our priorities for delivering a stronger, fairer, greener Cardiff in 2024/25:**

- **Leading the response to the Housing Emergency**
- **Investing in communities**
- **Ensuring children and adults are protected from risk of harm and abuse**
- **Creating safe and inclusive communities**
- **Promoting the Welsh language**
- **Supporting grass-roots and community sport across the city**
- **Delivering high-quality parks and public spaces**



# What we will do to create safe, confident and empowered communities

## Leading the response to the Housing Emergency

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Expand the scale and pace of the Council house-building programme</b> through all delivery routes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointing a preferred development partner by December 2024 for a new Council-led commercial housing development partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council;</li> <li>• Ensuring that sufficient sites are identified to increase housing stock by at least 4,000 new homes overall, including the delivery of properties for rent or sale to keyworkers.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Deliver innovative housing solutions</b> to address issues such as overcrowding, under-occupation, lack of family accommodation and lack of adapted properties by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting mutual exchanges;</li> <li>• Providing tailored support to those who wish to downsize;</li> <li>• Expanding the use of modular extensions;</li> <li>• Reviewing the co-ordination and use of adapted and older persons accommodation.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Undertake preparatory work necessary to achieve compliance with the new Welsh Quality Housing Standard 2023</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carrying out requirements in void properties from April 2024 to include flooring, water butts and water-reducing taps;</li> <li>• Implementing a new asset database;</li> <li>• Procuring arrangements for the new property pathway plan surveys;</li> <li>• Fully costing the requirements of the new WHQS requirements from April 2025.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Continue to further improve tenants' experience of the Responsive Repairs Unit</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing enhanced tenant feedback opportunities and using this feedback to identify areas for improvement and implement corrective actions;</li> <li>• Expanding further the dedicated 'Dry Homes' team to address the increasing demand for handling damp and disrepair cases;</li> <li>• Introducing the new Repairs Online solution;</li> <li>• Further developing our Repairs Academy to ensure that our future workforce have the required skills to maintain our properties as new and emerging technologies are installed.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities



<b>We will:</b>	<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Lead Directorate</b>
<p>Work in partnership with Registered Social Landlords to <b>maximise the amount of affordable housing</b> that can be delivered through the Social Housing Grant Programme, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing a five-year plan to build the specialist and supported accommodation required;</li> <li>• Achieving a full spend of allocated Welsh Government funding;</li> <li>• Maximising opportunities to secure additional monies.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Lynda Thorne</b></p>	<p><b>Adult Services, Housing &amp; Communities</b></p>
<p><b>Drive up standards in the private rented housing sector</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering the Welsh Government’s Rent Smart Wales scheme – an all-Wales registration and licensing scheme;</li> <li>• Undertaking robust enforcement action to deal with rogue agents and landlords letting and managing properties.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Lynda Thorne &amp; Cllr Dan De’Ath</b></p>	<p><b>Resources and Economic Development</b></p>
<p><b>Work with homeowners and landlords to return empty properties back to use</b> through engagement, support, consideration of varying the Council Tax premium scheme, and where necessary, taking appropriate enforcement action to deal with the worst long-term derelict empty homes.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Lynda Thorne, Cllr Chris Weaver &amp; Cllr Dan De’Ath</b></p>	<p><b>Economic Development and Resources</b></p>
<p><b>Improve fire safety in homes</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to communicate and work with Council tenants to ensure high-rise buildings are safe and suitable for occupants;</li> <li>• Continuing to deliver improvement measures including re-cladding and sprinkler installations in Council properties;</li> <li>• Ensuring regular fire safety assessments are carried out and acted on in Council properties;</li> <li>• Working with partner organisations including South Wales Fire &amp; Rescue Service in regard to training and high-rise familiarisation events using Council high-rise blocks;</li> <li>• Continuing to work with Welsh Government and stakeholder organisations in the development of their Building Safety Programme for medium and high-rise buildings in the private sector.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Lynda Thorne &amp; Cllr Dan De’Ath</b></p>	<p><b>Adult Services, Housing &amp; Communities, and Economic Development</b></p>

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of sites included in the approved Council development programme	Monitor KPI, no target set
Total number of new homes these sites can deliver	Monitor KPI, no target set
The number of new Council homes delivered in-year through all delivery routes	270
Rolling total number of new homes delivered to date through all delivery routes	4,000
Total number of new affordable housing units (Council and Housing Association) completed per annum	500
The percentage of Council tenants satisfied with the service provided by their social landlord	75%
The percentage of emergency repairs completed on time (two hours)	95%
The percentage of urgent repairs completed on time (five working days)	70%
The number of private rented sector properties where significant hazards (Category 1 and 2) have been removed following intervention by Shared Regulatory Services	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The number of empty private sector properties brought back into use or additional dwellings created as a result of direct local authority action on empty homes	TBC in April 2024

## Investing in communities

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Approve a new Regeneration Strategy to <b>support the vitality and viability of district and local centres</b> , including establishing a 15-minute city toolkit by September 2024.	Cllr Lynda Thorne, Cllr Russell Goodway & Cllr Dan De'Ath	Adult Services, Housing & Communities, Economic Development, and Planning, Transport & Environment
<b>Invest in our local communities</b> by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing regeneration opportunities for the South Riverside Business Corridor, refreshing the placemaking plan by December 2024;</li> <li>Commencing scoping work to inform a new placemaking plan for the Roath/Adamsdown Business Corridor by March 2025;</li> <li>Implementing the current estate improvement programme;</li> <li>Securing additional Welsh Government Transforming Towns funding for projects;</li> <li>Delivering the three-year programme for Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p>Investigate and <b>deliver future Community, Youth and Wellbeing Hubs</b> with partners, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bringing forward plans for a Youth Hub in the city centre and agreeing a preferred option by May 2024;</li> <li>• Agreeing heads of terms and working in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) on the Full Business Case for the new Health and Wellbeing Hub at Ely &amp; Caerau by late 2024;</li> <li>• Commencing feasibility work with UHB to scope the potential for a partnership Riverside Hub;</li> <li>• Developing designs for new Hubs on strategic planning sites and larger housing and regeneration projects.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Transform Bereavement &amp; Registration Services</b> through modernising our service delivery, improving access to services for all, making digital improvements, identifying new and additional burial space to meet community need throughout the city, and introducing new services for the benefit of our residents.</p>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The amount of external funding secured to deliver regeneration initiatives in communities (including Section 106 monies for community facilities, Welsh Government grants, and health & social care grants)	£1m per annum
The number of funding bids submitted per year to deliver regeneration initiatives in communities	4
The number of in-person visits to libraries and Hubs across the city	1.5 million
The number of virtual visits to our 24-hour digital library	2.5 million
The number of physical books borrowed from libraries and Hubs across the city	1.6 million
The number of digital books downloaded from our 24-hour digital library	1.1 million
The number of page views on the Hubs website	420,000
The percentage of customers who agreed with the statement 'Overall the Hub met my requirements/ I got what I needed'	95%
The number of visits (page views) to the volunteer portal	85,000
The number of hours given volunteering within Housing & Communities	18,000

## Ensuring children and adults are protected from risk of harm and abuse

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Ensure that all people, however vulnerable, retain a voice in their care</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring our social workers take a strengths-based approach to mental capacity and ensure that, as far as possible, older people retain voice and control;</li> <li>Monitoring the recommissioned Advocacy Services to ensure the objectives set out in the Cardiff &amp; Vale Advocacy Strategy are met;</li> <li>Increasing the use of direct payments by encouraging the development of micro-enterprises and the recruitment of Personal Assistants.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Improve the support available to people with mental health issues</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting the University Health Board with their Community Transformation project and the review of services to meet the needs of those individuals who may not require formal care and support services;</li> <li>Reviewing the success of the Health and Wellbeing service within the Hubs, providing support and advice, and finding community solutions for individuals with low-level mental health issues;</li> <li>Identifying additional accommodation and support solutions to support people with mental health issues to move from residential/ hospital settings or similar unsuitable accommodation to live independently by developing a pipeline of additional supported schemes and recommissioning care services by March 2025;</li> <li>Developing proposals for improving the environment for Ty Canna Day Services for mental health, continuing to build on volunteer support, and completing the design in partnership with Ty Canna service user representatives to bring forward detailed proposals by September 2024.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Enhance the support available for people living with learning disabilities</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a Delivery Plan for Adults with a learning disability, setting out a range of proposals to ensure that individuals can live their best lives in their homes and communities by June 2024;</li> <li>Further developing the Complex Needs Day Service, ensuring that individuals with multiple and severe disabilities can access the community and bringing forward a preferred site and initial proposals for improved centre premises by September 2024;</li> <li>Improving and increasing overnight respite;</li> <li>Developing proposals for new accommodation and support options to promote independence and facilitate stepdown from residential care.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<p><b>Improve services for people with autism</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing the effectiveness of training and ensuring all staff have access to the appropriate level of training to meet the needs of autistic people;</li> <li>Embedding the specialist neurodiversity service within Adult Services and reporting on outcomes.</li> </ul>	Cllr Norma Mackie	Adult Services, Housing & Communities

<b>We will:</b>	<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Lead Directorate</b>
<b>Produce a Neurodivergent Friendly Strategy</b> which ensures our services identify and meet the needs of neurodivergent citizens.	<b>Cllr Norma Mackie</b>	<b>Adult Services, Housing &amp; Communities</b>
<b>Ensure children and adults are protected from risk of harm and abuse</b> by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing the Regional Safeguarding Board's Annual Plan;</li> <li>Continuing to develop and implement the Safeguarding Adolescents From Exploitation (SAFE) Model during the year;</li> <li>Monitoring the adult safeguarding referrals received and develop a pro-active multi-agency response to re-occurring issues.</li> </ul>	<b>Cllr Ash Lister &amp; Cllr Norma Mackie</b>	<b>Adult Services, Housing &amp; Communities, Children's Services, and Performance &amp; Partnerships</b>
<b>Work with Public Health Wales and other partners to carry out targeted activity to reduce health inequalities across the city</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting health screenings;</li> <li>Promoting the take-up of vaccinations;</li> <li>Combatting childhood obesity.</li> </ul>	<b>Cllr Julie Sangani</b>	<b>Adult Services, Housing &amp; Communities, and Performance &amp; Partnerships</b>
<b>Work with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) and Public Health Wales to improve access to services</b> by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributing to a partnership approach to improve community-based services to prevent hospital admissions;</li> <li>Supporting work by Cardiff and Vale UHB to improve health support available to marginalised groups including refugees, asylum seekers, prison leavers and the homeless population including rough sleepers.</li> </ul>	<b>Cllr Julie Sangani &amp; Cllr Norma Mackie</b>	<b>Adult Services, Housing &amp; Communities</b>

<b>Key Performance Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
The number of individuals with mental health issues/ learning disabilities who have been supported to step down to greater independence	<b>Monitor KPI, no target set</b>
The number of adults in need of care and support using the Direct Payments scheme	<b>Baseline being set</b>
The number of adult protection enquiries received	<b>Not appropriate to set target</b>
The percentage of adult protection enquiries completed within seven days	<b>99%</b>
The percentage of actions for the Council generated by practice review recommendations progressed to completion in the 12 months post-publication	<b>60%</b>
The percentage of green RAG-rated actions for the Council in the Regional Safeguarding Board's self-assessment	<b>80%</b>
The percentage of corporate safeguarding self-assessments completed by Council directorates	<b>100%</b>



Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of actions generated from self-assessment progressed to completion at year-end	80%
The percentage of Council staff completing safeguarding awareness training	85%

## Creating safe and inclusive communities

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Work as part of Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) to <b>safeguard the health, safety and economic wellbeing of consumers, businesses and residents</b> through work on environmental health, trading standards and licensing as detailed in the SRS Business Plan 2024/25.	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Economic Development
<b>Lead a targeted multi-agency problem-solving approach to localised complex anti-social behaviour hotspots.</b>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Performance & Partnerships
<b>Deliver the objectives of the Cardiff Violence Prevention Strategy</b> and evaluate progress at the end of 2025.	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Performance & Partnerships
<b>Deliver the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2023-26 with partners.</b>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
<b>Recommission the specialist Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence service provision by March 2025.</b>	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Adult Services, Housing & Communities
Work with public and private sector partners to <b>deliver the four areas of the national CONTEST Strategy</b> (Prevent, Protect, Prepare, Pursue) in order to keep Cardiff safe from the threat of terrorism.	Cllr Lynda Thorne	Performance & Partnerships
<b>Continue to lead a city-wide response to welcome refugees and asylum seekers,</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting access to accommodation, education, employment and health services;</li> <li>Managing the impact of accelerated asylum dispersal;</li> <li>Developing an enhanced advice and support service for refugees and asylum seekers;</li> <li>Working with Welsh and UK Governments to ensure equity of funding and deliver a Wales-wide approach.</li> </ul>	Cllr Julie Sangani	Performance & Partnerships

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of food establishments which achieve a food hygiene standard rating of 3 or above	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The extent to which citizens agree that local public services are successfully dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in their local area	Monitor KPI, no target set
The percentage of residents who are satisfied with the level of anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood	Monitor KPI, no target set
The percentage of Council staff completing the Level 1 online module of the National Training Framework on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence as a percentage of all staff	85%

## Promoting the Welsh language

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<b>Deliver Cardiff Council's commitments in the city-wide Bilingual Cardiff Strategy 2022-27</b> and promote and support the growth of the Welsh language to help meet the Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers' strategy.	Cllr Huw Thomas	Performance & Partnerships
<b>Increase the number and percentage of Welsh speakers in the workforce</b> in line with the 'Bilingual Cardiff: Bilingual Council' Policy and expand capacity to deliver bilingual services by implementing the Welsh Language Skills Strategy.	Cllr Huw Thomas	Performance & Partnerships

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of staff with Welsh language skills (20% increase by 2026/27 in line with the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy 2022-27)	1,150
The number of staff attending Welsh courses (50% increase by 2026/27 in line with the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy 2022-27)	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn

## Supporting grass-roots and community sport across the city

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<b>Embed the Physical Activity &amp; Sport Strategy 2022-27</b> and work with partners to develop further plans which increase participation, attract investment, improve health, tackle inequality, and ensure sustainability of provision.	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
<b>Support access to local community sports clubs and organisations</b> , increasing participation in sports and enhancing extra-curricular opportunities through the Community-Focused Schools approach.	Cllr Jennifer Burke & Cllr Sarah Merry	Economic Development, and Education & Lifelong Learning
<b>Support community sports clubs with a particular emphasis on under-represented groups.</b>	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
<b>Ensure that Sport Wales's Regional Sports Partnerships reflect the priorities of Cardiff.</b>	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
<b>Work with major sports clubs to deliver benefits for the residents of Cardiff</b> with a focus on identified priorities.	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
Continue to work with GLL, implementing measures set out in the Transformational Plan aimed at <b>improving the quality and sustainability of the service:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership with GLL to implement a programme of works to achieve a sustainable and low-carbon leisure estate;</li> <li>• Undertake planned improvement works to Pentwyn Leisure Centre.</li> </ul>	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of visits to Local Authority sport and leisure centres during the year per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity	<b>Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn</b>

## Delivering high-quality parks and public spaces

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<b>Increase the number of parks in Cardiff which receive the Green Flag Award</b> – the international standard for the management of parks and green spaces – with the inclusion of parks within the southern arc.	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
<b>Work with partners to implement a plan to increase Cardiff’s tree canopy</b> from 18.9% to 25% by 2030 and to report annual progress against this target.	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
<b>Continue to deliver the actions from the Allotment Strategy 2022-27.</b>	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
<b>Promote the benefits and support the development of the volunteer movement</b> through the Friends Forum and community-based platforms.	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
<b>Implement a programme of Section 106, Asset Renewal and Capital for Parks</b> to include sport, play and infrastructure improvements.	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
<b>Support the development of a National Park City for Cardiff</b> through the creation of local networks and the partnership of the National Park City Foundation.	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
Continue to <b>protect our parks and green spaces</b> through our partnership with Fields In Trust Cymru, and by placing a further tranche of areas in trust.	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of Green Flag parks and open spaces	20
The percentage of residents who are satisfied with parks and open spaces	Baseline being set
The number of volunteer hours committed to parks and green spaces	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The number of trees planted per year	30,000

# Wellbeing Objective 5:

A capital city that works for Wales





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Cardiff's economy is an important driver of regional and national prosperity. Over the past decades, the city has played a crucial role in creating net new jobs and, more recently, in leading the post-Covid recovery.

Creating more high-quality employment opportunities – accessible to local people – remains a priority for the Council. To attract well-paid jobs and retain a skilled workforce, the Council will continue to invest in transport and business infrastructure, support key sectors and help shape a supportive environment for business development. All this will be supported by an ambitious programme of regeneration that will continue to transform the bay and city centre, and establish new business districts across the city.

**Our priorities for delivering a stronger, fairer, greener Cardiff in 2024/25:**

- **Leading the economic development in Wales**
- **Leading the economic development in Cardiff**
- **Supporting the cultural sector and major events programme**





## What we will do to make Cardiff a capital city that works for Wales

### Leading the economic development in Wales

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p>Work with the Cardiff Capital Region to <b>progress Cardiff projects, support wider city-region projects</b> and ensure that the Corporate Joint Committee arrangements support economic development in Cardiff, its businesses and its communities.</p>	<p>Cllr Huw Thomas</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>
<p><b>Ensure Cardiff remains an open, competitive and outward-looking international city</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing to work with the Cardiff Capital Region, the Welsh Government, the Western Gateway and the UK Government to promote the city as a place to invest;</li> <li>Maximising the opportunities for Cardiff from Welsh and UK Government funding schemes such as the Shared Prosperity Fund and any successor schemes.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Huw Thomas</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>

## Leading the economic development in Cardiff

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Enhance the city centre as a location for businesses and investment and affirm its role as a national employment centre</b> by working with partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress the development of Metro Central and the Central Quay development, extending the business district south of the station;</li> <li>• Support the development of new commercial premises;</li> <li>• Work with landowners to attract investment and development in the retail, commercial and hospitality sector.</li> </ul>	Cllr Russell Goodway	Economic Development
<p><b>Develop plans for the delivery of the Canal Quarter regeneration</b> following the opening of the new Arena including completing the final concept design option for Phase 2 of the Canal by the end of 2024, with a detailed design to follow in 2025, and construction targeted for 2026/27 (subject to funding).</p>	Cllr Russell Goodway & Cllr Dan De’Ath	Economic Development, and Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Write the next chapter in Cardiff Bay’s regeneration story</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering the new Multi-Purpose Indoor Arena by 2026/27;</li> <li>• Commencing the delivery of the wider regeneration of the Atlantic Wharf site by 2025/26;</li> <li>• Working with partners to develop the Graving Docks area with the target of commencing on site by 2025/26;</li> <li>• Further progressing the development strategy for the next phase of the International Sports Village including supporting development partners, bringing forward an energy strategy to support the new development and existing sporting infrastructure, and concluding revised sporting infrastructure plans with the first phase development to commence in 2024/25;</li> <li>• Bringing forward proposals to protect and revitalise historic buildings in the Bay.</li> </ul>	Cllr Russell Goodway	Economic Development
<p><b>Develop a sustainable city-wide economy</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the completion of Cardiff Parkway as part of our Industrial Strategy for the east of the city;</li> <li>• Working with Media.Cymru to support the growth of creative enterprises in the city;</li> <li>• Promoting Cardiff as an inward investment location for high value-added employment from the private and public sectors;</li> <li>• Working with partners to attract investment into innovation and start-up space across the city and support the sector;</li> <li>• Attracting investment in our city’s digital infrastructure.</li> </ul>	Cllr Russell Goodway	Economic Development, and Planning, Transport & Environment



We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p>Work with partners such as Welsh Government and FOR Cardiff to <b>support the retail and hospitality sectors</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring fiscal powers such as the Tourism Levy to support investment in the sector;</li> <li>• Completing the restoration and refurbishment of Cardiff Market by December 2026.</li> </ul>	Cllr Russell Goodway	Economic Development

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The amount of 'Grade A' office space committed to in Cardiff <i>(This is a rolling two-year target.)</i>	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The amount of co-working space (m <sup>2</sup> ) made available within the financial year	Baseline being set
The number of new jobs created and safeguarded where the Council has played an active role	750
City centre footfall	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn

## Supporting the cultural sector and major events programme

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Grow Cardiff as a centre of creativity and culture</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering a Signature Music Festival event which brings together a range of music events, projects and activity in the city in autumn 2024 to promote and establish Cardiff as a destination for music tourism;</li> <li>Developing a new Cultural Strategy for Cardiff by March 2025.</li> </ul>	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
<b>Implement the investment strategy for St David's Hall by 2025.</b>	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
<b>Develop a new Tourism &amp; Events Strategy for consultation by the end of 2024.</b>	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development
Work in partnership with the Welsh and UK Governments to <b>attract and deliver new major international sporting events</b> , including the 2025 Investec Champions Cup and EPCR Challenge Cup Finals, and the Euro 2028 football championships in Cardiff.	Cllr Jennifer Burke	Economic Development

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of staying visitors	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
Total visitor numbers	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
Total visitor days	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
Total visitor spend	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn

# Wellbeing Objective 6:

## One Planet Cardiff



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The impact of the climate and nature emergencies are already being felt in Cardiff, with more extreme weather patterns and changes in biodiversity. If we are to meet our One Planet commitments, significant changes will be needed over the decade ahead to the way the city grows, how public services are delivered in our communities and to our transport, energy, waste and water systems.

**Our priorities for delivering a stronger, fairer, greener Cardiff in 2024/25:**

- **Responding to the Climate Emergency**
- **Transforming Cardiff's public transport and active travel systems**
- **Putting sustainability and wellbeing at the heart of the city's growth**
- **Enhancing Cardiff's flood defences**
- **Building resilience into our highway network**
- **Making Cardiff a world-leading recycling city**
- **Working as one team to keep our streets clean**



# What we will do to deliver One Planet Cardiff

## Responding to the Climate Emergency

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Report on the progress of delivering the One Planet Cardiff strategy</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annually setting out the Council’s carbon emissions;</li> <li>Reviewing the One Planet Cardiff Action Plan as necessary to reflect progress, challenges, and emerging priorities in a constrained financial environment.</li> </ul>	Cllr Huw Thomas & Cllr Caro Wild	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Take bold leadership on climate change:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Across the organisation</b> by driving down emissions per directorate and ensuring carbon is fully accounted for in decision-making;</li> <li><b>Across the city</b> by working with Welsh Government on changing citizen behaviour in areas such as waste, energy use and transport;</li> <li>Work with partners such as Cardiff Capital Region, public sector organisations and Welsh Government agencies to develop a new prospectus for a green city deal.</li> </ul>	Cllr Caro Wild	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Deliver the Design and Build contract for Phase 1 of the Cardiff Heat Network</b> as per the procured programme, with the first ‘heat on’ testing in summer 2024 and engage with partners, potential customers and the development sector to commence scoping the next phase of the network.</p>	Cllr Caro Wild	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Publish a Local Area Energy Plan for the city by summer 2024</b> in consultation with internal and external stakeholders and following this, work with partners to develop a local energy action plan and energy investment prospectus.</p>	Cllr Caro Wild	Planning, Transport & Environment, and Economic Development
<p><b>Develop a Housing Energy Efficiency Retrofit Strategy</b>, setting out engagement and advice methods, funding opportunities, delivery pathways and targets for different dwelling types, tenures and socio-economic groups across the city.</p>	Cllr Caro Wild, Cllr Lynda Thorne & Cllr Dan De’Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment, Adults, Housing & Communities, and Economic Development
<p>Complete the review of the Fleet Replacement Programme to <b>maximise the transition to clean vehicles</b> and a more efficient use of the Council’s existing fleet.</p>	Cllr Caro Wild	Resources
<p><b>Work with partners to secure funding for the next phase of public electric vehicle infrastructure</b> consistent with the charge point infrastructure roadmap.</p>	Cllr Caro Wild	Planning, Transport & Environment



We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Promote healthy, local and low-carbon food</b> through delivering and, as necessary, reviewing the Cardiff Food strategy, and supporting the Food Cardiff partnership bid to become the first Gold Sustainable Food Place in Wales, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a plan to increase local food production opportunities (commercial and community-based) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a pilot site for community growing by March 2025;</li> <li>Delivery of the Cardiff Capital Region Food Challenge by September 2025;</li> </ul> </li> <li>Working with the Education directorate to develop plans to ensure that school meals are healthy and maximise opportunities for more sustainable and lower carbon supply chains;</li> <li>Developing a land use strategy to address inequality of access to healthy fresh food across the city by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrating into the Replacement Local Development Plan process;</li> <li>Working with partners to review measures to manage access to unhealthy fast-food outlets near schools.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Julie Sangani &amp; Cllr Dan De'Ath</b></p>	<p><b>Planning, Transport &amp; Environment</b></p>
<p><b>Lead the debate on the potential for renewable energy</b> in the Severn Estuary through the Western Gateway's Independent Commission.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Huw Thomas</b></p>	<p><b>Performance &amp; Partnerships</b></p>

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of people who feel that the Council should continue to take action in response to the Climate Emergency	Baseline being set
The number of private rented sector properties where energy efficiency has been improved through direct action from Shared Regulatory Services	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The number of energy efficiency measures installed in Council-owned domestic properties	750
The number of Council vehicles which are electric	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn



## Transforming Cardiff's public transport and active travel systems

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p>Work in partnership with Welsh Government, Transport for Wales and the Burns Transport Commission Delivery Unit to <b>design and deliver a Cardiff and Regional (Metro) Tram network</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring Phase 1a of Cardiff Crossrail proceeds to tender and full business case by March 2025;</li> <li>• Completing Cardiff Crossrail City Centre to Cardiff Bay Metro by 2028;</li> <li>• Completing delivery of Butetown Station and upgraded Cardiff Bay Station by December 2026;</li> <li>• Making representations to Welsh Government to commission a study into the benefits of more frequent trains on the City Line into Cardiff Central;</li> <li>• Completing a study and design work for a ramp connection between Crossrail and the City Line by December 2025;</li> <li>• Setting out the strategic benefits of Cardiff Parkway and support progress subject to the development gaining planning permission;</li> <li>• Supporting the development of Phase 2 Bay to Newport Road by 2030 and lobbying for funding to proceed with Newport Road Station (Cardiff East) and Pierhead Street;</li> <li>• Setting out the strategic case for a new station at Ely Mill, subject to securing an increase in frequency on the City Line;</li> <li>• Lobbying Welsh Government for the development of new stations at Roath Park and Gabalfa;</li> <li>• Working with Welsh Government to seek major service frequency improvements to Coryton and Radyr by 2028;</li> <li>• Delivering a new station at Crwys Road by 2028.</li> </ul>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p>Continue to <b>progress the phased transport and clean air improvements in the city centre</b> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Centre East Phase 1 by March 2025;</li> <li>• Castle Street by the end of 2026;</li> <li>• Boulevard de Nantes by March 2026 (subject to funding).</li> </ul>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Ensure good air quality</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updating the Clean Air Strategy and Action Plan by March 2025 and implementing further measures to improve air quality;</li> <li>• Reviewing real-time air quality data to assess and identify trends in pollution to assess further interventions that will further reduce air pollution;</li> </ul>	Cllr Caro Wild & Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Continue to support the taxi sector to accelerate towards achieving 'Zero Tailpipe' emission fleets</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporating proposals for future electric vehicle charging for taxis within the Taxi Strategy;</li> <li>• Launching a pilot grant scheme to support the reduction in hackney carriage fleet emissions.</li> </ul>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Support public transport aspirations in the Transport White Paper</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering the Bus Priority Strategy;</li> <li>Developing the Strategic Bus Corridors Programme by progressing business cases and design work for the delivery of the East-West Sustainable Transport Corridor and the Northern Bus Corridor by 2026;</li> <li>Developing the Localised Bus Network Programme which will deliver city-wide improvement projects to tackle problem areas, improve bus priority and journey times where required over the next five years.</li> </ul>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Programme the delivery of the bridge crossing scheme at Llanrumney</b>, subject to the discharge of planning conditions, as part of a wider regeneration scheme.</p>	Cllr Dan De'Ath & Cllr Lynda Thorne	Economic Development, and Planning, Transport & Environment
<p>Continue to invest in a <b>segregated cycle network</b> across the city by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the Taff Trail, and exploring design options and proceeding to planning for a new Central Quay Bridge by March 2025;</li> <li>Exploring funding options for a new Blackweir Bridge with Cardiff University by March 2027;</li> <li>Delivering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycleway 5 from city centre to Lawrenny Avenue by August 2025;</li> <li>City centre to Roath Park Cycleway by March 2026;</li> <li>Cycleway 4.2 from A48 to Llandaff by March 2026;</li> <li>A Cardiff to Newport network connection by 2030;</li> <li>A full city-wide network by 2030;</li> <li>A demand-led programme of 50 cycle hangars during 2025 with appointment of a supplier by December 2024.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Nurture a strong active travel culture in every Cardiff school by 2027</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging with all schools to support the implementation of their Active Travel Plans and enable the proportion of school journeys made by walking, scooting and cycling to be maximised;</li> <li>Delivering infrastructure schemes to facilitate active journeys to schools;</li> <li>Introducing measures to deter car travel to school including School Streets and additional parking restrictions.</li> </ul>	Cllr Dan De'Ath & Cllr Sarah Merry	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Make streets safer and greener</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring and reviewing with partners the Wales 20mph default speed limit in Cardiff for September 2024, in line with guidance issued by Welsh Government;</li> <li>Delivering an enhanced programme of tree planting on highway land and within the street scene.</li> </ul>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment



We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Consider and review road user charging options to identify opportunities and benefits for Cardiff residents and deliver transport improvements.	Clr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The citywide annual PM10 concentrations recorded at all monitoring locations where PM10 data is obtained <i>(PM10 is particulate matter which is less than 0.01mm in diameter.)</i>	<15 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
The citywide annual average nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) concentrations at roadside monitoring locations	<25µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) concentrations within Air Quality Management Areas (AQMs)	<30µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) concentrations on Castle Street <i>(The modelled concentration submitted to Welsh Government in the Council's Clean Air Plan.)</i>	<28µg/m <sup>3</sup>
The percentage of people who agree that air quality in Cardiff is good	Baseline being set
Modal Split for All Journeys: Proportion of people travelling to work by sustainable transport modes <i>(2030 Target 76%)</i>	58%
Proportion of work journeys made by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking</li> <li>Cycling</li> <li>Public Transport</li> </ul>	18% 17% 23%
The number of schools supported to implement their Active Travel Plan	128 cumulative
The number of new trees planted on highway land and within the street scene	175

## Putting sustainability and wellbeing at the heart of the city's growth

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Conduct a full review of the Local Development Plan (LDP) by the end of 2025</b> in accordance with the Delivery Agreement timetable and engage in dialogue on regional strategic planning arrangements.</p>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Create better places through the delivery of new, high-quality, well-designed, sustainable and well-connected communities</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applying good place-making principles to new development in the city centre and Cardiff Bay area, major new settlements, as well as existing communities;</li> <li>Utilising our powers to protect and celebrate local buildings such as pubs, community spaces and music venues, particularly those rich in the city's working-class history;</li> <li>Maximising developer contributions from new developments to deliver community infrastructure, affordable housing, active travel measures and wider improvements within local areas;</li> <li>Progressing the preparation of an Accommodation Strategy in partnership with Cardiff universities.</li> </ul>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment
<p><b>Deliver the Council's Green Infrastructure Plan</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updating the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty (BRED) Forward Plan to respond to the One Planet Cardiff objectives and Action Plan, and the nature emergency by the end of 2024;</li> <li>Ensuring the Replacement LDP fully addresses green infrastructure matters and includes engagement upon potential policy approaches.</li> </ul>	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of householder planning applications determined within agreed time periods	>80%
The percentage of major planning applications determined within agreed time periods	>85%
The percentage of affordable housing at completion stage provided in a development on greenfield sites over the last two years <i>(In line with the Local Development Plan 2006 – 2026)</i>	30%
The percentage of affordable housing at completion stage provided in a development on brownfield sites over the last two years <i>(In line with the Local Development Plan 2006 – 2026)</i>	20%
Affordable housing units completed per annum as a percentage of all housing	20%

## Enhancing Cardiff's flood defences

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Publish the final sustainable water, flood and drainage strategy for Cardiff by the end of June 2024, including completion of stage 2 of the regional strategic flood consequence assessment.	Cllr Caro Wild	Planning, Transport & Environment
Complete coastal defence improvements in Cardiff East by March 2026.	Cllr Caro Wild	Planning, Transport & Environment

## Building resilience into our highway network

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Continue to deliver an extensive programme of localised improvements to our roads and footways to remove defects such as potholes.	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment
Target the deployment of civil parking enforcement activity through the effective utilisation of data and technology.	Cllr Dan De'Ath	Planning, Transport & Environment

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of principal (A) roads that are in overall poor condition	<4%
The percentage of non-principal/classified (B) roads that are in overall poor condition	<6%
The percentage of non-principal/classified (C) roads that are in overall poor condition	<6%

## Making Cardiff a world-leading recycling city

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Deliver the ‘Recycling Strategy for Cardiff 2022-25: Cleaner and Greener’ to work towards achieving 70% recycling performance by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering the programme of recycling and re-use improvements detailed within the strategy;</li> <li>Continuing work with Welsh Government, Waste &amp; Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to benchmark and model improvements in collecting and processing recycling;</li> <li>Working with citizens to reduce waste and improving opportunities for community recycling.</li> </ul>	Cllr Caro Wild	Economic Development
<p><b>Continue to improve the sustainability of how the city manages its waste and materials, driving the circular economy, by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing the amount of single-use plastics, including those used to collect recycling from households by the end of 2024;</li> <li>Reducing emissions from the fleet of vehicles used to deliver collections and cleansing;</li> <li>Reducing the need to mechanically separate materials by the end of 2024;</li> <li>Promoting the amount of green electricity produced from landfill gas, anaerobic digestion of food waste and energy from waste;</li> <li>Working with commercial organisations, and other partners, to ensure compliance with the new business recycling regulations that come into force from April 2024.</li> </ul>	Cllr Caro Wild	Economic Development

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of planned recycling and waste collections achieved	99.95%
The percentage of municipal waste collected and prepared for re-use and/or recycled	70%
The percentage of waste collected at recycling centres that has been prepared for re-use or recycled	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The number of Environmental Street Scene investigation actions	20,000
The number of Environmental Street Scene Legal Enforcement Actions (with enforcement actions including Fixed Penalty Notices, cases which proceed to prosecution, Section 46 or other legal notices)	10,000

## Working as one team to keep our streets clean

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<b>Deliver a comprehensive programme of reform to the Council’s Street Scene cleansing and enforcement services during 2024/25</b> through integration, digitalisation and the use of data to support the efficient and effective use of resources, and ensure street cleansing activities follow on from collections in inner-city wards, and areas that present waste in bags to minimise issues with litter.	Cllr Caro Wild	Economic Development
<b>Working together to keep our streets free from litter by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting volunteer groups through our Love Where You Live programme;</li> <li>Co-producing strategies around litter and behaviour change with these groups and Keep Wales Tidy;</li> <li>Assessing the annual impact of volunteering in Cardiff in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy.</li> </ul>	Cllr Caro Wild	Economic Development

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of highways land inspected by the Local Authority found to be of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	90%
The number of wards in Cardiff where 90% of the highways land inspected is of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	All
The percentage of reported fly-tipping incidents cleared within five working days	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn

# Wellbeing Objective 7:

Modernising and integrating our public services

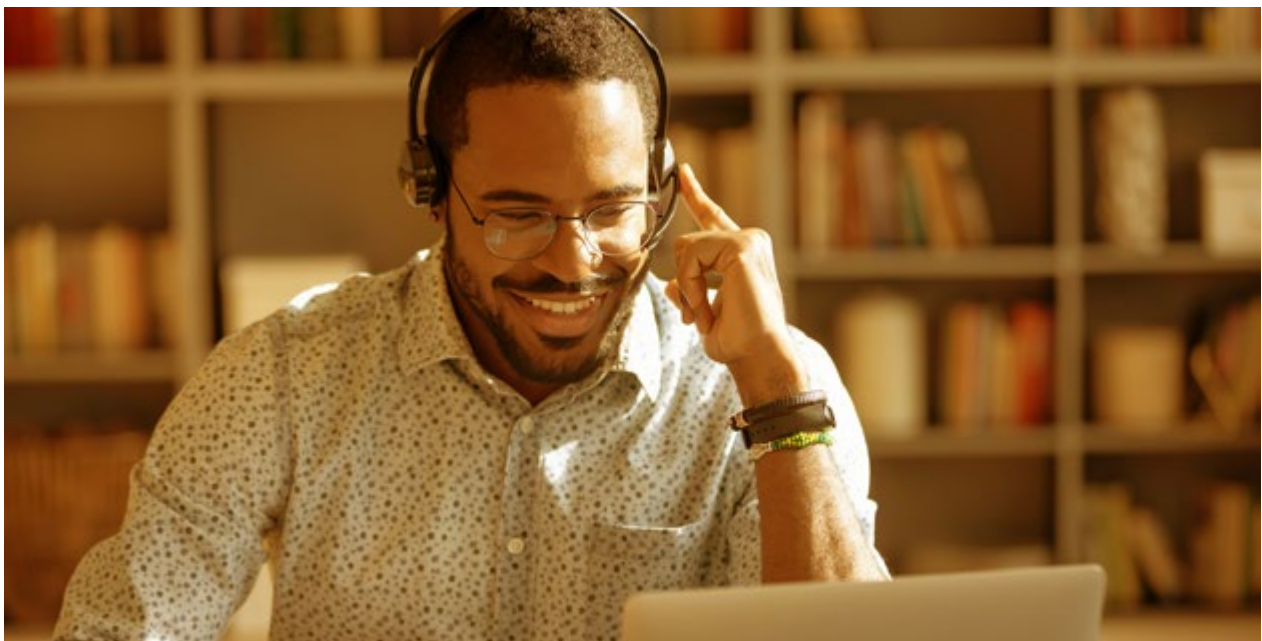


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In response to rising demand and constrained budgets, the Council, along with other public services, is pursuing a programme of modernisation to improve efficiency, better support service delivery, and promote social and environmental objectives. This means streamlining and simplifying the way the Council does business, continuing to explore integrated approaches to service delivery, making better use of the asset base of public services, and finding new and better ways of working to take advantage of new technology. In response to workforce pressures facing a number of services, the Council is committed to ensuring that the workforce is supported to meet the ever-changing demands of their roles, and to ensuring that the Council is an inclusive and engaged employer that reflects the great diversities of Cardiff's communities.

**Our priorities for delivering a stronger, fairer, greener Cardiff in 2024/25:**

- **Delivering leaner and greener Council buildings**
- **Improving the Council's digital offer and enhancing the use of data**
- **Supporting a highly-skilled and productive workforce with the wellbeing of staff at its core**
- **Using the power of the public purse to support the city's economy**
- **Ensuring the Council represents and responds to the diversity of Cardiff's communities**



# What we will do to modernise and integrate our public services

## Delivering leaner and greener Council buildings

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Work towards the targets of the One Planet Cardiff strategy by <b>reducing the carbon footprint in the built environment</b> by 30% by the end of 2025/26.	Cllr Russell Goodway	Economic Development
<b>Align the Core Office Strategy with the principles of the Hybrid Working Model.</b>	Cllr Russell Goodway	Economic Development
Undertake a comprehensive land and property review to <b>identify potential disposals in line with the Corporate Property Strategy 2021-26.</b>	Cllr Russell Goodway	Economic Development

Key Performance Indicator	Target
Reduce the carbon footprint in the built environment	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
Reduce the annual running cost of the operational property estate	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The percentage completion of all Priority 1 works	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
General fund capital receipts	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn

## Improving the Council's digital offer and enhancing the use of data

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Support citizens to make the switch to digital services</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting digital channels to citizens encouraging take-up of the Council's digital offer and platforms;</li> <li>Providing digital support tools and resources to staff to assist with digital queries;</li> <li>Rolling out a digital assist service to citizens supporting the switch to digital services.</li> </ul>	Cllr Chris Weaver	Resources



We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<p><b>Use automation to streamline administrative tasks</b> and create a more efficient and joined-up Council by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing the roll-out of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) technologies and measuring progress against the three-year roll-out plan, targeting high volume, repetitive tasks and opportunities for process improvement;</li> <li>Issuing guidance of the use of AI technologies to all staff highlighting the risks and their responsibilities;</li> <li>Rolling out new technology as it becomes available (such as Teams Premium) and evaluating user cases for emerging technologies to support the automation agenda.</li> </ul>	Cllr Chris Weaver	Resources
<p><b>Prioritise the development or re-development of digital services</b> which deliver the greatest budget efficiencies by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a revised Digital Strategy through consultation with Council Directorates, city-wide partners, and our citizens;</li> <li>Capturing corporate digital priorities and creating a digital roadmap for Digital Service development.</li> </ul>	Cllr Chris Weaver	Resources
<p><b>Protect and strengthen cyber security resilience</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rolling out a programme of mandatory e-learning Cyber Security training to staff including phishing simulating campaigns;</li> <li>Reviewing Cyber Assessment Framework models for use in Welsh local authorities with the Welsh Local Government Association.</li> </ul>	Cllr Chris Weaver	Resources

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The number of customer contacts to the Council using digital channels	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The total number of webcast hits (Full Council, Cabinet, Planning Committee, Scrutiny Committees, Governance & Audit Committee, Standards & Ethics Committee)	13,000
The number of Facebook followers	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The number of Instagram followers	Target to be based on 2023/24 outturn
The number of people registered with the Cardiff Gov App	10% increase on 2023/24 outturn

## Supporting a highly-skilled and productive workforce with the wellbeing of staff at its core

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<b>Implement the Workforce Strategy 2023-27</b> to support the wellbeing of the workforce, meet the needs of the organisation, improve diversity and inclusion, and reinforce the social partnership approach with staff and trade unions.	Cllr Chris Weaver	Resources
<b>Progress the transition to hybrid working</b> – supporting service delivery and promoting the wellbeing of staff – by implementing the Hybrid Working HR policy.	Cllr Chris Weaver	Resources
<b>Reduce sickness absence rates</b> by supporting staff wellbeing particularly through providing additional support for staff suffering with poor mental health and strengthening management practice across all directorates, with a focus on reducing long-term sickness absence rates.	Cllr Chris Weaver	Resources

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of staff that have completed a Personal Review (excluding school staff)	100%
The number of working days/shifts per full-time equivalent (FTE) Local Authority employee lost due to sickness absence	9.5

## Using the power of the public purse to support the city’s recovery

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
<b>Deliver the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy 2022-27 and Delivery Plan</b> to drive carbon reduction, increase social value commitments, embed fair work across our supply chain and improve access to opportunities for local businesses.	Cllr Chris Weaver	Resources

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of overall spend with Cardiff-based organisations	54%
The percentage of overall spend with Cardiff Capital Region-based organisations.	68%
The percentage of overall spend with Welsh-based organisations	72%
The value of the Community Wellbeing Benefits committed to within contracts awarded in the years covered by the Strategy	£27,500,000

## Ensuring the Council represents and responds to the diversity of Cardiff's communities

We will:	Lead Member	Lead Directorate
Continue to <b>lead a public service-wide response to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering commitments in response to the Race Equality Taskforce recommendations;</li> <li>Supporting the delivery of the Public Services Equality Network.</li> </ul>	Cllr Huw Thomas & Cllr Julie Sangani	Performance & Partnerships
<b>Publish the draft Strategic Equality Plan for consultation by May 2024</b> and the final version by September 2024.	Cllr Julie Sangani	Performance & Partnerships
<b>Publish a Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) city action plan</b> alongside the Strategic Equality Plan by May 2024 and deliver all key CEDAW commitments by 2026.	Cllr Julie Sangani	Performance & Partnerships
<b>Deliver the Cohesion Fund</b> , inviting applications from grassroots organisations to deliver activities which strengthen cohesion in the city.	Cllr Julie Sangani	Performance & Partnerships
<b>Deliver the Participation Strategy action plan to improve engagement with seldom heard voices</b> and amplify the voices of people who are currently less likely to get involved in the decision-making process.	Cllr Julie Sangani	Performance & Partnerships
<b>Ensure that the Council's workforce is representative and inclusive of the communities we serve</b> through policy development, the promotion and support of employee networks and events, and staff training.	Cllr Chris Weaver & Cllr Julie Sangani	Resources

Key Performance Indicator	Target
The percentage of Council staff completing equalities training	85%
The percentage of Council operational managers completing Equality Impact Assessment training	85%
Citizen satisfaction with Council services	70%
Total number of complaints	Monitor KPI, no target set
The percentage of complaints/compliments responded to on time	Monitor KPI, no target set
The percentage of canvass response (either via automatic verification or direct response)	90%
The number of new potential electors identified by using local data sources and sending an invitation to register	25,000

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Date: 19 February 2024

Councillor Huw Thomas, Leader  
Councillor Chris Weaver,  
Cabinet Member, Finance, Modernisation & Performance,  
Cardiff Council,  
County Hall,  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW



County Hall  
Cardiff,  
CF10 4UW  
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Neuadd y Sir  
Caerdydd,  
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Dear Huw & Chris,

### **Scrutiny Performance Panel 15 February 2024: Corporate Plan 2024/27**

Please find attached a record of the observations and comments made by all five Scrutiny Chairs at our recent informal meeting to consider the draft Corporate Plan 2024/27. My sincere thanks to yourselves and all officers in support for attending in person. We offer our feedback to inform your final draft report.

All five scrutiny committees will consider the final draft Corporate Plan commitments alongside budget 2024/25 proposals at their February 2024 meetings.

Yours sincerely,

### **COUNCILLOR JOEL WILLIAMS CHAIR, POLICY REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Councillor Lee Bridgeman, Chair, CYP Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Owen Jones, Chair, Environment Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Rhys Taylor, Chair, CASSC Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Peter Wong, Chair, Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Paul Orders, Chief Executive  
Chris Lee, Corporate Director, Resources  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities  
Andrew Gregory, Director Planning, Transport & Environment  
Richard Portas, Director School Organisation Programme  
Gareth Newell, Head of Performance & Partnerships  
Dylan Owen, Operational Manager Policy & Improvement  
Suzanne Scarlett, Partnerships & Performance Manager  
Carly Davies, Cardiff Commitment Programme Manager  
Mr Gavin McArthur, Chair, Governance & Audit Committee.  
Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit

## Corporate Plan 2024-27 Target setting Observations

REF	Recommendation/Action for Cabinet's further reflection
General	
	<p><b>Corporate Plan Audience</b></p> <p>The Panel questioned the intended audience and readership of the Corporate Plan once again. The Leader advised it is a tool for Cabinet, to hold the Cabinet to account, to set out actions for Directors, for Scrutiny to monitor performance, and also for staff. However, it is not intended to encourage public participation, there is a separate strategy to support participation.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Chairs again recommend that consideration is given to the development of an easy read summary of the Corporate Plan to encourage public understanding and participation in democracy.</p>
	<p><b>Audit Wales Report: Use of performance information: service user perspective and outcomes.</b></p> <p>In line with recommendations made by Audit Wales, Chairs explored how the KPI targets set in the Corporate Plan are informed by citizen satisfaction. We noted in particular the need to ensure citizen satisfaction targets are adequate, achievable and realistic in terms of citizen expectations.</p> <p>We note from the discussion that this is a draft Corporate Plan and further work on consistency of citizen satisfaction targets is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> -The Panel recommends that Cabinet reflect on how citizen perspective can be strengthened in the Corporate Plan.</p>
	<p><b>Inconsistent KPIs.</b></p> <p>Chairs welcomed the opportunity to consider performance through these sessions, however noted the difficulty in tracking progress through consecutive Corporate Plans when indicators are removed, amended or new ones introduced.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - The Chairs recognise that the Corporate Plan is an evolving document however to enable effective scrutiny and to track performance we recommend Cabinet consider the development of a core set of indicators that remains unchanged during an administration to be identified in future Corporate Plans.</p>
	<p><b>Inclusion of Steps reliant on partners for delivery.</b></p> <p>A number of steps in the draft Corporate Plan include delivery dates that rely on partners. We have seen in previous years that the delivery dates for a number of key projects have slipped significantly. Chairs expressed concern as to how non delivery of these steps is addressed. You clarified that mechanisms are in place, there will be discussion with relevant partners, and that there is a role for scrutiny to play.</p>

	<p><b>An expanding Corporate Plan against reducing resources and capacity.</b></p> <p>Chairs made a general observation expressing concern that the Council is facing a contraction in available resources alongside a Corporate Plan that is growing year on year. They suggested it may be time to refine the Plan. The Leader considered this a good question to pose in drafting future Corporate Plans, that it would be important to strike the right balance of delivering a reform agenda whilst being realistic and responding creatively.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – we recommend that Cabinet reflect on this point in developing the 2025/28 Corporate Plan to reflect the budget challenges faced.</p>
<b>WBO1</b>	
	<p><b>Sustainability and Resilience in relation to delivering services.</b></p> <p>The Chairs asked what assurances could be given in relation to financial resilience and sustainability for the delivery and capacity of services under this WBO. The Leader stated that this was a difficult issue to respond to with confidence given the Welsh Government settlement and the need to make assumptions in relation to this. The autumn statement had been “bleak” in terms of budget gap but reported that young people and education remain a priority for the administration, and this is clearly set out in increased funding settlements to schools and delegated funding to schools; protect and grow youth service spend; and repeated realignments to Children’s Services budgets to protect this area.</p> <p>The Chief Executive outlined pressures in the management team in Education &amp; Lifelong Learning. A vacant Assistant Director post had been successfully appointed to and this would be announced shortly, pending final checks. This post will be significant in providing support to schools; work around well-being of staff and pupils; review of middle tier staff; and ensuring that the Director is undertaking ongoing reviews to allocate resources to areas with any major deficiencies. He outlined positive work currently being undertaken between schools, Education and Children’s Services around managing capacity. The operational manager added that issues such as demands around the new curriculum; additional learning needs; expectations around progression for learners; community focussed schools and partnerships; and the Council’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is a continuation of work ongoing to address challenges and set out in the Corporate Plan accordingly and Cardiff 2030. In addition, the Director of SOP reiterated that Education is used to change, and resources are often put into particularly important areas to respond to this. For example, the SOP programme is a significant change programme.</p> <p>The Leader also stated that a review of the work of the Central South Education Consortium was being undertaken.</p>
S1.07 & 1.08	<p><b>School Workforce Development</b></p> <p>Chairs explored the Corporate Plan’s commitment to developing school leaders and how this will evolve given the pressures schools are facing.</p>



	<p>The Operational Manager explained this referred to the middle tier review and feedback from Phase 1 had reminded the Service about the importance of leadership at school level and developing capacity in the school system to drive change and enable improvement. A key driver was to ensure that schools are equipped to deal with the changes ahead; and having trusted individuals in place to enforce change and improvement. Therefore, it was essential that this is highlighted in the Corporate Plan. The Leader added that this would also be reflected in DDPs, including learning pathways for Teaching Assistants. A Strategy document around this will be considered by Cabinet in February.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This Strategy will also be considered by the Children &amp; Young People Scrutiny Committee on the 26 February.</p>
<p>K1.21 – 1.24</p>	<p><b>Placements (Children’s Services)</b></p> <p>Chairs sought assurances on these KPIs - 4 of which are currently Red and Amber rated. The Leader stated that targets are perhaps not the right measure but ensuring that each young person has the right care. re K1.21, the target was Red rated as the Council has taken a different approach. The Corporate Director responded that they were confident that targets would be met, and significant improvements had been made via the Accommodation Strategy. The Corporate Director stated that there may be further consideration of KPIs relating to the number of placements available, and the kind of provision available to reflect this. A number of CIW registrations will be taking place in March. The Cabinet Member for Finance and Modernisation concluded that for Q4 and into 2024/25, there would be significant signs of improvement in this area.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> – Chairs support the Leader’s recommendation to include an additional KPI on the number of accommodation units brought online following inspection.</p>
<p>K1.16 &amp; K1.17</p>	<p><b>Successful transition from Year 11 to Education, Employment or Training.</b></p> <p>Chairs asked what would be done during 2024/25 to maintain and achieve these targets. The Leader responded that they would maintain these targets going forward. The Operational Manager concurred that this target is what the Council needs to aim for. She reported that these are small numbers of learners for both EOTAS (17) and CLA (9), so figure can be easily distorted. The Operational Manager gave assurances that each learner is thoroughly tracked and that officers meet regularly to track progression and opportunities for these individuals. This reflects commitments elsewhere in the Corporate Plan, particularly around those children looked after.</p>
<p><b>WBO2</b></p>	
<p>K2.12 / Page 16</p>	<p><b>Satisfaction with Adult Social Care Services.</b></p>

	<p>Chairs noted that the previous Corporate Plan had introduced a new KPI on ‘<i>the number of people satisfied with services provided by Adult Social Care</i>’ with a target of 70%.</p> <p>Chairs explored why, in this Corporate Plan, the 70% target had been replaced with a ‘<b>target based on outturn</b>’; particularly considering Audit Wales recommendation on the importance of citizen insight informing performance management and the need to strengthen in Cardiff.</p> <p>Chairs note, and concur, with the rationale provided for setting an out turn target (e.g. the need to ensure data is captured accurately, is verified, and the importance of piloting the data gathering).</p> <p>However, considering the importance of this KPI, and the underpinning principle of ensuring vulnerable individuals in Cardiff in receipt of care are satisfied with services...</p> <p><b>Action</b> - we recommend you consider setting a target in future Corporate Plans.</p>
	<p><b>Responding to the needs of Communities.</b></p> <p>Chairs noted the absence of the Adult Housing &amp; Communities forthcoming work on developing an Equality Action Plan and your response that this information is contained in the service area’s Directorate Delivery Plan,</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> - given the service area’s recognition and commitment to ensuring services are easily accessible to all communities, and our general comments on the importance of the Corporate Plan’s public accessibility, we recommend reference to forthcoming work on developing an Equality Action Plan be included in the final draft Corporate Plan.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - We also recommend that, when this Action Plan is complete, the Cabinet Member and relevant officers consider the possibility of setting a KPI to measure performance of the Equality Action Plans work; with this measure captured within the Corporate Plan, or in service area’s Directorate Delivery Plan.</p>
<b>WBO3</b>	
K3.01	<p><b>Apprenticeships</b></p> <p>The number of new apprenticeships provided in the Council stands at 48 at Q3 against a target of 100 for 2023/24. Chairs asked what are the issues?</p> <p>We note results against this KPI are expected to increase over the next quarter, though are unlikely to meet the target.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – consider amending the wording of KPI so that all Directorate opportunities, as well as corporate opportunities, are included.</p>
K3.05	<p><b>Into Work – support for BAME clients</b></p> <p>Chairs explored whether the Council measures the number of BAME clients who have received tailored support through the Employment Gateway and who secured work as a result. They feel it would be valuable to measure</p>

	<p>what percentage have a meaningful intervention and how we can track progress. They further enquired whether the Council monitors the progression of BAME clients.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Work by the Race Equality Taskforce has identified possible KPI’s that may address this, including those that progress to grade 8-10. Officers will check this is an action the RET are following up and would expect it to be reported in the RET Annual Report to be published in May.</p>
K3.06	<p><b>Ceased Engagement with intervention service with no positive destination.</b></p> <p>Chairs sought an explanation as to why this KPI is notably higher this year. Officers pointed to a data cleansing exercise in Q3 but are now confident we will meet the target at year end. There has been a progressive stretching of targets.</p>
K3.09 & K3.10	<p><b>Advice Services.</b></p> <p>Chairs acknowledged the revision of the targets for KPI 3.09 &amp; 3.10; referencing that revising these targets is something the Community &amp; Adult Services Scrutiny Committee have been requesting for some time.</p>
K3.13	<p><b>Homelessness Prevention.</b></p> <p>Chairs noted the stable performance results around homeless prevention and concur with the Leader and senior officers on the importance of this work and its crucial interdependency with other areas of work/ performance measures.</p> <p>Chairs want to thank officers for their insight on how the 80% target for this measure is set, and that Cardiff’s performance on homelessness prevention compares well against other areas in Wales (noting the difficulties in comparing homelessness prevention performance with England).</p>
K 3.17	<p><b>Homelessness.</b></p> <p>Chairs were pleased to note that despite the continued pressures on homelessness services, the target for the number of street homeless in the city has not been raised.</p> <p>We note with interest discussion around disaggregating street homeless KPI’s to reflect support for individuals with or without recourse to public funds.</p> <p>Chairs also stressed the need to take heed in terms of language used when referencing homelessness, and the caution needed when commenting whether someone is facing / experiencing homelessness.</p>
<b>WBO4</b>	
Page 27-29 ‘NEW’ KPI’s	<b>Council House Repairs.</b>

	<p>Chairs wish to acknowledge that the recommendation made at the previous Performance Panel, to include specific steps and relevant KPI's on Council House repairs has been actioned.</p> <p>Chairs explored how the 70% target for completing urgent repairs had been set, to what extent this is a performance driven target or a citizen satisfaction-based target; if tenant expectations had been considered, and, given the initiatives and additional resources deployed in this area whether a 70% target was adequate.</p> <p>Chairs note the reasoning behind a 70% target however, given the upward trajectory of performance in <i>responsive repairs</i>, it is hoped this target, and the results will continue to grow.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - Chairs look forward to monitoring performance results of this KPI.</p>
K4.05 & 'NEW'	<p><b>Empty Homes in the Private Sector</b></p> <p>Chairs questioned why the target of 100 for KPI 4.05 had been revised to 'based on outturn', and the 'NEW' KPI regarding the number of empty properties brought back into use, which had previously had a target of 33.</p> <p>Although Chairs note the insight offered at the meeting as to why these targets have changed, given the context of ever-growing demand and need for housing in the city, Chairs believe it is vital there is accountability and transparency on performance on this matter and are of the view that stretching targets should be set.</p>
K4.28	<p><b>Green flag Parks</b></p> <p>Chairs noted that the 3 parks that have recently been identified to apply for a green flag are within the Splott and Cathays wards.</p>
<b>WBO5</b>	
K5.01	<p><b>Grade A Office Space</b></p> <p>This Panel has previously recommended that you explore the feasibility of an additional KPI to measure changing patterns of work and post pandemic working practices. You agreed to explore, and one year on Chairs therefore sought progress as there is not a new KPI in this draft Corporate Plan.</p> <p>We note that Cabinet is not in a clear position on this, however, is of the view that the target remains relevant. We note that Savills have concluded the demand for grade A office space remains and there is a shortage in the city, that Cabinet believe the demand must be tapped into, recognising that the city needs good employers bringing well paid jobs.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> - We therefore recommend that you create an additional target to reflect the increase in requirement for flexible working space.</p>
<b>WBO6</b>	
S6.15	<b>Segregated Cycle Network.</b>

	<p>The Chairs commented on the inclusion of steps, that are of interest to residents, in consecutive plans when they continue not to be delivered and timescales have slipped considerably. Officers noted that the Council still aspire to deliver these projects, but they are only a partner to the project. Chairs asked how do we hold partners to account when there are issues and delays?</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> - Officers confirmed that Cardiff University has no funding to support the delivery of the Blackweir Bridge, therefore we recommend the bullet point should be amended to reflect the conversations that have been had with them better.</p>
K6.21, 6.22, 6.23, 6.24, 6.25, 6.26, 6.27, 6.28	<p><b>Waste, Recycling &amp; Street Cleanliness.</b></p> <p>It was noted by Chairs that the majority of the indicators and steps in relation to these issues are green and therefore if the public were asked if this accurately reflected their understanding of the matters, would they agree?</p> <p>Officers commented that K6.27 is red and that a significant change in behaviour by the public is needed.</p>
KPIs	<p><b>Annual KPIs.</b></p> <p>Over 50% (15/28) of the KPI's that fall with in WBO 6 are Annual and therefore it is difficult to easily track progress throughout the year.</p>
S6.14	<p><b>Llanrumney Bridge.</b></p> <p>Last year a written update in relation to progress regarding Llanrumney Bridge was requested. Chairs noted that planning has been secured so therefore does the wording need to be amended for the step?</p> <p><b>Action</b> – A written update to be provided as planning has now been secured and we also <b>recommend</b> that step to be reworded to reflect this.</p>
K6.08 -6.11	<p><b>Modal Shift.</b></p> <p>Chairs noted that there has been a target set for these KPIs in the absence of any results since 2019/20, how has this target been derived?</p> <p>Officers clarified that the target has been set in a 'linear' way, i.e. from the baseline in 2020 to the target of 76% in 2030. Officers also noted that discussions were ongoing to secure funding to back many projects that will support the modal shift.</p>
NEW STEP	<p><b>Section 106 agreements.</b></p> <p>The inclusion of a new step to '<i>Maximise developer contributions from new developments to <b>deliver community infrastructure, affordable housing and wider improvement within local areas</b></i>' was welcomed by Chairs, although they felt that 'sustainable and active travel' should also be included.</p>

	<p>The Chairs also asked should an indicator be developed to support the step as whole?</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Officers to develop an appropriate indicator to support the new step, for inclusion in future Corporate Plans, if the indicator is a successful gauge of the step.</p>
<b>WBO7</b>	
S7.01 -7.04 K7.01-7.04	<p><b>Capital receipts.</b></p> <p>Chairs highlighted that for General Fund capital receipts (K7.04) the latest information available is for the end of 2022/23, and at that point the Council had secured just £3.3m of a £25m target.</p> <p>We note the need to take account of the market, but this appears way off target and requires corporate focus given that receipts will underpin the long-term capital programme.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - Officers agreed to update this KPI as part of month 9 budget monitoring and the Capital Strategy/ programme report.</p>
S7.09-7.10	<p><b>Hybrid working</b></p> <p>At Q3 the narrative states final technical input is being made to the hybrid working policy to allow for final consultations to take place. Chairs asked whether this will be planned consultation with unions and further consultation with staff.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Officers confirmed there will be a final contractual phase to implementing hybrid working that requires further staff and union engagement. This is likely to take place in Autumn 2024.</p>
Not in CP	<p><b>Staff well-being</b></p> <p>Chairs considered that the Corporate Plan should assess whether the Council’s staff well-being policies are working and how they impact on staff turnover.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - Whilst discussion with unions and employee networks is routine and ongoing, the Chief Executive explained there will be a broader staff survey in Summer/Autumn 2024 to assess the effectiveness/monitor the impact of staff well-being policies.</p> <p><b>Action</b> -Chief Executive agreed to reflect on whether staff well-being should be included in the CP as a further step.</p>

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**SWYDDFA'R ARWEINYDD  
OFFICE OF THE LEADER**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CE:0047519

Dyddiad / Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Councillor Joel Williams  
Chair, Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff

Via email: [Nicola.Newton@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.Newton@cardiff.gov.uk)

Annwyl/Dear Joel,

**Scrutiny Performance Panel 15 February 2024: Corporate Plan 2024-27**

Thank you for convening the Performance Panel on 15 February, and my thanks to the Scrutiny Committee chairs for attending.

The Panel suggested a series of actions to help inform the development of the Corporate Plan in future, and these will be considered as we develop future iterations of the Plan.

The Panel also made six recommendations which directly related to the development of the 2024-27 Corporate Plan. Of these recommendations, five have been accepted in full and one has been partially accepted.

Thank you once again for your ongoing commitment to supporting the development of the Corporate Plan.

Yn gywir,  
Yours sincerely,



**CYNGHORYDD / COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS  
ARWEINYDD / LEADER  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD / CARDIFF COUNCIL**

**GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI**

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

**WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU**

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



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### Corporate Plan 2024-27 Target setting Observations

The recommendations of the Performance Panel on 15 February 2024 have been welcomed. The responses have been grouped into three categories (below) with a response or explanatory note included as necessary.

- Recommendation Accepted
- Recommendation Partially Accepted
- Recommendation Not Accepted

REF	Recommendation/Action for Cabinet’s further reflection	Cabinet Response
General	<p><b>Audit Wales Report: Use of performance information: service user perspective and outcomes.</b></p> <p>In line with recommendations made by Audit Wales, Chairs explored how the KPI targets set in the Corporate Plan are informed by citizen satisfaction. We noted in particular the need to ensure citizen satisfaction targets are adequate, achievable and realistic in terms of citizen expectations.</p> <p>We note from the discussion that this is a draft Corporate Plan and further work on consistency of citizen satisfaction targets is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> –The Panel recommends that Cabinet reflect on how citizen perspective can be strengthened in the Corporate Plan.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation Accepted</b></p> <p>A review has been undertaken to ensure citizen voice indicators are embedded in our planning and delivery framework and that the Council can more formally use citizen insight to shape policy.</p> <p>As part of the process for developing the Corporate Plan, the balance of these citizen insight measures has been considered. Where citizen insight measures are available, and considered appropriate, they have been included in the 2024-27 Corporate Plan. As part of this exercise we have doubled the number of citizen perspective indicators in the Corporate Plan – from 9 to 18 – and this will be kept under ongoing review.</p> <p>Directorates have also identified a basket of citizen voice indicators, and these will be in all Directorate Delivery Plans which Committees can consider.</p>

<p><b>WBO1</b></p> <p>K1.21 – 1.24</p>	<p><b>Placements (Children’s Services)</b></p> <p>Chairs sought assurances on these KPIs - 4 of which are currently Red and Amber rated. The Leader stated that targets are perhaps not the right measure but ensuring that each young person has the right care. re K1.21, the target was Red rated as the Council has taken a different approach. The Corporate Director responded that they were confident that targets would be met, and significant improvements had been made via the Accommodation Strategy. The Corporate Director stated that there may be further consideration of KPIs relating to the number of placements available, and the kind of provision available to reflect this. A number of CIW registrations will be taking place in March. The Cabinet Member for Finance and Modernisation concluded that for Q4 and into 2024/25, there would be significant signs of improvement in this area.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> – Chairs support the Leader’s recommendation to include an additional KPI on the number of accommodation units brought online following inspection.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation Accepted</b></p> <p>To reflect the ongoing delivery of the Council’s Accommodation Strategy, the Council will include the following KPI in the Corporate Plan:</p> <p><i>The number of new in-house residential beds for children registered during the year. 2024/25 Target = 10</i></p>
<p><b>WBO2</b></p>	<p><b>Responding to the needs of Communities.</b></p> <p>Chairs noted the absence of the Adult Housing &amp; Communities forthcoming work on developing an Equality Action Plan and your response that this information is contained in the service area’s Directorate Delivery Plan.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> - given the service area’s recognition and commitment to ensuring services are easily accessible to all communities, and our general comments on the importance of the Corporate Plan’s public accessibility, we recommend</p>	<p><b>Recommendation Partially Accepted</b></p> <p>The Corporate Plan 2024-27 makes reference to the development of the statutory Council-wide Equality Plan under Wellbeing Objective 7 – “Publish the draft Strategic Equality Plan for consultation by May 2024 and the final version by September 2024.”</p> <p>The Adults, Housing &amp; Communities’ Equality Action Plan will be aligned to the Strategic Equality Plan. It will capture work</p>

	reference to forthcoming work on developing an Equality Action Plan be included in the final draft Corporate Plan.	being undertaken at a Directorate level and will be monitored through their Directorate Delivery Plan.
<b>WBO5</b>		
K5.01	<p><b>Grade A Office Space</b></p> <p>This Panel has previously recommended that you explore the feasibility of an additional KPI to measure changing patterns of work and post pandemic working practices. You agreed to explore, and one year on Chairs therefore sought progress as there is not a new KPI in this draft Corporate Plan.</p> <p>We note that Cabinet is not in a clear position on this, however, is of the view that the target remains relevant. We note that Savills have concluded the demand for grade A office space remains and there is a shortage in the city, that Cabinet believe the demand must be tapped into, recognising that the city needs good employers bringing well paid jobs.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> - We therefore recommend that you create an additional target to reflect the increase in requirement for flexible working space.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation Accepted</b></p> <p>The Council's Economic Development Team are confident that there is robust demand for Grade A office accommodation in the city. Challenging marketing conditions, however, particularly given high interest rates and other delivery challenges may impact the market's ability to deliver. A number of studies have also made clear there is a lack of suitable premises to accommodate current and future levels of employment growth, particularly with the levels of investment in Cardiff's business and transport infrastructure stimulating demand. A new KPI will be included to specifically monitor the supply of Co-Working Spaces:</p> <p><i>The amount of co-working space (m<sup>2</sup>) made available within the financial year</i></p> <p>The indicator will be based on the amount of business space made available for multiple business use during the financial year. The data will be based on when the premises is made available for use and may or may not overlap with the Grade A indicator if definitions overlap.</p>
<b>WBO6</b>		
S6.15	<p><b>Segregated Cycle Network.</b></p> <p>The Chairs commented on the inclusion of steps, that are of interest to residents, in consecutive plans when they continue not to be delivered and timescales have slipped considerably.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation Accepted</b></p> <p>Recognising that Blackweir Bridge is outside the direct control of the Council, the step will be amended to:</p>

	<p>Officers noted that the Council still aspire to deliver these projects, but they are only a partner to the project. Chairs asked how do we hold partners to account when there are issues and delays?</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> - Officers confirmed that Cardiff University has no funding to support the delivery of the Blackweir Bridge, therefore we recommend the bullet point should be amended to reflect the conversations that have been had with them better.</p>	<p><i>“Explore funding options for a new Blackweir Bridge with Cardiff University by March 2027.”</i></p>
S6.14	<p><b>Llanrumney Bridge.</b> Last year a written update in relation to progress regarding Llanrumney Bridge was requested. Chairs noted that planning has been secured so therefore does the wording need to be amended for the step?</p> <p><b>Action</b> – A written update to be provided as planning has now been secured and we also <b>recommend</b> that step to be reworded to reflect this.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation Accepted</b></p> <p>The step has been reworded to reflect the very latest position – <i>“Programme the delivery of the bridge crossing scheme at Llanrumney, subject to satisfying planning conditions, as part of a wider regeneration scheme.”</i></p>

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Date: 28 Feb 2024

**Cllr Chris Weaver**

**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance.**

*Correspondence Sent via e-mail.*



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Dear Cllr Weaver,

**CASSC Scrutiny Committee 26 Feb 2024: Draft Corporate Plan 2024-2027 and Draft Budgetary Proposals 2024-2025**

Our sincere thanks, to you, your Cabinet colleagues and officers, for attending Committee on 26 Feb 2024. Understanding and testing the decision making within the Council's proposed budget, and its Corporate Plan, is of vital importance. As such, the opportunity this meeting provides; to allow Committee Members, and members of the public, to examine or hear the rationale for the decision making, is welcomed; and we thank all attendees for facilitating this and attending our meeting.

**Corporate Overview**

Due to the ongoing cost of living crisis, we tested how the managing of the council's budget, particularly the aspects which have direct implications for residents (*such as council tax rises and increase in fees and charges*) is offset against demand on services, service sustainability and the council's future outlook. From the response, we heard managing this matter requires a constant, iterative discussion to ensure the decisions made on revenue raising from fees and charges are reasonable and are made with the current financial context in mind.

Due to the significant and sustained pressure on services within this committee's remit, it was interesting to explore the decision-making process regarding the use of reserves; for example how it is determined how much reserve is required to draw down, and how much reserve residual is deemed sufficient to ensure sustainability and lessen risk in future years.

From the discussion, we note the use of reserve is done in tandem with the service area, alongside continuous risk assessment and monitoring. Further, we also note officers' assurance later in the meeting, that when grant funding is achieved; this is often used to reimburse reserves.

We questioned the rationale for the £0.5m reduction in Adult Services' contingency budget, however we do recognise that within these budget proposals, Adult Services has seen an overall growth of around £15m which is welcomed.

Regarding the employee implications for the overall 2024-2025 budget proposals, we note that 62 posts are currently marked as '*TBC / Redeployment*' and we were informed the reasoning for the uncertainty is largely in part to many of the post being agency. Owing to the importance of employee implications, we would welcome in future years that employee implication be known prior to determining or proposing budget proposals.

Lastly, we welcome the increased level of response to this year's budget's consultation, and we hope this increased level of engagement between the council and residents continues on a positive trajectory.

#### **Cllr Sangani – Cabinet Member for Public Health & Equalities**

As Cllr Sangani will be aware, we as a committee have been briefed by council officers, and third sector organisations, of the significant capacity issues and growing demand, facing the asylum seeker and refugee services the council manages. We are very aware that these services 'could soon reach breaking point.' Taking this into account, it was relatively disappointing there appears to be no additional steps being taken to address this issue in both the financial and Corporate Plan proposals before us.

Although we note and concur with Cllr Sangani and officers on the importance of external funding and partnership work (both inside and outside the Council) to address this issue, we are disappointed that more prominence or commitment to addressing this issue has not been included in the proposals, particularly in terms of assigning staff resource. In addition, we also have specific concerns around the reliance on grant/external funding in terms of sustainability in future years.



### **Cllr Peter Bradbury – Tackling Poverty and Supporting Young People**

We welcome the revision of the Advice Service targets (KPI 3.09 & 3.10) in the Corporate Plan as this increase of targets is something we have been requesting for some time. However, we were initially disheartened to see that despite past assurances on the importance of the Advice Services, and the administration's desire to protect the team wherever possible, a saving proposal for the loss of two posts within the Advice Services team had been put forward. Further, we also questioned how targets could be raised if resource within the team is diminished and the subsequent implications and pressures this could place on remaining staff.

From the discussion, we are aware, the posts within the saving proposal (*Ref: HACE11*) have been vacant from some time, and the proposed use of money within the Earmarked Reserves (*Ref: Line 67, General Reserves & Line 3, HRA reserves*) will be used to provide additional staff. Further, we have noted Cllr Bradbury's comments that we are currently in the second year of Shared Prosperity Funding, and the next (third year) of funding may present significant challenges for Cllr Bradbury's portfolio; and services within it. We look forward to working with the administration in navigating this in future years.

### **Cllr Norma Mackie – Cabinet Member for Adult Service**

When considering the overall achievability of the savings proposed for Adult Services, we noted all the service change proposals hold a degree of amber risk categorisation in terms of its achievability and residual.

For this reason, we sought insight on the proposals deliverability and were subsequently informed; the reasoning for the amber/green or amber/red categorisation is largely attributed to timescales owing to proposals largely relating to recommissioning of services.

Given the majority of the service change proposals for Adult Services are interlinked with the care an individual receives (*whether it be the costing or model of care provided*) we do wish to stress the importance of 'personalised care'.

Through our work with yourself and officers, and from the response we received at the meeting, we know the importance of personalised care is shared by the Cabinet

Member and service area. The discussion reassured us that care provision will only be offered to individuals where it best aligns with their needs and wishes.

We also wish to reiterate the importance of all proposals being carefully and slowly phased in, especially as it appears the proposals comprise a longer-term programme of change.

Remaining mindful of the sustained pressures within the council's Community Resource Team since the outbreak of the pandemic, and the ongoing efforts and initiatives being deployed to assist the team (*e.g., return to the teams reablement focus, new rostering et al*) we were disappointed to see their savings proposal (*Ref: ADUSC4*).

When exploring the rationale for this budget proposal, we were informed the savings relates to a reduction in back office / admin related service and is being proposed as part of the teams ongoing reform and is not offered specifically to help the council bridge its budget gap.

We welcome progression of the council's neuro-divergent commitments yet sought clarity on how they will be achieved given it received no financial contribution within this budget proposal. From the subsequent discussion, we heard it is the intention for this work to be progressed by drawing upon current resource within the council, its partners and through grant funding.

We note, the work is currently in a scoping phase, and we look forward to monitoring its progression.

### **Cllr Thorne – Housing & Communities**

Given the significant, and ongoing housing situation we questioned if the revenue budget proposed for the service area is sufficient to address the sustained pressures placed on services and the range of commitments detailed in the Corporate Plan.

We note from the discussion, it is recognised the situation is challenging, however there is confidence it will meet the need; particularly as the service area will continue to apply for a range of grants.

We are aware of the forthcoming Welsh Housing Quality Standards and the significant financial and resource challenges this will generate. For this reason, we explored why no money had been set aside with the budget proposals for this issue and we heard although money is being put aside, challenges remain as the exact cost required for this work is not yet known.

We are aware and share the concerns of Cllr Thorne regarding the significant finance and resource this work will require. We therefore welcome the commitment that the forthcoming years there will be a concentrated effort on understanding how much this WHQS requirement will cost, and how will it be achieved. Further, we note and concur with Cllr Thorne that owing to the significant work required, clear direction and support must be offered by the Welsh Government.

Regarding volunteers, we commend and support the skills and opportunity volunteering provides individuals. However, given this year, and the previous year saw budget proposals to increase the use of volunteers in Hubs we are concerned about the unintended consequence and pressure this could place on paid staff. We note this concern is shared by officers and Cllr Thorne and we welcome the assurance that this will be closely monitored to ensure the proposal has no adverse impact for staff.

Lastly, in line with this Committee's performance monitoring work, we welcome the increased capital allocation for council house repairs, and the introduction of specific steps and KPI's on Council House repairs within the draft Corporate Plan.

On behalf of the Committee, thank you once again to you, your Cabinet colleagues and officers for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the proposals.

A response to this letter is not requested.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Taylor', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**COUNCILLOR RHYS TAYLOR**

**Chair - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

cc Members of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Julie Sangani, Cabinet Member, Public Health & Equalities  
Cllr Norma Mackie, Cabinet Member, Adult Services  
Cllr Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member, Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People  
Cllr Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member, Housing & Communities  
Cllr Joel Williams, Chair – Policy, Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Chris Lee, Corporate Director, Resource  
Rita Rohman, PA/Secretary to Corporate Director, Resource  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities  
Jane Thomas, Director, Adults, Housing & Communities  
Helen Evans, Assistant Director, Housing & Communities  
Gareth Newell, Head of Performance & Partnerships  
Dylan Owen, OM Policy & Improvement  
Group Leaders  
Cabinet Office  
Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit  
Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations



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Councillor Chris Weaver,  
Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance,  
Room 519,  
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Atlantic Wharf,  
Cardiff CF10 4UW.

Dear Councillor Weaver,

### **Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee – 26 February 2024**

On behalf of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you, Councillor Lister, Councillor Merry, Cllr Bradbury and officers for attending the Committee meeting on Monday 26 February 2024 to consider the Draft Budget Proposals 2024/25 and Draft Corporate Plan 2024-2027.

The meeting initially considered the Corporate Overview and was followed by scrutiny of the draft budget proposals and sections of the draft corporate plan relevant to the terms of reference of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

#### **❖ Corporate Overview**

In terms of your Portfolio, Members felt there were a number of issues that would require your input and commitment going forward and would appreciate your views on.

Firstly, the Committee wish to commend you and Cabinet colleagues for the commitments given to budgets in Education, Children's Services and the protection of the Youth Service budget. The uplifts were very welcomed particularly with regard to Children's Services where the uplift amounts to more than 12%. Notwithstanding the 4.3% uplift to the delegated schools' budget, the committee expressed concerns about the pressures on schools' budgets and the predicted significant deficit position in 2024/2024. We will support you in ensuring Directorates are achieving their

commitments and priorities and budgets are used effectively across all Directorates that fall within this Committee's Terms of Reference.

During our questioning, we asked you about the following issues and noted responses:

- The resilience of the budget and the robustness of the financial strategy, particularly in terms of protecting services
- The nature of any dialogue between Welsh Government and the Council given the predicted budget gap of £142.3 million over the next three years and the risk this poses to the delivery of services in the short and medium terms.
- The extent of collaboration in the provision of services across the region currently and in the future and the relationship between this and the potential for making efficiency savings that could then be devoted to the delivery of front-line services.
- Clarification around the use of the Financial Resilience Model
- The uncertainty surrounding the funding of the increased costs associated with the teachers' pension scheme and the significant implications should this not be fully covered.
- Reassurance that the teacher's NJC pay awards over the last two years have been covered in full and that this will continue for future awards.  
Reassurances also with regard to the pay awards for non-teaching and support staff.
- The key challenges to the budget across the Council
- Issues in relation to particular KPIs

In addition, we asked questions on the following areas. We request a response to these.

- In the corporate overview and across individual portfolios, we asked questions in relation to the national context, particularly around grants. We **request** a response on what the administration intends to do in its dialogue with Welsh Government about grants, particularly the short and medium term position, given the very significant concerns about the coming year and the next 2-3 years; and how grants to schools will be distributed, as officers stated that this was an area that still required detail from Welsh Government.

- In the corporate overview and across individual portfolios, we asked questions in relation to KPIs. This resulted in us asking about results against these KPIs. We therefore **request** that going forward, the Corporate Plan includes current performance, not just in this area, but across all portfolios.
- We asked a question in relation to medium term financial forecasting and were pointed to the Medium-Term Financial Plan Annex 1, and you kindly provided a copy of this document to us via email before the end of the meeting. You also stated that detailed questions on this issue would be welcomed during the year. Therefore, we would like to take up this opportunity for issues within our terms of reference; and therefore, **request** that you provide us with suitable timelines of when we could do this, and we will add to our work programme accordingly.
- We also asked a number of questions seeking clarity around school budgets - both deficits and surpluses. We voiced our concerns around a potential £10m deficit, and how the Council is responding to, and supporting schools. Whilst we noted the responses received, officers stated that there needs to be a conversation between finance and education on this issue, particularly around ALN. Therefore, we **request** further clarity and information be provided on how this will roll-out over the coming months. In addition, we **request** that the response includes further information on how the local authority is going to work with schools to successfully manage deficits in a way that does not damage the quality of education, given that schools are facing very significant demands on a number of fronts.

#### ❖ **Children's Services**

The Committee welcomed the over 12% net increase in the Children's Services budget for 2024/25 and would like to thank the Cabinet for continuing to support this area.

We welcomed news from Councillor Lister that the innovations in Children's Services were coming to fruition, and we will look at this issue in detail at our meeting on the 7 May 2024.

During our questioning, we asked you about the following issues and noted responses:

- Youth Justice Service Restructure
- Assurances that the Service can meet demand.
- Ensuring that the safeguarding self-assessment and the recent inspection have been reflected in both the budget proposals and corporate plan
- Risks relating to placements
- Spend to save issues in relation to employees
- The impact of national strategies and policies going forwards (such as eliminating profit from care etc.).

### Budget Proposals

During the Q&A session, we asked a number of questions on the budget, particularly around what the service wishes to deliver with additional funding; the potential impact of efficiency savings proposed; and the review of the business support service. We noted the responses given.

### Corporate Plan 2023-26

In relation to the Corporate Plan, Members asked a number of questions in relation to commitments and KPIs. This included new KPIs and awaiting targets to be set; sought assurances that current KPIs could be met; and whether the Cabinet Member and officers were confident that the KPIs (K1.19 – 1.24) on external placements would be met. We also asked a question on new KPIs on the family advice service, which we will address more fully below.

### Family Advice Service

We asked about the progress of the service review in this area, and we heard that a service area alignment review was commenced; that an external company undertook a review (which revealed that clients were being referred to the MASH, rather than early help); and plans for a triage system. There was also a suggestion that bringing those two services together could improve preventative services and offer potential efficiency savings, and that some detail of this could be brought back to this scrutiny committee. We therefore **request** that this be done and that a timeline is provided for consideration by this committee.



### Demand on Services and Complexity of Demand

Members noted the range of reasons given for the complexity of cases coming into the service. We acknowledge the issues affecting the children & young people themselves such as poor mental health across all age ranges which is placing pressures on Children's Services and schools; the increase in children with neurodiversity issues, and difficulties in accessing services; and complexities around very young children and babies with complex needs and disabilities and meeting their needs.

We also note the wider complexities associated with poverty and parents' ability to support children; the increased impact of poor mental health on parents, including substance abuse and domestic violence; and we understand that Children's Services are trying to understand the impact of the significant change in the environment – pre-pandemic to now. We will continue to look at ways in which we can support this; as well as review these issues going forward.

### Children's Services General

As we have done at previous meetings, the committee would wish to seek reassurance regarding the efficiency savings and demands on the service. We would therefore **request** further information on this, particularly ensuring that there will not be any adverse impact on service delivery.

We also note that there are numerous discussions taking place (or planning to take place) between the Council and Welsh Government on a range of issues that affect Cardiff. We note that legislation on eliminating profit from care is imminent; and this could throw up more challenges for the Council. We also note and support Cllr Lister's desire for any conversation between Welsh Government and Council Leaders includes experiences of practice staff. If this scrutiny committee can support these discussions, we would welcome this opportunity.

### **Education & Lifelong Learning**

Notwithstanding the concerns expressed about the pressures on schools' budgets, members of the Committee would like to again commend the Cabinet for the continued priority given to education as set out in the Corporate Plan and in the budget proposals.

During our questioning, we asked you about the following issues and noted responses:

- Performance in relation to specific KPIs, including school meals
- Deletion of a post in School Admissions
- Capital Programme, especially around school organisation planning
- Alternative funding for areas such as sports facilities

### Budget Proposals

Much of the discussion on overall budget proposals have already been addressed earlier in this letter. However, further questions were asked in the following areas:

### Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the funding of ALN, including seeking assurances that interim funding is available and on the Council's radar; whether ALN additional funding has been clearly communicated; what support is being offered in understanding when schools can approach the Council for financial assistance; and the overlap between ALN, with Children's Services and School Transport.

We also asked for clarity on the numbers of those children who have Individual Development Plans and noted that 8% of the current school population have them, which has a knock-on effect in terms of demand and need for provision for complex needs. We would seek assurances in this area and therefore **request** that further information be provided.

### Active Travel

Linked to discussions on ALN, Members asked whether there were funds in place to shrink the radius from schools (currently 3 miles for Secondary schools and 2 miles for Primary schools) – both in the short time and into the longer term. The Head of Finance stated that he could provide further information on this issue. Therefore, we **request** that this information be provided.

### Education Psychologists

Members asked about the deletion of vacant posts in this area. (Appendix 6a in scrutiny papers) We heard that the rationale for deleting these posts was that they

were long standing posts that were named on the system, but the structure had moved on and that there was a full complement, and no reduction in service. The Director suggested that she could clarify this position; and we therefore **request** further information be provided on this proposal.

### Single Sex Toilets

Members asked for the number of single sex toilets in schools and whether there had been any issues in schools in relation to this. The Director of SOP responded that he had not had any issues brought to his attention but could find more information/ further clarity on this. Therefore, we **request** further information be provided.

### **Supporting Young People**

#### Youth Service

Members have, at previous meetings of this Committee, championed the work of the youth service and would wish to state that it fully supports the work that Cllr Bradbury and officers are aiming to achieve in this area, and progress to date.

As with previous years, this Committee wishes to again strongly advocate a move towards sustainable core funding; and consider putting the service on a statutory basis – reducing the reliance on grant funding. We agree with Cllr Bradbury's desire to move from a 50/50 budget split to a 75/25 split. We would therefore **request** your thoughts on this and a commitment from the administration to work towards this in the coming years.,

As Members stated that the meeting, youth services do not just offer activities to young people in their areas; but also have a community cohesion role; provide mental health and well-being support; and tackle criminal exploitation.

We strongly support Cllr Bradbury's vision to rebuild the service; support the locality approach and would wish to offer our support in discussions with Welsh Government on this issue.

**To recap**, the Committee is requesting the following information:

### **Corporate**

- A response on what the administration intends to do in its dialogue with Welsh Government about grants, particularly the short and medium term position, given the very significant concerns about the coming year and the next 2-3 years; and how grants to schools will be distributed, as officers stated that this was an area that still required detail from Welsh Government.
- Agreement that, going forward, the Corporate Plan includes current performance, not just in this area, but across all portfolios.
- Provide us with suitable timelines of when we could ask questions relating to progress against the MTFP during 2024/25.
- School budgets – to provide further clarity and assurances on discussions relating to ALN, and how this will roll-out over the coming months. We also request that the response includes further information on how the local authority is going to work with schools to successfully manage deficits in a way that does not damage the quality of education, given that schools are facing very significant demands on a number of fronts. We would also welcome an in-year update, at the appropriate time, on the schools' budget deficit position and how this is being managed.

### **Children's Services**

- Family Advice Service – that the results of any reviews of the family advice service be brought back to this scrutiny committee and that a timeline is provided for consideration by this committee.
- Children's Services General – provide reassurances regarding the efficiency savings and demands on the service; particularly assurance that there will not be any adverse impact on service delivery.

## **Education & Lifelong Learning**

- ALN - clarity and assurances on the numbers of those children who have Individual Development Plans, and narrative in terms of demand and need for provision for complex needs.
- Active Travel – the Head of Finance provide further information on the impact on funds to shrink the radius from schools (currently 3 miles) – both in the short time and into the longer term.
- Education Psychologists - That the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning provide further information on the rationale for deleting 2 x Education Psychology posts.
- Single Sex Toilets - that the Director of SOP provide details of the number of single sex toilets in schools and whether there had been any issues in schools in relation to this.

## **Supporting Young People**

- Youth Service – that a commitment be given towards sustainable core funding for the Youth Service; and consider putting the service on a statutory basis – reducing the reliance on grant funding.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and work with the relevant Cabinet portfolio holders to provide a response to the content of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', written over a light grey rectangular background.

**COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN**

**Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: Members of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Ash Lister, Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's Services)  
Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education

Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People  
Councillor Joel Williams, Chairperson of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Chris Lee, Corporate Director Resources  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Melanie Godfrey, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning  
Richard Portas, Programme Director of School Organisation Planning.  
Suzanne Scarlett, Suzanne Scarlett, Operational Manager – Partnerships & Performance, Education & Lifelong Learning  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People & Communities  
Deborah Driffield, Director of Children’s Services  
Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services  
Dylan Owen, Policy and Improvement  
Adam Foster, Head of Cabinet Office,  
Claire Deguara, Cabinet Support Office  
Tim Gordon & Jeremy Rhys, Media and Comms  
Cllr John Lancaster – Group Leader  
Cllr Rodney Berman – Group Leader  
Cllr Andrea Gibson – Group Leader  
Gavin McArthur – Chair Governance & Audit Committee

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: Budget 24.25 [CE:0047799]  
Dyddiad / Date: 29 February 2024

Councillor Lee Bridgeman  
Chairperson Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee  
Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Lee,

### **Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee – 26 February 2024 Draft Budget Proposals 2024/25**

Thank you for your letter received on 28<sup>th</sup> February and the useful comments raised. I can assure you that Cabinet was able to reflect on the points raised prior to our meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The following paragraphs address each of the Committee's further information requests:

#### **Corporate**

**Request: A response on what the administration intends to do in its dialogue with Welsh Government about grants, particularly the short and medium-term position, given the very significant concerns about the coming year and the next 2-3 years; and how grants to schools will be distributed, as officers stated that this was an area that still required detail from Welsh Government.**

This Council along with all other local authorities will continue to undertake dialogue with Welsh Government at all levels and stress the need for early indications of changes in grants and levels of funding. I recognise that grants are a significant factor in the funding for schools and I have been assured by officers that as funding information is received it is passed out to schools.

**Request: Agreement that, going forward, the Corporate Plan includes current performance, not just in this area, but across all portfolios.**

We note your request that, going forward, the Corporate Plan includes current performance, not just in this area, but across all portfolios. I would remind the committee that the Corporate Performance Dashboard has been developed to provide performance data on all Corporate Plan KPIs. This includes information on performance over time and

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#### **GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI**

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedl.

#### **WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU**

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



against target. These KPIs can also be viewed by Well-Being Objective, by Directorate as well as by Scrutiny Committee based on their Terms of Reference. The dashboard can be accessed [here](#) and further training on its use can be made available should members find that useful.

**Request: Provide us with suitable timelines of when we could ask questions relating to progress against the MTFP during 2024/25.**

The Cabinet will receive an annual Budget Strategy Update in July that will provide a refresh and a strategy update for 2025/26 and the Medium Term. I am happy to attend your Scrutiny Committee during 2024/25 at any time. If the Committee wanted to explore further the process by which specific service area calculate expected future demand, for example Children's Services, you may want to invite the Cabinet Member and an officer for that service area as well, who may be able to discuss this with you in more detail.

**Request: School budgets – to provide further clarity and assurances on discussions relating to ALN, and how this will roll-out over the coming months. We also request that the response includes further information on how the local authority is going to work with schools to successfully manage deficits in a way that does not damage the quality of education, given that schools are facing very significant demands on a number of fronts. We would also welcome an in-year update, at the appropriate time, on the schools' budget deficit position and how this is being managed.**

It is the responsibility of the Individual School Governing Body to set a balanced budget based on the financial allocation provided from the formula, grants and any other income available. Individual schools are best placed to make decisions for their children, and we understand that there will be difficult decisions to make. However, this is one of the reasons why a deficit budget maybe required in the short term if there is a view from the Director of Education that educational outcomes would otherwise be severely compromised. Deficits will need to be managed and no school will be allowed to simply increase its deficit year on year.

Officers in Education and Finance work with schools to support them setting their budgets and will continue to do so over the coming weeks and months, and groups of Headteachers will be meeting as 'Efficiency Boards' to collaborate and support each other and help identify savings and best practice that will help schools set and manage their budgets. Regarding ALN, I think this may be best addressed in a detailed session with the Cabinet Member for Education and her officials, though if there are specific finance elements, I'd be happy to try to answer any questions the Committee has.

### **Children's Services**

**Request: Family Advice Service – that the results of any reviews of the family advice service be brought back to this scrutiny committee and that a timeline is provided for consideration by this committee.**

There is a review of the interface between Early Help and Children's Services at the point of first contact which has commenced, and I have asked officers to provide the Committee with updates as it progresses. No review of the Family Advice Service is currently planned.



**Request: Children's Services General – provide reassurances regarding the efficiency savings and demands on the service; particularly assurance that there will not be any adverse impact on service delivery**

It is a very challenging budget and along with all services Children's Services have looked to see how we can deliver some efficiencies in line with the direction set out in the Children's Services strategy. We will strive to ensure that any impacts are kept to a minimum and that over time will lead to more sustainable service delivery.

### **Education & Lifelong Learning**

**Request: ALN - clarity and assurances on the numbers of those children who have Individual Development Plans, and narrative in terms of demand and need for provision for complex needs.**

We currently have 3196 Individual Development Plans (337 are local authority maintained for the following cohorts: Children Looked After, Elective Home Education, Early Years, Education other than at school, Dual Registered, Detained, the rest are school maintained) for learners identified as having ALN (under the new ALN system).

5,554 currently are recorded as having SEN (school action, school action plus and statement of SEN) or ALN.

In Cardiff we are seeing an increase in the demand for specialist provision for learners with significant and complex needs; this is due to a combination of factors including but not exhaustive to the increased identification of ALN, increased complexity of need and learners moving into Cardiff. I have asked officers to provide you with more data in this regard.

**Request: Active Travel – further information on the impact on funds to shrink the radius from schools (currently 3 miles) – both in the short time and into the longer term.**

Further information is provided below:

- We are targeting all ALN pupils in New Curriculum Year 9 and above with independent travel training, so that those pupils that are capable to be trained, are trained with this life-skill and reduce future transport requirements.
- For ALN pupils the distance criteria does not apply for most cases as transport entitlement is based on their individual needs in line with the Welsh Learner Travel Measure. As a result, the majority of pupils receiving transport on ALN grounds within the city live within the 2 and 3 mile criteria already.
- With more ALN SRB units being opened across the city the distance ALN pupils travel, or are transported will gradually reduce over coming years, with more pupils being able to attend more local provision. (Although demand is still out stripping supply of places)

- Provision allocation is prioritised based on the pupils with the greatest need for the support.

**Request: Education Psychologists - further information on the rationale for deleting 2 x Education Psychology posts.**

These posts have been vacant for a long period of time and the service is able to deal with the current capacity of cases without them. Whilst additional resources would be welcome, it is incumbent on all services to make efficiencies where they can.

**Request: Single Sex Toilets - details of the number of single sex toilets in schools and whether there had been any issues in schools in relation to this.**

We do not hold the information that breaks down into unisex or single sex toilets in schools.

**Supporting Young People**

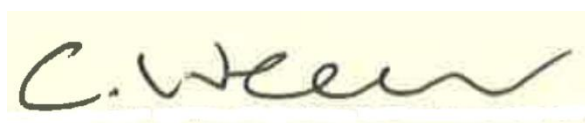
**Request: Youth Service – that a commitment be given towards sustainable core funding for the Youth Service; and consider putting the service on a statutory basis – reducing the reliance on grant funding.**

The Welsh Government's Youth Work Strategy Implementation Board is currently reviewing the Legislative basis for Youth Services in Wales, and is overseeing an Independent Review of funding and expenditure on youth work services. Cardiff Youth Service is actively represented in the Strategic Participation Groups involved in this work. We will continue to work towards a sustainable model for youth work in Cardiff, building upon the imminent changes agreed by Cabinet in November 2023, whilst working alongside the national review team to set the direction for the future.

The financial picture for the Council going forward is challenging, and there are potentially difficult financial decisions that will need to be made, so in this context any consideration of additional base budget funding, for any service area, will be considered each year alongside the need to set a balanced and sustainable budget. I am pleased however to reiterate that we have not proposed any cut to Youth Services this year, and we recognise the value and importance of this service.

I hope that this letter captures all the points raised in your letter and thank you again for your support in the budget process.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,



**Councillor / Y Cyngorydd Chris Weaver**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance**

**Cc:**

Members of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Ash Lister, Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's Services)  
Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education  
Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People  
Councillor Joel Williams, Chairperson of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
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Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services  
Dylan Owen, Policy and Improvement  
Adam Foster, Head of Cabinet Office,  
Claire Deguara, Cabinet Support Office  
Tim Gordon & Jeremy Rhys, Media and Comms  
Cllr John Lancaster – Group Leader  
Cllr Rodney Berman – Group Leader  
Cllr Andrea Gibson – Group Leader  
Gavin McArthur – Chair Governance & Audit Committee



Date: 28 February 2024

Councillor Weaver  
Cabinet Member, Finance, Modernisation and Performance  
Sent Via E-mail

Dear Councillor Weaver,

**Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee: 28 February 2023**

On behalf of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee, our sincere thanks to you, your Cabinet colleagues, and officers, for facilitating our scrutiny of the draft Corporate Plan 2024-2027 and draft Budgetary Proposals.

This letter summaries the key comments and observation made by Members at the meeting. Please also note our requests, listed at the end of our letter.

**Overall Corporate Overview**

Members note shortly before the meeting, yourself and officers received the final settlement from the Welsh Government which confirmed the Council remains in the anticipated financial position on which this budget is based; and so no further addendums will be required.

As I'm sure you will agree, undertaking Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) on the budget proposals is of vital importance and it was pleasing to hear, all relevant budget proposals have been subject to an EIA, and the findings of which, have informed the Council's consultation and engagement activity.

Remaining mindful to the importance of these assessments, and the recent Motion passed by Council, we are of the view that, in future years the budget papers provided to Scrutiny Committees must include the full EIA information as standard.

Further, we ask that all the EIA's carried out on these 2024/25 Budget proposals be circulated to all Scrutiny Committees.

From the meeting's discussions, Members note, and are reassured, that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) remains a key commitment within the Council's Corporate Plan and has a central focus in the development and delivery of key Council strategies, such as Cardiff & Vale's Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy.

Turning our attention to financial matters, it was interesting to explore the process used to determine the use and allocation of the reserve funds and we note the assurance offered by the Council's Section 151 Officer, that within these budget proposals, the Council will retain a level of reserves that provides financial resilience.

In terms of borrowing, and its implications on the Council's revenue budget, Members would appreciate a break-down on what proportion of capital financing is covered by income stemming from the projects we are borrowing for, what proportion is covered by grants, what proportion is money allocated from the council's general revenue/reserve fund etc.

Lastly, Members note and share the concerns of yourself and officers regarding the financial situation with schools and hope, through close collaboration with schools, we manage and mitigate the situation.

### **Councillor Burke's portfolio**

Given the current financial context, and overall budgetary position of the Council Members noted and questioned why no price increase has been proposed regarding hiring Cardiff Castle. Although we note the rationale is in part due to the promotion of the Castle, given the wider context, the committee would like this to be given consideration.

Remaining in the remit of fees and charges, given the city's status and its popularity for tv production companies, Members believe charges for filming in the city could be a significant avenue to generate income; and so, queried why the budget proposals contain no proposed price increase for filming in the city.

Upon reflection, Members wish to explore this matter in greater detail and so will task our support officer to work with the relevant officers to allow us to examine this topic in greater detail.

To facilitate our future consideration, we would like to receive insight on when the filming fees for Cardiff last increased, the costs our neighbouring cities charge for filming along with a wider fee comparison with core cities.

Regarding the Mansion House Budget service change proposal (*Ref: ECDSC4*) we sought assurance and confirmation that the gifting agreement allows the Council to lease or dispose of the property. From the discussion we note the assurance provided; however, we welcome written confirmation of these assurances, once further checks on this matter have been undertaken. In addition, we welcome the agreement that the full detail on the Mansion House proposal will be brought to Cabinet and this Committee at a future date.

In conjunction, we were informed as a result of the Protocol budget service change proposal (*Ref: ECDSC14*) there will be a reduced programme of events for the Lord Mayor, however this impact will be carefully managed through utilising resource in the Council's Event teams.

We noted our concern regarding the playground budget proposals (*Ref: ECDSC8 & ECDSC9*) exploring if this will result in safety implications. Through the response we were informed these results will have no adverse impact on safety or statutory obligations.

We again highlighted our concern regarding the budget service change proposal to reduce the provision of park rangers (*Ref: ECDSC6*). It was unclear to Members how this proposal would impact on Friends Groups, so we would appreciate further clarity on this matter.

In addition, remaining mindful to the Council's aspirations and commitments surrounding EOTAS, some Members raised concerns regarding the proposal to reduce 3 apprenticeship posts in the parks scheme (*Ref: ECDSC13*).

In terms of the Pentwyn Leisure Centre redevelopment; we note the development work is anticipated to be concluded by summer 2025, £3m has been allocated to this project within the Capital Programme, and the intention for this project to access Welsh Government funding in relation to carbon reduction.

We also welcome the confirmation that £1.5m of Shared Prosperity Funding has been agreed in January 2024 for the development of leisure projects; of which, Pentwyn is specifically named.

We wish to reiterate the importance of your Cabinet colleague's engagement with this scrutiny committee on the Pentwyn redevelopment proposals and their acceptance of our recommendation regarding a firm grounding for local community consultation. We are of the view, agreeing to this recommendation, and ensuring the development has firm local community consultation is vital.

### **Councillor Goodway's portfolio**

Members wish to pass on their thanks to Cllr Thomas for answering questions on this portfolio, in the absence of Cllr Goodway.

Given the significant sums of monies allocated within the Capital Programme to projects in our remit we explored the aspect of risk management. We note the risk management assurance made by Cllr Thomas regarding resilience and future spend. Further, we note Cllr Thomas' view, that the indicative economic forecast, particularly around interest rates, is given additional assurance and confidence.

We as a Committee, look forward to closely monitoring and assessing the development of these projects.

In terms of the velodrome at the Sports Village, we sought confirmation on its funding, in light of the potential new options for the Band B rebuild of Cathays High School. We note timeframes are still unknown but there is a strong commitment to provide a 'state of the art' school; and all opportunities regarding location are worth exploring.

### **Cllr Merry's Portfolio**

Members are pleased to note that Cardiff Commitment is to receive an allocation of £200,000 through the Financial Resilience Mechanism. Further we also welcome the insight offered by Cllr Merry at the meeting regarding the opportunities for the Council to access funding to further support this commitment.

### **Councillor Bradbury's portfolio**

Members recognise the overall achievement and performance of the Into Work teams, noting in particular, the increase in the number of jobseekers supported from the ethnic minority community.

However, we do wish to stress the importance of the Performance Panel's action (*Appendix 2, Feb 2024*) for the executive to assess, in collaboration with the Race Equality Taskforce, the number of meaningful interventions. And, in line with this work, we are of the view a sustainability KPI and target on this matter should be developed and included in future Corporate Plans.

It was also important to recognise that the academic performance of different ethnic groups did not translate into the ability to access the labour market, and further work is needed to explore why this discrepancy can occur and what we as a Council can do to address it.

We do wish to stress the importance of this issue remaining at the fore of Cabinet's priorities and are pleased to note, Cllr Bradbury's commitment toward addressing this, and more general inequity matters.

### **Cllr Thorne's portfolio**

Generally, Members were pleased with the diligent approach regarding local consultation for the reduced hub and library opening times proposals (*Ref: HACSC3*). However, we do still have concerns regarding potential impact of the proposal on staff, local groups, and residents. As such, we would like to request a break-down of how this proposal would affect each of the listed libraries / hubs in turn (*albeit indicative, if still unknown*), to enable local members to understand the impact in their communities.

We also explored the impact of the saving proposal to increase volunteers in the Hub & Libraries (*Ref: HACSC5*). Assessing the impact, or potential loss of knowledge and skill this proposal could entail. From the response, we note the need to retain specific knowledge and skill is recognised and so specific posts within the Hubs and Libraires will be retained. In addition, we were also informed it would roughly, on average, be 4 or 5 volunteers to match the equivalent workload of 1 FTE, due to the fluctuating available hours of volunteers.



In line with this we also tested the equitability of Hubs and Libraires given they are not located in every ward of the city. We note this is recognised by the Cabinet Member and welcomed the assurance within the discussion the value of Hubs & Libraries is recognised, and they will be protected as much as possible.

Some Members highlighted their concern regarding the removal of papers and periodicals from libraries and hubs; noting this would be a significant loss for some. We welcome the assurance offered at the meeting that this is recognised, and it will be carefully managed. We are also pleased to note, officers agreeing to explore our proposal for the future consultation (*or other relevant work of the service area*), exploring the possibility of business sponsoring the availability of hard copy newspapers in Hubs & Libraries, which in turn, provides them with advertisement.

Thank you once again to you, your Cabinet colleagues, and officers for attending Committee and facilitating our consideration.

To confirm, this letter requires a response please, to the following requests:

### **Request**

1. **Members request:** all the EIA's carried out on all the budget proposals be circulated to all Scrutiny Committees.
2. **Members request:** a break-down on what proportion of capital financing is covered by income stemming from the projects we are borrowing for, what proportion is covered by grants, what proportion is money allocated from the council's general revenue/reserve fund etc.
3. **Members request:** written confirmation that the Mansion House gifting agreement, allows the Council to lease or dispose of the property.
4. **Members request:** clarity on how the budget proposals, to reduce provision of park rangers will impact on Friends Groups.
5. **Members request:** a break-down of how the proposal to reduce opening and closing times, will affect each of the listed Libraries / Hubs in turn (*albeit indicative, if still unknown*).

Regarding our request to explore filming charges in the city in more detail and for the additional information requested; our support officer will be in touch with relevant officers to take this request forward.

Yours sincerely,



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**COUNCILLOR PETER WONG  
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Zack Hellard – Youth Council representative  
Group Leaders  
Chair, Governance & Audit Committee  
Cllr Merry Cllr Thorne Cllr Thomas Cllr Bradbury Cllr Goodway Cllr Burke  
Chris Lee Ian Allwood Gill Brown  
Neil Hanratty Jon Day Jon Maidment  
Helen Evans Rebecca Hooper  
Rita Rohman Christine Brain Clair James  
Cabinet Support Office  
Chris Pyke Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: Budget 24.25/ECSC [CE:0047770]  
Eich Cyf / Your Ref: SharePoint/E&C Library/Correspondence/February 2024  
Dyddiad / Date: 29 February 2024

Councillor Peter Wong  
Chairperson Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Peter,

**Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee – 27th February 2024  
Draft Budget Proposals 2024/25**

Thank you for your letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and the useful comments raised. I can assure you that Cabinet was able to reflect on the points raised prior to our meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The following paragraphs address each of the Committee's further information requests:

**Request: All the EIA's carried out on all the budget proposals be circulated to all Scrutiny Committees.**

All relevant budget proposals have been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), the findings of which have informed the Council's consultation and engagement activity, thereby ensuring that the voice of those disproportionately impacted by any changes is heard in the budget setting process. Impact Assessments will also reflect the findings of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken. These EqIAs will be made available to members via a dedicated SharePoint space.

**Request: a break-down on what proportion of capital financing is covered by income stemming from the projects we are borrowing for, what proportion is covered by grants, what proportion is money allocated from the council's general revenue/reserve fund etc.**

The Capital Financing budget reflects the estimated costs of undertaking the Council's Treasury Management activities (interest payable and receivable) and other costs in relation to capital expenditure activities including provision for Prudent Minimum Revenue Provision (A sum towards repayment of historic capital expenditure paid for by borrowing money). Numerous factors that can impact on the costs such as timing of borrowing, scheme progress and interest rates.

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**GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI**

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

**WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU**

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



A breakdown of estimated Capital Financing Costs for the whole council are as follows for 2024/25:

General Fund Capital Financing Costs estimated for 2024/25 are £37 million. These costs are met from Welsh Government Grant and Council Tax as part of the Councils annual revenue budget process.

The above budget assumes that projects and expenditure deemed to pay for themselves from additional borrowing, do so. This is illustrated on Page 14 Annex 3 of the Capital Strategy. i.e Capital financing costs for such projects are deemed net neutral to the Capital financing budget as other identified revenue budgets are in place to meet these costs.

In addition to the £37m, the following capital financing costs are projected to be recovered from the following sources for 2024/25:

- £5.5m - Recoverable from Welsh Government Grant where there is a commitment from WG to provide a specific revenue grant over future years (Local Government Borrowing Initiative).
- £3.3m - Recoverable from Red Dragon Centre Income.
- £10.4m - Recoverable from identified revenue budgets (21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Financial Model) held to support the Council's previous and future investment in new schools as part of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.
- £4.4m - Recoverable from Invest to Save / Invest to earn schemes, where it has been identified that capital expenditure will result in future financial and non-financial benefits, allowing any initial expenditure to be repaid from revenue budgets as a result of savings or additional income. These projects include Highway assets LED conversion; Property Energy measures retrofit, Radyr Weir and Lamby Way Solar Farm energy generation, Cemetery expansion, Core Office Strategy and buying vehicles instead of leasing where deemed more effective to do so.

#### Housing Revenue Account

In addition, Capital Financing Cost estimates for HRA for 2024/25 are £33m. These are to be met by rent payers and service charges.

#### Arena Multi Storey Car Park and Development

Capital Financing costs are expected to commence on completion of the development in 2026/27 estimated at £9m. These are assumed to have no impact on the Capital Financing Budget in 2024/25, as assumed to be recovered from developer and parking income and other mitigations in the short term, as identified in the Arena Funding Strategy considered by Cabinet in November 2023.

**Request: Written confirmation that the Mansion House gifting agreement, allows the Council to lease or dispose of the property.**

As confirmed at the meeting, the Council has an unencumbered freehold ownership of the building and as such there is no legal impediment or covenant that restricts the Council's ability to explore private sector investment.

**Request: Clarity on how the budget proposals, to reduce provision of park rangers will impact on Friends Groups**

As confirmed at the meeting, the Park Rangers service was awarded additional funding in 2019/20 and 2020/21 which enabled the service to be increased by 4 posts. The proposed saving will reduce this growth of 4 posts by 2 posts. The service currently has c16.5 FTE and this will now reduce to c14.5 FTE.

There will be a reduction of one post in the Community Park Rangers team, which currently consists of 9 FTE, and one post in the Urban Park Rangers team, which currently consists of c7.5 FTE. The Community Park Rangers team provides support to Friends Groups and as a result of the reduction of one post it is expected to result in a small reduction in volunteer hours of less than 10%.

**Request: a break-down of how the proposal to reduce opening and closing times, will affect each of the listed Libraries / Hubs in turn (albeit indicative, if still unknown).**

Please find attached a draft, indicative timetable that will reduce the opening hours in Hubs as laid out in the proposal by 15.5 hours in total. This is a draft and is subject to change following public consultation which will be carried out after a Council decision is made.

I hope that this letter captures the key points raised in your letter and thank you again for your support in the budget process this year.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,



**Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Chris Weaver**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Zack Hellard – Youth Council representative  
Group Leaders  
Chair, Governance & Audit Committee  
Cllr Merry, Cllr Thorne, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Goodway, Cllr Burke  
Chris Lee, Ian Allwood, Gill Brown  
Neil Hanratty, Jon Day, Jon Maidment  
Helen Evans, Rebecca Hooper  
Rita Rohman, Clair James  
Cabinet Support Office  
Chris Pyke  
Tim Gordon, Jeremy Rhys

Draft Proposed Amendment to Hub Opening/Closing times- Subject to Consultation Total proposed 15.5 hour reduction

Location	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Central Library Hub</b> – Current 53.5 hrs / week	9 – 6	9-6	9-6	10-7	9-6	9-5.30
Proposed 49 hrs / week, Loss of 4.5 hrs	9 - 5	10 - 6	9 - 5	10 - 7	9 - 5	9-5
<b>Penylan Library</b> – Current 54.5 hrs	9 – 7	9 - 6	9 – 6	9 - 6	9 - 6	9 -5.30
Proposed 50 / week, Loss of 4.5 hrs	9 – 7	9 - 5	10 – 6	9 - 5	10-6	9 - 5
<b>Rhydypennau Hub</b> – current 40.5 hrs	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 -7	closed	9 – 1 & 2 -6	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 -5.30
Proposed 40 / week loss of 0.5	9 - 5	10 - 6	N/A	10 - 6	9 - 5	9 - 5
<b>Whitchurch Hub</b> – Current 40.5 hrs	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	Closed	9 – 1 & 2 -7	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 – 5.30
Proposed 40 / week loss of 0.5	9 - 5	10 - 6	N/A	10 - 6	9 - 5	9 – 5
<b>Canton Library</b> – Current 40.5 hrs	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 -7	Closed	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 – 5.30
Proposed – 40 hrs / loss of 0.5	9 – 5	10 - 6	10 - 6	N/A	9 -5	9 - 5
<b>Rhiwbina Hub</b> Current 44.5 hrs	10 – 7	Closed	9 – 6	9 - 6	9 - 6	9 – 5.30
Proposed – 40 hrs / loss of 4.5	10 - 6	N/A	9 – 5	10 – 6	9 – 5	9 - 5
<b>Cathays Heritage Library</b> - 40.5 hrs	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 -7	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	Closed	9 – 1 & 2 – 5.30
Proposed 40 Hrs loss of 0.5	9 - 5	10 - 6	9 - 5	10 - 6	N/A	9 – 5

**Ref:** SharePoint/Scrutiny/Env/Correspondence 27.02.2024

**Date:** 28 February 2024



**Councillor Chris Weaver**

Dear Councillor Weaver,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

**DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25 & DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024 - 2027**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, I would like to thank you, your Cabinet colleagues and officers for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the Draft Budget 2024/25 and the Draft Corporate Plan 2024-27.

The meeting initially considered the Corporate Overview and was followed by scrutiny of the draft budget proposals and sections of the draft Corporate Plan relevant to the terms of reference of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee. At the meeting Members had the opportunity to question the relevant Cabinet portfolio holders and supporting officers on their draft budget and Corporate Plan proposals for the coming year. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations to inform Cabinet discussion later this week. You will find our recommendations and requests, listed at the end of the letter.

### **Corporate Overview**

Members noted that it was positive that following the consultation exercise some of the proposed service changes were not now being taken forward.

Committee members also noted with concern comments made in the consultation that the Councils accounts have not been audited in the last two years. Officers reassured the members that this was possibly the case in England, however, not in Wales, although delays were acknowledged due to Audit Wales capacity/workload.

Members asked if sufficient funding has been allocated to support the delivery of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy. You recognised the challenge to meet net

zero by 2030, and commented that the issues to deliver net zero lie beyond the control of the Council, however the many issues are being addressed and the OPC action plan will be reviewed and there is a commitment to continue to deliver against the strategy.

The Committee asked how challenging had it been to set the budget this year compared to previous years? You and officers agreed that it had been very challenging although for different reasons than previous years i.e. the cost of living currently and the rate of inflation. The committee also asked about the use of general and earmarked reserves to help build the budget. Officers commented that these are constantly monitored and reviewed, however they play a relatively small part in balancing the budget, and that a risk based approach is taken to ensure ongoing financial resilience.

Members appreciated that 'back office' efficiencies are sought before service changes that impact delivery of front line services, however, the question was asked, how long this continues before frontline services are affected? You commented that this will differ across the Directorates, and that use of technology can support changes to that way services are delivered. However, if current budget trends continue, difficult and potentially damaging service change will need to be made.

A Member asked about the impact of 'mothballing' parts of building has had on insurance, e.g. the need to maintain the building at a certain temperature. Officers were confident that there were no issues that they were aware of, and that insurers had recently visited County Hall.

The Committee asked how the level of Council tax had been determined and whether a higher increase had been considered. You responded that local Councils will make decisions and choices based on their local circumstances and that the decision had been made recognising the cost of living impact for residents and the need to develop a balanced and resilient budget going forward.



## **Cllr Wild - Recycling & Neighbourhood Services**

Members raised concerns about the potential change to three weekly collection of residual waste for households with pets. Officers commented that some wood-based materials were able to be recycled, and that information on the website needed to be updated to ensure residents were able to make informed decisions and choices regarding the disposal of pet waste materials.

The Committee asked about RNSE4 and how the review of Street Cleansing vacant posts would impact on service delivery? Officer clarified that the £151,000 represented approximately 5 posts out of a service of circa 150 WTE (3.33%) and that by working 'smarter' there will be no impact to service delivery. Officers also noted the proposed shift changes at the Materials Recycling Facility, that currently operates a two shift system and the wish to modernise and move to a single shift that would enable management support during operating hours.

A member asked why there was no proposed increase to FPNs, for 'poor' behaviour, when charges for 'doing the right thing' i.e. bulky waste collections were being increased. Officers explained that FPN charges are determined by Welsh Government and that Cardiff is at the higher end of the charges, and with regard to bulky waste collections, the charges are set to provide residents with a viable and competitive alternative to a commercial company. Following this members asked if there was a danger that fly tipping would increase as a result of the increased charges. Officers commented that yes there is always a risk that fly tipping will increase however, there will always be those that disrespect their environment and that fly tipping is usually the result of private contractors, disposing of waste without a licence and not residents.

Members asked about RNSE1, review and restructure of recycling waste treatment, depot and restructure and the risk analyses being red/amber. Officers clarified that the recent 6 month of strike action has impacted on the delivery of this work and that a lot of work is going on to make the changes as

painless as possible, and that there was a need to change as the service has remained the same for a significant period.

In relation to RNSSC2 – Residual collections, why is this still being considered when the outcome of the consultation shows there is little public support.

Officers explained that segregated waste and three weekly collections are Welsh Government policy to meet their recycling target of 70%. Officers also reminded the committee that there is currently an historical fiscal penalty of circa £3m with the potential of an additional £1.9m if recycling targets continue not to be met. There were also comments that if the wording of the question in the consultation had been structured differently the response may have been more positive.

The Committee asked how much money does the Enforcement Team bring in? Officers replied approximately 15/20% of the cost of the service. It was acknowledged that there was also a balance between education and enforcement and that it was hoped the restructure would support changes going forward.

The Committee asked about the use of Agency staff, and officers commented that there would always need to be some on the books due to some seasonal services e.g. garden waste, however more were moving to permanent contracts and there was a wish to have more 'multi functional' staff to support digitising of some services.

Members asked about the deferral of the introduction of garden waste collection services. Officers advised that currently no decisions have been made and the work was ongoing with colleagues in the Vales of Glamorgan Council where charges were introduced 18 months ago. Based on their experience charges would be approximately £30-40, and with a 20% uptake of the service generate about £900k. Officers reiterated that the council can only statutorily charge for the collection of waste and not the disposal, however any green waste collected would contribute to the Council's overall recycling rates.

The Committee asked about sickness absence rates in the service are that have traditionally been comparatively high. Officers acknowledged that last year the rate was 22 FTE days per year and that the target going forward was 20 days. It was noted that the strike had had an impact on managing this and however there has been an impact on long term sickness absence.

Members also comments on the continued issues of the absence of a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in North Cardiff. Councillor Wild stated that he believes the city does not need a third HWRC, and commented that what is needed is a different model of recycling, repair and reuse centre, and that officers have already been tasked with finding a suitable site.

Members asked about the potential to charge more for a bulky waste 'quick' pick up service. Officers commented that the service has been impacted by the strike action and that the aim of the service is to pick up within 48 hours.

In terms of accessing services digitally, i.e. booking collection HWRC visits, it was noted that this digital interface may be difficult for the elderly. These concerns were noted and C2C staff were available to support those unable to access services digitally and work would be ongoing with the 'digital team' to make them as accessible as possible.

### **Cllr Wild - Climate Change**

Members asked about the potential to replicate Radyr Wier to provider more income/energy generation. Officers stated that this was not currently intended although more energy generation from solar farms is being explored.

Members also asked about the potential energy generation from the Severn Estuary and the work of the Western Gateway, Cllr Wild commented that this was in the early stages, following the recent appointment of a chair and the potential links to the Aberthaw Cardiff Capital Region site.

The committee asked if sufficient funding has been allocated to meet the significant challenges of delivering the One Planet Cardiff Strategy. It was noted that some of the projects e.g. coastal flood defence are Welsh Government funded. However there were challenges in relation to transport and the biggest challenge is in relation to the retrofit of schools and houses. It

was noted that UK council have the same concerns and that a Cabinet Report will be coming forward. Cllr Wild also noted the potential opportunities in relation to the workforce that would be required if funding was made available to undertake the retrofitting.

### **Cllr De'Ath - Transport & Strategic Planning**

The Committee asked if the target in relation to modal shift is achievable given the recent cuts to bus services. Officers responded that significant infrastructure is required to support the planned sustainable travel options i.e. Metro, CrossRail, bus priority routes, cycleways and parking zones, along with behaviour change by residents. It was also recognised that some bus services will always need to be subsidised as they have failed to attract passenger numbers that were travelling pre-pandemic. It is anticipated that bus corridors will assist in the improvement in running times and reliability. The proposed franchising of bus services was also noted as a positive as it would allow cross subsidisation of profitable and non profitable routes. The walking distance to access key bus corridors was noted as a concern by members for the elderly and disabled, and that this needed to be addressed. to 'tempt' people to use the services. It was also noted that an efficient, reliable, integrated transport system is essential to deliver this modal shift.

The issues raised by the committee in relation to parking included:

- Removal of free parking
- New parking charges/tariffs
- Visitor permits
- Enforcement
- Parking Machines

Officers responded that the risk rating of achieving some of the saving related to parking was in relation to the consultation process required to introduce charges and zones and the related Traffic Regulation Orders, and only part year savings being achieved.

The issue noted about a number of machines not working was explained as the transition from 3G to 4G systems which are being rolled out.

Members notes the availability of S106 planning gain monies and following the Joint T&F report reiterated the recommendation for visibility of how and where the monies are spent. Officers noted that developers will also deliver schools and roads as part of planning agreements.

No requests for additional information or formal recommendations were made.

Once again thank you once more for attending Committee and for considering our comments and observations.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor Owen Jones**

**Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: *Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee*

*Cllr Caro Wild, Cabinet Member, Climate Change*

*Cllr Dan De'Ath, Cabinet Member Transport & Strategic Planning*

*Cllr Joel Williams, Chair of PRAP*

*Chris Lee, Corporate Director, Resources*

*Ian Allwood, Head of Finance*

*Neil Hanratty, Director, Economic Development*

*Andrew Gregory, Director, Planning, Transport & Environment*

*Matt Wakelam, Assistant Director, Street Scene*

*Claire Moggridge, Head of Transport*

*Simon Gilbert, Head of Planning*

*Cllr John Lancaster, Group Leader, Conservatives*

*Cllr Andrea Gibson, Group Leader, Common Ground*

*Cllr Rodney Berman, Group Leader, Liberal Democrats*

*Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit*

*Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations*

*Claire Deguara, Cabinet Business Manager*

Date: 29 February 2024

Councillor Huw Thomas, Leader  
Councillor Chris Weaver,  
Cabinet Member, Finance, Modernisation & Performance,  
Cardiff Council,  
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Dear Huw & Chris,

### **PRAP Scrutiny Committee: 28 February 2024: Corporate Plan 2024-27**

Thank you for facilitating scrutiny of the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 yesterday. The Committee has asked that as Chair I pass on its observations captured at the Way Forward. Please place on record our appreciation of senior officers continued support for in-person scrutiny. On this occasion, please pass on our sincere thanks to Paul Orders, Chris Lee, Sarah McGill and Dylan Owen. Members made observations as follows:

#### **Co-production and collective conversations**

The Committee was pleased to play its pre-decision part in the journey of this important strategic document through to Full Council, alongside the budget proposals for 2024/25. We note you consider the Plan is ambitious but rooted in reality. We are particularly pleased that constructive informal discussion with the Scrutiny Performance Panel has resulted in 5/6 recommendations being accepted. Officers were most reassuring that all recommendations are clearly evidenced in the Plan.

#### **Outstanding targets**

Members noted that a number of 2024/25 targets in this draft Plan are not set at this point because they require 2023/24 outturn data. We heard that 37 of over 180 KPI's either have no target, no in-year data, or data is still awaited. Members felt this made it difficult to fully consider the Plan and have noted your suggestion that the Committee re-visits Corporate Plan targets mid-year, alongside mid-year performance 2024/25. One such target is that for *the percentage of learners with ALN attending Cardiff-maintained specialist placements*. We note the Corporate Director's view that this is a demand led service with significant volatility and you would not want to set a target, however reform is underway in this area, together with a need for further data development.

### **Capturing Citizen voices.**

Members explored how the Council proposes to capture young people's voices and were pleased you consider this is fundamental. We note you seek to strengthen citizen voices across the whole Corporate Plan in response to the Audit Wales report recommendation that KPI targets are informed by citizen satisfaction.

### **Corporate Plan Audience & Staff Engagement**

The Committee followed up a Performance Panel observation that there are a variety of audiences for the Corporate Plan, including Cabinet, Scrutiny, Directorate management teams, and indeed all Council staff. We note the Chief Executive's comment that the priorities and steps within the Plan must align with Directorate Delivery Plans *and* staff Personal Performance and Development Reviews. Given that it is considered an important document for all staff, Members asked how staff voices had been heard in its development. We consider this is a gap that needs to be closed. We have noted that you are about to re-launch the staff engagement programme and the Plan will be a central feature. Therefore, the Committee will monitor progress on this at Mid-year 2024/25.

### **Recruitment and Retention**

Given current austerity challenges, we note you are pleased with how diversity in the workforce is growing, particularly at senior management levels.

### **WBO5 – A Capital City that Works for Wales.**

The Committee observed there is little mention of economic disparity across the city in the Corporate Plan, and in fact KPI's are limited in measuring the economic progress we are trying to achieve. Officers advised that some KPI's for this Well-being objective are broad proxies for wider health, there is a new KPI measuring the number of co-working spaces, throughout the Plan there are many references to inequalities, and a new Regeneration Strategy is listed in WBO4 Safe, confident and empowered communities.

### **Living Wage City**

Finally, we endorse the Council's efforts to re-enforce Cardiff as a Living Wage City. We were pleased to hear that the Council offers SME support for accreditation both

directly and through a number of partnership agencies, whilst also seeking to accredit potential large employers and often particular sectors.

**Recommendations following this scrutiny:**

To summarise, the Committee makes 1 formal recommendation as set out below. As part of the response to this letter I would be grateful if you could state whether the recommendation is accepted, partially accepted or not accepted and summarise the Cabinet’s response. If the recommendation is accepted or partially accepted, I would also be grateful if you could identify the responsible officer and provide an action date. This will ensure that progress can be monitored as part of the approach agreed by Cabinet.

<b>Recommendation</b>	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
We consider there is a gap in facilitating staff voices in developing the Corporate Plan. We <b>recommend</b> you address closing this gap and the Committee will monitor progress on this at Mid-year 2024/25.				

Once again, on behalf of the Committee, thank you for your co-operation on this important document, and for your ongoing collaboration and policy engagement with Scrutiny. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR JOEL WILLIAMS  
CHAIR, POLICY REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



CC Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Leaders of Opposition Parties – John Lancaster, Rodney Berman &  
Andrea Gibson  
Paul Orders, Chief Executive  
Chris Lee, Corporate Director, Resources  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities  
Gareth Newell, Partnership & Community Engagement Manager  
Dylan Owen, Policy & Improvement Manager  
Mr Gavin McArthur, Chair, Governance & Audit Committee  
Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit  
Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations  
Jeremy Rhys, Assistant Head of Communications and External Affairs  
Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services  
Claire Deguara, Cabinet Business Manager  
Debi Said, Cabinet Support Officer  
Alison Taylor, Cabinet Support Officer  
Andrea Redmond, Committees Support Officer

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET  
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**



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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: [CE:0047808]  
Dyddiad / Date: 29 February 2024

Cllr Joel Williams  
Chairperson, Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Joel,

**Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee 28th February 2024**

Thank you for your letters dated 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and the useful comments raised in relation to the 2024/25 Budget and Corporate Plan. I can assure you that Cabinet was able to reflect on the points raised prior to our meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Responses to requests and recommendations in respect of the Corporate Plan are included below:

Thank you for your consideration of the Corporate Plan and the Committee’s ongoing commitment to supporting the Council’s Planning and Delivery Framework. A number of issues were rehearsed, and we would welcome the opportunity to return to these at future meetings of the Committee and the Scrutiny Performance Panel. The Committee’s consideration of both the Mid-Year and End-of Year Self-Assessment of Performance represents excellent opportunities for doing so.

The Committee made one formal recommendation regarding staff engagement. I agree with the committee over the importance of making sure staff are valued and that their voices are heard. As the Chief Executive outlined with the committee, this is a piece of work which is currently in development, and the new programme of staff engagement will commence early in the next financial year.

**Recommendations - Corporate Plan**

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted, Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
We consider there is a gap in facilitating staff voices in developing the Corporate Plan. We recommend you address closing this gap and the Committee will monitor progress on this at Mid-year 2024/25.	Accepted	Refreshed Staff Engagement Programme to Commence in Q1 2024/25.	Chief Executive	Commence Q1 2024/25

**GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI**  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

**WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU**  
The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



**STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER**



Responses to requests and recommendations in respect of the 2024/25 Budget are included below:

**Request: We note the Education directorate assess a school’ property estate need in an operational discussion with the school. We request more information and clarity on this process, how needs are identified and allocated to the Capital Programme.**

I have asked Education officers to provide the Committee with a note that sets out how asset renewal allocations are prioritised.

**Request: Clarity on the impact of the proposed Shopmobility saving**

The Shopmobility project was a third sector project which was based in the city centre of Cardiff and assisted people with limited mobility to shop and use the other facilities in the city centre. The project was closed prior to 2020 due to the enhanced accessibility for disabled people in the city centre, and the post was there for no longer needed.

Contained within your letter, you set out some important points regarding schools in deficit and Pentwyn Leisure Centre. I would like to point out that the total number of schools currently in deficit is 38, and the Shared Prosperity Funding contribution to Pentwyn Leisure Centre is £1.0 million.

**Recommendations - Budget**

Please see response to the Committee’s recommendations in the table below

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted, Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
We recommend that the Council actively invests in improved communication to ensure members of the public understand that investment in large projects, such as the Arena development, is funded from the Capital budget, thereby improving understanding of the rationale for Council decision making.	Partially Accepted	Within available resources, we will look at ways to build on information that is currently already available in the Council’s financial strategy documents to see how this can be simplified for a wider audience.	Chris Lee	July 2024 (Budget Update Report)

I hope that this letter captures all the points raised in your letter and thank you again for your support in the budget process.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,



**Cynghorydd / Councillor Huw Thomas**  
**Arweinydd / Leader**  
**Cyngor Caerdydd / Cardiff Council**



**Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Chris Weaver**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance**

**Cc:**

Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Leaders of Opposition Parties – John Lancaster, Rodney Berman & Andrea Gibson  
Chris Lee, Corporate Director, Resources  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Anil Hirani, Operational Manager, Capital, Corporate & Treasury  
Gareth Newell, Partnership & Community Engagement Manager  
Mr Gavin McArthur, Chair, Governance & Audit Committee  
Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit  
Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations  
Jeremy Rhys, Assistant Head of Communications and External Affairs  
Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services  
Rita Roman, PA to Chris Lee  
Alison Taylor, Cabinet Support Officer  
Claire Deguara, Cabinet Business Manager  
Andrea Redmond, Committees Support Officer

**CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****COUNCIL MEETING: 7 MARCH 2024**

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**CABINET PROPOSAL****AGENDA ITEM:**

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**BUDGET 2024/25**

**Appendix 4 (b) is exempt from publication because it contains information of the kind described in paragraphs 14 and 21 of parts 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.**

**Reason for this Report**

To enable the Cabinet to:

1. Recommend to Council their proposal for the estimates of expenditure and income in order to set the Council Tax in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, having considered and reflected on the responses to all aspects of the budget consultation.
2. Recommend to Council the strategy and plan for the control of the Authority's borrowing and investments for the year 2024/25 (the Annual Treasury Management Strategy.)
3. Recommend to Council the Capital Strategy for 2024/25 including the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2024/25.
4. Recommend to Council the Prudential Code, capital expenditure and treasury indicators for 2024/25 – 2028/29.
5. Recognise the financial challenges facing the Council, as set out in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and note the opportunities for savings.
6. Recognise the work undertaken to raise awareness of, and to ensure the financial resilience of the Council.
7. Recommend to Council the estimates of expenditure and income for the Housing Revenue Account following the approval of the 2024/25 rent uplift by Cabinet in December 2023.

8. Agree the rates of fees and charges for Council services for 2024/25 (with the exception of HRA fees and charges which were approved by Cabinet in December 2023).

## **Background**

9. The Council's Budget Report must provide assurance that a balanced budget and affordable Capital Programme have been set and that due consideration has been given to the Council's financial standing.
10. On 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Cabinet received an Update Report on the 2024/25 Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Plan which indicated an estimated 2024/25 budget gap of £36.760 million. The Report highlighted the volatility of the position and noted the absence of agreed pay awards, inflation forecasts and demand pressures as among factors requiring ongoing review.
11. On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Welsh Government (WG) published the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/25 (the Provisional Settlement.) The impact of the Provisional Settlement together with wider updates to budget modelling resulted in an updated budget gap of £30.490 million. This was reported to Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and formed the basis of the City-wide Budget Consultation which ran between 9<sup>th</sup> January and the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
12. The January 2024 Budget Update Report noted that whilst the Provisional Settlement provided clarity regarding Aggregate External Finance (general funding), it left uncertainties concerning two other key aspects of 2024/25 funding; specific grant funding, and funding for increases to employers' contributions to unfunded public sector pension schemes. The increases, which are linked to scheme valuations, notably a change to the SCAPE (Superannuation Contributions Adjusted for Past Experience) rate, affect both the Teachers Pensions Scheme and the Firefighter's Pensions Scheme. This report outlines the remaining risk in relation to these areas and the strategy for dealing with them.
13. The forecast position has continued to be updated for most recent information, including the results of the public consultation. All updates are reflected in the Council's Revenue Budget for 2024/25.
14. The 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 Report on the 2024/25 Budget and the Medium Term also set the approach for the development of the Council's Capital Programme. The proposed Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2028/29, included later in this report, reflects commitments made in previous years as well as new schemes proposed for approval.
15. In December 2023, Cabinet approved the proposed approach to the setting of rents and service charges on Housing Revenue Account (HRA) dwellings for the financial year 2024/25. This timing is in line with the requirements of the Renting Homes Act 2016 which stipulates a two-month notice requirement for tenants. The December 2023 Report identified that the proposed rent uplift of 6.7% could result in an

estimated deficit of £537,000 that would need to be addressed when setting the HRA Revenue Budget for 2024/25. An update to this position, and further detail on the HRA Revenue Budget and Capital Programme are set out in this report.

## Issues

16. The information contained in this report addresses the statutory requirements summarised in the following paragraphs.
17. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to produce a balanced budget. In line with this duty, this report sets the Revenue Budget and associated Council Tax for 2024/25. The likely position over the medium term is set out in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) at Annex 1.
18. In setting the budget, the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to have regard to the Section 151 Officer's advice on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of reserves. This report includes commentary on financial risk and resilience, and the Section 151 Officer's assessment is set out in the financial implications to this report.
19. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a statutory duty on local authorities to maintain a separate Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the costs associated with the management and maintenance of Council dwellings. The HRA revenue budget for 2024/25 is contained in Annex 2, along with details of the HRA Capital Programme.
20. The CIPFA Prudential and Treasury Management Codes of Practice, require the Council to approve the 2024/25 Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy prior to the beginning of the financial year. These strategies are outlined in Annex 3 and Annex 4 respectively.

## Context

21. Stronger, Fairer, Greener sets out the Council administration's policy agenda as agreed by Council in July 2022. The Council's Corporate Plan translates the administration's policy agenda into Well-being Objectives, with SMART 'steps' to outline what will be done and by when. This is to ensure that there is a clear view of what success looks like across the organisation and with relevant partners, supported by realistic plans and budgets, and with clear accountabilities, performance metrics and targets.
22. The Council's key financial strategy documents (encapsulated in this report and its annexes) are developed in tandem with the Corporate Plan, in accordance with [the Council's Policy and Delivery Framework](#). This ensures that resources are aligned behind the delivery of the Council's Wellbeing Objectives.
23. Appendix 1 sets out in greater detail how the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme support the delivery of the Council's Wellbeing

Objectives and how the sustainable development principle, as defined by the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 has been central to their development.

## Local Government Financial Settlement

24. The Local Government Financial Settlement is a key factor underpinning the construction of the draft budget. Due to the timing of the UK Autumn Statement, which took place in November 2023, the Provisional Settlement was not received until the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
25. On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the UK Government announced £600 million extra funding for English Local Authorities. On 7<sup>th</sup> February, the Minister for Finance and Local Government issued a statement on the resultant £25 million consequential funding for Wales ([Written Statement: Additional Funding for Local Government 2024-25](#)). It stated that this would be used to:
- a. Reverse a £10.6 million reduction to the Social Care Workforce Grant, that was announced in the Provisional Settlement.
  - b. Increase the Revenue Support Grant by £14.4 million.
26. The headlines of the 2024/25 Provisional Settlement, together with the impact of the consequential funding (indicative allocations have been provided by Welsh Government) are set out in the table below:

	Provisional	Plus Consequential
Wales Average AEF* increase	+3.1%	+3.3%
Range of AEF increases	+2% to +4.7%	+2.3% to +5%
Floor Protection**	At 2%	At 2.3%
Cardiff	+4.1%	+4.3%

\* *Aggregate External Finance*

\*\* *funded via additional £1.3 million funding at Provisional Settlement.*

27. In cash terms, Cardiff's initial 4.1% AEF increase equated to £25.353 million (including taxbase adjustments) and this increased to £26.972 million as a result of the consequential funding. Cardiff's above average settlement is largely due to distribution increases in respect of population and pupil numbers. These are partially offset by decreases in Cardiff's distribution for free school meals, tourism, and transport. Although Cardiff's AEF increase is slightly above average, it covers less than half of the pressures that the Local Authority faces in 2024/25.
28. Information on specific revenue grants that was included in the Provisional Settlement raised the following challenges:
- a. Information was only available at an All-Wales level with no detail on individual Authority allocations.



- b. Grants totalling more than £25 million were yet to be confirmed, including the £16 million Sustainable Waste Management Grant.
  - c. Some indicative amounts for 2024/25 have subsequently been indicated to be incorrect.
  - d. Significant reductions were indicated in several key areas.
29. At an All-Wales level, specific grants (excluding those that are yet to be confirmed) will **decrease by £92.619 million** next financial year. Contributory factors include:

Grants totalling £51.677 million indicated to cease after the current year, including:

- **Teachers Pay (£21.267 million)** – Local Authorities were made aware that WG would not be continuing with this funding in recent months, and the associated pressure is reflected in Cardiff's budget gap for 2024/25.
- **FSM Holiday Provision (£8.958 million)** – this reflects the ending of the scheme that commenced during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Childcare Offer (£20 million)** – no longer being administered by Local Authorities.

Significant reductions to grants include:

- **Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Grant (£50.780 million)** - reflecting the decision to reduce the level of relief from 75% to 40%. Whilst classed as a Local Government grant stream, this should not have an impact on Council funding as the reduction in grant should be offset by increased NDR from the affected businesses, payable to the All Wales Pool.
- **Homelessness – No One Left Approach (£5 million / 33.33%)** from £15.0 million to £10.0 million. This implied that additional sums allocated for 2023/24 will not be continued in 2024/25. The £0.850 million estimated impact for Cardiff would be extremely difficult to manage given material demand increases in this area. Since the announcement of the Provisional Settlement, it has subsequently been advised that the published figure of £10.0 million for 2024/25 was incorrect and may be higher, although the exact figure is not yet confirmed.
- **Homelessness – Discretionary Homelessness Prevention (£6.5 million / 52%)**. The absence of individual authority allocations and additional in-year funding allocations for 2023/24, make it difficult to discern the impact on this stream. Based on the information included in the Provisional Settlement it was envisaged that Cardiff could receive £0.930 million less cash support in this area in 2024/25 compared with 2023/24. However, it has been advised that the published Provisional Settlement figure for 2024/25 was incorrect and may be higher, although the exact figure is not yet confirmed.
- **Communities for Work+ (£10.454 million / 38%)** – from £27.268 million to £16.834 million. This grant was previously part of Children and Communities Grant before becoming a standalone grant in 2023/24, at which point Cardiff's allocation increased from

£1.031 million to £3.129 million. Whilst a level of reduction was anticipated for 2024/25, this was expected to be in the region of 11% (£0.330 million), rather than the potential 38% implied by indicative grant listings.

#### Increases to Grants

- There are no material *increases* to grants for 2024/25

#### Reversal of Indicative Grant Reductions since Provisional Settlement:

- **Social Service Workforce Grant** - the Provisional Settlement indicated that this grant would reduce from £45 million to £35 million in 2024/25, at an estimated impact of £1.1 million for Cardiff. However, as already noted, WG have now indicated that this grant will remain at its existing level for 2024/25 as a result of the additional consequential funding outlined in paragraph 25.
30. Several specific grants are expected to transfer into the RSG in 2024/25. It is understood that no specific grant transfers were made as part of the Provisional Settlement in order to provide greater visibility of any changes to grant levels before transfers take place. It has been indicated that all transfers will be included within the Final Local Government Settlement, and Local Authorities have been formally notified of transfer sums. Cardiff's transfers have been reflected in the AEF figures included within this report.
31. The picture in relation to specific grants is uncertain and complex, with challenges compounded by timing. Directorates affected by this uncertainty have needed to identify scope to manage grant reductions, and the potential need for any transitional support as part of the 2024/25 Budget, (including any costs arising from a reduction in grant funded posts). This has proven challenging based on incomplete grant information.
32. General Capital Funding (GCF) at an All-Wales level will be £180m for 2024/25, of which Cardiff's allocation is £18.188m, or just over 10%. GCF can be spent on capital expenditure of a Local Authority's own choosing and is not specific to a project or scheme. The allocation is made up of two elements - £9.215m of Cash Grant and £8.973m of Supported Borrowing approval. The capital financing costs of the latter being reimbursed as part of future years RSG.
33. There is no indication of Cardiff's GCF for 2025/26 or beyond. However, the current expectation is that it will fall to circa £15 million, as advised in previous indicative settlements - i.e. the current levels of GCF are assumed to be temporary.
34. Within the Provisional Settlement, there remains reference to a £20m Local Government De-Carbonisation allocation for 2023/24 and 2024/25. However, details of the allocation and approach for both years remain unclear. A list of specific capital grants for 2024/25 is identified on an all-

Wales basis but as many of these will be on a bid basis, Cardiff-specific allocations are not yet known.

### **Final Local Government Financial Settlement - Timing**

35. The Final Local Government Settlement is expected to be published on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024, which is after the publication date of this Report. Any changes from the level of AEF assumed in this report are expected to be minimal and it is proposed that they are managed by a proportionate contribution to or from reserves. In order to effect any technical changes required as a result of Final Settlement, if the published version of the report is not able to be amended, the recommendations to this report authorise the Section 151 Officer to prepare an addendum to the 2024/25 Budget making the requisite changes for consideration by Council on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### **Teachers Pensions Contributions**

36. Employer's Contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme are due to increase significantly from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 following the most recent fund valuation, and changes to the SCAPE (Superannuation Contributions Adjusted for Past Experience) rate. Clear indications are that the UK Government will fund this issue (with a resultant Wales consequential). The Minister for Finance and Local Government has confirmed that all funding received by Welsh Government will be passported to Local Authorities, but this was not included in the Provisional Settlement. The WG minister further indicated that she would press the UK Treasury on the matter, but confirmation is unlikely to be received before the end of the 2023/24 financial year. The pressure, (which is equivalent to five percentage point on pensionable pay) is estimated at between 6 million and £7 million for Cardiff Council.
37. Consistent with the treatment to date, the 2024/25 Budget Proposal reflects a net nil position in respect of this issue; it is assumed that the requisite expenditure budget will be offset by specific grant income. The issue is therefore considered to be one of timing. Once received, funding will be fully allocated to schools but until that time the increased rate of pensions will become payable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Should confirmation be received that no or limited funding will be available, then it is proposed that an urgent report is made to Council in respect of any budget policy framework requirements. This will include consideration of funding options and the impact of any in year requirements on both schools and wider council services. Members will continue to be updated on the position and subject to the funding agreement being received, the Council's July 2024 Budget Update Report will provide the next formal update on this issue.

## South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Levy

38. The fire-fighters' pension scheme is an unfunded public service pension scheme. Like the Teachers' Pension Scheme, the most recent fund valuation, and notably the impact of changes to the SCAPE rate, mean that significant increases in employer's superannuation contributions will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. These increases are expected to be funded by UK Government, with resultant consequential funding for Wales.
39. Specific grant funding in respect of this issue, is expected to be payable to Local Authorities (rather than directly to the SWFRS) and levies have been issued on this basis. In budgetary terms, Cardiff's total increase in fire levy compared with 2023/24 is £1.943 million. Of this £0.306 million is estimated to be attributable to increased pensions costs and it is therefore assumed that this will be met from specific grant, (although this may not be confirmed before the end of the 2023/24 financial year). It is proposed that in the event of no, or limited grant funding being available, the budgeted income stream will instead be met by a draw down from Strategic Budget Reserve. This differs to the proposed treatment for TPS outlined at paragraph 37 above, because the sum in question is much less.

## Revenue Budget 2024/25

40. A summary of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget is set out below. Each component of the budget build-up is detailed further in subsequent paragraphs.

<b>Resources Required</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Base Budget B/F</b>	<b>806,474</b>
Pay Inflation	7,671
Price Inflation	12,574
Commitments (including Capital Financing)	5,292
Realignments	12,421
Demographic Pressures	6,773
Schools Pressures	12,804
<b>Sub Total - Cost Pressures 2024/25</b>	<b>57,535</b>
<b>Resources Required</b>	<b>864,009</b>

<b>Resources Available</b>	<b>£000</b>
Aggregate External Finance	623,158
Council Tax (2024/25 Tax Base at 2023/24 Council Tax Rate)	210,024
Earmarked Reserves	500
<b>Resources Available</b>	<b>833,682</b>

41. The difference between resources required and resources available is £30.327 million. The strategy to close this gap is set out below:

<b>Strategy to address Budget Gap</b>	<b>£000</b>
Efficiency & Income Savings	10,470
Corporate Savings & Measures including further use of Reserves	5,386
Service Change Proposals	4,052
A 6% Council Tax Increase (net effect after impact on CTRS)	10,419
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,327</b>

42. After reflecting the relevant aspects of Budget Strategy set out in the above table, the net cash limit for 2024/25 is £849.284 million as summarised below:

	<b>£000</b>
Base Budget Brought Forward	806,474
Pressures	57,535
Savings	(16,908)
Impact on CTRS Budget of 6.0% council tax increase	2,183
<b>Net Budgeted Expenditure 2024/25</b>	<b>849,284</b>

<b>Funded by:</b>	<b>£000</b>
Aggregate External Finance (including anticipated grant transfer)	623,158
Council Tax (2024/25 Tax Base at <b>2024/25</b> Council Tax Rate)	222,626
Earmarked Reserves	3,500
<b>Budget Funding 2024/25</b>	<b>849,284</b>

## Resources Required

43. The first table in paragraph 40 highlights that costs are expected to increase by £57.535 million next year. Further information on cost increases is set out below:

### Pay Award (7.671 million)

- Local Government pay (excluding teachers, craft workers, Chief Officers and soulbury grades) is a matter for collective bargaining between the national employers and trade unions through the National Joint Council (NJC). There is currently no agreed award for 2024/25. As it is not possible to pre-empt this process, estimates are based on a flat rate award of £1,250 on all spinal points. The assumption of a flat rate award (which weights percentage increases

to the bottom of the pay scale) is in line with the approach agreed for pay awards for the last two years (£1,925 in each of the years 2022/23 and 2023/24). In **average** terms, a flat rate assumption of £1,250, is broadly equivalent to 3.8% for non-schools staff.

#### Price Inflation (£12.574 million)

This sum includes inflation in the following areas:

- **Commissioned Social Care Costs** – reflecting estimated uplifts to the fees paid for commissioned care. Fee setting for Adult Services is informed by the December 2023 Cabinet Report, Review of Care Home Market for Older People and the Approach to Fee Setting for Care and Support Services for 2024/25. Proposed fee uplifts consider the requirement to continue to pay the Real Living Wage (RLW) to registered carers, as well as forecast CPI levels. Resultant percentage uplift proposals are significantly more than the level of the Council's percentage funding increase from Welsh Government.
- **Energy inflation** – based on most recent indicative pricing under the Council's energy purchasing arrangements, prices are expected to decrease by 12%-17% in 2024/25 (following a significant price increase in 2023/24). The impact of this across non-school buildings and street lighting is expected to be £1.400 million. Further price decreases, potentially in the region of 14% - 16% are anticipated for 2025/26. In recognition of this, the budget includes £0.5 million support from energy reserve, as it is anticipated that the fall out of this one-off funding in 2025/26 will be mitigated by further price reductions.
- **Fire Levy** – the Council is anticipating a £1.943 million increase in the levy payable to SWFRS in 2024/25. This represents a 9.2% increase on the current levy, and includes the pensions related issue of £306,000 set out in paragraphs 38-39.
- **Other** – areas include Home to School Transport, fuel costs associated with the Council's vehicle fleet, Out of County Education placements, ICT services and the Council's contribution to the South Wales Coroner Service.

#### Realignments (£12.574 million)

The realignment sum reflects demand and inflationary pressure inherent in the 2023/24 budget monitoring position. It includes £7.935 million for Children's Services, £4.050 million for Adult Services, £1.400 million for Home to School Transport and £1.100 million for Out of County Education. There are offsetting downwards realignments on the Council Tax Reduction Contingency Budget (reflective of current demand) and office accommodation budgets.

#### Commitments and Capital Financing - £5.292 million

This sum includes planned increases in capital financing sums required in 2024/25 in support of the Capital Programme. It also includes sums related to bridge inspections (£0.250 million), to support maintenance of the public realm (£0.125 million), and a contribution to the Shared Regulatory Service related to pay pressure (£0.145 million). It also includes Revenues collection costs linked to collection of Council Tax Premia.

Demographic Pressures (£6.773 million)

This sum includes £3.373 million for Adult Social Services, £1.800 million for Children’s Services, £0.750 million for Out of County Education Provision, and £0.850 million for Home to School Transport.

Schools Pressures (£12.804 million)

44. The Budget includes £12.804 million for Delegated Schools budgets next year. In percentage terms, this is a 4.3% net increase and is equivalent to the AEF increase that the Council will receive from Welsh Government for 2024/25. The £12.804 million includes the estimated impact of 2024/25 pay awards for both teaching and support staff. It recognises that the impact of the 2023/24 NJC pay award for schools was higher than budgeted, and that WG funding previously provided in respect of an element of the September 2022 Teachers Pay award will not continue into 2024/25. It reflects anticipated increases to NDR costs, an indicative reduction in energy costs (following significant increases in 2023/24), and the impact of pupil number projections. The £12.804 million does not include any funding for Teachers Pension increases (as set out at paragraphs 36-37), and is a net figure, which is **after** a £1.090 million contribution to the costs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band B Programme and schools’ asset renewal.

**Efficiency Savings**

45. The 2024/25 Budget is predicated on the delivery of £10.470 million in directorate efficiency savings. Efficiency savings are defined as achieving the same output (or more) for less resource, with no significant impact on the resident / customer. The £10.470 million reflect savings across all non-schools directorates.

<b>Nature of Saving</b>	<b>£000</b>
Review of staffing arrangements	6,137
Reductions in external spend and premises costs	2,615
Increase in income and grant maximisation	1,718
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,470</b>

46. Examples of the types of savings included within the above categories include:

- Review of staffing arrangements – including restructures within teams, deletion of vacant posts and management savings.
- Reductions in external spend – including the use of in-house provision to reduce reliance on costly external placements in Children’s Social Care.
- Increase in income and grant maximisation – including increased income targets across some specific areas and maximising use of grant-funding to continue development of key services in Communities and Education.

### **Corporate Savings and Measures**

47. The strategy to balance the 2024/25 Budget includes £5.386 million of Corporate Savings and measures. As well as a further £3.000 million use of reserves (over and above the baseline assumption of £0.500 million), this includes:

- Removal of the Council’s £1.000 million General Contingency Budget
- A £0.500 million reduction to the Adult Services specific contingency budget (from £2.000 million to £1.500 million)
- A £0.150 million reduction to the Children’s Services specific contingency budget (from £2.150 million to £2.000 million)
- £0.736 million cross-cutting savings, including in relation to car allowances, furniture, mobile phone, postage & hybrid mail costs, and early repayment of invest to save schemes.

48. The reductions to contingency are considered further in the section of the report on financial resilience.

### **Service Change Savings**

49. The 2024/25 Budget includes £4.052 million in service change proposals. These are distinct from efficiency savings in that they have an impact on existing levels of service. Appendix 2 summarises the service change proposals included in the budget together with the nature of the consultation undertaken. For some proposals, consultation involves a specific organisation or group of service users who are specifically affected by a proposal. Other proposals have been the subject of city-wide consultation. Some proposals, whilst internally facing, go beyond what can be classed as efficiency savings when taken together with proposals already put forward as part of the £10.470 million above and are therefore included on the service change list.

50. Cabinet have fully considered the outcomes of the consultation exercises undertaken and the service change proposals included in the Budget are consistent with consultation findings. Appendix 2 summarises consultation responses alongside respective savings. Cabinet is proposing not to take forward some of the savings options that were consulted upon at this time. These include proposals totalling £1.019 million in relation to ward-based cleaning and focussed placement of public bins. In addition, other proposals will be taken forward, but at a lower level to that consulted upon. These include proposals in relation to Community Park Rangers, Community Hubs, Local Action Teams and



proposed increases to some fees and charges. Further details are included in paragraph 73.

## **Equalities Impact Assessment of Savings Proposals**

51. All relevant budget proposals have been subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), the findings of which have informed the Council's consultation and engagement activity, thereby ensuring that the voice of those disproportionately impacted by any changes is heard in the budget setting process. Impact Assessments will be updated to consider the findings of the consultation and engagement activity, with mitigating actions identified.
52. The relevant service change budget proposals have been subject to a full Equality Impact (EqIA) and are available to [Members](#). The budget setting process includes arrangements to ensure that if an EqIA is required, this requirement is recorded and the EqIA is completed as early as possible in the budget setting process. Provisions are also in place to ensure corporate oversight of compliance, allowing the Council to satisfy itself that when an EqIA has been identified as necessary that it has been completed.
53. Each completed EqIA identifies if any of the Council's budget proposals have a disproportionate impact on any of the protected characteristics. This informs the Council's Budget Consultation and allows the Council to establish arrangements to involve those identified as being disproportionately impacted. As part of this process, it was identified that 20 service change proposals impacted on age, 18 on disability, one on race, one on belief and non-belief, one on gender reassignment, one on marriage and civil partnership, one on sex, and one on sexual orientation.
54. The Council engage directly with the groups identified as being disproportionately impacted. For example, where an EqIA identified the budget proposals disproportionately impacted people with a disability, a meeting of the Access Forum was convened on 12 February 2024 to engage with people with a disability, advocacy groups and representative organisations. Similarly, where an EqIA identified that budget proposals disproportionately impacted Older People, a meeting of the Older Person's Forum was convened on 13 February 2024 to involve those impacted by the proposals. The relevant EqIAs were then updated with the outcomes of the engagement work.
55. The Council's budget consultation, as set out in paragraphs 73-74, included over 9,000 responses, with the results broken down by demographic group and income quintile. This allowed the Council to have due regard for the views of different groups of people across the city. Again, the relevant EqIAs were updated to reflect the outcome of the Budget Consultation.

## Employee Implications of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget

56. The posts deleted or created as part of the budget are set out in the table below. For deleted posts, the table identifies the anticipated method of release. Posts are expressed in full time equivalents (FTE).

<b>Employee Implications of Budget</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Voluntary Redundancy	25.55
Vacant Posts	89.75
Retirement / Flexi Retirement	1.05
TBC / Redeployment	62.10
<b>Total FTE posts deleted</b>	<b>178.45</b>
Total FTE posts created	(16.30)
<b>Net FTE Reduction</b>	<b>162.15</b>

57. Between 2012/13 and 2024/25, budget proposals resulted in the reduction of over 1,900 FTE posts in services other than schools. This included the deletion of vacant posts, posts that have transferred out of the Council's direct control, and posts deleted through redeployment or redundancy. The financial year 2022/23 was the first in a number of years, in which there was a net FTE increase (58.3) associated with budget proposals. However, the 2023/24 Budget saw a return to a net reduction position (-172.9), and the 2024/25 Budget has seen a sustained level of reductions (-162.15).

## Financial Resilience Mechanism

58. The Council currently has a £2.0 million budget called the Financial Resilience Mechanism (FRM) that was set up to help the Council deal with funding uncertainty. It is used to invest in priority areas, but investment is one-off and determined each year. This means that the budget is used proactively, but could be reduced or deleted if required, without affecting day-to day services.
59. In 2023/24 the FRM was reduced by £1.8 million (from £3.8 million to £2.0 million.) The reduction was specifically linked to minimising the impact of energy price increases considered likely to be temporary in nature. The 2023/24 Budget Report noted an intention to reinstate the FRM over the medium term if energy prices decreased. However, despite the energy price reductions incorporated into the Budget for 2024/25, the FRM has been retained at the lower level of £2.0 million to avoid adding to the already extremely challenging Budget Gap for 2024/25.
60. For 2024/25, £1.0 million of the £2.0 million Financial Resilience Mechanism will be required to manage timing issues linked to the delivery of the £16.908 million savings included in the 2024/25 Budget. The remaining £1.0 million will be used to provide one-off support to the areas set out in the table below:

<b>£1 million FRM support for 2024/25</b>		<b>£000</b>
Schools	An intervention fund to support addressing in year demand challenges and to pump prime agreed efficiency programmes.	600
Cardiff Commitment	High impact activities for young people, including further development of Careers and Work-Related Experiences, and progression pathways for our most vulnerable groups.	200
Waste Strategy	Funding to support the changes required in delivering the Waste Strategy for the city.	150
Sport Development Grant Scheme	A continuation of the focus towards supporting the transfer of Council facilities to local sporting clubs by providing funding to ensure facilities meet statutory compliance before transfer.	50
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,000</b>

### **Council Tax and Precepts**

61. As indicated at paragraph 41 above, the proposed Council Tax increase to support delivery of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget Strategy is 6.0%, which generates net additional income of £10.419 million. Combined with savings and corporate measures totalling £19.908 million this will help to bridge the 2024/25 Budget Gap. The increase, which is higher than previously modelled, will enable some of the Council's key services to be protected. Those eligible, will receive support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The detail of the Council Tax resolutions, including information on Community Council and Police and Crime Commissioner precepts is set out for approval within the recommendations at 2.0 to 2.7.

### **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

62. It is proposed that the approach to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) should remain unchanged for 2024/25. The scheme will continue to comply with the relevant WG regulations. In addition, the scheme will continue to provide additional help for war pensioners by disregarding the income from war pensions including War Widows' Pensions, War Disablement Pensions and income from the Armed Forces and Reserve Compensation Scheme. This is in line with the Council's commitment to

support veterans and their families. The budget provides for the impact on the CTRS budget of the proposed 6.0% Council Tax increase.

## Directorate Implications of the Budget

63. The information detailed in previous sections outlines the Council-wide position in respect of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget. Appendix 3 sets out the resultant changes to individual directorate budgets between 2023/24 and 2024/25. The two largest areas of the Council's budget (Education and Social Services) will receive significant additional resources next year. The relative protection of these areas is consistent with the findings of Budget consultation as outlined later in this report.
64. Delegated schools' budgets will increase by £12.804 million (4.3%) in 2024/25. This increase is equivalent in percentage terms to the Council's increase in funding settlement from Welsh Government. Further information with regards this increase was set out at paragraph 44. Retained Education budgets will also increase by £4.117 million (8.58%) in 2024/25. This largely reflects a combination of inflation and demand pressure in Home-to-School Transport and on Out of County budgets.
65. After contributing savings of £4.048 million, the budget for Social Services will increase by a total of £26.271 million (11.1%) in 2024/25. This comprises £15.520 million (10.41%) for Adult Services and £10.751 million (12.16%) for Children's Services. As referenced earlier in the report, increases include the cost of supporting the ongoing payment of the Real Living Wage to registered carers within the care sector, as well continued demand pressures in both areas. Demand pressure can be difficult to predict, and a small number of care packages can impact materially on cost. In recognition of this, as referenced in the section on financial resilience, the 2024/25 Budget includes a £3.500 million Social Services contingency. In percentage terms, this is just over 1%, and is a reduction on the current level of contingency.
66. Movement in other net directorate budgets is indicated in Appendix 3. Changes include:
- Corporate Management - a net increase of £1.617 million (5.5%). This is largely a result of the increase in SWFRS levy as outlined in paragraph 38-39.
  - Economic Development - a net decrease of £1.969 million (17.0%). This reflects savings proposals as well as downward budget realignments linked to decreasing energy prices and office accommodation costs.
  - Planning, Transport and Environment - a net decrease of £2.409 million (23.2%). This is primarily due to savings in this area, together with a downward budget realignment linked to lower indicative energy prices for street lighting in 2024/25.

- Recycling & Neighbourhood Services - a net increase of £0.830 million (2.0%). This is largely due to budgetary realignments in this area, and the fact that some savings proposals for this directorate were not taken forward following consultation.
- Resources - a net decrease of £0.078 million (0.4%). This is a combination of pay pressures, ICT inflation, and additional resources to facilitate the collection of council tax premia. These pressures are offset by £1.844 million savings.
- Governance and Legal Services - a net increase of £0.514 million (6.8%). This reflects pay pressures (officer and member remuneration) and a budgetary realignment in respect of workforce costs.
- Housing & Communities - a net decrease of £1.198 million (2.4%), largely reflecting savings proposals in this area.
- Performance and Partnerships – a net decrease of £0.219 million (7.06%). This is largely due to savings and the maximisation of income and other funding streams available in this area.

## **Fees and Charges**

67. The Council generates income from sales, fees, and charges. There are many reasons why Local Authorities charge for services. These range from protecting the sustainability of services, addressing behaviour (e.g. fines), providing services the market doesn't supply, and managing demand by placing a value on services. In recognition that the factors affecting income generation are multi-faceted, the Budget does not include a blanket uplift to fees and charges in line with inflation. Instead, fees & charges for 2024/25 have been developed in line with the Council's Income Generation Framework, which was considered as part of the July 2023 Budget Update to Cabinet. Given the scale of the Budget Gap, the framework emphasises the importance of maximising income streams where possible, subject to any identified risks or policy considerations. Resultant fees and charges proposals for 2024/25 are set out in Appendix 4.
68. It is important that the Council is able to react to changing events, both in terms of income opportunities and shortfalls. It is proposed that the Council continues to delegate to the appropriate officer, where necessary in consultation with the Cabinet Member, the ability to amend fees and charges during the financial year as and when required. These arrangements also apply where discounts are introduced for a particular time-period, or for a particular client group. Decisions will be taken in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance. Where appropriate, Cabinet will need to consider a report within a reasonable timescale of the decision.

## **Consultation and Engagement**

69. As well as supporting organisational priorities, budget preparation has had regard for the views of key stakeholders. In addition to public consultation, engagement on the 2024/25 Budget took place with the following stakeholder groups.

<b>Consultee Group</b>	<b>Nature of Consultation / Engagement</b>
Scrutiny Committees	Budget briefings took place during late Feb/ early March 2024. Responses received from Scrutiny Committees will be tabled and considered as part of the Cabinet meeting (to be included as Appendix 5c)
Trade Unions	Consultation has taken place with the Trade Union Partnership with comments considered in advance of the Cabinet meeting.
Employees	Consultation has taken place both generally through staff meetings, and particularly with employees affected by budget proposals.
School Budget Forum	Following several briefings over the budget formulation period, responses received from School Budget Forum to the Council's Budget consultation, will be tabled and considered as part of the Cabinet meeting (to be included as Appendix 5c)

#### Ask Cardiff

70. Consultation on the 2024/25 budget commenced with the 'Ask Cardiff' survey which generated 3,187 responses across the city. It asked citizens to identify their budgetary priorities for both 2024/25 and the longer term. The table below sets out the rank order of priorities. Longer term priorities were broadly consistent with short-term priorities with the exception of the reversal of priorities 9 and 10.

<b>Budgetary Priority</b>	<b>Short-Term</b>	<b>Long-Term</b>
Schools and Education including Youth Services.	1	1
Supporting vulnerable children and families	2	2
Supporting vulnerable adults and older people	3	3
Recycling and Waste Services including collections, disposal and Recycling Centres	4	4
Housing and homelessness services	5	5
Highways and Transport	6	6
Neighbourhood Services such as street cleansing	7	7
Major projects including infrastructure to support businesses, local economy, city centre and local community centres	8	8
Libraries and Community Hubs	9	10
Parks and Sport	10	9
Delivery of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy	11	11
Culture, Venues and Events	12	12

71. Schools and Education and supporting vulnerable children and adults were identified as the top three priorities for both the short and long term. The 2024/25 Revenue Budget is aligned with these priorities with a net increase of 11.1% for Social Services (10.4 % Adult Services and 12.2%

Children's Services), 8.6% for retained Education budgets and 4.3% for Schools. The fourth highest priority, Recycling and Waste Services, is one of very few directorates that will not see a net budget reduction for 2024/25.

72. The Capital Programme also includes support for the top priorities identified above at a time where financial affordability is challenged. Included in the programme are additional sums to improve the Council's existing school estate plus an additional contribution in the medium term to ensure that the Band B School Programme can continue its momentum. There continues to be a focus for the Council to deliver against the Right Home, Right Support Strategy, and respite accommodation for children and adults, with a focus on securing external grant funding, such as Housing with Care, to support objectives. The capital programme also includes additional sums for disabled adaptation to support people to remain in their own homes, as well as for an Independent Living Wellbeing Hub and new social housing supporting older people to live as part of communities. Having considered future costs and the funding strategy required, further business case development will continue and be completed in 2024/25 to bring forward the next iteration of the school build programme.

#### City-wide Budget Consultation

73. The priorities identified in Ask Cardiff helped to shape the 2024/25 City-wide budget consultation that ran between 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Key points in relation to the city-wide consultation are that:
- The consultation document was available for online completion on the Council's website, and hard copies were available in community venues including Hubs and Libraries.
  - Multi-lingual posters were placed in community buildings, with a QR code linking to the Budget page of the Council website.
  - There was a co-ordinated social media and press campaign to ensure city-wide engagement.
  - Links to the consultation were available on the Council's corporate social media accounts, with posts targeting localised community groups across the city, and targeted advertising aimed at groups with typically lower response rates.
  - Links to the survey were also shared with community groups, such as faith groups and community councils, and partners, including members of the Public Service Board to share with their contacts.
  - As well as being available in English and Welsh, the survey was translated into Arabic, Polish and Bengali, the largest minority languages in Cardiff.
  - A version of the survey designed to work with screen readers was available for people who are visually impaired.
  - The consultation was promoted to Council staff via the intranet and Staff Information alerts via email and the Working for Cardiff App. It was also shared with partner organisations for distribution.

- The improved engagement practices set out in the draft Participation Strategy were adopted, with a focus on engaging with organisations who work with seldom heard voices.
  - A dedicated team undertook face-to-face engagement with seldom heard groups to encourage participation with the consultation process, either by completing the survey, or taking part in qualitative face-to-face interviews.
74. The consultation received 9,001 responses and 103 completed Child Friendly City versions. Further detail on the responses received is set out in Appendix 5a. As far as is possible in the challenging financial situation, the proposals included in the 2024/25 Budget are consistent with the outcomes of city-wide consultation as summarised in Appendix 5b.

## **Reserves**

75. The Council's strategy for holding and using reserves is set out in its Financial Procedure Rules. CIPFA recommended accounting practice requires the Section 151 Officer to create a protocol for reserves and balances that covers their purpose, the ongoing validity of that purpose and the approval process for transferring funds to and from reserves.
76. Members, following advice provided by the Section 151 Officer, consider the level of reserves held, and whether any should be used to support the budget setting process. There is no statutory minimum regarding the level of reserves that should be held. Instead, decisions should reflect the individual position of each council. Members are made aware that over-reliance on reserves to fund the budget should be avoided. Reserves are a finite resource, so their use to fund ongoing commitments creates a gap in the finances of future years. In addition, Cardiff's reserves are comparably low for an authority of its size.
77. After considering the above, Cabinet proposes to release a total of £3.500 million from earmarked reserves in support of budget commitments in 2024/25. Of this sum, £0.5 million is specifically linked to further energy price decreases anticipated in 2025/26 which will offset the fall-out of a one-off funding source. The remaining £3.0 million can be accommodated from the Council's Strategic Budget Reserve, which is set aside to support financial resilience and help manage budget reduction requirements.
78. Appendix 6 outlines the level and anticipated movements on each of the Council's General Fund earmarked reserves, in accordance with their purpose. It also sets out the anticipated position on the Council's General Reserve. The General Reserve is maintained to help cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies. The balance on the Council's General Reserve as at the end of 2022/23 was £14.255 million, and it is anticipated that this balance will remain unchanged in the current financial year. In the context of the need to maintain financial stability and flexibility, on the advice of the Section 151 Officer, it is Cabinet's intention not to make any use of the General Reserve to fund the 2024/25 Budget.



79. The Council holds other reserves, which are ring-fenced for specific use and may not be used in connection with the Council's overall budget. These include HRA earmarked reserves, which are set aside to fund specific HRA projects and the General Housing Reserve, which is the HRA equivalent of the Council's General Reserve. Details on the projected levels of HRA reserves are set out in Appendix 6.
80. The Council's balance sheet also includes school balances. These represent the accumulated surpluses or deficits generated by individual schools. Although schools' balances are not available to support the Council's Budget Strategy, they still form part of the Council's overall financial resilience. Whilst deficit balances present a risk to financial resilience that should be managed over time, schools should also not hold excessively large balances. The Council is able to intervene to address both issues should it feel there is cause to do so.
81. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, net school balances stood at a total surplus of £21.450 million, representing a significant reduction of £10.576 million on the previous year's figure (£32.026 million). Schools considered their individual balances in conjunction with their 2023/24 school budget formula, grants receivable and income able to be generated. The individual plans resulted in a likely cumulative surplus balance by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 of circa £5.000 million. This reflected significant pay and inflation pressures as well as the increased complexity of education challenges, not least in Additional Learning needs, as well as changes in curriculum. In preparing 2023/24 budgets, 39 schools applied for and agreed deficit budget balances for the year 2023/24 with agreement to work in partnership to ensure recovery plans are in place, monitored regularly, within agreed timescales and specific to each school's situation.
82. Individual Schools have a responsibility to set a balanced budget and that remains the expectation and requirement. However, the financial pressures are such that it is very likely that in the short term the overall balances of schools will be an aggregated deficit for 2024/25. This will be through a combination of the need for redundancy costs to be incurred in 2024/25 that will deliver savings in the short and medium term, and the pressures of balancing individual school budgets whilst delivering educational outcomes. This overall deficit balance for schools will need to be carefully managed in order to ensure that there is no knock-on impact on the Council's financial resilience. It is therefore of paramount importance that all agreed deficit recovery plans are deliverable within the timescale set for each school.
83. In considering the adequacy of the projected level of reserves to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, assurance work has been undertaken in respect to the likely timescales for the drawdown requirement of earmarked reserves. Some earmarked reserves are not actually required until 2029/30 and there is an opportunity to make temporary use of those reserves on the pretext that the reserves will be made available again in the future. It is within this context, that the potential carrying of negative school balances for

the next two to three years should be considered. This will assist in heightening the level of assurance that the Section 151 Officer should have that any deficits granted to individual schools will be repaid within three years, with the majority being repaid earlier than that.

84. The Section 151 Officer has considered the Corporate and Directorate risk registers, 2023/24 budget monitoring forecast and the 2024/25 Budget, including the reduced level of contingency budgets, and is satisfied that the projected level of reserves remains adequate to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. However, the use and level of earmarked reserves will require careful management alongside heightened review processes over the next financial year.

### Financial Resilience

85. When setting the budget, Members must have regard to the Council's financial standing, risks and resilience. Financial Resilience Snapshots are regularly prepared to support discussions regarding the Council's financial health. The current snapshot is set out in Appendix 7a and contains the following information:

- The projected outturn (revenue and capital) for the current financial year together with historic performance on annual outturn.
- Analysis of the position in relation to external income streams.
- Budget Strategy, savings requirements, and base budgeted financial resilience.
- Financial Indicators, including analysis of financial ratios and reserves.
- The MTFP base case, scenario analysis and a budgetary outlook beyond the current MTFP period.
- The Council's capital financing requirement and the prudential indicators that compare it to net revenue budget stream.

86. Most of the above information is covered in greater detail in other areas of this report and its annexes. However, the snapshot is a way to pull together some key aspects in a summarised format and highlight the relationship between them. The paragraphs below consider some points not covered elsewhere:

- **2023/24 Projected Outturn at Month 9** – The overall monitoring position, as at Month 9, reflects a total projected net annual Council overspend of £2.732 million. This is an improvement on the £5.388 million overspend reported in Month 6. There are several contributory factors to the projected overspend, including sustained demand and price pressure in Children's Services, income shortfalls within Economic Development, and pressure on Out of County Education placements, Home to School Transport and Schools Catering. Where issues relate to statutory services, overspends have been addressed in setting the 2024/25 Budget to mitigate any ongoing risk to the Council's financial resilience.

- **External Income Analysis** – the analysis shows a further reduction in specific grants in 2023/24. A number of grants that were awarded to provide support during the pandemic and economic recovery post-pandemic have ceased, along with several sizeable reductions in other grants, and the Childcare Offer which has subsequently been taken back to be administered centrally by Welsh Government. These reductions have been offset to a degree by the continued rollout of grant in support of Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and the temporary grant in respect of Rates Relief for the Leisure, Retail and Hospitality Sectors. Fees and Charges income continues to show a mixed post-pandemic picture across income generating directorates. The cost base associated with these income streams has increased once more year-on-year because of inflation levels, which have only recently begun to recede. Higher risk areas were a key area of focus when setting fees and charges for 2024/25 to mitigate ongoing impact. Income will remain a key area to review in terms of resilience during the coming year and across the medium term.
  
- **Specific Base-funded contingencies** - to ensure there is a resilience cover against areas that can be unpredictable or volatile, the 2024/25 budget proposals include specific contingencies. These reflect:
  - The difficulty in modelling potential increases in the number and complexity of Looked After Children Placements (£2.000 million – reduced from £2.150 million.)
  - The difficulty in modelling demand in Adult Services (£1.500 million – reduced from £2.000 million)
  - Market volatility in respect of recycling materials (£0.350 million).
  
- **General Contingency** - the 2024/25 Budget reflects removal of the Councils £1.000 million General Contingency Budget. In the past, this was specifically held to protect the Council against late or under-delivered savings, or emerging areas of in-year pressure. Given the size of the budget gap for 2024/25, to minimise any further impact on front line services, or on the level of Council Tax, the contingency has been removed. Whilst this presents a level of risk to the Council's financial resilience moving forward, (particularly given increased saving requirements), the decision is considered reasonable in light of specific contingencies remaining available (albeit at a reduced level) for the most volatile areas of demand, and the degree of resilience currently available in earmarked reserves. Robust budget monitoring from the outset of the financial year will be more crucial than ever in 2024/25, to ensure that early corrective action can be taken where required.

87. Appendix 7 (b) contains a summary of the financial resilience challenges facing the Council. This financial resilience risk forms part of the Council's Corporate Risk Register, which is regularly reported to the Council's Senior Management Team (SMT), Cabinet and Governance &

Audit Committee. The Section 151 Officer will continue to highlight the financial standing of the Council on a regular basis as part of Members' overall awareness of financial matters.

### Medium Term Financial Plan and Strategy

88. The Council's MTFP for the period 2025/26 – 2028/29 is contained in Annex 1 to this Report. The MTFP identifies a significant budget gap over the medium term as summarised in the table below.

Financial Year	£000
2025/26	44,317
2026/27	40,402
2027/28	33,171
2028/29	24,454
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,344</b>

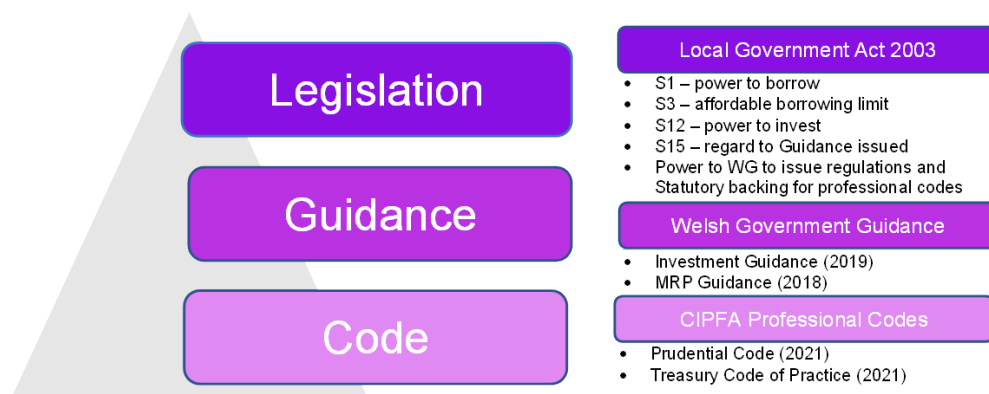
89. The above is a baseline position and Annex 1 contains further information on sensitivity analysis regarding key variables and sets out some specific but currently unquantifiable risks over the medium term. There would be an expectation of an accompanying funding stream in relation to the majority of these, but this is not a guarantee.
90. The MTFP notes that to continue to protect the Council's ongoing financial resilience, the approach to identifying the savings requirements outlined above will need to:
- Review of budget-setting timescales and decision points, with a likely need for earlier decisions in order to be able to successfully deliver savings at the levels required.
  - Target efficiencies, including baseline efficiencies for *all* services.
  - Review income streams and maximise income generation where possible subject to considerations of risk and policy.
  - Consider the level at which it is affordable to continue to subsidise services of a more discretionary nature.
  - Capture the full financial benefit of the early intervention and preventative work ongoing across the Authority, in order to manage the pattern of future demand for Council services.
  - Identify opportunities to work across directorates and in partnership with other organisations.
  - Target productivity savings to ensure that optimum value for money is achieved within scarce resources, including making best use of digital technology.
  - Identify targeted capital investment and asset rationalisation that delivers immediate revenue savings.
91. Work on developing a fully defined set of proposals for the medium term, and in particular for 2025/26, will commence following approval of the 2024/25 Budget.

## Ring-fenced Accounts

92. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a statutory duty on local authorities to maintain a separate Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the costs associated with the management and maintenance of Council dwellings. The account is ring-fenced, which means that local authorities must not subsidise costs relating to Council Housing from the General Fund, and vice versa.
93. Annex 2 contains key budgetary information in respect of the HRA including:
- The proposed HRA budget for 2024/25
  - The HRA Medium Term Financial Plan
  - The HRA Capital Programme
  - The Council’s Rent Policy for 2024/25, including details of tenant consultation (this was approved in December 2023)
  - The Annual Assessment of Affordability of rents as required under the terms of WG’s Rent Policy
  - Key Assumptions, Risks and Uncertainties
94. The Civil Parking Enforcement Account is another ring-fenced area of the Council’s accounts with budgetary information in respect of this set out in Appendix 8.

## Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25

95. The Capital and Treasury Management strategies are an integral part of the Council’s Strategic and Financial Planning Framework. They are developed in line with the CIPFA Prudential Management and Treasury Management Codes as well as statutory guidance issued both nationally and in Wales.



96. The CIPFA Professional Codes have statutory backing and require the Council to determine a suite of indicators highlighting the longer-term

impact of capital investment decisions on the revenue budget, affordability, prudence and sustainability. Many of the indicators are 'required' indicators, but the Council also produces its own locally determined indicators to support decision making in line with best practice. The detailed indicators are highlighted in the respective strategies and Appendix 9 provides a guide to the indicators and their meaning.

97. It should be noted that following a review of the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) lending policy, a prohibition is in place to deny access to borrowing from the PWLB for any local authority which includes in its capital programme the acquisition of investment assets bought primarily for yield. It is therefore important to ensure that policy and financial processes are in place to eliminate this risk.

### Capital Strategy 2024/25

98. The Council's Capital Strategy along with the detailed capital investment programme for 2024/25 and indicative allocations for future years, is set out in Annex 3 to this Report. Successfully delivering the commitments set out in Stronger, Fairer, Greener will require capital investment, and having a capital strategy in place informs capital investment decisions by providing a framework, which will:

- provide a longer-term view of capital expenditure plans whilst setting out all the financial risks to which the authority is exposed.
- ensure decisions can demonstrate sufficient regard to the long-term financing, affordability implications and potential risks to the authority.
- provide an overview of the Council's asset management planning arrangements, which includes any maintenance requirements that have resource and business planning implications.

99. The Council's Section 151 Officer is required to comment specifically as part of the budget in respect to the deliverability, affordability and risks of the Capital Strategy and where appropriate, have access to specialised advice to enable them to reach their conclusions. This statement is incorporated within the financial implications to this Report.

100. The strategy sets out the approach to various factors, as identified below, and covers the Council's approach to:

- **Working with partners** - recognising the enabling role played by the Council in delivering investment and the need for alignment with WG on a longer term and sustained approach to capital investment.
- **Asset Management Planning** - how the Council demonstrates stewardship of assets used in service delivery and the need to understand condition and alternative options as a basis for understanding investment requirements.
- **Risk Appetite** - the main areas where capital investment paid for by borrowing would be considered and how such decisions are informed by robust business cases.

- **Governance and decision-making** - identifying priorities for investment, securing value for money, and monitoring and reporting of the approved capital programme.
- **Capital Investment Programme** - the detailed five-year capital investment programme proposed for 2024/25 to 2028/29.
- **Funding the strategy and investment programme** - the Capital Resources assumed to be used to fund the 2024/25 to 2028/29 investment programme.
- **Managing the borrowing requirement** - identifying the Capital Financing Requirement and setting out the strategy to manage Treasury activities including the borrowing requirement and treasury investments.
- **Prudent Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement** - setting out the approach of provision for repayment of capital investment paid for by borrowing required to be specifically approved by Council.
- **Affordability** - understanding the impact of capital investment decisions on the Council's revenue budget and MTFP via the calculation of various prudential indicators.

### **Capital Investment Programme 2024/25**

101. The detailed programme includes:
- annual sums such as disabled adaptations and expenditure to improve existing assets such as infrastructure and property.
  - allocations for specific projects approved in previous years.
  - new capital investment proposed in the 2024/25 Budget.
  - assumptions for known external grants and contributions, which in most cases are subject to a bid process.
  - projects proposed to proceed on the basis of revenue savings, revenue income or other sources of retained income to repay initial investment over time, including new schemes approved in 2024/25, subject to business case.
  - the HRA programme, with a focus on maintaining investment to support the Welsh Housing Quality Standards, high rise cladding and further investment proposals in new Council homes to meet the demand for good quality, affordable social housing.
102. New capital investment paid for primarily from additional borrowing is focussed on improving existing assets and has been allocated to the following areas:
- To manage initial demand for disabled adaptations pending a review of the criteria and factors resulting in additional pressures.
  - Investment in existing schools' buildings towards priority condition works and to continue to address the maintenance backlog.
  - A further contribution to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Financial Model to allow rationalisation and redevelopment of additional sites as part of the Band B financial model.

- To undertake refurbishment and energy efficiency improvements on Council assets that include Pentwyn Leisure Centre, Central Market and schools as part of the Refit 4 programme.
  - Additional Housing Revenue Account investment over the medium term to expand the level of Council owned social housing to meet the housing emergency and the next phase of the Housing Partnership Programme
103. The Capital Programme proposed for 2024/25 is based on known commitments. A number of initiatives remain the subject of feasibility and options appraisal and, pending Cabinet consideration and approval of a business case, could be considered for inclusion in future years programmes.
104. There are, however, significant projects covering schools, transport, environmental and property initiatives that may have short, medium and long-term financial implications and will require consideration of alternative funding approaches. These include renewable energy projects, Coastal and flood risk alleviation, future school projects and core office requirements and will likely be considered during 2024/25 by Cabinet. And feed into Capital Programme development of 2025/26.
105. As options, business cases, risks and financial implications are determined, these will need to be considered as part of annual updates to the Capital Strategy, the detailed Capital Programme and the Medium-Term Financial Plan in future years. Implementation of capital schemes approved as part of the budget framework will need to be subject to the governance, financial, procurement and contract procedure rules set out in the constitution as well as requiring Cabinet or Officer decision approval of business cases, as relevant.
106. It is however noted that unless such projects are to be funded by external grant, approval in future years will result in further increases to the Council's borrowing requirement. Any projects approved that increase the Council's borrowing requirement, based on an assumption that they will pay for themselves, would need to be predicated on an approved and robust business case, highlighting the risks and mitigations and demonstrating such projects do not pose a risk to future affordability and sustainability of any increase in borrowing. Monitoring processes throughout any delivery stage and post project implementation on a continuing basis should be embedded in processes to ensure risks and performance is continually assessed.

#### Arena – Budget Report Update (January 2024)

107. A preferred Developer/Operator consortium to build and operate the Arena was approved by Cabinet in November 2020, followed by Cabinet approval of the Final Business Case for the Arena in September 2021. A Planning Application for a new Indoor Arena and Hotel was granted in March 2022, with Cabinet subsequently approving the revised Indoor Arena Funding Strategy (November 2023) and entry into the



Development and Funding Agreement (DFA) in July 2023, effectively giving final sign off for the Authority to enter into contracts to deliver the new Indoor Arena.

108. Given the significance of the Arena project to the Authority, a specific report on Arena Funding Strategy was presented to and approved by Cabinet in November 2023. This report set out the capital expenditure requirements, revenue budget impacts, treasury management and financial policy implications of the project, highlighting the proposed approach and principles to manage finance resilience and risk as part of a sustainable budget framework. This included:
- Using the existing revenue base budgets and pre-planned revenue budget increases in future years to fund financing costs of capital expenditure in short-medium term;
  - Usage of the current Central Enterprise Zone Reserve in 2024/25 to reduce the level of capital expenditure to be paid for by borrowing.
  - Re-purposing part of the Treasury Management earmarked reserve as an Arena Contingency Fund to meet any cashflow variations against the financial model forecasts of the Arena and Enabling Works (including multi-storey car park).
109. The revenue financing costs of capital expenditure will in the short to medium term be funded by the Arena affordability envelope, as set out within the Arena Funding Strategy report approved by Cabinet in November 2023. An existing revenue budget of £1.500 million is currently in place and has been sufficient to cover all revenue costs to date. This budget will be increased by a further £1.000 million planned for in 2024/25, and an additional £0.450 million from 2025/26 onwards, once construction of the Arena has commenced. This aligns with projections included within the MTFP, with this base budget to be utilised to cover initial debt repayments and interest costs in the medium-term to assist in smoothing cashflows in the early years of the project to deliver the Arena and unlock associated benefits in the longer term, both financial and non-financial. Whilst these budgets will assist the Council in dealing with short-medium term cashflow issues, it is expected the Indoor Arena and enabling developments will become self-financing and sustainable in the long-term, with these budgets able to be removed or reallocated when Arena costs and income equalise.
110. The delivery of the new Indoor Arena is the anchor project within the wider Atlantic Wharf regeneration programme. Whilst funding solutions for the Arena and associated enabling developments have been identified, and are reflected within the MTFP and capital programme, there are no specific budget allocations included at this stage for any further projects or phases included within the wider Atlantic Wharf Masterplan. These will remain subject to robust business cases and future Cabinet/Council decisions.
111. As part of the Cabinet approval of the Arena Funding Strategy in November 2023, it was agreed that the Council should look to constrain

any future borrowing or further Council investment resulting in additional risk exposure on other Major Projects in the medium term (excluding where prior agreement has been given) to balance out the risks identified on the priority Indoor Arena project. On this basis, the Council intends to avoid increasing its borrowing levels or increase risk exposure by focussing more on developer led solutions for Major Projects going forward, of which the following paragraph sets out in more detail.

#### Other Major Development Projects

112. The 2024/25 Capital Programme currently includes financial provisions for a number of schemes at the International Sports Village (ISV) in line with the revised ISV masterplan presented to and agreed by Cabinet in March 2022. An update was provided to Cabinet in July 2023 outlining that financial challenges relating to rising interest rates and construction inflation meant the business case for investment in the leisure attractions has not been concluded and will be delayed whilst the Council continues to review the leisure proposals to ensure they are affordable. These schemes remain subject to full business cases being approved by Cabinet, whilst the timing and value of receipts realised as part of the ISV land disposal strategy (approved by Cabinet in September 2021) and proposals (approved by Cabinet in July 2023) will remain critical to the achievement of objectives. Any delays or loss of value of proposed disposals will directly impact the Council's ability to recover initial capital outlay on land acquisitions and subsequently any funding available to deliver proposed capital schemes at ISV, as well as effecting revenue costs required to hold the site.
113. The Council is considering a number of major projects including the regeneration of Atlantic Wharf. Schemes such as this will remain subject to robust business cases being considered by Cabinet in due course, although at this stage this is not currently included within the 2024/25 Capital Programme or MTFP. Any proposals are therefore expected to be on a self-financing basis, utilising capital receipts and s106 contributions generated in line with the budgetary framework.
114. A report to Cabinet in June 2023 set out an outline business case for a Core Office Strategy and future options for core office accommodation as well as seeking authorisation to progress to a Full Business Case (FBC) for the preferred option. In July 2023, Cabinet received an updated masterplan vision for the whole Atlantic Wharf site including the existing County Hall site. At the same July meeting, Cabinet agreed to the development of a business case for the existing County Hall site, now also known as Area A, and approved a procurement strategy for the site consisting of 5 development areas including new offices and revised highways infrastructure.
115. Works have been undertaken at County Hall during 2023/24 to consolidate existing Council services to the East and North wings of the building. This is considered to have reduced the currently occupied

County Hall footprint and is expected to generate savings to help offset energy costs.

116. In addition, City Hall was closed in November 2023 in order to carry out urgent maintenance work, including installation of a new heating system. Ongoing works may be required in 2024/25 and future years but this is subject to a future decision and approval of a Full Business Case which is currently planned for Summer 2024.

### **Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25**

117. The Treasury Management Strategy is included at Annex 4 and covers the following areas:

- Highlighting the borrowing levels to finance the cash requirements arising from the Council's proposed Capital Programme, and
- Treasury investments and determining how short-term cash flows will be safely managed to meet the Council's financial commitments and objectives.

118. The strategy is an integrated strategy for the Council, which covers both General Fund and HRA activities. It includes:

- The current treasury position.
- Economic background and prospects for interest rates.
- Borrowing, including:
  - policy
  - council borrowing requirement based on its capital expenditure plans and choice between internal and external borrowing and
  - borrowing strategy
- Treasury management indicators and limits for 2024/25 to 2028/29 based on the proposed Capital Programme.
- Investment policy and strategy, including security and investments approved for use.
- The Treasury Function.

119. The Council receives reports on the approach to treasury management at the start of the financial year, at mid-year and at outturn. Governance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference set out their responsibility to seek assurances that the Council has complied with the Treasury Management Strategy and Practices by demonstrating effective control of the associated risks and pursuing optimum performance consistent with those risks.

### **Budgetary Framework**

120. Under the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, the Council is able to specify the extent of virement within the budget and the degree of in-year changes expenditure. The Council's Financial Procedure Rules also allow virements within directorate budgets.

121. In addition to the virements above, the Section 151 Officer will also undertake all necessary technical adjustments to budgets and accounts during the year and reflect any changes to the accounting structure as a result of management and organisational changes within the Council.
122. As set out in the Council's Constitution, the Section 151 Officer will also undertake all necessary financial and accounting adjustments required in order to prepare the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

### **Reason for Recommendations**

123. To enable Cabinet to recommend to Council approval of:
- The Revenue and Capital Budget and to set the Council Tax for 2024/25
  - The Revenue and Capital Budget for the Housing Revenue Account
  - The Capital Strategy
  - The Treasury Management Strategy
  - The Prudential Code of Borrowing Indicators for 2024/25 – 2028/29
  - The Capital Programme for 2024/25 and the indicative programme to 2028/29, delegating to the Section 151 Officer authority to bring forward or delay schemes within the programme to match resources where necessary
  - The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2024/25 (as included in the Council's Capital Strategy at Annex 3)

### **Financial Implications**

124. This section provides an opportunity for the Council's Section 151 Officer to summarise key aspects and comment on the robustness of the details of the proposed Revenue and Capital Budget Strategy for 2024/25. The financial assumptions, basis and implications of which are set out in the covering report, annexes and appendices.
125. The Revenue Budget Strategy for 2024/25 has been constructed on the basis of a 4.3% increase in WG funding (after the impact of the funding consequential) and a proposed 6.0% increase in Council Tax. Pressures identified in the report include pay inflation and the increasing demand and complexity of service provision. Financial resilience against these ever-increasing pressures remains a key factor in the construction of next year's budget.
126. The level of Settlement has resulted in the need for Services to identify significant savings for 2024/25. Efficiency savings of £10.470 million have been identified by services with an additional £4.052 million of Service Change proposals. Each saving proposal has been risk rated for both achievability and impact and will be monitored during the financial year to ensure all proposals are delivered on time and at the level required. The notion of continuously seeking out opportunities to deliver

efficiency savings remains a central part of the Council's financial framework.

127. Using the Council's Income Generation framework, fees and charges proposals have been built into the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2024/25 that reflect all applicable statutory requirements, adequately cover the cost of service provision and can help manage the demand for services.
128. The Medium-Term Financial Planning position for the Council remains extremely challenging given the demand pressures on services, the likely increasing cost base requirements and the projected levels of future resource availability. The Strategy Report and the MTFP (Annex 1) have clearly set out the challenges and based on a prudent assessment of funding, a budget shortfall is projected cumulatively to be over £142 million by 2028/29. As stated previously, budget consideration and savings delivery should not be seen as an 'annual event' and work will need to commence early in year and continue throughout in order to ensure full year budget savings are delivered in 2025/26 and beyond. This ongoing robustness of budget management needs to be maintained alongside a regular review of key financial risks which will require a constant refresh of medium to long term risks.
129. Appendix 6 details both the level of reserves and the movement during 2024/25 of the earmarked and general reserves of the Council. The level of General Reserves is anticipated to remain at its current level. The level of earmarked reserves is planned to reduce during 2024/25 and in addition some earmarked reserves have been set aside that will not be required for a period of three to five years. It is also noted that despite individual governing School bodies being responsible for delivering a balanced budget, the Council has to be prepared for individual school balances being in a cumulative deficit position for 2024/25. This deficit balance will primarily be due to in year deficits and costs incurred upfront to generate savings over future years for individual schools. The deficit balances will need to be recovered over the following period to ensure that the reserves that have been borrowed from will be available when required. The cash flow impact of these deficits and the overall level of earmarked reserves will require careful management of both the overall council finances and be underpinned by credible and deliverable payback schemes by those individual schools in deficit.
130. Medium to longer term financial management is one of the standards of CIPFA's Financial Management Code (introduced in 2020). The medium-term financial plan is a key element of this, being integrated with the Council's service plans and its capital strategy. The Council will continue to comply with the Code in respect of its principles of Leadership, Accountability, Transparency, Standards, Assurance and Sustainability.
131. The position reported last year in respect of purportedly under-declared landfill tax and work with HMRC remains ongoing. The position will be kept under review and a further update included in both the Council's Out-turn Report and the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts.

132. In terms of financial resilience, regular reporting to Members on budgetary and service performance is critical and the 'Financial Resilience Snapshot' (Appendix 8) continues to provide a key summary analysis.
133. The Council has removed the General Contingency budget for 2024/25 but has used £1 million from the FRM to manage any timing issues on savings. In addition, the level of savings required in order to reduce the budget gap does emphasise the need for all budget proposals to be delivered at the level anticipated or service areas will need to put other saving mitigations in place during the year. There are specific contingencies in key areas such as Adults, Waste recycling income and Children's Social Services. The additional use of a further £1 million from the FRM has been used for specific one-off financial resilience support in key areas as described in paragraph 60.
134. The Capital Strategy contained within this report sets out the current investment plans across council assets and the funding arrangements that are in place. Any additional schemes to be considered for future years will be subject to robust business cases and will be set in the context of overall affordability with regard to our Prudential Indicators. The Arena Financial Strategy as agreed must be kept under constant review and future business cases for any major projects must continue to minimise risk from a Council perspective. Regular reporting of performance against these indicators for Members confirms that the current and planned programme continues to operate within the limits set. Clearly, this position will be kept under constant review, in particular where the later years of the programme are refined as further information becomes available and to ensure that capital receipts necessary to deliver the programme are delivered promptly.
135. The Budget Strategy has also highlighted the recent updates to the Treasury Management and Prudential Code which the Council continues to comply with in full.
136. As set out in detail in Annex 2, the Council has a statutory duty to ensure that the HRA achieves a balanced budget over the medium term and this has been evidenced as part of this budget report, although pressures are noted where budget gaps are projected in future years in advance of offsetting income streams. Any liabilities of the HRA are ultimately liabilities of the Council so it is essential that a longer term planning and modelling horizon continues to be updated as part of its business plan, having regard to robust viability assessments for new development proposals and risks identified in the MTFP particularly in respect to certainty of rent policy and cost of build.
137. The budget proposals have been set in response to the feedback from public consultation in terms of the priorities set. The impact and link through to wider strategic priorities have also been highlighted and in particular, how the budget is contributing to objectives within the Corporate Plan and the wider requirements of the Future Generations Act.

138. Financial control continues to be of fundamental importance. It is vital that responsible officers take ownership of their budgets and that expenditure remains within approved levels. Compliance with financial rules and governance requirements is expected and this will continue to be monitored and reported on regularly as part of the Council's performance management arrangements.
139. In conclusion, as the Council's Section 151 Officer, the following comments are made in respect of the adequacy of the budget proposals in terms of their robustness and affordability
- I am satisfied that the Budget estimates are based on accurate and robust data modelling.
  - I believe the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2024/25 and the Medium Term Financial Plan set out a prudent and appropriate allocation of resources that balances the delivery of services whilst ensuring the continued financial resilience of the Council.
  - I am satisfied that the Capital Strategy sets out an investment programme that is deliverable, affordable and mitigates risk appropriately.
  - I am satisfied that the Council maintains a minimum level of General Fund balances at £14.255 million and this is appropriate in the context of all other available reserves, the challenges facing the Council in both the short and medium term with the focus on maintaining and strengthening financial resilience.
  - I am satisfied that the overall level of available earmarked reserves is appropriate after allowing for planned use in 2024/25.
140. I believe the proposals set out in this report will allow the Cabinet to recommend to Council a Revenue and Capital Strategy that is balanced and robust.

**Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate)**

141. The body of the Budget Report sets out certain legal duties and constraints in relation to setting a balanced budget and Council Tax. They form part of the legal implications to which the decision maker must address its mind notwithstanding that they are not repeated in this section of the Report. The Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, ('LGFA 1992') requires the Council to set a balanced budget, including the level of the Council Tax. This means the income from all sources must meet the proposed expenditure. Best estimates must be employed to identify all anticipated expenditure and resources. The approval of the Council's budget and Council Tax, and the adoption of a financial strategy for the control of the Council's borrowing or capital expenditure are matters reserved, by law, to full Council. However, the Cabinet has responsibility for preparing, revising and submitting to Council estimates of the various amounts which must be aggregated in making the calculations required in order to set the budget and the Council Tax; and may make recommendations on the borrowing and

capital expenditure strategy, (pursuant to the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007)).

142. Local authorities must decide every year how much income they are going to raise from Council Tax. This decision must be based on a budget that sets out estimates of what the Council plans to spend on services. As the Council Tax must be set at the start of the financial year and cannot be increased during the year, consideration must be given to risks and uncertainties and allowances made in funds for contingencies and reserves. The budget and the Council Tax must be set by 11th March in the preceding financial year. A failure to comply with the time limit may leave the Council open to challenge by way of judicial review. When the Council is considering its budget, it must have regard to the Section 151 Officer's report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves in the budget proposals (section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003). This ensures that Members make their decision on the basis of authoritative advice. Members should provide clear reasons if they disagree with the professional advice of the Section 151 Officer. Members should note, that after the Council has approved its budget and Council Tax, it is possible for the Council to make substitute calculations during the year (although the basic amount of Council Tax cannot be increased), subject to certain provisos (s.37 LGFA 1992).
143. The Local Government Act 2003 establishes a system to regulate the capital expenditure and borrowing of authorities. The heart of the prudential borrowing system is the duty imposed upon authorities to determine and keep under review how much money they can afford to borrow. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (as amended) specify the Prudential Code for Capital Finance to which local authorities in Wales must have regard in setting and reviewing their affordable borrowing limits (sections 3 and 5 of the 2003 Act). Regard must be had to the CIPFA Prudential and Treasury Management Codes of Practice, as well as WG guidance in respect of Investments and the Minimum Revenue Provision.
144. The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 Part VI sets a statutory regime for housing finance. The Council has a general duty to review the rents of its houses from time to time and in fixing rents the Council must have regard, in particular, to the principle that the rents of dwellings of any class or description should bear broadly the same proportion to private sector market rents as the rents of dwellings of any other class or description. The review of the rents is a Cabinet function, and is undertaken with regard to the provisions of legislation, which governs housing finance. Rents for council houses are a credit to the HRA and outgoings a debit. The Council is under a duty to prevent a debit balance on the HRA which is ring-fenced. There are restrictions in the way in which the account can be operated and the proposals in this report must comply with these accounting requirements to ensure that the rent should be set so as to ensure that the Council is able to comply with its duty to prevent a debit balance arising on the HRA.



145. The body of the report makes a number of references to the Capital Programme. Detailed legal advice should be sought on each proposed project to ensure the same can be implemented in accordance with all legal and governance requirements.

#### Civil Enforcement

146. Appendix 8 to the report notes that the income generated from car parking fees, residents' permits, penalty charge notices and moving traffic offences (MTOs) will be used to fund the associated operational costs including the cost of the enforcement service. Further, that any surplus or deficit will be transferred to a separate account and can only be used for specific purposes in accordance with Section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ('1984 Act '). The report anticipates a surplus. It is apparent from the statutory provision that there is no requirement of revenue neutrality. That said, it is important to note that in making orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as regards parking and other matters), the 1984 Act is not a fiscal measure and does not authorise a local authority to use its powers to charge purely in order to raise surplus revenue for other transport purposes. Accordingly, the approach to car-parking fees, residents' permits, penalty charge notices and moving traffic offences and the like, must be based on legitimate considerations that can be taken into account in accordance with the provision of the relevant legislation.

#### Equality Duty

147. All public authorities, when exercising any of their functions, are subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). These duties require the Council, in the exercise of its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need, in summary, to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of 'protected characteristics'. The 'Protected characteristics' are: Age, Gender reassignment, Sex, Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, Disability, Pregnancy and maternity, Marriage and civil partnership, Sexual orientation, Religion or belief – including lack of belief. The PSED is a duty to have 'due regard'. It therefore requires the decision-maker to be properly informed as to the equality implications of the decision to be made. Paragraphs 51 to 55 of the body of the report refers to the PSED As with any decision, the decision maker will need to take account of the equalities impact assessments, consider whether it has sufficient information to assess the effects of the proposed decision on the aims in the PSED and consider gathering more information if needed.
148. When taking strategic decisions, the Council also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage ('the Socio-Economic Duty' imposed under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010). In considering this, the Council must take into account the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers (WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty

Equality Act 2010 (gov.wales) and must be able to demonstrate how it has discharged its duty.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('The 2015 Act')

149. The 2015 Act places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and is globally responsible. In discharging its duties under the Act, the Council has set and published well being objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the national well being goals. The well being objectives are set out in Cardiff's Corporate Plan. When exercising its functions, the Council is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its well being objectives. This means that the decision makers should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the well being objectives and must be satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those objectives. The well being duty also requires the Council to act in accordance with a 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Council to act in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, the Council must:

- Look to the long term
- Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems · Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals
- Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions
- Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them. The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible using the link below: [Well-being of future generations: guidance | GOV.WALES](#)

Employee and Trade Union Consultation

150. .The body of this report sets the employee implication at paragraph 56. Legal Services understand that: (i) engagement has been ongoing between Directors and Trade Unions to discuss budget saving implications and (ii) the Council has formally consulted with Trade Unions about the budget proposals and the likely impact on staff, particularly where posts are at risk of redundancy or a TUPE transfer to another employer. Under the general law relating to unfair dismissal all proposals to make redundancies must involve reasonable consultation with the affected employees and their trade unions. In relation to any potential

redundancies it is important that all required statutory notices are served. It is noted that the budget proposals also provide for the creation of a number of posts.

### Charging

151. Each proposal to make or increase charges must comply with the statutory framework (including primary and secondary legislation and any statutory guidance issued) relating to the activity in respect of which charges are being levied, including any limitations on levels of charges. Where reliance is placed on the power to charge for discretionary services (Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003), any charges must be set so that when the charges are taken as a whole no surpluses are made (i.e. the power is limited to cost recovery). Where activities are being undertaken for which charges are being made with the intention of producing surplus income, it is necessary to consider whether that activity is material and would amount to “commercial trading”. For commercial trading, the Council must develop a business case and establish an arms’ length company to undertake that activity (in accordance with the general trading power under Section 95 Local Government Act 2003), or identify another statutory power for a particular trading activity.

### Consultation

152. Duties to consult certain stakeholders in respect of proposals may arise from a number of different sources. Members will note that the Council has engaged in consultations as part of the budget process as set out earlier in the report under the heading “Consultation and Engagement”. In considering this matter, Members must genuinely and conscientiously consider the feedback from each consultation and have proper regard to it when making any decision in relation to the subject matter of that consultation. Members should carefully consider the results of the consultation as set out in the Appendices to the report.

### General

153. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must: be within the legal powers of the Council and of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council, comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law, be undertaken in accordance with procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. procedure rules, be fully and properly informed, be properly motivated (i.e. for an appropriate, good and relevant reason), be taken having regard to the Council’s fiduciary duty to its tax payers as elected members are trustees of the public interest and of its statutory purposes for which public powers are conferred on them, (this general duty requires the Council to act prudently and in good faith in the interests of those to whom the duty is owed) and otherwise be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **HR Implications**

154. The final budget proposals are based on the outcome of the consultation exercise and the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.
155. Paragraph 56 and 57 of the Report sets out information regarding net reduction of 162.15 FTE Council posts overall made up of the deletion of 178.45 FTEs including the deletion of 89.75 FTE vacant posts, 26.6 FTE where voluntary redundancy or retirement applications have been approved, and 62.10 FTE posts to be determined. There is also the creation of 16.30 FTEs.
156. It is recognised that the numbers of posts impacted overall by this budget proposal is significant however this is mitigated for staff through the deletion of vacant posts and the use of the voluntary redundancy process. The Council retains a range of mechanisms designed to support the people implications of the Council's budget proposals. Through the continued use of such mechanisms, the Council will consistently work hard to reduce the number of compulsory redundancies wherever possible. In addition to redeployment, other mechanisms include use of flexible working policies plus access to skills support through the Cardiff Academy allowing employees to either refresh their existing skills or develop new skills in order to enhance their opportunities to find another role in the Council or externally.
157. The Trade Unions and employees have been consulted throughout the budget planning process and their comments have been considered. As part of the Council's commitment to partnership working, the Trade Unions and employees will continue to be consulted in all the proposals that impact on staff.

## **Property Implications**

158. There are no further specific property implications in respect of the 2024/25 Budget Modelling Update and Consultation Requirements Report. The Strategic Estates Department continues to work closely with Finance colleagues to identify property income generation opportunities and specific strategies for mitigation of property costs. Support will continue for delivery in other relevant areas such as the Capital Investment Programme and Major Development Projects. Where there are property transactions, management strategies or valuations required to deliver any budget proposals, they will be done so in accordance with the Council's Asset Management process and in consultation with Strategic Estates and relevant service areas.

## **CABINET PROPOSAL**

### **(a) Recommendations to Council**

The Cabinet, having taken account of the comments of the Section 151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, and having considered the responses to the Budget Consultation recommend that Council:

1.0 Approve the Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Account budgets including all associated proposals and assumptions as set out in this report and increasing the Council Tax by 6.0% and that the Council resolve the following terms.

2.0 Note that at its meeting on 14 December 2023 Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2024/25 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a) 151,372 being the amount calculated in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.

Lisvane	3,068
Pentyrch	3,709
Radyr	4,090
St. Fagans	2,006
Old St. Mellons	2,512
Tongwynlais	830

being the amounts calculated in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

2.1 Agree that the following amounts be now calculated by the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

a) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (d) (including Community Council precepts totalling £568,735). £1,326,949,735

b) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32(3)(a) and (c). £480,997,000

c) Amount by which the aggregate at 2.1(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2.1(b) above calculated in accordance with Section 32(4) as the budget requirement for the year. £845,952,735

d) Aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of Revenue Support Grant, its council tax reduction scheme, redistributed Non-Domestic Rates.

£623,157,566

- e) The amount at 2.1(c) above less the amount at 2.1(d) (net of the amount for discretionary relief of £400,000), all divided by the amount at 2.0(a) above, calculated in accordance with Section 33(1) as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year.

£1,474.48

- f) Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1).

£568,735

- g) Amount at 2.1(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2.1(f) above by the amount at 2.0(a) above, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special items relate.

£1,470.72

- h) The amounts given by adding to the amount at 2.1(g) above the amounts of special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned below, divided in each case by the amount at 2.0(b) above, calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) as the basic amounts of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which special items relate.

Lisvane	1,494.35
Pentyrch	1,523.32
Radyr & Morganstown	1,511.13
St Fagans	1,496.49
St Mellons	1,492.72
Tongwynlais	1,505.54

- i) The amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2.1(g) and 2.1(h) above by the number which in the proportion set out in the Council Tax (Valuation Bands) (Wales) Order 2003 is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D calculated in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Area</b>									
Lisvane	996.23	1,162.27	1,328.31	1,494.35	1,826.43	2,158.50	2,490.58	2,988.70	3,486.82
Pentyrch	1,015.55	1,184.80	1,354.07	1,523.32	1,861.84	2,200.35	2,538.87	3,046.64	3,554.41
Radyr	1,007.42	1,175.32	1,343.23	1,511.13	1,846.94	2,182.74	2,518.55	3,022.26	3,525.97
St. Fagans	997.66	1,163.93	1,330.22	1,496.49	1,829.05	2,161.59	2,494.15	2,992.98	3,491.81
Old St. Mellons	995.15	1,161.00	1,326.87	1,492.72	1,824.44	2,156.15	2,487.87	2,985.44	3,483.01
Tongwynlais	1,003.69	1,170.97	1,338.26	1,505.54	1,840.11	2,174.67	2,509.23	3,011.08	3,512.93

All other parts of the Council's Area      980.48   1,143.89   1,307.31   1,470.72   1,797.55   2,124.37   2,451.20   2,941.44   3,431.68

2.2 Note that for the year 2024/25, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:-

**VALUATION BANDS**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
235.11	274.30	313.48	352.67	431.04	509.41	587.78	705.34	822.90

2.3 Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.1(i) and 2.2 above, the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of Council's Area  
**VALUATION BANDS**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Area</b>									
Lisvane	1,231.34	1,436.57	1,641.79	1,847.02	2,257.47	2,667.91	3,078.36	3,694.04	4,309.72
Pentyrch	1,250.66	1,459.10	1,667.55	1,875.99	2,292.88	2,709.76	3,126.65	3,751.98	4,377.31
Radyr	1,242.53	1,449.62	1,656.71	1,863.80	2,277.98	2,692.15	3,106.33	3,727.60	4,348.87
St. Fagans	1,232.77	1,438.23	1,643.70	1,849.16	2,260.09	2,671.00	3,081.93	3,698.32	4,314.71
Old St. Mellons	1,230.26	1,435.30	1,640.35	1,845.39	2,255.48	2,665.56	3,075.65	3,690.78	4,305.91
Tongwynlais	1,238.80	1,445.27	1,651.74	1,858.21	2,271.15	2,684.08	3,097.01	3,716.42	4,335.83
All other parts of the Council's Area	1,215.59	1,418.19	1,620.79	1,823.39	2,228.59	2,633.78	3,038.98	3,646.78	4,254.58

2.4 Authorise the Corporate Director Resources to make payments under Section 38 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 from the Council Fund by equal instalments on the last working day of each month from April 2024 to March 2025 in respect of the precept levied by the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales in the sum of £53,384,363.

2.5 Agree that the Common Seal be affixed to the said Council Tax.

2.6 Agree that the Common Seal be affixed to precepts for Port Health Expenses for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 namely

	£
County Council of the City and County of Cardiff	155,460
Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council	17,620

- 2.7 Agree that notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive be given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 3.0 In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 and subsequent amendments and the CIPFA Prudential Code and Treasury Management Codes of Practice:
- (a) Approve the Capital Strategy 2024/25.
  - (b) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 and authorise the Section 151 Officer to raise such funds as may be required to finance capital expenditure by temporary or long-term borrowing.
  - (c) Approve the Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 – 2028/29 including the affordable borrowing limit.
  - (d) Delegate to the Section 151 Officer the ability to effect movement between the limits for borrowing and long-term liabilities, within the limit for any year, and to bring forward or delay schemes in the Capital Programme.
  - (e) Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2024/25.
- 4.0 To approve the Budgetary Framework outlined in this report.
- 5.0 To maintain the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme as set out in this report.

**THE CABINET**  
**29 February 2024**

*The following Annexes are attached:*

Annex 1	Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 – 2028/29
Annex 2	Housing Revenue Account 2024/25 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan
Annex 3	Capital Strategy 2024/25 (including Capital Programme and Resources)
Annex 4	Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25



*The following Appendices are attached:*

Appendix 1	Budget Support for the Corporate Plan & Future Generations
Appendix 2	Service Change Savings Proposals
Appendix 3	Directorate Revenue Budgets
Appendix 4	(a) Fees & Charges - General Fund (b) Fees and Charges Appendix 5 (b) is exempt from publication because it contains information of the kind described in paragraphs 14 and 21 of parts 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
Appendix 5	(a) Consultation on Cardiff Council's 2024/25 Budget (b) Consultation Responses Reflected in 2024/25 (c) School Budget Forum Letter, Letters from Chairs of Scrutiny and Cabinet Response
Appendix 6	Earmarked Reserves
Appendix 7	(a) Financial Resilience Snapshot (b) Financial Risk and Mitigations
Appendix 8	Civil Parking and Enforcement Account
Appendix 9	Guide to Prudential Indicators

*The following background papers have been taken into account:*

- Budget 2024/25 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan: Update Report (July 2023)
- 2024/25 Budget Proposals - for Consultation
- The WG Provisional Local Government Settlement (December 2023)
- Equality Impact Assessment of Cardiff Council's 2024/25 Budget Proposals
- Details of Fees and Charges

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# Cardiff Council

Annex 1

# Medium Term Financial Plan

2025/26 – 2028/29



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# Section 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Aims and Purpose of MTFP

The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) forecasts the Council's future financial position to:

- Help ensure that the Council understands, and can prepare for, the challenges in setting a balanced budget.
- Encourage discussion about the allocation of resources, so that they are directed towards core responsibilities and policy objectives.
- Inform understanding the Council's financial resilience, helping to protect the Council's long term financial health and viability.

## 1.2 Governance

The MTFP process is an integral part of the Council's financial planning framework. It closely aligns with other key aspects of the budgetary process, including the Council's Capital Strategy. It is formally reported twice a year, with the Council's Budget Report and Budget Update Report. A separate MTFP is produced for the ringfenced Housing Revenue Account (HRA). It should be noted that any deficit of the HRA must be met by the Council.

Regular review of the MTFP is required to ensure it is responsive to changing circumstances, including in relation to the economy, local priorities, legislative change, as well as other emerging pressures, risks, and opportunities. Elected Members and Senior Managers are engaged in the process through regular briefings, to scope, inform and review the plan.

The MTFP does not constitute a formal budget. In accordance with legislation, the Council's annual budget must be approved by full Council each year before the 11<sup>th</sup> March. The MTFP supports the arrival at that position, setting out the parameters within which more detailed planning takes place.

The transition from high-level planning principles, to detailed budgets that are aligned to the Council's priorities, is shaped by Elected Members with support and advice from senior management. As proposals develop, engagement is extended to a wider range of partners including citizens, Scrutiny, staff, School Budget Forum and Trade Unions. Consultation feedback is considered as part of the finalisation of annual budget proposals.

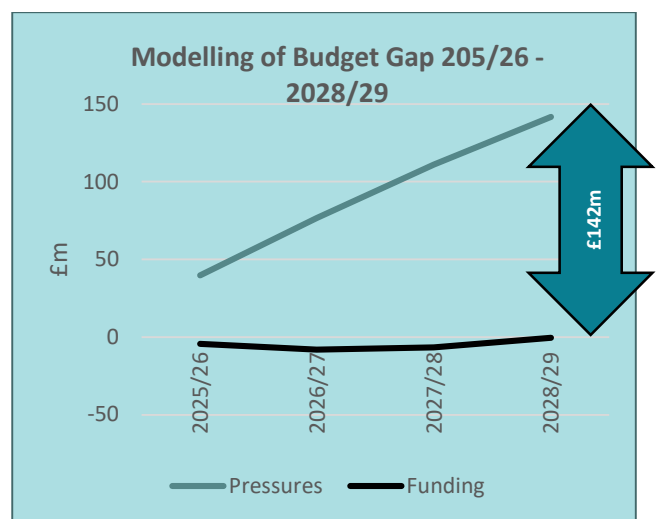
## 1.3 CIPFA FM Code

The CIPFA Financial Management Code is intended to support good practice in financial management and assist Local Authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability. The Code translates principles of good financial management into a series of standards against which Local Authorities should measure themselves.

One of the key areas covered by the Code is medium to longer term financial management, with the MTFP being an important factor in this regard. Code standards emphasise that a robust MTFP should have clear links to Service Plans and Capital Strategy. It should also contain a sound assessment of drivers of cost and demand, with associated sensitivity analysis. The MTFP is developed with this in mind.

## 1.3 MTFP Overview

The MTFP currently estimates a budget gap of £142 million over the period 2025/26 – 2028/29. This is a base case scenario, with sensitivity considered in a later section.



“Budget Gap” describes the difference between the funding the Council expects to receive, and the estimated cost of continuing to deliver services at the current level. Put simply, the budget gap results from funding failing to keep pace with demand, inflation, and other financial pressures. The Council must develop a strategy to address the gap to deliver a balanced budget each year.

# Section 2. Key Considerations

## 2.1 Organisational Context

### *The Corporate Plan*

Stronger, Fairer, Greener sets out the Council administration's policy agenda as agreed by Council in July 2022. The Council's Corporate Plan translates these policy commitments into measurable Well-being objectives. The seven Well-being objectives included in the Corporate Plan 2024 – 2027 are:

- Cardiff is a great place to grow up.
- Cardiff is a great place to grow older.
- Supporting people out of poverty.
- Safe confident, and empowered communities.
- A capital city that works for Wales.
- One Planet Cardiff.
- Modernising and integrating our public services.

Within the Corporate Plan, the Wellbeing objectives are broken down into steps that set out what will be done and by when. It sets out plans to invest in schools, protect the city's most vulnerable, respond to the climate emergency and create opportunity and equality for the citizens of Cardiff.

### *Financial Strategy*



The Council's key financial strategy documents (as outlined above) are developed in tandem with the Corporate Plan and in accordance with the Council's Policy and Delivery Framework. The sustainable development principle is also central to their development. This ensures that limited resources are directed in a way that maximises support for the Council's priorities.

The MTFP looks beyond a one-year horizon. Medium to long term financial planning will continue to evolve and will be informed by business case work on strategies, plans and initiatives linked with the shaping the city's future as these are developed.

The transition from high level planning to short-term detail takes place in the annual Budget and Corporate Plan. These are developed in tandem to consider availability of financial resources as and when required, to deliver objectives.

Given the challenging financial outlook, a funding strategy will not always take the form of a revenue budget or capital programme allocation. In developing a financial strategy that supports policy delivery, there will be a need to draw on earmarked reserves set aside to support change, and to continue to proactively seek external funding and work with partners.

Much of the investment required to support the city's future is capital in nature. The Capital Strategy sets out how the capital investment programme supports the Corporate Plan. It also provides a framework that the Council can rely on to develop a clear, consistent, and informed process to make investment decisions that continue to take the city forward, but which are also affordable in the context of the extremely challenging financial position. The MTFP is closely linked to the Capital Strategy and reflects the capital financing requirements of approved schemes. This, and the MTFP's wider support for Well-being objectives is summarised on the next page.

## Section 2. Key Considerations

Cardiff is a great place to grow up	Cardiff is a great place to grow older	Supporting People Out of Poverty
<p>Education &amp; Children's Services represent 54% of the Council's budget. Unlike most directorates, they have consistently seen net budgetary increases over the last decade and current figures indicate this is highly likely to continue over the medium term.</p> <p>The relative protection of these areas in budgetary terms is consistent with consultation feedback, which has consistently seen respondents place Education and Children's Services as their top two funding priorities in both the short and longer term.</p> <p>The MTFP includes ongoing revenue support for the capital financing of new schools, improvements to the existing school estate and the operation of schools associated with the Schools Organisation Plan and Local Development Plan. It also includes additional funding in respect of additional learning needs, home to school transport, and school catering.</p>	<p>19% of the Council's budget is spent on Adult Services. Like Education &amp; Children's Services, this area has also seen consistent net budgetary increases over the last decade, with a similar picture over the medium term.</p> <p>The MTFP factors in the estimated impact on commissioned care fees of Providers continuing to pay RLW to registered care workers in future, to support continued recognition of the value of the workforce supporting vulnerable older people.</p> <p>The MTFP also factors in demographic growth, recognising potential increases in demand for services for older people and pressure on over-18s Learning Disabilities budgets.</p>	<p>Key to this aim is supporting people into work. The MTFP contains sums to provide core funding to continue the Council's corporate apprenticeship scheme once the earmarked reserve supporting the scheme is fully depleted.</p> <p>As a RLW employer, the MTFP reflects sums to continue to pay the RLW to staff, and within the care sector. The latter results in forecast price increases that exceed the Council's anticipated grant increases over the medium term.</p> <p>The MTFP also notes significant pressures in homelessness. At present demand is supported by the availability of earmarked reserve funding, the longevity of which will be kept under close review.</p>
<p><b>A Capital City that Works for Wales</b></p>	<p><b>Safe Confident &amp; Empowered Communities</b></p>	<p><b>One Planet Cardiff</b></p>
<p>Investment associated with developing a city that works for Wales is primarily capital in nature. The MTFP factors in capital financing requirements of approved schemes and includes additional sums for revenue highways maintenance to support a steady state.</p> <p>Schemes of a scale required to take forward city-change require appropriate due diligence and earmarked reserve funding is set aside to support feasibility studies of new schemes in the medium term.</p> <p>Earmarked reserve funding will also be available to support the delivery of the Euro 2028 football championships in Cardiff.</p>	<p>The MTFP reflects sums to operate a youth zone aligned with capital programme timings.</p> <p><b>Modernising &amp; integrating our public services</b></p> <p>The MTFP indicates significant savings requirements over the medium term. As well as improving services for our customers, ongoing modernisation will be an important part of continuing to drive efficiencies, for example through digitalising our services.</p> <p>Support from earmarked reserves to ensure compatibility with Windows 11 by October 2025.</p>	<p>The MTFP contains funding for the Coastal Erosion Infrastructure Maintenance Fund.</p> <p>Some schemes to support One Planet will require feasibility studies and an earmarked reserve is available for this purpose.</p> <p>There will be considered use of CTS reserve over the medium term to support vehicle replacement, including opportunities to transition to electric fleet.</p>

# Section 2. Key Considerations

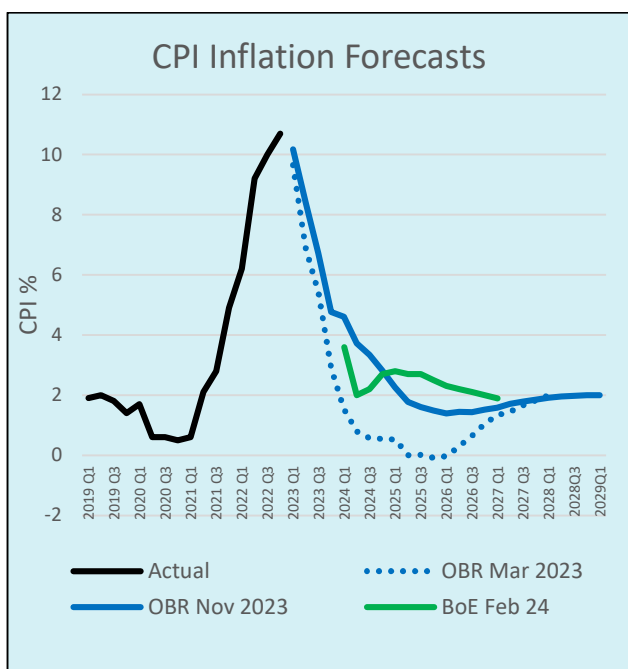
## 2.2 Economic and Financial Outlook

### UK Context

The UK's Autumn Statement in November 2023 was accompanied by an Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) Economic and Fiscal Outlook Report. Compared with March 2023 forecasts, the report suggests the economy has proved to be more resilient to the shocks of the pandemic and energy crisis than anticipated, with the mid-year level of real GDP above the March forecast. However, the economy is now expected to grow more slowly, with weaker productivity growth and lower forecast average worker hours. Stronger business investment, lower energy prices and policy measures to boost labour supply only partially offset the impact of these downward revisions.

### Inflation

In the UK, CPI inflation peaked at a 40-year high of 11.1 per cent in October 2022. Since then, it has declined significantly, albeit not as quickly as initial forecasts suggested. The latest published CPI rate (January 2024) was 4.0%. Whilst CPI outlook varies by forecaster and over time, there is consensus that CPI is likely to remain much nearer to the Bank of England's 2% target over the medium term. This is indicated on the graph below which sets out most recent OBR and Bank of England (BoE) forecasts.



Within the MTFP, more specific indicators of price than CPI are used for forecasting where possible. However, there are areas in which CPI is used to inform forecasts, including for example, as a benchmark for pay award assumptions. The table below summarises currently available OBR and BoE forecasts:

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
OBR	1.6%	1.5%	1.8%	2.0%
BoE	2.6%	2.1%		

### Interest Rates

One of the tools available to the BoE to try to stabilise inflation is to increase interest rates. In August 2023, the BoE raised interest rates for the 14<sup>th</sup> time in a row, to 5.25%, the highest rate for 16 years. Wider economic and UK fiscal factors have also had an impact on UK Gilt yields which determine Public Works Loan Board Borrowing rates for Local Authorities. Whilst interest rates fluctuate with economic cycles, there has been an increase from recent, historic lows, to rates now in excess of 5%.

Existing borrowing is at fixed rates and will not be affected by recent rate increases. However, given the significant future borrowing requirement linked to planned capital investment, there is a risk of increased costs well into the long term. Rates are expected to fall back when inflation is deemed to be under control, however this will not be to levels previously experienced. Interest rate changes will need to be kept under close review in terms of their potential impact on the cost of borrowing, consequential impact on future capital financing budgets and refinancing risk where borrowing is undertaken short-term pending rates falling.



# Section 3. Medium Term Financial Plan

## 3.1 Forecast Financial Position

The Council's forecast financial pressures, funding and resultant £142.3 million budget gap are set out below.

	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £001
<b>Base Budget Brought Forward</b>	<b>849,284</b>	<b>844,915</b>	<b>841,289</b>	<b>842,546</b>

Schools	Pay Costs	7,182	6,655	7,531	8,200
	Price Inflation	(990)	70	80	90
	Pupil Numbers & Commitments	1,043	4,075	3,063	1,189
	Contribution to Band B & Asset Renewal	(1,090)	(1,090)	(1,090)	0
	<b>Total Schools Pressures</b>	<b>6,145</b>	<b>9,710</b>	<b>9,584</b>	<b>9,479</b>

Social Services	Pay Costs	1,336	1,336	1,781	1,781
	Price Inflation	7,952	6,791	6,361	6,567
	Demographic	4,667	4,471	4,161	3,965
	<b>Total Social Services Pressures</b>	<b>13,955</b>	<b>12,598</b>	<b>12,303</b>	<b>12,313</b>

Other Services	Pay Costs	3,125	3,125	4,160	4,160
	Price Inflation	1,343	2,076	2,183	2,010
	Commitments	4,375	1,621	1,233	105
	Demographic Growth	1,650	1,400	600	0
	<b>Total Other Services Pressures</b>	<b>10,493</b>	<b>8,222</b>	<b>8,176</b>	<b>6,275</b>

<b>Capital Financing</b>	<b>5,855</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>-844</b>
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<b>Emerging Financial Pressures</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,500</b>
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<b>Resources Required</b>	<b>889,232</b>	<b>881,692</b>	<b>875,716</b>	<b>873,269</b>
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<b>Resources Available:</b>				
Aggregate External Finance	(621,289)	(618,163)	(619,420)	(625,689)
Council Tax before any future increases	(222,626)	(222,626)	(222,626)	(222,626)
Earmarked Reserves	(1,000)	(500)	(500)	(500)
<b>Total Resources Available</b>	<b>(844,915)</b>	<b>(841,289)</b>	<b>(842,546)</b>	<b>(848,815)</b>

<b>BUDGET REDUCTION REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>44,317</b>	<b>40,402</b>	<b>33,171</b>	<b>24,454</b>
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# Section 3. Medium Term Financial Plan

## 3.2 Key Assumptions – Expenditure & Income

### Employee Costs

The Council is a service-based organisation, and employee costs account for around 40% of gross expenditure. They are therefore a key consideration in Medium Term Financial Planning.

Key factors to consider in planning for future employee costs include annual pay awards, incremental pay progression, Employer’s oncosts (Superannuation and National Insurance) and the Apprenticeship Levy.

### Pay awards and Pay Spine

Local Government Pay is a matter for collective bargaining through the National Joint Committee (NJC), and Teachers’ Pay Awards are set by Welsh Government on the recommendations of the Independent Welsh Pay Review Panel (IWPRB). As there are no agreed pay awards for the period covered by the MTFP, the figures in the table below represent planning assumptions. There is a risk these may add to future budget gaps should they come in higher than budgeted.

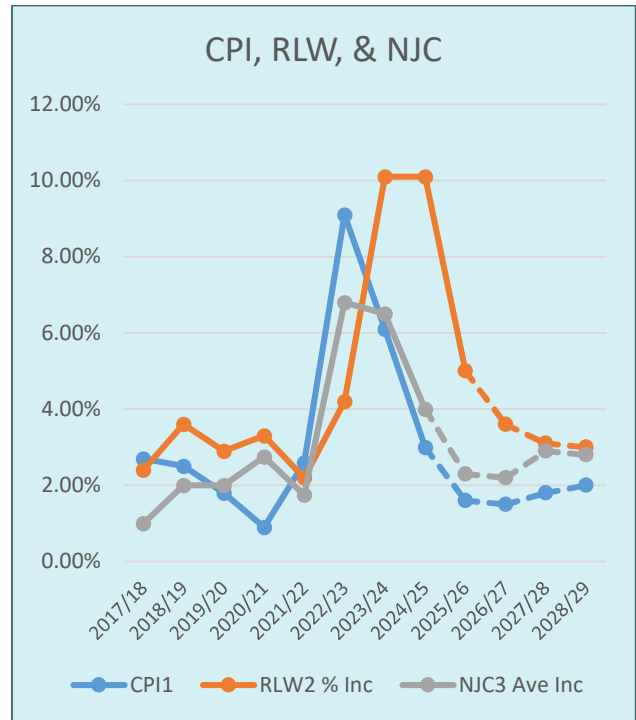
Award	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
NJC	£750	£750	£1,000	£1,000
RLW	5%	3.6%	3.1%	3.0%
Teachers	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.5%

Assumptions are lower than recent year’s pay awards on the basis that current forecasts suggest a much lower CPI over the medium term.

The Council is a Real Living Wage (RLW) Employer. Staff at the bottom of the Council’s pay spine receive a Living Wage supplement, when necessary, to ensure they are paid the RLW. Cost projections over the medium term reflect the bottom of the NJC pay spine remaining at or above assumed RLW levels.

In recent years, NJC pay award have taken the form of a flat rate award on all spinal points. This has the effect of a higher pay award (in percentage terms) at the bottom of the pay scale. The table below shows how MTFP assumptions compare to past pay awards in terms of average percentage increase and

comparison to CPI and RLW. It is important to keep in mind that forecast inflation over the medium term is much lower than the 40-year high experienced in recent years.



These planning assumptions will need to be kept under close review and will be re-evaluated at each MTFP refresh point to reflect most recent information, including updated inflation forecasts.

### National Insurance

No significant changes to National Insurance rates or thresholds are currently anticipated over the period to 2028/29 but this position will be kept under review.

### Employer’s Superannuation Contributions

Actuarial review of the Local Government Pension Scheme took place as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The resultant reduction in Employers’ superannuation contributions (from 20.7% to 19.4%) were reflected in the 2023/24 Budget. The next actuarial review will be as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, with findings likely to affect the 2026/27 financial year. At this stage, it is considered appropriate to assume no further change in contribution rates at that point, but this will be closely monitored in coming months.

## Section 3. Medium Term Financial Plan

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is an unfunded public service pension scheme. Employers' contributions to the scheme increased significantly in September 2019 due to an actuarial review and change in the discount rate (SCAPE rate) used to set scheme contributions. A further material increase is due to take effect from April 2024 linked to the 2020 valuation and further changes to the SCAPE rate.

The financial impact on Employers' Contributions of the first of the reviews referred to above was fully funded by Government, and indications are that the impact of the 2020 review will also be funded..

The next actuarial review of the scheme is due to take place as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The implementation date of any findings is less certain, given delays in publishing and implementing the findings of both of the last valuations.

At this stage, the MTFP is predicated upon the assumption that any change in Employer's contribution rate to the TPS linked to future actuarial reviews would be net nil in impact. In other words that any future increases would be matched via a funding allocation from Welsh Government, over and above core AEF assumptions outlined later in this document. This position will be kept under close review.

### Incremental Pay Progression

No budgetary allowance is made for incremental pay progression on the basis that historic provision in this area over several years, and a limited number of spinal points means that budgets should be adequate to cover the top of each pay grade.

### Apprenticeship Levy

Forecast pay pressures allow for the Council's Apprenticeship Levy to increase in line with general pay uplifts. The Apprenticeship Levy is a Government levy payable by larger employers at 0.5% of annual pay bill.

### Redundancy Costs

The Council has a base budget and earmarked reserve set aside to meet these costs. Current modelling indicates a level of increase in the later

years of the MTFP, linked to the significant savings requirements outlined later in this document.

### Price Inflation

The Council's budgetary approach is that directorates must manage price inflation within existing resources, except in exceptional circumstances. These may relate to the scale of the increase, or the quantum of the budget to which the increase applies. Areas deemed exceptional and included as forecast price pressures include energy, out of county placement costs, NDR and Social Services commissioned care costs.

### Inflationary Assumptions

The economic context section has already outlined the anticipated position with regards inflation and set our current planning assumptions for CPI. Where there are other drivers of price increase, including for example, the RLW, these are set out in subsequent paragraphs.

### Energy

The Council's energy is procured via the National Procurement Service and Crown Commercial Services. Forecast energy costs consider indicative pricing forecasts received as part of these arrangements, (to the extent to which they are currently available). At present indicatives only extend to 2025/26, although there is always a risk of change.

In the 2023/24 Budget, the Council included significant additional budgetary provision for price increases in respect of gas and electricity (almost £12 million). Indicative pricing suggests that energy prices will fall back by c 12%-17% in 2024/25 and by a further 14% - 16% in 2025/26 and this is reflected in the MTFP. Thereafter, the position is more uncertain, and so assumptions currently reflect no further change in pricing beyond 2025/26 for the time being.

### Commissioned Care Costs

Following WG's commitment that registered carers in Wales should receive the RLW, the MTFP includes RLW increases as among the factors likely to impact the future annual cost of commissioned care.

## Section 3. Medium Term Financial Plan

The RLW is usually announced in November to be implemented by RLW employers before the following May. In setting RLW rates, the RLW Foundation take account of inflationary factors during the year (on a more specific basket of goods than CPI), along with other information such as level of benefits and council tax.

This is a difficult area to predict and small percentage changes in this area can have a significant impact on costs as the Council's commissioned care budget is over £150 million across Adults and Children's Services. Current assumptions are based on RLW (which is currently £12.00), increasing by the rates set out below. As with pay award assumptions, this takes into consideration lower CPI projections over the medium term. Projected increases are well above anticipated AEF increases over the medium term, which result in this being a significant unfunded pressure over the medium-term.

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
RLW	5%	3.6%	3.1%	3.0%

The impact of recommissioning strategies will be a further factor to keep under review in this area.

### Fees and Charges (Income)

In recognition that the factors affecting income generation are multi-faceted, the MTFP does not assume a blanket uplift to fees and charges in line with inflation. Instead, fees & charges are developed in line with the Council's Income Generation Framework, which was considered as part of the July 2023 Budget Update to Cabinet. Given the scale of the Budget Gap, there will need to be a continued emphasis on maximising income streams where possible, subject to any identified risks or policy considerations.

### Commitments

Forecast financial commitments include capital-financing costs, increases to levies the Council is committed to paying and the future implications of previous Cabinet or Council decisions. Further detail on each area is set out below.

### Capital Financing Costs

Forecast capital-financing costs reflect the 2024/25 – 2028/29 Capital Programme and the cost of commitments made in previous years. They reflect the following key assumptions:

- No new commitments funded by additional borrowing unless on an invest to save basis.
- Borrowing predicated on incidental revenue income or savings achieve the outcomes expected in order to pay for themselves in the intended timescales.
- Operating models such as for 21<sup>st</sup> century schools and Arena remain affordable and in surplus.
- The timing and delivery of expenditure will be as profiled in the capital programme.
- The assumed interest rate for new borrowing is circa 4% over the MTFP period.
- No change in the prudent provision for the repayment of debt as agreed by Council.
- There remains one pool of debt for the General Fund and HRA, with ongoing consideration of whether separate pools should be created for the HRA and for major projects.

Interest rates on borrowing are currently elevated compared to historic lows seen over the last few years. These will be driven by inflation expectations, national debt levels and international uncertainties and as such remain unpredictable. Future interest cost is a key risk identified in the Treasury Management Strategy. This will be an important consideration in updating and prioritising new investment commitments and affordability considerations, and business cases for projects assumed to pay for themselves.

The Capital Programme includes a number of major projects including the development of a new Indoor Arena. The Arena will result in new income streams over the life of the project to pay for capital financing costs, however the MTFP reflects an element of interim support commencing in 2024/25.

### Levies

Forecast financial commitments include estimated increases to levies. The most significant of these is the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service (SWFRS), with a current Council contribution level of over £24 million. The budget for the SWFRS is levied across constituent

## Section 3. Medium Term Financial Plan

local authorities on a population basis. Estimates reflect potential future levy increases due to population fluctuations as well as potential increases to the SWFRS' overall budget. Assumptions reflect the SWFRS' most recent MTFP (December 2023), plus 1% in recognition that Cardiff's proportionate share is usually higher linked to population factors. Updates to the SWFRS' MTFP will be kept under close review.

### Other Commitments

These include sums to support revenue maintenance, the revenue implication of sums included in the Capital Programme and base budget funding for the Council's Corporate Apprentice Scheme in 2026/27, which is when remaining reserve funding will be fully depleted.

### Demographic Pressures

Key areas of forecast demographic growth, and the associated financial impact are summarised below:

Demographic Increases	£m
Adults Social Services	13.1
Children's Social Services	4.2
Pupil Numbers & New School Costs	9.4
Other	3.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30.3</b>

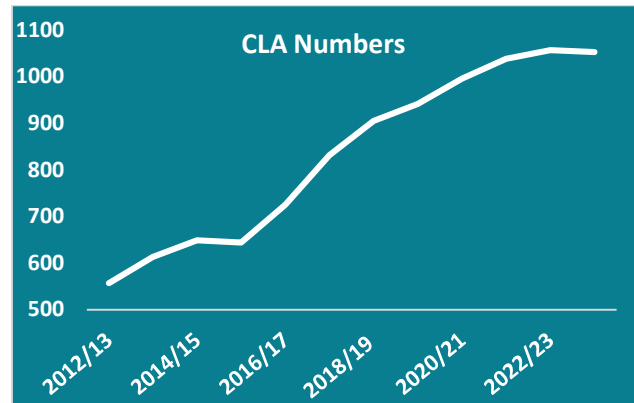
### Adults Social Services

Estimated growth in Adult Social Services is difficult to predict at present. The MTFP includes an annual allowance for demographic growth in this area. For Older People, growth is weighted towards domiciliary care settings, consistent with the Council's strategy to support people in their own homes. This will need to be closely reviewed in coming months, along with wider factors such as the impact of preventative strategies. Historically, most significant growth has been in relation to the Older Persons budget. However, at present, there are also emerging pressures in relation to the Adults Learning Disability budget that will need to be kept under close review.

### Children's Social Services

Estimated growth in Children's Services is also difficult to predict. The graph below sets out annual increases in the number of Children Looked After

since 2012/13 and shows the significant pressure in this area.



(CLA) since 2012/13.

Whilst it is difficult to predict the number and nature of placements required over the Medium Term, forecasts take account current complexity together with preventative strategies. Financial forecasts will continue to be kept under regular review.

### Pupil Numbers & Associated Learning Needs

Pupil number projections reflect the existing pupil population moving up a year group each year. They are adjusted to take account of historic retention rates. Pupil intake in nursery and reception is modelled using Schools Organisation Plan data, which includes published birth rates.

Up until September 2028, projections show a continued reduction in primary pupil numbers and an increase in secondary pupils, although the level of the increases in the secondary sector are incrementally less over the period.

Costs associated with the Associated Learning Needs (ALN) of pupils are more difficult to model. As well as estimating predicted demand, there is also a need to consider complexity of need, as different types of support have different costs. It is also necessary to consider movement of pupils within the school system. Estimates will be regularly reviewed to take account of most recent information.

Future operating costs of schools in LDP areas are difficult to predict and subject to change. Forecast figures reflect schools opening in LDP areas. Each new school may take a different form, with some being starter schools, (which refers to schools that

## Section 3. Medium Term Financial Plan

begin with reception and year one groups only and then grow year on year), and others offering places in all year groups from the outset. Assumptions are high level and will need refinement as development within the city progresses and demand for school places becomes clearer. There will also be a need to gauge whether the take up of school places in LDP areas affects demand in other areas of the city.

Forecasts reflect an increase in the number of special school pupil numbers. This reflects the anticipated completion of SOP expansion works. Figures currently assume that those places would become available in September. During the interceding years, there will be a need to model the extent to which costs associated with the availability of additional special school places could be offset by savings in other areas, in particular Out of County placement budgets.

Forecasts currently allow for a declining level of annual increase in the number of Out of County Placements over the medium-term. No further growth is assumed for 2028/29, on the basis that the availability of additional capacity within Cardiff may avoid the need to place Out of County. As noted in the preceding paragraph, as well as limiting future demographic growth, there will be a need to consider whether the additional capacity may enable savings on existing Out of County budgets.

### Council Tax Reduction Scheme

This budget reflects the payment of Council Tax Support to eligible recipients. At over £35 million, demand on this budget is a key consideration in medium term planning. Sums available in a Council Tax / CTRS earmarked reserve, are considered to provide an adequate level of resilience to potential increases in demand on this budget over the medium term.

Any changes to Council Tax levels impact on this budget. In recognition of this, within the MTFP, modelled council tax increases are shown net of their impact on CTRS.

### Homelessness

Homelessness is another area that will require close review over the medium term. There has been unprecedented pressure in this area that will need to be closely monitored, balanced by consideration of

the extent to which they may receive Government support. There is also earmarked reserve funding in place with regards homelessness that may assist in smoothing any fluctuations in demand, recognising that this is a one-off resource.

### Unquantifiable Risks

There are several potentially high value areas of financial risk within the period covered by the MTFP that are difficult to quantify. In instances where these relate to WG policy, there is also an expectation of funding linked to these issues. These include:

#### Additional Needs Learning

Children and young people with a Statement of Education Need are due to be moved to the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system between January 2022 and August 2025. The Welsh Government is currently responsible for securing post-16 provision for young people whose educational needs cannot be met in mainstream education. Under the Additional Learning Needs (Wales) Act this responsibility will transfer to Local Authorities, and it is anticipated that this will be fully transferred by the end of the academic year 2024/25. At an All-Wales level the funding implications of this change should be neutral. However, details of funding transfers to Local Authorities to cover the shift in responsibility will be a key factor to keep under review in coming months.

#### Ending Homelessness in Wales

In February 2024, Cabinet received a report on the response to the Welsh Government's White Paper Consultation on ending Homelessness in Wales. The report indicated that the far-reaching reforms to homelessness policy and legislation set out in the white paper would have material capital and revenue implications for Local Authorities. These are not currently reflected in the Council's MTFP as the expectation is that change on the scale indicated would need to be supported by additional funding allocations from Welsh Government.



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### Section 117 Supreme Court Ruling on Aftercare

Section 117 of the Mental Health Act places a duty on Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to provide after care for people leaving hospital following compulsory detention for treatment for mental disorder. In August 2023, a Supreme Court ruling changed the rules regarding which Local Authority is responsible for the aftercare. Prior to the ruling, if one Local Authority placed an individual in a specialist out of county placement, the placing Authority, (as the individual's ordinary residence) would be responsible for aftercare. The Supreme Court ruling means that the responsibility for aftercare, including the provision of specialised accommodation, now falls upon the Local Authority where the person was "ordinarily resident" *immediately prior* to the qualifying detention. Essentially, this means that if, following placement an individual is detained again, the "Out of County" Local Authority will be responsible for aftercare. Whilst the precise financial impact of this is extremely difficult to quantify it represents a financial risk for Cardiff given that there are a high number of specialist care providers in the city that accommodate those with significant and complex needs.

### **Emerging Financial Pressures**

Forecasts include £3.5 million per annum to address emerging financial pressures. This reflects the fact that it is impossible to foresee all issues and that additional burdens may arise through new legislation, unforeseen demand, policy change, and grant fall out. Equally, and as noted throughout the MTFP, there is the potential for fluctuations in key MTFP variables.

The inclusion of a figure against emerging issues provides a margin of headroom, avoiding the need to identify additional savings proposals at short notice. Sums included for emerging pressures are kept under regular review and are removed from plans if they are no longer considered necessary.

### 3.3 Funding Key Assumptions

#### **Aggregate External Finance (AEF)**

The Provisional 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement did not include any indicative AEF figures

beyond 2024/25. In the absence of indicative information, future funding assumptions are set out below:

2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
-0.3%	-0.5%	+0.2%	+1.0%

Assumed increases for 2025/26 and beyond take into account modelling undertaken by Wales Fiscal Analysis – a research body with Cardiff University's Governance Centre that undertakes independent analysis of Welsh public finances. The position will be kept under close review given multiple uncertainties, including a General Election within the next year.

The fact that funding figures are based, by necessity, on assumptions at this stage represents a material risk to the Council's financial resilience. This is because minor changes in AEF percentages have a significant impact in cash terms – with 1% of AEF equivalent to £6.2 million. In the event of less favourable settlements resulting in increased savings requirements, the achievability risk associated with such savings is likely to be high.

#### **Reserves**

In the interests of financial resilience, reserves should not be heavily relied upon as general budget funding. This is because:

- It creates a gap in the finances of the following year as reserves are cash sums.
- Earmarked reserves are set aside for a particular purpose.
- Reserves are an important part of financial resilience, providing a cash buffer.
- Cash in reserves is not idle; it generates investment income in line with the Treasury Management Strategy and avoids the need for short-term borrowing.
- The level of reserves held by Cardiff Council may be considered to be just at an adequate level for an Authority of this size. As a percentage of gross revenue expenditure, Cardiff has one of the lowest levels of reserves compared to other Welsh Authorities.

## Section 3. Medium Term Financial Plan

Funding forecasts currently assume £1.0 million use of reserves in 2025/26 and £0.5 million annually between 2026/27 and 2028/29 as general budget funding. This can be accommodated from the Strategic Budget Reserve in line with its intended purpose. The proposed use of reserves is considered to strike an appropriate balance between the risks outlined above and the need to support services. Further information on reserves is considered in the later section on uncertainty and risk.

The above paragraph sets out the position in relation to use of reserves as general budget funding. Over the medium term, there will also be use of earmarked reserves in line with the purpose for which they were set aside – and this will include a range of activities and projects. It will be key that directorates recognise the one-off nature of these resources and carefully prioritise the use of the earmarked reserves to ensure that they are spent on areas of most impact, and within the amount provided.

Individual School balances are determined by the responsible individual School Governing Body who have a responsibility for setting a balanced budget and hold an appropriate level of balances that are neither excessive nor insufficient. Welsh Government require Councils to ensure that high surplus balances are either spent or recovered from individual schools. Equally, the Council needs to ensure that where a school goes into deficit that this is for a temporary period and that a credible and deliverable recovery plan is jointly agreed.

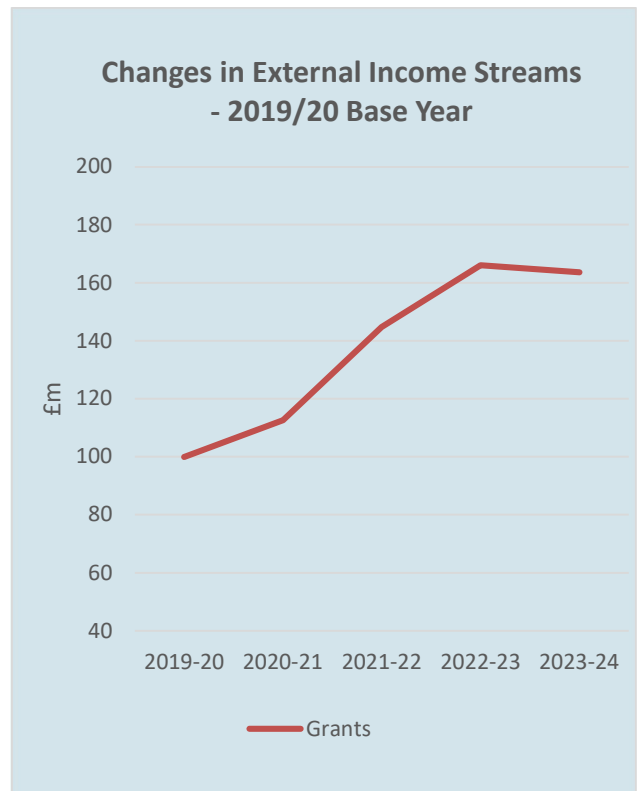
Since 31 March 2022, there has been a cumulative reduction in school balances in the region of £25 million with a likely aggregate balance at the end of March 2024 being circa £5 million. Looking forward to 2024/25 and the next two years, there are cost pressures in schools to the extent that the short-term picture for school balances is that there may be at a cumulative deficit level. This will be due to a combination of up-front redundancy costs being made in advance of savings, full year effect of saving changes and recovering pupil numbers in particular individual schools.

The forecast for 2024/25 is that there will be a cumulative negative balance figure with the likelihood of potential reduction in that amount for 2025/26 and 2026/27 as full year effect of changes

are felt. There is a risk that future budget settlements will reduce the ability of the deficit balances to recover within the next two years but the need for cost reductions in individual schools will need to factor in those pressures coming over the horizon.

### Grant Funding

Specific grants must be used for a particular purpose, which is defined by the grant provider. The funding may only be used for that purpose, and the Council is audited to ensure compliance. The Council receives a significant amount of specific grant funding, notably from WG. The increasing exposure over recent years is set out in the graph below:



*Excludes grants primarily related to third party spend - i.e. HB.*

Over an extended period, Welsh Local Government have pressed WG for “funding flexibility.” This means that wherever possible, funding should be directed through AEF. As well as providing more flexibility for Local Authorities, this would also reduce administrative burdens. Several grants are expected to transfer into RSG in 2024/25 linked to a recent funding flexibility review.

From a financial planning perspective, there is a risk that specific grants may reduce in cash or real terms,



## Section 3. Medium Term Financial Plan

or be discontinued altogether. Real term reductions are a particular risk when inflation and pay awards are higher than usual.

Historically, there are incidences where significant reductions in specific grants have occurred at short notice. This is a risk, particularly because, where grants have been in place for several years, areas they support may have become core activity.

A material risk in relation to specific grants affecting the first year of the MTFP is the future of the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). This is confirmed up until the end of the financial year 2024/25. Whilst there could be successor grant scheme, that is not currently confirmed, and so the MTFP reflects a £2.1 million risk linked to potential issues arising from SPF fallout in 2025/26.

Aside from this, the MTFP is based on the assumption that any other future specific grant reductions would be dealt with by:-

- Reviewing the grant funded activity
- Potentially providing transitional funding through the FRM, (if it is still available)

Over the medium term, some key areas to keep under review with regards specific grants include:

- The further roll out of the Universal Free School Meals Grant, including the extent to which annual inflationary pressures are reflected in the rate at which support for meals is paid. The other risk in that area is that the UFSM grant only covers the difference between providing for the whole population and those assessed as eligible FSM pupils. As such any increase in those assessed as eligible for free schools, or in the take-up of that population group, is a pressure that falls on the Local Authority.
- Arrangements for the Shared Prosperity Fund, which is currently expected to run until the end of 2025/26.
- Tapering arrangements with regards the Regional Integration Fund over the medium term.

## Section 4. Addressing the Gap

### 4.1 Budget Gap

The estimated budget gap for the period 2025/26 – 2028/29 is set out below:

2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	Total £m
44.3	40.4	33.2	24.4	<b>142.3</b>

This will need to be addressed through a combination of savings, income generation and Council Tax increases.

### 4.2 Council Tax

Council Tax accounts for 26% of the Council's general funding. This means that to generate a 1% increase in overall funding, Council Tax would have to increase by over 4% (after accounting for Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)). This is called the gearing of the tax. The Council has little control over the majority of its funding, which is through Welsh Government Grant.

Technical variables that must be considered when setting the Council Tax include:

- The Council Tax Base of the Authority
- Council Tax Support Budgets
- The level of the Council Tax

#### *Council Tax Base*

The Council Tax Base is the number of Band D equivalent properties in the city. In simple terms, it reflects the number and type of dwellings in the city and whether they may be eligible for Council Tax discounts or exemptions. Local Authorities use the Council Tax Base to calculate how much Council Tax they expect to generate.

Whilst other factors affect the Council Tax Base, broadly speaking, property development in an area usually means that the Council Tax Base will increase, generating more Council Tax income. Whilst there is the potential for the Council Tax Base to increase over the medium term, the budget strategy does not preempt these increases within MTFP. This is because an increase in Council Tax Base often results in a reduction in AEF.

#### *Council Tax Reform*

Welsh Government are currently considering a package of reforms to the Council Tax system, and it is expected that these will take effect from April 2025. Results of consultation are still being considered but reforms could include revaluation, a review of council tax bands, changing tax rates for each band and review of discounts and reductions. Further detail on changes is expected to be available later this year. It is not possible to preempt these changes, but development in this area will need to be kept under close review from a financial planning perspective.

#### *Council Tax Support Budgets*

The Council pays Council Tax support to eligible recipients under the CTRS. The current annual budget is over £35 million. The CTRS Budget must be considered when projecting future Council Tax income. If eligibility for Council Tax Support remains consistent; an increase in the rate of the Council Tax will place additional pressure on the CTRS Budget. This is because support must be paid at the new, higher rate. Figures quoted in the next section are net, in that they take into account the associated impact on the CTRS Budget.

#### *The level of the Council Tax*

In addressing the budget gap, it is modelled that Council Tax will increase by 3.95% per annum, which is the average increase over the last three years. An annual 3.95% increase would contribute the following amounts to addressing the budget gap:

2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	Total £m
7.4	7.7	8.0	8.3	<b>31.4</b>

The assumption of annual 3.95% increases is not fixed, will be kept under review over the medium term and is subject to Member approval.

## Section 4. Addressing the Gap

### 4.3 Savings Requirement

The residual budget gap to be met from savings is:

2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	Total £m
36.9	32.7	25.2	16.1	<b>110.9</b>

In addressing this gap there will be a need to:

- Review budget-setting timescales and decision points, given a need for earlier decisions in order to be able to successfully deliver savings at the levels required.
- Target efficiencies, including baseline efficiencies for *all* services.
- Review income streams and maximise income generation where possible subject to considerations of risk and policy.
- Consider the level at which it is affordable to continue to subsidise services of a more discretionary nature.
- Capture the full financial benefit of the early intervention and preventative work ongoing across the Authority, in order to manage the pattern of future demand for Council services.
- Identify opportunities to work across directorates and in partnership with other organisations.
- Target productivity savings to ensure that optimum value for money is achieved within scarce resources, including making best use of digital technology.
- Identify targeted capital investment and asset rationalisation that delivers immediate revenue savings.

# Section 5. Risk and Uncertainty

## 5.1 Sensitivity Analysis

Current MTFP assumptions are based on best available information. However, there is always a risk of change, as evidenced by the volatile economic environment of the last 12 months. Further analysis on plausible future economic scenarios is required, given their potential to impact pay, price, and AEF assumptions in the base case MTFP. The other-overarching core driver of cost for the Council to factor into scenarios is demand for services.

### Scenarios Considered

In testing the MTFP for plausible alternative scenarios, a total of 15 were modelled, capturing the following:

		Demand Scenarios		
		Low	Base	High
Economic Scenarios	Recession & High Inflation	Low	Base	High
	Recession & Low Inflation	Low	Base	High
	<b>BASE CASE</b>	Low	<b>Base</b>	High
	Econ Growth & High Inflation	Low	Base	High
	Econ Growth & Low Inflation	Low	Base	High

The 15 scenarios reflect each of the five economic scenarios being coupled with 3 different demand scenarios – low demand, demand in line with the base case, or high demand. This recognises that whilst economic circumstances may influence demand, there is also the real possibility for demand to fluctuate independently of the economic context.

Recession coupled with high inflation is the least favourable of the economic scenarios. This reflects more sustained inflationary pressure combined with a recession (or weak economic growth) potentially having an adverse impact on funding levels.

By comparison, the “economic growth/high inflation” scenario assumes that whilst inflation remains high, a stronger economic position may allow future funding settlements to support cost pressures. As identified later in this section, AEF is the individual factor with the biggest impact on base case assumptions.

### Variables Flexed

The next table summarises how variables were flexed in key areas of demand.

	Low	Base Case	High
Social Services	Demand is lower as increased cost mitigation is achieved	Increased demand but with mitigating service strategy	Higher demand and lower cost mitigation due to overall service pressure.
Homelessnes	Same as Base	Increasing levels of demand but fully offset by grant.	Increasing demand partially offset by grant.
Pupil Nos	New intake is 5% lower than anticipated – census sees drop in 0-4’s.	Projected modelled student numbers.	New intake is 5% higher than projected student numbers

Flexing of other demand pressures such as waste tonnages and CTRS was not considered necessary. This is because they are currently less volatile, and arrangements already in place are considered adequate to manage any fluctuations at this stage.

The table below summarises how variables were flexed under the different economic scenarios considered:

	Inflation		
	Low	Base Case	High
Pay	1%: 2025/26 1%: 2026/27 1.5% onwards	2.3%: 2025/26 2.2%: 2026/27 2.9%: 2027/28 2.8%: 2028/29	5%: 2025/26 4%: onwards
RLW	4%: 2025/26 1%: onwards	5%: 2025/26 3%: onwards	8%: 2025/26 5%: onwards
Inflation	Key drivers considered on a case-by-case basis given volatile position in respect of areas such as energy, etc.		

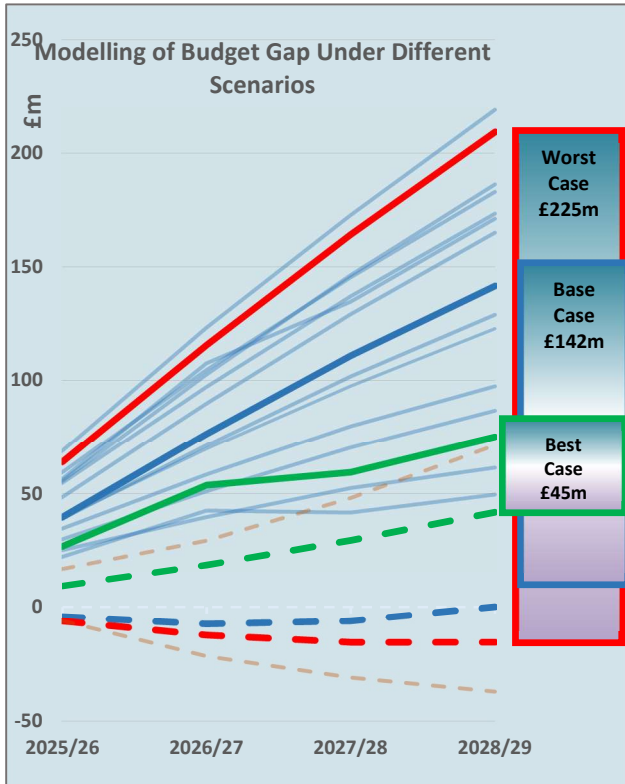
	Economic Growth		
	Growth	Base Case	Recession
AEF	2.75%: 2025/26 2%: 2026/27 3%: 2027/28 3.75%: 2028/29	-0.3%: 2025/26 -0.5%: 2026/27 0.2%: 2027/28 1%: 2028/29	-1%: 2024/25 -1%: 2025/26 -0.5% then -0%

The £3.5 million per annum that is allowed for emerging pressures in the base case MTFP is removed in all other scenarios. This is because it is a)

# Section 5. Risk and Uncertainty

assumed not to be required in more favourable scenarios, and b) the factors it is there to help address will already have materialised in less favourable scenarios.

The resultant scenarios are summarised on the chart below:



Some notes on scenarios:

- The average budget gap across all scenarios was £146m – reasonably comparable to the £142m base case across four years.
- Maximum was £225m and minimum was £45m.

The £225 million and £45 million are extremes, albeit not completely implausible. The £225 million scenario reflects a combination of high inflation & recession coupled with higher demand. This sees higher costs across the board coupled with less favourable AEF. The £45 million scenario reflects high economic growth and low inflation. It sees reduced cost pressures and higher AEF settlements.

The CIPFA FM code suggests avoiding ‘best’ and ‘worst’ case as the only considered options. The following table provides a summary of all modelled scenarios relative to the base scenario which is highlighted in the centre of the table.

		Demand Scenarios		
		High £m	Base £m	Low £m
Economic Scenarios	Recession & High Inflation	+83	+59	+47
	Recession & Low Inflation	-8	-56	-44
	<b>BASE CASE</b>	<b>+23</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>-13</b>
	Econ Growth & High Inflation	+6	-42	-30
	Econ Growth & Low Inflation	-61	-109	-97

## Sensitivities

Scenarios examined the relationship between key variables. The table below summarises the impact of a 1% change in key areas. It shows that the key area of sensitivity for the Council is funding settlements, with each 1% of AEF equivalent to £6.2 million. This is evident in the economic growth scenarios above being a lot more favourable – because they assume a greater level of funding support to help cope with pressures.

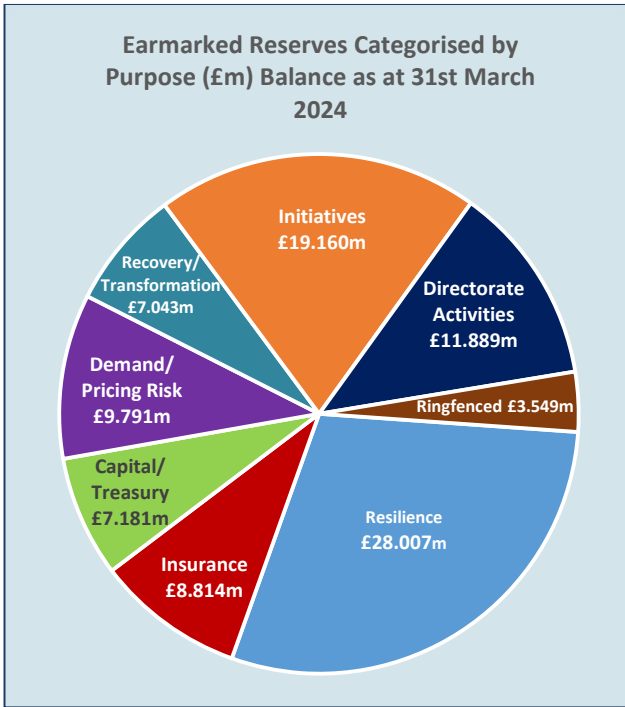
Assumption	£m
AEF - 1% change	6.2
Teachers Pay Award 1% change	2.2
NJC Award 1% change	3.1
<b>Total Annual Impact</b>	<b>11.5</b>

Scenario planning is aimed at identifying plausible alternatives, to inform the scope of financial pressures that the council could face, and the likelihood of an alternative budget strategy being required. This is considered further below.

## Responding to less favourable Scenarios

The Council has in place earmarked reserves to address some of the key risks that have been flexed in the scenario analysis. This is summarised in the graph below which categorises the Council’s projected reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (Council Fund and earmarked reserves).

# Section 5. Risk and Uncertainty



Whilst use of reserves is clearly not a long-term solution to addressing increasing costs, reserves are an important means of managing demand and price risk in the short term. They can also smooth the period over which base-funding may be required to address additional pressure. In a worse-case scenario, reserves would help provide a lead in time to more swingeing savings requirements.

In addition, to earmarked reserves the Council also has in place budgeted contingencies for specific demand issues such as Social Services.

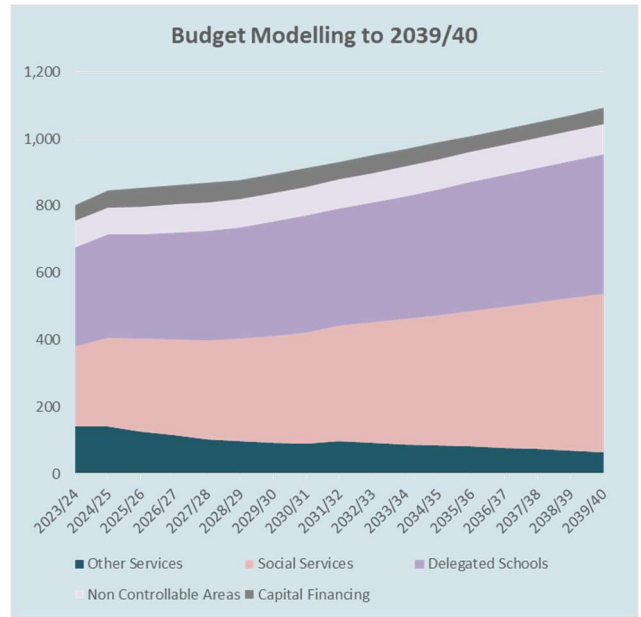
In a worse-case scenario, additional savings measures would inevitably be required. The situation outlined above would provide a lead-in time to enable those to be delivered.

It is unlikely that the worst of all modelled outcomes will come to fruition and there are several scenarios that are a marked improvement on the base case. The base case MTFP is aimed at striking an appropriate balance between too optimistic and too pessimistic, but with an understanding of other possibilities.

## 5.2 Longer Term Outlook

The graph below a potential long-term outlook for the Council’s budget. It is difficult to model beyond

the MTFP due to unknown factors, but the chart is an indication of how things may look in future if historic trends are extrapolated.



The graph shows the continued contraction of “Other Services” over the medium term. As this contains areas of statutory duty, the strategy to address the gap will need to reshape this profile as far as possible.

## 5.3 Key Risks

Key MTFP risks are summarised below, and link to the Council’s wider assessment of financial risk as encapsulated in the Corporate Risk Register.

<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LG settlements - worse than predicted.</li> <li>• Risk of specific grant fall-out, especially where grants support core activity.</li> <li>• Adequacy of specific grant funding over the medium term where the detail of associated initiatives is still emerging – e.g. Universal Free School Meals.</li> <li>• Expected tapering of the Regional Integration Fund</li> <li>• The impact of Council Tax reform due to take effect from April 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Linked</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflation - cost and pay award pressure.</li> <li>• Interest Rates - impact affordability of capital programme.</li> <li>• Economic Growth – weak growth / recession may mean lower government receipts leading to reduced Local Government Settlements.</li> </ul>

## Section 5. Risk and Uncertainty

Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty in modelling demand &amp; particularly complexity of demand, including in Adult and Children’s Services, Homelessness and Additional Learning Needs.</li> </ul>
Financial Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium term savings requirements at material levels</li> <li>• The shape of the Council’s budget – with over 70% now accounted for by capital financing, Social Services and Schools.</li> <li>• Planned use of reserves to support the budget, which will be kept under review, including the anticipated aggregate deficit balance on schools balances in the short to medium term.</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressure on the Council’s pay spine due to the erosion of pay differential particularly at the bottom end of the spine.</li> </ul>
Legislative / Policy Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of legislative and policy change that is difficult to quantify and /or where associated funding streams are currently unclear including the WG White Paper on Ending Homelessness in Wales, full transition of post-16 ALN to Local Authorities by the end of the 2024/25 academic year and the Supreme Court’s August 2023 ruling on Aftercare.</li> </ul>

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# Housing Revenue Account

## 2024/25 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan

CARDIFF COUNCIL



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## **1.1 Introduction**

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) records income and expenditure in relation to Council Housing and is required to be 'ring fenced' in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The ring fencing of the account means that local authorities must not subsidise costs relating to Council Housing from the General Fund (i.e. from Council Tax or from the RSG) or subsidise General Fund costs from the HRA.

The main expenditure items for the Council's 14,020 properties include repairs and maintenance, supervision and management (including tenant consultation, rent collection, housing allocations and property and estate management) and capital financing charges on borrowing (interest and provision for repayment).

The major income streams include rents and service charges.

The above items are in accordance with legislation and the HRA Guidance Manual which sets out the regulations, guidance and best practice relating to the operation of a HRA.

Key services to tenants and leaseholders include management, repair and service costs of the housing stock, tenancy services including anti-social behaviour management, welfare advice and support including the Community Hubs.

Whilst recognising the importance of services to existing tenants, the Council also understands the pressure of housing need in the city. The Council has an ambitious new build programme to help address this and an allocations system that ensures that those with the greatest need are housed first.

## **1.2 Key Objectives and Priorities**

There is a requirement to produce a 30-year business plan for the HRA setting out the service aims and objectives and demonstrating financial viability over the period. This plan is updated annually with the plan for 2024/25 to be considered by Cabinet in March 2024. Key service objectives include the following:

- Building new council homes
- Delivering the new Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023
- Moving towards zero carbon homes
- Providing safe and inclusive communities
- Improving our neighbourhoods
- Preventing & addressing homelessness
- Supporting tenants through the cost-of-living crisis
- Listening to our tenants
- Modernising & improving our services for our tenants.

## 2.1 Rent Policy Framework

The Council sets the level of rents within a policy framework set by the Welsh Government (WG). The 5-year Social Housing Rent policy was introduced in 2020/21 and will continue until 2024/25 and allows for a maximum 1% rent increase above the rate of the consumer price index (CPI). Where CPI is outside the range of 0 to 3%, a ministerial decision is required for that year.

There is no confirmation of the rent policy approach beyond 2024/25. This and other uncertainties particularly around the impact of inflation represent a significant risk to the resilience of the HRA and business planning as the Council cannot control or accurately predict a key component of the plan.

In line with the current rent policy, a ministerial decision was made on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to limit rents to a maximum increase of 6.7% for 2024/25 for all tenants. It was proposed that Cardiff set its rents at the maximum allowed. This was approved by Cabinet in December 2023 ahead of the 2024/25 budget setting and in line with the new notice period requirement of the Renting Homes Wales Act which stipulates 2 months' notice for tenants.

The Minister also confirmed that the commitments made by social landlords in 2023/24 to prevent evictions and support tenants must continue to be implemented.

The rent setting report to Cabinet in December 2023 approved the 2024/25 rent uplift as being at a level which considered the needs of tenants, affordability and value for money, but which also achieved a sustainable budget for the HRA. Further detail on affordability and value for money is set out in section 4 below.

Future rent modelling has been based on WG guidelines and taking account of forward indicators for inflation factors. These currently indicate CPI at an average 3.0% for 2024/25, reducing to an average 1.6% for 2025/26 and 1.5% for 2026/27, rising to an average 1.8% for 2027/28 before reaching the target 2% by 2028/29.

It is considered that these rent uplifts will allow for obligations to tenants and lenders to be met and help to support the financial viability of the HRA whilst ensuring that rents remain affordable for current and future tenants. This level of increase will also allow for the continuation of the Council's ambitious new build plans and future capital programme.

The average rent for a Council home in Cardiff will increase by £7.92 per week (£8.41 based on 49-week collection) exclusive of service charges for 2024/25. This results in an average weekly rent of £134.02 for standard housing stock. The table below sets out the proposed average rent per property type for Cardiff for 2024/25.

<b>No. of Bedrooms</b>	<b>Estimated Average Net Rent 2024/25 49 Weeks</b>	<b>Estimated Average Net Rent 2024/25 52 Weeks</b>
1	£109.22	£102.92
2	£130.64	£123.10
3	£154.06	£145.18
4	£170.85	£161.00

### 3.1 Revenue Budget

The forecast financial position for the Housing Revenue Account for the financial years 2024/25 to 2028/29 is set out below:

		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Expenditure</b>	Employees	29,972	30,724	33,214	34,096	34,870
	Premises - Council House Repairs	25,826	25,674	26,127	26,704	27,316
	Premises - Other Repairs & Maintenance	1,691	2,122	2,212	2,242	2,279
	Premises - Other Premises Costs	7,111	6,944	7,622	8,059	8,427
	Transport	211	214	222	226	230
	Supplies & Services	5,310	5,119	5,789	5,971	6,005
	Third Party Payments	961	993	1,016	1,038	1,065
	Support Services	8,616	8,776	8,956	9,194	9,435
	Capital Financing	33,121	37,417	43,645	47,862	52,383
	Contribution to Reserves	1,600	1,400	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>114,419</b>	<b>119,383</b>	<b>128,803</b>	<b>135,392</b>	<b>142,010</b>	
<b>Resources</b>	Rents and Service Charges	(105,367)	(111,957)	(119,872)	(125,124)	(130,803)
	Fees & Charges	(779)	(785)	(791)	(798)	(806)
	Contribution from reserves	(1,680)	0	(1,400)	(2,600)	(2,600)
	Contribution from General Reserve	0				(800)
	Other Income	(6,593)	(6,641)	(6,740)	(6,870)	(7,001)
	<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>(114,419)</b>	<b>(119,383)</b>	<b>(128,803)</b>	<b>(135,392)</b>	<b>(142,010)</b>

### 3.2 Medium Term Financial Plan

The HRA Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) currently indicates a budget gap of £800,000 for the financial year 2028/29 and a further £1 million gap for 2029/30. This is after assumed net drawdowns from earmarked reserves over the period 2024/25 to 2028/29 to manage the medium-term position. It is proposed to use the General Reserve to cover this gap and to replenish these reserves over the longer-term period.

The budget gap describes the difference between the funding the HRA expects to receive from rents and service charges, and the estimated cost of service delivery and the Capital Programme as currently planned.

This temporary budget gap in the medium term is impacted by increased service demand, inflationary pressures, additional operating costs of new sheltered housing and specialist accommodation schemes and other increased pressures. However, the most significant increase is in capital financing costs as a result of the planned new build programme and the estimated timings of new build completions and availability to let which determines the rental streams available each year and results in a temporary budget shortfall. From 2030/31, the rental income for the new properties will offset the additional capital financing costs, removing the budget gap. A contribution from general reserves is needed to bridge this gap until the new rental income is received, after 2030/31 it is estimated that it will be possible to replenish the general reserves.

To ensure the sustainability of the HRA while meeting additional pressures the service has put in place a range of strategies including:

- Target efficiencies across all service provision
- Review income streams and maximise income generation where possible subject to considerations of risk and policy
- Maximisation of grant funding sources to improve viability of schemes

As stated above the MTFP as set out in Table 3.1 above assumes use of the General Reserve in 2027/28 and 2028/29 to manage this temporary budget shortfall caused by the timing difference between capital investment in new stock and receipt of rental income. In future years and based on current assumptions the HRA achieves a balanced budget and, after replenishment of earmarked reserves, will be able to replenish the HRA General Reserve.

It will be crucial to revisit and review key assumptions on a regular basis in order to test the robustness of the budget and the business plan over the longer period. Table 3.3 below sets out the key assumptions over the medium term.

### 3.3 Key Assumptions

The table and narrative below set out the key assumptions over the medium term.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	%	%	%	%	%
CPI (based on September forecasts)	3.00	1.60	1.40	1.80	2.00
Rent Uplifts (inclusive of CPI and based on previous September)	6.7	4.00	2.6	2.40	2.80
Year End Stock Numbers	14,243	14,472	14,818	15,041	15,297
Bad debts	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Void rents	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75

Key assumptions and factors which make up the HRA revenue budget proposal and capital investment programme include the following items:

- Rent increases in line with WG guidelines taking account of forward indicators for inflation factors (6.7% uplift for 2024/25, 4% for 2025/26 reflecting the OBR forecast for 2024/25, reducing to 2.6% for 2026/27 and increasing to 2.8% by 2028/29)
- Following the end of the current rent policy term, it is assumed that in the medium term the rent bands remain and that rent uplifts continue to be based on CPI +1% where CPI is within the range of 0 to 3% or CPI only where CPI is outside this range - this is considered a prudent approach
- Stock numbers as assumed using data from the planned new build programme and timings of availability for let
- In the absence of an agreed pay award, an average 3.8% annual uplift is included for 2024/25. This equates to a flat rate award (£1,250) on all spinal points in line with the approach agreed for pay awards for the last 2 years (£1,925 in each of the years 2021/22 and 2022/23). Provision is also made for employers' National Insurance and Superannuation contributions, employee incremental pay progression as well as other full year impacts of the costed establishment including Apprenticeship levies and the Real Living Wage. Pay uplifts at a flat rate of £750 are assumed for 2025/26 and 2026/27 increasing to a flat rate of £1,000 for 2027/28 and 2028/29 but are dependent on a number of variables and are subject to risk of change
- Contributions to earmarked reserves where surpluses allow to offset budget deficits in other years
- Drawdowns as required from earmarked reserves as a result of high inflationary cost increases and capital financing commitments in the medium term – further information is set out in the paragraphs below

- A £25.826 million budget has been set for Council Housing Repairs for 2024/25 reflecting the estimated requirements for both planned and responsive maintenance. This excludes the budgets for planning and clerical processing of repairs which are classed as a management item and not repairs in line with the recommendations of the Housing Guidance Manual
- A planned drawdown of £1.5 million from the Housing Repairs and Building Maintenance earmarked reserve in 2024/25 to fund costs relating to a backlog of responsive repairs
- Estimated staffing structures, operating costs and service charge recovery levels for proposed new older persons Community Living schemes and for additional temporary and family supported accommodation
- Capital financing requirements reflect the current and increasing borrowing requirement proposed in the Capital Investment Programme, interest payable of 4%, and the Council's prudent revenue provision policy
- Receipt of the Welsh Government Major Repairs Allowance grant at a constant level of £9.570 million per annum, whilst costs of works for business planning purposes are assumed to increase by 3.5% p.a.
- External capital grant funding assumptions include significant expectations as a proportion of the city's overall allocation for Social Housing Grant and Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme grant. These grants are usually only available on an annual bid process, so make longer term planning and deliverability uncertain
- Inclusion of estimated costs of a number of new requirements as a result of the updated Welsh Housing Quality Standards 2023 (WHQS 23) with significant budget implications, including the provision of suitable flooring for all habitable rooms, staircases and landings at the change of tenancy, provision of water butts and water savings devices and external equipment storage. In addition, the purchase of a new asset database and costs of ongoing stock condition surveys to improve understanding of stock condition and decision making as a result
- Receipt of Welsh Government revenue grant to contribute towards WHQS 23 costs in 2024/25 (subject to grant award and terms and conditions)
- No amount has been included to reflect the financial impact of meeting the WHQS 23 decarbonisation targets, until there is more clarity on the approach and confirmation of any Welsh Government financial support to meet what are deemed statutory targets.



### 3.4 Capital Investment Programme

		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<b>Expenditure</b>	Regeneration and Area Improvements	2,800	2,650	1,650	2,750	2,750	12,600	
	External and Internal Improvements	19,850	22,205	36,975	21,265	15,225	115,520	
	New Build and Acquisitions	109,730	169,045	123,215	94,010	104,750	600,750	
	Disabled Facilities Adaptations	3,900	3,350	3,350	3,350	3,350	17,300	
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>136,280</b>	<b>197,250</b>	<b>165,190</b>	<b>121,375</b>	<b>126,075</b>	<b>746,170</b>	
<b>Resources</b>	Major Repairs Allowance Grant	(9,570)	(9,570)	(9,570)	(9,570)	(9,570)	(47,850)	6.4
	Additional Borrowing	(76,502)	(120,784)	(80,490)	(62,065)	(65,505)	(405,346)	54.3
	Revenue / Reserves	(1,400)	0	0	0	0	(1,400)	0.2
	External Grant and Contributions Estimates	(48,308)	(66,396)	(74,630)	(49,740)	(51,000)	(290,074)	38.9
	Capital Receipts	(500)	(500)	(500)	0	0	(1,500)	0.2
	<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>(136,280)</b>	<b>(197,250)</b>	<b>(165,190)</b>	<b>(121,375)</b>	<b>(126,075)</b>	<b>(746,170)</b>	<b>100</b>

Expenditure commitments proposed over the next 5 years include the following:

- Regeneration and area improvement projects to create better and safer places to live with works including defensible space, road/footpath realignment, improvements to flats, garages, gullies and open spaces
- Investment in existing housing stock for recladding, building safety, priority energy efficiency schemes and to meet Welsh Housing Quality Standards to ensure homes are warm, safe and secure
- Completion of existing house building partnership programme and procurement and delivery of further phases and sites to deliver more homes to tackle the significant affordable housing demand in the city. In accordance with a report considered by Cabinet in December 2023, to also develop actions to tackle the Housing Emergency, with a clear reliance on significant grant funding to ensure plans are deliverable as well as affordable

- Adaptations to dwellings for eligible tenants to live independently and improve their movement in and around the home.

The capital investment programme is reviewed annually in line with the 30-year HRA Business Plan with a detailed schedule to be included as part of the report to Cabinet on the plan.

The capital expenditure commitments for the HRA incurred previously and proposed for the future have a significant reliance on long term and sustainable grant funding in order to be deliverable. In addition, there is a significant need for the Council to borrow in order to invest in homes and to create new assets. This is demonstrated by an increase in what is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).

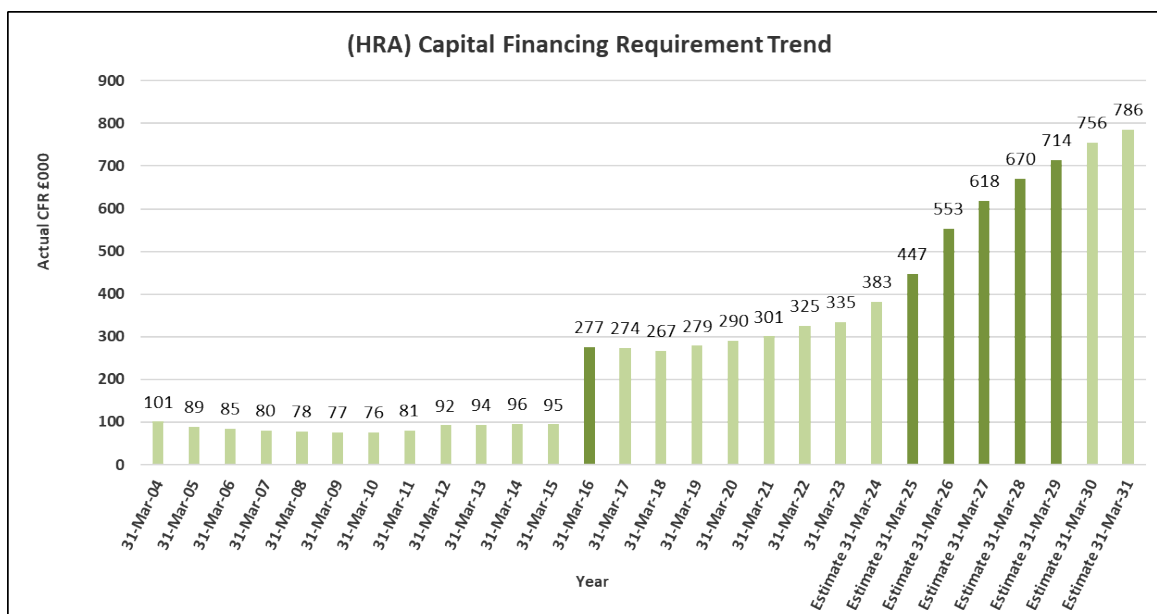
Where capital expenditure has been incurred without a resource such as grant funding to pay for it, this will increase the CFR which is the HRA's underlying need to borrow. A prudent provision is made for the repayment of historic capital expenditure from the revenue budget in line with an agreed policy. This reduces the CFR.

The calculation of the CFR is summarised in the table below.

<b>Movement</b>	<b>Opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)</b>
+	Capital expenditure incurred in year
-	Grants, contributions, reserves and receipts used for capital expenditure
-	Prudent Minimum Revenue Provision and Voluntary Provision
=	Closing Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

The chart below shows the historic trend in the CFR for the HRA since the inception of the Prudential Code. This includes the £187 million payment made to HM Treasury to exit the subsidy system in 2015/16 and the significant capital investment over the timeframe of this Medium-Term Financial Plan to increase the level of affordable housing. The CFR continues to increase significantly after 2028/29.

Overall, this represents a more than doubling of the current Capital Financing Requirement and consequential impact on the revenue budget. Entering into commitments for borrowing cannot be reversed. Accordingly, it is essential that the systems, processes and controls that form the basis of demonstrating the viability of the HRA Business plan are developed in line with key risks with independent assessment where required and robust scrutiny to ensure this remains the case.



The Council's housing stock is required to be valued periodically as part of its financial reporting obligations on an Existing Use Valuation basis. The valuation of HRA land and property assets at 1 April 2023 for accounting purposes is £834 million and allows a comparison with the level of CFR at that date only as an indicator of Loan to Value.

The revenue budget impact of capital schemes for rent payers includes:

- The costs of operating/maintaining new assets
- The capital financing costs of servicing any borrowing required to pay for investment (interest and the Council's approach to making prudent provision for repayment of capital investment paid for by borrowing)
- The revenue costs of preparing and delivering projects
- Abortive costs required to be charged to revenue budgets if schemes do not proceed.

Some or all costs of that investment may be offset by financial and non-financial benefits such as additional rental income, cost avoidance and improved outcomes for rent payers. Whilst additional income may be receivable from rent, without grant income towards costs, rental income will not fully cover costs. Financial viability tools and rigorous governance are essential in ensuring borrowing remains prudent, affordable and sustainable to ensure the long-term viability of the HRA.

The table below shows two ratios highlighting the impact of the increasing borrowing requirement on the net revenue stream (rental and service charge income for the year).

- a) Capital financing costs as a proportion of the net revenue stream - an increasing ratio indicates that a greater proportion of the HRA resources are required to meet capital financing costs over the period
- b) HRA Capital Financing Requirement (Debt) as a ratio of the net revenue stream – this ratio shows the amount of debt proportionate to the net revenue stream

and is an indicator of future financial sustainability. It helps to explain the relationship of debt to the HRA resources available to deliver services.

	22/23 Actual	23/24 Est	24/25 Est	25/26 Est	26/27 Est	27/28 Est	28/29 Est	29/30 Est	30/31 Est
<b>HRA Capital Financing costs as a proportion of the Net Revenue Stream (%)</b>	29.29	28.84	30.13	33.45	36.44	38.28	40.08	40.15	40.23
<b>HRA Capital Financing Requirement as a ratio of Net Revenue Stream</b>	3.76	3.98	4.25	4.94	5.16	5.36	5.46	5.51	5.43

Whilst the financial model currently indicates that the Business Plan is viable over the 30-year period, the MTFP identifies a number of significant risks to variables that will need to be reviewed in detail and appropriate controls put in place to mitigate and manage any changes to assumptions.

## 4. Affordability and Value For Money

### 4.1 Affordability and Value for Money

The WG Social Housing Rent Policy recognises the need to balance the needs of landlords and the interest of tenants. The policy includes a requirement that social landlords make an annual assessment of affordability, cost efficiencies and demonstrate that their homes and services represent value for money.

The WG consider that affordability should include all costs of living in a property including rent, service charges and energy costs.

The rent setting report was considered by Cabinet in December 2023. This report detailed the review and outcomes of an exercise carried out to establish the affordability of living in a council property in Cardiff, using the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) Living Rent Model. This exercise established that the proposed rents for 2024/25 were well below the JRF living rent.

To provide support that tenants need, a wide range of high-quality services are provided to council tenants. These include the Welfare Liaison Team that helps to maximise income and prevent arrears and a Tenancy Sustainment service that supports the most vulnerable tenants. Where rent arrears have accrued, the Council's rent arrears pathway will support tenants whether they are in receipt of benefits or not. As part of the pathway, a new Discretionary Housing Fund was introduced for council tenants in 2023 to provide practical support to reduce or remove arrears. It is clear aim of the housing service to prevent unnecessary legal action and evictions and the service works proactively to prevent homelessness wherever possible with additional services in place for tenants with support needs. There is therefore full commitment to the Welsh Government's requirement that no one will be evicted for rent arrears if they are engaging with the services available.

Value for Money is achieved by focusing on key priorities in the pursuit of social objectives that benefit a range of stakeholders/service users and delivering these priorities in an effective and efficient way. Cardiff aims to achieve this in the following ways:

- Maintaining homes to a high standard
- Building new homes
- Delivering a high standard of tenancy services
- Community investment such as work to increase employability, financial, digital and social inclusion
- Meeting the housing needs of the most vulnerable
- Preventing evictions
- Supporting people to live independently
- Supporting national and local policy objectives.

In order to continue to demonstrate value for money, during 2024/25 and in future years, the Council will undertake the following:

- Review all costs to reflect activity and value for money

## 4. Affordability and Value For Money

- Increase the use of digital services to reduce costs and provide a better customer experience whilst still offering tailored, 1-2-1 support for those that need it
- Seek opportunities to undertake external benchmarking and self-assessment with peers
- Continue to follow the Council's best practice in relation to procurement of goods and services
- Secure maximum value from assets through an understanding of stock and making intelligent (social) business decisions based on that understanding.

This will necessitate an understanding of:

- The condition of stock
- Maintenance costs and investment needs
- Demand within our communities
- Performance of the stock at an appropriate and proportionate level of detail
- Variation in performance across the stock
- Priorities for improvement.

A new asset database will be procured in 2024/25 that will help to achieve this.

### 4.2 Cost Efficiencies

The report to Cabinet in December 2023 recommended the approach to the setting of rents and service charges and outlined a review of the HRA which took place within the Directorate to identify potential efficiencies. These are outlined in the table below:

<b>Service Change</b>	<b>Saving</b>
Reduction in staffing costs through deletion of vacant posts or through the voluntary severance process where those changes can be made with no significant service changes.	£400,000
Reduction in HRA recharges	£74,000
Full alignment of the Welfare Liaison Team with the Advice Service, creating efficiencies and providing an enhanced service for tenants	£62,000
Alignment of senior manager roles	£108,000
Income opportunities within Community Hubs	£20,000

It anticipated that savings identified in these areas will mitigate the estimated £537,000 revenue shortfall arising as a result of the 6.7% rent increase and other cost pressures within the HRA. An Equality Impact Assessment and relevant consultation has been completed where required. This has resulted in the reduction of 16.5 FTE posts.

Additional opportunities for service change that will create savings continue to be explored, including:

## 4. Affordability and Value For Money

- Further increasing opportunities for digitalisation – including the implementation of the My Repair digital solution and reviewing current digital solutions to create efficiencies.
- A review of the Caretaking Team to ensure works are carried out by the most appropriate operatives.
- Full review and documented service level agreements of recharges to and from the Housing Revenue Account, which captures the basis of any recharge, activity levels and an identified and documented performance review process.

### 4.3 Financial Resilience

Key financial and operational risks for the HRA are set out in the Risk Matrix at 5.1 below. The Council has embarked on a circa £900 million new build programme to meet the housing needs of current and future generations. This creates a number of additional risks to financial resilience which must be monitored and managed closely.

The Council will do this by:

- Ensuring that a HRA General balance is maintained at a level that is commensurate with the risks identified in the Medium-Term Financial Plan
- Maintaining specific earmarked reserves in the longer term to mitigate against increasing and unforeseen costs in respect to the new build programme such as the price of materials, uncertain rent policy
- Consider opportunities during the year to review and update the key assumptions and variables within the 30-year business plan aligned to budget monitoring and risks identified
- Continuing to liaise and consult with the WG on future rent policy, highlighting the risk of reliance on future rent increases which are required to ensure that capital commitments currently being entered into remain viable
- Deliverable scenario planning for budget setting, identifying a pipeline of savings opportunities to mitigate and manage an unforeseen or adverse financial impact
- Ensuring improvements in asset management practices and systems to support an understanding of the condition of existing stock and the costs of maintaining it are included in budget and business plan forecasts
- Regular monitoring and review of expenditure against approved budgets at a senior management level, with an enhanced process for understanding the in-year impact of variances e.g. changes in scheme costs and grant income assumptions on the budget framework
- Use of approved viability assessment tools against agreed benchmarked parameters to ensure new build and property acquisitions are affordable and sustainable having regard to variables such as initial cost, ongoing maintenance and repayment of borrowing and rent levels
- Compliance with the terms of reference set by the Housing Development and Capital Finance Board in respect to approval of viability assessments or changes in sites proposed for new housing development

## 4. Affordability and Value For Money

- Tracking of external grant or subsidy to support the costs of development and clear rational to proceed with a project where such funding is not available as part of a viability assessment brought forward for approval.
- Seeking to develop with Welsh Government, a longer term and certain grant funding allocation that would help to ensure the commitments proposed in the capital investment programme are both deliverable and affordable.
- Understand where there are gaps in the capital investment programme, quantify those gaps and work with Welsh Government to develop an affordable funding strategy prior to implementation of works such as the Decarbonisation requirements of the WHQS 23.



## 5. Key Risks and Uncertainties

### 5.1 Key Risks and Uncertainties

Key risks and uncertainties which could impact on the budget proposals for 2024/25 and the medium term include the following:

Risk Description	Impact	Pre-Mitigation Risk Analysis	Mitigating Controls	Post-Mitigation
<p><b>Restricted rent uplift in future years due to changes to the rent policy beyond 2025/26 or to levels of CPI</b></p> <p><b>Uncertainty over stream of income (rents and service charges) means there is no control.</b></p>	<p>Potential impact on level and quality of service provision to tenants and capital schemes that can be taken forward.</p> <p>Impact of affordability, prudence, and sustainability of additional borrowing.</p> <p>Impact on local and national affordable housing targets.</p>	<b>Red</b>	<p>Scenario planning exercise to review revenue operating costs to identify savings and acceptable impact.</p> <p>Review and reprioritisation of the whole Capital Programme and realignment of future spend plans.</p> <p>Continue to liaise and consult with the WG on future rent policy highlighting the importance of ensuring that capital commitments currently being entered into remain affordable.</p> <p>Use of earmarked reserves and general balances to support financial resilience</p>	<b>Red</b>
<p><b>Cost inflation increase above rent uplifts</b></p>	<p>Increase in costs of supervision, management and repairs and maintenance,</p>	<b>Red</b>	<p>Review and reprioritise revenue operating costs and reduce or defer planned expenditure</p>	<b>Amber</b>

## 5. Key Risks and Uncertainties

Risk Description	Impact	Pre-Mitigation Risk Analysis	Mitigating Controls	Post-Mitigation
	<p>including capital contracts.</p> <p>Increased cost of energy and fuel.</p>		<p>(in line with stock condition requirements), including within the Capital Programme where any variations to planned spend are not committed.</p>	
<p><b>A reduction in the (£9.57m per annum) WG Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) grant</b></p>	<p>Impact on achievability and ongoing maintenance of WHQS.</p> <p>Impact on the achievability of the Capital Programme.</p>	<p><b>Red</b></p>	<p>Review and reprioritise revenue operating costs.</p> <p>Reprioritisation of the Capital Programme.</p> <p>Reduce new build or regeneration development programme where other realignment is not possible.</p>	<p><b>Amber</b></p>
<p><b>Failure to meet new build housing programme targets</b></p>	<p>Failure to reduce housing waiting list due to delays to timing of lettings of new build properties. Impact on temporary accommodation and homelessness.</p> <p>Holding costs of vacant sites and revenue costs of development teams.</p>	<p><b>Red</b></p>	<p>Contractual commitment and variance monitoring by budget holder. Finance and performance targets reported to the Housing Development and Capital Finance Board.</p> <p>Using a range of procurement routes including a new partnering scheme and working directly with developers on package deals.</p>	<p><b>Amber</b></p>

## 5. Key Risks and Uncertainties

Risk Description	Impact	Pre-Mitigation Risk Analysis	Mitigating Controls	Post-Mitigation
	Reduction or delay in rental income receivable and resources available to support the HRA budget.		Purchasing properties direct from the market to mitigate any delay.	
<b>Treasury Management</b>	Unplanned increased interest cost payable for any capital expenditure incurred or planned to be incurred which is to be paid for by borrowing.	<b>Red</b>	<p>Integrated Council wide Treasury Management policy and strategy</p> <p>Borrowing at fixed rates where possible to ensure certainty for business planning.</p> <p>Annual Viability parameter governance and approval by Governance Board to control risk.</p> <p>Review of affordability indicators highlighting risk of Capital Financing costs as % of Net Revenue Stream.</p>	<b>Amber</b>
<b>Challenge of Decarbonisation</b>	Failure to plan and invest strategically to meet carbon reduction targets could result in failure to meet WG target.	<b>Red</b>	Work closely with WG to understand key requirements, targets, delivery methods and costs and any penalties for noncompliance.	<b>Red</b>
WHQS23 guidance sets a target date of 31/03/2030 to achieve SAP 75 (EPC energy rating of C) and of				

## 5. Key Risks and Uncertainties

Risk Description	Impact	Pre-Mitigation Risk Analysis	Mitigating Controls	Post-Mitigation
<p>31/03/2034(or as defined by the target energy pathways) to achieve SAP EPC energy rating of A. Significant external funding for retrofit programmes and technological advances will be required to achieve the shift from EPC C to A.</p>	<p>Impact on tenants' energy costs.</p> <p>The requirement to meet the cost of decarbonisation without additional funding will impact on other programmes of capital expenditure and result in significant unfunded revenue budget consequences resulting in an unviable business plan.</p>		<p>Raise awareness with WG of the cost of meeting the targets and the need for grant funding to fully offset these costs.</p> <p>Commissioning of target energy pathways for each property to map the work required to achieve the targets (subject to WG funding and clarification of requirements)</p> <p>Implementation of a new Asset Management database to better record the work needed/ completed at each property.</p> <p>Pilot renewable technology to better understand how the challenge of decarbonisation can be met.</p>	

## 5. Key Risks and Uncertainties

Risk Description	Impact	Pre-Mitigation Risk Analysis	Mitigating Controls	Post-Mitigation
			Ensure new build homes meet the standard to avoid future retrofit.	
<b>The levels of Welsh Government Grant assumed receivable</b>	Initiatives such as high rise overcladding and new build programme are neither viable or deliverable.	<b>Red</b>	<p>Entering into contracts only after confirmation of grants of sufficient level to cover the cost of the works.</p> <p>Early discussion with WG re housing pressures in the City and prioritisation of Cardiff for TACP and SGH funding for certainty of development schemes without incurring abortive costs</p>	<b>Amber</b>
<b>Cost-of-Living Crisis</b>	<p>Impact of cost-of-living crisis on tenants' ability to pay rent and service charges, resulting in increased arrears, requirement for bad debt provision and increased debt collection and recovery costs.</p> <p>Reduction in</p>	<b>Amber</b>	<p>Any rent increase is informed by an affordability assessment to ensure tenants can afford to pay the rent.</p> <p>Information and advice to tenants, e.g. through Welfare Liaison, Advice and Into Work Services.</p> <p>Maximisation of income by promotion of available benefits and specific support</p>	<b>Green</b>

## 5. Key Risks and Uncertainties

Risk Description	Impact	Pre-Mitigation Risk Analysis	Mitigating Controls	Post-Mitigation
	rental income receivable and resources available to support the HRA budget.		<p>Ensuring effective rent arrears procedures are in place, including pathway of support for tenants and introduction of new Discretionary Housing Fund, exclusively for council tenants</p> <p>Regular review of bad debts provision</p> <p>Annual service review to ensure value for money and maximisation of use of resources.</p>	
<b>Ensuring the accuracy of stock condition data, including the implementation of new standards</b>	Planned improvement schemes are incorrectly budgeted for and timescales to deliver are potentially unrealistic.	<b>Amber</b>	<p>Stock condition data is continuously updated with live data and opportunities to survey properties taken to minimise inaccurate information.</p> <p>New Asset Management Database to be purchased and populated with updated property condition and energy pathway data.</p>	<b>Amber</b>
<b>Increased demand for services –</b>	Conflicting priorities within the available	<b>Amber</b>	Tenant engagement and consultation.	<b>Amber/ Green</b>

## 5. Key Risks and Uncertainties

Risk Description	Impact	Pre-Mitigation Risk Analysis	Mitigating Controls	Post-Mitigation
<b>Increased housing need, tenant support and advice, increased repairs and maintenance</b>	resources resulting in the need to ensure service delivery achieves maximum impact.		Robust business planning and budget setting around identified priorities. Management and monitoring of performance and against key performance indicators (KPIs).	
<b>Resilience of the HRA in the face of global issues – refugees, conflict</b>	Implications on existing resources.	<b>Amber</b>	Impact of global issues on the HRA to be monitored and appropriate mitigation put in place as required.  Seek national support and guidance where required.  Reprioritisation of resources as required.	<b>Amber</b>

Review and monitoring of the financial and wider risks identified for the Housing Revenue Account takes place as part of the Directorate's risk identification and monitoring process.

HRA risks are considered within the Directorate Operational Risk Register which is reviewed and updated quarterly.

The development and progress of the New Build programme is reported to and monitored at the Housing Development and Capital Finance Board which meets bi-monthly.

The revenue and capital financial position is considered as part of regular monthly monitoring and reporting processes.

## 5. Key Risks and Uncertainties

### 5.2 Sensitivity Analysis

The assumptions as detailed within 3.2 above are based on best information and will be subject to a risk of change. The table below sets out key areas of sensitivity and their potential annual impact based on the financial year 2024/25.

This is on the assumption that all other factors remain constant, and no mitigation/offsetting actions are in place. In reality, as set out within the Risk Matrix table at 5.1 above this would need to take the form of numerous and varied measures to ensure a viable financial position.

(+ = negative impact, - = positive impact)

Key Variable 2024/25	Revised Key Variable	Financial Impact 2024/25 £	Service Impact	Revised Key Variable	Financial Impact 2024/25 £	Service Impact
CPI and rental income due 6.7%	CPI and rental income due 5.7%	+£0.862m	A 1% reduction in the level of CPI reduces rental income and available revenue resources impacting the flexibility in service provision and ability to meet tenant priorities. Also impacting on ability to meet financial commitments and increasing risk to the affordability of the capital programme in the medium term.	CPI and rental income due 7.2%	-£0.431m	A 0.5% increase in the level of CPI increases rental income and available revenue resources. These additional resources would enable strategic decision making including early repayment of borrowing, increased service investment or set aside of reserves to enhance future financial resilience.
Employers' Pay Award Average 3.8%	Employers' Pay Award Average 2.8%	-£0.393m	A 1% reduction in pay award results in a reduced funding requirement increasing the flexibility to progress other plans and priorities.	Employers' Pay Award Average 5.8%	+£0.786m	A 2% increase in pay award results in an increased funding requirement and the necessity to review and flex other plans and priorities.
Interest payable 4%	Interest payable 3.5%	-£2.075m	A reduction of 0.5% in interest rates reduces interest payable resulting in additional revenue resources available for other	Interest payable 5%	+£4.151m	An increase of 1% in interest payable impacts on the revenue resources available to fund the planned Capital Programme and could result in a



## 5. Key Risks and Uncertainties

Key Variable 2024/25	Revised Key Variable	Financial Impact 2024/25 £	Service Impact	Revised Key Variable	Financial Impact 2024/25 £	Service Impact
			plans or to set aside for increased financial resilience.			requirement to reduce planned service investment and identify other efficiencies such as use of reserves in the short term.
Void rent loss 1.75%	Void rent loss 1.25%	-£0.460m	A 0.5% decrease in the void rent loss increases potential rental income and the resources available to fund planned programmes of investment and service provision.	Void rent loss 2.75%	+£0.920m	A 1% increase in the void rent loss reduces potential rental income available and will necessitate service efficiencies and a review of plans and priorities including use of reserves to mitigate any impact in the short term.

(+ = negative impact, - = positive impact)

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# Capital Strategy 2024/25

Cardiff Council



**STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER**





## Delivering Stronger, Fairer, Greener

In July 2022, the Cabinet approved 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener', a five-year policy programme which sets out the Administration's principles, priorities and ambitions for the city.

These commitments include a strong economy, creating and sustaining well-paid jobs, with an education system that helps our young people reach their potential, with good, affordable housing in safe, confident and empowered communities, all supported by well resourced, efficient public services. A fairer city, where the opportunities can be enjoyed by everyone, where those suffering the effects of poverty are protected and supported and where every citizen is valued and feels valued. A greener city which, through our One Planet Cardiff programme, takes a lead on responding to the climate emergency, including convenient, accessible, safe sustainable transport options.

Practical steps to turn this ambition into reality will require capital investment if the administration is to deliver on its major commitments. This would include investment in new schools and in modernising school buildings, delivering a significant house building

programme, leading a response to the climate emergency, including a transformative transport agenda, and enabling the continued regeneration of the city.

It is therefore crucial that, when long term investment decisions are undertaken, decision makers can rely on clear and informed information. This would include:

- A long-term view of capital expenditure plans and any financial risks to which the Council is exposed.
- Ensuring due regard to the long-term financing, affordability implications and potential risks including those in relation to the climate emergency.
- A clear overview of the Council's asset management planning arrangements and any maintenance requirements that have resource and business planning implications.

The Capital Strategy will therefore continue to help support informed decision making in the delivery of Stronger, Fairer, Greener.







As the capital city of Wales, Cardiff has a nationally significant commercial, cultural and retail offer. It has been one of the fastest growing cities in the UK, the capital is of regional and well as national importance.

Whilst the city has driven jobs creation across Wales over the past decade, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is still being felt in key sectors of the city economy, as well as in several public services, and is likely to deepen existing inequalities across the city. Demand pressures across statutory services are increasing in volume and complexity, and new risks and issues continue to emerge across public services which demand a city-wide response from the Council and partners.

Other challenges remain. The growth in demand for social services, a national challenge

that is keenly felt in Cardiff, places pressure on the Council. Equally, the need to accelerate the shift to net zero carbon means that decarbonisation projects that have the biggest local impact must be costed and funded.

The cost-of-living crisis, in particular, represents an immediate and escalating challenge upon the most vulnerable families and individuals and an increase in demand on statutory services while also increasing cost pressures on the Council. Stronger, Fairer Greener informs the Corporate Plan and identifies the opportunities facing the city and sets out the response to challenges. This is not just a consideration of how challenges are responded to, but it is also about investing in future economic growth and development, prioritising investment in schools, affordable housing, tackling homelessness, and protecting the city's most vulnerable people.

# Strategic Context

It sets out the approach for tackling congestion and air pollution, improving recycling rates and keeping our streets clean, along with a series of commitments to respond to the climate emergency, to create opportunities for local people and addressing inequality. All these will require capital investment which will play an important role in supporting and accelerating the Council's objectives.

Where capital investment is needed to deliver the administration's priorities, the Capital Strategy is a framework that the Council can rely on to develop a clear, consistent and informed process in undertaking capital investment decisions.

Corporate Plan 2024-27: Selected Proposed Capital Schemes			
Cardiff is a great place to grow up	Deliver One Planet Cardiff	Safe, confident and empowered communities	A Capital city that works for Wales
Complete review of Young Person's Services	Design and Build contract for Phase 1 of the Cardiff Heat Network and a Local Area Energy Plan	Expand the scale and pace of the Council house-building programme to build at least 4,000 new homes overall, including the delivery of properties for rent or sale to keyworkers.	Work with the Cardiff Capital Region to progress city-region projects
Deliver a continued programme investment in new and existing school buildings	Business cases for renewable energy generation projects on Council land	Implement a new council-led commercial housing development partnership and innovative housing solutions	Enhance the city centre as a location for businesses and investment and its role as a regional employment centre
Expand the offer of Flying Start funded childcare into new parts of the city	Develop a Housing Energy Efficiency Retrofit strategy	Improve fire safety in homes and comply with the new Welsh Quality Housing Standards 2023	Delivering the regeneration of the Atlantic Wharf site including a new Metro route linking Cardiff Central to the Bay
Continue to implement the Right Place Model to improve services, support and accommodation options for children in, and on the edge of, care.	Support the transition to clean vehicles and a more efficient use of the Council's existing fleet Commence delivery of additional council-led electric vehicle charge points	Transform Bereavement & Registration Services	
Implement the Accommodation Strategy for 2023-26 to address placement sufficiency issues and support the implementation of the Right Place Model	Promote healthy, local and low-carbon food With Welsh Government design and deliver a Cardiff and Regional (Metro) Tram network, which will include:	Invest in our local communities by: Adopting a new Regeneration Strategy to support district, local centres and Neighbourhood Renewal; Developing regeneration opportunities for the South Riverside Business Corridor and the Roath/Adamsdown Business Corridor	Working with partners develop the Graving Docks area
Develop and implement pathways and a joint model of service provision for children with serious mental health and emotional wellbeing issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 1 Cardiff Crossrail City Centre to Cardiff Bay Metro</li> <li>New stations at Crwys Road, Butetown, Cardiff Parkway, Ely Mill, Roath Park, Gabalfa, Newport Road and Pierhead Street</li> <li>Phase 2 Bay to Newport Road</li> </ul>	Investigate and deliver future Community, Youth and Wellbeing Hubs with partners	Delivering the new Multi-Purpose Indoor Arena Development strategy for the International Sports Village
Ensure that all primary schools are prepared and able to provide Free School Meals to all children	Transport and clean air improvements in the city centre including Castle Street and Boulevard de Nantes	Improve our parks and public spaces Work with partners to keep Cardiff safe from the threat of terrorism	To protect and revitalise historic buildings in the Bay. Attract investment into innovation and start-up space across the city and support the sector
Ensure access to appropriate education for the increased number of pupils with emotional health and wellbeing and additional learning needs	Continue to invest in a segregated cycle network across the city	Invest in parks, support grass-roots and community sports. Embed the Physical Activity & Sport Strategy 2022-27 and implement planned improvements to Pentwyn Leisure Centre	Work in partnership with the Welsh and UK Governments to attract and deliver new major international sporting events
<b>Modernise and integrate our public services</b>	Nurture a strong active travel culture in every Cardiff school by 2027	Maintain the long-term sustainability of our leisure centres	
Implement the Hybrid Working Model and dispose of land and property in line with the Corporate Property Strategy	Consider and review road user charging options by the end of 2026 to identify opportunities and benefits for Cardiff residents and deliver transport improvements Establish a programme of Smart City improvements to the transport network	Enhance the support available for people living with learning disabilities and mental health issues	Support the completion of Cardiff Parkway as part of Industrial Strategy for the East of the city
Reduce the carbon footprint in the built environment by 30% by the end of 2025/26	Complete coastal defence improvements in Cardiff East		<b>Cardiff is a great place to grow older</b>
Complete all Priority 1 works to maintain buildings in a safe compliant condition.	Progress to concept design option for Phase 2 of the new Canal Quarter with construction targeted for 2026/27	Work with Welsh Government to deliver a rapid re-housing approach to homelessness	Provide opportunities for all people to get involved in their community, to stay active and connected
Prioritise the development of digital services and data to support improvement and evidenced based decision making	Replace all residential lighting to low-energy LED lighting Localised improvements to our roads and footways, making streets safer and greener Deliver the 'Recycling Strategy for Cardiff 2022-25: Cleaner and Greener' to achieve 70% recycling performance	Increase supported and temporary Accommodation capacity and its quality to address homelessness pressures Innovative solutions to address overcrowding, under-occupation, lack of family and adapted housing	Provide the right help at the right time to help people stay independent at home Deliver new older persons housing which supports independent living



# Capital Strategy Framework

The Capital Strategy is an integral part of the Council's Strategic and Financial Planning Framework.



In 2004, local authorities were provided with the flexibility to make their own capital investment decisions. Legislation, guidance and professional codes of practice were introduced to support decision making and ensure investment and borrowing is Prudent, Sustainable and Affordable. The Council has complied with these principles since their introduction and in various updates. Following consultation in 2021, the CIPFA Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code were revised, primarily in response to investment undertaken solely for financial return/yield.

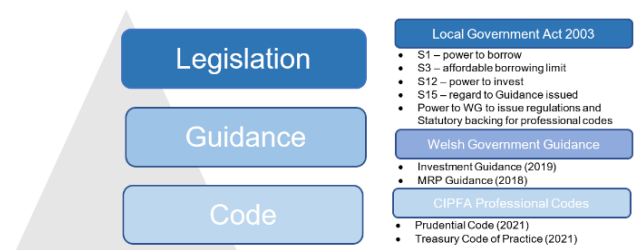
This included requirements to review existing commercial or service investments and to divest where appropriate. It also re-affirmed that an authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return, with the loss of borrowing ability from the Public Works Loan Board an immediate consequence.



The Capital Strategy sets out the Council's approach to:

- working with partners
- asset management planning
- risk appetite
- governance and decision making
- capital investment in 2024/25 and indicatively to 2028/29
- funding the strategy
- managing the borrowing requirement
- prudent Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for repayment of capital expenditure
- affordability.

The remainder of this strategy considers these in more detail. The Strategy forms an integral part of the Budget report and it is recognised that there are various strategy developments that need to take place over the medium term as part of new regulatory requirements, self-assessment feedback and as mitigations to financial resilience risk.



The Section 151 Officer is required to report, in the Budget Report, on the deliverability, affordability and risk associated with the Capital Strategy and, where appropriate, have access to specialised advice to enable them to reach their conclusions.

## Working with Partners

In meeting our ambition to create a greener, fairer and stronger capital city and in delivering our responsibility as the economic driver for the city-region and Wales, we must work closely with partners across the public and private sectors. This is particularly relevant given the financial challenges faced by the Council.

Cardiff has outpaced most other UK cities in terms of jobs growth in recent decades, much of which has been driven by a strategic approach, where the public and private sector have worked together to leverage investment and create jobs and opportunities.

The Council also works closely with our regional partners in the Cardiff Capital Region, local authority partners as well as groups such as the Western Gateway and Core Cities, in formulating our development agenda. Within the city, the Council has significant partnerships with other public sector bodies via informal or formal boards such as the Public Service Board, Registered Social Housing Landlords, charities, universities and colleges to support the delivery of services for its residents, communities and businesses.

The Council will continue to work with Welsh Government to align key priorities and to make a case for a much longer term and sustained approach to capital investment that not only supports the city's vital infrastructure, but also projects that can make a stepped change in helping to drive the recovery of the city, region and nation forward. It is clear that to meet pressures and demand in areas such as new build housing, there does need to be a

partnership approach to funding and certainty in respect to housing grants. Without this, aspirations included in the Housing programme will not be viable or deliverable.

The Council will continue to use its enabling role to harness skills and private funding, to take forward capital investment to deliver improvements and inclusive growth which would not otherwise be deliverable or affordable, and its capital strategy reflects the potential for Council investment to unlock further private investment for the good of its residents and communities. In November 2023, the Council considered the Arena funding strategy and risks and mitigations inherent in that strategy which relies on significant borrowing and market risks in the short term. This will need to be managed closely, and until construction of the anchor project is complete, further major project expenditure by the Council is not to be undertaken, with reliance on development partners to undertake and fund further phases. To do otherwise without certainty following completion of this funding strategy is a significant risk to the affordability, prudence and sustainability of additional borrowing, given the Council's existing and emerging capital expenditure pressures.

The Council will set out its vision and co-ordinate activity between business and government bodies to develop a more productive and innovative platform for investment in the city.





# Asset Management Planning



The Council has responsibility for assets used in service delivery including property, art highway infrastructure (roads, footpaths, structures, lighting) and Council dwellings. It is essential to understand the need, utilisation, condition and the investment and operating cost requirements of assets, whether owned or leased.

The Council's historic retained interests in land assets in various parts of the city has been an enabler to support development and regeneration in the city. The Council also has a strong track record of acquiring assets for regeneration projects. It is recognised that the acquisition of new assets such as land could gain or lose value in the intervening period. However, the overarching aim of the Council is to release the value in the asset once regeneration is complete and these benefits are wider than to make a financial return.

When prioritising investment, it is essential to understand the long-term cost of maintaining and operating existing assets and their fitness for purpose, having consideration of which are deemed essential in continued service delivery, or which can be considered for alternative uses. In order to meet decarbonisation targets it is essential that these approaches are also embedded in future management, maintenance and sustainability requirements. The backlog of revenue and capital maintenance in some key assets is recognised and alternative approaches and options for longer term solutions will need to be considered to address the risks this poses, rather than continued investment by the Council in the same assets. This is neither an effective nor affordable asset management approach in the long term. These will be considerations in reviews of operational

assets including schools, infrastructure and administrative buildings.

A Corporate Property Strategy with Annual Property Plan updates are considered by Cabinet each year. This includes details of asset disposals and alternative uses for assets deemed surplus to requirements, an activity and scope which must be escalated to support affordability of future investment needs. This includes using property effectively across the Council transferring suitable sites for the building of affordable Council housing where approved budgets exist. The Council's housing stock is the subject of an annual 30-year business plan which aims to demonstrate continued viability. This is approved annually by Cabinet prior to submission to Welsh Government.

Understanding condition, future maintenance requirements, costs, systems, climate emergency factors and risks for all assets are key pillars of the Prudential Code. Regular updates and effective scrutiny of such plans, which inform investment decisions or alternatives strategies and mitigations of managing decline, are essential to demonstrate the Council's stewardship of assets.

During 2023/24, a Highway Asset Management Plan was considered by Cabinet. A Vehicles Plan is to be developed and Housing are reviewing alternative systems to ensure data feeding into asset and business planning is robust. The Council has set up a number of working groups that cover activities of property asset management, housing delivery, school organisation planning and major projects. It is essential that the governance of these groups supports effective decision making, stewardship and control of risks and expenditure.



## Risk Appetite

In undertaking complex projects, decision making needs to be supported by proportionate business cases in line with best practice covering strategic, economic, financial, commercial and management cases. Embedding and codifying this in Council processes is not only best practice but is also a key factor in financial resilience which needs to be implemented. For large complex projects, professional independent external advice and services should be sourced to undertake due diligence to understand risks and inform decision making.

Capital investment to be undertaken can be broadly split into two types:

1. Expenditure on **existing assets** to ensure they meet the requirements of service delivery, are fit for purpose, meet health and safety guidance and reduce future costs.
2. Expenditure on **creation of new assets, specific projects or non-treasury investments to meet core functions and service delivery aims.** Non-treasury investment to meet service or Council obligations could include: loans or equity towards capital expenditure incurred by external bodies; subsidiaries or joint ventures; utilising commercial property holdings to retain value.

The Council will not incur expenditure on new **non treasury investments primarily for financial return.**

In respect of 1 and 2, the Council recognises that achieving these aims will require consideration of alternative delivery structures and of all forms of funding, including additional borrowing. Financial austerity and interest rate risk have an impact on affordability, however taking the city forward is not just a consideration of how we manage decline. Capital investment funded by borrowing will be undertaken in priority areas to meet the Council's ambition, whilst at all times clearly understanding how the affordability of such expenditure can be managed over the longer term supported by robust due diligence, a prudent approach to repayment of debt, business cases, risk management and project monitoring.

Commercial property holdings stem primarily from historic interests of land, managed in

accordance with an Investment Property Strategy (Cabinet 2016) as well as the site of the Red Dragon Centre (RDC) secured for circa £64 million for a wider masterplan for the Atlantic Wharf Regeneration. The aim is to review existing land holdings, maintain yield from the estate, remove liabilities, and secure regeneration and marriage value of sites that would support economic regeneration in the city. The valuation of such sites was circa £153 million as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Revenue income receivable from commercial property holdings (exc RDC) for 2022/23 was circa £4.8 million, the income being used to manage the holdings and support the delivery of services. RDC income was £3.9 million for which any surpluses generated are reinvested into the overall project rather than being used to support the ongoing delivery of Council services.

The Council is mindful of the risks of HM Treasury restrictions on borrowing from the PWLB solely for commercial yield. The income receivable from the commercial property portfolio to support the revenue budget is not deemed to be a financial resilience risk in terms of being disproportionate to the Council's overall income. This will be an ongoing consideration, including development of any limits and indicators, where there is a risk of this being disproportionate.

Non treasury investment funded by additional borrowing would only be undertaken after:

- Cabinet approval of a robust business case supported by independent advice
- Consideration of the legal basis on which the expenditure is being incurred
- Affordability and risk assessment of such expenditure over the longer term

It is essential that such a process is codified and applies to all significant projects, else the capital programme may include approved schemes that not only represent a financial risk, but also do not fully consider option appraisal, asset management and delivery risks that secure better outcomes. This includes the Housing Revenue Account where a significant approach to increasing affordable housing and increasing borrowing must ensure a robust viability assessment process is embedded within an effective governance and risk management framework.



# Governance and Decision Making

The Council has processes in place to approve, manage and monitor capital projects arising from the Capital Strategy.

## **Prioritisation, Capacity and Skills**

Following consideration of resources and affordability, capital expenditure requirements are prioritised on the following basis:

- Firstly, to meet expenditure on Annual Sum requirements at an affordable level e.g. mandatory grants and for the renewal of existing assets such as property, parks and highways.
- Secondly, to meet expenditure on schemes previously approved by Council which have been committed to, either contractually or in principal and, where following a review, these are still deemed essential to proceed.
- Thirdly, new expenditure proposed after consideration of:
  - link to strategic objectives
  - risk of not undertaking the expenditure
  - statutory / legislative requirements
  - financial implications and affordability
  - development, review and approval of relevant business cases.

To support prioritisation, avoid slippage and potentially unanticipated additional costs, the Council will need to ensure access to sufficient skills and capacity both within the Council and externally to deliver the investment programme. Such capacity could be project management and development skills; technical and design skills, knowledge, availability of contractors as well as wider market factors.



## **Defining Capital Expenditure**

The Council has determined criteria and eligibility for capitalisation and it is important, despite pressures on revenue budgets, that only acceptable costs are charged as capital expenditure. Any internal recharges of costs should be evidence based and regularly reviewed. Advice would need to be sought where relevant and eligibility is reviewed by Audit Wales as part of the external audit of the Council's accounts.

## **Environment, Governance and Value for Money**

The Council's Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy (2022-2027) ensures that the principles and practices associated with procuring works, goods and services through competition consistently achieve both value-for-money and actively contribute to the Council's priority outcomes. The Strategy aims to ensure that procurement supports the Council to operate in an efficient, compliant and ethical manner to deliver capital projects on time, on budget and to specified quality standards with contractors supporting the delivery of wider community benefits and fair work practices. The Council uses the Welsh Themes, Outcomes and Measures as a scored element on tenders over £250,000 to maximise the community benefits delivered through its procurement spend.

Procurement considers third party spend across budgets and taking opportunities to consolidate and aggregate spend and achieve economies of scale are a key focus.

The Council recognises the benefits of utilising regional, joint and local framework arrangements where they can demonstrate value for money and support the delivery of the Council's Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy seven key objectives. These include three key Frameworks run by the Council – SEWSCAP (Construction), SEWH (Civil Engineering & Highways), SEWTAPS (Technical & Professional Services). Through its One Planet Cardiff Strategy, the Council has committed to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. A significant element of our carbon footprint comes from the indirect emissions arising from

# Governance and Decision Making

the supplies, services and works the Council buys to support the delivery of Council services. Therefore, any reduction in our carbon footprint will need to be delivered through rethinking and challenging what is bought and how it is delivered. The Council is working to embed procurement processes that address climate change and a circular economy approach.

Two new major pieces of procurement legislation were enacted in 2023, the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act and the Procurement Act, both are scheduled to 'go live' in late 2024. The Council is working to make the necessary changes to its procurement processes and systems to ensure compliance with this new legislation.

The Council's process and authority for the acquisition and disposal of land or property is set out in the Constitution. Transactions over £1 million are required to be approved by Cabinet as part of a business case with all transactions to be verified by a valuation.

## Approval, Monitoring and Reporting the Capital Programme

The Capital Strategy informs the Council's capital investment programme and Treasury Management Strategy. This integration is one of the reasons why it is deemed that full Council should continue to consider and approve the affordability of the Capital Strategy and detailed programme as part of the Council's budget proposals recommended by Cabinet.



Council approves the capital investment programme having consideration of CIPFA's Prudential and Treasury Management Code indicators, highlighting the impact of capital decisions on the revenue budget and proportionality, affordability, prudence and sustainability. As part of the information to support options and decision making on projects, Environmental, Social and Governance factors will need to be considered where not already embedded in processes.

Directorates are responsible for monitoring capital schemes, and the reporting of progress in delivering the Capital Programme periodically to Cabinet as part of the Council's Budget Monitoring and final outturn reports. The reports include:

- Forecast expenditure during the year on schemes
- The stage at which projects are in terms of timescale and any issues resulting in delay
- Changes in funding available for schemes
- Any cost increases and how they are being managed
- Virements or other changes required in accordance with the Council's Constitution.





## Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29

The Capital Programme is a five-year rolling programme, initially set for 2024/25 and on an indicative basis for four years thereafter. It has been profiled in accordance with technical advice relating to regulatory processes, timetables and work plans.

The proposed Capital Programme for future years is summarised in the following table.

In comparison, actual capital expenditure in 2022/23 was £216 million (£140 million General Fund, £76 million HRA). Projected capital expenditure in 2023/24 is £305 million (£186 million General Fund, £119 million HRA).

The detailed five-year Capital Programme proposed is included at the end of this Annex.

Indicator						
Capital Programme Expenditure						
	2024/25* £000	2025/26 Indicative £000	2026/27 Indicative £000	2027/28 Indicative £000	2028/29 Indicative £000	Total £000
Annual Sums Expenditure	24,699	18,870	16,700	16,050	16,040	<b>92,359</b>
Ongoing Schemes	43,926	21,841	10,750	4,120	4,790	<b>85,427</b>
New Capital Schemes (Exc ITS)	11,560	10,025	10,000	15,000	15,920	<b>62,505</b>
Schemes Funded by External Grants and Contributions	132,258	103,173	55,205	30,113	26,335	<b>347,084</b>
Existing and new Invest to Save (ITS) Schemes	108,979	126,557	45,657	12,865	5,500	<b>299,558</b>
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>321,422</b>	<b>280,466</b>	<b>138,312</b>	<b>78,148</b>	<b>68,585</b>	<b>886,933</b>
<b>Total Public Housing (HRA)</b>	<b>136,280</b>	<b>197,250</b>	<b>165,190</b>	<b>121,375</b>	<b>126,075</b>	<b>746,170</b>
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>457,702</b>	<b>477,716</b>	<b>303,502</b>	<b>199,523</b>	<b>194,660</b>	<b>1,633,103</b>

\* Includes slippage estimated at Month 9. The final slippage figure, which will be known at outturn, will be reflected in the Month 4 2024/25 budget monitoring report.

The detailed programme includes

- Annual sums such as disabled adaptations and expenditure to improve existing assets such as infrastructure and property.
- Allocations for previous commitments.
- New capital investment proposed in year.
- Assumptions for known external grants and contributions, which are in most cases subject to a bid process.
- Projects proposed based on revenue savings, incidental revenue income or other sources to repay initial investment over time.
- The Housing Revenue Account programme, with a focus on maintaining investment to support the Welsh Housing Quality Standards, cladding and priority energy efficiency schemes, regeneration and significant investment in new Council homes to meet the demand for good quality, affordable social housing.

Local authorities are facing many challenges with capital programmes because of skills and material shortages causing delay and escalating costs in the construction industry. Whilst the Council is successful in securing external specific grants, these are often on a bid basis and approved on a very short-term basis, making longer term planning extremely difficult. Having a ready pipeline of projects that could attract funding, however, maximises the chances of securing funding where this is available. Any such changes in grants will be reported as part of the 2024/25 Budget Outturn Report as well as the approach to setting future years budget strategy.

The budget report also provides an update on the Arena project following approval of the final business case. The proposed programme includes the Council's contribution to enabling costs and an approach to direct funding of the Arena construction by the Council as an alternative for third party funding. This will be

## Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29

funded by annual lease income from the Arena Operator.

The Council is also continuing to develop several strategic projects, which, subject to approval of business cases, due diligence and affordability may be considered for approval as part of future iterations of the detailed investment programme. These include projects arising from the Transport White Paper; Atlantic Wharf Masterplan; International Sports Village; Core Office Strategy; 21st Century Schools and responding to the climate emergency. To support a robust business case approach and inform the next iteration of the capital programme, allowance is made in the revenue budget for feasibility and options appraisal for potential future projects. This includes:

- Adult day opportunities and respite support
- Options in respect to assets with significant backlogs of maintenance such as City Hall and County Hall
- Renewable energy generation projects
- Road user pricing and enabling projects

- Youth Hubs

The Council's One Planet Strategy sets clear targets for the reduction of carbon emissions by 2030. Several significant capital projects have already been delivered or are on the ground that support this aim including the solar farm at Lamby way, Carbon Neutral Housing, buildings retrofit and the District Heat Network. However, meeting the target will not only require additional expenditure, but creative thinking across all areas the Council can influence. As the level of data on carbon emissions and those ideas are crystallised and prioritised, robust business cases will need to be developed and, where capital and revenue expenditure is required, external funding sought, to ensure that adopted carbon reduction targets can be delivered and are affordable in the long term.

Unless funded by future or retained external grant, approval of the above projects will result in further increases in the Council's borrowing requirement.





The Council has several funding streams available to support capital investment. The resources assumed to pay for the five-year capital investment programme from 2024/25 are set out in a table at the end of this Annex.

## **Cash Resources to pay for Capital Investment**

These include:

- Non-ring-fenced grants i.e. for use on Council determined priorities. These include General Capital Grant and Major Repairs Allowance received from Welsh Government. Any grant received late in year may be carried forward as a usable reserve for allocation to projects in future years.
- Ring-fenced grants to achieve a particular outcome and therefore with restricted use as specified by the funder. The main source of external grant is from Welsh Government which, in most cases, follows an application or bidding process for schemes or distribution of grants on a formula basis. The short-term nature of grant awards makes long term planning and delivery of strategic schemes extremely difficult. Where external grant funding bids are made, it is essential that these are in line with Council priorities and include consideration of any revenue budget consequences. Where grants require match funding, the Council will prioritise such support to increase the likelihood of a successful bid.
- External Contributions from planning agreements or other sources. Large housing development sites as part of the Council's Local Development Plan will also impact on the city's infrastructure. Developer agreements either in place or to be determined will aim to mitigate impacts

such as affordable housing, school capacity, open space and public transport infrastructure, subject to the planning process. Where contributions are being requested, sufficiency to achieve the required outcomes should be considered along with any revenue budget implications. The Finance section collates the profiling of sums received over future years.

- Revenue budgets and earmarked reserves held and modelled specifically to support the affordability of capital investment.
- Capital receipts arising from the disposal of Council assets. The Council's approach to receipts is as follows:
  - Prioritise receipts required to meet targets for General Fund Capital Receipts (net of fees).
  - Use of receipts in excess of assumption in the budget to be considered to reduce the level of debt.
  - Where an asset has been funded specifically from prudential borrowing, any receipt arising from it would be utilised to reduce that borrowing requirement.
  - To limit the earmarking of capital receipts only for capital expenditure essential to secure a disposal, to meet the terms and conditions of a grant, where approved by Cabinet as ring-fenced for specific projects or strategies, or where required to be ring-fenced by legislation.

Where Cabinet approve land to be appropriated between the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, this is to be at a valuation certified by a registered valuer with the decision to be confirmed in accordance with the constitution and budget framework.

The actual realisation and timing of capital receipts can be uncertain given the number of variable factors involved. To take this into account, a Capital Programme that includes assumptions on significant levels of capital



# Funding the Strategy

receipts needs to be supported by a clear, approved strategy for the realisation and timing of such receipts. To do otherwise would be a significant risk to the Council's borrowing requirement and future revenue budget pressures.

In respect to the £40 million capital receipts target and the subsequent £1 million increase to this target in 2019/20, £13.3 million was raised by 31 March 2023 and circa £2.6 million is assumed receivable in 2023/24. The approach to meet the balance of £25.1 million is set out in annual updates to the Annual Property Plan, including the key areas of disposal that will be considered. Whilst the overall target remains in place, the budget assumes no income at this stage from c£15 million of potential receipts identified from school sites.

The historic capital investment programme included major development projects that assume capital receipts are earmarked to pay towards initial expenditure incurred on those projects. Examples include land acquisition at the International Sports Village and commitments agreed as part of proposals in respect to East Cardiff/Llanrumney Development. Expenditure incurred in advance of realisation of receipts represents a significant risk of both abortive costs, and to the level of borrowing, and should only be incurred on certainty of receipts and an approved business case. Progress in delivering receipts will be reported periodically to the Cabinet as part of

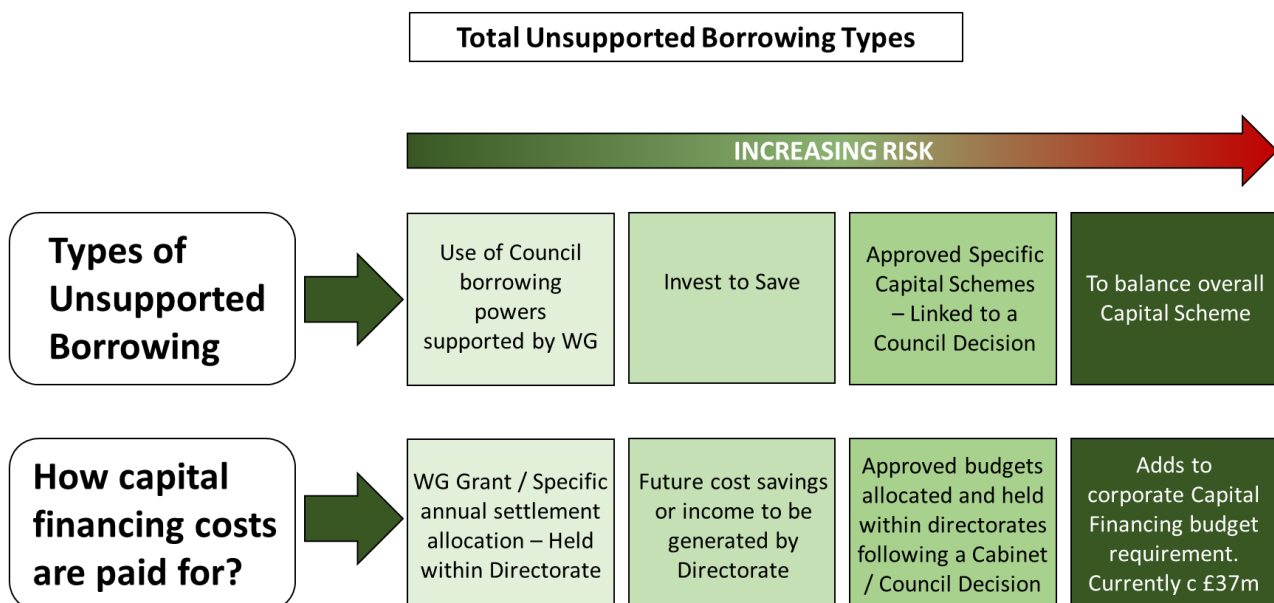
the Council's Annual Property Plan, with a need to review all assets to escalate the level of receipts to support the affordability of future investment needs.

## Borrowing to pay for Capital Investment

There are currently no nationally imposed restrictions to the quantum of borrowing that can be undertaken to pay for capital investment, albeit HM Treasury have committed to review individual local authorities where borrowing is deemed to be excessive.

The Council approves its own affordable borrowing limit as part of the Local Government Act 2003, and this is set at a level consistent with the programme of capital investment proposed. There are two main types of borrowing to pay for capital investment which form part of the Council's borrowing requirement and is managed as part of the Treasury Management Strategy:

- 'Supported Borrowing' - costs of servicing are included within the annual Revenue Support Grant the Council receives from Welsh Government.
- 'Unsupported Borrowing' - costs of servicing to be met from Council Tax, rent, savings, incidental income or sale of assets. The types of unsupported borrowing typically undertaken by the Council and how capital financing costs are paid for are shown below.







Welsh Government itself has been utilising and considering different options to meet the cost of investment, primarily by utilising the ability of local authorities to borrow.

This includes schemes such as:

- Local Government Borrowing Initiative for highways, schools and coastal erosion.
- Providing interest free loans using Financial Flexibility Funding available to them for a range of schemes deemed repayable from future incidental income or enhancements in land value.

Whilst welcome where there is linkage to the strategic aims of Cardiff Council, these present an ongoing risk to the Council as all risk of expenditure remains with the Council and Welsh Government require all funding to be paid back in full in future years.

Following consideration of alternative options, the Council will undertake 'Direct Funding' of the Arena utilising PWLB or similar loans. This



would be at no overall cost to the Council as any costs of 'Direct Funding' and mechanisms to manage initial costs would be met by annual lease income receivable by the Arena operator over the period of the agreement.

The Council will also explore with Cardiff Capital Region and Welsh Government the development of a Tax Increment Finance pilot, a means of unlocking development value through investing in infrastructure, assumed to be paid for from anticipated future business rates.

In assessing alternative income sources proposed to pay for investment funded by borrowing, the long-term risks, sustainability and responsibility for them would need to be clearly understood. Robust business cases and due diligence is essential.

## Leasing

Lease obligations are like borrowing as they have an ongoing revenue budget commitment. Leasing will be considered following due diligence, comparing the financial and non-financial benefits and risks to the Council owning and delivering such assets itself. As part of new accounting requirements from 2024/25, the Council will undertake a cost / benefit exercise to understand materiality and financial reporting implications of assets and liabilities in respect to significant lease agreements.

## Managing the Borrowing Requirement

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy considers how the cash requirements arising from the Council's Capital Strategy and detailed investment programme are managed by external borrowing and the timing of any such borrowing. This is delegated to the Section 151 Officer. Governance and Audit Committee is responsible for seeking assurances that the Council has complied with the Treasury Management Strategy and Practices by demonstrating effective control of the associated risks and pursuing optimum performance consistent with those risks. It is important to note that it is not the role of the Governance and Audit Committee to scrutinise the budget process and controls that determine the affordability, prudence and sustainability of expenditure commitments arising from approved capital expenditure plans.

Where capital expenditure has been incurred without a resource to pay for it i.e. when proposed to be paid for by supported or unsupported borrowing, this will increase what is termed the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) which is the Council's underlying need to borrow. The Council is required to make a prudent provision for the repayment of historic capital expenditure from its revenue budget in line with its agreed policy. This reduces the CFR. Calculation of the CFR is summarised in the table below and results in the need to borrow money.

Movement	Opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)
+	Capital expenditure incurred in year
-	Grants, contributions, reserves and receipts used for capital expenditure
-	Prudent Minimum Revenue Provision and Voluntary Provision
=	Closing Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

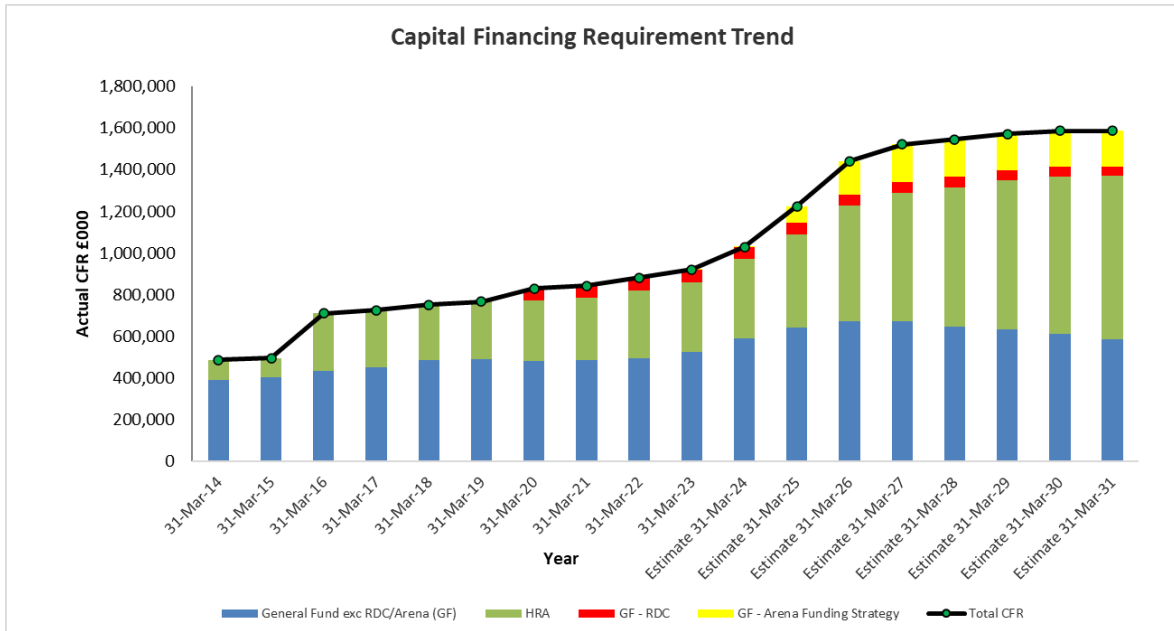
Future projections of the CFR based on the Capital investment programme and resources deemed available to fund it are shown in the table below.

These forecasts are subject to the timing of capital expenditure and receipt of funding sources.

Indicator							
Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March							
	2023 Actual £m	2024 Estimate £m	2025 Estimate £m	2026 Estimate £m	2027 Estimate £m	2028 Estimate £m	2029 Estimate £m
General Fund	525	589	640	671	671	645	634
General Fund – RDC	59	57	56	54	52	51	49
General Fund – Arena Funding Strategy	1	1	81	161	181	179	176
Housing Revenue Account	335	383	447	553	618	670	714
<b>Total</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,573</b>

The chart below shows the trend in the CFR including the Housing Revenue Account.

# Managing the Borrowing Requirement



The chart reflects the £187 million payment made from the HRA to HM Treasury to exit the subsidy system in 2015/16 and future expenditure to create new Council owned affordable housing in accordance with the Housing 30-Year Business Plan. The increase for the General Fund relates to previous commitments and new expenditure commitments, including those assumed to pay for themselves from future incidental income. Given the significance and in line with the Prudential Code requirements, the chart shows the Council's Capital Financing Requirement for the Red Dragon Centre and proposed for the Arena Funding Strategy.

The Medium-Term Financial Plan projections for the General Fund and HRA include the costs of servicing the respective borrowing requirements as well as highlighting the financial resilience risks and mitigations. The

Treasury Management Strategy addresses how the Council will meet the borrowing requirement, including any external borrowing.

The Council can consider various debt instruments, with the main source of long-term borrowing for local authorities being the Public Works Loan Board. Best treasury management practice is that loans are not taken on a project-by-project basis. However alternative options will be considered for specific council projects where relevant, such as leasing, loans from Welsh Government and commercial or community bonds where these would allow financing requirements to be met in an efficient manner. Advantages and disadvantages of such products, supported by external advice in respect of different options, would need to be considered, including risks, track record and cost of issuance.





# Prudent Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

Where capital expenditure is financed using borrowing, the Council has a statutory duty to charge an amount to future revenue budgets for the eventual repayment of that expenditure. This spreads the cost of capital expenditure incurred now, and historically, to future revenue budgets. Decisions in respect of the allocation of MRP have short, medium and very long-term impacts across generations.

Making minimum and any voluntary provision must be considered to be prudent and results in a reduction in the Council's underlying need to borrow, known as the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). Legislation does not define what constitutes a 'prudent provision'. Instead, Welsh Government has provided guidance and examples to interpret that term.

A statement on the Council's policy for its annual MRP is required to be submitted to Council for approval before the start of the financial year to which the provision will relate.

It is proposed that the Council's MRP Policy to apply for 2024/25 and for future years is as follows, with any change in the level, timing and method of provision in year delegated to the Section 151 Officer:

- Council expenditure undertaken based on 'supported borrowing' approved by WG is to be provided for on a straight-line basis over 45 years.
- HRA supported borrowing, which was part of the previous housing subsidy system, is to be provided for at 2% on a straight-line basis. MRP on the significant £187 million settlement buyout payment is to be on a 2% straight line basis, as a minimum.
- Additional borrowing for a general increase in investment, either in the Council Fund or HRA to balance the Capital Programme in a year, is to be provided for on a straight-line basis over the estimated average life of the assets created.
- Any additional expenditure linked to specific schemes e.g. Invest to Save, 21st Century Schools, Arena Funding strategy etc. is to be provided for on a straight-line basis, or annuity basis, over the estimated useful life of assets being created or a shorter period as determined by the Section 151 Officer or suggested periods determined by Welsh Government as is the case with the Local Government Borrowing Initiative.

- Voluntary revenue provision more than the above requirements can be made following advice of the Section 151 Officer. Voluntary revenue provision or overpayments, can, if needed, be reclaimed in later years if deemed necessary or prudent, where disclosed in accordance with requirements and the proposed use and outcomes are approved and reported to Council.
- Subject to agreement of the S151 Officer, MRP may be waived on expenditure recoverable within a prudent period through capital receipts (e.g. land purchases, loan repayments) or sculpted and deferred to, when the benefits from investment are scheduled to begin, to manage any initial revenue deficits or when confirmed external grant payments towards that expenditure are expected. Where this flexibility is used, risks and mitigations should clearly be set out as part of an approved business case and regularly reviewed.
- The MRP charged against liabilities under finance leases, or contracts that have the characteristics of finance leases, shall be equal to the principal element of the lease repayment, calculated on an annual basis.

The policy is consistent with Welsh Government guidance.



## Affordability

Capital investment undertaken historically, and the proposed Capital Programme, form an integral part of the Council's revenue budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan. The revenue budget impact of capital schemes for Council Tax and Rent payers include:

- The costs of operating / maintaining new assets.
- The capital financing costs of servicing any borrowing required to pay for investment (interest and the Council's approach to making prudent provision for repayment of capital investment paid for by borrowing).
- The revenue costs of preparing and delivering projects.
- Abortive costs required to be charged to revenue budgets if schemes do not proceed.

Some or all costs of that investment may be offset by financial and non-financial benefits such as incidental income, cost avoidance and importantly improved outcomes for residents of the city.



Where capital investment has been undertaken by borrowing, the Council is required to spread the cost of that investment over future year's revenue budgets. This is in accordance with its Policy on Prudent Provision for the Repayment of Capital expenditure which is approved as part of the budget proposals each year.

It is recognised that the Council cannot afford to do everything. However, where revenue resources are deemed available to increase the level of Council borrowing, where it needs to do so, this will be considered. The Council's approach to affordability of its capital financing budgets in the medium term are as follows:

- General Fund – Additional investment funded by borrowing over the medium term to be on assets essential for service delivery and following robust business cases (Secure match funding or pay for themselves).
- Housing Revenue Account - increasing over the long term primarily because of implementing the target of new affordable housing. Uncertain future rent policy of Welsh Government, new housing standards and certainty of grants to support a viability assessment process are significant achievability and financial resilience risks.
- Strategic and major development projects – To create specific revenue budget funding strategy for the Arena following an approved business case including any financial provision to manage risk. To cease future direct Council investment in other major projects until completion of delivery of the Arena.

The approach of Cabinet approval of proportionate business cases for significant projects funded by the Council, prior to full inclusion in the capital programme is an essential tool to ensure financial resilience and understanding of affordability and risk.

Prudential indicators and financial resilience indicators included in the Budget Report must be considered in taking a longer-term view of affordability, prudence and sustainability.

The percentage of the Council's revenue budget that is committed in the long term to capital financing costs is increasing. Given the pressure on revenue budgets, this limits the affordability of other priorities in future years and must be a factor considered by members when determining the Capital Programme.



## Affordability



The indicator overleaf identifies the trend in the cost of capital financing (excluding the running costs of schemes) as a percentage of net revenue stream. Financing costs include:

- Interest payable on borrowing and receivable on treasury investments
- Penalties or any benefits receivable on early repayment of debt
- Prudent revenue budget provision for repayment of capital expenditure paid for by borrowing
- Reimbursement of borrowing costs from directorates in respect of Invest to Save schemes.

For the General Fund, the net revenue stream is the amount to be met from non-specific Welsh Government grants and Council Tax, whilst for the HRA it is the amount to be met from rent payers and service charges. These are clearly based on future assumptions in respect to Aggregate External Financing, Council Tax income and housing rents. Any adverse change in these variables may have a significant impact on the outlook and comparators for this indicator.

An increasing ratio indicates that a greater proportion of the estimated future revenue budget is required for capital financing costs over the planned Capital Programme period.

Although there may be short term implications, Invest to Save schemes are intended to be net neutral on the capital financing budget. However, there are risks that the level of incidental income, savings or capital receipts anticipated from such schemes will be delayed or will not materialise. This would have a detrimental long-term consequence on the revenue budget and requires careful monitoring when considering future levels of additional borrowing.

In accordance with the principles of Invest to Save, the net ratio assumes that any costs of undertaking additional investment are recovered over time from directorate or other revenue budgets.

Accordingly, a gross ratio is also calculated which indicates the gross capital financing cost i.e. it represents a worst-case scenario, highlighting the proportionality of such investment.

The requirement to meet any additional costs, in a worst-case scenario, can only come from future savings or from increases in Council Tax or rent. It should be noted that Welsh Government control the HRA Rent Policy. An increasing ratio limits the scope for additional borrowing in future years and reduces the Council's overall flexibility when making



# Affordability

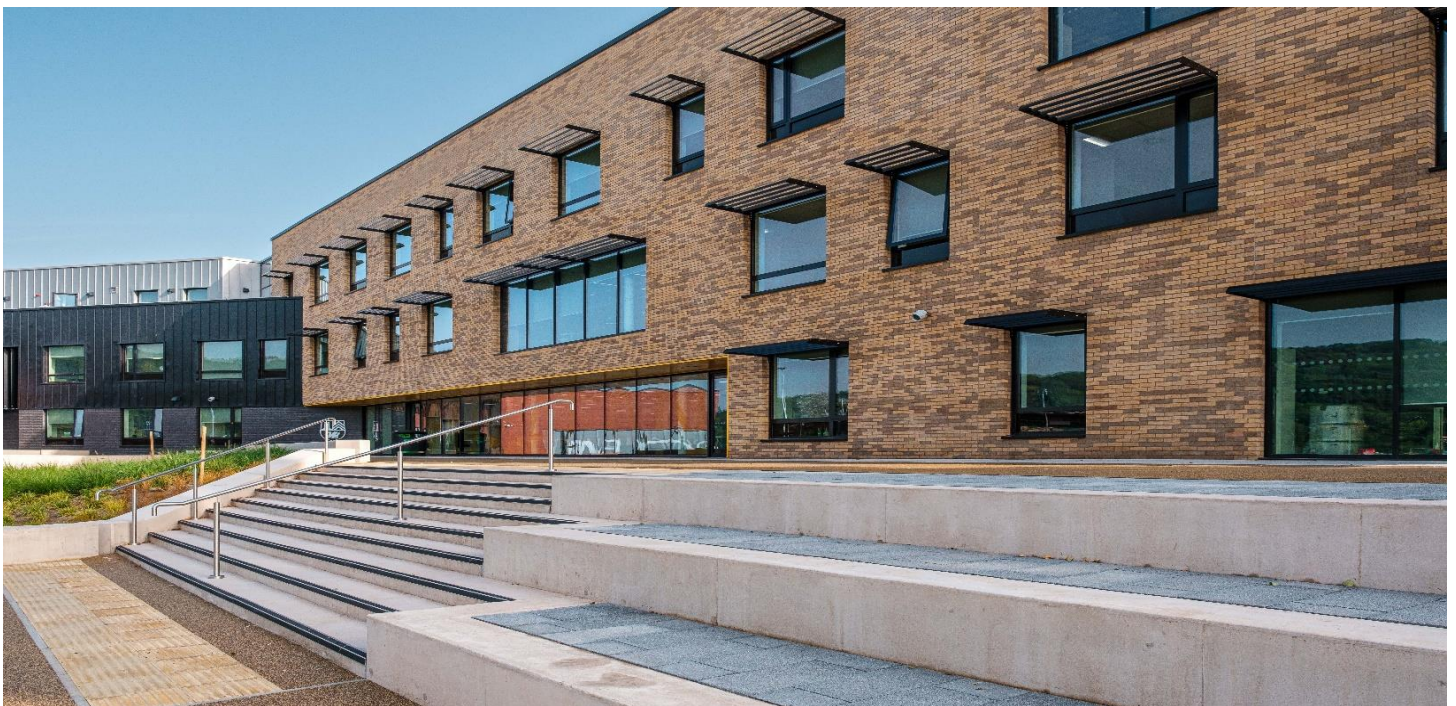
decisions on the allocation of its revenue resources.

Indicator							
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Budget Stream							
	2022/23 Actual %	2023/24 Estimate %	2024/25 Estimate %	2025/26 Estimate %	2026/27 Estimate %	2027/28 Estimate %	2028/29 Estimate %
<b>General Fund – Net Capital Financing Budget</b>	4.05	3.62	4.32	4.80	4.98	4.89	4.70
<b>General Fund – Gross Capital Financing Budget</b>	6.09	5.86	7.13	7.53	8.88	8.89	8.56
<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – Gross Capital Financing Budget</b>	29.29	28.84	30.13	33.45	36.44	38.28	40.08

An additional local indicator is produced for the General Fund and HRA to support decision making as shown below which highlights the impact of the increasing Capital Financing Requirement (Debt) as a ratio of the projected

Net Revenue Stream. It is an indicator of financial sustainability and helps to explain the relationship of debt to the resources available to deliver services.

Indicator							
Capital Financing Requirement (Debt) as a ratio of the Net Revenue Stream							
	2022/23 Actual %	2023/24 Estimate %	2024/25 Estimate %	2025/26 Estimate %	2026/27 Estimate %	2027/28 Estimate %	2028/29 Estimate %
<b>General Fund</b>	0.77	0.81	0.83	0.85	0.84	0.80	0.77
<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</b>	3.76	3.98	4.25	4.94	5.16	5.36	5.46



# References

## Key Documents

- Stronger, Greener, Fairer (Cabinet July 2022)
- Investment Property Strategy (Cabinet November 2016)
- Corporate Property Strategy (Cabinet December 2021)
- Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 (Council March 2024)

## Image Descriptions (in order of appearance)

- Cover – City aerial view
- Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen
- Maindy (Gelligaer Street) Park
- Clare Gardens Regeneration Scheme
- Fairwater Community Campus
- Roath Cycle Path – Artistic Impression
- Llandaff Fields’ Playground
- Parc Tredelerch
- Addison House Community Living Scheme
- Codebreakers Statue – Cardiff Bay
- Arena – Artistic impression
- Cardiff Metro
- Heat Network Energy Centre
- Moorland Primary School
- Cardiff Central Market – Artistic Impression
- Canal - Churchill Way
- Lydstep Flats Overcladding
- Gasworks Development
- Fitzalan High School
- Wood Street – Active Travel facilities
- Dennis E-collect with Chargepoint
- Children’s Services Accommodation

## Attachments to the Capital Strategy 2024/25

- Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 - 2028/29
- Capital Funding 2024/25 - 2028/29





## Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 - 2028/29

		Purpose / To Fund	2024/25 Including Slippage £000	Indicative 2025/26 £000	Indicative 2026/27 £000	Indicative 2027/28 £000	Indicative 2028/29 £000	Total £000
<b>Annual Sums Expenditure</b>								
1	Disabled Adaptations Grants (see also Public Housing)	adaptations and internal modifications to allow the recipient to live independently within their own home.	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
2	Owner Occupier Costs - Housing Regeneration	owner occupier costs of improvements to housing and boundary walls as part of public housing regeneration schemes.	323	200	200	200	200	1,123
3	Alleygating	prevention of anti-social behaviour with other benefits such as reduced street cleansing and highway maintenance costs.	19	100	100	100	100	419
4	Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes (NRS)	completion of local regeneration schemes based on ward member priorities. Future phases from Shared Prosperity Fund and external grant funding.	260	200	0	0	0	460
5	Schools Property Asset Renewal	improving the condition of the schools property stock within the Council in accordance with Directorate Asset Management plans and priority works arising from surveys. Health and Safety and Additional Learning Needs Strategy.	5,794	0	0	0	0	5,794
6	Carriageway Investment	road resurfacing - priorities based on annual engineering inspections.	3,950	3,350	3,350	3,350	3,350	17,350
7	Footway Investment	footway resurfacing including implementation of dropped kerbs - priorities based on annual engineering inspections.	595	595	595	595	595	2,975
8	Street Lighting Renewals	replacement and installation of new street lighting columns including renewal of electrical cabling.	500	1,840	270	270	270	3,150
9	Highway Structures including Bridges	the strengthening or replacement of sub standard bridges, culverts and other highways structures following principal inspection reports.	1,231	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,235	6,156
10	Bus Corridor Improvements	bus corridor improvements with a focus on securing match funding.	335	335	335	335	335	1,675
11	Road Safety Schemes	local network improvements including junction and pedestrian safety improvements, with a focus on securing match funding.	335	335	335	335	335	1,675
12	Telematics / Butetown Tunnel	transportation infrastructure improvements including CCTV systems.	580	630	630	630	630	3,100
13	Transport Grant Match Funding	match funding for Council bids to Welsh Government for transport schemes.	716	375	375	375	375	2,216
14	Strategic Cycle Network Development	implementation and match funding of the Cycling Strategy as prioritised in the integrated network map. Installation of cycle parking and network improvements to improve network permeability.	1,000	800	800	400	400	3,400
15	Materials Recycling Facility	upgrades to minimise downtime at the Materials Recycling Facility.	45	45	45	45	45	225
16	Waste Recycling and Depot Site Infrastructure	safety improvements at waste management facilities, skip renewal and retaining wall replacement.	160	100	100	100	100	560
17	Non Schools Property Asset Renewal	improvements to the condition of the non-schools property stock within the Council in accordance with Directorate Asset Management Plans and priority works.	2,105	2,355	2,105	1,855	1,855	10,275
18	Parks Infrastructure	improvements to existing parks infrastructure e.g. allotments, hard surfaces, sports fields, parks utilities and outdoor leisure facilities.	140	140	140	140	140	700
19	Play Equipment	replacement of existing play equipment in parks.	176	190	190	190	190	936
20	Teen/Adult Informal Sport and Fitness Facilities	improvements to the condition of priority MUGA's, fitness equipment, BMX tracks and skate parks.	610	300	200	200	200	1,510
21	Green Flag Park Infrastructure Renewal	the replacement of ageing infrastructure in existing Green Flag parks to support assessment criteria.	125	150	100	100	100	575
22	ICT Refresh	replacement of failing / non compliant hardware for corporate systems.	700	600	600	600	585	3,085
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL SUMS</b>			<b>24,699</b>	<b>18,870</b>	<b>16,700</b>	<b>16,050</b>	<b>16,040</b>	<b>92,359</b>

<b>Ongoing Schemes / Amendments to Ongoing Schemes</b>								
23	Joint Equipment Store and Multidisciplinary Independent Living Wellbeing Centre	consolidated warehouse accommodation for the Joint Equipment Service together alongside a co-located Independent Living Services (ILS) team of multiservice provision and resources to form an Independent Living Wellbeing Centre. Subject to a further Cabinet report and business case approval and confirmation of funding from Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and external grant funding for the Wellbeing Centre.	0	1,101	0	0	0	1,101
24	City Centre Youth Hub	contribution to create a multi agency Youth Hub, subject to confirmation of site, a Cabinet report and business case.	99	500	1,400	0	0	1,999

## Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 - 2028/29

		Purpose / To Fund	2024/25 Including Slippage £000	Indicative 2025/26 £000	Indicative 2026/27 £000	Indicative 2027/28 £000	Indicative 2028/29 £000	Total £000
25	District and Local Centre Regeneration	amplify the importance of local spaces, local shopping and services for communities. Includes public realm and green space improvements, community safety measures and improved neighbourhood facilities to help communities to adapt and thrive.	0	400	400	400	400	1,600
26	Canton Community Hub	contribution towards development of community space in new housing development at former Canton Community Centre.	750	200	0	0	0	950
27	Children's Services Accommodation - Crosslands	the balance of proceeds from disposal of 150 Thornhill Road ring-fenced for Crosslands to provide internal laundry provision; kitchen extension and remodelling of offices.	229	0	0	0	0	229
28	Children's Respite Provision	requirements based on an assessment of respite services to meet the needs of young people, including at Ty Storrie.	36	0	1,435	1,450	0	2,921
29	Safer Accommodation - Displacement	to support Children's Services Accommodation Strategy, Council funding to displace previously approved Intermediate Care Fund grant.	485	0	0	0	0	485
30	21st Century Schools Band B - Council Contribution	balance of £25m Council capital programme contribution to the Band B financial model to supplement expenditure funded by Welsh Government grant.	10,000	2,500	0	0	0	12,500
31	City Centre Transport Schemes	the design and implementation of City Centre Transport Improvements along with any approved Welsh Government or other external funding sources.	0	750	0	0	0	750
32	City Centre Transport Impact - enabling works	works and smart corridors to mitigate impact of City Centre transportation improvements, being undertaken as part of the Clean Air Direction, in adjacent wards and key routes.	726	1,000	0	0	0	1,726
33	Western Transport Bus Interchange	a public transport interchange in the west of the city as part of the redevelopment of the former Household Waste Recycling Centre.	475	800	0	0	0	1,275
34	Cycling Infrastructure (Priority Cycle Routes)	connected routes creating a network for cyclists to safely use and facilitate a significant mode shift from private car to cycling resulting in improved road safety and reducing congestion.	0	750	750	0	0	1,500
35	Bereavement Asset Renewal	a segregated asset renewal allocation for bereavement services to allow more of the bereavement reserve to be support the revenue costs of the service.	143	130	130	130	1,010	1,543
36	Coastal Risk Management Programme - construction match funding	a scheme to manage flood and erosion risk at the estuary of the river Rumney. Welsh Government contribution of c£30m is in the form of borrowing approval to be repaid from WG grant over a 25 year period.	2,216	2,200	0	0	0	4,416
37	Flooding and Drainage	match funding towards priority schemes to alleviate flooding, where there is an approved business case and WG grant funding is in place following an application process. Business cases and funding bids being developed for projects at Whitchurch and Rumney.	14	300	500	90	30	934
38	One Planet Strategy - small schemes and match funding	investment in smaller schemes to support the strategy. Priorities for capital expenditure and match funding for external grants to be managed within allocation in accordance with agreed governance process.	685	500	500	400	300	2,385
39	New Recycling, Repair and Re-use Facilities	exploration of options in the North of the city and any required land acquisition for new Household Waste Recycling, Repair and Re-use facilities in partnership with the third sector.	0	200	1,475	1,650	0	3,325
40	Waste Recycling and Collection Review	implementation of approved options arising from a review of the Recycling Service Strategy that meets current and future targets and aspirations.	275	250	0	0	0	525
41	Arena Enabling works contribution	council's contribution to enabling costs for arena funding model.	19,650	0	0	0	0	19,650
42	East Cardiff Industrial and Regeneration Strategy	contribution of £1.5m to a new bridge and road link between Llanrumney estate and the A48. Subject to planning also to contribute £1.5m S106 for transport. Maximum contribution of £3m.	0	1,500	0	0	0	1,500
43	Cardiff Indoor Market Restoration	investment in the fabric of the building to improve appearance, tackle known structural issues and enhance its commercial attractiveness.	135	450	0	0	0	585
44	Community Asset Transfer	prime essential capital improvement works to buildings which local community groups are looking to take over from the Council. Maximum individual award of £25k.	98	0	0	0	0	98
45	Flatholm Island - NLHF Project 'A Walk Through Time'	council contribution towards the delivery phase following successful application to the Heritage Grants Scheme. The project aims to fund the stabilisation and restoration heritage assets on the island.	200	520	0	0	0	720
46	Roath Park Dam	works deemed required as part of the Reservoir Act 1975 following an inspection report and requirements of Natural Resources Wales. Options to be taken forward is subject to affordability and cost / benefit analysis, detailed design and impact on other features of the park.	320	2,080	2,000	0	0	4,400

## Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 - 2028/29

	Purpose / To Fund	2024/25 Including Slippage £000	Indicative 2025/26 £000	Indicative 2026/27 £000	Indicative 2027/28 £000	Indicative 2028/29 £000	Total £000
47	Modernising ICT to improve business processes	190	190	0	0	0	380
48	City Hall - Phase 1 Heating and Mechanical	4,900	0	0	0	0	4,900
49	Match funding for grant bids	150	1,000	0	0	0	1,150
50	Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)	2,150	4,520	2,160	0	3,050	11,880
<b>TOTAL ONGOING SCHEMES</b>		<b>43,926</b>	<b>21,841</b>	<b>10,750</b>	<b>4,120</b>	<b>4,790</b>	<b>85,427</b>

### New Capital Schemes/Annual Sums (Excluding Invest to Save)

51	Disabled Adaptations Grants (see also Public Housing)	1,000	700	0	0	0	1,700
52	Schools Property Asset Renewal	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	30,000
53	21st Century Schools Band B - Council Contribution	0	0	5,000	10,000	10,000	25,000
54	St Teilo's Pitches, Gymnasium and Car Parking	560	1,000	0	0	0	1,560
55	The Marl - Pitch and open space improvement as a consequence of Channel View Redevelopment Scheme Phase 1	0	0	0	0	920	920
56	Motorcycle Facility Replacement	0	325	0	0	0	325
57	Pentwyn Leisure Centre Redevelopment	0	3,000	0	0	0	3,000
<b>TOTAL NEW SCHEMES / ADDITIONAL ANNUAL SUMS</b>		<b>11,560</b>	<b>10,025</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,920</b>	<b>62,505</b>

### Schemes funded by Grants and Contributions (Further grants subject to approval of bids)

58	Enable Grant (WG)	655	655	655	655	655	3,275
59	Transforming Towns Placemaking (WG)	580	0	0	0	0	580
60	Shared Prosperity Fund	8,842	0	0	0	0	8,842
61	British Iron and Steel Federation Properties (BISF) - Energy Efficiency Retrofit (WG)	3,000	3,000	2,845	0	0	8,845
62	Travellers Sites (WG)	300	600	0	0	0	900
63	Multidisciplinary Team Independent Wellbeing Hub and Smart House - Part of Joint Equipment Store re provision	0	2,500	2,500	0	0	5,000
64	21st Century Schools Band B (WG)	80,745	62,820	17,935	0	0	161,500

## Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 - 2028/29

	Purpose / To Fund	2024/25 Including Slippage £000	Indicative 2025/26 £000	Indicative 2026/27 £000	Indicative 2027/28 £000	Indicative 2028/29 £000	Total £000	
65	21st Century Schools Band B (WG) - Llanishen Site	demolition and enabling works.	7,115	0	0	0	0	7,115
66	Air Quality Direction 2019 - Grant (WG)	subject to Welsh Government approval, further city centre transport and active travel measures to improve air quality at Castle Street	500	3,500	5,000	0	0	9,000
67	Safe Routes in Communities (WG)	completion of current phase of accessibility and safety improvements to encourage walking and cycling in school streets.	200	0	0	0	0	200
68	Road Safety Grant (WG)	measures that secure road safety casualty reduction.	400	0	0	0	0	400
69	Local Transport Fund (WG)	integrated, effective, accessible, affordable and sustainable transport systems.	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000
70	Active Travel Fund (WG)	increased levels of active travel, improve health and well-being, air quality, connect communities and improve active travel access to employment, education and key services, destinations and public transport.	5,000	0	0	0	0	5,000
71	Cardiff Crossrail (UK Government £50m and Welsh Government £50m)	UK Government grant of £50 million to be match funded by Welsh Government Grant of £50 million towards the project, subject to completion of business case and appropriate approvals from DfT, Network Rail, Transport for Wales and relevant train operating companies.	7,950	20,000	20,000	25,000	25,000	97,950
72	Central Market (Lottery)	the restoration of the Market, subject to final costing and further stage approvals.	455	1,115	195	45	0	1,810
73	Central Market (WG)	the restoration of the Market, subject to final costing and further stage approvals.	0	550	1,000	0	0	1,550
74	Flatholm (Lottery)	the restoration of built and natural heritage on Flatholm Island.	650	750	0	0	0	1,400
75	Harbour Authority (WG)	critical and non critical asset renewal programme.	480	1,510	124	1,120	680	3,914
76	Parks Tennis Project (LTA and Sport Wales)	refurbishments of existing and the development of new courts	351	0	0	0	0	351
76	Local Broadband Fund	gigabit capable broadband to c1200 premises where currently a sub-10Mbit/s is received.	5,430	0	0	0	0	5,430
77	Planning Gain (S106) and other contributions	various schemes such as improvements to open space, transportation, public realm and community facilities.	6,605	6,173	4,951	3,293	0	21,022
<b>TOTAL SCHEMES FUNDED BY GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS (FURTHER GRANTS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF BIDS)</b>			<b>132,258</b>	<b>103,173</b>	<b>55,205</b>	<b>30,113</b>	<b>26,335</b>	<b>347,084</b>

### Additional borrowing undertaken by the Council to be repaid from revenue savings/incidental income (Invest to Save - Subject to Business Case)

#### Existing Schemes

78	Joint Equipment Store and Multi-disciplinary Independent Living Wellbeing Centre	consolidated warehouse accommodation for the Joint Equipment Service together alongside a co-located Independent Living Services (ILS) team of multiservice provision and resources to form an Independent Living Wellbeing Centre. Subject to a further Cabinet report following site identification and business case approval and confirmation of funding from Vale of Glamorgan Council as part of a rental agreement to repay any borrowing undertaken by the Council to implement scheme.	0	3,899	4,500	0	0	8,399
79	Right Homes, Right Support Strategy - Residential Provision for Children Looked After	match funding towards improvements to the residential offer for Children Looked After by the Council which are currently placed outside of the Council boundaries and with independent fostering agencies.	0	500	500	0	0	1,000
80	Young Persons Gateway Accommodation	supported accommodation for young people (16-24) to help them live independently whilst still providing intensive 24 hour support. Additional properties are required and while these can be sourced from Council or housing association stock some works will be needed to bring them up to the required standard for shared housing.	178	0	0	0	0	178
81	21st Century Schools - Band B Financial Model	strategic investment programme for priority schools including land acquisition funded by additional borrowing and repaid via identified revenue budgets within education as part of the financial model.	6,084	13,951	5,307	2,780	0	28,122
82	Coastal Risk Management Programme - Construction - WG Local Government Borrowing Initiative	works to address flood and erosion risk at the estuary of the river Rumney, including protection of landfill material, key road infrastructure and the Rover Way travellers Site. This is the Borrowing required as part of Local Government Borrowing Initiative, to be repaid by WG via Revenue Support Grant over 25 years.	14,000	15,547	0	0	0	29,547
83	Indoor Arena - Land Assembly and Multi Storey Car Park	Arena Funding Strategy - Enabling works and Multi Storey Car Park inc capitalised interest	19,700	20,000	0	0	0	39,700
84	Indoor Arena - Direct Funding (Replacement for Income Strip Third Party Funding)	Arena Funding Strategy - Direct borrowing inc capitalised interest funded by the annual lease income from the arena operator, backed by parent company guarantee.	60,000	60,000	22,300	0	0	142,300

## Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 - 2028/29

	Purpose / To Fund	2024/25 Including Slippage £000	Indicative 2025/26 £000	Indicative 2026/27 £000	Indicative 2027/28 £000	Indicative 2028/29 £000	Total £000
85	International Sports Village (Phase 2)	0	2,000	6,550	3,785	0	12,335
86	Vehicles - Lease or buy	6,917	2,610	0	0	0	9,527
87	Invest to Save - Annual Bid Allocation	500	500	500	500	500	2,500
<b>New Invest to Save Bids</b>							
88	Welsh Building Safety Developer Loan Scheme	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
89	Central Market (Welsh Government Repayable loan investment)	0	1,550	0	0	0	1,550
90	Refit 4 - Property Energy Efficiency Measures Retrofit	1,000	1,000	1,000	800	0	3,800
91	GLL Leisure Centre Solar Panels	600	0	0	0	0	600
<b>TOTAL INVEST TO SAVE</b>		<b>108,979</b>	<b>126,557</b>	<b>45,657</b>	<b>12,865</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>299,558</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>321,422</b>	<b>280,466</b>	<b>138,312</b>	<b>78,148</b>	<b>68,585</b>	<b>886,933</b>
<b>Public Housing Capital Programme (HRA)</b>							
92	Regeneration and Area Improvement	2,800	2,650	1,650	2,750	2,750	12,600
93	External and Internal Improvements	19,850	22,205	36,975	21,265	15,225	115,520
94	New Build and Acquisitions	109,730	169,045	123,215	94,010	104,750	600,750
95	Disabled Facilities Adaptations	3,900	3,350	3,350	3,350	3,350	17,300
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC HOUSING</b>		<b>136,280</b>	<b>197,250</b>	<b>165,190</b>	<b>121,375</b>	<b>126,075</b>	<b>746,170</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>457,702</b>	<b>477,716</b>	<b>303,502</b>	<b>199,523</b>	<b>194,660</b>	<b>1,633,103</b>

## Capital Funding 2024/25 - 2028/29

	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>Indicative</u>	<u>Indicative</u>	<u>Indicative</u>	<u>Indicative</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>£000</u>	<u>2025/26</u>	<u>2026/27</u>	<u>2027/28</u>	<u>2028/29</u>	<u>£000</u>	%
		<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>		
<b>General Fund</b>							
WG Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing	(8,973)	(8,973)	(8,973)	(8,973)	(8,973)	<b>(44,865)</b>	5.1
WG General Capital Grant	(9,215)	(6,134)	(6,134)	(6,134)	(6,134)	<b>(33,751)</b>	3.8
Additional General Capital Grant unallocated from 2021/22	(1,450)	(2,520)	0	0	0	<b>(3,970)</b>	0.4
Additional Borrowing to balance existing capital programme	(38,342)	(21,084)	(10,343)	(3,063)	(3,723)	<b>(76,555)</b>	8.6
Additional Borrowing for new schemes approved in 2024/25	(11,560)	(9,700)	(10,000)	(15,000)	(15,920)	<b>(62,180)</b>	7.0
Additional Borrowing - Invest to save/earn schemes to be repaid from revenue savings/incidental income or directorate budgets	(108,979)	(126,557)	(45,657)	(12,865)	(5,500)	<b>(299,558)</b>	33.8
Earmarked Capital Receipts	(3,505)	(325)	0	0	0	<b>(3,830)</b>	0.4
Non Earmarked Capital Receipts assumption	(2,105)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	<b>(10,105)</b>	1.1
Earmarked Reserves	(5,035)	0	0	0	0	<b>(5,035)</b>	0.6
External grant and contributions estimates	(132,258)	(103,173)	(55,205)	(30,113)	(26,335)	<b>(347,084)</b>	39.1
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>(321,422)</b>	<b>(280,466)</b>	<b>(138,312)</b>	<b>(78,148)</b>	<b>(68,585)</b>	<b>(886,933)</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Public Housing (HRA)</b>							
Major Repairs Allowance WG Grant	(9,570)	(9,570)	(9,570)	(9,570)	(9,570)	<b>(47,850)</b>	6.41
Additional Borrowing	(76,502)	(120,784)	(80,490)	(62,065)	(65,505)	<b>(405,346)</b>	54.32
Revenue / Reserves	(1,400)	0	0	0	0	<b>(1,400)</b>	0.19
External grant and contributions estimates	(48,308)	(66,396)	(74,630)	(49,740)	(51,000)	<b>(290,074)</b>	38.88
Capital Receipts	(500)	(500)	(500)	0	0	<b>(1,500)</b>	0.20
<b>Total Public Housing</b>	<b>(136,280)</b>	<b>(197,250)</b>	<b>(165,190)</b>	<b>(121,375)</b>	<b>(126,075)</b>	<b>(746,170)</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total Capital Programme Resources Required</b>	<b>(457,702)</b>	<b>(477,716)</b>	<b>(303,502)</b>	<b>(199,523)</b>	<b>(194,660)</b>	<b>(1,633,103)</b>	







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## Treasury Management

1. The Council carries out its treasury management activities in accordance with a Treasury Management Code of Practice for public services, which was last updated by CIPFA in December 2021. The Code requires the Council to set out the policies and objectives of its treasury management activities and adopt four Clauses of Treasury Management. These were formally adopted by the Council in February 2010. The last section of this strategy includes a glossary of terms used in this document.
2. CIPFA has adopted the following as its definition of treasury management activities:

*The management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.*

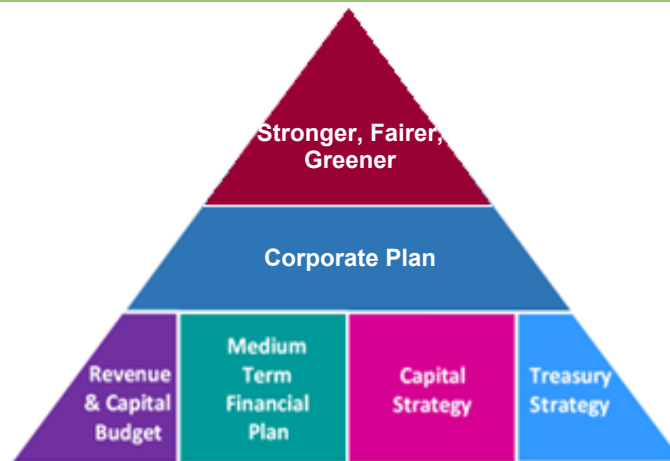
3. The definition of 'Investments' above includes:
  - treasury management investments (held for the prudent management of financial affairs), as well as
  - non-treasury Investments, undertaken as part of a Capital Strategy either in the course of provision of services; or made for commercial reasons purely to make a financial gain. These are managed outside of normal treasury management activity.

Treasury management investments represent the placement of cash in relation to section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003 Act investment powers, i.e., they are the residual cash left in the authority's bank account resulting from the authority's day to day activities. Non-treasury investments tend to relate to section 1 expenditure powers under the Act.

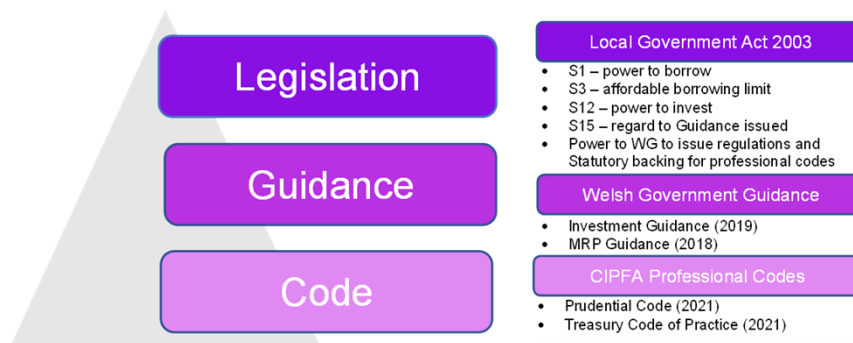
This Treasury Management Strategy covers treasury management investments only.

## Governance and Reporting

4. In compliance with Codes and Council policy, full Council receives a report on:
  - the Treasury Management Strategy at the start of a forthcoming year
  - a mid-year update and
  - an outturn report, with any significant updates included as part of quarterly monitoring reports to Cabinet.
5. The Treasury Management Strategy is an integral part of the Council's Strategic and Financial planning framework.



6. In 2004, local authorities were provided with flexibility in relation to the quantum and timing of borrowing decisions. Legislation, guidance and professional codes of practice were introduced to support decision making and ensure investment and borrowing is Prudent, Sustainable and Affordable.

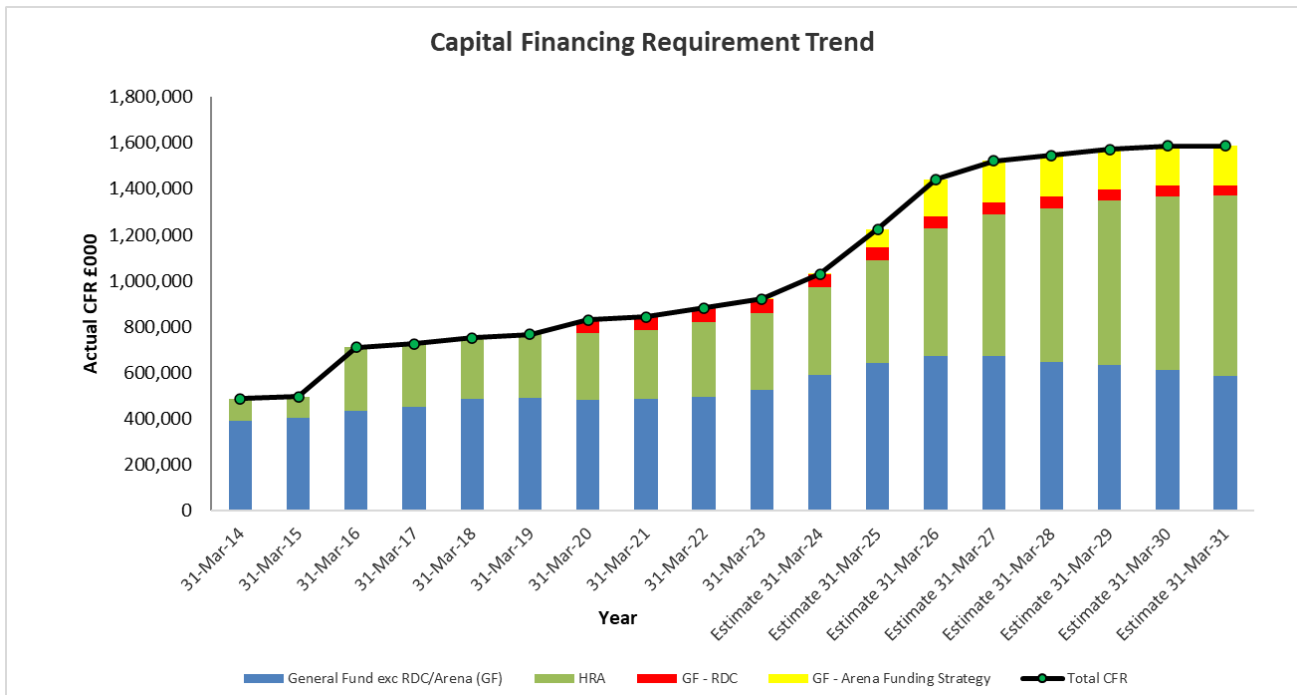


7. The Council has delegated responsibility for treasury management to the Corporate Director of Resources, the S151 Officer. The Council's Treasury Management Practices which are updated annually, identify specific responsibilities of officers as well as setting out schedules highlighting the way in which treasury activities are managed.
8. Responsibility for treasury decisions ultimately remains with the Council, however the Council recognises the value in the use of treasury advisors to support the management of risk and to access specialist skills and resources. Support provided by Link Treasury Services Limited includes advice on timing of decision making, training, credit updates, economic forecasts, research, articles and advice on capital finance.
9. Governance and Audit Committee undertakes scrutiny of the accounting, audit and commercial issues in relation to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and practices and various reports are produced highlighting treasury management activities in accordance with council policy. It is the councils approved Capital expenditure plans that drive the Treasury Management strategy and Treasury management activities. It is important to note that it is not the role of the Governance and Audit Committee to scrutinise the budget process and controls that determine the affordability, prudence and sustainability of expenditure commitments arising from approved capital expenditure plans.

## Capital Strategy and Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

10. The Council's Capital Strategy sets out that successfully delivering the commitments set out in the Council's Corporate Plan will require capital investment. Having a capital strategy in place informs capital investment decisions by providing a framework, which will:
  - provide a longer-term view of capital expenditure plans whilst setting out the financial risks to which the authority is exposed
  - ensure decisions can demonstrate sufficient regard to the proportionality of long-term financing, affordability implications and potential risks to the authority
  - provide an overview of the Council's asset management planning arrangements, which includes any maintenance requirements that have resource and business planning implications.
  
11. The Capital Strategy is approved by Council as part of its budget setting process, with specific commentary required by the Council's S151 Officer in respect to deliverability, affordability and risks. The strategy sets out the approach to:
  - Working with partners - recognising the enabling role played by the Council in delivering investment and the need for alignment with Welsh Government on a longer term and sustained approach to capital investment.
  - Asset Management Planning - how the Council demonstrates stewardship of assets used in service delivery and the need to understand condition and alternative options as a basis for understanding investment requirements.
  - Risk Appetite - the main areas where capital investment paid for by borrowing would be considered and how such decisions are informed.
  - Governance and decision-making - identifying priorities for investment, securing value for money, and monitoring and reporting of the approved capital programme.
  - Capital Investment Programme - the detailed five-year capital investment programme proposed for 2024/25 to 2028/29.
  - Funding the strategy and investment programme - the Capital Resources assumed to be used to fund the 2024/25 to 2028/29 investment programme.
  - Affordability - understanding the impact of capital investment decisions on the Council's revenue budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan via the calculation of various prudential indicators to be approved by Council. These include highlighting the percentage of capital financing costs committed as a percentage of the revenue budget.
  - Managing the borrowing requirement - identifying the Capital Financing Requirement and setting out the strategy to manage Treasury activities including the borrowing requirement and treasury investments. This activity is considered in the Treasury Management Strategy.
  
12. The detailed capital investment programme is the subject of an annual review process. It includes a review of existing allocations, consideration of new commitments and known revisions to the timing of projects.

13. The indicative programme shows a significant borrowing requirement for a number of reasons. The Capital Financing Requirement for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Red Dragon Centre (RDC) acquisition and Arena funding strategy are illustrated in the chart below.



14. The CFR projections show an increasing trend. The key reasons for this and assumptions that can impact on the timing of investment include:

- An assumption that the Council has the capacity and can implement the capital programme in accordance with the timescale in which funding is requested.
- An assumption that the proceeds from the disposal of assets (Capital Receipts) are achievable and receivable in a reasonable period.
- The approach to making prudent provision in the Council's revenue budgets for the repayment of any capital expenditure incurred on the basis of borrowing.
- The detailed capital programme that includes:
  - Agreed expenditure pre commitments in the capital programme approved in 2023/24 and prior years
  - Additional investment proposed as part of the budget proposals for 2024/25 to 2028/29
  - Investment in the target to deliver 2800 new affordable homes in the Housing Revenue Account
  - Schools' investment as part of the financial models for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B
  - Specific schemes intended to pay for themselves from future revenue income or savings e.g. Energy retrofit projects, a replacement joint equipment store facility, coastal erosion and International Sports Village development.
  - Repayable loans offered by Welsh Government for specific schemes such as high rise building safety and central market refurbishment
  - Council contribution to the enabling costs and multi storey car parking for the arena and also to 'Direct Fund' the Arena construction following the approval by Cabinet in November 2023 of a funding strategy. The optimal funding

solution is for the Council to provide the funding to construct the arena. Whilst this will increase the Council's Capital Financing Requirement and need to borrow, the costs of the solution are intended to be met over a 45-year period from operator income receivable.

### **Treasury Management Strategy**

15. The Treasury Management Strategy covers the following areas:
  - Borrowing to finance the cash requirements arising from the Council's Capital Strategy and detailed capital investment programme. The costs of servicing that financing is included in Medium Term Financial Plans for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.
  - Treasury investments determining how short-term cash flows will be safely managed to meet the Council's financial commitments and objectives.
  - Highlighting the approach to non-treasury Management Investments. Whilst these impact on the treasury function, they arise from capital expenditure plans which are reported separately from day-to-day treasury management activities. Accordingly, this strategy focuses on Treasury investments.
16. The Council accepts that no treasury management activity is without risk. However, the overriding objective is to minimise the risk of adverse consequences or loss, whilst at the same time not unduly constraining investment returns or unnecessarily incurring interest costs.
17. The identification, monitoring and control of risk are integral elements of treasury management activities with risks including credit and counterparty, liquidity, interest rate, refinancing, fraud and regulatory. The Council has Treasury Management Practices to address and mitigate these risks which were updated in March 2023.
18. The proposed strategy is an integrated strategy for the Council including the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and includes:
  - the current treasury position
  - economic background and prospects for interest rates
  - borrowing, including:
    - policy
    - council borrowing requirement based on its capital expenditure plans and choice between internal and external borrowing and
    - borrowing strategy
  - treasury management indicators and limits for 2024/25 to 2028/29
  - investment policy and strategy, including security and investments approved for use
  - non-treasury Investments – Commercial / Service Investment, and
  - the Treasury Function.

## The Treasury Position

19. Borrowing and investments as at 31 January 2024 and at the same date in the prior year, are shown in the following table. Borrowing is predominantly made up of fixed interest rate loans payable on maturity. Investments fluctuate daily and are represented by fixed term deposits, notice deposit accounts and money market funds. These balances arise due to the timing of cash flows and working capital as well as the existence of reserves, provisions and balances required for future use.

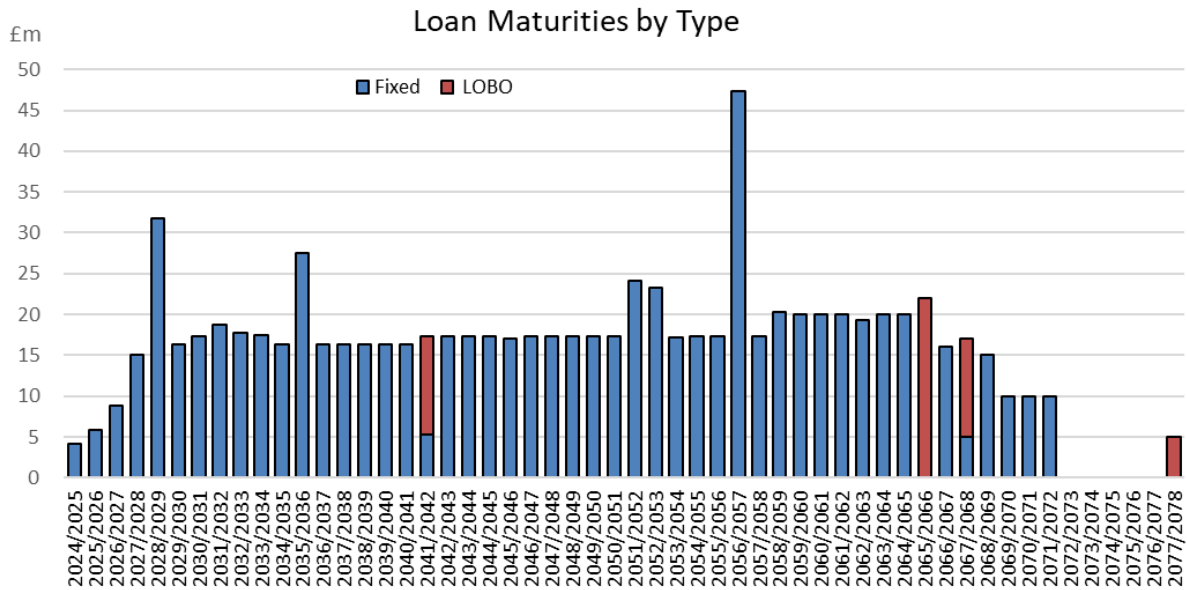
	31 January 2023		31 January 2024	
	Principal	Average	Principal	Average
	£m	Rate %	£m	Rate %
<b>External Borrowing</b>				
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	(759.7)	4.2	(756.7)	4.2
Market (Lender Option Borrower Option)	(51.0)	4.0	(51.0)	4.0
Welsh Government	(22.8)	0.0	(51.6)	0.0
Local Authority	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>(833.5)</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>(859.3)</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Treasury Investments (Internally Managed)*</b>				
Banks	59.0	2.5	9.2	5.1
Building Societies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Money Market Funds	55.0	3.4	39.8	5.3
Government	63.9	3.2	53.2	5.2
Local Authority	15.0	3.2	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Treasury Investments (Net)</b>	<b>192.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Net Treasury Investments / (Borrowing)</b>	<b>(640.6)</b>		<b>(757.1)</b>	

\*Note all investments are currently managed internally and no external fund management arrangements are in place.

20. The Council's debt maturity profile at 31 January 2024 is shown in the following graph on the assumption that all loans run to their final maturity.



# The Treasury Position



21. LOBO products are loans to the Council where the lender can request a change in the rate of interest payable by the Council on pre-determined dates. The Council at this point has the option to repay the loan without penalty. The Council has six such loans totalling £51 million.
22. Apart from the option to increase rates, these loans are comparable to PWLB loans and have no other complications such as variation in interest rates or complex terms. Interest rates on these loans range between 3.81% and 4.35%. Details of the loans are shown in the table below.

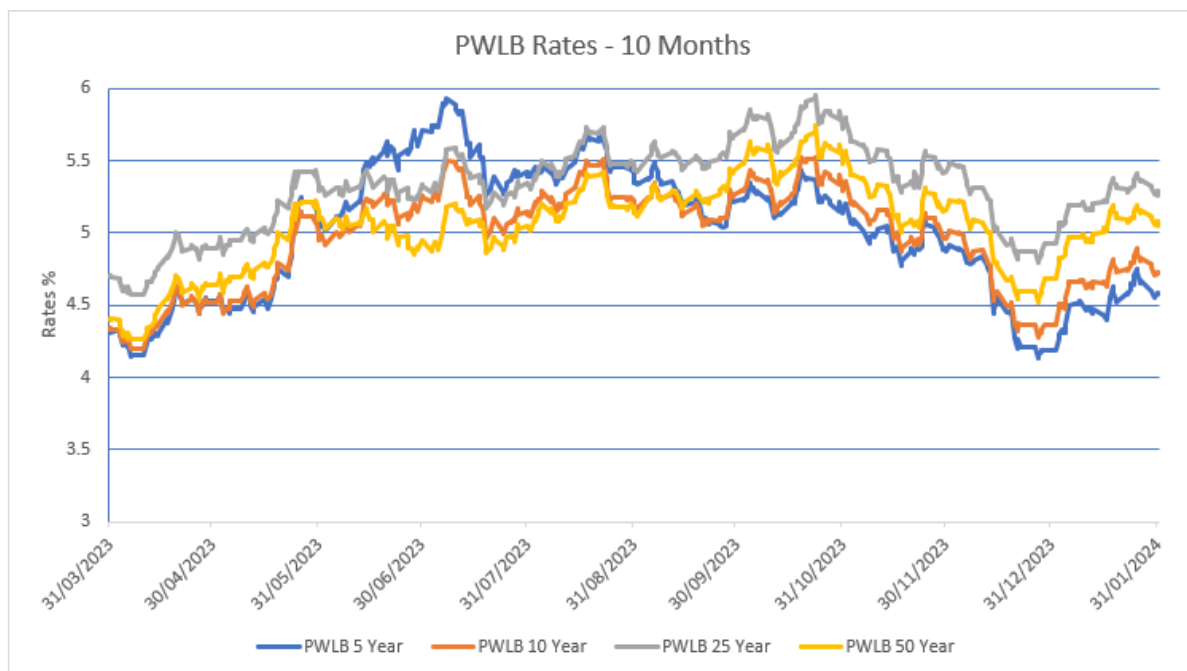
Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) Loans			
Potential Next Repayment Date	Loan Value £m	Option Frequency Every	Full Term Maturity Date
04/03/2024	6	6 months	23/05/2067
21/05/2024	6	6 months	23/05/2067
21/05/2024	6	6 months	21/11/2041
21/05/2024	6	6 months	21/11/2041
21/11/2025	22	5 years	23/11/2065
17/01/2028	5	5 years	17/01/2078

23. It should be noted that £24 million of the LOBO loans are currently subject to the lender potentially requesting a change in the rate of interest payable every six months. A further £27 million has a five yearly call option.

24. The financial year 2023/24 to date has seen:
- Interest rates rise by a further 100 basis points, taking Bank Rate from 4.25% to 5.25% and what is assumed to be the peak in the tightening cycle.
  - Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation fall from 8.7% in April to 6.7% in September, its lowest rate since February 2022, but still the highest in the G7 group of countries. Twelve Month CPI inflation fell to 4% in December 2023. In the Monetary Policy Committee's latest projection, CPI inflation is around 2.75% by the end of this year, reflecting a persistence of domestic inflationary pressures. Despite an increasing degree of slack in the economy, CPI inflation is projected to be 2.3% in two years' time and 1.9% in three years.
  - Limited UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) change in the year to date suggests that underlying growth has lost momentum since earlier in the year.
25. As the drag from higher interest rates intensifies, it is expected that the economy will continue to lose momentum. Strong labour demand, fast wage growth and government interventions have all supported household incomes over the past year. CPI inflation has past its peak and expected to decline further. The cost-of-living crisis has led to falls in real household disposable income and the phasing out of financial support packages provided by the government during the energy crisis means real incomes are unlikely to grow strongly. Higher interest rates are also expected to impact harder too. The Bank of England are expected to keep interest rates at 5.25% until the second half of 2024, with mortgage rates also remaining elevated until there is a clear trend downwards.
26. The tightness of the labour market continued to ease, with employment in the three months to July falling by 207,000. The supply of labour is still 0.3% below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level but the cooling in labour market conditions still has not fed through to an easing in wage growth. The headline 3 month year on year rate rose 7.8% for the period June to August, which meant UK wage growth remains much faster than in the US and in the Euro-zone. Moreover, while the Bank of England's closely watched measure of regular annual average total pay growth for the private sector was 7.1% in June to August 2023, for the public sector this was 12.5% and is the highest total pay annual growth rate since comparable records began in 2001.
27. In its monetary policy meeting on 1 February 2024, the Bank of England left interest rates unchanged at 5.25%. The vote to keep rates on hold was a split vote, 6-3. It is clear that some members of the MPC are still concerned about the stickiness of inflation. The bank wants the markets to believe in the higher for longer narrative however in terms of messaging, the Bank moved away from the phrase "further tightening in monetary policy would be required if there were evidence of more persistent inflationary pressures", to a pledge to "keep under review for how long bank rate should be maintained at its current level" It is now openly endorsing that the next move in interest rates will be a cut and that rates will need to be cut by some margin. However, the committee seem unsure as to what precise signal they are looking for to feel confident enough to begin a cutting cycle.

## Economic Background and Prospects for Interest Rates

28. This narrative makes sense as the Bank of England does not want the markets to decide that a peak in rates will be soon followed by rate cuts, which would loosen financial conditions and undermine its attempts to quash inflation. The language also gives the Bank of England the flexibility to respond to new developments. A rebound in services inflation, another surge in wage growth and/or a further leap in oil prices could conceivably force it to raise rates in the future.
29. The above economic background in the UK, has resulted in significant volatility in gilt yields and in turn borrowing rates as markets digest daily developments in the financial markets and release of economic data both domestically and internationally.
30. The Public Works Loan Board is one source of local authority borrowing and is subject to an annual application process and review of eligibility. PWLB rates are based on gilt (UK Government bonds) yields, however HM Treasury determine a specified margin to add to gilt yields for any local authority borrowing. Most local authorities can undertake loans at the PWLB Certainty Rate, which is gilt rate plus 80 basis points (G+80 bps). There is also a Housing Revenue Account Certainty Rate from PWLB at gilts plus 40 basis points and this is available until June 2025.



31. The chart above highlights the volatility in PWLB borrowing rates, with long term rates at the end of January 2024 being circa 5%. Having regard to various uncertain factors, the table below shows the Council's treasury management advisors last forecasts for Bank Rate and Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) certainty borrowing rates, based on their current lending policy. The forecasts are updated periodically and it is a central forecast, acknowledging for example that there are upside and downside risks. This shows a gradual decrease in Bank Rate and PWLB lending rates over the forecast horizon ending on 31 March 2027, albeit with rates higher than previous years lows.

## Economic Background and Prospects for Interest Rates

	Actual 31/01/2024	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026	March 2027
Bank Rate (%)	5.25	5.25	4.00	3.00	3.00
5yr PWLB rate (%)	4.56	4.90	4.20	3.60	3.50
10yr PWLB rate (%)	4.77	5.00	4.20	3.70	3.50
25yr PWLB rate (%)	5.29	5.30	4.50	4.10	4.00
50yr PWLB rate (%)	5.07	5.10	4.30	3.90	3.80

Forecast 7 November 2023

32. The view is that the overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is to the downside. Markets have built in the likely effects on gilt yields of changes in Bank Rate and the poor inflation outlook. However, there will be a lot of unpredictable volatility during this forecast period and caution must be exercised in respect to all interest rate forecasts. This includes, financial market uncertainty, labour and supply shortages, inflation pressures, approach to reversal of quantitative easing, public sector borrowing levels, and geo-political risks which could lead to increasing safe-have flows.
33. It should be noted that following a review of PWLB lending policy, a prohibition is in place to deny access to borrowing from the PWLB for any local authority which includes in its capital programme the acquisition of investment assets bought primarily for yield.
34. Where there is a borrowing requirement for certainty, there is deemed to be better value in borrowing from the PWLB for all maturity periods. The Council will also for strategic investments, consider opportunities and eligibility of borrowing from other sources such as the UK infrastructure bank where projects are in line with its lending objectives.

## Borrowing Policy

35. Borrowing to pay for capital investment has long-term financial consequences and risks, with decisions taken many years ago impacting currently and in the future in the form of interest and provision for repayment of capital expenditure. The decisions that drive the need to borrow are taken in the Capital Strategy and a detailed capital expenditure programme approved by Council with the recurring cost implications factored into Medium Term Financial Plans. All borrowing is undertaken in the name of the Council and secured on all revenues of the Council.
36. The Council can consider various sources and types of debt instruments to finance capital expenditure as well as its short-term working capital requirements. This includes the Public Works Loan Board, the financial markets, Local Authorities and other public bodies, leases, public private partnership models and the issuing of bonds. These are detailed in the Council's Treasury Management Practices and the advantages and disadvantages of such products would need to be considered including risks, track record and cost of issuance, supported by external advice in respect of different options.
37. The Council's currently maintains a single pool of all Council debt for all activities. Best treasury management practice is that loans are not taken on a project-by-project basis, however this is a consideration for specific capital investment such as for the arena, where there is a need to meet specific cash flows and track performance over the initial construction period of the project.
38. When interest rates for borrowing are greater than interest rates the Council receives for investments (the cost of carry) or if long term interest rates are expected to fall, it makes financial sense to use any internal cash balances held in the short-term to finance capital expenditure and minimise costs (internal borrowing), rather than undertake external borrowing. However, there is a risk that the Council may have to borrow at higher rates when it does need to borrow in future and so this position is kept under continuous review and delegated to the Corporate Director Resources. Borrowing undertaken is reported as part of periodic reports to Council
39. The Council's Borrowing Strategy considers all options to meet the long-term aims of:
  - Promoting revenue cost stability to aid financial planning and avoid a stop-start approach to service delivery, although it is recognised that this may have a financial impact.
  - Pooling borrowing and investments to ensure the whole Council shares the risks and rewards of treasury activities.
  - Ensuring borrowing plans are aligned to known capital expenditure spending plans and financial reserve levels.
  - Achieving a balanced maturity profile.
  - Having regard to the effects on current and future Council Tax and rent payers.
40. The Council does not intend to borrow in advance of need and will not do so just to gain financially from short term investment of that borrowing. However, this option may be considered if it is felt that borrowing in advance allows opportunities to lock into favourable long-term rates as part of risk mitigation. This will be limited to no more than the expected increase in the Council's Capital Financing Requirement over a three-year period.

### Prudent Repayment of Capital Expenditure – Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement for 2024/25

41. Where capital expenditure is financed using borrowing, the Council has a statutory duty to charge an amount to future revenue budgets for the eventual repayment of that expenditure. This spreads the cost of capital expenditure incurred now, and historically, to future revenue budgets. Decisions in respect of the allocation of MRP have short, medium and very long-term impacts across generations.
42. Making minimum and any voluntary provision must be considered to be prudent and results in a reduction in the Council's underlying need to borrow known as the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). Legislation does not define what constitutes a 'prudent provision.' Instead, Welsh Government has provided guidance and examples to interpret that term.
43. A statement on the Council's policy for its annual MRP is required to be submitted to Council for approval before the start of the financial year to which the provision will relate and is included in the Council's Capital Strategy for 2024/25 but is replicated below.

*It is proposed that the Council's MRP Policy to apply for 2024/25 and for future years is as follows, with any change in the level, timing and method of provision in year delegated to the Section 151 Officer:*

- *Council expenditure undertaken based on 'supported borrowing' approved by Welsh Government is to be provided for on a straight-line basis over 45 years.*
- *HRA supported borrowing, which was part of the previous housing subsidy system is to be provided for at 2% on a straight-line basis. MRP on the significant £187 million settlement buyout payment is to be on 2% straight line basis as a minimum.*
- *Additional borrowing for a general increase in investment either in the Council Fund or HRA to balance the Capital Programme in a year is to be provided for on a straight-line basis over the estimated average life of the assets created.*
- *Any additional expenditure linked to specific schemes e.g. Invest to Save, 21st Century Schools, Arena funding strategy etc. is to be provided for on a straight-line basis, or annuity basis, over the estimated useful life of assets being created or a shorter period as determined by the Section 151 Officer or suggested periods determined by Welsh Government as is the case with the Local Government Borrowing Initiative.*
- *Voluntary revenue provision more than the above requirements can be made following advice of the Section 151 Officer. Voluntary revenue provision or overpayments, can, if needed, be reclaimed in later years if deemed necessary or prudent where disclosed in accordance with requirements and the proposed use and outcomes are approved and reported to Council.*
- *Subject to agreement of the S151 Officer, MRP may be waived on expenditure recoverable within a prudent period through capital receipts (e.g. land purchases, loan repayments) or sculpted and deferred to when the benefits from investment are scheduled to begin, to manage any initial revenue deficits or when confirmed external grant payments towards that expenditure are expected. Where this flexibility is used, risks and mitigations should clearly be set out as part of an approved business case and regularly reviewed.*



- *The MRP charged against liabilities under finance leases, or contracts that have the characteristics of finance leases, shall be equal to the principal element of the lease repayment, calculated on an annual basis.*

### Council's Borrowing Requirement

44. The following table shows the actual level of external borrowing currently held by the Council; external borrowing planned for the remainder of 2023/24 and scheduled loan repayments in future years. It compares this to the projected CFR i.e. the need to borrow based on estimates and timing of the Council's capital expenditure, proposed MRP policy and indicative funding plans as set out in the budget report for 2024/25. The difference between the projected CFR in 2028/29 (£1,571 million) and the actual level of external borrowing after any planned repayments (£829 million) is £732 million, i.e. there is insufficient cash held by the Council to support this projected level of under borrowing and this means there is a requirement for the Council to undertake further external borrowing in future years.

Indicator							
Gross External Borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement							
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
External borrowing at 1 April	811	855	912	898	894	885	870
Known / New borrowing	22	61	tbc	2	tbc	tbc	tbc
Scheduled repayments	(23)	(4)	(14)	(6)	(9)	(15)	(31)
<b>External Borrowing at 31 March</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>839</b>
Capital Financing Requirement	920	1,030	1,224	1,440	1,522	1,545	1,573
<b>Shortfall / (Surplus) borrowing requirement</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>734</b>
<b>Requirement as % of CFR</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>47</b>

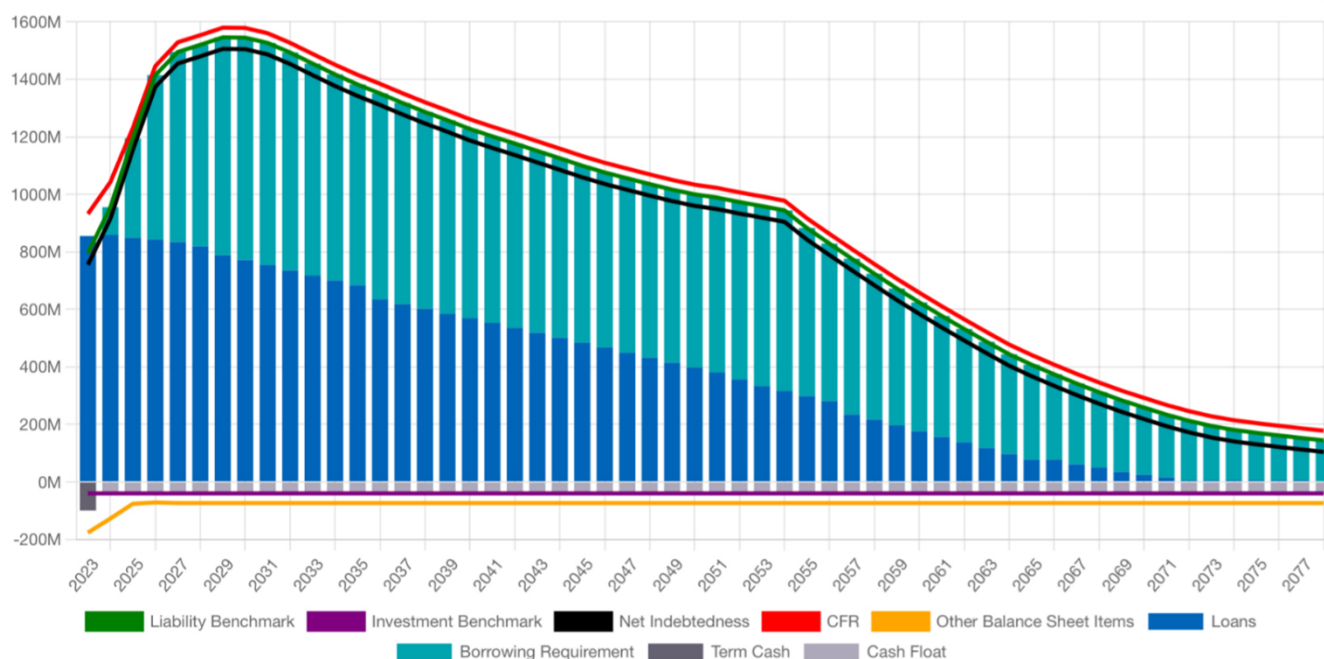
45. The Council is required to set treasury management indicators as part of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice as well as Capital expenditure indicators in the Capital Strategy to consider affordability. Indicators for future years may be impacted in future years because of updates to the accounting treatment of leases, which is to be considered and implemented during 2024/25.
46. The Authority is required to estimate and measure the Liability Benchmark for the forthcoming financial year and the following two financial years, as a minimum. CIPFA strongly recommends that the benchmark is produced for at least 10 years and should ideally cover the full debt maturity profile of a local authority. It is not intended to be a boundary or limit that cannot be breached.



## Borrowing

47. There are four main components to the Liability Benchmark, with each illustrated in the chart below:
- Existing gross loan debt assumed to be outstanding in future years.
  - Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for loans, based on approved capital commitments and planned Minimum Revenue Provision. Given that most Capital investment Programmes are confirmed only for the very near term, similar to most other authorities, this will mean that the CFR will peak in the very near term, whereas other inputs into this indicator are projected forward for a much longer period. In other words, it focuses only on current commitments.
  - Net loans requirement. This shows the Council's gross loan debt, less its treasury management investments at the last financial year-end, projected into the future where they can reasonably be assumed. This relies on forecasting of future cash balances and balance sheet position well into the future.
  - Liability benchmark (or gross loans requirement): this equals net loans requirement plus an agreed short-term liquidity benchmark. Short-term liquidity allowance means an adequate (but not excessive) allowance for a level of excess cash to be invested short-term to provide access to liquidity if needed (due to short-term cash flow variations). For the preparation of this indicator, this liquidity benchmark has assumed the Authority will have a minimum cash buffer of £40 million.

Liability Benchmark



48. The Liability Benchmark focuses on the management of the Net Treasury position (borrowing less investments). It assumes minimisation of investments and interest rate and credit risk, profiling the borrowing portfolio to benchmark. It applies to all local authorities, some of whom may have a borrowing requirement such as Cardiff, or others who have net investments because of being debt free or having large reserve balances. The Liability Benchmark is intended to be analysed as part of Treasury Management reporting, with material mismatches explained and be considered when

taking new borrowing decisions such as timing and period of borrowing.

49. Comparing the Council's Liability Benchmark with the current borrowing portfolio shows how the existing portfolio matches current commitments of the Authority.
  - A gap between the existing portfolio of loans and the Liability Benchmark, the debt float in the chart above in this case, indicates a borrowing need to match future liabilities and to avoid a determined liquidity benchmark from being insufficient. It does not necessarily indicate the borrowing that will be undertaken in that year.
  - A Liability Benchmark below the existing portfolio of loans would indicate no additional borrowing need and signifies surplus cash more than what may be deemed a short-term liquidity benchmark.
50. Cardiff Council has a borrowing need and this will give rise to net interest cost uncertainty as the borrowing rate has yet to be determined. This risk is likely to be symmetrical in nature, as interest rates may be higher or lower than those implied from the current market. The section below sets out the approach to meeting the known future borrowing requirement including use of temporary cash balances, external borrowing, sources of borrowing and timing.

### **Borrowing Strategy**

51. The Council will consider various sources and debt instruments to meet the borrowing requirement. The Council continues to qualify for borrowing at the 'Certainty Rate' (0.20% below the PWLB Standard Rate) and the HRA rate (0.60% below the PWLB Standard Rate).
52. As seen from the interest forecasts currently available, interest rates on borrowing are expected to fall over the next two years. This suggests that locking into long term borrowing now would result in higher costs for a long period of time.
53. Accordingly, in managing the Capital Financing Requirement, a pragmatic approach will be adopted by Council's Section 151 Officer due to changing circumstances with the following combination of approaches to be undertaken:
  - Internal borrowing (using temporary cash balances available) will be maximised in the very near term, whilst ensuring sufficient liquidity. Subject to balance sheet capacity and retention of a minimum liquidity balance it is suggested that a targeted level of internal borrowing would remain at circa £100 million.
  - Short term external borrowing from the PWLB and from financial markets via brokers up to 6 years will be undertaken given the current view that interest rates on long term borrowing will fall in the medium term.

This approach will result in a significant increase in the short term maturity profile of debt, on the assumption that this borrowing will be refinanced at lower rates and spread over prudent long-term periods when interest rates are expected to fall. The reduction in interest rates is a significant judgement and assumption on the future movement of financial markets, which is based on latest Treasury Management advice, however this remains a risk outside of the Council's control and must be monitored closely in future

strategy updates and financial resilience risk reviews.

54. The Council's Treasury Management activities including timing of borrowing decisions are delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer. If there was a significant risk of a sharp rise in long and medium-term rates than that currently forecast, then fixed rate external borrowing may be undertaken sooner. If there was a significant risk of a sharp fall in rates, then long-medium term borrowing would continue to be deferred, following consideration of internal borrowing capacity and short term external borrowing. Whilst economic and financial forecasts are outside of the Council's control, it is recognised the Council and Treasury Team will need continuity, advisory support and capacity to help manage the borrowing requirement and associated risks arising from the Council's capital investment requirement.
55. It should be noted that current interest rates on the Council's existing debt portfolio compared to new borrowing rates and penalty rates charged for early debt repayment, have resulted in limited options for restructuring of debt. Options have previously been considered for early repayment of loans; however, the penalties outweighed the benefits. Options will continue to be reviewed.

## Authorised Limit

56. The Council must set and keep under review how much it can afford to borrow from debt or other long-term liabilities for the forthcoming year and at least the following two financial years (the Affordable Borrowing Limit). It must have regard to the Prudential Code and locally determined indicators when setting this limit and be content that the impact upon future Council Taxpayers and Council tenants is acceptable.
57. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all council's plans, or those of a specific council.
58. Based on the capital programme proposed, it is recommended that the Council approve the following authorised limits (Statutory limit under Section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003) and operational boundaries (figures for 2023/24 are for comparison only). The undertaking of other long-term liabilities, within the overall limit, is delegated to the Section 151 Officer based on the outcome of financial option appraisals and best value considerations.

Indicator						
External Debt - Authorised limit						
	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Limit for external borrowing and other long-term liabilities	1,517	1,617	1,617	1,617	1,617	1,617

59. This limit is consistent with proposals contained within the budget for capital expenditure with the addition of headroom for risk and the financing and accounting requirements in relation to landfill aftercare obligations. The overall limit for the Council has been set at a constant level of £1,617 million for 2024/25 to 2028/29 and cannot be breached without further Council approval.

## Operational Boundary

60. The proposed operational boundary or projected level of external debt (excluding landfill) is set at the anticipated level of the CFR at the end of each year.

Indicator						
External Debt - Operational Boundary						
	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Boundary for external borrowing and other long-term liabilities	912	1,224	1,440	1,522	1,545	1,573

61. This will be subject to the level and timing of borrowing decisions and so the actual level of borrowing can therefore be below or above this initial estimate. However, what cannot be breached without a further report to Council is the authorised borrowing limit.

## Maturity Structure of Borrowing

62. Limits are set to guard against a large element of the Council’s debt maturing and having to be refinanced in a very short space of time, when it may not be economically favourable to do so. The limits have been set to reflect the current debt portfolio, and to allow enough flexibility to enable new borrowing to be undertaken for the optimum period. The table assumes that loans run to their final maturity, however a separate column is also included to show the maturity profile should the Council repay its LOBO loans early.

Indicator				
Maturity structure of borrowing in 2024/25				
	Upper limit	Lower limit	Actual to Maturity	Actual if LOBOs Repaid Early
	%	%	%	%
Under 12 months	35	0	0.49	5.84
12 months and within 24 months	35	0	0.69	0.68
24 months and within 5 years	40	0	6.46	7.04
5 years and within 10 years	30	0	10.22	10.22
10 years and within 20 years	30	0	20.60	19.21
20 years and within 30 years	30	0	21.55	21.55
30 years and within 40 years	30	0	25.45	25.46
40 years and within 50 years	30	0	13.96	10.00
50 years and within 60 years	20	0	0.58	0.00
60 years and within 70 years	10	0	0.49	5.84

## Treasury Investment Policy

63. The Council has regard to the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and complies with Welsh Government guidance on Treasury investments. The Council's investments include those arising from its own temporary cash balances as well as balances held from the activities of Joint Committees for which it is the Accountable body.
64. The Council recognises that given the nature of investments, a trade-off between security, liquidity and yield cannot be avoided i.e. there is risk of default. The Council's risk appetite for treasury investments is low and its current business model for financial assets for treasury management investments is to collect contractual cash flows as part of the prudent management of its financial affairs. It aims to achieve the optimum return on investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. Risk will be contained by ensuring:
- All investments and repayments are in sterling.
  - Investment instruments identified for use in the financial year are listed under 'Specified' investments and 'non-Specified' investment categories, dependant on their complexity and risk.
  - A list of highly credit worthy counterparties with whom to invest is created and monitored.
  - Diversification of approach, investment product and counterparties are sought where possible to avoid concentration of risk.
  - Any set limits are implemented with immediate effect following approval of this Treasury Management Strategy by the Council.
  - Continual monitoring of treasury activities with the categories of investments that may be used, the credit criteria and associated limits in determining with whom to invest and timing of decisions being delegated to the S151 Officer.
65. The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II) was implemented from 3 January 2018. Where requested by counterparties to do so, the Council has opted up to be classed as a 'professional' client following the submission of qualitative and quantitative information on its treasury activities.
66. Understanding and managing Economic, Social and Governance (ESG) risk is important to the Council and can play an important part in long term investments decision making. However, the key aim for the treasury management of short-term temporary cash balances is Security, Liquidity and then Yield. Credit ratings agencies also incorporate ESG risks alongside more traditional financial risk metrics when assessing counterparty ratings, which the Council uses to determine with whom to invest.

## Treasury Investment Strategy

67. The Council will retain access to a range of products and organisations available to manage short term investment balances and to achieve diversification. It uses Welsh Government guidance and judgements to define products available for use as specified or non-specified and sets credit criteria to mitigate credit risk. These are defined in the sections below. Any funds held by the Council on behalf of joint committees

will be managed in accordance with this strategy and segregated where possible to avoid adverse impacts on Cardiff Council's own performance. A full move to a Corporate Joint Committee is to be considered during 2023/24. Any move to such an approach, where such an entity would manage its own funds, is welcome and deemed essential in allowing the Council a clearer understanding of its own treasury performance and position.

- 68. The ability to change credit criteria and the approach to investments is delegated to the S151 Officer. This allows a prompt response to uncertainties in financial markets, with the Council being kept informed of significant changes through the various reports it receives on treasury activities during the year.
- 69. The Council aims to have sufficient liquid funds to ensure it does not become a forced borrower for a significant period at rates more than what may be earned on such investments.

## Specified Investments

- 70. A specified investment is defined as one:
  - which is in straightforward easily understood low risk products
  - not involving corporate share or loan capital
  - where the principal sum to be repaid at maturity is the same as the initial principal sum invested and
  - is less than one year with an entity with high credit quality
- 71. Specified investments may comprise up to 100% of the Council's total investments.

Instruments approved for use	Minimum Credit Criteria
Term deposits – UK government and other Local Authorities	Assumed Government Guarantee
Term deposits – banks and building societies up to one year	Long-term A- /Short-term F1 or Government Equity Support

## Non-Specified Investments

- 72. These are all other investments not meeting the definition of a specified investment which could be used to achieve diversification and manage liquidity needs. A maximum upper level of £60 million is to be set for non-specified investments including investments for greater than one year.



# Treasury Management Investments

Instruments approved for use	Min Credit Criteria	Max % of total investments	Max. maturity period
Term deposits – banks and building societies (with maturities more than 1 year)	Long-term AA- /Short-term F1+ or part nationalised	30	2 Years
Term deposits with variable rate and variable maturities in excess of 1 year e.g. structured investment products	Long-term AA- /Short-term F1+	10	2 Years
Certificates of Deposit	Long-term AA- /Short-term F1+	10	Maximum 2-year duration
UK Government Gilts and Gilt funds	Assumed Government Guarantee	40	Maximum 3-year duration
Treasury Bills	Assumed Government Guarantee	40	6 months
Collective Investment Scheme structures – Constant as well as Low Volatility Money Market Funds	AAA – (Fitch, Moody's or S&P)	100	Liquid

73. The Council can utilise collective investment funds which pool together investments in a diversified portfolio of products and sectors. These may include short-term money market instruments such as bank deposits, certificates of deposit, government guaranteed bonds, corporate bonds and commercial papers, together with a weighted average maturity of up to 60 days. It should be noted that any such funds are triple A rated and allow instant access.

## Security / Creditworthiness Policy

74. The Council uses Fitch credit ratings as a basis for assessment of credit worthiness of institutions it will invest with. Changes in the criteria and decisions with whom to invest are delegated to the S151 Officer. Commercial organisations (counterparties) on its approved list will have at least the short-term credit rating of F1 and be authorised institutions within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The rating F1 infers “Highest Credit Quality” - the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.
75. Whilst Fitch ratings form the basis of the Council’s threshold criteria, the Council will also have regard to the following when determining with whom to invest:

## Treasury Management Investments

- rating updates provided by treasury advisors in respect of all three credit rating agencies, as well as other market data
- media reports as well as sovereign credit ratings. No minimum sovereign rating is applied to the UK, however for non-UK based institutions the minimum Fitch sovereign rating is AA-
- the informed judgement of treasury staff and treasury management advisors after consideration of wider economic factors
- financial sector and country exposure
- the extent to which organisations who do not meet the above criteria, are nationalised.

76. Local authorities usually do not have a credit rating but are expected to assume the UK Sovereign rating. In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, a person lending money to a local authority shall not be bound to enquire whether the authority has power to borrow the money and shall not be prejudiced by the absence of any such power. All loans are secured on future revenues of local authorities, and this includes the ability to take legal action if any debts are not repaid. Inter local authority lending is an option that continues to be available as part of the strategy proposed.

77. The Council's lending list for direct investment in an organisation is based on the following credit criteria, with the maximum limit for direct investment in any one group of related companies, whether ring fenced or otherwise, being £20 million:

Fitch Ratings (minimum)	Long term	Short term	Limit £m
Overnight to three months	A-	F1	6
Overnight to one year	A	F1	12
Overnight to two years	AA-	F1+	15
Money Market Funds	AAA	n/a	15
UK Part Nationalised Banks overnight to two years	n/a	n/a	20

78. Where treasury advisors recommend a shorter duration than would be allowed in accordance with Fitch criteria above, then the shorter period is adhered to.

The Council's current list of approved counterparties is shown below:

	£m	Duration
<b>Canada AA+</b>		
National Bank of Canada	12	1 year
<b>Germany AAA</b>		
Bayerische Landesbank	6	3 Months
Landesbank Hessen-Thuringen Girozentrale	12	1 year
<b>Singapore AAA</b>		
Development Bank Singapore	15	2 years
Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation	15	2 years
United Overseas Bank	15	2 years
<b>U.K AA- (Including RFB / NRFB)*</b>		
Barclays Bank	12	1 year

## Treasury Management Investments

Goldman Sachs International Bank	12	1 year
Handelsbanken	15	2 years
HSBC Bank	15	2 years
Santander UK plc	12	1 year
SMBC Bank International Plc	6	3 months
Standard Chartered Bank	12	1 year
Bank of Scotland	12	1 year
Lloyds Bank	12	1 year
National Westminster Bank **	20	2 years
Royal Bank of Scotland	20	2 years
Coventry BS	6	3 months
Nationwide BS	12	1 year
UK Local Authority (Per Authority)	15	2 Years
Debt Management Office	Unlimited	6 months

### Money Market Funds

Aberdeen Liquidity Fund	15	Liquid
BlackRock ICS Sterling Fund	15	Liquid
Deutsche Managed Sterling Fund	15	Liquid
Goldman Sachs Sterling Reserves Fund	15	Liquid
Insight Sterling Liquidity Fund	15	Liquid
JPMorgan GBP Liquidity LVNAV	15	Liquid
LGIM Sterling Liquidity Fund	15	Liquid

\* Ring-Fenced Banks and Non-Ringfenced Banks where applicable

\*\* In respect of the Council's Day to day banking provider, there is a risk that the counterparty limit would be exceeded for a short period on receipt of unexpected funds.

79. The above list has been determined having regard to current participation in the financial markets and brokerages, sovereign countries whose banks we would be content to use and selecting some of their highest rated organisations.
80. The credit ratings of financial institutions are monitored regularly through use of the treasury management advisor's credit service. If a downgrade results in the counterparty or investment scheme no longer meeting the Council's criteria, its further use for new investment will be withdrawn immediately. Investments already held with that counterparty will be reviewed and options to call back funds before maturity would be investigated. It should be noted that any early repayment is only at the discretion of the borrower and often at a penalty.

81. In addition to treasury management investment activity, local authorities can utilise their powers in order to undertake capital expenditure and invest in other Non-Treasury financial assets. Such activity can include:
- Service Investments - loans supporting service outcomes, investment in or loans to subsidiaries, and investment in existing commercial property holdings either to maintain them or increase value or
  - Investment assets bought primarily for yield (Financial Return) - An 'investment asset' could be a property asset, or interest or right that generates a balance sheet asset (such as, but not limited to a loan, sale and leaseback agreement). As it has been 'bought primarily for yield,' the asset serves no direct policy purpose linked to the authority's core functions but has been acquired primarily because it would generate an income stream for the authority, which would most often (but not exclusively) be used to support wider service spending. Examples of such assets is included in the glossary.
82. Whilst these investments impact on treasury management activity, they are managed outside of this Treasury Management Strategy and approved separately as part of the Council's Capital expenditure plans arising from its Capital Strategy. Regulator concerns in relation to the extent of this activity have resulted in recent updates to CIPFA professional Codes of Practice including the Treasury Management Code. Whilst no national monetary, financial or other controls or limits are in place currently, regulations have been updated to ensure the risks and implications of such activities are clearly governed and understood over a long-term period. Recent updates to regulations, CIPFA Codes and PWLB borrowing rules have all adopted a similar outlook to discourage further capital expenditure on investment assets bought primarily for a commercial return or financial yield.
83. The most significant investments currently held by the Council and managed outside of normal treasury management activity are the Council's 100% shareholding in Cardiff Bus, loan to Cardiff Heat Network Limited and the Council's holding of investment properties, which include various historic freeholds within the City held for income generation or capital appreciation. An independent review of the Council's approach to holding investment properties as well as specific investment management practices, similar to Treasury Management Practices, are in place and considered as part of the Annual Property Strategy.
84. Proposals for Non-Treasury investments would need to form part of the Council's Capital Strategy and Capital Programme. Such investment requires careful investment management and should be managed as part of agreed processes considering monitoring, decision making and reporting. This will include an appropriate investment management and risk management framework, making it explicit in any decision making:
- The powers under which investment is made.
  - The governance process including arrangements in place to ensure appropriate due diligence to support decision making.
  - The extent to which capital invested is placed at risk and any rewards over a long-term horizon such as 20-30 years.

## Non-Treasury Investments – Service Investment and Commercial Investment Primarily for Yield

- Proportionality of any income to the overall resources available to the Council
  - The impact of potential losses on financial sustainability.
  - The methodology and criteria for assessing performance and changes to market and other conditions.
  - How knowledge and skills in managing such investments is arranged and that these are monitored, reported and highlighted explicitly in the decision making process and due diligence.
85. Where investment is undertaken in assets primarily for yield, these investments should be proportional to the level of resources of the authority, but it should be noted, that if undertaking such investments, the Council would not be able to borrow from the PWLB for this and any other capital expenditure within its programme.
86. This emphasises the importance of the Council's S151 (Responsible Finance) Officer role in ensuring the governance of, risk assessment, informing, reviewing and reporting decisions being made in relation to both Treasury and Non-treasury Investments.

## The Treasury Function

87. Treasury management activities are delegated to the S151 Officer and detailed Treasury Management Practices are in place and updated regularly setting out the approach to risk management, reporting, responsibilities and controls. Controls and processes in the Treasury function are subject to a more frequent periodic internal audit.
88. The Treasury function performs a key role including ensuring that sufficient funds are available to meet the Council's financial commitments and is often the payment mechanism of last resort. The requirements to meet high standards, accuracy and governance requirements are significant for a small specialist team of c 1.2 FTE undertaking all transactional, reporting and compliance activities for Treasury Management Code requirements. Contingency plans in terms of access to bank and systems are in place and proven. allowing continuity of service provision remotely.
89. Changes to CIPFA's Prudential Indicators have reinforced the need to project positions for the long-term to establish benchmark positions for borrowing and treasury investments. To fully embrace these challenges, the Council overall strategic and budgetary planning will need to continue to develop a longer-term planning approach working with key funders.
90. Treasury Management activities continue to be the subject of regulatory change. The function also needs to evolve in parallel to the complexity of the Council's activities. These challenges and approach to implementing and sustaining changes, continue to test skills, resilience and capacity.
91. Changes in the profile of the Council's projected balance sheet, including an ambitious capital investment programme which almost doubles the size of the existing borrowing, will place the emphasis on ensuring borrowing at the most appropriate structure and timing to reduce risk to the council. The treasury team will need to consider focusing allocating resources towards short and long-term tactical borrowing decisions to manage the borrowing requirement and support minimisation of longer-term costs, whilst identifying and managing risk in a proportionate way. This will require the use of external services, where appropriate to provide the tools and / or expertise to support the implementation of the borrowing strategy and the risk management framework.
92. The CIPFA Treasury Management Code requires all organisations to have a formal and comprehensive knowledge and skills or training policy for the effective acquisition and retention of treasury management knowledge and skills for those responsible for management, delivery, governance and decision making. Treasury staff directly and regularly involved in borrowing and lending activities are provided access to a wide range of training. This includes seminars and workshops organised by treasury advisors bringing together practitioners from different authorities; seminars organised by CIPFA and other national bodies; regular contact with a client relationship manager as well as their briefing notes and articles. Staff responsible for treasury activity on a day-to-day basis have a recognised accountancy qualification and are encouraged to undertake relevant treasury management training.

## The Treasury Function

93. The CIPFA Treasury Management Code also requires the responsible officer to ensure that members with responsibility for treasury management receive adequate training in treasury management. This especially applies to members responsible for scrutiny. Governance and Audit Committee Members responsible for reviewing and seeking assurance on treasury management activities will be provided with the opportunity for additional specific external training as informed by individual and collective Governance and Audit Committee self-assessments.
94. It is the responsibility of the Section 151 officer to ensure the adequacy of the treasury management function, to ensure continuity and workforce planning and ensure skills and expertise are in place, having regard to the size and complexity of the treasury management activity required to be conducted by the council.



# Glossary of Terms

## Bank Rate

The rate of interest set by the Bank of England as a benchmark rate for British banks.

## Bonds

A long-term debt security issued by a company, a financial institution, a local authority, national government or its affiliated agencies. It represents an undertaking to repay the holder the fixed amount of the principal on the maturity date plus a specified rate of interest payable either on a regular basis during the bond's life (coupon) or at maturity.

## Borrowing

Loans taken out by the authority to pay for capital expenditure or for the prudent management of the Council's financial affairs, which are repayable with interest.

## Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure pays for improvements to existing and new assets used in the delivery of Council services as well as other items determined by Regulation. Capital resources are scarce, costly and also have long term revenue implications over many years and even generations where capital expenditure is funded by borrowing. Hence the requirement of the Prudential Code to ensure what is charged as Capital Expenditure is Prudent, Sustainable and Affordable.

The statutory definition of capital expenditure is given in the Local Government Act 2003, the Local Authorities (Capital Finance) Regulations 2003 and 2004 as amended. Statute relies on the accounting measurement of cost in International Accounting Standard (IAS) 16 to determine whether expenditure is eligible to be capitalised or whether it should be treated as revenue expenditure. Key to what is eligible as capital spend are the following words in IAS 16 - 'Costs directly attributable to bringing the specific asset into working condition for its intended use'.

## Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

An authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. It measures capital expenditure incurred but not yet financed by the receipt of grants, contributions and charges to the revenue account.

Movement	Opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)
+	Capital expenditure incurred in year
-	Grants, contributions, reserves and receipts used for capital expenditure
-	Prudent Minimum Revenue Provision and Voluntary Provision
=	Closing Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

## Capital Market

A market for securities (debt or equity), where companies and governments can raise long-term funds (periods greater than one year). The raising of short-term funds takes place on other markets (e.g. the money market).

## Capital Programme

The Capital Programme sets out the Council's capital expenditure plans for the forthcoming financial year as well as for the medium term. It is approved annually at Council and identifies the estimated cost of those schemes, their projected phasing over financial years as well as the method of funding such expenditure.

## Certificates of Deposits (CDs)

A certificate issued for deposits made at a deposit-taking institution (generally a bank). The bank agrees to pay a fixed interest rate for the specified period and repays the principal at maturity. CDs can be purchased directly from the banking institution or through a securities

# Glossary of Terms

broker. An active interbank secondary market exists to buy and sell CDs.

## **Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA)**

CIPFA is the professional body for accountants in public finance. As a specialised public services body, it provides information, guidance, and determines accounting standards and reporting standards to be followed by Local Government.

## **Collective Investment Scheme Structures**

Schemes whereby monies from a number of investors are pooled and invested as one portfolio in accordance with pre-determined objectives.

## **Corporate Bonds**

Bonds that are issued by a company or other non-government issuers. They represent a form of corporate debt finance and are an alternative means of raising new capital other than equity finance or bank lending.

## **Counterparty**

One of the parties involved in a financial transaction with whom the Council may place investments.

## **Counterparty / Credit Risk**

Risk that a counterparty fails to meet its contractual obligations to the Council to repay sums invested.

## **Credit Criteria**

The parameters used as a starting point in considering with whom the Council may place investments, aimed at ensuring the security of the sums invested.

## **Credit Default Swaps**

A financial transaction which the buyer transfers the credit risk related to a debt security to the seller, who receives a series of fees for assuming this risk. The levels of fees reflect the perceived level of risk.

## **Credit Rating**

A credit rating assesses the credit worthiness of an individual, corporation, or even a country. Credit ratings are calculated from financial history and current assets and liabilities. Typically, a credit rating tells a lender or investor the probability of the subject being able to pay back a loan. Ratings usually consist of a long-term, short term, viability and support indicators. The Fitch credit rating of F1 used by the Council is designated as “Highest Credit Quality” and indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

## **Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF)**

The Debt Management Office provides this service as part of its cash management operations and of a wider series of measures designed to improve local and central government’s investment framework and cash management. The key objective of the DMADF is to provide users with a flexible and secure facility to supplement their existing range of investment options while saving interest costs for central government.

## **Debt Restructuring**

Debt restructuring is a process that allows an organisation to reduce, renegotiate and undertake replacement debt.

## **Diversification of Investments**

The process of creating a portfolio of different types of financial instruments with regard to type, price, risk issuer, location, maturity, etc. in order to reduce the overall risk of the portfolio as a whole.

## **Duration (Maturity)**

The length of time between the issue of a security and the date on which it becomes payable.

## **External Borrowing**

Money borrowed from outside of the Council.

## **Financial Instrument**

Any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another. Typical financial liabilities are borrowing and financial guarantees. Typical financial assets include bank deposits, amounts owed by customers, loans receivable and investments.

## **Fitch Credit Ratings**

A commercial organisation providing an opinion on the relative ability of an entity to meet financial commitments, such as interest, preferred dividends, repayment of principal, insurance claims or counterparty obligations. The opinion is usually provided in the form of a credit rating.

## **Fixed Rate**

An interest rate that does not change over the life of a loan or other form of credit.

## **Four Clauses of Treasury Management**

In compliance with the First Clause, this Council will create and maintain, as the cornerstones for effective treasury management:

- A treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities.
- Suitable Treasury Management Practices (TMPs), setting out the way the organisation will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.

In compliance with the Second Clause, this Council will receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities, including, as a minimum, an annual strategy in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close, in the form prescribed in its TMPs.

In compliance with the Third Clause, this Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Cabinet, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Corporate Director Resources in accordance with existing delegations, who will act in accordance with the organisation's policy statement, TMPs and CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.

# Glossary of Terms

In compliance with the Fourth Clause, this Council requires the scrutiny of the accounting, audit and commercial issues of its Treasury Management Strategy and Practices to be undertaken by the Council's Audit Committee due to the technical nature of the documents.

## **Fraud / Error Risk**

Risk of losses being incurred because of fraud, error or corruption in treasury management and failure to institute adequate systems, procedures and other arrangements to prevent irregularities.

## **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

The HRA is an account of expenditure and income that every local authority housing department must keep in accordance with the Local Government & Housing Act 1989. The account is kept separate, or ring fenced from other Council activities. Income is primarily generated by the rents and service charges paid by tenants, while expenditure is on the management and maintenance of the housing stock, and capital financing charges on the HRA's outstanding loan debt.

## **Interest Rate Risk**

Risk that fluctuations in interest rates could impose extra costs against which the Council has failed to protect itself adequately.

## **Internal Borrowing**

Money borrowed from within the Council, sourced from temporary internal cash balances.

## **Investment assets bought primarily for yield**

Assets that serve no direct policy purpose but are held primarily to generate an income. An 'investment asset' could be a capital or property asset, or interest or right that generates a balance sheet asset (such as, but not limited to a loan, sale and leaseback agreement). As it has been 'bought primarily for yield,' the investment asset would serve no direct policy purpose linked to the authority's core functions but has been acquired primarily because it would generate an income stream for the authority, which would most often (but not exclusively) be used to support wider service spending.

Investment assets bought primarily for yield would usually have one or more of the following characteristics: a. buying land or existing buildings to let out at market rate b. buying land or buildings which were previously operated on a commercial basis which is then continued by the local authority without any additional investment or modification c. buying land or existing buildings other than housing which generate income and are intended to be held indefinitely, rather than until the achievement of some meaningful trigger such as the completion of land assembly d. buying a speculative investment asset (including both financial and non-financial assets) that generates yield without a direct policy purpose.

## **Lender Option Borrower Option Loans (LOBOs)**

Loans to the Council where the lender can request a change in the rate of interest payable by the Council at pre-defined dates and intervals. The council at this point has the option to repay the loan.

## **Liquidity**

The ability of the Council to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

## **Market Loans**

Borrowing that is sourced from the market i.e. organisations other than the Public Works Loan Board or a Public Body.

## **Medium Term Financial Plan**

Plan outlining the financial strategies and actions that are envisaged by the Council in the medium term regarding the budget.

## **Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID)**

EU legislation that regulates firms who provide financial instrument services. MiFID was applied in the UK from November 2007 but was revised with changes taking effect from **3 January 2018** (MiFID II).

The aim is to ensure financial institutions undertake more extensive checks on their client's suitability for investment products. Organisations undertaking investments will be either classified as 'retail' or 'professional.'

MiFID II requires all Local Authorities to be initially treated as "retail clients" unless they "opt up" to a "professional client." The assumption being that retail clients require a greater level of due diligence and support for investment decision making. Financial institutions will owe a greater duty of care to retail clients, however, they will have no greater financial protection than professional clients.

## **Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)**

This is the amount which must be charged to the authority's revenue account each year and set aside as provision for repaying external loans and meeting other credit liabilities. The prudent amount is determined having regard to guidance issued by WG. This has the effect of reducing the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).

## **Money Market**

The market for short-term securities or investments, such as certificates of deposit, commercial paper or treasury bills, with maturities of up to one year.

## **Money Market Funds**

An investment fund which pools the investments of numerous depositors, spreading those investments over a number of different financial instruments and counterparties. Funds with a Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV) are those where the sum invested is the same on maturity, Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV) are those where any sum invested is likely to be the same on maturity. Funds with a Variable Net Asset Value (VNAV) are those where the sum on maturity could be higher or lower due to movements in the value of the underlying investments.

## **Net Asset Value (NAV)**

The market value of an investment fund's portfolio of securities as measured by the price at which an investor will sell a fund's shares or units.

## **Pooling**

The process whereby investments or loans are held corporately rather than for specific projects or parts of the Council, with recharges to those areas for their share of the relevant income and expenditure using an agreed methodology, where such a recharge is required to be made.

## **Prudential Code for Capital Finance**

The system introduced on 1 April 2004 by Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 which allows local authorities to borrow without Government consent, if they can afford to service the debt from their own resources and that any such borrowing is prudent and sustainable. This requires the preparation and approval of various indicators.

## **Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)**

The Public Works Loans Board is a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt

## Glossary of Terms

Management Office, an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. PWLB's function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments.

### **Refinancing Risk**

Risk that maturing borrowing or other financing of capital projects cannot be renewed on terms that reflect existing assumptions and that the Council will suffer extra costs as a result.

### **Regulatory Risk**

Risk that actions by the Council or by any person outside of it are in breach of legal powers or regulatory requirements resulting in losses to the Council, or the imposition of extra costs.

### **Ring Fencing**

The largest UK banks, (those with more than £25bn of retail / Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) deposits), are required, by UK law, to separate core retail banking services from their investment and international banking activities. Whilst smaller banks with less than £25bn in deposits are exempt, they can choose to opt up. Several banks are very close to the threshold already and so may come into scope in the future regardless.

Ring-fencing is a regulatory initiative created in response to the global financial crisis. It mandates the separation of retail and SME deposits from investment banking, to improve the resilience and resolvability of banks by changing their structure. In general, simpler, activities offered from within a ring-fenced bank, (RFB), will be focused on lower risk, day-to-day core transactions, whilst more complex and "riskier" activities are required to be housed in a separate entity, a non-ring-fenced bank, (NRFB). This is intended to ensure that an entity's core activities are not adversely affected by the acts or omissions of other members of its group.

### **Security**

Protecting investments from the risk of significant loss, either from a fall in value or from default of a counterparty.

### **Sovereign Credit Ratings**

The credit rating of a country. It indicates the risk level of the investing environment of a country, considering political risk and other factors.

### **Sterling**

The monetary unit of the United Kingdom (the British pound).

### **Term Deposits**

A term deposit is a money deposit at a banking institution that cannot be withdrawn for a certain "term" or period.

### **Treasury Management**

The management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

### **Treasury Bills**

Debt securities issued by a government with a short-term maturity of up to 6 months.

# Glossary of Terms

## **UK Government Gilts**

Fixed-interest debt securities issued or secured by the British Government. Gilts are always denominated in sterling though the Government occasionally also issues instruments in other currencies in the Eurobond market or elsewhere.

## **Variable Rate**

An interest rate that changes in line with market rates.

## **Yield**

The annual rate of return paid out on an investment, expressed as a percentage of the current market price of the relevant investment.



**CARDIFF COUNCIL BUDGET 2024/25****Budget Support for the Corporate Plan and Future Generations**

<b>CORPORATE PLAN</b> <i>Wellbeing Objective</i>	<b>2024/25 BUDGET</b> <i>(includes 5-year capital expenditure, and additional revenue allocations for 2024/25 including one-off sums)</i>
<b>CARDIFF IS A GREAT PLACE TO GROW UP</b>	<p>The Council has chosen to protect investment into services for children and young people, particularly the city's most vulnerable young people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £10.8m - Net additional revenue support for Children's Services</li> <li>• £12.8m - Net additional revenue support for Schools</li> <li>• £4.1m – Net additional revenue support for retained Education budgets</li> <li>• The 2024/25 Budget maintains investment in Youth Services</li> </ul> <p>In the capital programme the Council is continuing to invest in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £234.2m - Investment in new schools</li> <li>• £41.2m - Investment in the existing Schools estate</li> <li>• £2.0m - Capital investment in youth hubs</li> <li>• £4.8m - Capital investment in Right Homes Right Support Strategy for children and investment in children's respite provision and gateway accommodation for young people</li> </ul>
<b>CARDIFF IS A GREAT PLACE TO GROW OLDER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £47.3m - Disabled adaptations to enable people to remain in their home (Adults &amp; Children)</li> <li>• £14.5m - Independent Living Wellbeing Hub &amp; Joint Equipment Store</li> <li>• £15.5m - Net additional revenue support for Adult Services</li> </ul>
<b>SUPPORTING PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued payment of the voluntary living wage to staff</li> </ul>
<b>SAFE, CONFIDENT &amp; EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £716.3m - Capital investment in existing social housing and new Council Homes</li> <li>• £4.6m - Capital investment in Leisure Centres</li> <li>• £20.7m - Capital investment in Neighbourhood and Estate Regeneration</li> <li>• £19.9m - Capital investment in parks, harbour infrastructure and playground equipment</li> </ul>
<b>A CAPITAL CITY THAT WORKS FOR WALES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £11.9m- Support for Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRC) Projects</li> <li>• £215.5m – Major development projects including the International Sports Village and Arena development (largely funded by developer contributions). See Major Projects section of Budget Report for more information.</li> <li>• £32.7m - Investment in Highway Infrastructure Assets</li> </ul>
<b>ONE PLANET CARDIFF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £129.8m - To develop Cardiff Cross Rail, strategic cycle routes, improve transportation infrastructure and encourage active travel and sustainability, subject to grant funding</li> <li>• £14.2m - Capital support for waste collection, recycling activity and vehicles</li> <li>• £2.4m - For One Planet Cardiff Strategy match-funding (capital)</li> <li>• £34.9m - To address flooding and coastal erosion</li> <li>• £0.2m – additional revenue funding to continue the Coed Caerdydd scheme</li> </ul>
<b>MODERNISING &amp; INTEGRATING OUR PUBLIC SERVICES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £8.9m - Investment in modernising ICT and improving business processes</li> <li>• £20.8m - Investment in non-schools buildings</li> </ul>

**CARDIFF COUNCIL BUDGET 2024/25****Budget Support for the Corporate Plan and Future Generations**

<b>The Five Ways of Working at the Heart of the Future Generations Act</b>	
<b>LONG TERM</b>	<p>Through the Corporate Plan and Budget process the Council balances the need to manage immediate and severe budget pressures with the need to continue to invest in medium and long-term priorities which will take the city and public services forward. This includes: modelling a future budget outlook to understand how today's decisions and assumptions will affect the future shape of the budget; identifying current and future risks and their potential financial impact; carefully evaluating the Council's financial resilience and ensuring mechanisms are in place to protect this position; and setting an ambitious but affordable capital programme. This approach allows the budget to set investment into Council's long-term development including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Flood Defence</li> <li>• Energy infrastructure</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• City economy and regeneration.</li> </ul>
<b>PREVENTION</b>	<p>Despite budget pressures, the Council is continuing to invest across Wellbeing Objectives in early intervention and preventing escalation of need, recognising that only by doing so will the Council be able to manage demand and deliver sustainable services over the medium and longer term. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investing in increasing the independence of individuals to live in their own homes and signposting to third sector organisations rather than institutionalised care.</li> <li>• Support to tackle homelessness and investment in new affordable housing</li> </ul>
<b>COLLABORATION</b>	<p>The Council understands that meeting some of the biggest challenges facing Council services will require working across organisational and geographical boundaries, and that delivering sustainable services will require close partnership with public services, community services and the private sector. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiff Capital Region City Deal</li> <li>• Public &amp; private sector investment in regeneration projects including the Arena, International Sports Village and Cardiff East Regeneration</li> <li>• Due to the current financial position, there is a need for greater certainty and a longer-term investment funding strategy from Welsh Government.</li> </ul>
<b>INTEGRATION</b>	<p>The Council's Planning and Performance Framework ensures that the Council's corporate planning, financial planning, workforce planning, procurement, assets, risk management and performance management are developed in an integrated manner. Budget proposals are therefore not developed in isolation, with consideration given to the potential impact of any decision on other council services, external partners and service users.</p>

## CARDIFF COUNCIL BUDGET 2024/25

### Budget Support for the Corporate Plan and Future Generations

<b>INVOLVEMENT</b>	<p>The Council is committed to ensuring that the voice of citizens and partners is heard in the development of its Corporate Plan and budget, particularly those who rely most on public services or whose voice is not traditionally heard in Council consultations of civic life. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City wide consultation on life in Cardiff and satisfaction with services (3,187 responses)</li><li>• City wide consultation on the budget proposals (9,001 responses and 103 completed CFC versions)</li><li>• A focus on engaging with groups that are ‘seldom heard’ or do not traditionally respond to Council consultations as set out in the Participation Strategy</li><li>• Service user specific consultation on proposals where appropriate, particularly when identified in policy impact assessments.</li><li>• Budget Scrutiny and engagement with key stakeholders – Schools Budget Forum, Trade Unions, staff</li></ul> <p>HRA tenant consultation in respect of rent levels and service priorities</p>
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Service Change Proposals - 2024/25												
Dir	Report Ref	Description	Service Change Savings 2024/25				Net Employee Implications (FTE)	Risk Analysis		Equality Impact Assessment Required	Consultation	
			Employees £000	External/ Other £000	Income £000	Total Proposed £000		Achievability	Residual		Category	City Wide Response
Corporate Management	CMTSC1	<b>Reduce amount available for Corporate Initiatives</b> This saving reduces the amount available to provide corporate support to events that promote and publicise the city.		21		21	Nil	Green	Green	No	None	N/A
<b>Corporate Management Total</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0.0</b>					
Economic Development	ECDCS1	<b>Asset Transfer of Parks Outdoor Sport Facilities to Local Clubs.</b> This proposal involves the continuation of the asset transfer of facilities such as changing rooms, pavilions and other built facilities to local sports clubs.		25		25	Nil	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	81.1% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS2	<b>Event Management - Reduce Funding Support for Events</b> The proposed saving would delete the base funded budget for Artes Mundi (£21k), The Big Gig (£5K) and the Cardiff Council Associated Event Budget (£10k).		36		36	Nil	Amber-Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	63.8% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS3	<b>Reduction in Offer at Museum of Cardiff</b> The Old Library is now in the process of being leased to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with work ongoing to secure the long term sustainability of the Museum in an alternative venue. Whilst this work is on-going, the Council is proposing to reduce the cost of running the Museum by closing it one day a week, probably on Sundays, which would save £24k per year.	24			24	Nil	Amber-Green	Amber-Green	Yes	City Wide	81.6% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS4	<b>Lease/Dispose of the Mansion House</b> The proposal is to lease or dispose of the Grade II Listed Mansion House or identify an alternative use that would remove the ongoing maintenance and liability of the venue from the Council. The Grade II listed building is in a worsening state of repair, and needs investment over the medium to long term, which cannot be funded by the income it currently generates. It is proposed to undertake a market interest testing exercise and consider disposal via long lease.		87	(56)	31	Nil	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	88.6% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS5	<b>Outdoor Sports Pitches</b> Saving reflects a 10% increase in pitch hire fees for football, rugby, cricket and baseball. Hire fees vary depending on the individual sport and category of hire, with fees currently ranging from £50.92 to £76.12. Benchmarking is undertaken annually through the Parks Core Cities Group.			6	6	Nil	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	61.8% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS6	<b>Community Park Ranger &amp; Urban Park Ranger Reduced Provision</b> The saving would be achieved through a reduction of 2 FTE in the Community Park Ranger and Urban Park Ranger function.	83			83	2.0	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	46.8% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS7	<b>Introduce a phased recovery of the subsidy for the maintenance of Municipal Bowling Greens</b> The Council provides a subsidy of £11k each for 4 bowling greens across the city to support the maintenance of the greens. The Council is proposing to increase charges to the clubs by £1k each to partly cover the cost of this maintenance.			4	4	Nil	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	60.7% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS8	<b>Reduced Playground Management Service</b> Reduce spend on the replacement of equipment, consumables and the repair and maintenance of play areas and associated facilities.		31		31	Nil	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	48.8% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS9	<b>Playground inspection</b> Reduce inspection capacity in respect of playgrounds.	37	15		52	1.0	Green	Red-Amber	Yes	City Wide	44.3% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS10	<b>Arboriculture - Inspection</b> Reduce inspection capacity in respect of trees.	47			47	1.0	Green	Red	Yes	City Wide	33.4% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS11	<b>Introduce an annual charge for Bowls Clubs using Pavilions</b> Two Bowls Clubs continue to use parks' pavilions on a free of charge basis. Under this proposal an annual fee would be introduced.			3	3	Nil	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	60.7% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS12	<b>Land Management - Hard Infrastructure</b> Under this proposal the budget for the repair and maintenance of hard infrastructure would be reduced. Examples of hard infrastructure are gates, fences, footpaths, drains etc. Capacity to respond to repair and maintenance requests would be reduced by 50%.		60		60	Nil	Green	Amber-Green	Yes	City Wide	12.2% Strongly Agree/Agree
	ECDCS13	<b>Parks Apprenticeship/Traineeship Schemes</b> A reduction in the number of Apprenticeship / Traineeship Schemes offered.	87			87	3.0	Green	Amber-Green	Yes	City Wide	26.5% Strongly Agree/Agree

Dir	Report Ref	Description	Service Change Savings 2024/25				Net Employee Implications (FTE)	Risk Analysis		Equality Impact Assessment Required	Consultation	
			Employees	External/ Other	Income	Total Proposed		Achievability	Residual		Category	City Wide Response
			£000	£000	£000	£000						
Economic Development	ECDSC14	<b>Protocol</b> The proposal would remove 1 FTE (Grade 6) and reduce the hospitality budget with the service being managed in the future within Democratic Services, with additional support being provided by the Council's events team.	43	5		48	1.0	Green	Green	Yes	Internal	N/A
	ECDSC15	<b>Reduced Business &amp; Investment Service</b> Reduced service but seeking additional external funding to retain a level of service (e.g. administration fees for services and working with external grant funding schemes and other income sources). Also seek to explore working with partners within the city and across the region. Reduction of two (vacant) posts, and an increase in income to cover 1 existing post.	87		17	104	2.0	Amber-Green	Amber-Green	Yes	Service Specific	N/A
	ECDSC16	<b>Review of Strategic Estates Administration</b> Reduction in internal departmental Administrative support	20			20	1.0	Green	Green	No	Internal	N/A
	ECDSC17	<b>Parks Maintenance</b> To rationalise the provision and maintenance of annual spring and summer floral displays and permanently planted areas including shrub beds, rose beds and herbaceous borders in our parks and green spaces.	80			80	2.0	Green	Amber-Green	Yes	City Wide	40.8% Strongly Agree/Agree
<b>Economic Development Total</b>			<b>508</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>(26)</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>13.0</b>					
Education	EDUSC1	<b>Education - Directorate-wide review of Service Delivery Model</b> Complete review of service delivery following the review of School Improvement Services (Central South Consortium) and to respond to current operational priorities.		150		150	Nil	Red-Amber	Green	No	Internal	N/A
<b>Education Total</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>0.0</b>					
Recycling & Neighbourhood Services	RNSSC1	<b>Bulky Item Collections</b> The collection of Bulky Waste costs the Council around £300,000 per year. Whilst some items already attract a charge, others are currently collected for free. It is now proposed to charge for all bulky item collections, with charges set at £17.50 for up to 2 items, £30 for up to 4 items, £42.50 for up to 6 items and £55 for up to 8 items, including a £5 booking fee.			71	71	Nil	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	67.1% Strongly Agree/Agree
	RNSSC2	<b>Residual Collections</b> Removal of recycling from residual waste collections, lowering disposal costs.		244		244	Nil	Green	Red-Amber	Yes	City Wide	38.2% Strongly Agree/Agree
<b>Recycling &amp; Neighbourhood Services Total</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>0.0</b>					
Planning, Transport & Environment	PTESC1	<b>Parking - Review of Tariffs across City</b> - Simplify charging structure into 4 zones - reduce free commuter space - Increase charges (average increase of £1 per hour in the city centre, and 50p in districts outside the city centre) in line with comparator benchmarking	(250)	10	523	283	TBC	Red-Amber	Red-Amber	Yes	City Wide	52.5% Strongly Agree/Agree
	PTESC2	<b>Removal of All Free Parking - On street &amp; District Car Parks</b> It is proposed that the window of free parking be removed, with a charge introduced of £1 for the first hour in locations within the central parking area and 50p for other locations outside the city centre.			352	352	Nil	Red-Amber	Red-Amber	Yes	City Wide	50.2% Strongly Agree/Agree
	PTESC3	<b>Reduced operational hours of Cemetery Service</b> The proposal would involve offices at Thornhill and Western Cemetery not being open or staffed at weekends. This would result in the reduction of 3 part time staff. The out of hours service for faith funerals will still be accommodated via a rota and standby arrangements with existing staff.	49			49	1.3	Amber-Green	Amber-Green	Yes	City Wide	64.6% Strongly Agree/Agree
	PTESC4	<b>Bereavement - Fees &amp; Charges</b> Generate additional income through an increase to fees & charges in Bereavement services. The proposal reflects increases between 6% and 11% for burial and cremation fees. Benchmarking against core cities shows charges would remain in the lower quartile.			102	102	Nil	Amber-Green	Amber-Green	Yes	City Wide	66.3% Strongly Agree/Agree
	PTESC5	<b>Bereavement - increase fees for out of hours burials</b> The current surcharges for Saturday, weekend & bank holiday burials (£310.00) do not reflect the full costs, with standby & overtime costs borne by the directorate. The proposal is to increase the fees by 10% to £341, thought this will mean continued subsidisation of the service.			1	1	Nil	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	85.3% in favour of at least 10% increase
<b>Planning, Transport &amp; Environment Total</b>			<b>(201)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>1.3</b>					



Dir	Report Ref	Description	Service Change Savings 2024/25				Net Employee Implications (FTE)	Risk Analysis		Equality Impact Assessment Required	Consultation	
			Employees	External/ Other	Income	Total Proposed		Achievability	Residual		Category	City Wide Response
			£000	£000	£000	£000						
Housing & Communities	HACSC1	<b>Review of how customers contact our services General Fund/HRA Saving</b> This proposal is to consider how to increase digital solutions for customers who contact our services. This will involve a full review of how calls are answered across Housing and Communities, as well as a project group which will take forward any new solutions that would result in a saving.	39			39	TBC	Green	Green	Yes	Service Specific	N/A
	HACSC2	<b>Local Action Team (LAT) Review</b> Reduction from 9 to 7 teams and the removal of the Business Support Officer post. These posts have been kept vacant for some time in anticipation of the required efficiencies. This will have little impact on the work carried out across the estates which is distributed to the 7 remaining teams and admin work will be distributed across the Estates admin team.	173			173	5.0	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	51.8% supported a reduction
	HACSC3	<b>Amendment to Hub Opening and Closing Times</b> A saving could be made by changing the opening hours of Central Library Hub, Canton Library, Cathays Heritage and Branch Library, Radyr, Penylan Library, Rhiwbina, Rhydpennau and Whitchurch Hubs to 9am-5pm or 10am-6pm. To allow for additional late accessibility Central Library Hub would remain open until 7pm for one evening a week. Several of these hubs/libraries currently close during the lunch hour and under this change they would now remain open, saving £120k.	120			120	4.0	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	37.9% support (most favoured option)
	HACSC4	<b>Streamline Mobile Library Service to focus on those residents who are housebound</b> The Mobile Library service is no longer providing a regular or viable service. It is preferred that a housebound service would continue to provide books to our most vulnerable residents. The saving reflects streamlining the service and reverting to a smaller van to serve house bound customers.	52			52	1.5	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	85.2% Strongly Agree/Agree
	HACSC5	<b>Increase volunteers in Hubs</b> The Council is considering changes to Hubs and Libraries to help save money. Over 60 volunteers already support our service, and we are considering using more volunteers to assist in the Hubs and Libraries. Savings of £84k could be made by using more volunteers.	84			84	3.0	Amber-Green	Red-Amber	Yes	City Wide	56.6% Strongly Agree/Agree
	HACSC6	<b>Removal of paper newspapers and periodicals from libraries &amp; Hubs</b> Newspapers and periodicals are currently funded via the book fund - there is no allocated budget for newspapers. Local communities enjoy receiving newspapers and periodicals as it brings them into a community location and assists with social interactions. However the library service offers press reader which allows users to access up to date issues of newspapers and periodicals, on a tablet, mobile or PC/Laptop. If this saving was accepted the book fund would reduce to £417k in 24/25.		30		30	Nil	Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	69.3% Strongly Agree/Agree
	HACSC7	<b>Increase use of Hubs &amp; Llanover Hall</b> It is proposed to review the spaces within Hubs and Llanover Hall, with the intention of generating additional income through increased room hire. A project manager has been assigned to complete this work. Any delay in implementation of the proposal will be mitigated by Shared Prosperity Fund.			30	30	Nil	Amber-Green	Green	Yes	City Wide	92.6% Strongly Agree/Agree
<b>People and Communities - Housing &amp; Communities Total</b>			<b>468</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>13.5</b>					
Services	ADUSC1	<b>Increase the range of supported living options as an alternative to residential care</b> It is proposed to increase the range of supported living options as an alternative to residential care. This proposal would use less expensive supported living accommodation to allow step down from residential care or to prevent use of residential care for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Physical Disabilities, similar to Malvern Drive that released £230k (full year) for 11 residents. This saving proposal would see the delivery of 11 additional units in 2024/25, and the development of a 5-year rolling programme to develop schemes that will allow even the more complex cases to step down.		230		230	Nil	Amber-Green	Amber-Green	Yes	None	N/A



Dir	Report Ref	Description	Service Change Savings 2024/25				Net Employee Implications (FTE)	Risk Analysis		Equality Impact Assessment Required	Consultation	
			Employees	External/ Other	Income	Total Proposed		Achievability	Residual		Category	City Wide Response
			£000	£000	£000	£000						
Adults	ADUSC2	<b>Extend the use of extra care for respite</b> It is proposed to extend the use of extra care for respite. A new respite scheme is about to be launched and depending on the success and demand of this it could be extended so that individuals who would typically receive respite in a residential setting could go into Extra Care where weekly costs are less. This saving will require ongoing work due to this the saving amount may change as projects develop.		115		115	Nil	Amber-Green	Red-Amber	Yes	None	N/A
Adults' Services	ADUSC3	<b>Make better use of existing extra care and develop new schemes</b> It is proposed to make better use of existing extra care and develop new schemes. This proposal would include the development of a 'gateway' into extra care and other specialist accommodation. A review of the waiting list would take place to improve the use of current schemes. The development of in-house extra-care in new housing developments, and the development of a 5-year plan for greater use of specialist housing to reduce / prevent cost of care. This saving will require ongoing work due to this the saving amount may change as projects develop.		127		127	Nil	Amber-Green	Amber-Green	Yes	None	N/A
	ADUSC4	<b>Community Reablement Team (CRT) Homecare Service Review</b> As part of an ongoing review of the CRT Homecare Service, further changes are currently being considered which will streamline the assessment process, improve back office processes and strengthen night service provision. The detail of this proposals are still being developed but are expected to release £86k in savings.	50	36		86	TBC	Red-Amber	Amber-Green	Yes	Service Specific	N/A
	ADUSC5	<b>Review of Charges For Social Care</b> It is proposed to increase the charges made for social care provision. These charges have not been increased for some time and do not reflect the costs to the Council. The proposals include an increase to the charge for homecare to better reflect cost, but to phase in the increase over two years. No individual will pay more than their "assessed charge", the amount they can afford to pay. In addition a Welsh Government cap is currently in place which limits the cost to £100 per week. The proposals also include increases to the administrative charges where an individual has a property to sell to fund their care, including a new annual fee. Recovery of these property related charges are deferred until the property is sold.			306	306	Nil	Red-Amber	Red -Amber	Yes	City Wide	56.5% Strongly Agree/Agree
<b>People and Communities - Adults' Services Total</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>0.0</b>					
Children's Services	CHDSC1	<b>Children's Services - Placements</b> Bringing together the interventions service with the inhouse residential service will develop and enhance placement breakdown support to reduce placement breakdowns, provide short term accommodation if appropriate and accelerate reunification.	(250)	500		250	(6.0)	Red-Amber	Red-Amber	No	Service Specific	N/A
<b>People and Communities - Children's Services Total</b>			<b>(250)</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>(6.0)</b>					
Resources	RESSC1	<b>Customer Service Automation</b> Restructure of Customer Services team to reflect further automation and the move to a digital by default service. Citizens can already contact the Council digitally through the Cardiff Gov app, the Chatbot BOBi, by using online contact forms on the Council website or via social media. These 24/7 services offer more convenience and flexibility for the public and are more efficient and cost-effective for the Council than traditional methods of contact. Residents will therefore be encouraged to contact the Council digitally where it is appropriate for them to do so. For those citizens who are unable to use digital customer service, a telephone service will continue to be available alongside a range of other options, including face-to-face contact in our Hubs and libraries, and tailored engagement methods for those with a disability.	231			231	13.0	Green	Green	Yes	None	N/A
	RESSC2	<b>Insurance Claims Handling</b> The proposal is to increase the level of in-house claims handling, thereby reducing the cost of current external arrangements.		35		35	Nil	Amber-Green	Amber-Green	No	None	N/A
	RESSC3	<b>Accountancy</b> Ensuring that all Grants and Major Projects provide opportunity to recover all accountancy costs incurred.			130	130	Nil	Amber-Green	Amber-Green	No	Internal	N/A
<b>Resources Total</b>			<b>231</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>13.0</b>					

Dir	Report Ref	Description	Service Change Savings 2024/25				Net Employee Implications (FTE)	Risk Analysis		Equality Impact Assessment Required	Consultation	
			Employees £000	External/ Other £000	Income £000	Total Proposed £000		Achievability	Residual		Category	City Wide Response
<b>Council Total</b>			806	1,757	1,489	4,052	34.8					

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<b>Directorate Revenue Budgets</b>							
	<b>2023/24 Base Brought Forward</b>	<b>Transfers into RSG</b>	<b>2023/24 Adjusted Base</b>	<b>Inflation, Commitments &amp; Realignments<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Financial Pressures &amp; Demographic Growth</b>	<b>Savings</b>	<b>Total 2024/25</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Corporate Management</b>	<b>29,218</b>	2,211	<b>31,429</b>	1,637	0	(42)	<b>33,024</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>							
- Economic Development	11,553	0	11,553	17	0	(1,986)	9,584
- Recycling & Neighbourhood Services	40,666	0	40,666	2,120	0	(1,290)	41,496
<b>Education</b>							
- Retained Education Budgets	48,002	0	48,002	4,100	1,600	(1,583)	52,119
- Delegated Schools	294,915	0	294,915	12,364	440	0	307,719
<b>Planning, Transport &amp; Environment</b>	<b>10,054</b>	329	<b>10,383</b>	87	0	(2,496)	<b>7,974</b>
<b>People and Communities:</b>							
- Housing & Communities	49,929	0	49,929	434	0	(1,632)	48,731
- Performance & Partnerships	3,100	0	3,100	91	0	(310)	2,881
- Social Services - Adults	149,084	0	149,084	13,708	3,373	(1,561)	164,604
- Social Services - Children's	88,410	40	88,450	11,438	1,800	(2,487)	99,201
<b>Resources:</b>							
- Governance & Legal Services	7,526	0	7,526	541	0	(27)	8,040
- Resources	18,887	0	18,887	1,766	0	(1,844)	18,809
<b>Capital Financing</b>	<b>36,193</b>	0	<b>36,193</b>	3,591	0	0	<b>39,784</b>
<b>Summary Revenue Account</b>	<b>16,357</b>	0	<b>16,357</b>	611	0	(1,650)	<b>15,318</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>803,894</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>806,474</b>	<b>52,505</b>	<b>7,213</b>	<b>(16,908)</b>	<b>849,284</b>

<sup>1</sup>: Potential 2024/25 pay awards reflected in directorate figures, but will be retained centrally until required (pay awards for Delegated Schools NOT retained centrally)

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Appendix 4 (a)

**CARDIFF COUNCIL: FEES AND CHARGES 2024/25**

No.	Income Source	Current Charge	Proposed Price Change	% Change	Effective Date	Comment
1	Charges in respect to filming in the City	£100.00 - £250.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
19	The Library & Drawing Room /Hourly Rate • Mon-Thurs • Fri-Sun	£600.00 £750.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
29	Welsh Banquet	£90.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
36	Film Location Charge	£350.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
37	Mansion House Hire • 4 hour session • Evening 6 hour session	£590.00 £1,150.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
41	Additional Person charge per night • Child • Adult • Adult (Events)	£4.00 £10.00 £15.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
43	Calor Gas • Propane - 3.9kg bottle - 6.0kg bottle - 13.0kg bottle • Butane - 4.5kg bottle - 7.0 kg bottle - 15.0kg bottle	£20.00 £22.75 £37.00 £21.59 £27.13 £39.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
45	Hire of Cardiff Story Museum galleries for events outside normal operating hours (4 hours) • Corporate Rate • Charity Rate	£900.00 + staffing costs £630.00 + staffing costs	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
77	Committee Room / Crèche (per hour) Peak	£28.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
133	Supervised Sailing & Windsurfing (3 hour session)	£28.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
135	Supervised Sailing & Windsurfing - 10 x 3hr Sessions	£252.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
137	Youth Sailing Taster 1/2 day	£38.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
153	Archery session (1.5 hours)	£25.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
155	Fishing Licences - Day • Junior • Concession • Adult	£4.60 £5.00 £8.80	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
157	Single occupancy launch	£5.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
164	Private Tuition ( 1.5 hours )	£40.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
167	Ergo Room Adult - per hour	£4.50	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
171	Retained Water Pool Park & Play	£8.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
173	Zero to Hero	£120.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
175	1 Day Paddle course	£95.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
177	River Board	£65.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
183	SUP Taster	£35.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
185	Surf School	£120.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
188	Air Trail	£12.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
194	Provision of Mooring	£97.85	Nil	Nil		1 April 2024
197	Short stay moorings - Inner Harbour- per hour	£1.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
198	Abandoned Trolley Recovery Fee	£100.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
208	Cardboard (per tonne)	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
214	Scrap Metal/Car Batteries	Nil	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
218	Bulky Item Collection Booking Fee	£5.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase

Appendix 4 (a)

No.	Income Source	Current Charge	Proposed Price Change	% Change	Effective Date	Comment
219	Green bags, food liners & kerbside caddies	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
245	Late return penalty charge	£0.25	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
	• Non-children's book per day (capped at £10.00)	£0.45				
	• Spoken word per day (capped at £10.00)	£0.65				
	• Music recording per week	£2.60				
251	DVD, video or CD ROM per week	£1.50	20% of all sales and orders	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
	Children's DVD or video per week					
254	Gallery/Exhibitions - commission from exhibition sales	£3.40	£0.00	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
258	Scanned or digital images fee - per item	£55.55	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
	Meeting Room 4 Hire	£222.20				
	• Per Hour	£444.40				
	• Half Day	£20.60				
260	• Full Day	£202.20	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
	• Per Hour for Charities/Community groups	£444.40				
	ICT Suite Hire	£20.60				
	• Half Day					
260	• Full Day					
	• Per Hour for Charities/Community groups					



Appendix 4 (a)

No.	Income Source	Current Charge	Proposed Price Change	% Change	Effective Date	Comment
298	Monmouth Suite / Brecon Suite / Ogmores • Internal rate half day • Internal rate full day • External rate half day • External rate full day	£50.00 £75.00 £100.00 £175.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
303	Cremated Remains Burial	£400.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
308	Certified Extract from the Registers	£15.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
310	Storage of a Coffin ahead of a Funeral Service	£75.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
311	Direct Cremation (No Service)	£450.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
314	Additional 45 Minute Service Time (Thornhill)	£300.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
319	Purchase of Pre Fabricated Burial Chamber	£750.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
323	Double Interment of Cremated Remains (2 caskets or a single double casket)	£600.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
329	Woodland Marker Replacement Post	£95.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
331	Scattering of Cremated Remains from another Crematoria	£60.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
333	Loose Deposit of Cremated Remains	£200.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
335	Double Wooden Casket	£130.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
340	Display of single Visual Tribute	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
343	Downloadable Copy of Pro Tribute	£15.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
359	Purchase of Baby Memorial Headstone	£380.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
361	Barbican Memorial Plaque (10 year lease)	£350.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
367	Memorial Kerb Plaques Renewal Fee (per additional 10 years lease)	£210.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
371	Living Memorial Tree Dedication (10 Year Lease with Plaque)	£750.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
375	Granite Leaf on Memorial Willow Tree - Renewal or Lease extension per 5 years	£30.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
379	Book of Remembrance Entry (Cost Per Line up to 9 Lines)	£25.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
384	Exclusive Right of Placement for 20 years in a Columbaria Unit (Inclusive of Placement and Plaque)	£950.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
392	Personal Bench made of Recyclable Material with a Single Plaque for 10 years Lease	£900.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
401	Registry Office Ceremony	£46.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
407	Certificate	£11.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
409	Registrars Certificate	£11.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
411	Dogs Home - Puppies Rehoming	£280.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
413	Planning Fees (Statutory)	Various	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
417	Pre Application Advice - Statutory Charges • Householder • Minor Development - (1-9 dwellings; floor space including change of use less than 999m <sup>2</sup> ) • Major Development - (1—24 dwellings, floor space including change of use 1,000 to 1,999m <sup>2</sup> ) • Large Major Development (More than 24 dwellings, floor space including change of use more than 1,999m <sup>2</sup> )	£25.00 £250.00 £600.00 £1,000.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase

Appendix 4 (a)

No.	Income Source	Current Charge	Proposed Price Change	% Change	Effective Date	Comment
424	Road and Street Works Act (RASWA)	Various based on size of scheme	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
430	3D Scanner (To provide 3D images of structures, highways, areas to monitor possible deterioration)	£800.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
432	Road Safety Learn to Ride Courses • Level 1 Holiday Course • Level 2 Holiday Course	£20.00 £20.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
435	Clamping & Removal of Untaxed Vehicles • Release from clamp or compound if within 24hrs of offence • Release from pound 24hrs or more after offence • Surety Fee (deposit in lieu of tax) - Motorcycles, light passenger vehicles and light goods vehicles - Buses, recovery vehicles, haulage vehicles and goods vehicles - Exceptional vehicles such as large lorries or coaches • Storage per complete day at pound (if instantly removed the first 24hrs is not charged)	£100.00 £200.00 £160.00 £330.00 £700.00 £21.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
439	Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO) • TTRO Emergency notices • TTRO 18 Month Order	£2,800.00 £3,500.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
440	Event TTROs • Community Event (fewer than 500 people attending) • Large Event (greater than 500 people attending)	£1,000.00 £2,000.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
444	Licence for Digital Advertising sites on the Highway per Advertising Panel	£1,200.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
448	Skip Licence - Standard Charge • 7 days • 28 days	£42.76 £85.51	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
457	Permits for Hoardings on the Public Highway • Under 12m <sup>2</sup> for 28 days • Between 12m <sup>2</sup> -62m <sup>2</sup> for 28 days • Above 62m <sup>2</sup> for 28 days  • Renewals after 28 day period	£150.00 £150.00 + £10.00/m <sup>2</sup> £150.00 + £10.00/m <sup>2</sup> (12-62m <sup>2</sup> ) + £5.00/m <sup>2</sup> (>62m <sup>2</sup> ) 50% of initial charge	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
463	Tables & Chairs on the Public Highway - by m <sup>2</sup> any location unless - located in Mill Lane	£65.00 per m <sup>2</sup> £80.00m <sup>2</sup>	Nil	Nil		The proposed new charges are: - any location £65.00 per m <sup>2</sup> - located in Mill Lane £80.00 m <sup>2</sup>
466	Additional Inspections	£62.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
468	Road and Street Works Act (RASWA) Supervisory Charge	£47.50	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
472	Highways Fixed Penalty Notices • Skips breach of Licence • Skips no Licence • A boards • Street Cafés • Fly Posting • Free Distribution of Literature • Scaffolding	£100.00 £100.00 £100.00 £100.00 £100.00 £100.00 £100.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
474	Replacement of School Bus Passes - Paper	£10.00	Nil	Nil	1 September 2024	No proposed increase
476	Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check for School Transport)	£36.00 for charge £24.00 admin charge	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase

Appendix 4 (a)

No.	Income Source	Current Charge	Proposed Price Change	% Change	Effective Date	Comment
479	Parking Penalty Charge Notices	£50.00 or £70.00, reduced by 50% if paid in 14 days	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
485	Trade Waivers • 1 hour • 1 day • 7 days • 28 days	£8.00 £24.00 £35.00 £60.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
516	City Centre Parking	£20.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
517	Mini buses & Coaches	£30.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
518	Parking (small local events)	£5.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
519	City Centre Parking (small local events)	£10.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase

Appendix 4 (a)

No.	Income Source	Current Charge	Proposed Price Change	% Change	Effective Date	Comment
524	Sale of Land	Charge based on time spent. Minimum fee £650.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
528	Grant of Shop Lease	Charge based on time spent	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
530	Grant of Industrial Lease	Charge based on time spent	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
537	Release of Covenant	£400.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
539	Vacating receipts	£95.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
540	Sales of freehold /lease extensions	£650.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
543	Shared equity scheme resales redemptions	£450.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
548	Unilateral obligations for S106	£1,000.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
552	Highway Licences (S177 115 & 142)- minimum fee charge on actual time spent	Minimum charge £575.00	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase

## Appendix 4 (a)

No.	Income Source	Current Charge	Proposed Price Change	% Change	Effective Date	Comment
562	Telecare SIM Units - monthly charge	£6.50	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
571	Community Alarm Service - Contact Only - per week (Housing Association)	£1.99	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase
603	6% admin costs on Home Improvement Loans	6%	Nil	Nil	1 April 2024	No proposed increase

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14, 21 of Part(s) 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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# Consultation on Cardiff Council's 2024/25 Budget Proposals

REPORT

February 2024



#GweithioDrosGaerdydd  
#WorkingForCardiff  
#GweithioDrosochChi  
#WorkingForYou  
Page 357



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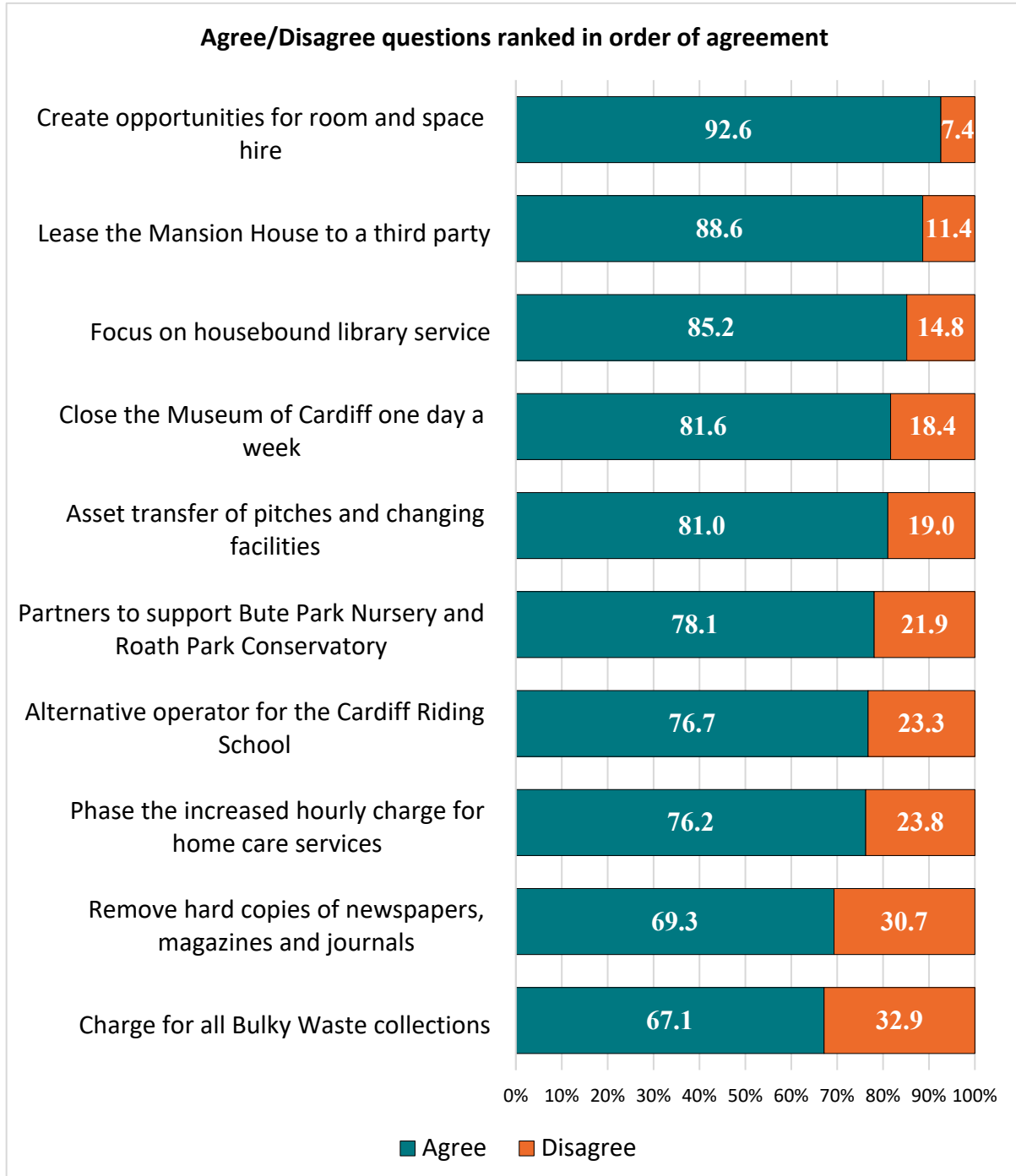
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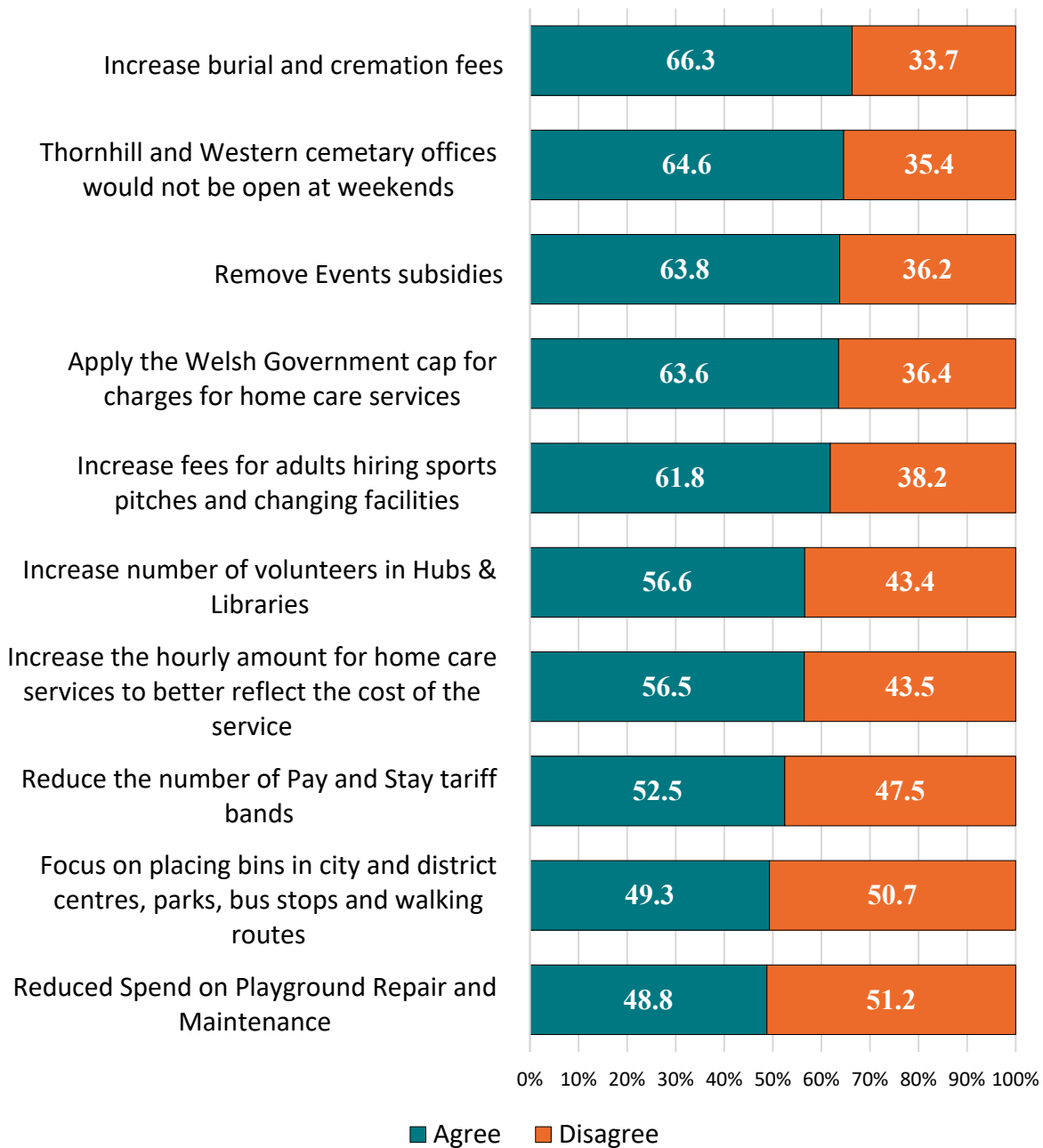


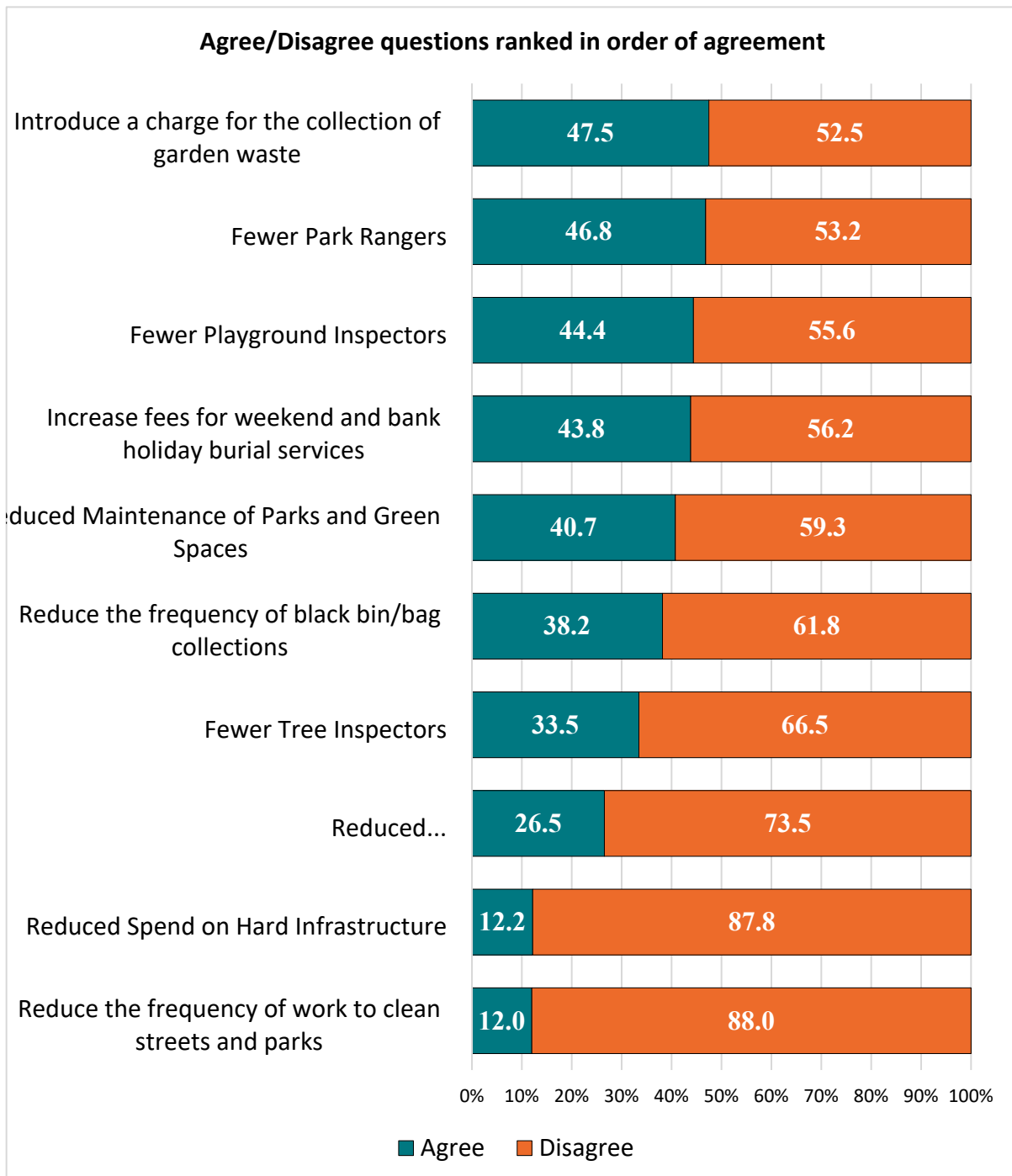
## Executive Summary

Agree/Disagree questions ranked in order of agreement (excluding 'Don't know responses):



**Agree/Disagree questions ranked in order of agreement**





**Other Response options:**

**Options for Hubs & Libraries –**

Option 1: Close selected branches on additional day	26.8%
Option 2: Core opening hours for selected branches	37.9%
Option 3: Close selected branches on Saturdays	2.8%
Option 4: Close selected branches on Saturday afternoons	3.8%
Option 5: No changes	28.7%

## Local Action Teams

Option 1 - Remove the service	16.1%
Option 2 - Reduce the service, prioritising areas by need	51.8%
Option 3 - Keep the service as it is	32.1%

## Bowling Clubs – Increase charges:

	Maintenance of Greens	Use of Park Pavilions
Up to £1,000	45.4%	47.8%
£1,001 - £2,000	15.3%	12.2%
More than £2,000	18.0%	15.5%
No increase in charge	21.3%	24.5%

## Adults hiring sports pitches and changing facilities

10% increase in fees	47.6%
20% increase in fees	14.2%
30% increase in fees	9.0%
No increase in fees, find the savings elsewhere	29.1%

## Increase fees for weekend and bank holiday burial services:

Increasing the fees by 10% to £341	23.5%
Increasing the fees by 20% to £372	13.9%
Increasing the fees by 30% to £403	17.1%
Increase the fees to £735 and remove all subsidy	30.8%
No increase in the cost of Burial Services on Weekends and Bank Holidays	14.7%

## Increase the charge for school meals:

	Secondary	Primary – Years 5 & 6
Increasing the cost by 10p	25.6%	24.8%
Increasing the cost by 20p	13.2%	15.2%
Increasing the cost by 30p	28.3%	20.0%
No increase in the cost of school meals	33.0%	40.0%

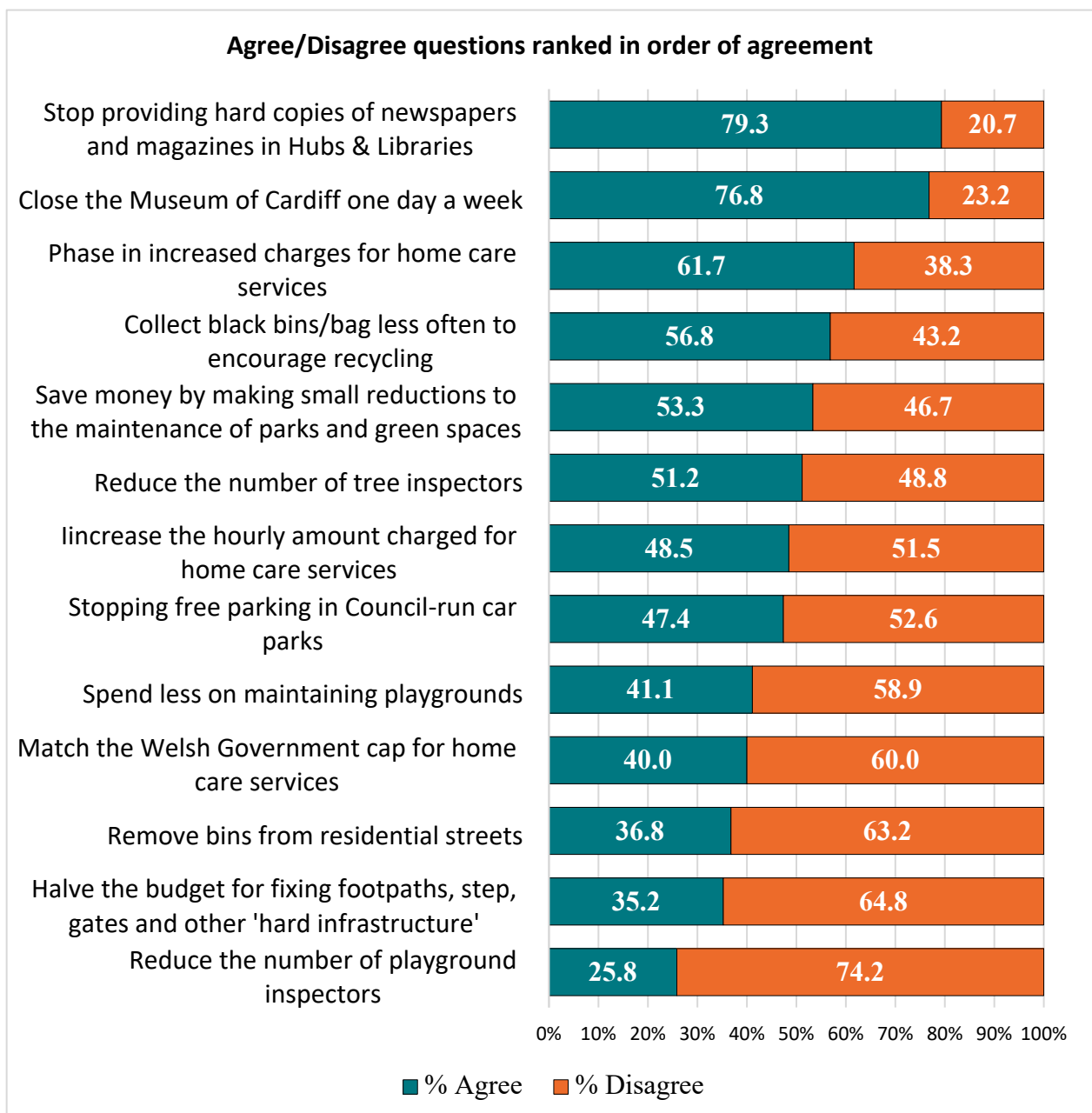
**Level of Increase for Council Tax**

Increasing Council Tax a greater amount than currently planned to help protect some services	33.9%
Keeping any Council Tax increase as low as possible, even though this will mean more services will be reduced or stopped.	58.2%
Don't know	7.9%

**Prioritise School Budgets?**

Yes, continue to prioritise school budgets	67.7%
No, schools should make a bigger contribution to bridging the funding gap	22.1%
Don't know	10.2%

**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**



**Other Response options:**

**Options for Hubs & Libraries –**

Option 1: Close selected branches on additional day	50.5%
Option 2: Core opening hours for selected branches	36.4%
Option 3: Close selected branches on Saturdays	3.0%
Option 4: Close selected branches on Saturday afternoons	3.0%
Option 5: No changes	7.1%

**Local Action Teams**

Option 1 - Remove the service	18.4%
Option 2 - Reduce the service, prioritising areas by need	51.7%
Option 3 - Keep the service as it is	29.9%

**Increase the charge for school meals:**

	Secondary	Primary – Years 5 & 6
Increasing the cost by 10p	20.0%	20.9%
Increasing the cost by 20p	11.8%	16.3%
Increasing the cost by 30p	15.3%	14.0%
No increase in the cost of school meals	52.9%	48.8%

**Level of Increase for Council Tax**

Increasing Council Tax a greater amount than currently planned to help protect some services	19.8%
Keeping any Council Tax increase as low as possible, even though this will mean more services will be reduced or stopped.	44.2%
Don't know	36.0%

**Prioritise School Budgets?**

Yes, continue to prioritise school budgets	54.7%
No, schools should make a bigger contribution to bridging the funding gap	11.6%
Don't know	34.9%

## Background

Like local authorities up and down the country, Cardiff Council has had to deliver services after more than a decade of austerity. This has meant that we have had to make savings of over £230m since 2012.

Over recent years we have also had to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, a cost-of-living and energy crisis and rising costs and inflation which have hit our communities, our most vulnerable people and families, and our public services hard.

More and more the people of Cardiff are looking to the Council and to our public service partners for support, be it for housing, for employment, for care for older relatives or for family support. And yet because of the economic conditions and UK government spending decisions we do not have the funding we need to respond.

We estimate that, because of a combination of rising costs and demand on services, just maintaining the services the city currently benefits from will cost over £57m extra next year.

And so, despite an increase in funding from Welsh Government of £27m, that still leaves us with a £30.3m gap which we must close through further efficiency savings, increasing Council Tax or charges for services, or, in some cases by reducing or cutting services altogether.

This budget consultation sets out the changes to our services that we are having to consider in order to balance the budget in 2024/25.

### *Why is the Council Facing a Budget Gap?*

The Council is dealing with one of the hardest budget challenges it has ever faced. We estimate that the cost of delivering the same services next year has increased by around £57m.

- **The demand for social care is the biggest driver of the budget gap we are facing.** Services supporting the most vulnerable- such as children needing protection or older people needing care- were already facing huge pressures. These pressures have continued to increase with the cost of delivery having risen sharply across the country. This is at a time when demand is going up and the level of support needed is becoming more complicated.
- **As the cost-of-living crisis deepens, more and more people are turning to the Council for support.** This wider demand pressures facing all Council services are taking their toll.
  - The number of people accessing the Council's advice services has doubled since before the pandemic.
  - Waiting lists for temporary accommodation are at historically high levels, having increased by 150% over the last two years.
  - The number of rough sleepers has more than tripled since 2022/23.

- The work done by the Council's into-work advice team has increased by 75% between the same period in 2019/20.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of people seeking support to access Universal Credit.

With more people seeking to access Council services, the cost of delivery is going up.

- **Inflationary Pressures:** High inflation has meant that the costs of all goods and services are more expensive, meaning that everything we need to buy to deliver our services is costing us more.
- **Pay:** We believe public sector employees - who deliver vital services across the city - should be paid fairly. Higher pay awards are being agreed nationally, reflecting the rate of inflation, but this is putting pressure on our budgets.

Even though Cardiff Council is due to receive an increase in Welsh Government support of 4.3% for next year – roughly £27m - it is not enough to meet the additional costs the Council is now facing.

This gap between the cost of delivering services and the amount of money available is known as the 'budget gap.' For next year the Council is facing a 'budget gap' of £30.3m, which we have to close.

### *How we propose to close the Budget Gap*

The budget gap will need to be closed through a combination of:

- **Efficiency Savings:** The Council is committed to protecting frontline services and is therefore looking to generate as much savings as possible through back-office efficiencies. This means driving down the running cost of our buildings, reducing the amount of office space we need, and using new technology where it can save us money. Closing the budget gap will also require the Council to look at a managed reduction in the number of staff employed, through voluntary severance. This can generate savings whilst keeping compulsory redundancies to a minimum.
- **Council Tax:** Council Tax accounts for only 26% of the Council's budget, with the remainder coming from the Welsh Government. Each increase of 1% in Council tax only generates around £1.7m, therefore any increase in Council Tax will not be enough to close the budget gap.
- **Use of Reserves:** The Council has to be very careful when using its financial reserves, there is only a limited amount available and once they're gone, they're gone. The majority of the Council's reserves are earmarked for specific purposes and are therefore already committed in support of delivering services, for example funding one-off community initiatives and supporting Homelessness Prevention Services. The Council does maintain a



level of General Balance totalling £14.2M to cover unforeseen costs and this equates to less than 2% of the Council's overall net budget.

- **Changes to service:** Taken together, our efficiency savings will make the biggest component of our savings. Unfortunately, they will not be enough to balance the books, and some changes or reductions to services may be necessary, alongside increased charges. That is why we want to know what the people of Cardiff think about some of the potential changes that we could make to save money.

## Methodology

Consultation on the Council's budget proposals for 2024/25 was undertaken by the Cardiff Research & Engagement Centre. The consultation ran from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024, following the budget announcement from the Welsh Government on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

The survey was available online and in hard copy, in English, Welsh, Arabic, Polish and Bangla.

The Cardiff Research Centre worked closely with partnership organisations to ensure as representative a response as possible. In a bid to ensure the survey was promoted as widely as possible, the survey was promoted via:

### *a) Email*

- Organisations known to work with less frequently heard groups (see [Appendix 40](#))
- Cardiff's Citizen's Panel
- Ward members in areas known to traditionally have a low response rate.

### *b) Internet/intranet*

The survey was hosted on the Council website, at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/budget](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/budget), with the scrolls on the homepage and pop-ups promoting the consultation appearing on busy pages of the website. It was also promoted to Council employees via DigiGov, Intranet and Staff Information.

An accessible version of the survey (for use with screen readers) was made available alongside the main survey.

Amongst users who had enabled cookies to allow analytics to be recorded, the webpage received 7,440 views in total across both the English and Welsh versions, with 4,429 accessing the page from the scrolling bar on the homepage of the website.

### *c) Social media*

The survey was promoted on the Council's corporate Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram by the Corporate Communications Team throughout the consultation period (to a combined audience of around 185,000 followers) - 54 posts were published across X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and Instagram and they generated 67,371 impressions (views) and generated 1,358 clicks. As well as general call outs for residents to complete the survey, these posts also included a selection of content highlighting the need for responses from under-represented groups. These posts were also shared in a range of relevant community run Facebook groups focussed on different topics such as groups covering different geographic

areas of the city, groups focusing on parenting/what's on for families, and groups formed around different ethnic backgrounds.

Targeted promotion was facilitated via stakeholder's social media accounts and Facebook and Instagram 'boosts' of paid advertising aimed at those less frequently heard i.e. under 25's, Minority Ethnic groups and those living in the 'Southern Arc'\* of the city, as well as city-wide posts for residents of Cardiff. Eight adverts were published, running throughout the survey window, which were viewed 208,127 times, with 2,703 clicks through to the Budget Consultation page.

#### *d) Hard copies*

A total of 5,100 hard copies of the survey were made available in Hubs, libraries and community buildings across the city from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January; they were also provided to Members Services, for all councillors to distribute.

Partner organisations were invited to request hard copies for distribution.

Demand for the hard copies was high, with Hubs requesting additional copies within the first week of the survey window, so an additional print run of 4,900 was ordered. This also gave the opportunity to correct a discrepancy that had been identified with one question on the hard copy compared with the online version of the survey. As the second run of surveys were distributed, any remaining copies of the earlier version of the questionnaire were removed from circulation.

#### *e) Youth Survey*

The Child Friendly Cardiff team created a modified version of the survey using less formal language, and distributed this to Schools Admin and Headteachers newsletters for completion online between 11<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

#### *f) Face to face interviews*

An assessment of results received was made on a weekly basis to understand the profile of respondents. Officers went out to areas with the lowest levels of response to gather views of residents about the budget proposals, particularly those belonging to under-represented groups. Members representing wards with a low response rate were advised, and asked to support promotion of the consultation.

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\* See [Appendix 39](#) for map of 'Southern Arc'

Areas identified were Adamsdown, Butetown, Caerau, Cathays, Ely, Fairwater, Gabalfa, Grangetown, Llanrumney, Pentwyn, Plasnewydd, Riverside, Rumney, Splott and Trowbridge; interviews were also conducted in Central Library, capturing respondents for across the city.

Face-to-face engagement was undertaken across the city, either to promote and distribute the survey, to support completion of the survey, or to understand barriers to participation, and gather views on priorities as to which services should be protected, or where savings could be made.

## Response

After data cleansing to remove blank and duplicated responses, a total of 9,001 responses were received for the main survey, with a total of 103 responses to the Youth survey.

A total of 1,932 face-to-face contacts were made, targeting people who were typically from seldom-heard groups (younger people, over 75s, minority ethnicities, people living in more deprived areas of the city).

Additional feedback to the consultation from a range of organisations and residents is provided in [Appendix 41](#).

## Confidence in the data

Three factors determine the size of a confidence interval for a given confidence level – sample size, percentage and population.

### Sample Size

The larger the sample, the more sure you can be that the answers truly reflect the population. This indicates that for a given confidence level, the larger the sample size, the smaller your confidence interval. However, the relationship is not linear (i.e., doubling the sample size does not halve the confidence interval).

### Percentage

Accuracy also depends on the percentage of the sample that picks a particular answer. If 99% of the sample agree with a proposal and 1% disagree, the chances of error are remote, irrespective of sample size. However, if the percentages are 51% and 49% the chances of error are much greater. It is easier to be sure of extreme answers than of middle-of-the-road ones.

### Population Size

The population size is the number of people the sample responding to the survey represents, in this case, the residents of Cardiff as a whole.

The mathematics of probability proves the size of the population is irrelevant, unless the size of the sample exceeds a few percent of the total population you are examining. This means that a sample of 500 people is equally useful in examining the opinions of a country of 15,000,000 as it would a city of 362,400. For this reason, the sample calculators ignore the population size when it is “large” or unknown. Population size is only likely to be a factor when working with a relatively small and known group of people (such as users of a specific service rather than the general public).

The minimum number required for a robust sample of a wider, large population is 385.

### Confidence Level

Confidence Levels tell you how certain you can be in your data. It is expressed as a percentage and represents how often the true percentage of the population who would pick an answer that lies within the confidence interval. The 95% confidence level means you can be 95% certain – if the question were to be asked 100 times of a similar population, you could expect to receive the same answer 95 times out of the 100 samples.

### Confidence Intervals

Confidence intervals are shown as a plus or minus figure ( $\pm$ ). If, for example, you have a confidence interval of 4, and 47% picked an answer (e.g. 47% agree with a proposal in the survey), you could be confident that between 43% (47% minus 4) and 51% (47% plus 4) of the population would have picked that answer were the survey to be repeated.

The smaller the confidence interval, the more confident you can be that the data is robust.

The overall results for questions in this survey are extremely robust – we have confidence

that, were the survey to be repeated, the results would be similar. The sample size means that this confidence also applies to analysis of sub-groups, such as demographic and geographic characteristics, even though the proportion of responses for some of these groups does not reflect that of the city as a whole. Confidence intervals for each of these groups, at the 95% confidence level, are shown below. The sample size for the Child Friendly Cardiff version of the survey is smaller, and therefore it is likely that, were the survey to be repeated with this group, there could be a wider variance in responses than for the main survey. This is shown by the larger confidence intervals, shown for each question in this report.

Demographic Groups	Base	Confidence interval
<b>Overall response</b>	9,001	$\pm 0.7$
<b>Under 35</b>	1,038	$\pm 3.0$
<b>55+</b>	2,769	$\pm 1.9$
<b>Female</b>	3,291	$\pm 1.7$
<b>Male</b>	2,845	$\pm 1.8$
<b>Minority Ethnicity</b>	426	$\pm 4.7$
<b>Identify as disabled</b>	742	$\pm 3.6$
<b>Welsh speaker</b>	773	$\pm 3.5$
<b>Children in household</b>	1,983	$\pm 2.2$
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	577	$\pm 4.1$
<b>CFC Survey</b>	103	$\pm 9.7$

Deprivation Fifth	Base	Confidence interval
<b>Most Deprived</b>	626	$\pm 3.9$
<b>Next Most Deprived</b>	930	$\pm 3.2$
<b>Middle</b>	1,045	$\pm 3.0$
<b>Next Least Deprived</b>	1,450	$\pm 2.6$
<b>Least Deprived</b>	1,766	$\pm 2.3$

## Research Findings

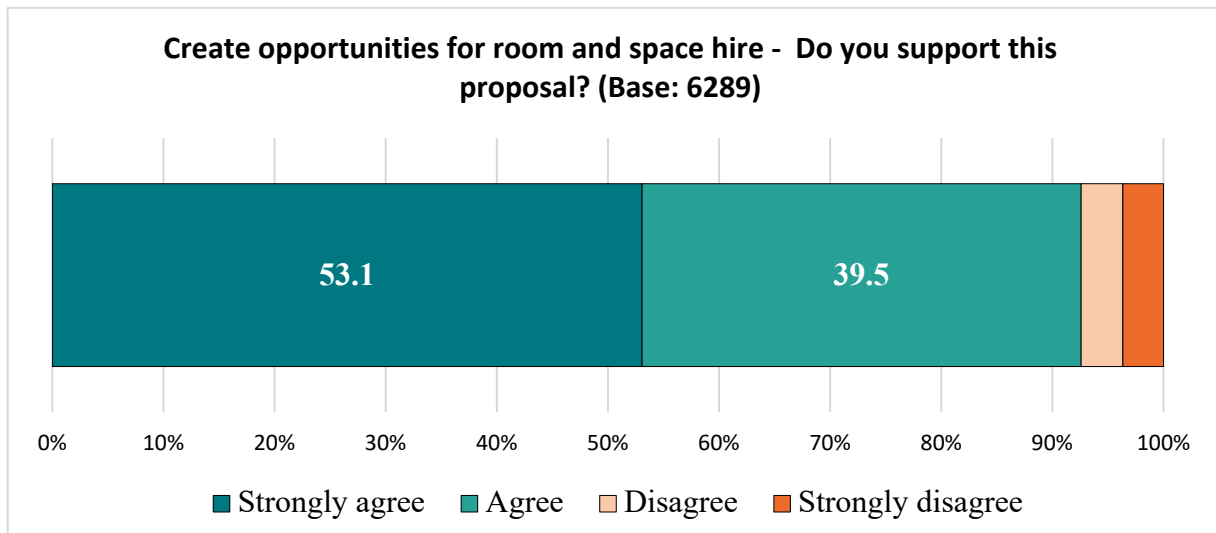
### Hubs & Libraries

A number of Council venues, including Hubs and the Llanover Hall Arts Centre, have spaces that could be made available for community and local business use. The Council is proposing to review the spaces available to create opportunities for room and space hire. This will help to create additional income.

#### Do you agree with this proposal?

A total of 6,289 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 69.9%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 0.7$  for % agreeing with this proposal.

Overall, 92.6% of respondents agreed with the proposal to create opportunities for room and space hire in Hubs and other Council venues, with over half (53.1%) 'strongly agreeing'. Just 7.4% disagreed with this proposal.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

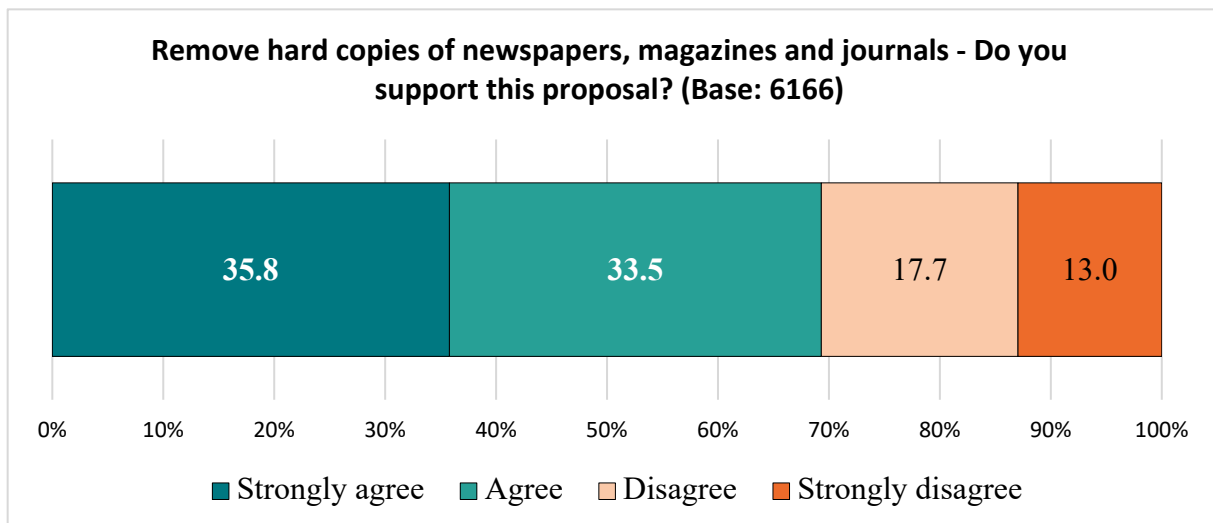
Results were consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details shown in [Appendix 1](#)).

Hubs and Libraries in Cardiff currently provide copies of newspapers, magazines and journals. The library service offers a press reader, which allows people to access these newspapers and magazines electronically, using their tablet, mobile or the PCs in the Hubs and libraries. Stopping the provision of the hard copies would save £35,000 per year, whilst still allowing access electronically.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,166 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 68.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.5$  for % agreeing with this proposal.

A total of 69.3% of all respondents agreed with the removal of hard copies of newspapers, magazines and journals from Hubs & Libraries, contrasting with 30.7% who disagreed.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Again, the results were broadly consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details shown in [Appendix 2](#)).

Eighty-five respondents commented on newspapers/magazines or digital exclusion in the open comments question at the end of the section, with details shown in [Appendix 4](#).



**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

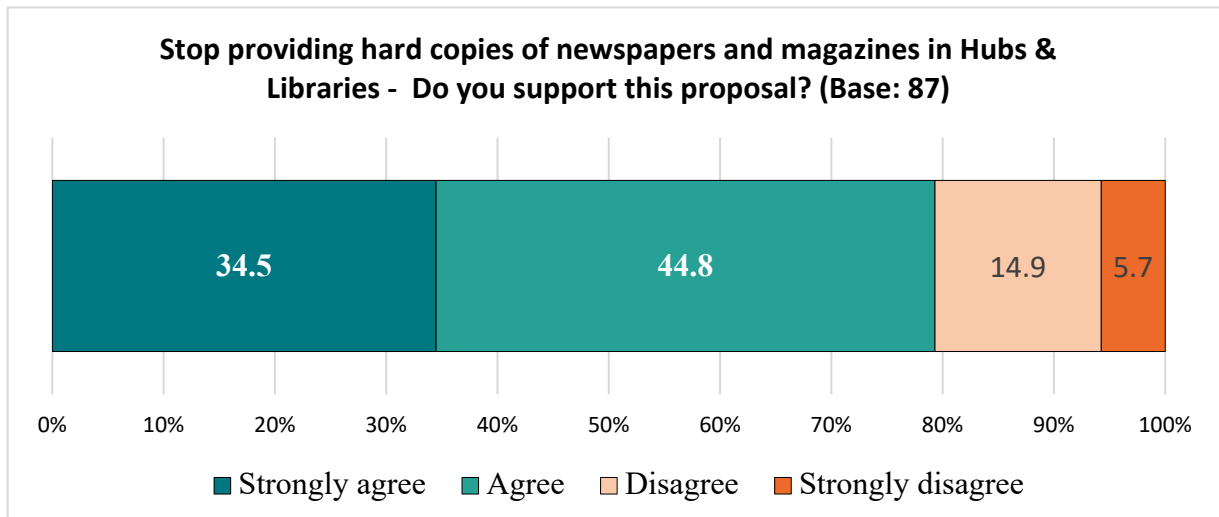
Hubs and Libraries in Cardiff currently provide hard copies of newspapers, magazines and journals.

They can also be accessed electronically, using a tablet, mobile or the PCs in the Hubs and libraries. If we stop providing the hard copies would save £35,000 over the next financial year.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 87 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 84.4%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 8.6$  for % agreeing with this proposal.

A total of 79.3% of young people taking part in the survey agreed with the proposal to stop providing hard copied of newspapers and magazines, and replace these with digital copies. Around one in five (20.7%) disagreed with this.



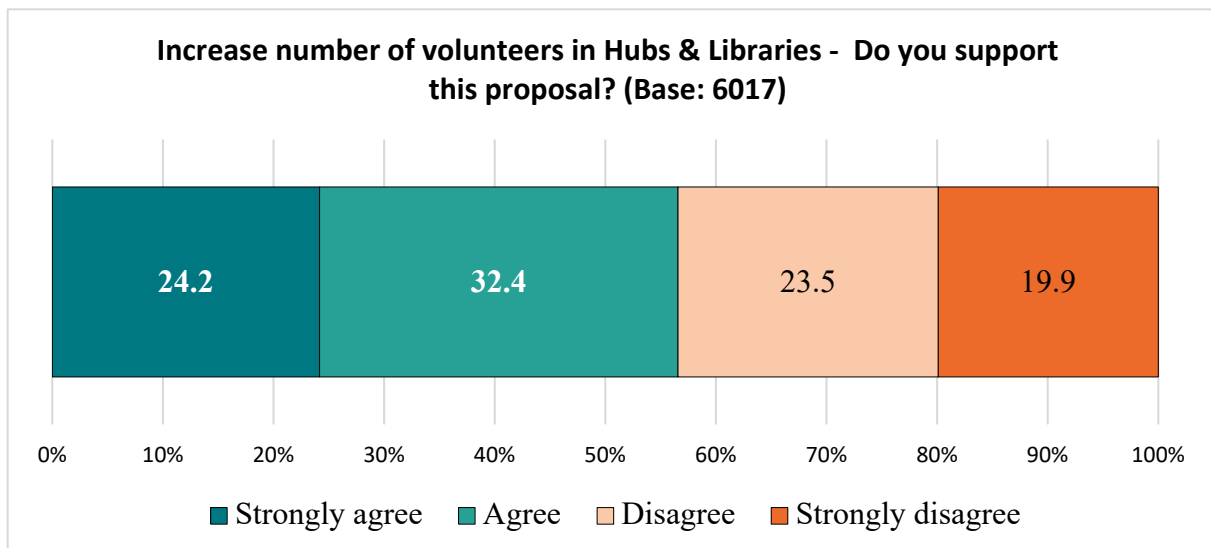
Excludes 'Don't know' responses

The Council is considering changes to Hubs and Libraries to help save money. Over 60 volunteers already support our Hubs and Libraries, and we are considering using more volunteers to assist in the Hubs and Libraries. Savings of £84,000 could be made by using more volunteers.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,017 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 66.4%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.6$  for % agreeing with this proposal.

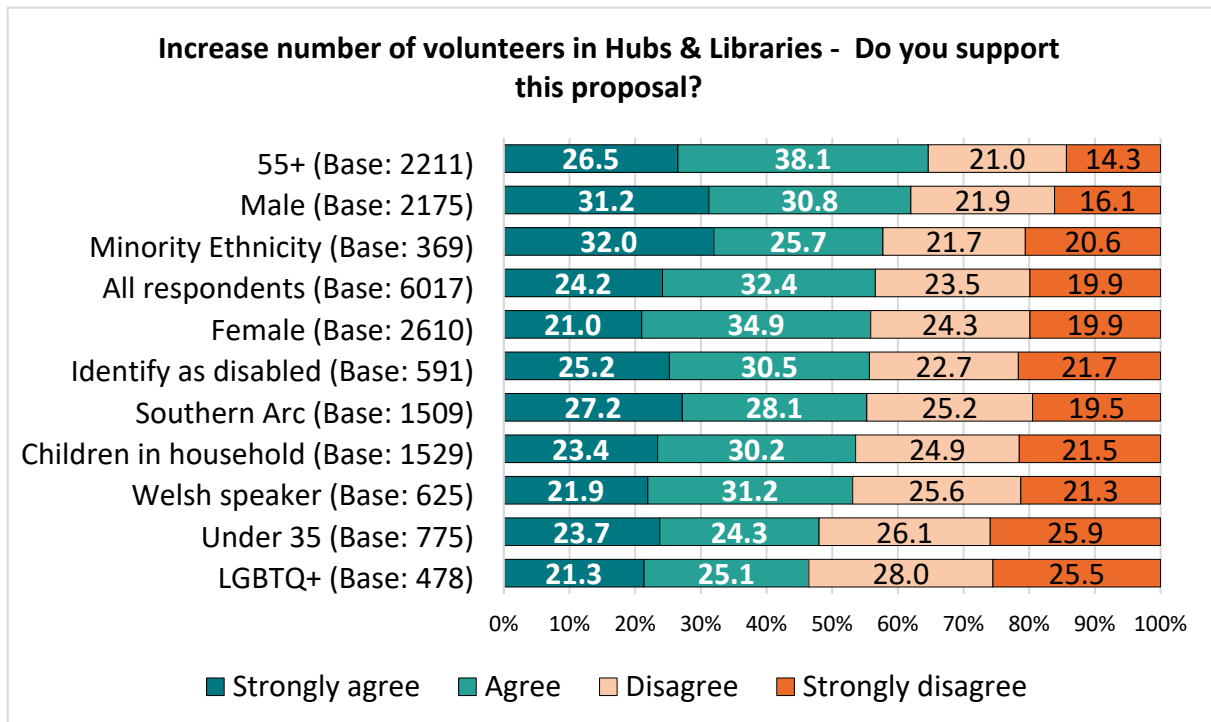
Opinion on this proposal was broadly split, with just over half of those giving an answer to this question (56.6%) agreeing with the proposal, including a quarter (24.2%) who 'strongly agreed'.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

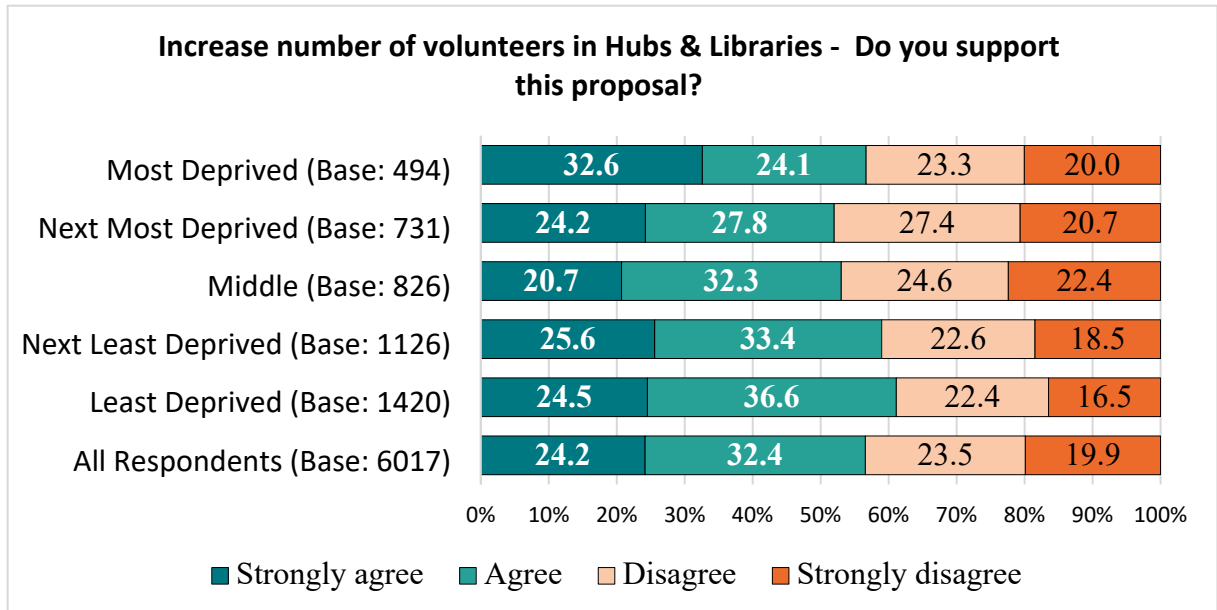
In the open comments question at the end of the section, concerns were raised regarding finding volunteers with suitable skills for working in the Hubs and Libraries (63 comments), whilst 20 respondents noted their support for increased numbers of volunteers.

Older respondents were most likely to agree with this proposal (64.6%), followed by males (62.0%), contrasting with younger respondents (48.0%) and those identifying as LGBTQ+ (46.4%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

There was not a direct correlation with agreement for this proposal and level of deprivation, but there were some notable results, with around a third of respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city (32.6%) 'strongly agreeing'.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Cardiff Council offers a range of library services. In addition to the 21 branches across the city, there is an online service with e-books and magazines readily available. There is also a mobile library service which visits 9 locations across the city on a timetabled basis and provides a home delivery service for our housebound residents.

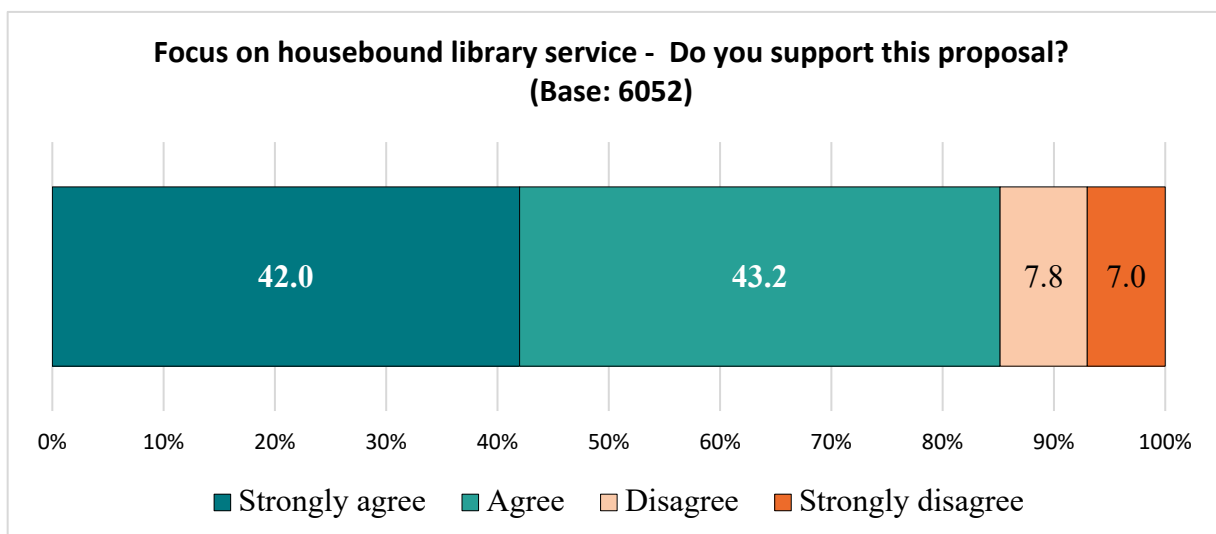
Due to the increase in Community Hubs across all the city, the demand for the mobile library service has significantly reduced, and now costs an average of £27 per user to provide this service.

It is therefore proposed that the mobile library service would be streamlined to focus on the housebound service only, continuing to provide books to the city's most vulnerable residents, saving £52,000 per year.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,052 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 67.2%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.2.

Overall, 85.2% of respondents, or six in seven, supported the proposal to focus on the housebound library service rather than the mobile library, with more than two in five (42.0%) 'strongly agreeing'.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

There were eight comments made about the mobile library service in the open question at the end of the section, with details provided in [Appendix 4](#).

There was a consensus of opinion across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details are provided in [Appendix 3](#)).

The Council is considering changes to Hubs and Libraries to help save money, with a number of options being considered. **Which of the following options do you prefer?**

- **Option 1** – Close Central Library Hub, Whitchurch Hub, Penylan Library, Rhiwbina Hub,

Rhydypennau Hub, Canton Library, Cathays Heritage and Branch Library and Radyr Hub for one additional day each week, saving £308,000.

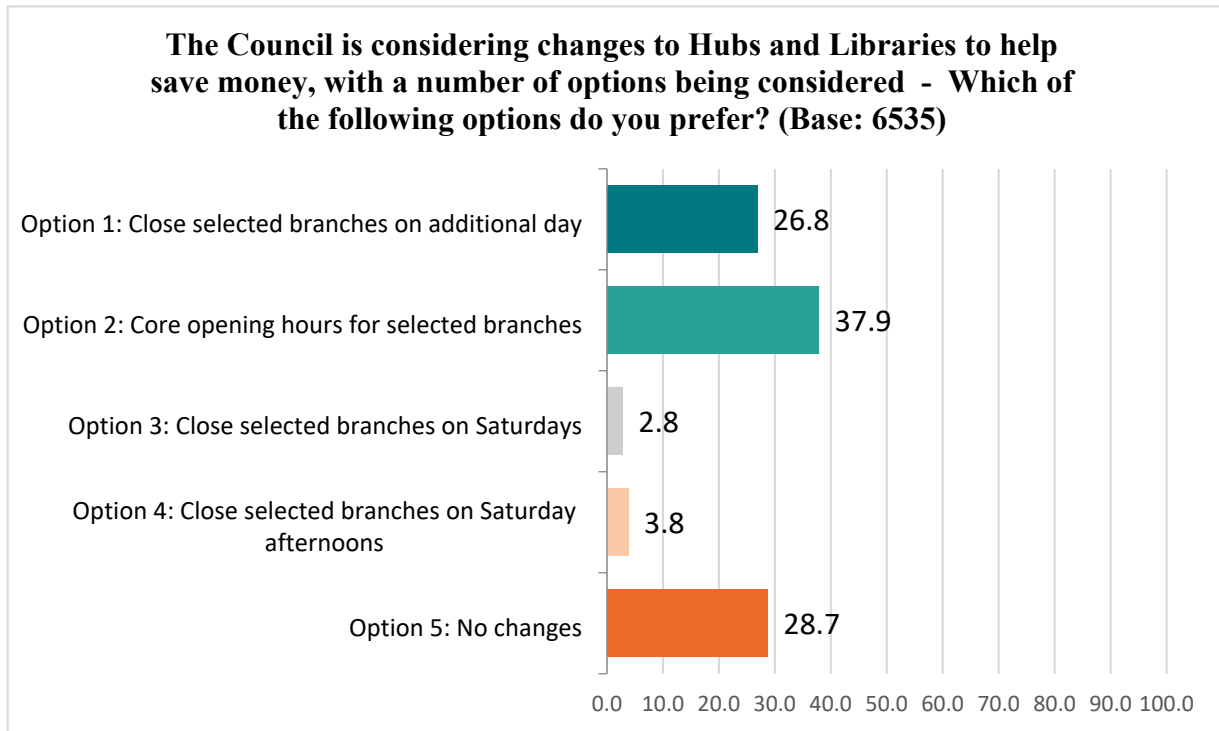
- **Option 2** – Change the opening hours for Central Library Hub, Canton Library, Cathays Heritage and Branch Library, Penylan Library, Rhiwbina, Rhydypennau and Whitchurch Hubs to 9am to 5pm, with all branches staying open throughout lunch times. To allow for late accessibility, Central Library Hub would stay open until 6pm for one evening a week. This proposal would save £120,000.
- **Option 3** – Close Radyr Hub, Rhiwbina Hub, Whitchurch Hub, Penylan Library and Rhydypennau Hub on Saturdays, saving £33,600.
- **Option 4** – Close Rhiwbina Hub, Whitchurch Hub, Penylan Library and Rhydypennau Hub on a Saturday afternoon, saving £14,000.
- **Option 5** – Keep the Hub & Library service as it is and find the saving elsewhere.

*A total of 6,535 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 72.6%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.0.*

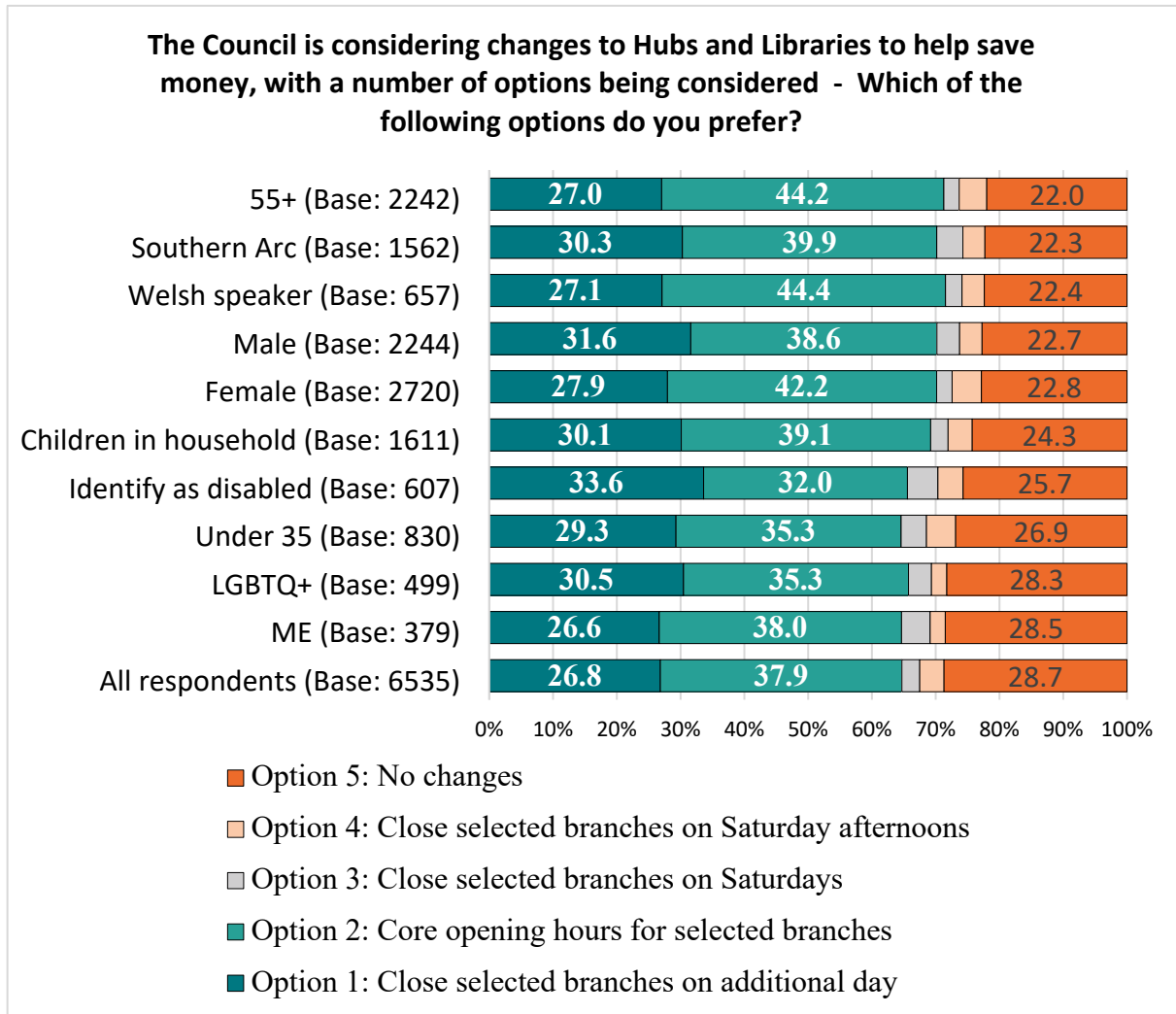
Of the options provided, the most popular choice was Option 2 – change the opening hours of selected branches to 9am to 5pm, with Central Library open until 6pm one day a week – selected by 37.9% of respondents.

Just over a quarter of respondents chose Option 1 – close the selected branches on an additional day each week (26.8%) or Option 5 – Keep the Hub & Library service as it is, and find savings elsewhere (28.7%).

The options to close branches on Saturdays (either all day or in the afternoon) received little support, with just 6.6%, or one in fifteen respondents, selecting these.

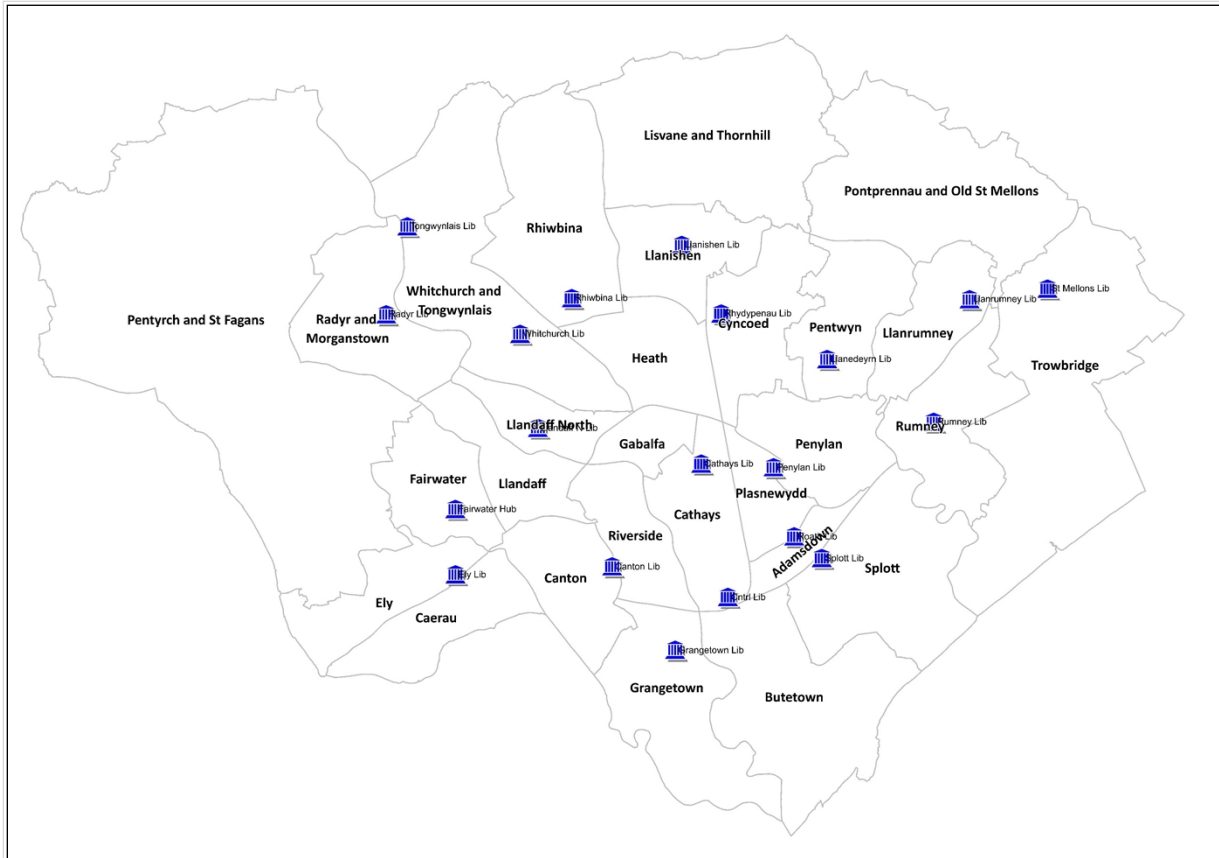


There was evidence of campaigns to protect Hubs and Libraries, with 338 respondents (3.8% of all responses) choosing to only answer this question, with 330 of these selecting 'Option 5 – Keep the Hub & Library service as it is and find savings elsewhere). This group declined to provide any demographic data, and so are excluded from demographic and spatial analysis, but their influence can be seen in the figure for 'All Respondents', which has the highest proportion selecting Option 5 (28.7%).





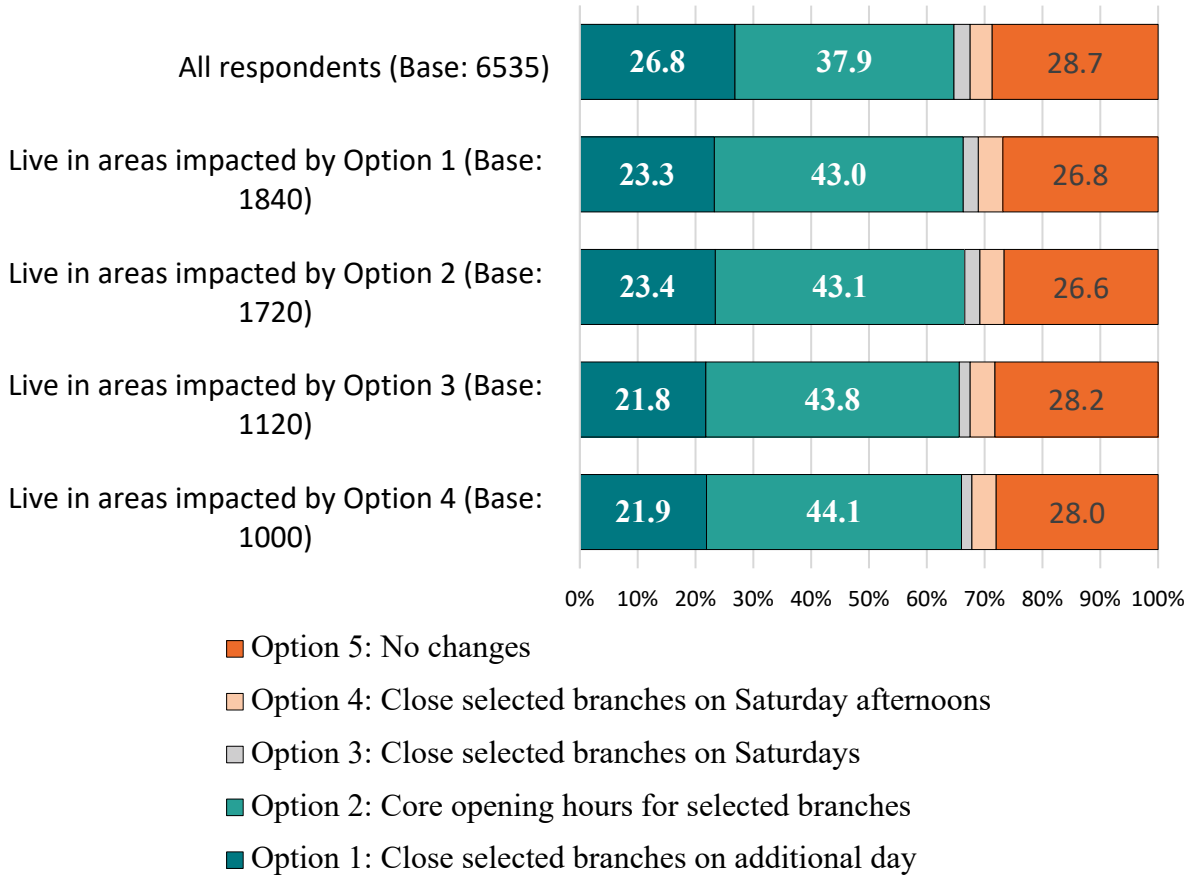
Results were analysed by postcodes within a 1km radius of Hubs and Libraries impacted by the proposals.



Respondents living in these areas were more likely to support Option 2 (changing the opening hours of the branches), with at least 43.0% choosing this, and less likely to support the option to close branches on an additional day (no more than 23.4%).

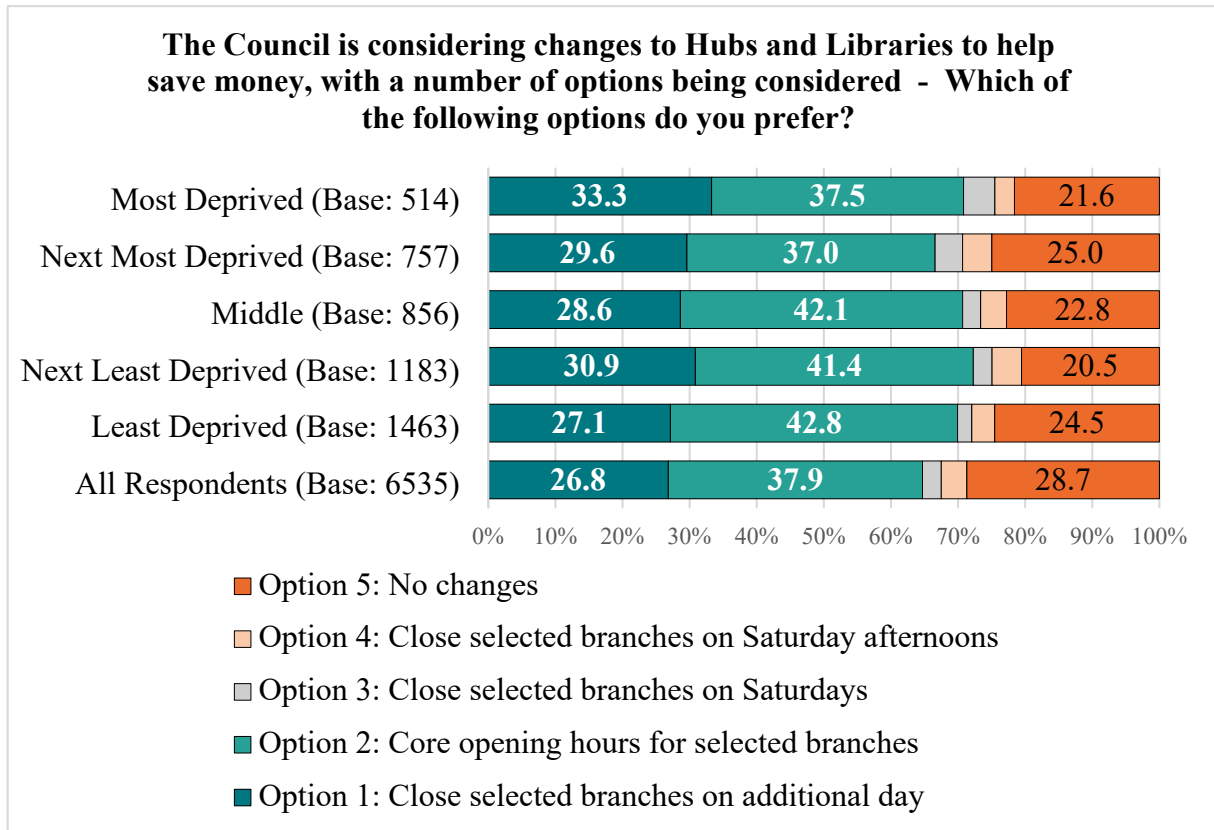
Levels of support for keeping the service as it is, or for changes to opening hours on Saturdays were broadly reflective of the overall results.

**The Council is considering changes to Hubs and Libraries to help save money, with a number of options being considered - Which of the following options do you prefer?**



There was no correlation between a preferred option for changes to Hubs & Libraries and level of deprivation, although there were some notable differences:

- Option 1 was most likely to be supported by respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city (33.3%).
- Respondents living in the two most deprived quintiles showed the lowest support for Option 2 (37.5% and 37.0% respectively).
- Respondents living in the least deprived areas showed the lowest level of support for Option 1 (27.1%), and the highest level of support for Option 2 (42.8%).



**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

The council are thinking about making some changes to our Hubs and Libraries. We have a few ideas and want to know what you think is the best one.

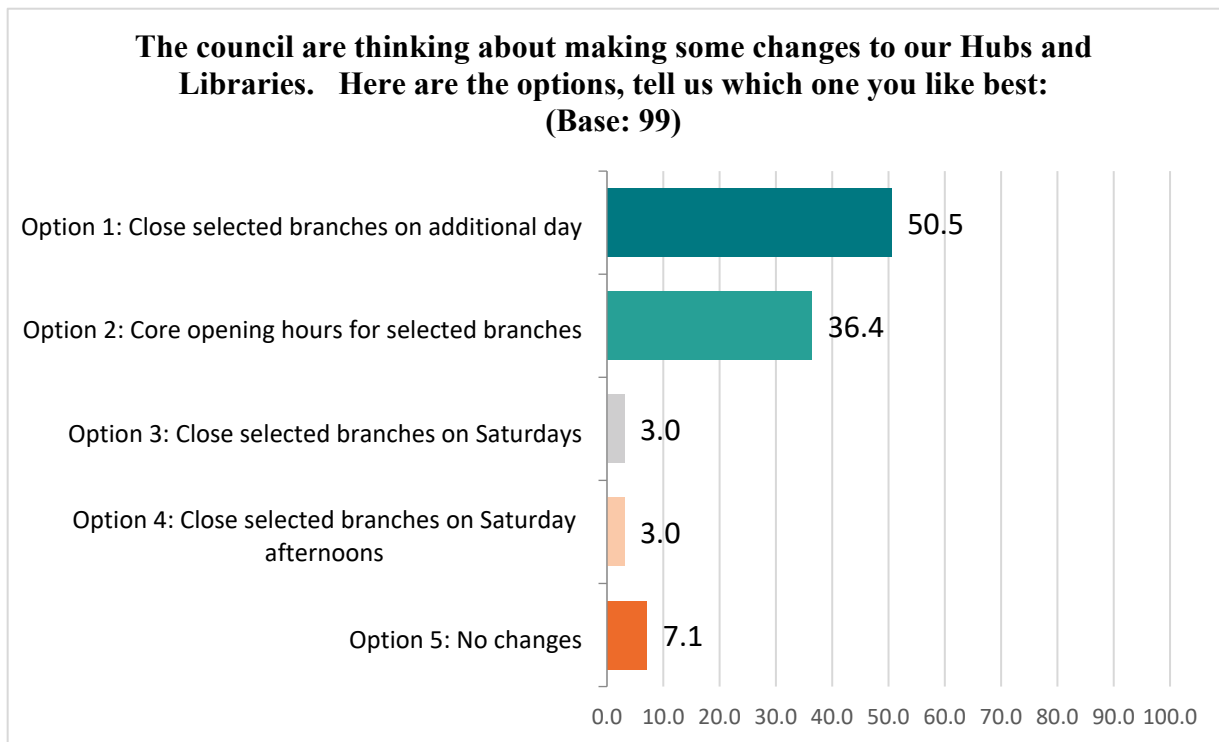
**Here are the options, tell us which one you like best:**

*A total of 99 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 96.1%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 8.3.*

Half of those responding to the Child Friendly Cardiff version of the survey (50.5%) supported the option to close selected branches on an additional day, whilst over a third (36.4%) supported changes to opening hours.

Just 7.1% agreed there should be no changes to the Hubs and Libraries service, a quarter of the figure seen for the main survey (28.7%).

Just 6.0% of young people supported changes to Saturday opening hours, reflecting the findings of the main survey.



## Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Hubs & Libraries?

A total of 1,267 comments were received, and grouped into themes. The top three are shown below, with a full list available in [Appendix 4](#).

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
<b>Hubs / Libraries are a community asset</b>	379	29.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Libraries and hubs provide safe places for people to come together, creating community cohesion. Closure of these spaces outside of the centre of the city would undermine community cohesion</li> <li>- Public libraries are where the most vulnerable and less fortunate go to access information, be it digital or physical. Reducing their opportunity to access information is a complete disservice to those in the community who cannot otherwise access books or the internet.</li> <li>- Hubs are also important as a safe warm place for those who can't afford to heat their homes</li> <li>- Some residents rely on the hubs and libraries where closing them for one day in the week would be a huge mental health deficit</li> <li>- People need these services so please Do NOT scrap them. They provide more than library services. They are a social lifeline to many.</li> <li>- These are essential services for communities particularly the elderly and children. You must not reduce these services.</li> </ul>
<b>Residents working office hours need to be considered / Against a Saturday closure</b>	174	13.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening times should be accessible to those working office hours</li> <li>- please consider keeping open outside of normal office hours and perhaps close some during the day. those of us who work are finding to increasingly difficult to physically access services</li> <li>- Keep Hubs and Libraries open on Saturdays if possible for use by families/children - close on other days where possible</li> <li>- Access outside 9-5 should be kept for those who work</li> <li>- I work full time. Closing libraries on Saturday would mean I can never access them</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative option suggestions</b>	164	12.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many libraries tend to be less busy during working hours. One suggestion is opening only from lunchtimes onwards until say 7pm or agreeing with closing entirely for one additional day</li> <li>- Don't change hours at Central Library but you can change the hours to 9 to 5 for 5 days of the week with one day open later</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Make Option 2 - 10.until 6</li><li>- Main hub should remain open but other hubs closed</li><li>- Option 2 could be an option if it's a 10-6 or 11-7 service for those working</li></ul>
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**Face-to-face Engagement**

Much of the engagement work undertaken took place in Hubs and Libraries, and therefore with users of this service.

Younger respondents, including students, valued the provision as a space to work. Comments received typically were appreciative of the service.

*"I am satisfied with the services provided at the Hubs." [ME male, aged 60+]*

## Parks

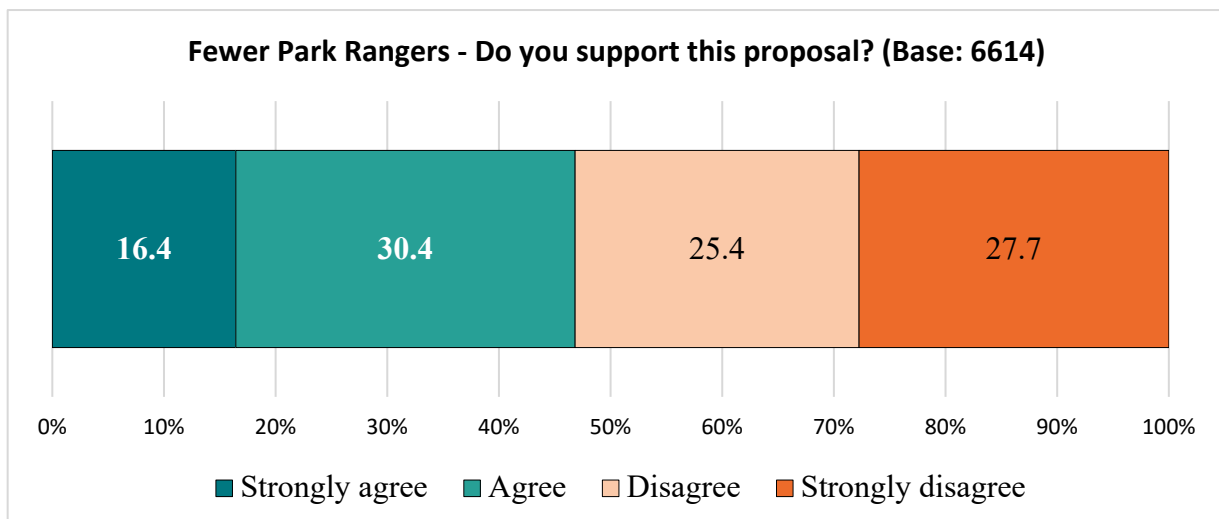
The Park Ranger Service works to ensure that our parks and green spaces in the city are a safe and enjoyable experience for both residents and visitors to the city. Park Rangers are a visible presence in our parks, and are responsible for the enforcement of park bye-laws and work with partner organisations such as the police to address issues of anti-social behaviour. Our Park Rangers are also responsible for co-ordinating our network of 'Friends of' groups and volunteers.

Over the last 3 years, the Council has increased the number of staff working within the service, with an additional 6 Park Ranger staff. The Council could run the service with fewer Park Rangers, reduce the number by 4, and save around £168,000 per year. The service would still have more Rangers than it did 3 years ago.

### Do you agree with this proposal?

A total of 6,614 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 73.4%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.2$ .

Opinion was split over reducing the number of Park Rangers, with 46.8% in agreement, and 53.2% disagreeing with the proposal.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Opinion was broadly consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details show in [Appendix 5](#)).

Over 150 comments were made regarding park rangers in the open question at the end of the section. Details are available in [Appendix 13](#).

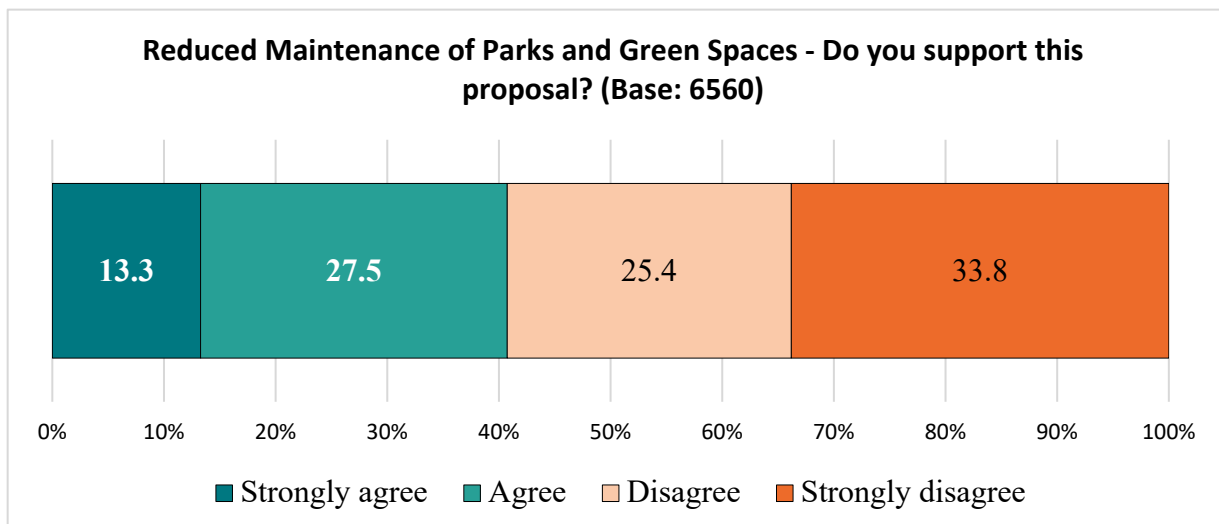
The Council is responsible for managing over 520 individually named parks and green spaces in the city, spending £1.3 million on grounds maintenance which includes mowing, the maintenance of sports pitches, rose gardens, herbaceous borders, wildflower areas, trees, hedges, spring and summer bedding displays and bulb planting. Eighteen of the Council's parks and green spaces hold Green Flag status, an industry award which recognises well-maintained, welcoming and safe spaces.

The Council could save money by making small reductions to the maintenance of parks and green spaces, saving the Council £80,000.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,560 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 72.9%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.2.

Two in five respondents (40.7%) agreed with the proposal to reduce maintenance of parks and green spaces, compared with 59.3% who disagreed, including 33.8% who 'strongly disagreed'.

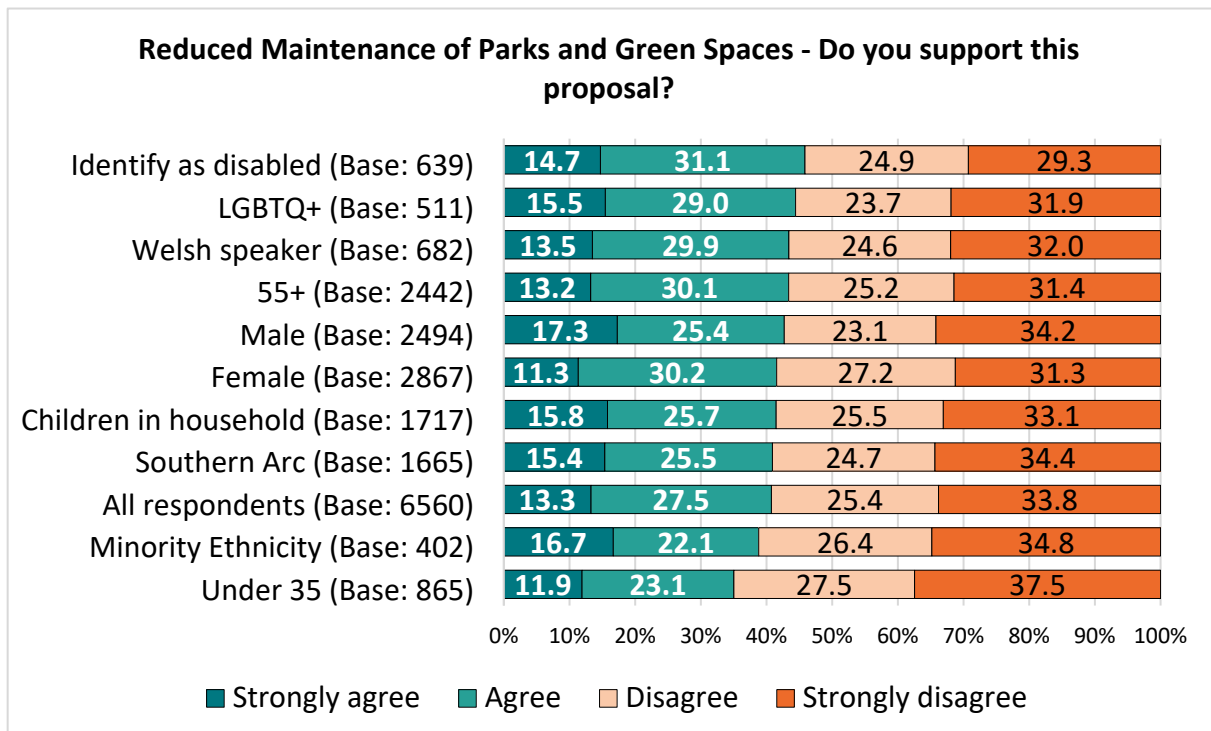


Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Any differences shown in the narrative when combining scores in the chart is due to rounding errors.



Agreement with this proposal was lowest amongst respondents under the age of 35 (35.0%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

There was no correlation with results by level of deprivation, with results shown in [Appendix 6](#).

Almost 400 comments were made regarding the maintenance of parks and green spaces in the open question at the end of the section, with details of this available in [Appendix 12](#).

**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

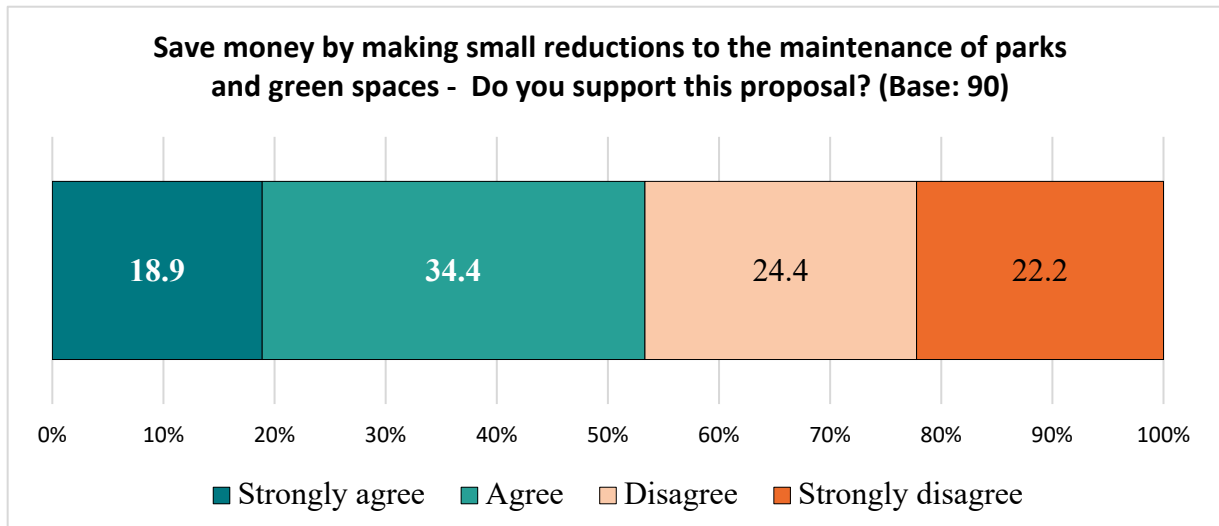
The Council is responsible for managing over 520 individually named parks and green spaces in the city, spending £1.3 million on grounds maintenance which includes mowing, the maintenance of sports pitches, rose gardens, herbaceous borders, wild flower areas, trees, hedges, spring and summer bedding displays and bulb planting. Eighteen of the Council's parks and green spaces hold Green Flag status, an industry award which recognises well-maintained, welcoming and safe spaces.

The Council could save money by making small reductions to the maintenance of parks and green spaces, saving the Council £80,000.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 90 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 87.3%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 10.3.

In contrast to the main survey, those completing the Child Friendly Cardiff survey were more likely to agree with this proposal (53.3%), whilst 46.7% disagreed.



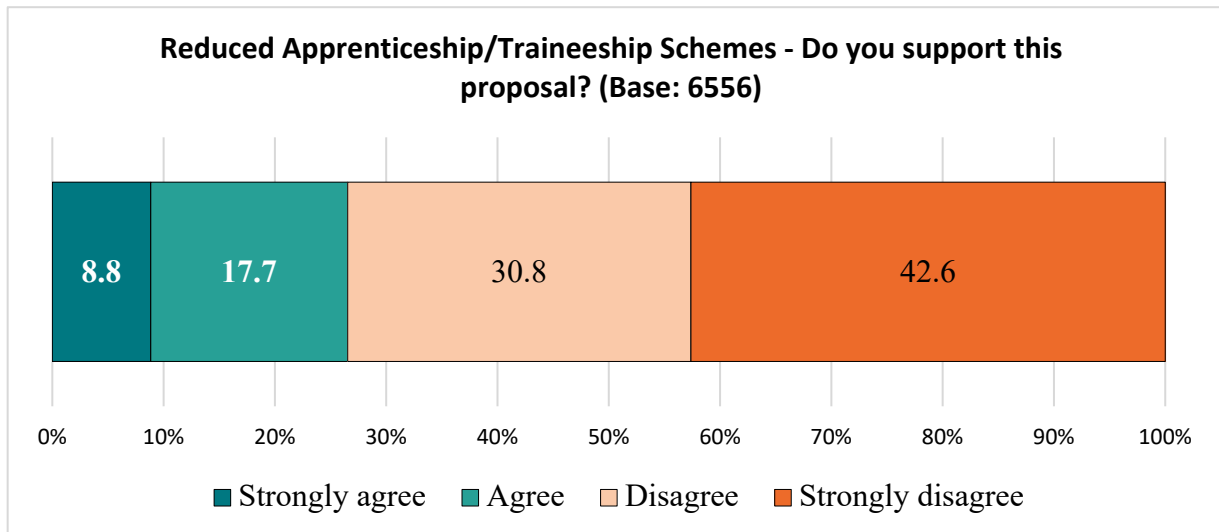
Excludes 'Don't know' responses

The Council currently offers Apprenticeship / Traineeship Schemes and could save money by making small reductions in the number being offered, saving the Council £87,000.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,556 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 72.8%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.2$ .

Almost three-quarters of respondents (73.5%) disagreed with the proposal to reduce Apprenticeship/Traineeship schemes offered in the Parks department, with more than two in five (42.6%) 'strongly disagreeing' with this.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

These findings were broadly consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details show in [Appendix 7](#)).

Forty comments were received about apprenticeships in the open question at the end of the section, with details available in [Appendix 12](#).

**Online survey / Second Print Run wording:**

Bute Park Nursery, its Visitor Centre and Roath Park Conservatory are run by the Council. The Council is exploring opportunities to create partnerships with external organisations or groups that may result in shared delivery and investment arrangements.

We would need find out if there are other organisations or groups interested in partnering with us. We are asking for your views on whether you'd support developing an alternative delivery model, in partnership, which could reduce the Council subsidy.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

**First Print Run wording**

Bute Park Nursery and the Visitor Centre in Roath Park is run by the Council. The Council could transfer this service to another organisation who would be responsible for running them on the Council's behalf, potentially removing or reducing the subsidy of £40k currently provided.

We would need find out if there is another organisation who could take it over, and both would remain open up as this process is conducted. We are asking for your views on whether you'd support finding an alternative operator which could remove the Council subsidy.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

There was a discrepancy in the wording of this question in the initial print run for hard copy versions of the survey, which was later corrected to match the wording used in the online survey. For transparency, these results were analysed separately, with results for the two versions shown below.

*A total of 5,834 responses were received for the online and second print-run versions of this question, giving a response rate of 64.8%.*

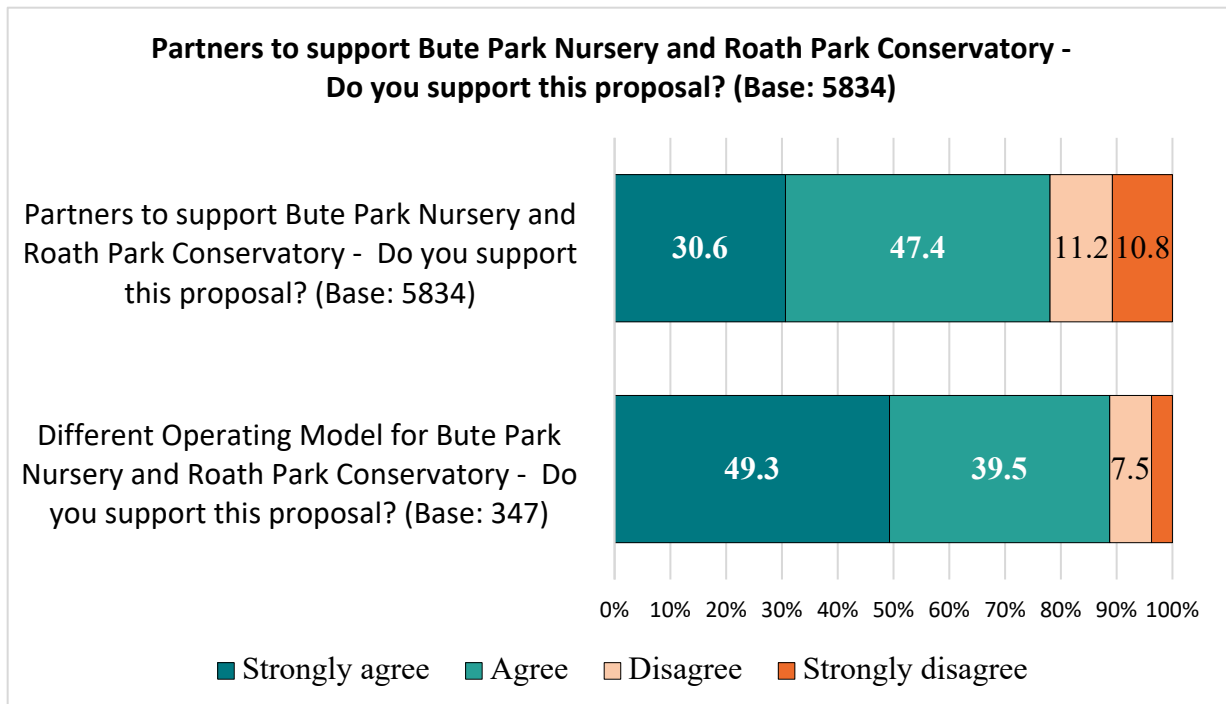
*Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.3$ .*

*There were 347 responses to the original hard copy version of the question.*

*Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 5.3$ .*

*Given the patterns of responses were broadly similar, and that the overall base size for the original paper version of this question were too small to offer robust analysis by subgroups, further analysis by demographic and geographic groups combines the two versions of this question, comparing the results to the online version of the question.*

Around four in five respondents agreed with the proposal for alternatives to running Bute Park Nursery and Roath Park Conservatory – 78.1% supported partnerships with other organisations or groups, whilst 88.8% supported a different operating model.



There was little difference in opinion across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details show in [Appendix 8](#)).

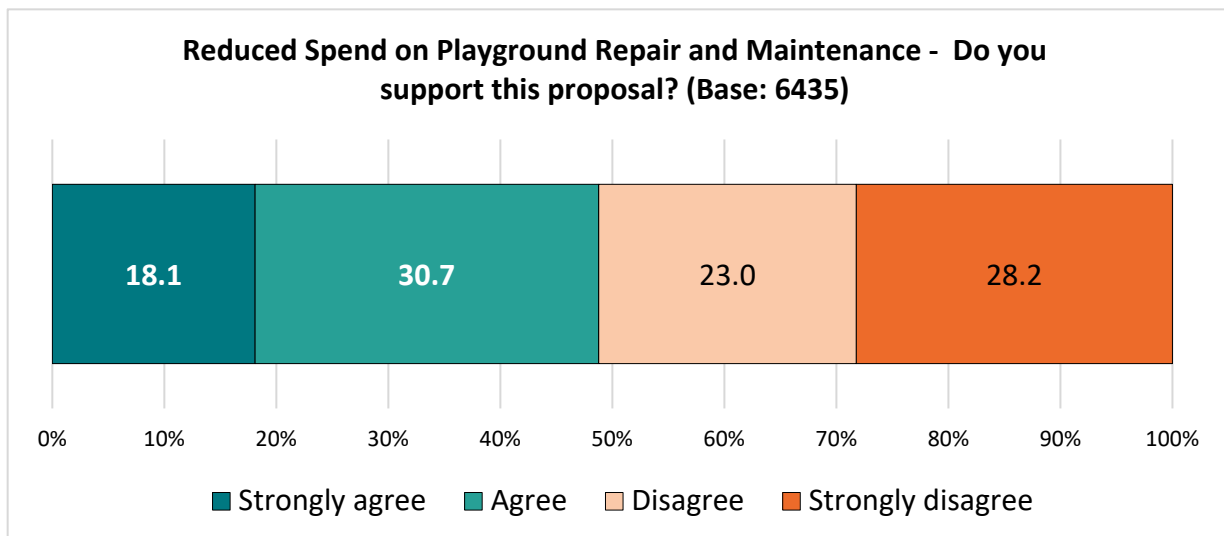
Fifteen respondents left comments specifically relating to this proposal in the open question at the end of the section, with comments either reporting there was not enough information to give an opinion, concerns over the selection of a suitable partner or that any change should not have a detrimental impact on the public. Example comments are shown in [Appendix 12](#).

The Council is responsible for the repair and maintenance of playground equipment, safety surfacing and general playground infrastructure. The Council could spend less money on these activities - returning to the levels we spent in 2020/21. Playgrounds would still be maintained by the Council, with playground equipment continuing to be repaired and replaced as necessary.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,435 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 71.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.2$ .

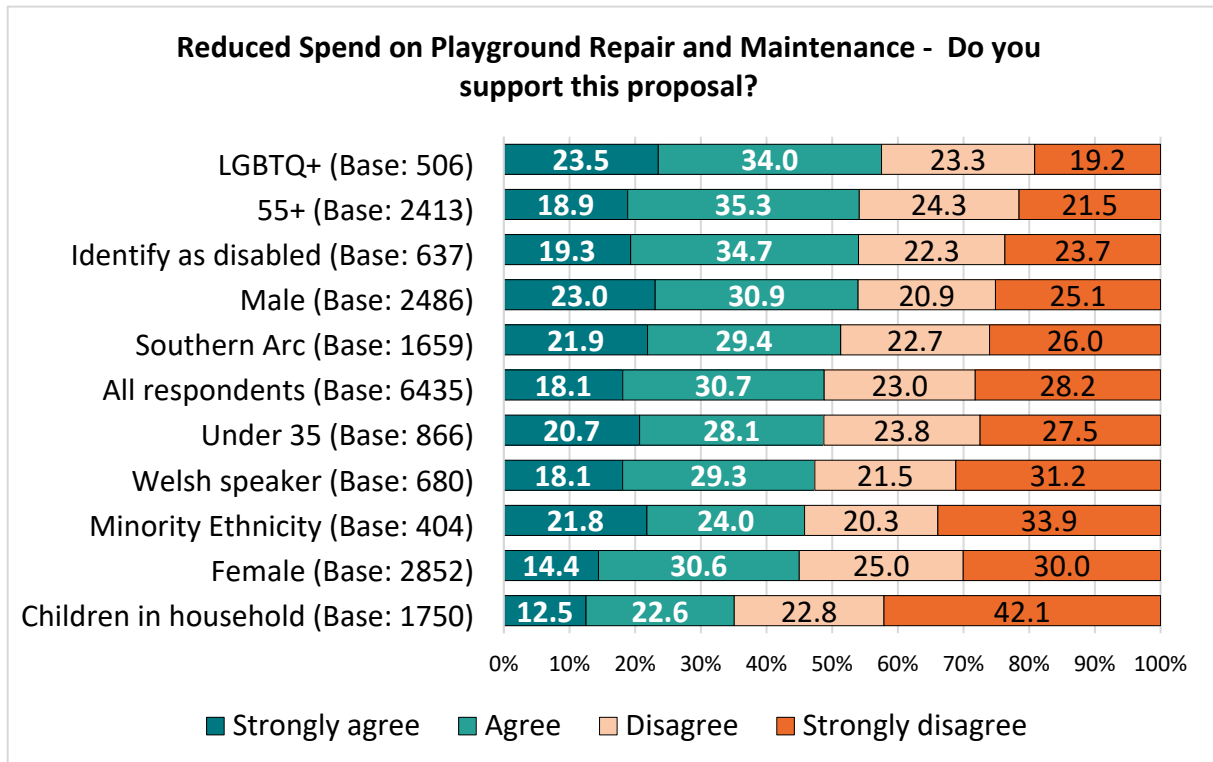
Opinion was split over reducing the spend on playground repair and maintenance, with 48.8% agreeing with this proposal, and 51.2% disagreeing.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

A total of 149 comments regarding playgrounds and/or children were made in the open question at the end of the section. (Details shown in [Appendix 13](#).)

Perhaps unsurprisingly, respondents with children in their household were least likely to agree with this proposal (35.1%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

There was no correlation with level of deprivation (see [Appendix 9](#)).

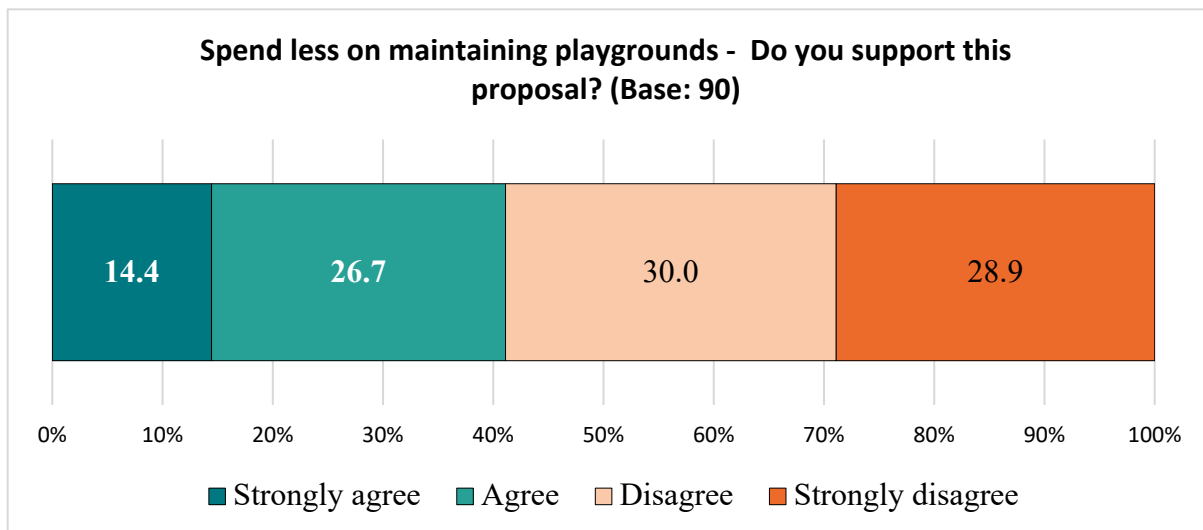
**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

The council is responsible for repairing and maintaining playground equipment and safety surfaces. The Council could spend less money on these activities, but it may result in delays in replacing playground equipment and carrying out repairs which would mean that some playgrounds would be out of use for a while.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 90 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 87.4%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 10.3.

Younger people responding to the Child Friendly Cardiff version of the Budget Survey were slightly less likely to agree with this proposal than respondents to the main survey (41.1%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

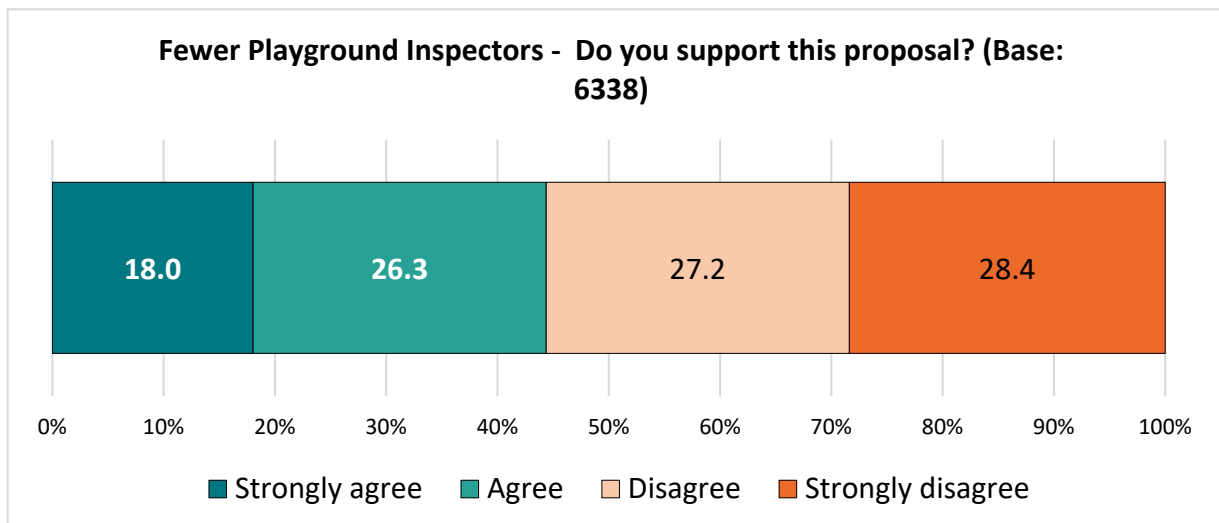


The Council currently employs two Playground Inspectors to manage safety inspections across 226 playgrounds and associated sites. Under this proposal this would be reduced to one Playground Inspector, returning to the number we had in 2020/21. The Council would continue to manage safety inspections at playgrounds across the city.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,338 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 70.4%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.2$ .

There was a similar pattern of responses to the previous question, with 44.4% of respondents agreeing with the proposal to reduce the number of playground inspectors by one, and 55.6% disagreeing.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Whilst respondents with children in their household were least likely to agree with this proposal amongst the demographic groups analysed, this difference was notably smaller than for the proposal to reduce levels of repair and maintenance of playgrounds, and all groups analysed showed a consensus of opinion. (Details shown in [Appendix 10](#)).

**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

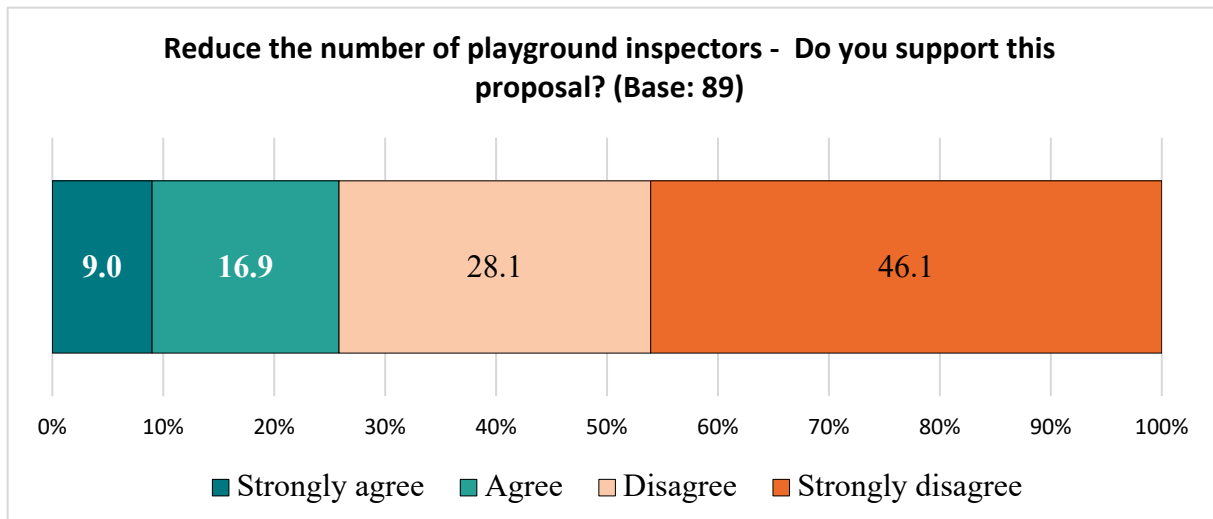
The Council currently employs two Playground Inspectors to manage safety inspections across 226 playgrounds and other sites. We are thinking of reducing it to one Playground Inspector. This will mean a reduction in the number of inspections carried out and may result in equipment or sites being out of use for some time.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 89 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 86.4%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 10.4.

Respondents to the Child Friendly version of the survey showed a lower level of agreement with this proposal than any of the subgroups from the main survey (25.9%, 18.5 percentage points lower than the average score, and 13.1 percentage points lower than respondents with children in their household).

Almost half (46.1%) of this group 'strongly disagreed' with this proposal.



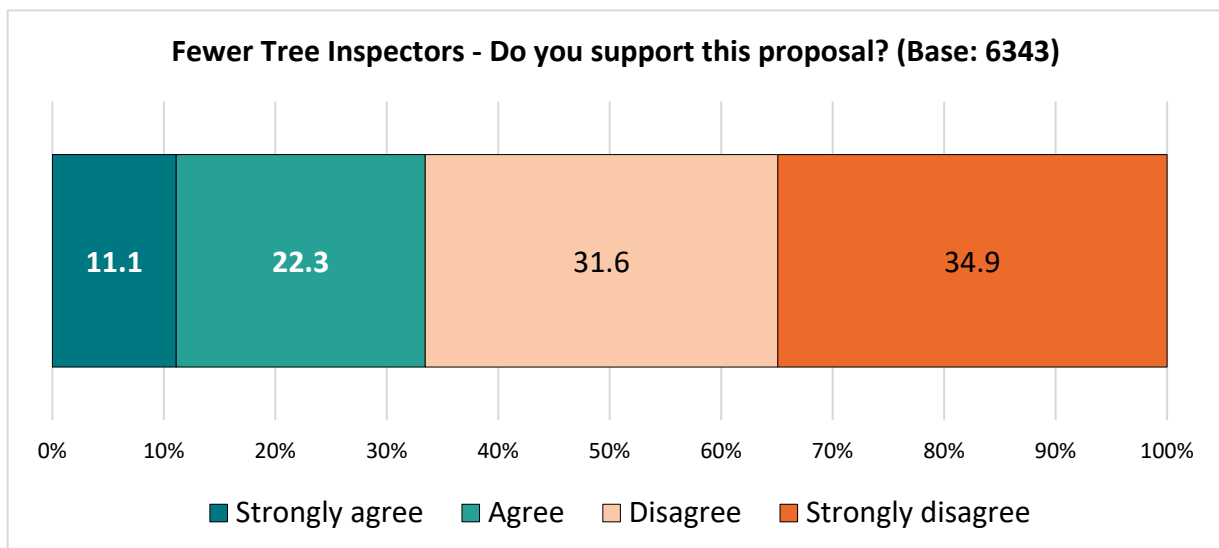
Excludes 'Don't know' responses

The Council currently employs three Tree Inspectors to manage more than 400,000 trees across the city, carrying out health and safety inspections and engaging with the public. Under this proposal the number of Inspectors would reduce from three to two. This proposal may lead to a reduction in inspection regimes and increased wait times for responses to requests for this service.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,343 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 70.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.2$ .

A third of respondents (33.5%) of respondents agreed with the proposal to reduce the number of Tree Inspectors from three to two, around half the proportion 'disagreeing' or 'strongly disagreeing' with this proposal (31.6% and 34.9% respectively).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Results were consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details shown in [Appendix 11](#)).

A total of 110 comments on Tree Inspectors or trees were made in response to the open question at the end of the section, with example comments shown in [Appendix 13](#).

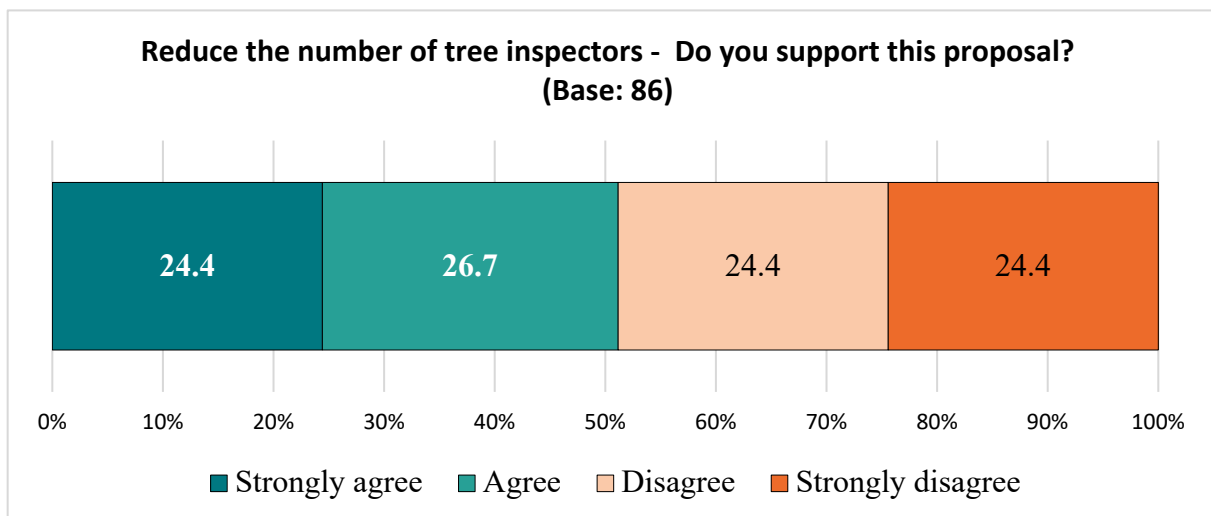
**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

The Council currently employs three Tree Inspectors to manage more than 400,000 trees across the city, carrying out health and safety inspections and to talk with the public. We are thinking about reducing the number of tree inspectors to 2. This this would mean there will be a reduction in the number of tree inspections and increased wait times for responses for this service.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 86 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 83.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 10.6$ .

Half of those responding to this question in the Child Friendly Cardiff Budget survey (51.1%) agreed with this proposal.



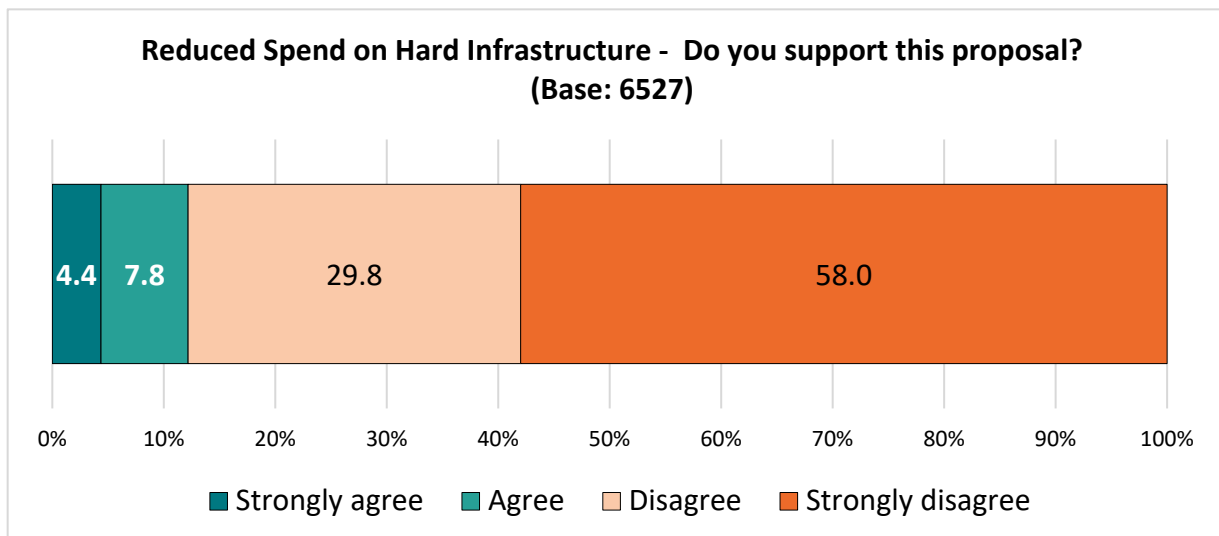
Excludes 'Don't know' responses

The Council sets aside money to carry out work on 'hard infrastructure' such as footpaths, steps and handrails, gates, fences, signage, bollards, seats, lighting, bridges, drains, culverts, walls and embankments. The Council is proposing to reduce this budget by half, saving £60,000, which will reduce the Council's ability to respond to requests to fix problems and carry out maintenance.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,527 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 72.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.2.

Just 12.2% of respondents, or one in eight, agreed with the proposal to half the budget for work on 'hard infrastructure', with 87.8% disagreeing, 58.0% strongly.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

These results were consistent across all of the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details show in [Appendix 12](#)).

Amongst comments made in response to the open question at the end of the section, 175 referred to 'hard infrastructure'. Example comments are shown in [Appendix 13](#).

**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

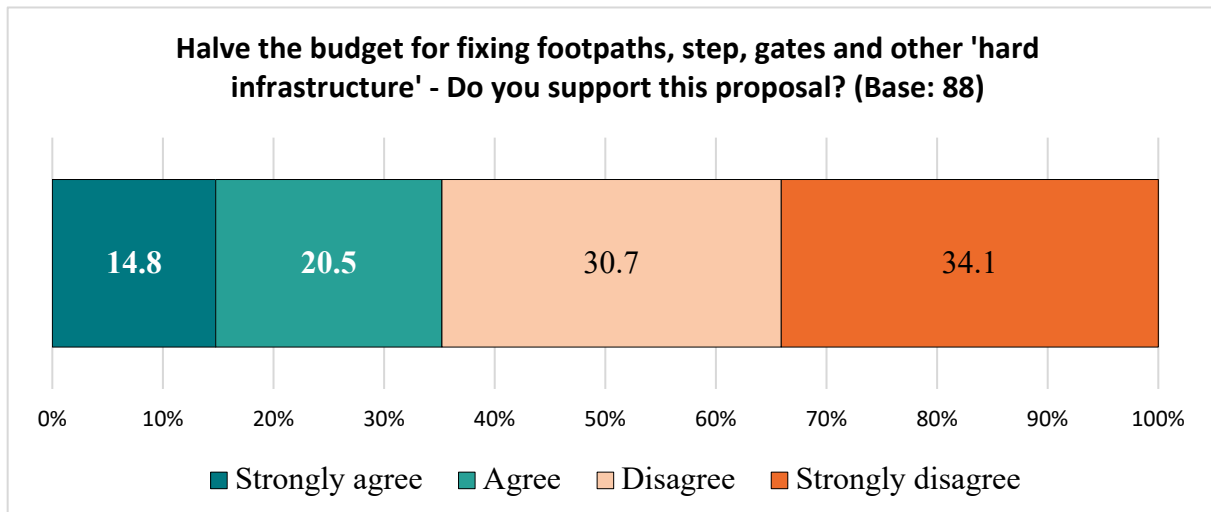
The Council has a budget for fixing and maintaining footpaths, steps, handrails, gates, fences, signs, bollards, seats, lights, bridges, drains, culverts, walls, and embankments. We are thinking about cutting this budget by half, saving £60,000. This will lower the Council's ability to fix issues and do regular maintenance.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 88 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 85.4%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 10.4.

Young people responding to the Child Friendly Cardiff Budget survey were almost three times more likely as respondents to the main survey to agree with this proposal (35.3%).

A similar proportion of this group (34.1%) 'strongly disagreed' with this proposal.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

**Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Parks?**

A total of 1,502 comments were received, and grouped into themes. The top three are shown below, with a full list available in [Appendix 13](#).

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
<b>Parks are important for exercise, socialising, physical &amp; mental wellbeing, and free</b>	311	20.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They need to be maintained for mental health.</li> <li>- Important for Cardiff population from a health and wellbeing perspective so let's not water down the service too much.</li> <li>- They give support to many people with financial, physical and mental health problems and give much pleasure. Reduced quality of service would be detrimental to all who enjoy these spaces.</li> <li>- Parks are a vital facility for the city and need to be maintained and managed by the council for the health and well-being of all the residents.</li> <li>- Parks and environmental recreational spaces are absolutely necessary. We found this during Covid, and our parks are a great asset to the city.</li> </ul>
<b>Health &amp; Safety concerns</b>	302	20.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Budget cuts that result in any reduction in health and safety should not be considered whatsoever.</li> <li>- Parks need maintaining &amp; kept safe for people to enjoy.</li> <li>- If maintenance is downgraded, accidents will happen and litigation will increase. This is false economy.</li> <li>- Reduction to maintenance could lead to delays making repairs resulting in injuries.</li> <li>- Cutting the budget for carrying out work on hard infrastructure could be a case of shooting yourself in the foot, injury claims because of poorly maintain equipment, footpaths etc could skyrocket</li> </ul>
<b>To reduce would be a mistake / already on a shoestring/not maintained</b>	289	19.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many parks, particularly playgrounds, are neglected as it is. I wouldn't support scaling back maintenance budgets by the degree outlined here.</li> <li>- Parks are already under maintained.</li> <li>- The information you provided suggests parks services are already understaffed and severely underfunded.</li> <li>- They are already looking shabby, no further cuts can be made.</li> <li>- Parks are poorly maintained currently and cuts would just result in neglect.</li> </ul>

**Face-to-face Engagement**

Residents love the parks and green spaces, but were unhappy with some aspects of maintenance:

“Too many weeds and too much litter.” [White male, 50+, Central Library].

Respondents from a Minority Ethnicity were less likely to raise Parks as an issue when discussing the budget proposals.

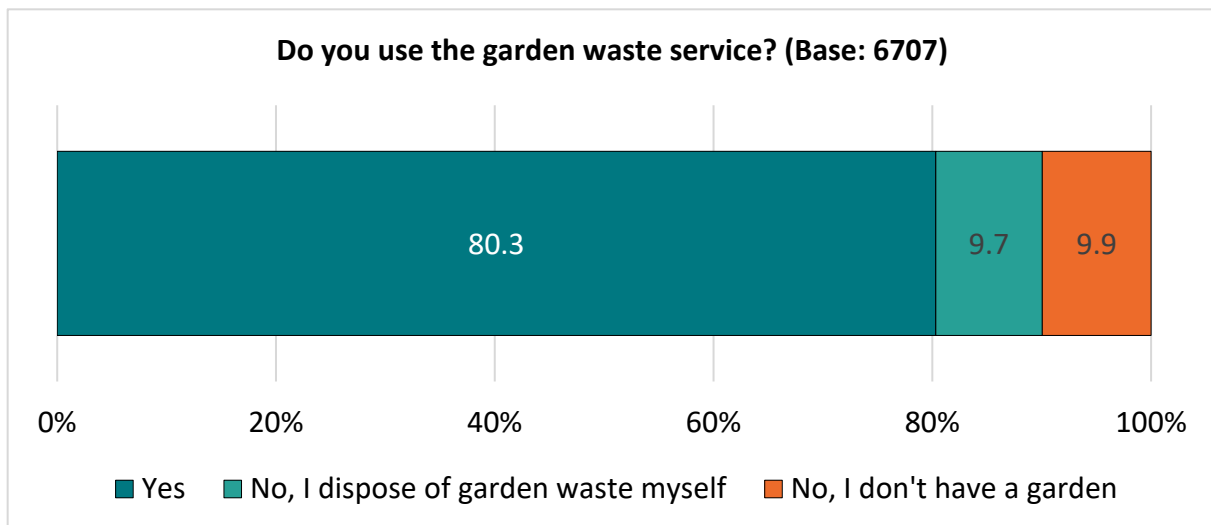


## Waste & Street Cleansing

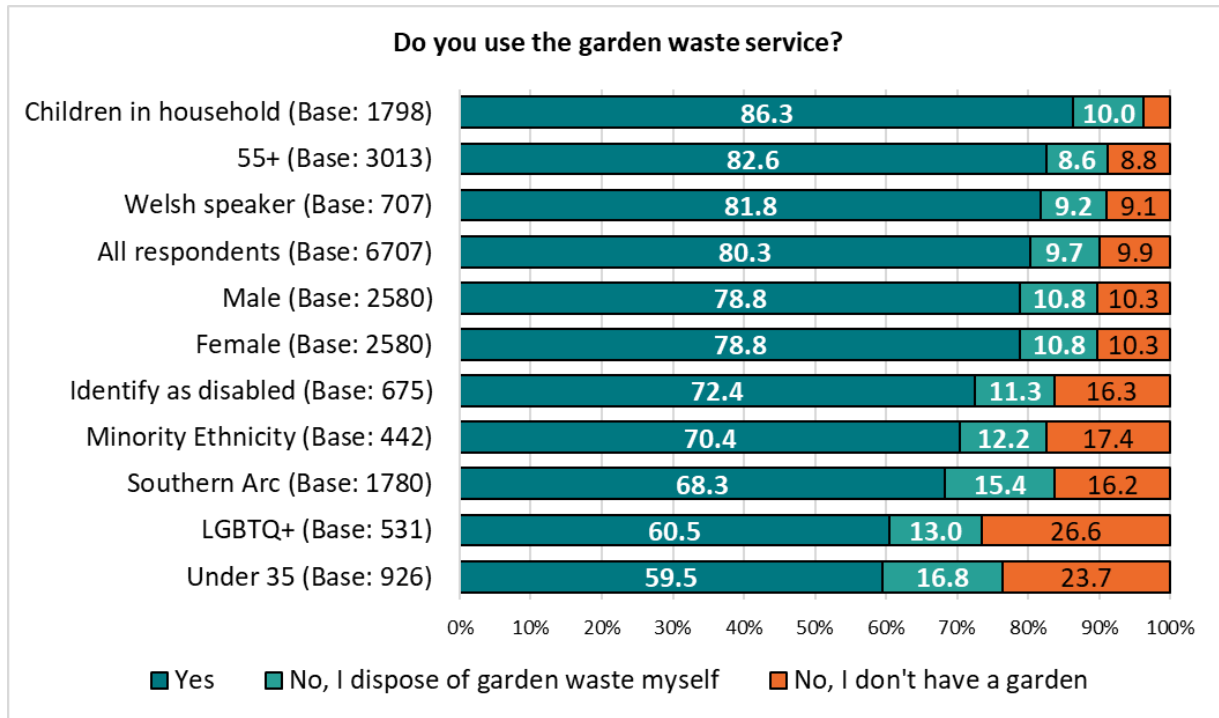
### Do you use the garden waste service?

A total of 6,707 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 74.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.2$ .

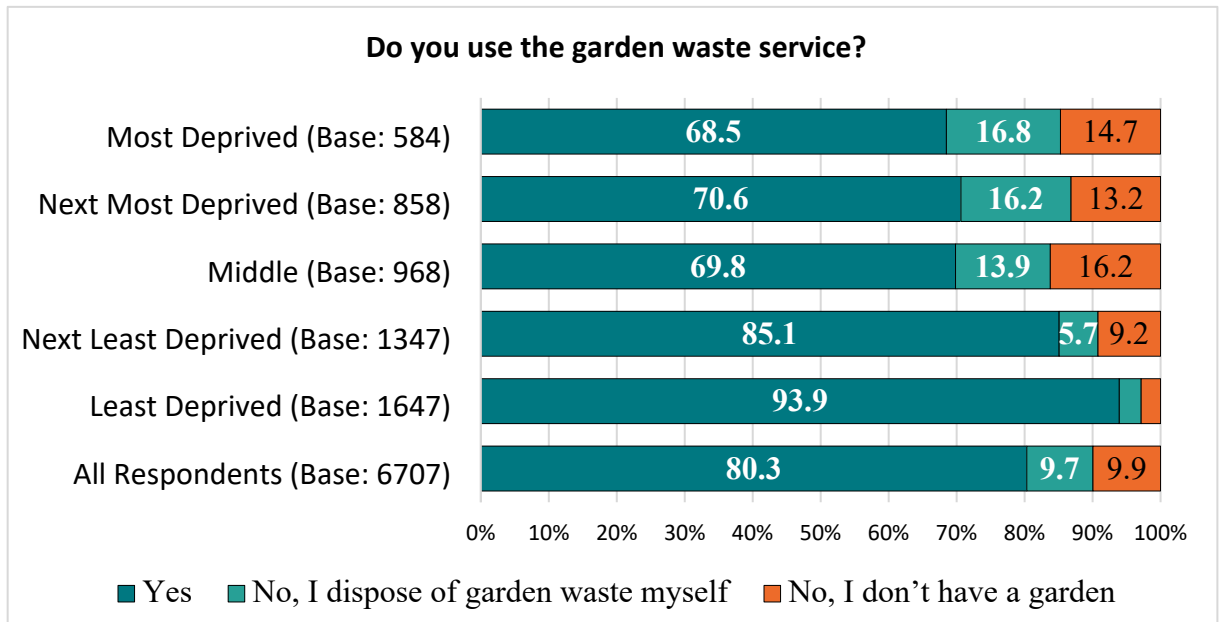
Four fifths of respondents (80.3%) reported they use the Council's garden waste service, with around one in ten either disposing of garden waste themselves (9.7%) or not having a garden (9.9%).



Respondents with children in their household were most likely to use the service (86.3%), followed by those aged 55 or older (82.6%), contrasting with those under the age of 35 (59.5%).



Almost all respondents living in the least deprived areas of the city used the service (93.9%).



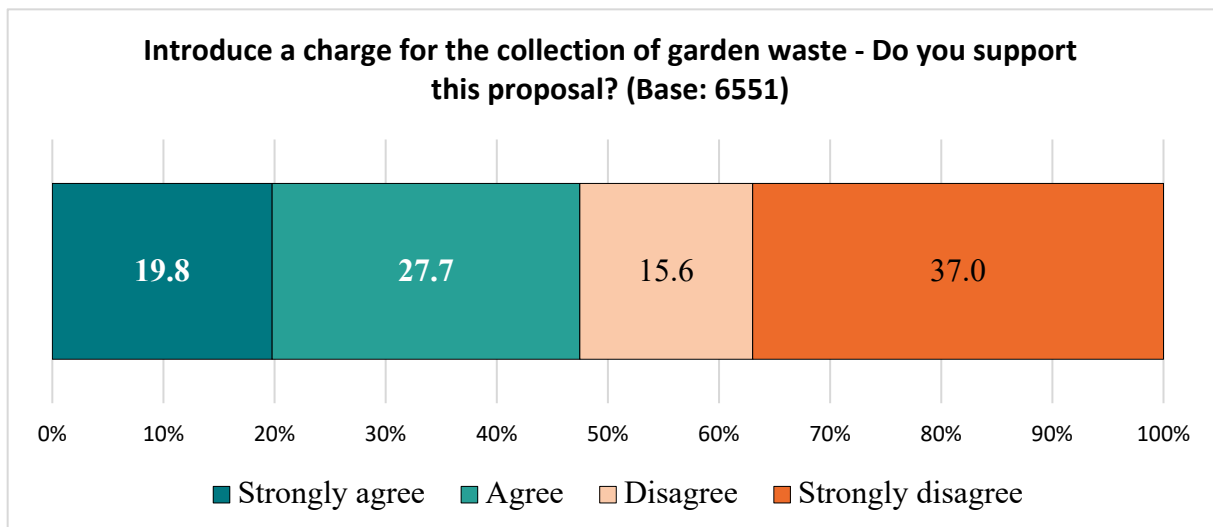
The collection of garden waste costs the Council around £1.5 million a year. Unlike the collections of black bins and bags, food waste and recycling, a Local Authority can charge for the collection of garden waste. Given growing financial pressures and the need to maintain the essential waste services we are required to provide by law, the Council is considering

recovering costs by charging for the collection of garden waste, in line with most other Local Authorities in Wales. If this were to be introduced, the charge would be similar to what other local authorities are charging (in the region of £35 - £45 per year) which is less than £1 per week.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,551 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 72.8%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.2.

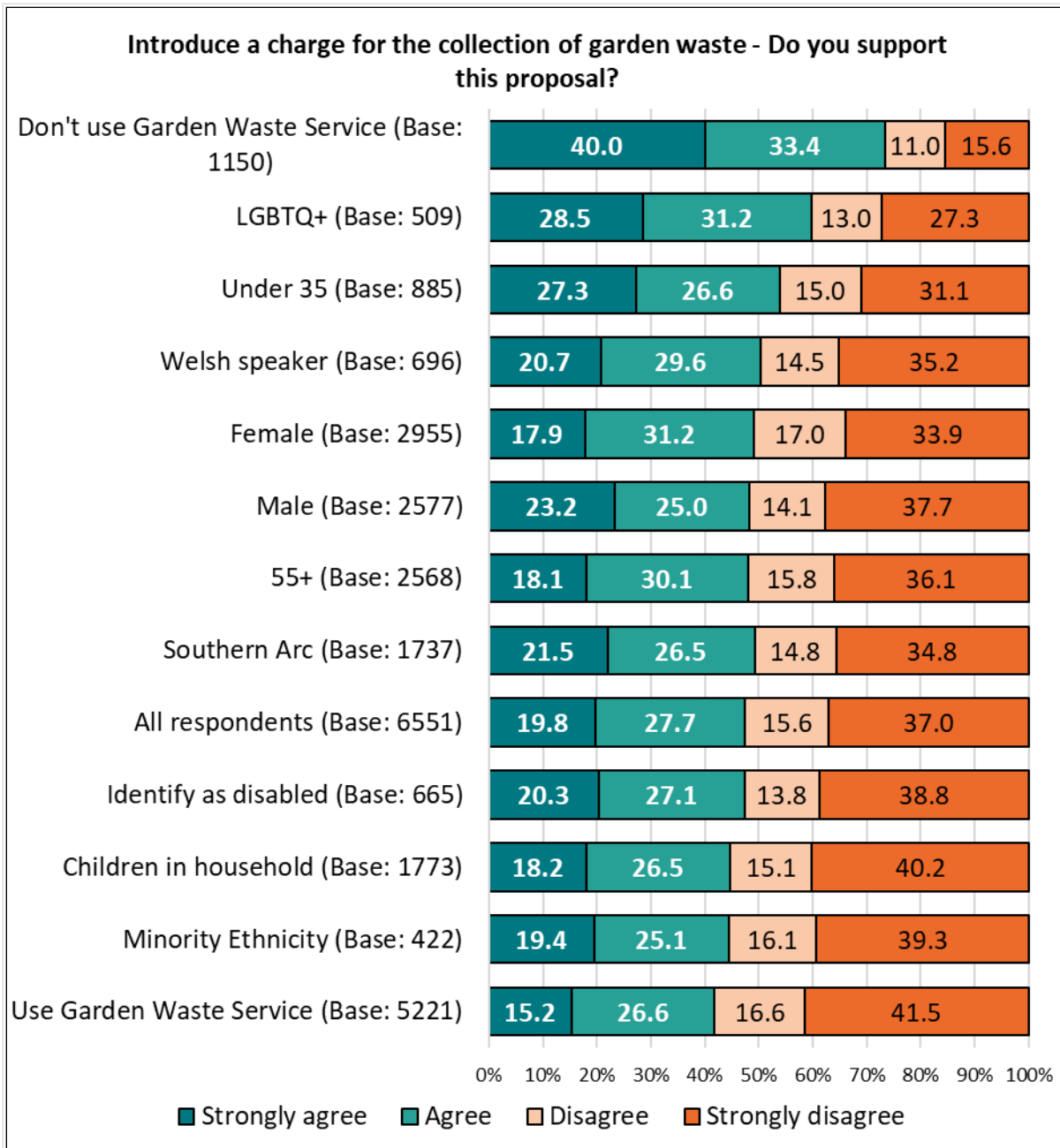
Opinion was divided amongst respondents, with just over half of people responding to this question disagreeing with the proposal to charge for garden waste collections (52.5%), and 47.5% in agreement.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Over 280 comments on these proposals were made in response to the open question at the end of the section. Further details can be found in [Appendix 18](#).

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the biggest driver of opinion was whether or not respondents used the garden waste service, with 73.4% of those not using this service agreeing with the proposed charge, compared with 41.8% of those using the service.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

There was no correlation with level of deprivation. (Details shown in [Appendix 14](#)).

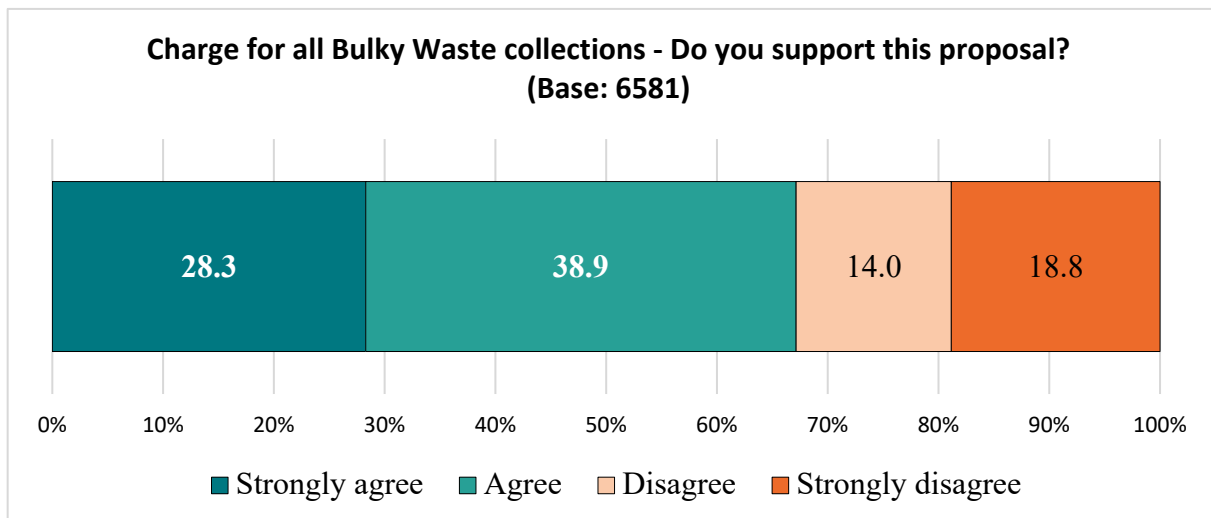
Cardiff Council offers a Bulky Waste collection service for items that are not collected as part of general waste collections, and that are too big to take to a recycling centre. The collection of Bulky Waste costs the Council around £300,000 per year. A Local Authority can charge for items that weigh over 25kg or cannot fit into bins. Whilst some items already attract a charge, others are currently collected for free, including large electrical appliances, white goods, or items made of metal, wood, MDF or laminate.

Given growing financial pressures and the need to maintain the services we are required to provide by law, the Council is considering charging for all bulky waste collections, in line with most other Local Authorities in Wales. The charge would be £17.50 for up to 2 items, £30 for up to 4 items, £42.50 for up to 6 items and £55 for up to 8 items, including a £5 booking fee. This is similar to what other Local Authorities are charging, and would save the Council £71,000 per year.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,581 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 73.1%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.2.

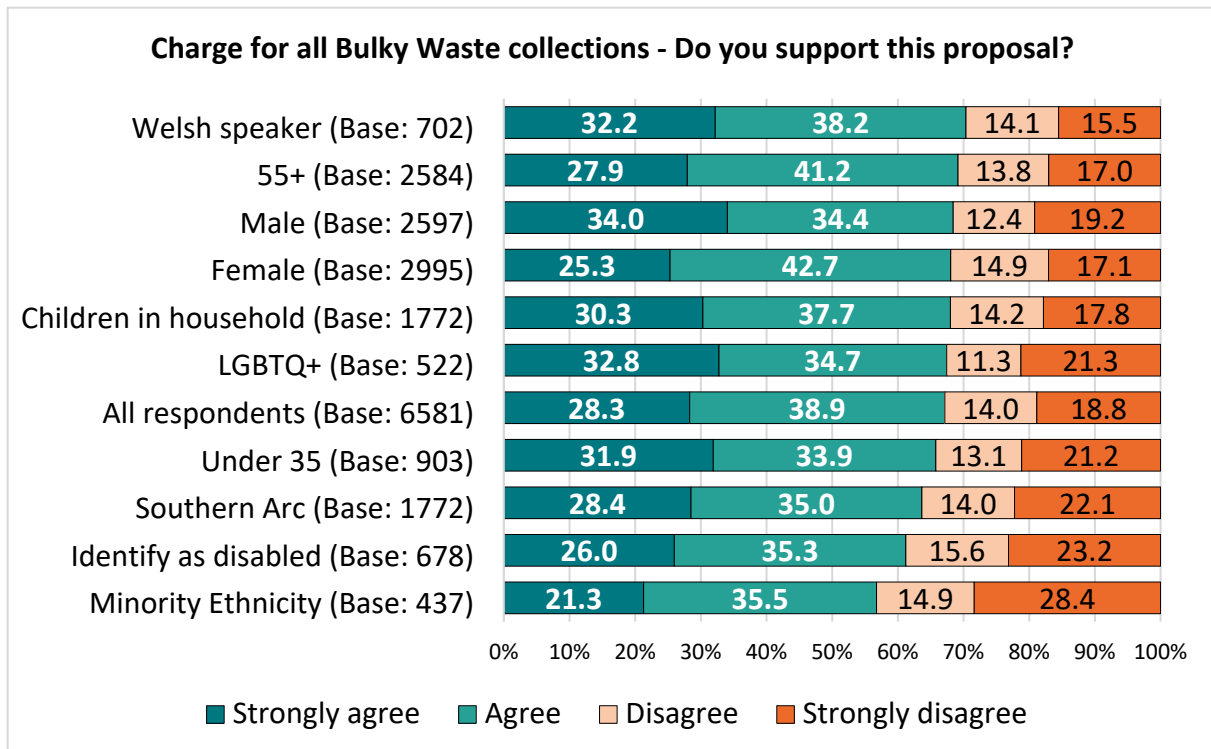
Two-thirds of respondents (67.1%) supported the proposal to charge for the collection of all bulky waste items.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

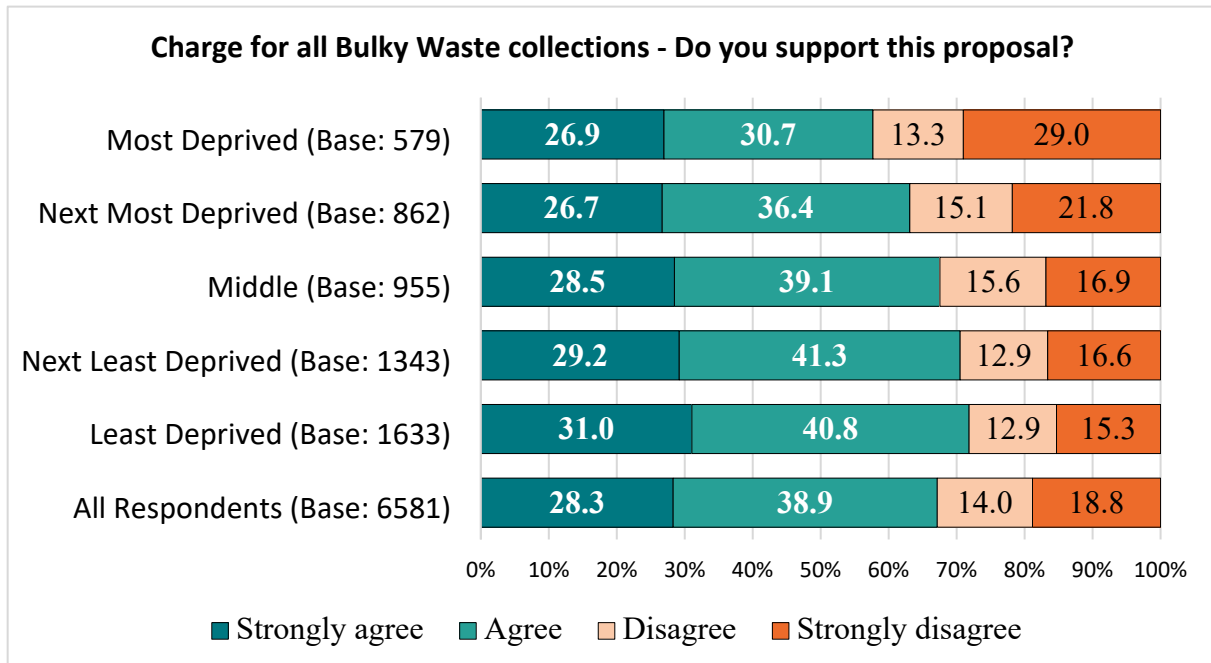
More than 150 comments relating to the proposals for bulky waste collections were left in response to the open comments question at the end of the section. Further details are available in [Appendix 18](#).

Whilst there was a consensus of opinion amongst most groups analysed, over two in five respondents from a Minority Ethnicity (43.2%) disagreed with this proposal, more than 10 percentage points higher than the average score (32.9%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Agreement with this proposal correlated with levels of deprivation, with those living in the more deprived areas of the city least likely to agree.



*Excludes 'Don't know' responses*

The Welsh Government is increasing its target to recycle, re-use or compost waste collected by Local Authorities from 64% to 70% in 2024/25. Authorities that do not meet this target will be fined by the Welsh Government.

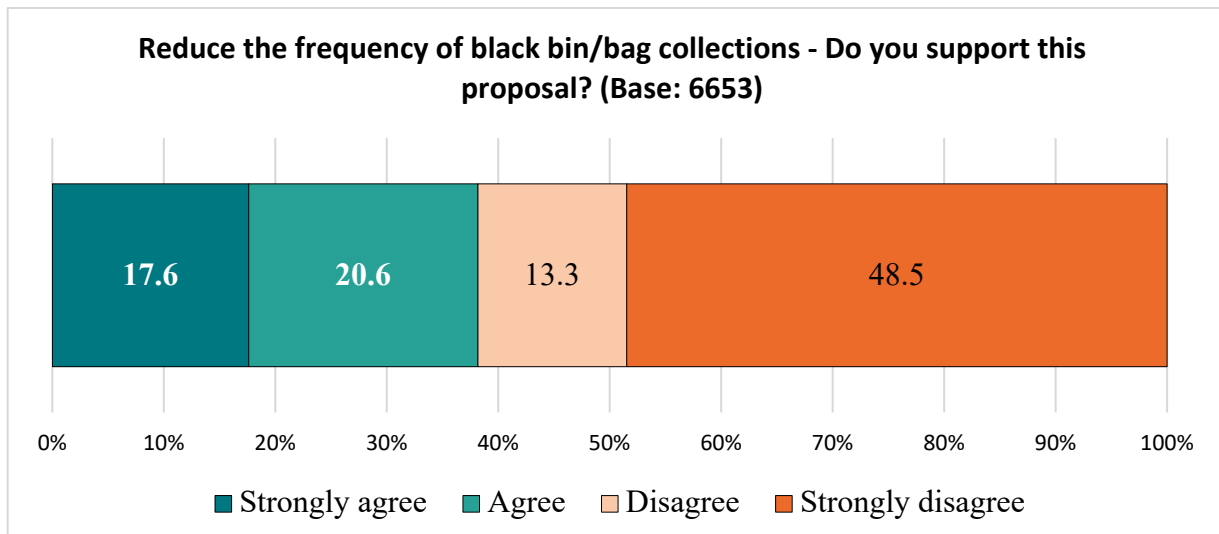
Whilst Cardiff currently performs well, we need to do more to encourage households to recycle and compost more waste, and dispose of less using their black bins or bags. We know that more than 40% of the waste currently put into black bins or bags could be easily recycled at home.

In order to boost recycling rates and meet the higher target, the Council is proposing to reduce the frequency of black bin/bag collections from 2 weeks to 3 weeks, whilst continuing to collect recycling and food waste weekly. This would help to improve Cardiff's carbon footprint, minimise the risk of fines and reduce the cost of collecting and disposing of this waste, saving £244,000 per year on disposal costs.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,653 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 73.9%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.2.

Almost half of all responses to this question 'strongly disagreed' with this proposal (48.5%), more than the total figure in agreement (38.2%).



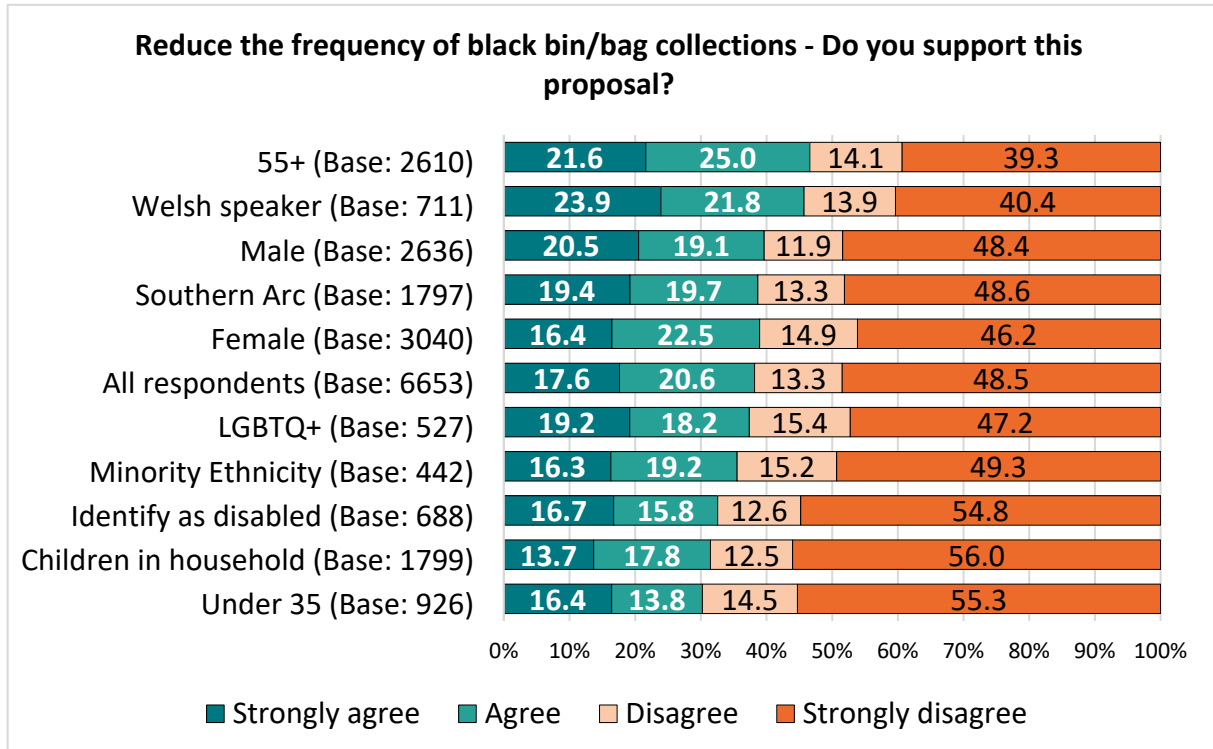
Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Over 500 comments relating to the frequency of black bin/bag collections were left in response to the open question at the end of the section, with further details in [Appendix 18](#).



There were differences in opinion across the demographic groups analysed, with older respondents most likely to agree (46.6%), contrasting with those under the age of 35 (30.2%).

More than half of respondents with children in their household (56.0%), under the age of 35 (55.3%) or who identify as disabled (54.8%) 'strongly disagreed' with this proposal.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

There was no correlation between agreement with this proposal and level of deprivation. (Details shown in [Appendix 15](#)).

**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

The Welsh Government plans to increase its recycling, re-use or composting goal for local councils from 64% to 70% by 2024/25. Councils that don't achieve this will be fined.

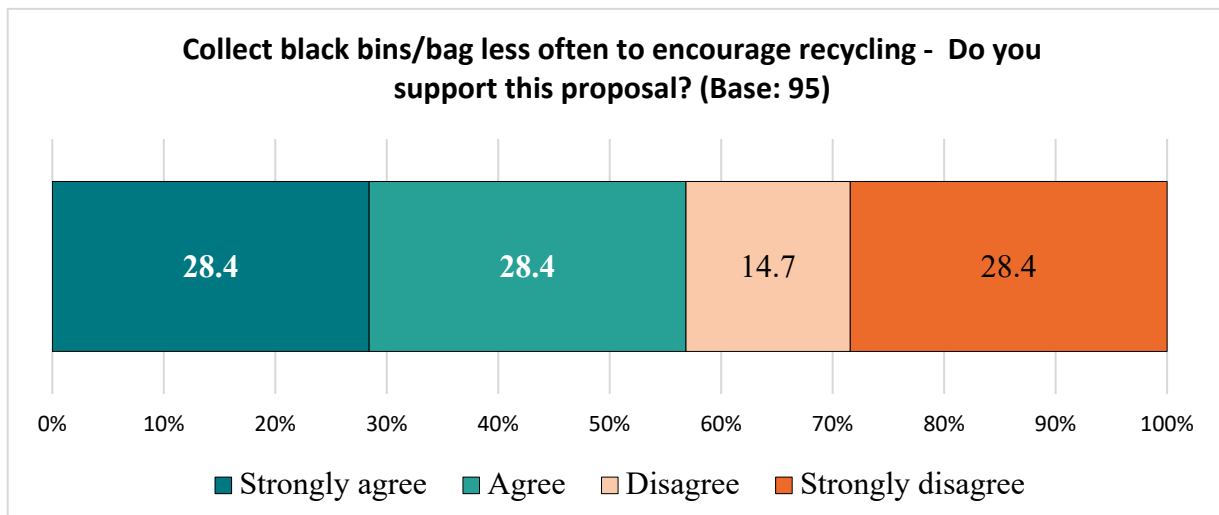
Although Cardiff is doing well, more effort is needed to get people to recycle and compost more, and reduce what they throw away in black bins or bags. Over 40% of what's in these bins or bags could be recycled at home.

To help meet this new target, Cardiff Council wants to collect black bins/bags every 3 weeks instead of 2, while still picking up recycling and food waste every week. This change aims to lower Cardiff's carbon footprint, avoid fines, and save £244,000 each year in waste disposal costs.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 95 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 92.2%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 10.1.

Young people responding to the Child Friendly Cardiff Budget survey were more likely than respondents to the main survey to agree with these proposals (56.8%).



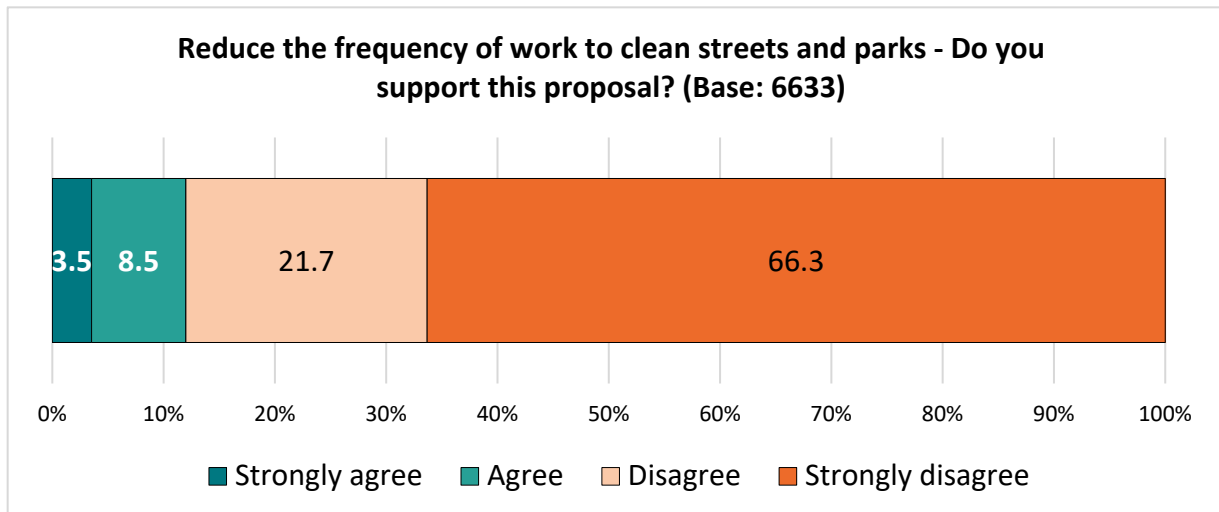
Excludes 'Don't know' responses

The Council currently spends £6.25 million on street cleansing. The Council could save up to £880,000 if it were to reduce the amount of work done cleaning streets and parks, emptying litter bins and doing targeted cleansing in some inner city areas. Street cleansing and the targeted work would continue to take place, but the frequency would reduce.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,633 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 73.7%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.2$ .

There was strong disagreement with the proposal to reduce the frequency of work to clean street and parks (66.3%), with a further 21.7% disagreeing. Just 12.0%, or one in eight respondents, agreed with this proposal.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

These results were consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details shown in [Appendix 16](#)).

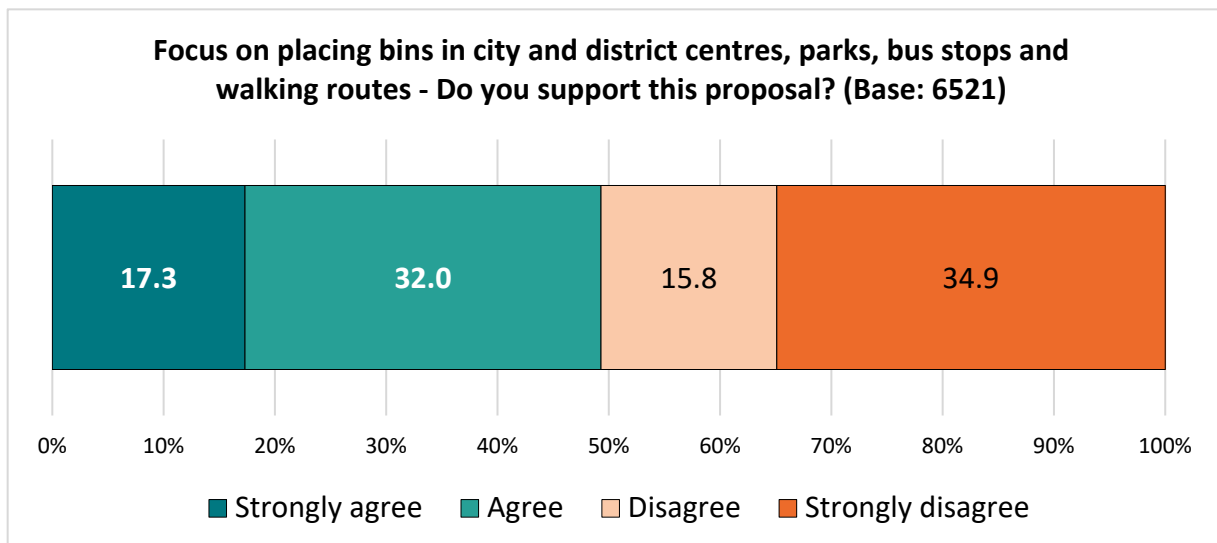
Over a thousand comments referencing litter or street cleansing were left in response to the open question at the end of this section; further details are available in [Appendix 18](#).

There are approximately 3,000 public bins across the city. A significant number of these in residential streets are not used widely by local residents, but these public bins do attract fly-tipping. The Council could remove public bins from residential streets and focus instead on placing bins in city and district centres, parks, bus stops and dog walking routes. This would save £139,000 per year.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,521 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 72.4%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.2.

Opinion was split on this proposal, with 49.3% of respondents in agreement, and 50.7% disagreeing.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Results were consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details shown in [Appendix 17](#)).

Over 300 responses referencing on-street bins were received in response to the open question at the end of the section. Further details can be found in [Appendix 18](#).

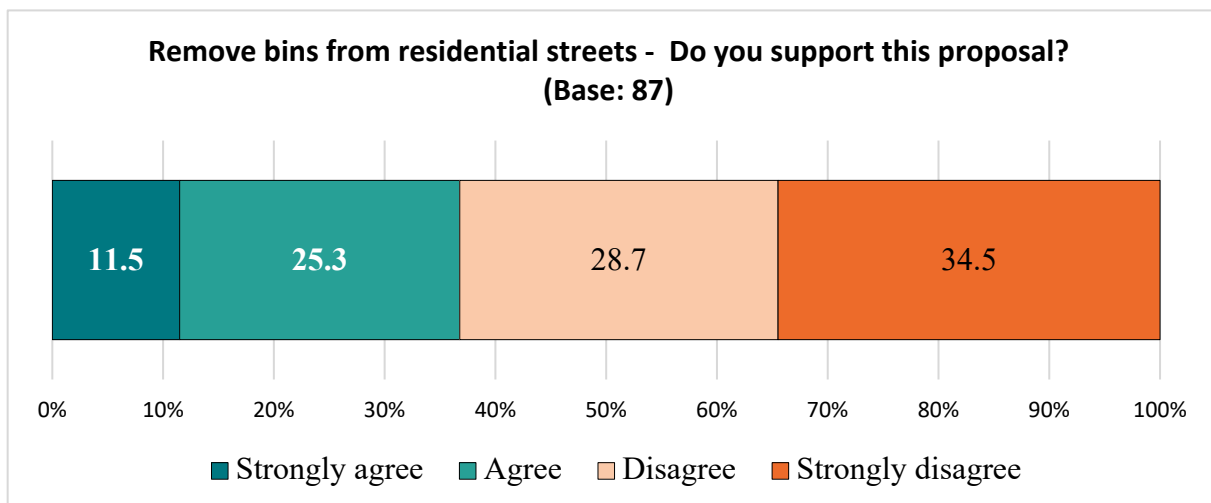
**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

The city has about 3,000 public bins. Many bins on residential streets are not used much by locals but attract illegal dumping. The Council might remove these bins and only have bins in city and district centres, parks, bus stops, and dog walking areas. This could save over £139,000 every year.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 87 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 84.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 10.5.

Respondents to the Child Friendly Cardiff survey were less likely to agree with this proposal than those completing the main budget consultation, with 36.8% in agreement, and 63.2% disagreeing.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

The Local Action Teams were introduced in 2020, and enhanced in 2022, and work to improve the neighbourhoods in and around 17 of the city's housing estates where there are a high number of council homes. This service is partly funded by the Council's Housing Team, which is responsible for supporting council homes. They work to create cleaner and safer places for residents by proactively removing rubbish and waste from gardens, removing fly tipping, carrying out clearance of open land, cut back trees and hedges and clear overgrown areas. They also carry out street action days, encouraging residents to get involved in improving their environment.

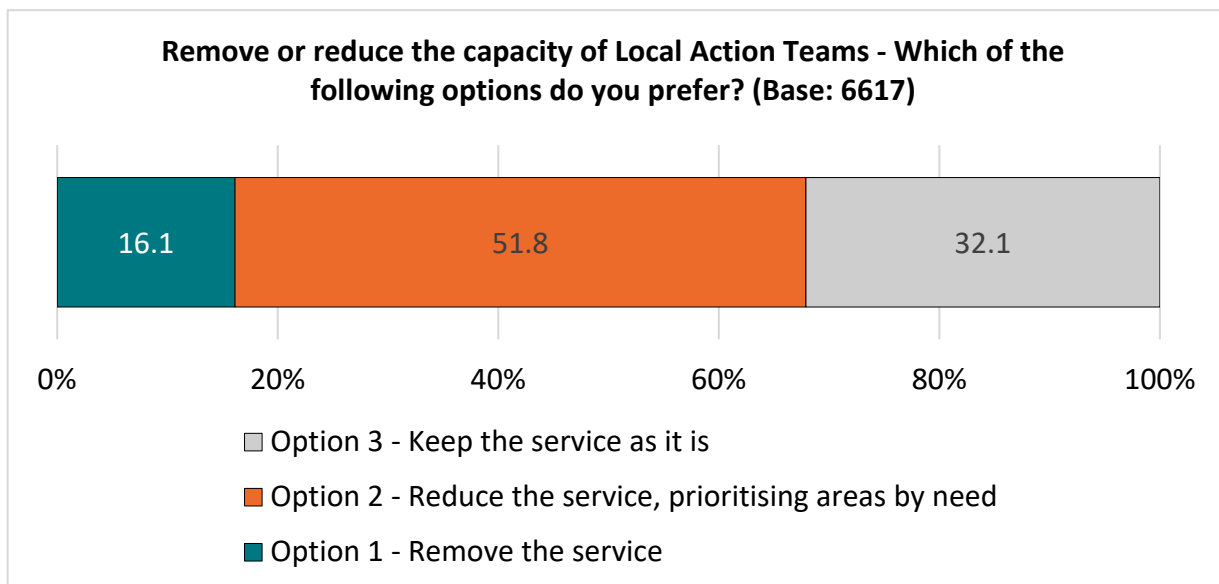
To save money the Council could stop the provision of this service or reduce the capacity of the teams.

**Which of the following options do you prefer?**

- **Option 1** – Remove the service, saving £854,000.
- **Option 2** – Reduce the service, prioritising areas by need, saving at least £312,000.
- **Option 3** – Keep the service as it is and find savings elsewhere.

A total of 6,617 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 73.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.1.

Just over half of those responding to this question supported the option of reducing the capacity of Local Actions Teams, prioritising its work by need. Just under a third (32.1%) opted to keep the service as it is, double the proportion of respondents preferring that the service be removed (16.1%).

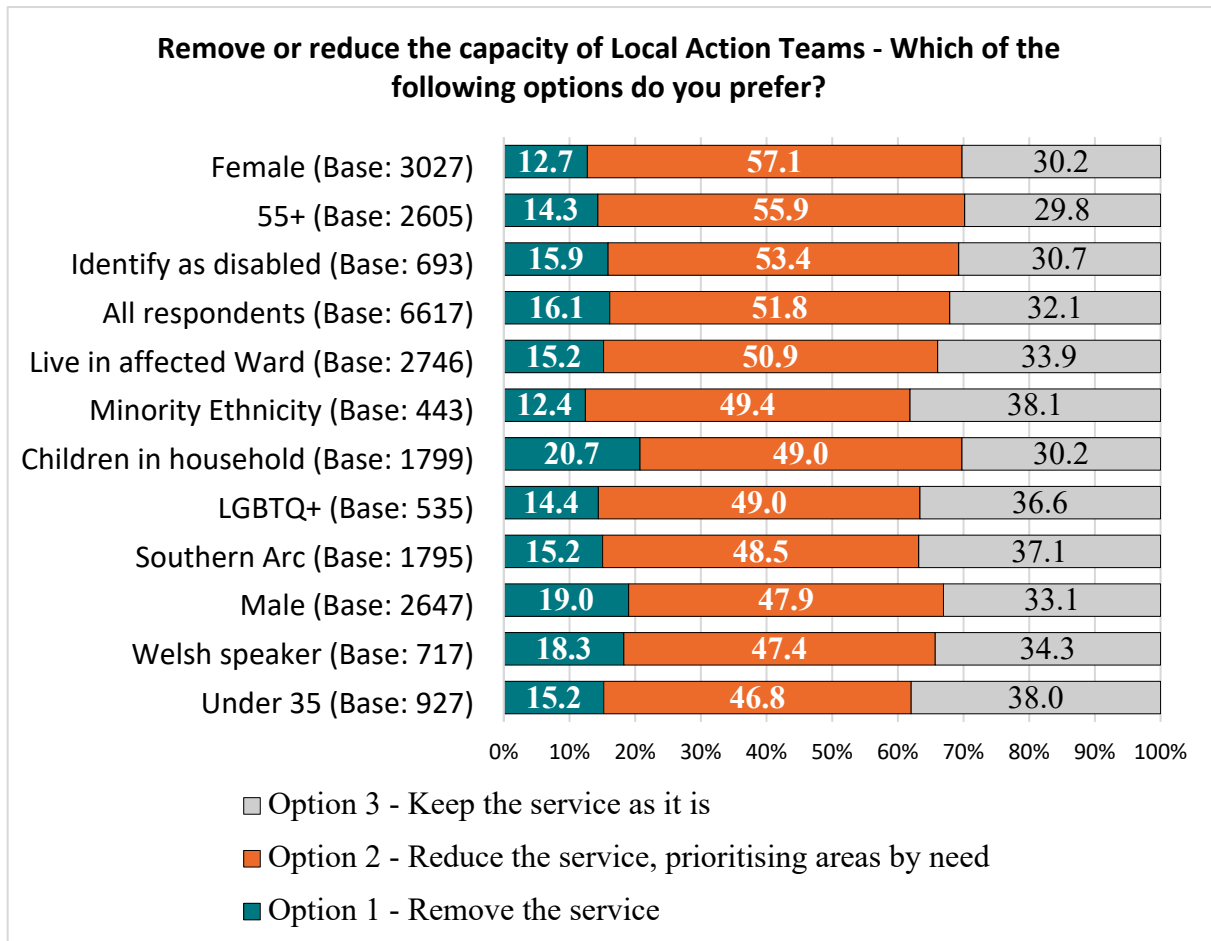


Almost 90 comments on the Local Action Teams were given in response to the open question at the end of the section. Details can be found in [Appendix 18](#).

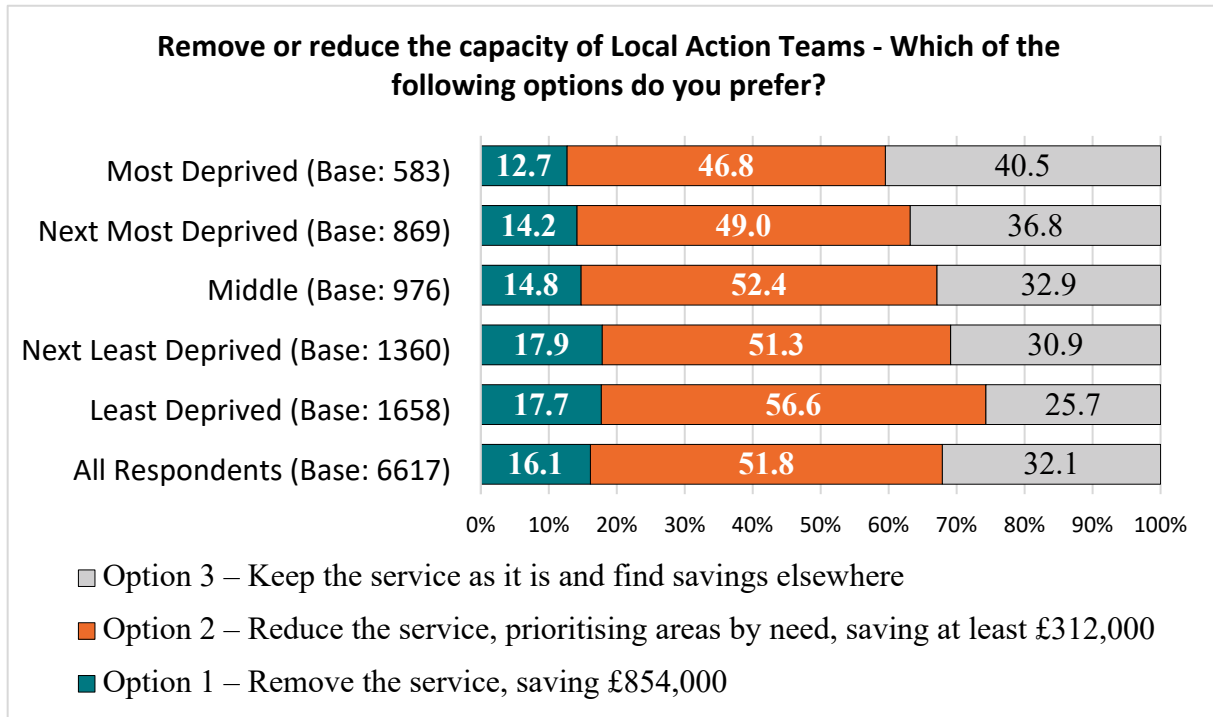
Females (57.1%), respondents aged 55 or over (55.9%) and those who identify as disabled (53.4%) showed the highest level of support for reducing the Local Action Teams service.

Respondents from a Minority Ethnicity (38.1%) or under the age of 35 (38.0%) were most likely to want to keep the service.

Respondents with children in their household (20.7%) or males (19.0%) were most likely to support the removal of the Local Action Teams service.



There was a correlation between respondents' views on the Local Action Teams service and level of deprivation – the more deprived the area, the more likely respondents were to want to keep the service as it is; the more affluent the area, the more likely the respondents were to support reducing this service.





**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

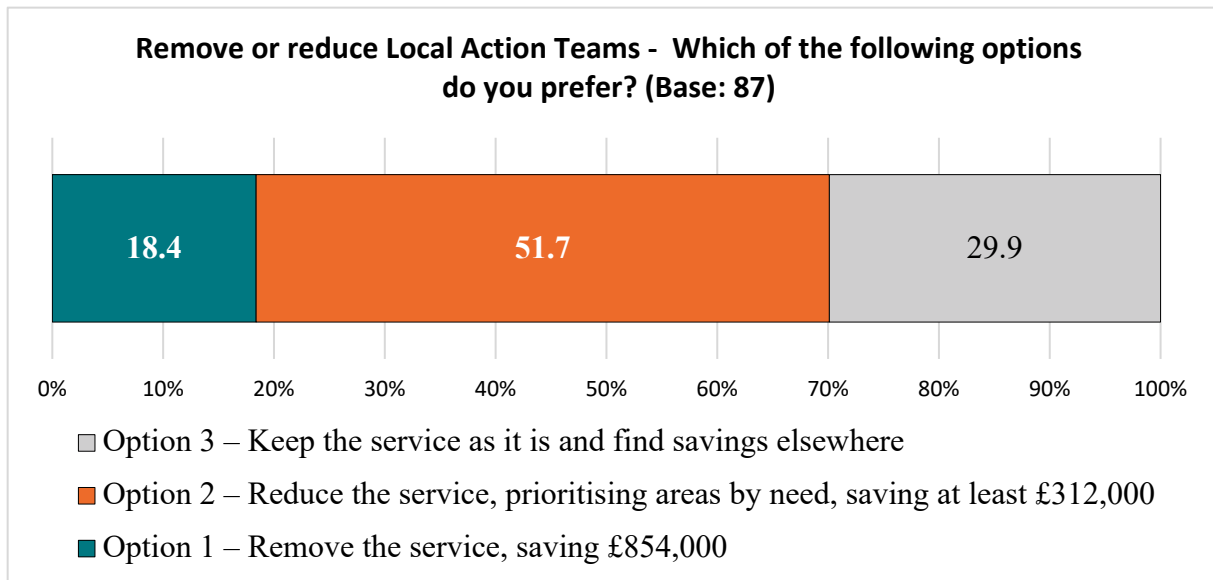
Local Action Teams were introduced in 2020 and work to improve the neighbourhoods in and around 17 of the city's housing estates where there are a high number of council homes. This service is partly funded by the Council's Housing Team and they work to create cleaner and safer places for residents by removing rubbish and waste from gardens, removing fly tipping, carrying out clearance of open land, cut back trees and hedges and clear overgrown areas.

To save money the Council could stop the provision of this service or reduce the capacity of the teams.

**Which of the following options do you prefer?**

A total of 87 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 84.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 10.5.

Responses to the Child Friendly Cardiff budget consultation reflected the findings of the main survey, with 51.7% supporting the reduction of the Local Action Teams service.



**Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Waste & Street Cleansing?**

A total of 1,649 comments were received, and grouped into themes. The top three are shown below, with a full list available in [Appendix 18](#).

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
<b>Cardiff is already filthy</b>	893	54.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Is it the council's ambition to host the Festival of Litter? It certainly feels like it.</i></li> <li>- <i>Cardiff is the worst place for litter I have ever lived. You cannot reduce services and remove bins.</i></li> <li>- <i>An absolute joke. The streets are filthy enough as it is and now you want the public to pay to get rid of their litter?! We can't control our litter, I can assure you I recycle as much as possible and my black bin is still full! You are absolutely disgusting and a waste of space for proposing this. Cardiff is becoming a rancid, boring, dirty little city and you are to thank for that!</i></li> <li>- <i>Living near a park and since the occurrence of covid the prevalence of dog walkers has increased I would certainly resist any measures that reduced the availability of walkers to dispose of their collected dog excrement.</i></li> <li>- <i>Keeping our city as clean and free of litter as possible is a huge priority and reducing services in this area would be horrendous.</i></li> <li>- <i>The streets of Cardiff are already a filthy disgrace. How could you even think of this.</i></li> <li>- <i>Cardiff is one of the dirtiest and most litter-strewn cities in the UK I have experienced - any reduction to these services would have a terribly negative impact on our communities and the potential to for Cardiff to advertise itself as a tourist location and a centre of future economic development.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Black bin collection issues - keep fortnightly collections</b>	486	29.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Absolutely awful idea to increase black bins to 3 weeks, especially for families with young children or pets where waste disposal is essential. Hygiene bins in my area have already been suspended for over a month. Also, if a household were to miss bin collection for whatever reason there will then be 6 weeks of waste to deal with. Unacceptable!</i></li> <li>- <i>Reducing black bin waste will only cause people to put more unrecyclable plastics into the recycling bins. This will also increase fly tipping. Families with pets or multiple children produce a lot of waste-most of which isn't recyclable. Further, some tower block flats do not have facilities for food waste.</i></li> </ul>

			<p>Their bins will pile up with food, increasing pest issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reducing these services or charging for them will inevitably lead to fly tipping. Short term saving for long term problems. Black bags every 3 weeks will lead to maggot infestations, especially if the householder and/or council miss a collection. Lamby Way will not dispose of household waste that won't fit in black bins, so more fly tipping...</li> <li>- Do not reduce black bin collection. I pay close attention to what is/isn't recyclable and I come close to filling my black bin every 2 weeks.</li> <li>- Reducing black bag collection will encourage rats.</li> <li>- The black bin collections for families are already a nightmare. Single occupancy households have the same bin space as a family of four. I think reducing collections could well increase fly tipping as it's not easy to dispose of general waste, even the recycling centres won't just take a black bag full of general household rubbish so there's nowhere for it to go.</li> </ul>
<b>Against reduction in street cleaning</b>	281	17.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff streets are very poor, lots have significant amounts of rubbish and do not get cleaned frequently enough as it is without reducing this service. It is a problem that needs addressing not cutting.</li> <li>- Street cleaning is important for sanitation, hygiene and also accessibility - keeping pavements safe. At the moment there is a big problem with litter in Cardiff, especially from rubbish bags which have been torn open / left on the street.</li> <li>- I'm sorry, but the streets of Cardiff are constantly dirty. There is way too many rubbish flying around the streets. You can't stop or reduce cleaning because we gonna drown</li> <li>- Streets of Cardiff are full of rubbish, litter and bags full of rubbish. It looks absolutely awful and the proposal to clean the streets even less is mind boggling!</li> <li>- Street cleaning is important for road safety of both pedestrians and cyclists. Both rubbish and leaves create slip and trip hazards.</li> <li>- Many streets in Cardiff are filthy through unfortunately litter louts but also the lack of street cleansing. Any reduction in this area would see Cardiff looking more and more like a third world country. Also many of the roadside verges are strewn with litter. If anything, additional services</li> </ul>

are required.

### Face-to-face Engagement

This theme was at the forefront of a lot of people's minds, in part due to the media picking up on these proposals from the budget consultation, plus comments made on social media. A number of people commented on their experiences of missed waste collections and a perceived lack of street cleansing, summarised by an engagement officer:

*"Many people wanted to give their feedback and convey their frustration about the city's poor cleaning and high levels of trash."*

Discussions with groups of people became passionate as they shared their frustrations, experiences and opinions, such as a group of women from Minority Ethnicities, across a range of ages (20s to 70s), in Riverside:

*"I have heard about the bins [proposal]!"*

*"There is too much rubbish everywhere already!"*

*"So much rubbish everywhere!",*

*"The [bin] men just leave it – if they drop it, they just leave it!",*

*"Have you seen this road on bin day? After the [bin] men have been? It is terrible! It is the same by me!",*

*"And so many plastic bags! The birds tear them, rubbish everywhere."*

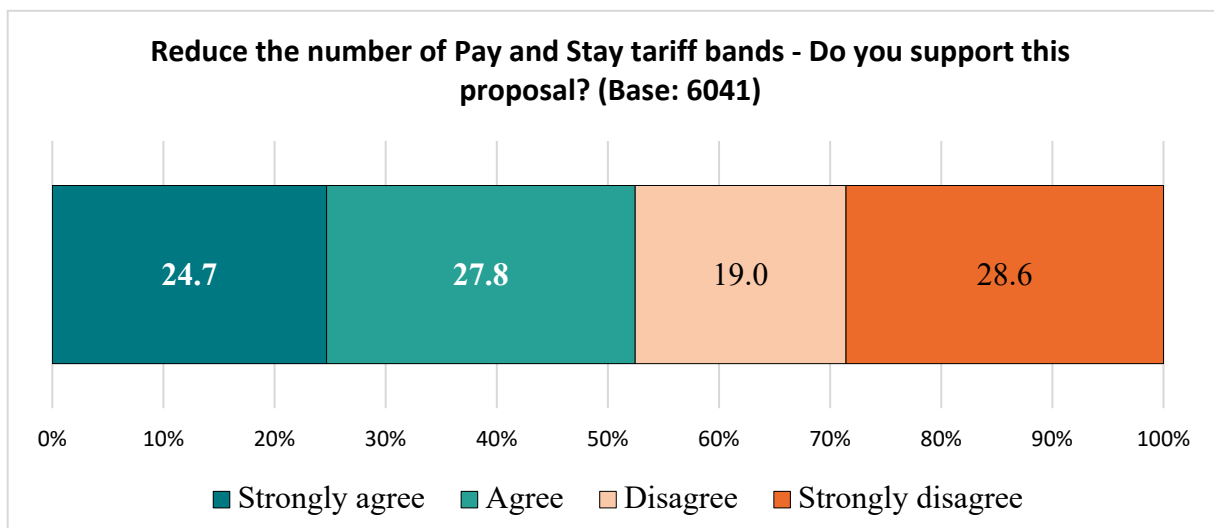
## Parking

Currently the Council has 12 different on-street Pay and Stay tariff bands across the city, operating at different times and on different days. We propose to simplify this by reducing the number of tariffs from 12 to 4. To help manage demand, we propose higher charges for parking locations closer to the city centre, with an average increase of £1 per hour in the city centre, and 50p in districts outside the city centre. The amount of “long-stay” parking available to commuters will also be reduced, to support residents and local businesses, and encourage the use of public transport or active travel.

### Do you agree with this proposal?

A total of 6,041 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 67.1%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.3.

Opinion was split on the proposal to reduce the number of Pay and Stay tariff bands, with 52.5% of respondents agreeing, and 47.5% disagreeing.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Results were broadly consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details show in [Appendix 19](#)).

Over 400 comments on parking charges, and the possible impacts of the proposal were left in the open question at the end of the section, with further details in [Appendix 21](#).

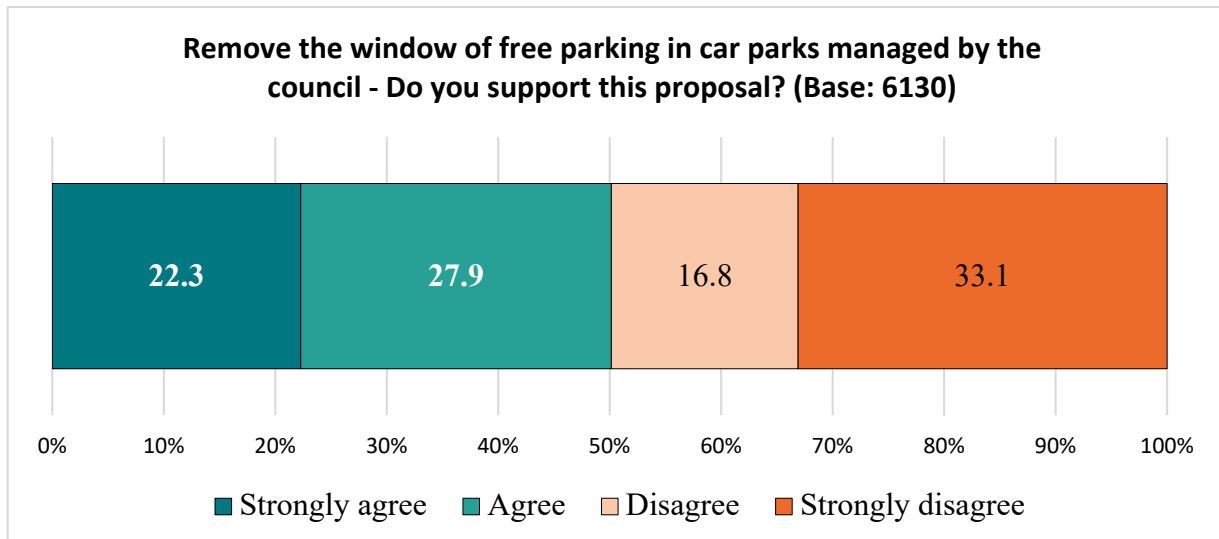
Some Pay and Stay locations managed by the Council currently provide up to 2 hours of free parking in car parks and on-street, as long as a free ticket is obtained. This subsidises parking and doesn't reflect the costs of maintaining and managing the parking areas. It is proposed that this window of free parking be removed in car parks, with a charge introduced of £1 for the first hour (or £1.50 for the first two hours) in locations within the central parking area and

50p for the first hour (or £1 for the first two hours) for other locations outside the city centre.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 6,130 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 68.1%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.2$ .

Opinion was split on removing the window of free parking in car parks managed by the council, with 50.1% agreeing with this proposal, and 49.9% disagreeing.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

These results were broadly reflected across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details show in [Appendix 20](#)).

Overall, 270 comments were received about removing the window of free parking in council-run car parks, with further comments on the impact this could have, or alternative suggestions to the proposed charges. Further details are available in [Appendix 21](#).

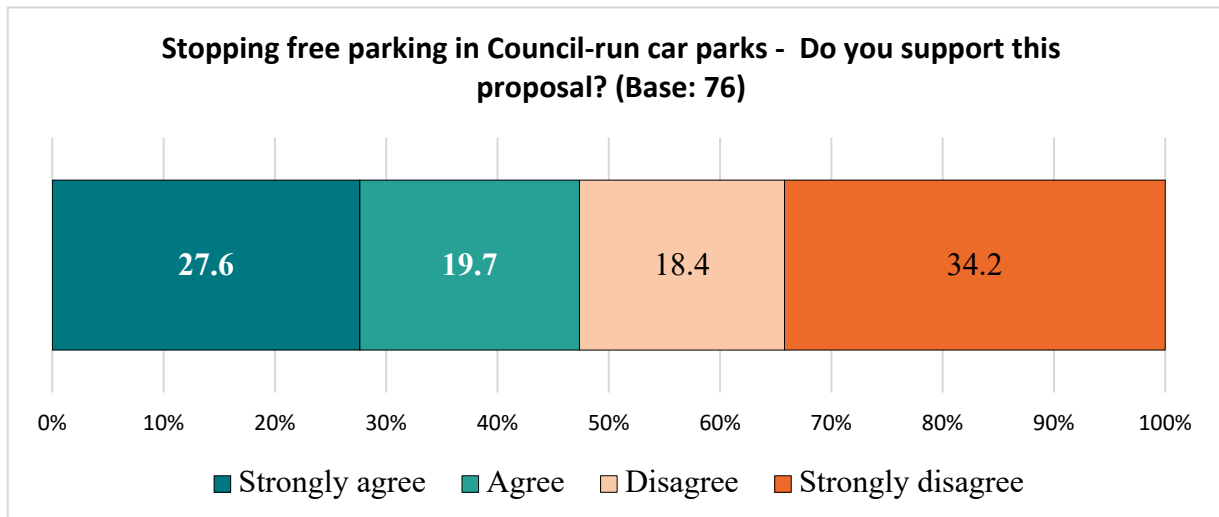
**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

Some parking spots run by the Council offer up to 2 hours of free parking if you get a free ticket. This makes parking cheaper but doesn't cover the costs of keeping and running these parking areas. The council is thinking about stopping this free parking. Instead, they might charge £1 for the first hour in central parking areas and 50p in areas outside the city centre.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 76 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 73.8%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 11.2.

Respondents answering this question in the Child Friendly Cardiff budget survey showed a lower level of support for this proposal than amongst respondents to the main survey, with 47.3% in agreement with the proposal to remove the window of free parking in council-run car parks.

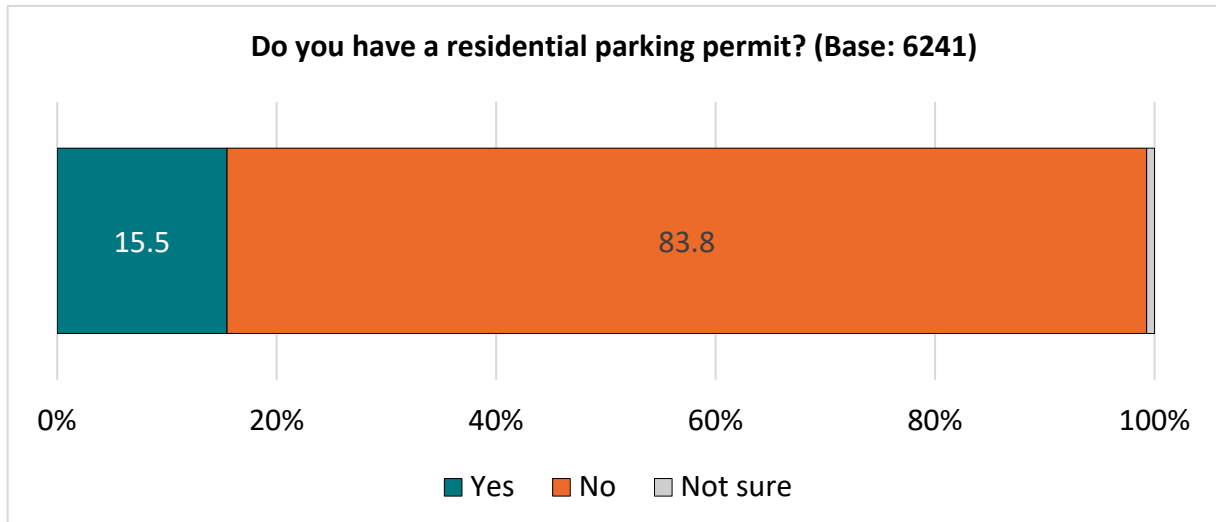


Excludes 'Don't know' responses

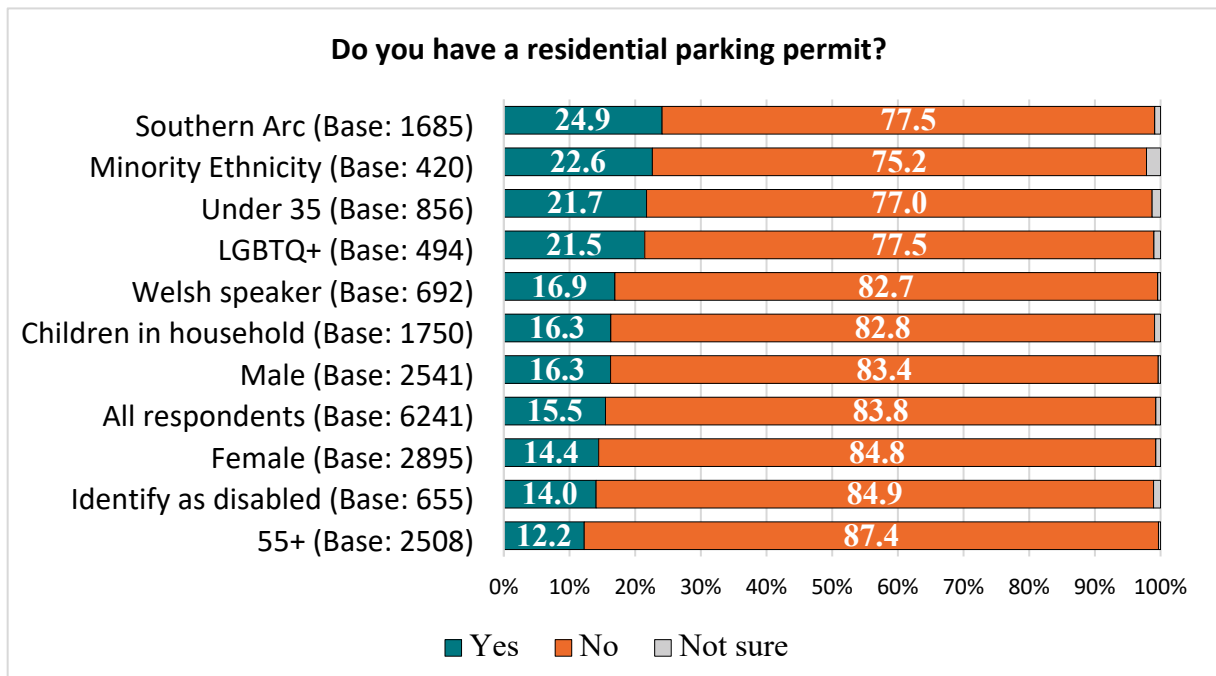
**Do you currently have a residential parking permit?**

A total of 6,241 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 69.3%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.2.

Around one in six respondents (15.5%) stated that they held a residential parking permit.

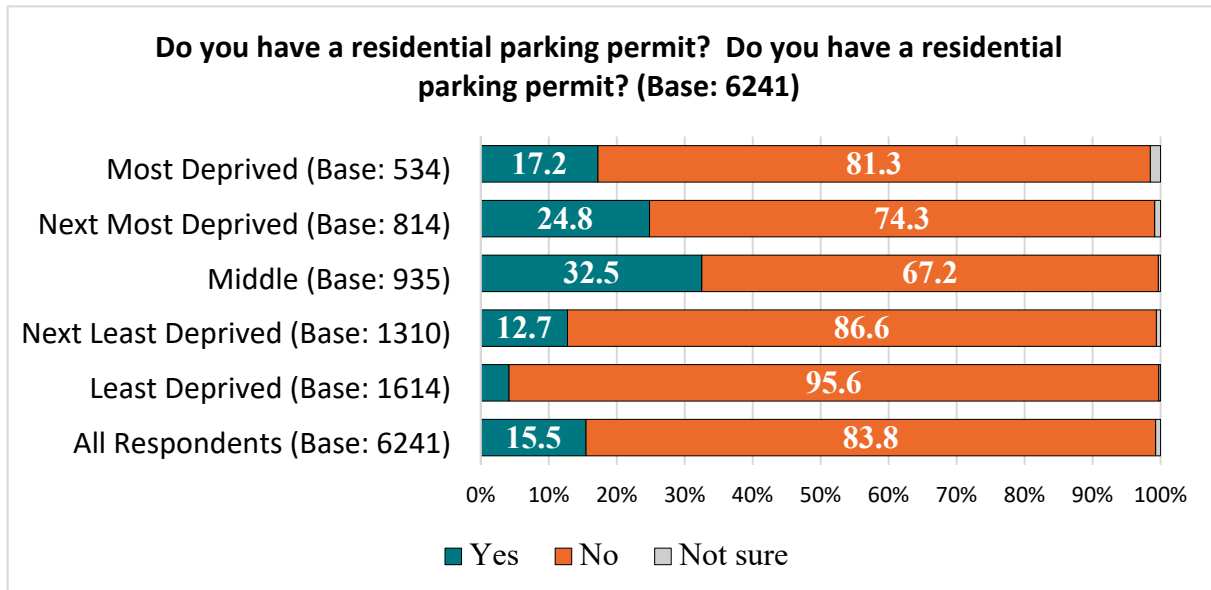


Respondents living in the Southern Arc (24.9%), from a Minority Ethnicity (22.6%) or under the age of 35 (21.7%) were most likely to hold residential parking permits.



A third of respondents living in the middle deprivation quintile (32.5%) held a residential parking permit, compared to 17.2% in the most deprived quintile, and just 4.2% in the least deprived quintile.





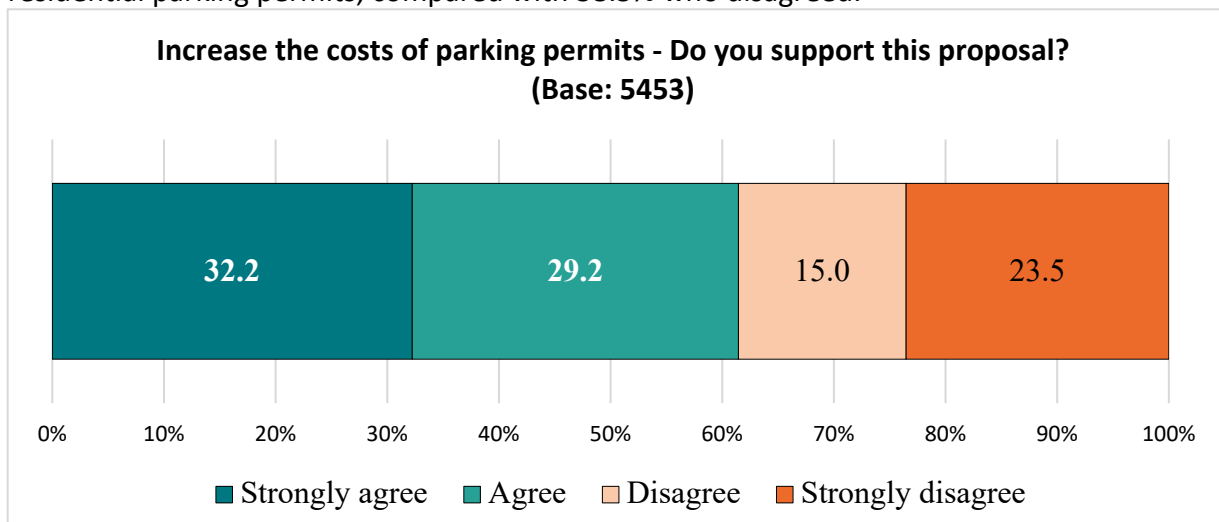
The Council offers parking permits as a service to residents in specific areas across the city. There are four levels of permits, which limit parking in particular streets to holders of residential or visitor permits. This service includes administering the relevant type and number of permits to applicants, and monitoring vehicles parking in restricted areas to ensure these areas are only used by permit holders.

The cost of parking permits in Cardiff is well below the average amount charged by similar Local Authorities across the UK, who charge an average of £48 for a first permit and £82 for additional permits. It is proposed that the cost of a first permit should increase from £24 to £30, and a second permit increase from £54 to £80.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

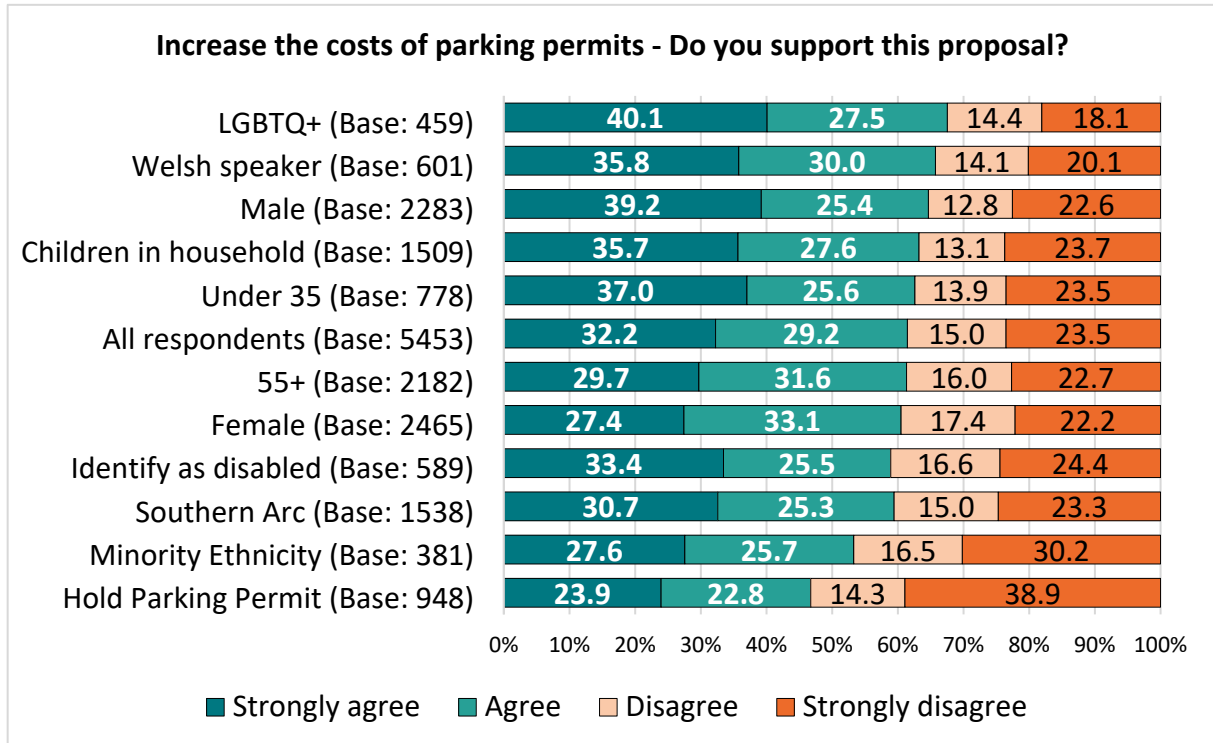
A total of 5,453 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 60.6%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.3.

Just over three in five respondents (61.5%) agreed with the proposal to increase the cost of residential parking permits, compared with 38.5% who disagreed.



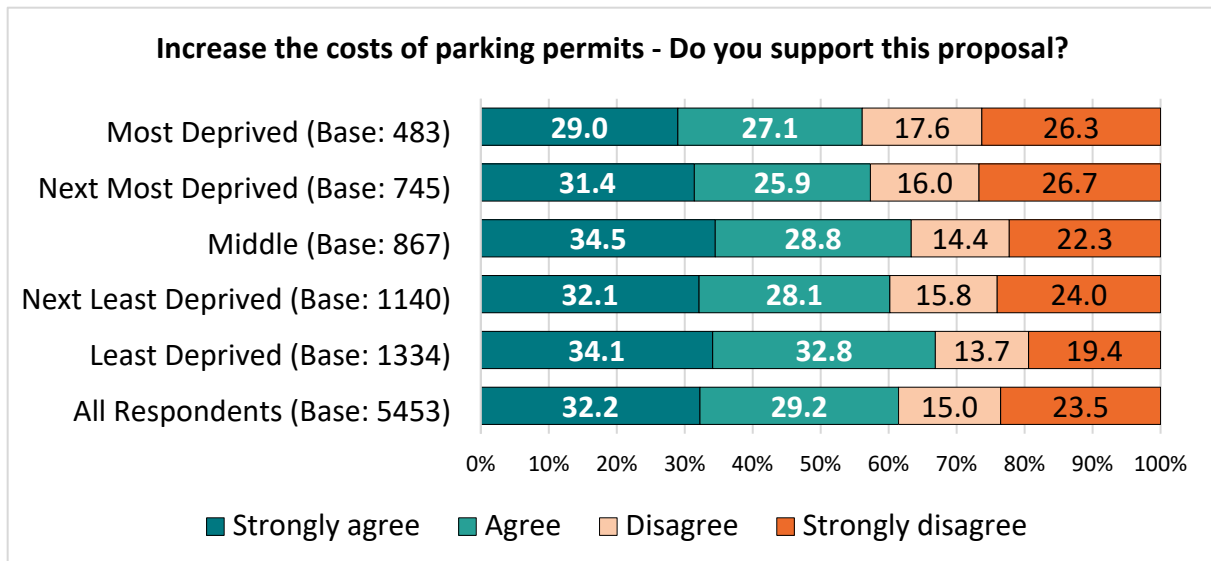
Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Perhaps unsurprisingly, support for the increase in cost for permits was lowest amongst permit holders (46.7%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Whilst there was no direct correlation with level of deprivation, agreement with this proposal was highest amongst respondents living in the least deprived areas of the city, and lowest amongst those in the most deprived areas.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

**Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Parking?**

A total of 1,682 comments were received, and grouped into themes. The top three are shown below, with a full list available in [Appendix 21](#).

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
Public transport/infrastructure - is poor / Needs to improve / Recent bus provision cut	552	32.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More than happy to pay more for parking, but these increases need to be used to fund improvements to public transport so that people have genuine alternatives.</li> <li>- Bus services in Cardiff are unreliable and therefore can't replace car services.</li> <li>- Public transport is extremely poor in Cardiff and getting worse. I have experienced much better service in other cities I have lived in and when I lived and worked in Europe. This needs to be sorted out first before any other steps can be taken!</li> <li>- Public transport is not reliable or frequent or sufficiently coordinated to meet increased demand.</li> <li>- Public transport in Cardiff is particularly poor and requires substantial improvement before it is comparable to similarly sized cities - all savings from these should go towards improved transport networks where possible.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Let's actually see some form of improved public transport first. Currently it's not really fit for purpose and leaves almost everyone reliant on cars to get around even within the centre of the city.</li> </ul>
Knock on effect of proposal - Businesses / visitors - local and city centre	423	25.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Short term free parking can facilitate use of local businesses perhaps reduce to 30 mins</li> <li>- Where are commuters supposed to park? Public transport is not an option for many, as it is infrequent and unreliable, even non existent in some areas. Loss of the free 2 hour parking option in suburban car parks will adversely affect local shopping areas such as Whitchurch and Wellfield Rd.</li> <li>- The city centre is dying as it is, charging motorist for parking further will reduce people coming into the city centres</li> <li>- You are pushing visitors to cardiff away from the city centre</li> <li>- The Council seems determined to drive away workers and visitors. Long-term, this will have a devastating effect upon town centres and businesses. It is a very short-sighted strategy. I guarantee it will not shift more people on to public transport.</li> <li>- It is important to ensure that any changes do not adversely affect usage of local shops, restaurants, etc.</li> </ul>
Suggestions For more charges / Alternatives to proposed charges	352	20.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reducing pay and stay to first 30 minutes free for quick pick up and drop offs would be better, charges starting after.</li> <li>- Additional permits often required for homes with multiple cars which are part of the congestion problem. Council should not be subsidising households with too many cars.</li> <li>- Cut the Active Travel budget to support parking.</li> <li>- Perhaps reduce free parking to one hour rather than dispensing with it all together. And for the love of all that's holy, get the public transport, cycling and walking infrastructure right before trying to get people out of cars.</li> <li>- Enforcement officers need to check the 2 hour free parking window the system is much abused.</li> <li>- Bring back paper permits so residents can actually see if a vehicle has a current permit.</li> </ul>

### Face-to-face Engagement

Parking permit charges were more of an issue for men than for women, either being raised spontaneously, or as a prompt to complete a survey when told that this was one of the topics in the questionnaire.

*"I can't park even if I pay for my permit!" (White British male, 60s, Roath),  
"You have already raised the price for parking!" (A group of Minority Ethnicity men, aged 35-64, Grangetown)*

Other issues around parking were also raised, including concerns around pavement parking, particularly amongst older participants:

*"In the Roath area, there is some streets where people park on the pavement. I had to walk [in the road], frightened, keeping turning back to check if cars are coming! I've fallen twice." (White female, 70s, Roath)*

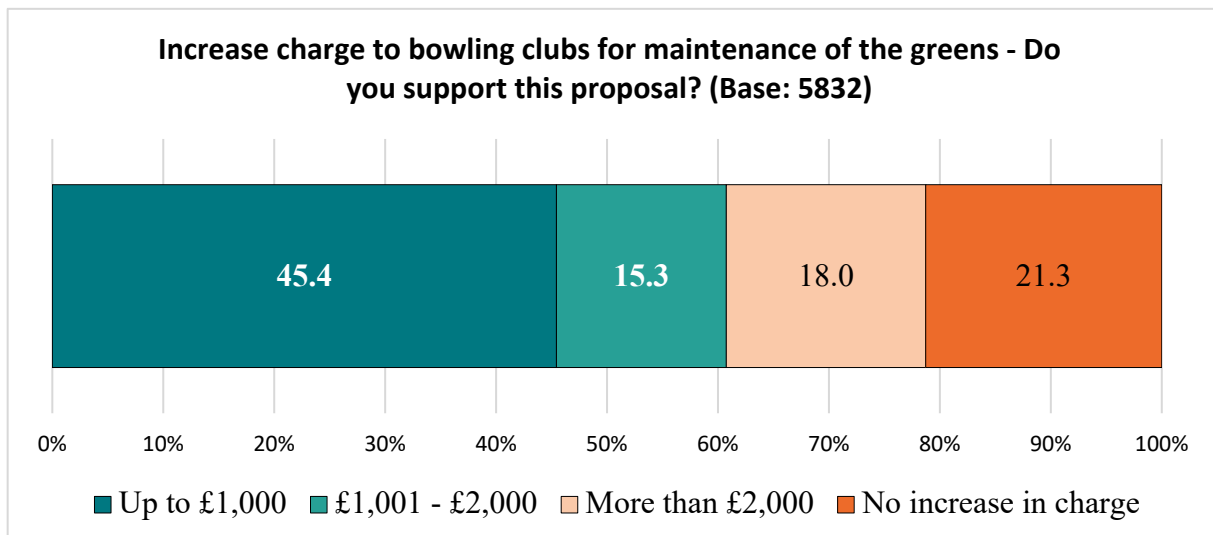
## Leisure & Sports

The Council provides a subsidy of £11,000 each for 4 bowling greens across the city to support the maintenance of the greens, and two of these clubs are not charged for the use of park pavilions. The Council is proposing to increase charges to the clubs to cover the cost of this maintenance, and introduce a charge for the use of each park pavilion to cover the cost of providing this facility.

**Do you support increasing the charge to the bowling clubs for the maintenance of the greens by:**

*A total of 5,832 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 64.8%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.1.*

Just over three-quarters of respondents (78.7%) supported an increase in the charge to bowling clubs for the maintenance of the greens, with most respondents (45.4%) supporting an increase of up to £1,000. Just over a fifth of respondents (21.3%) did not support any increase in charges for this service.

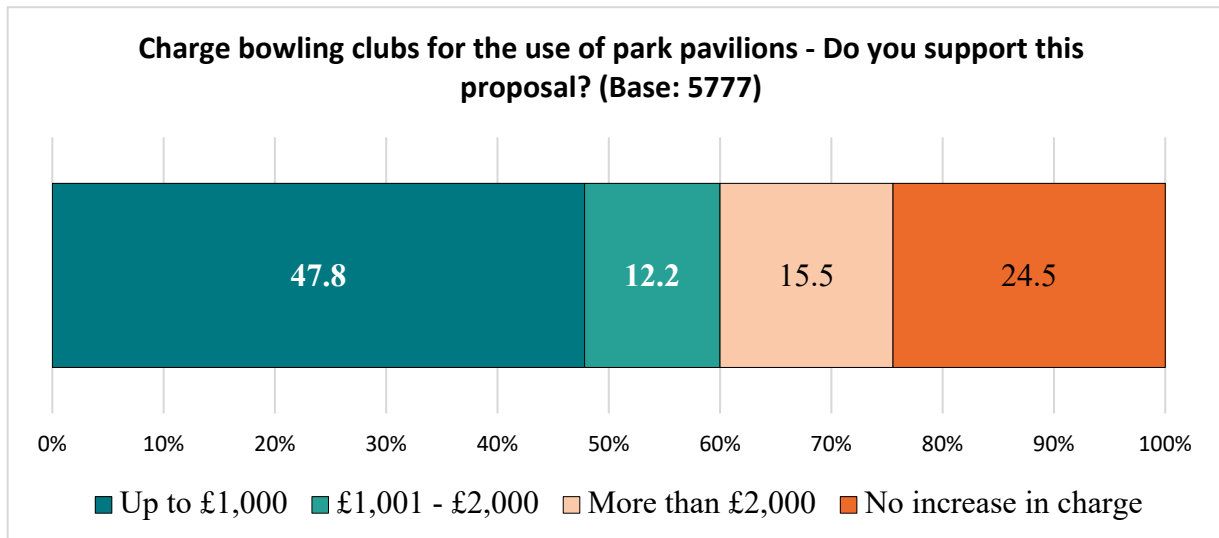


Patterns of responses were broadly consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analyses; see [Appendix 22](#) for further details.

### Do you support charging for the use of park pavilions?

A total of 5,777 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 64.2%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.1$ .

Again, around three-quarters of respondents supported charging bowling clubs for the use of park pavilions - almost half (47.8%) supported charging bowling clubs up to £1,000, one in eight (12.2%) supported a charge of up to £2,000, and more than one in seven (15.5%) supported a charge of more than £2,000. A quarter of respondents did not want an increase in the cost of the use of the pavilions.



Again, patterns of responses were broadly consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analyses; see [Appendix 23](#) for further details.

A number of comments were received about subsidies for bowls clubs, and other leisure facilities in response to the open question at the end of the section; further details can be found in [Appendix 27](#).

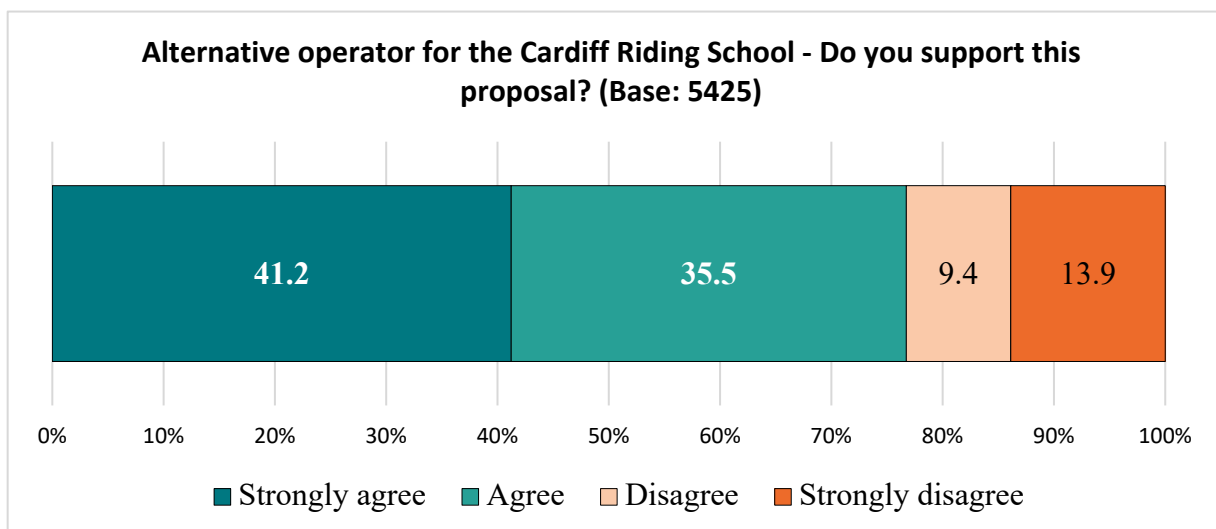
The Cardiff Riding School, based in Pontcanna Fields, is run and subsidised by the Council. The Council could transfer this service to another organisation who would be responsible for running the Riding School on the Council's behalf, potentially removing or reducing the subsidy needed.

We would need to find out if there is another organisation who could take it over. It would continue to operate whilst this takes place. We are asking for your views on whether you'd support finding an alternative operator which could remove the Council subsidy.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 5,425 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 60.3%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.3$ .

Around three-quarters of respondents (76.7%) supported the proposal to find an alternative operator for the Cardiff Riding School, including 41.2% who 'strongly agreed'.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

There was a broad consensus of opinion across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details show in [Appendix 24](#)).

Over 150 comments regarding the Cardiff Riding School, and proposals for how this should be run were made in response to the open question at the end of the section; further details can be found in [Appendix 27](#).



The Council currently spends £240,000 subsidising the cost for adults hiring sports pitches and changing facilities across the city. Fees vary by sport and whether changing rooms are included.

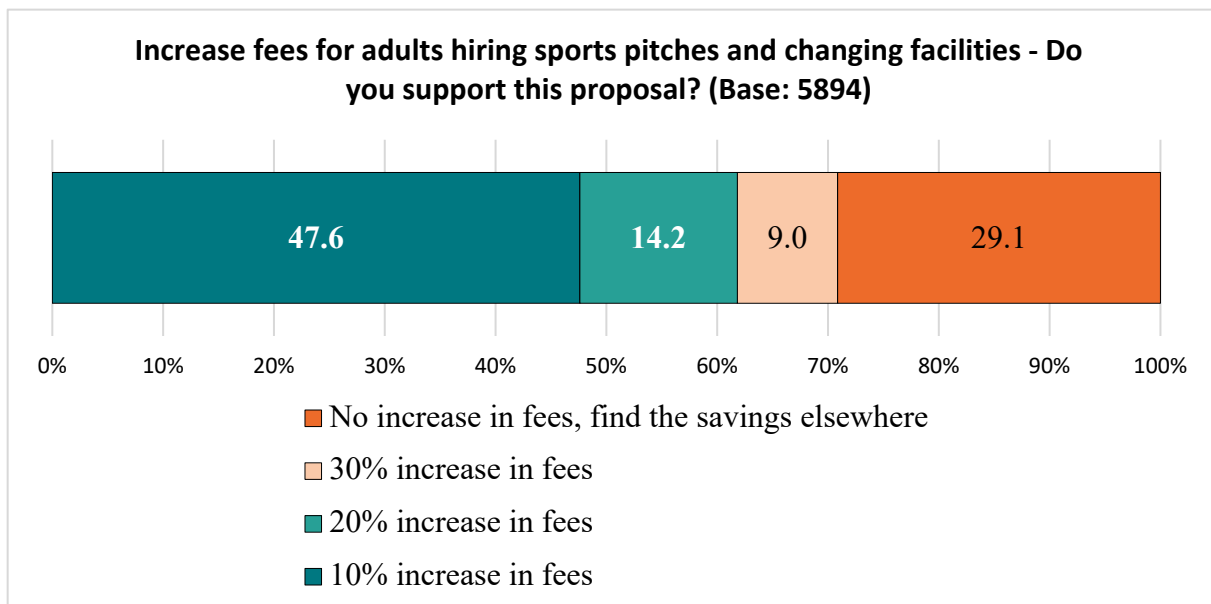
The Council is proposing to reduce subsidies for the provision of football, rugby, cricket and baseball pitches. Currently, hire fees range from £50.92 to £76.12, however the Council is considering increasing the fees to help cover costs.

**Which of the following levels of increase do you support?**

A total of 5,894 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 65.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.1.

The most popular response to this question was support for a 10% increase in fees for adults hiring sports pitches and changing facilities (47.6%), with around a quarter (23.2%) supporting a greater increase.

Three in ten respondents (29.1%) did not support an increase in fees.



There was a broad consensus of opinion across the demographic and geographic groups analysed, with details available in [Appendix 25](#).

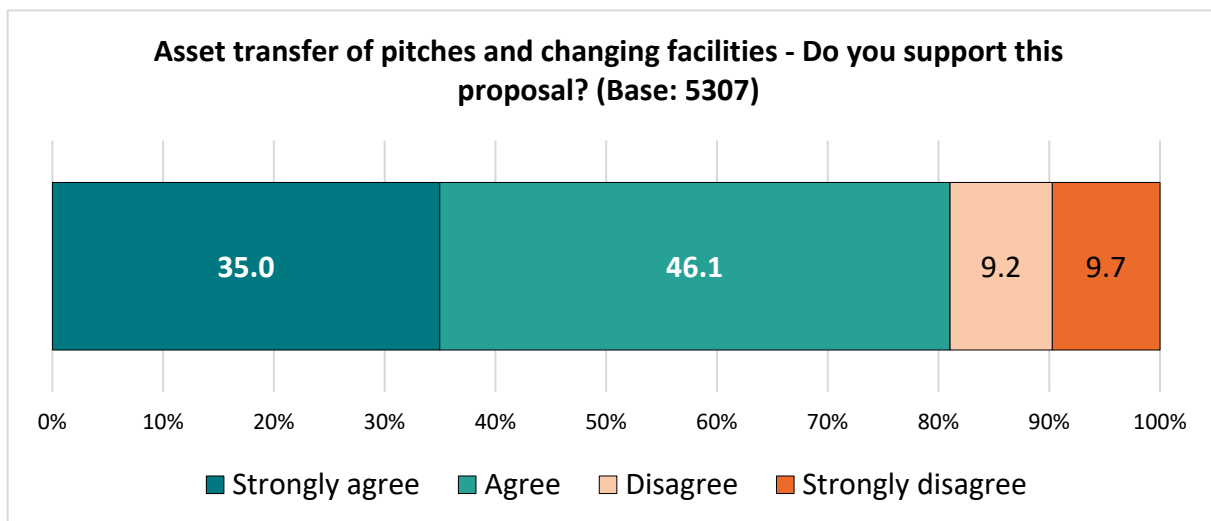
Almost 500 respondents commented on the importance of affordable facilities in response to the open question at the end of this section; further details are available in [Appendix 27](#).

The Council is currently responsible for running a number of pitches and changing facilities used for community sports across the city, and has arrangements in place with a number of clubs who have taken over responsibility for managing the pitches and facilities they use. The Council is proposing to repeat these arrangements with more clubs, which could save a further £25,000.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 5,307 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 59.0%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.3.

More than four out of five respondents (81.0%) supported repeating the asset transfer of pitches and changing facilities with more clubs, contrasting with 19.0% who did not agree with this proposal.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Demographic and geographic groups analysed showed consistency of opinion on this proposal. (Details shown in [Appendix 26](#)).

Around 150 comments on asset transfer of this, and other services, were made in response to the open question at the end of the section, with more details on this available in [Appendix 27](#).

**Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Leisure & Sports?**

A total of 885 comments were received, and grouped into themes. The top three are shown below, with a full list available in [Appendix 27](#).

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
Leisure & Sports need to be affordable and accessible to all / against proposals	497	56.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is important to encourage exercise so increases to charges here should be modest.</li> <li>- 10% increase for sports clubs is too much. 5% is fairer.</li> <li>- Gyms need to be more affordable/accessible. Very hard to find anywhere to do any indoor exercise that doesn't charge large amounts.</li> <li>- It's important that these facilities are kept affordable.</li> <li>- Important to encourage participation in sports at all levels.</li> <li>- Plz don't discourage public from exercise</li> </ul>
Health & Wellbeing current and future implications	294	33.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep people healthy.</li> <li>- We need to be encouraging more people into an active lifestyle not putting them off if you were to introduce these costs then less people would be likely to participate.</li> <li>- By putting up fees too much would put people off using the facilities and not keeping fit.</li> <li>- Your proposals don't exactly encourage a healthy lifestyle if you look to increase costs of playing fields etc.</li> <li>- Exercise/sport for all is important for health and well-being. A survey such as this one fails to address the nuances of each situation.</li> <li>- Exercise is important. It helps the council in the long run if people can exercise.</li> </ul>
Impact on young / vulnerable / low income	266	30.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Just the rich kids playing sports then?</li> <li>- Sport is essential for good health and fitness. It should not become the reserve of the better off in our communities. We already have an obesity crisis!</li> <li>- The bowling clubs are mainly for the retired people of the city, people who have worked and supported the city in most cases all of their lives, it would be criminal to charge them for their leisure activity (and I do not play bowls).</li> <li>- I would not want to see the cost of providing sports facilities for children and young people going up by more than the rate of inflation.</li> <li>- Facilities to keep people fit and active must be maintained and not become the privilege of the</li> </ul>

			<p><i>rich.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Access to sport should be promoted and restrictions removed.</i></li></ul>
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**Face-to-face Engagement**

Leisure and Sport was not a common topic for spontaneous comments, but a group of older White men in Butetown Pavilion said that they wanted leisure and sport promoted for all ages, to reduce health issues and avoid the congestion in hospitals.

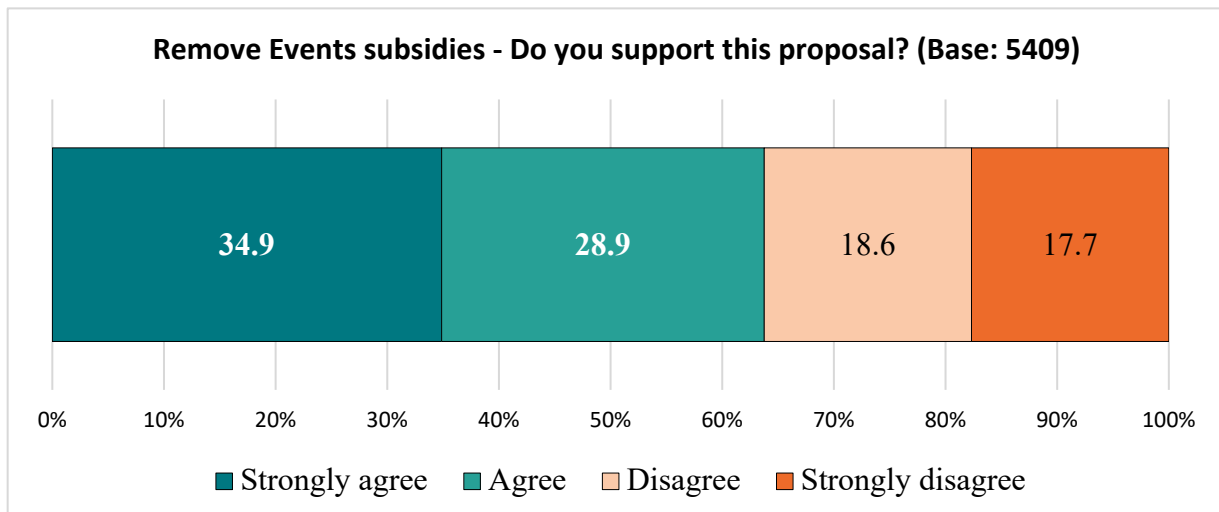
## Culture & Events

The Council currently spends around £36,000 per year subsidising events including Artes Mundi and The Big Gig. The Council proposes removing this funding.

### Do you agree with this proposal?

A total of 5,409 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 60.1%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.3$ .

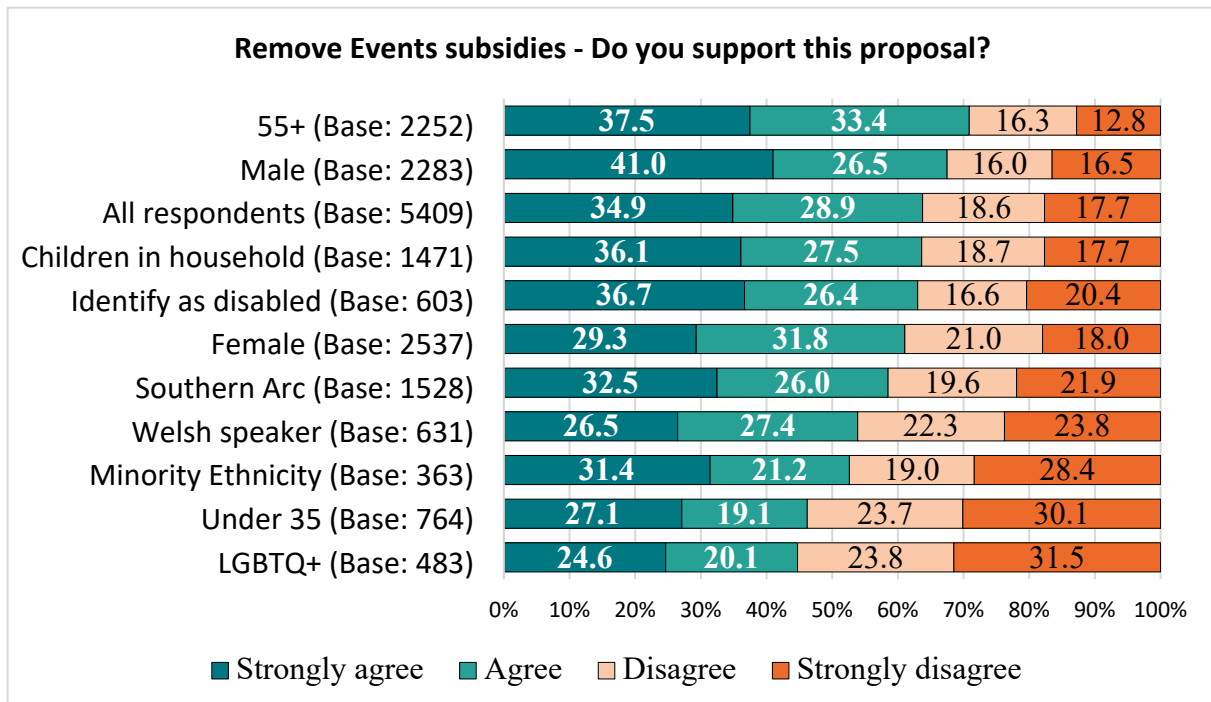
Almost two-thirds of respondents (63.8%) agreed with the proposal to remove subsidies from events such as Artes Mundi or The Big Gig.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

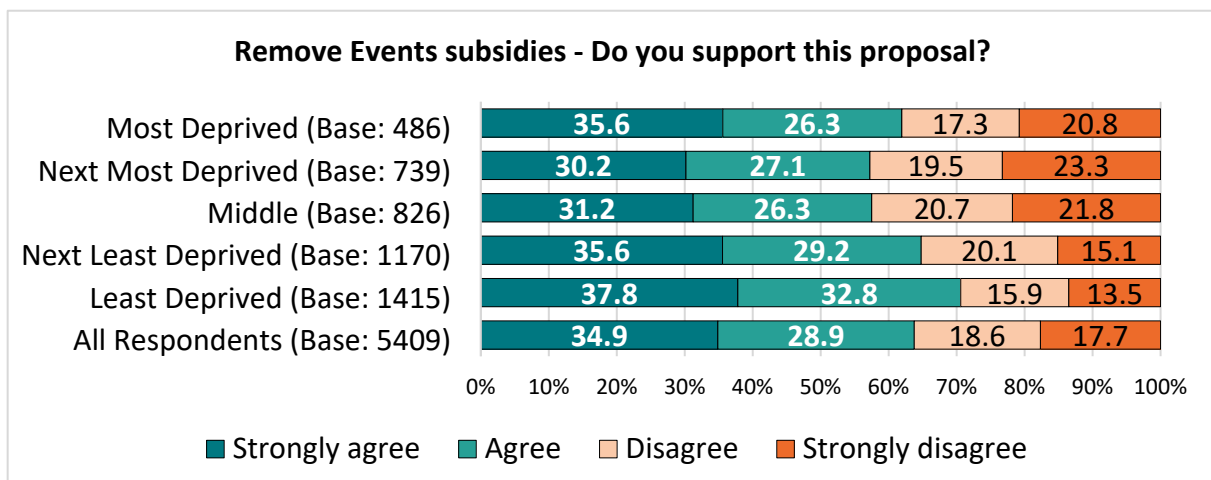
Over 50 comments on events were received in response to the open question at the end of this section; further details can be found in [Appendix 30](#).

Agreement for removing these subsidies were highest amongst respondents aged 55 or older (70.9%) and males (67.5%); it was lowest amongst respondents identifying as LGBTQ+ (44.7%) or under the age of 35 (46.2%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Whilst there was no clear correlation with agreement for this proposal and the level of deprivation, agreement was highest amongst respondents living in the most affluent areas of the city.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

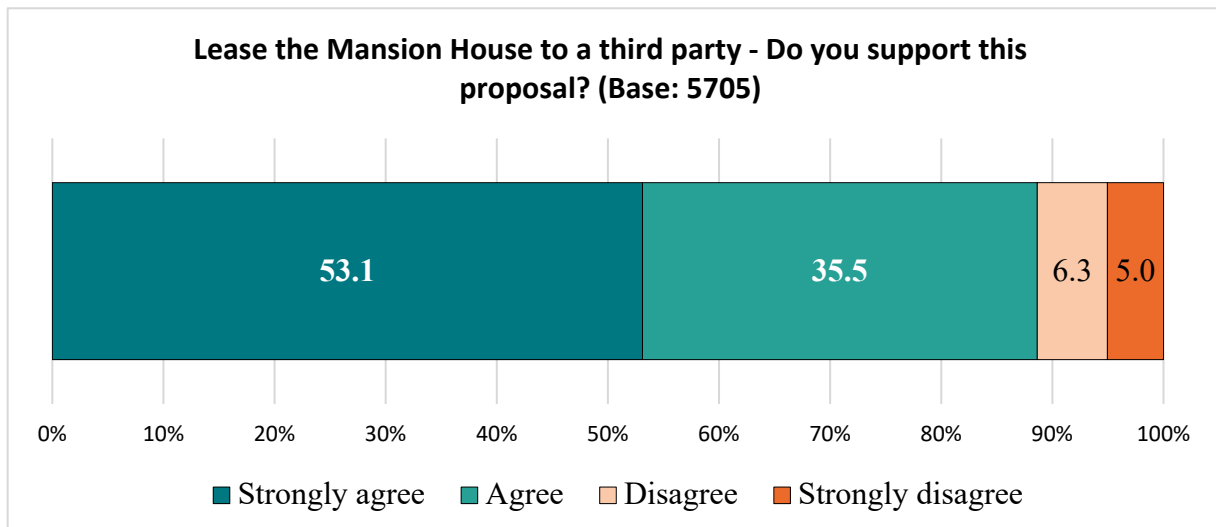
The Mansion House is the former residence of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, which is now used to host civic and corporate events. The Grade II listed building is in a worsening state of repair, and needs investment over the medium to long term, which cannot be funded by the income

it currently generates. The Council is proposing to lease the building to a third party, who would take on the responsibility for repairs and maintenance of the building, saving the Council £31,000 per year.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 5,705 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 63.4%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.3$ .

Almost nine in ten respondents (88.6%) agreed with the proposal to lease the Mansion House to a third party, who would take on the responsibility for repairs and maintenance of the building.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

All demographic and geographic groups analysed showed a consistency of opinion for this proposal. (Details shown in [Appendix 28](#)).

Over 70 comments on the Mansion House, or Third Party arrangements were made in response to the open question at the end of this section; more details are available in [Appendix 30](#).

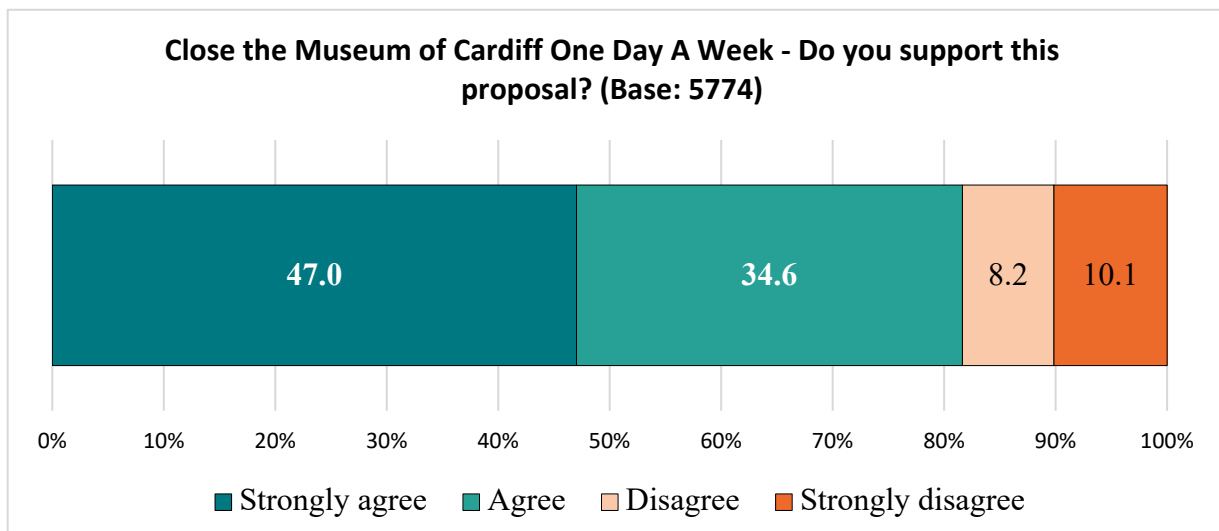
The Old Library building in the Hayes is in the process of being leased to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for use as a campus. This will deliver new performance spaces, opportunities to promote and protect the Welsh Language, and provide a 'city living room' for public access. The Old Library is also currently home to the Museum of Cardiff (not to be confused with the National Museum of Wales in the Civic Centre).

The Museum of Cardiff is currently costing the Council £525,000 a year to run. The Council is considering finding an alternative location for the Museum of Cardiff to reduce its running costs in the longer term. Whilst this work is on-going, the Council is proposing to reduce the cost of running the Museum by closing it one day a week, probably on Sundays, which would save £24,000 per year.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 5,774 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 61.9%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.3$ .

More than four in five respondents (81.6%) agreed with the proposal to close the Museum of Cardiff one day a week to reduce its running costs.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Results were broadly consistent across the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details shown in [Appendix 29](#)).

Over 450 comments relating to the Museum of Cardiff were received in response to the open question at the end of this section; further details are available in [Appendix 30](#).



**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

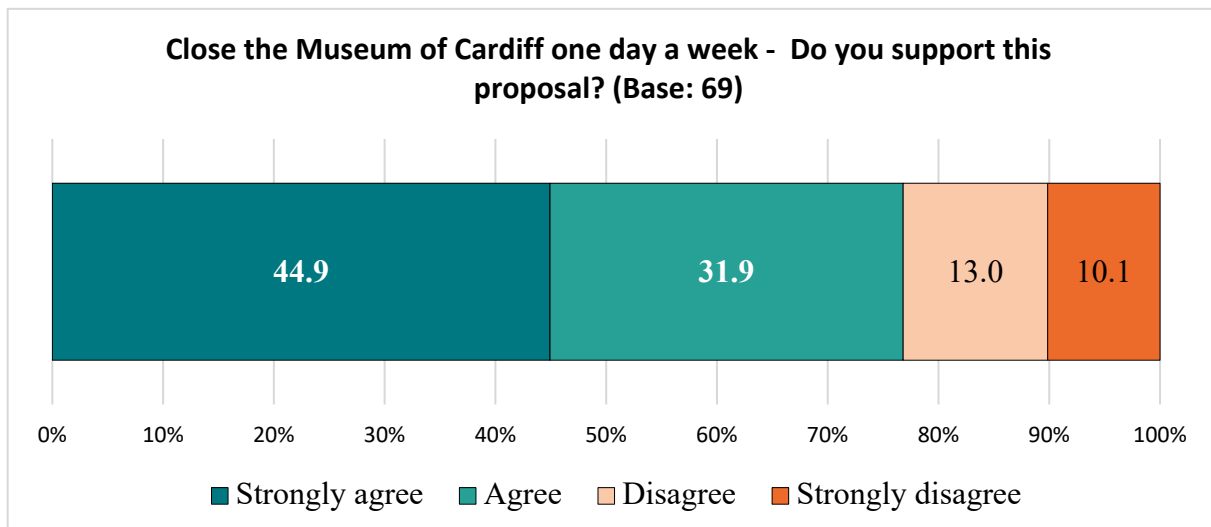
The Old Library building in the Hayes is in the process of being leased to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for use as a campus. This will deliver new performance spaces, opportunities to promote and protect the Welsh Language, and provide a 'city living room' for public access. The Old Library is also currently home to the Museum of Cardiff (not to be confused with the National Museum of Wales in the Civic Centre).

The Museum of Cardiff is currently costing the Council £525,000 a year to run. The Council is considering finding an alternative location for the Museum of Cardiff to reduce its running costs in the longer term. Whilst this work is on-going, the Council is proposing to reduce the cost of running the Museum by closing it one day a week, probably on Sundays, which would save £24,000 per year.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 69 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 67.0%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 11.8.

More than three-quarters of those answering this question in the Child Friendly Cardiff budget survey (76.8%) supported the proposal to close the Museum of Cardiff one day a week, reflecting the findings of the main budget consultation.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

## Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Culture & Events?

A total of 897 comments were received, and grouped into themes. The top three are shown below, with a full list available in [Appendix 30](#).

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
Against a weekend closure / Alternative option suggestions for The Museum of Cardiff	299	33.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closing the museum on Sundays seems a bit counterintuitive; that is the day the majority of the working population have off. Why not a weekday or if a weekday wouldn't equate to the same financial saving, two weekdays?</li> <li>- The days the Cardiff Museum should close must surely be based on the least used days, I would have expected weekend use to be higher the week days?</li> <li>- Agree with closing a day but not a Sunday.</li> <li>- Close the museum on the least busiest day.</li> <li>- Why Sunday? Close it on one or two week days when less likely to be used.</li> <li>- Why a Sunday when families could visit why not mid-week i.e Wednesday?</li> </ul>
Alternative location suggestions for The Cardiff Museum	74	8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Move museum of Cardiff to City Hall.</li> <li>- Move the museum of Cardiff into "National Museum of Wales".</li> <li>- As a retired tour guide (MBE) i think it is essential that the museum remains in the city centre site. Could part of the Howells store be used for this VIP purpose? Could the 'listed' church on that site be used?</li> <li>- Move the museum to St Fagans museum.</li> <li>- Could put the Museum of Cardiff in the Coal Exchange</li> </ul>
Cardiff's Culture and Heritage needs to be protected	72	8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff's culture is currently great and a big reason why people love the city. We must be careful not to lose this cultural identity simply to cut some costs.</li> <li>- Culture and events are important to safeguard in our Capital City. They are a key part of the Future Generations legislation.</li> <li>- It is important for the capital city to host major cultural and significant events that attract people to visit. I feel it would be a mistake to remove subsidies.</li> <li>- As a capital city Cardiff should have events through the year to reflect this.</li> <li>- Capital city needs culture- and a Tourist information office!</li> </ul>

**Face-to-face Engagement**

Parents of a range of ethnicities in Central Library / Hub said:

“Closing [the Museum] on Sunday is not a good idea!” and that it “offers much pleasure and education”.

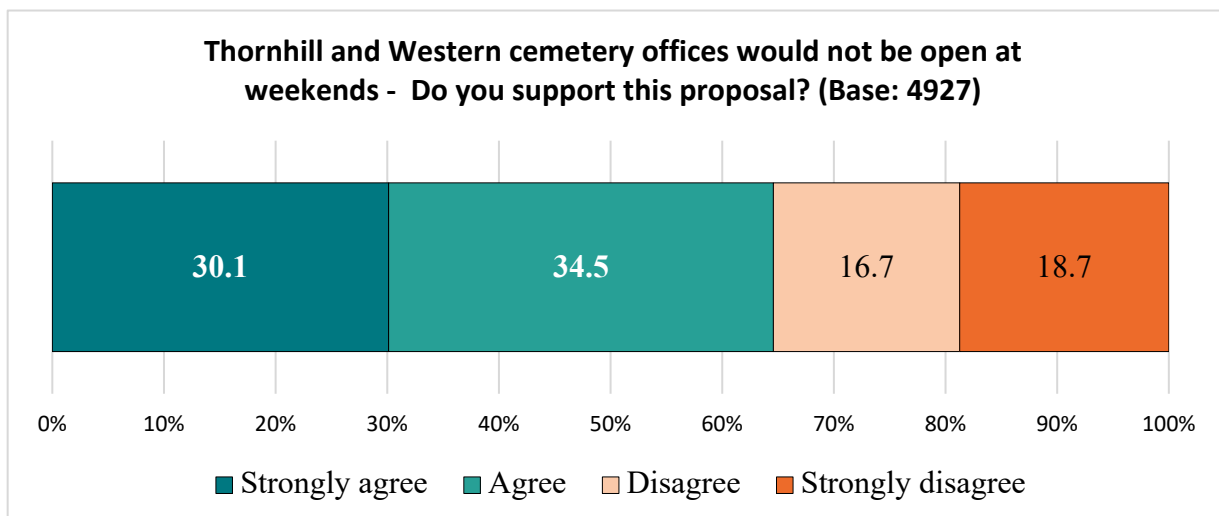
### Bereavement Services

Thornhill & Western cemetery offices would not be open at weekends. General enquiries will not be available face to face on the weekends, however, a digital portal for all enquiries will be available online. The out of hours service for cultural funerals will continue.

#### Do you agree with this proposal?

A total of 4,927 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 54.7%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.4$ .

Almost two-thirds of respondents (64.6%) agreed with the proposal move general enquiries from face-to-face at Thornhill and Western cemetery offices at weekends to an online portal. Almost a fifth (18.7%) 'strongly disagreed' with this proposal.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

There was a consensus of opinion amongst the demographic and geographic groups analysed. (Details shown in [Appendix 31](#)).

Around 100 comments on opening hours and digital exclusion were received in response to the open question at the end of this section, with more details available in [Appendix 33](#).

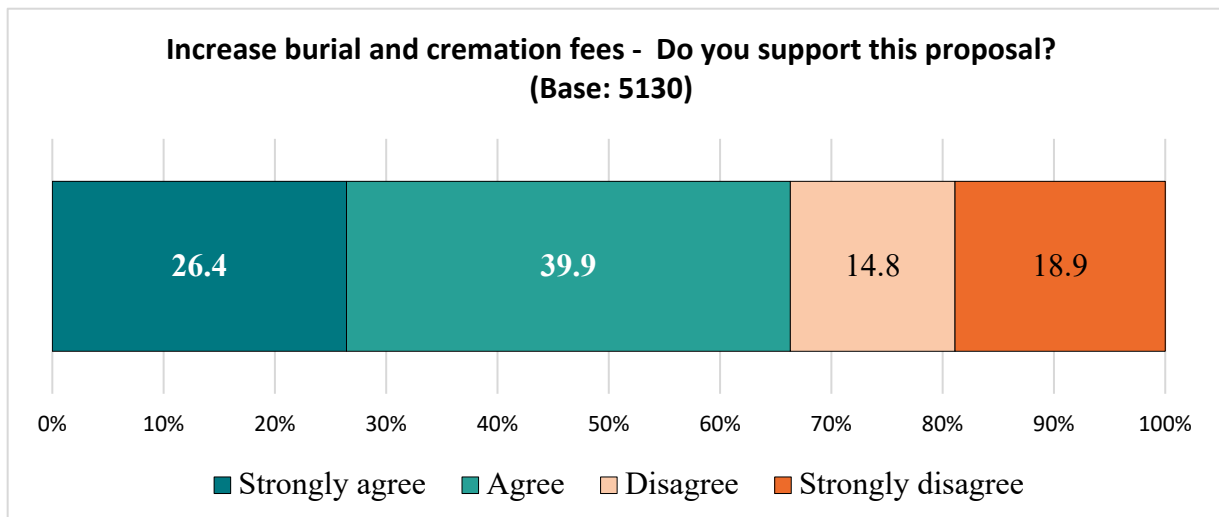
The Council's Bereavement Service is responsible for undertaking over 4,000 funerals per year, as well as the upkeep and maintenance of 9 sites across the city, including Thornhill Cemetery and Crematorium, Western Cemetery and Cathays Cemetery.

Cardiff Council charges less than most other UK cities for its cremation and burial services, however inflationary pressures have increased the cost of running this service. The Council is proposing to increase burial and cremation fees in line with the average charge in other UK core cities, with cremation fees to increase by £50 to £870 and burial fees to increase by £100 to £1,040.

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

A total of 5,130 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 57.0%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.4.

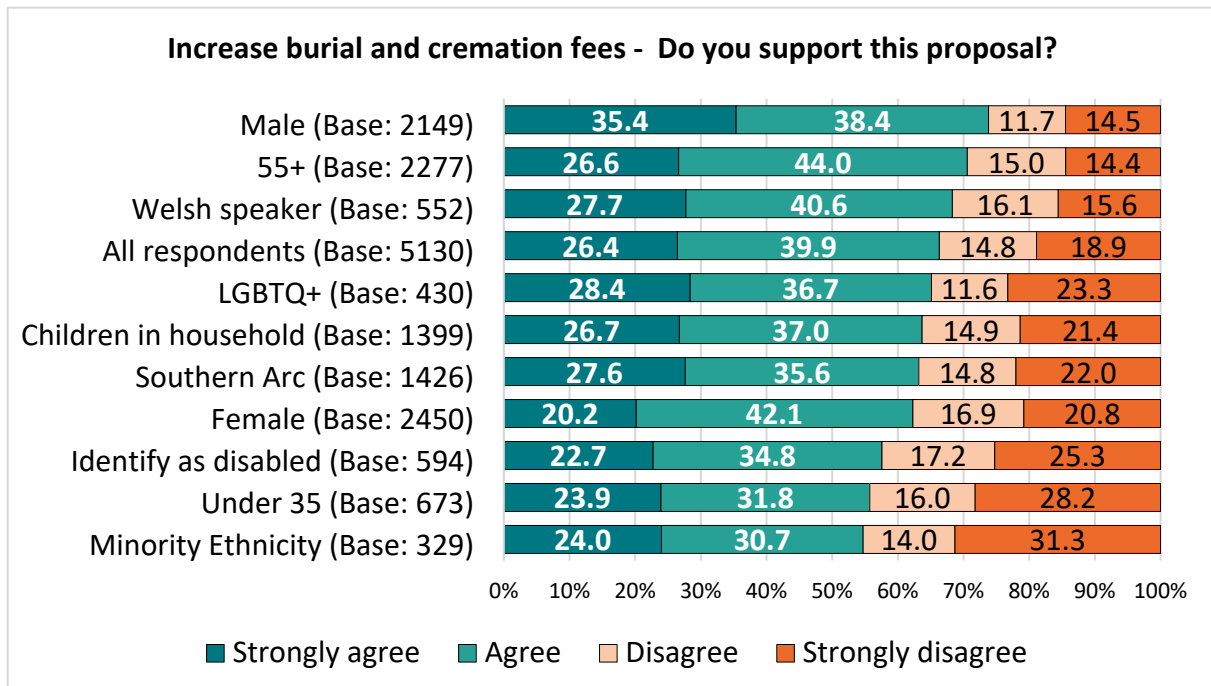
Two-thirds of respondents (66.3%) agreed with the proposal to increase burial and cremation fees to better reflect the cost of the service; again, just under a fifth of respondents (18.9%) 'strongly disagreed' with this proposal.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

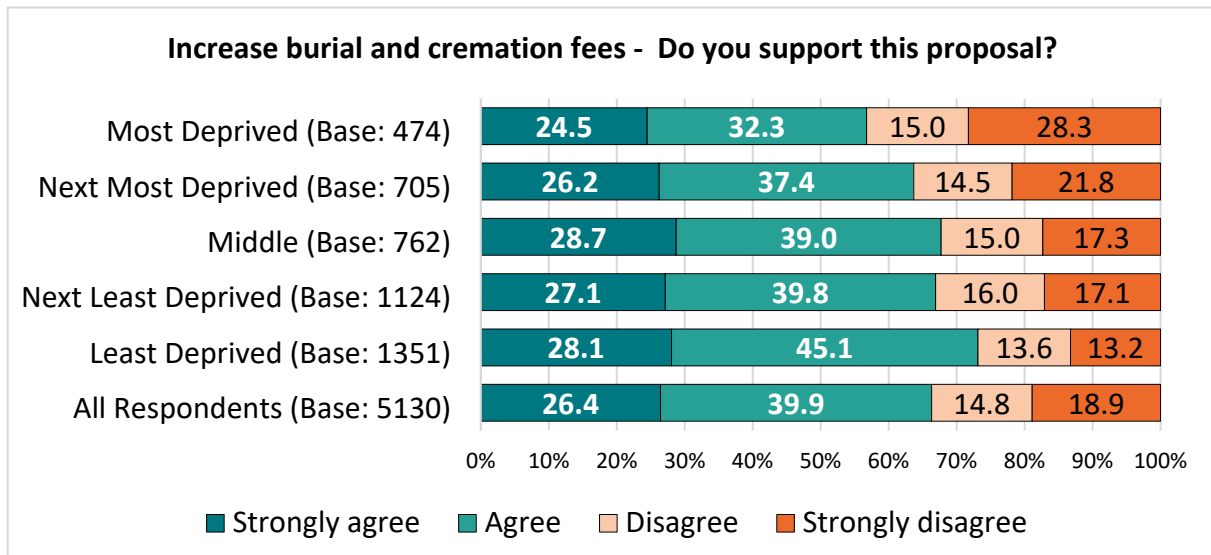
Around 150 comments on the cost of burials and cremations were received in response to the open question at the end of this section; more details are available in [Appendix 33](#).

Agreement for this proposal was highest amongst males (73.8%) and respondents aged 55 or older (70.6%); it was lowest amongst respondents from a Minority Ethnicity (54.7%) and those aged under 35 (55.7%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Agreement for this proposal correlated with level of deprivation, with those living in the most deprived areas of the city least likely to agree.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

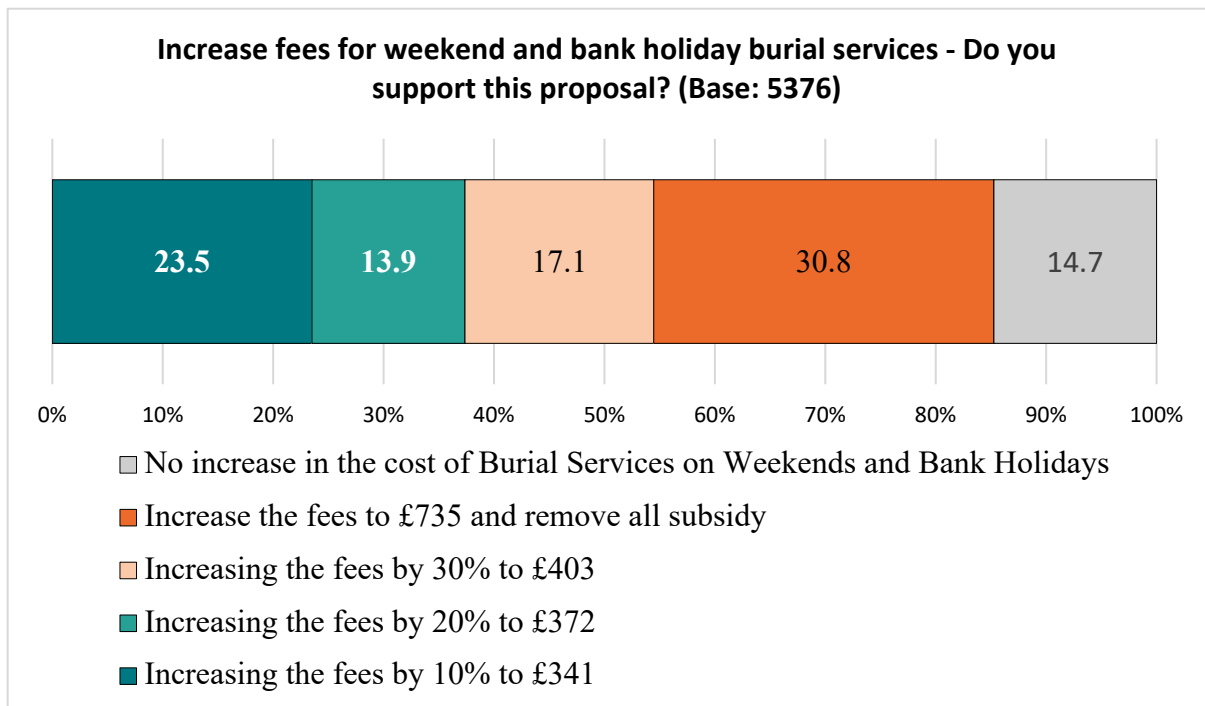
There is an additional cost to the Council for providing burial services on bank holidays and weekends. Burial services on weekends and bank holidays are currently subsidised, with the fees charged not reflecting the full cost of providing this service. The Council is proposing to increase the additional fees for the weekend and bank holidays service, but thinks that increasing the fees to reflect the actual cost of delivery - which includes additional staff cost - would be too great a rise.

As a result, it is proposed that the extra fees for weekend and bank holiday burial services would increase from £310, so that they are closer to the true cost of delivery, which is £735.

**Which of the following options do you support?**

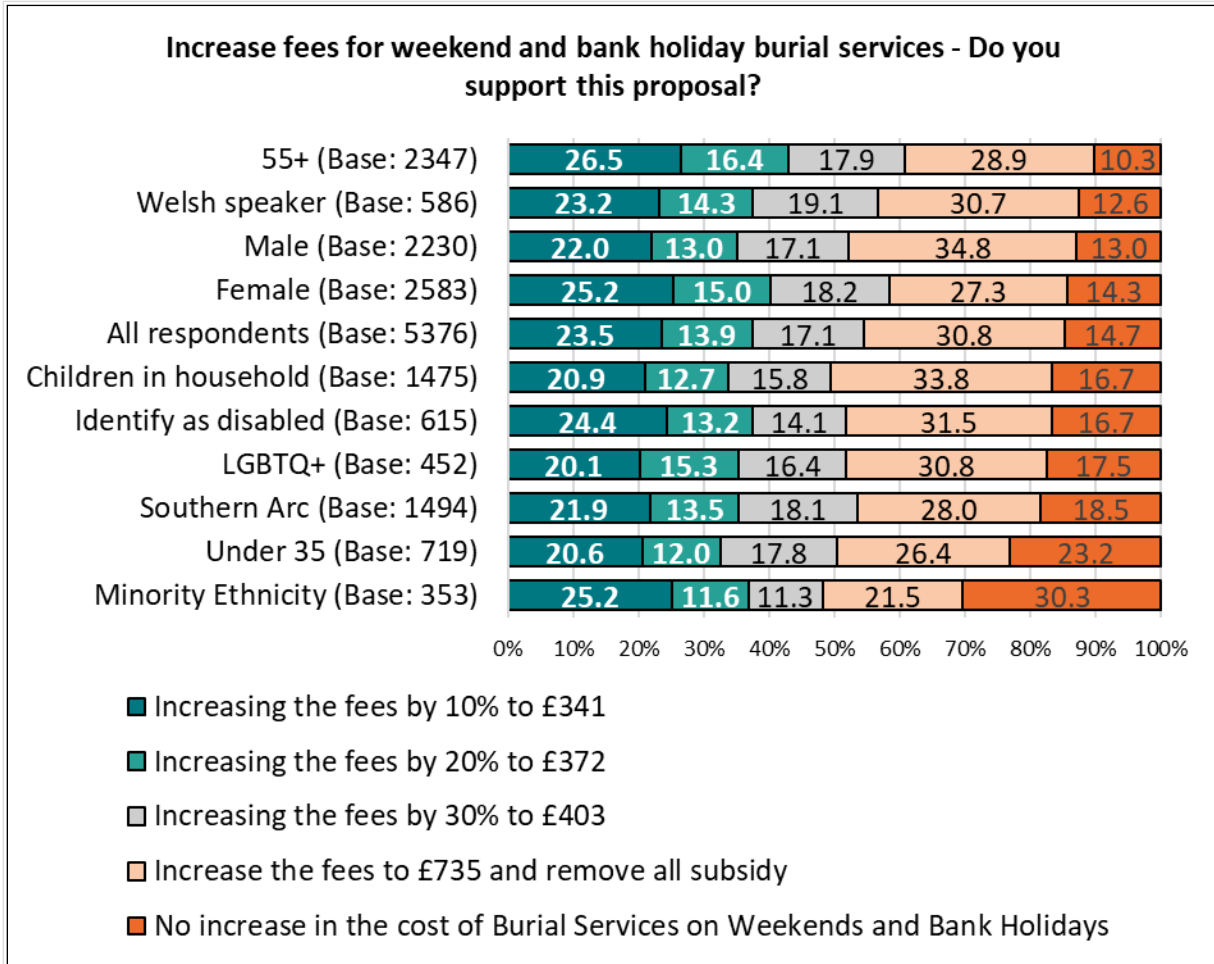
A total of 5,376 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 59.7%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.1.

Six out of seven respondents (85.3%) supported an increase in fees for weekend or Bank Holiday burial services, with most (30.8%) supporting the removal of all subsidies from this service.



Over 100 comments on weekend and Bank Holiday burial services were received in response to the open question at the end of this section; further details are available in [Appendix 33](#).

Support for an increase in fees for weekend or Bank Holiday burial services was broadly consistent across the demographic groups analysed, with the exception of those from a Minority Ethnicity – this group were more than twice as likely as average to support no increase in fees for this service (30.3%).



There was no correlation with responses by level of deprivation. (Details shown in [Appendix 32](#)).



**Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Bereavement Services?**

A total of 506 comments were received, and grouped into themes. The top three are shown below, with a full list available in [Appendix 33](#).

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
Generally against increases in costs / negative comments	142	28.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- During a cost of living crisis these are a service people cannot afford to increase.</li> <li>- People are already grieving. To add more costs on top is just not good.</li> <li>- For some of the public this increases are far too much. A realistic increase needs to be revisited.</li> <li>- Shame on you. Disgusting behaviour.</li> <li>- This has to be a joke!!!!</li> <li>- People can barely afford funeral arrangements we cannot add to their stress with increased fees.</li> </ul>
Alternative option suggestions	103	20.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funeral directors make mega money they should pay more.</li> <li>- Should be more open - digital enquiry portal is too difficult to use and people could prefer face to face because of subject.</li> <li>- How about closing the cemeteries on a Monday instead of Saturday and Sunday? Surely people need the option of weekend burials and cremations?</li> <li>- Limit opening hours of cemetery offices on weekends, instead of full closure.</li> <li>- Perhaps the council could consider the cost of a one off advertising campaign encouraging people to take out funeral insurance or to pay for their own funerals in advance with a payment plan so the cost increase is not passed on to as many grieving relatives.</li> <li>- If anything, remove services on weekdays instead of weekends. Employ staff on contracts with 2 weekdays in place of weekends, as surely this is the time where the majority of people who work weekdays need to use these services?</li> </ul>
Improve affordability	92	18.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People can barely afford funeral arrangements we cannot add to their stress with increased fees.</li> <li>- Low income and elderly households would be hardest hit with these changes.</li> <li>- People from poor households or on pension cannot afford more than 10%. So it must be kept affordable.</li> <li>- Again, its a question of what people can afford.</li> <li>- Could there be a 'means tested' service so that</li> </ul>

			<i>pensioners and others on a fixed/low income would not be put under too much financial strain at a very difficult time?</i>
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**Face-to-face Engagement**

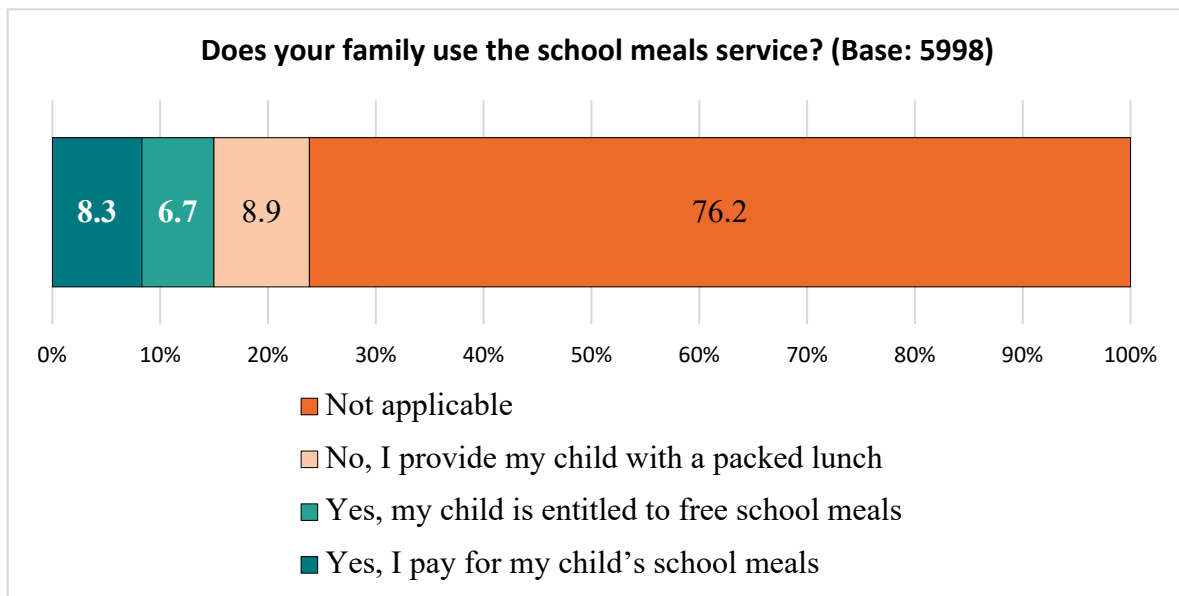
There were no spontaneous comments about Bereavement services. It was generally seen as a sensitive, uncomfortable topic during face-to-face engagement, for example, when helping people complete the survey.

## Fees & Charges, and Other Comments

### Does your family use the school meals service?

A total of 5,998 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 66.6%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.1$ .

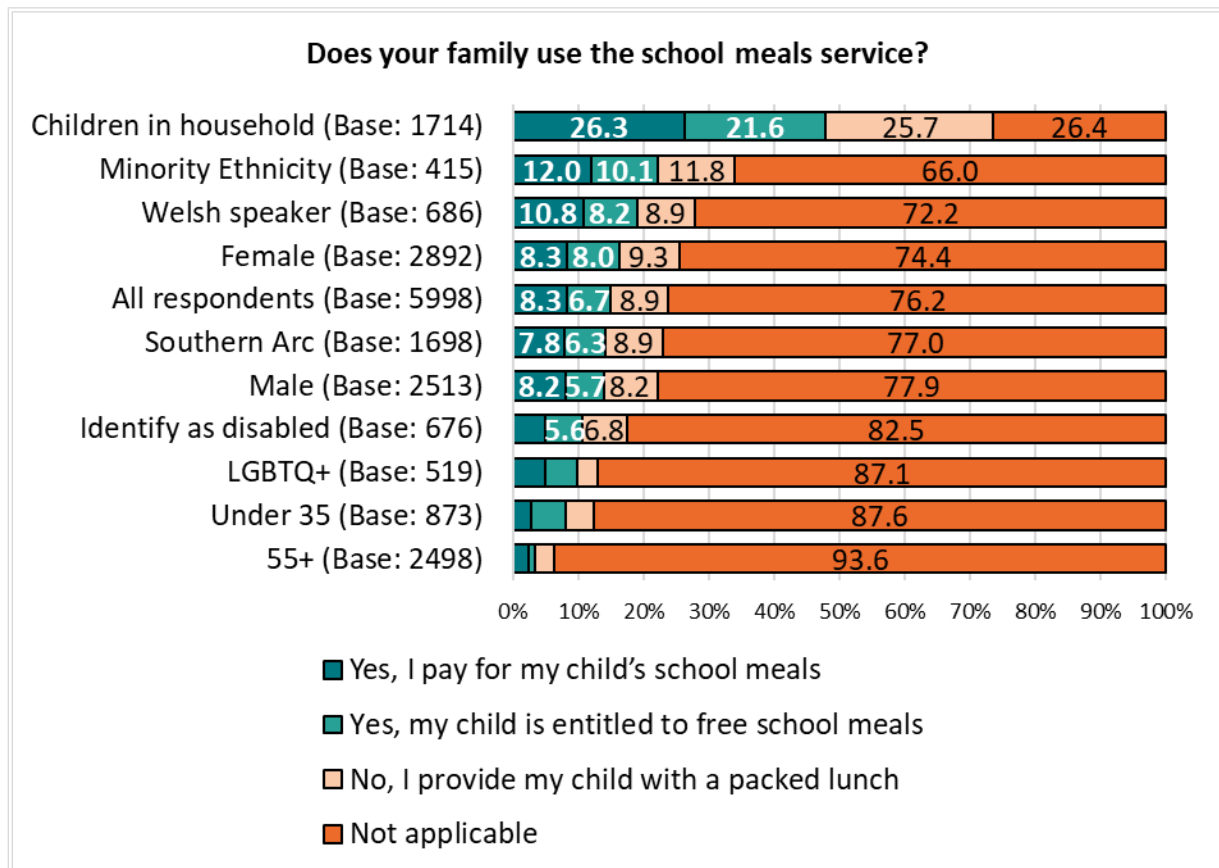
One in twelve (8.3%) respondents answering this question used the school meals service, with a similar proportion providing their child with packed lunch. One in fifteen (6.7%) reported that their child is entitled to free school meals.



Looking at patterns of use of the school meals service by different demographic groups showed broadly similar patterns to the overall findings, but with changes to the proportions using the service.

For respondents with children in their household, around a quarter paid for their children's school meals (26.3%), or provided a packed lunch (25.7%). Just over a fifth (21.6%) were entitled to free school meals.

A quarter (26.4%) had children who had either not started, or had left school, and so the use of the school meals service did not apply to them.



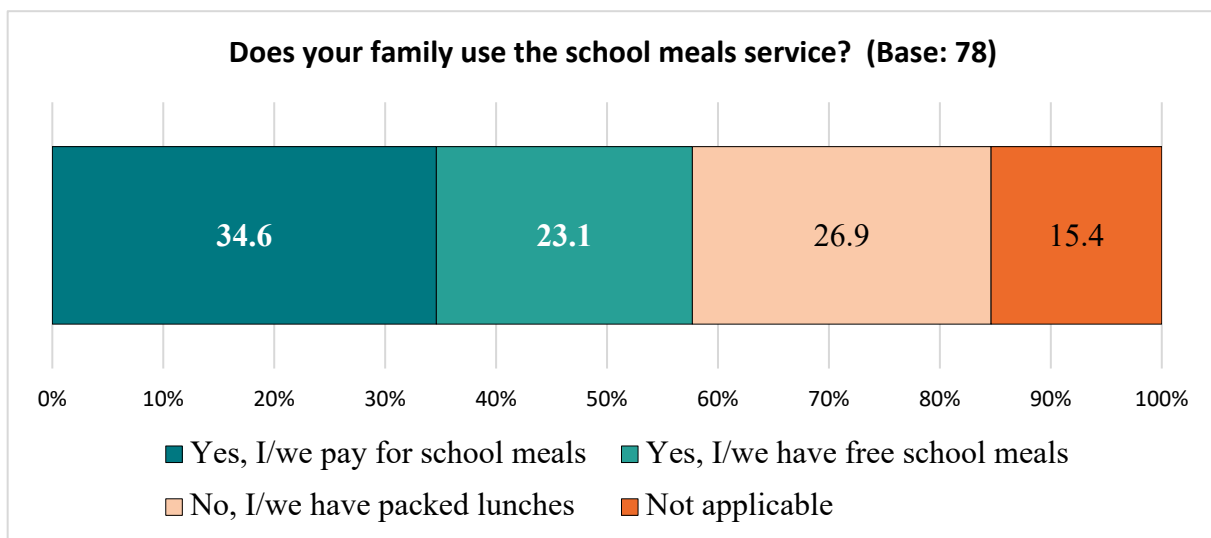
Use of this service was consistent across the deprivation quintiles (shown in [Appendix 34](#)).

### Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:

#### Does your family use the school meals service?

A total of 78 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 75.7%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 9.6$ .

Proportions of users of the school meals service were higher amongst those responding to the Child Friendly Cardiff Budget consultation, with a third (34.6%) paying for meals, around a quarter taking a packed lunch (26.9%) or receiving free school meals (23.1%). Around one in six (15.4%) had left school, and so no longer used this service.



The Council currently subsidises the cost of school meals for secondary school pupils.

The cost of providing school meals continues to rise with inflation. This means that, without an increase in the costs of meals, the Council would face additional costs to deliver this service. The Council is therefore considering increasing the cost of secondary school meals to meet the rising cost, but thinks that passing on the increased cost in full would be too great a rise.

The charge for Secondary School Meals is currently £3.20, and the Council is proposing to increase the cost of the meals in secondary schools whilst continuing to provide a subsidy to meet any additional cost for delivering the service.

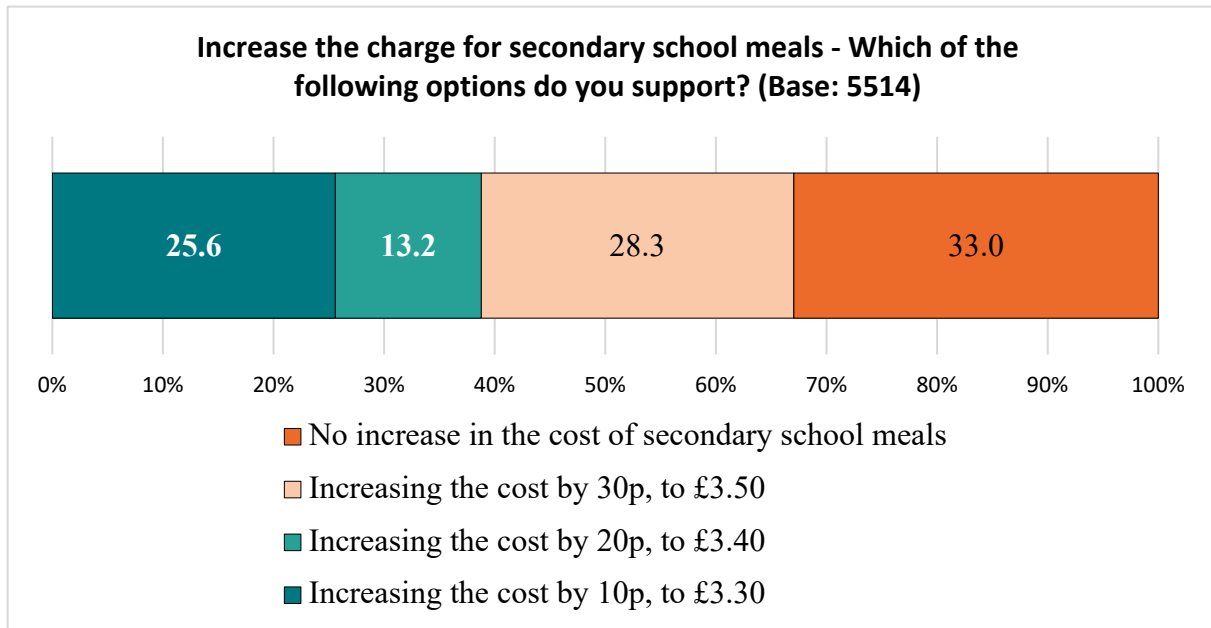
Children eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) will continue to receive school meals for free.

#### Which of the following options do you support?

A total of 5,514 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 61.3%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.1$ .

A third of respondents (33.0%) did not support an increase in the cost of secondary school meals.

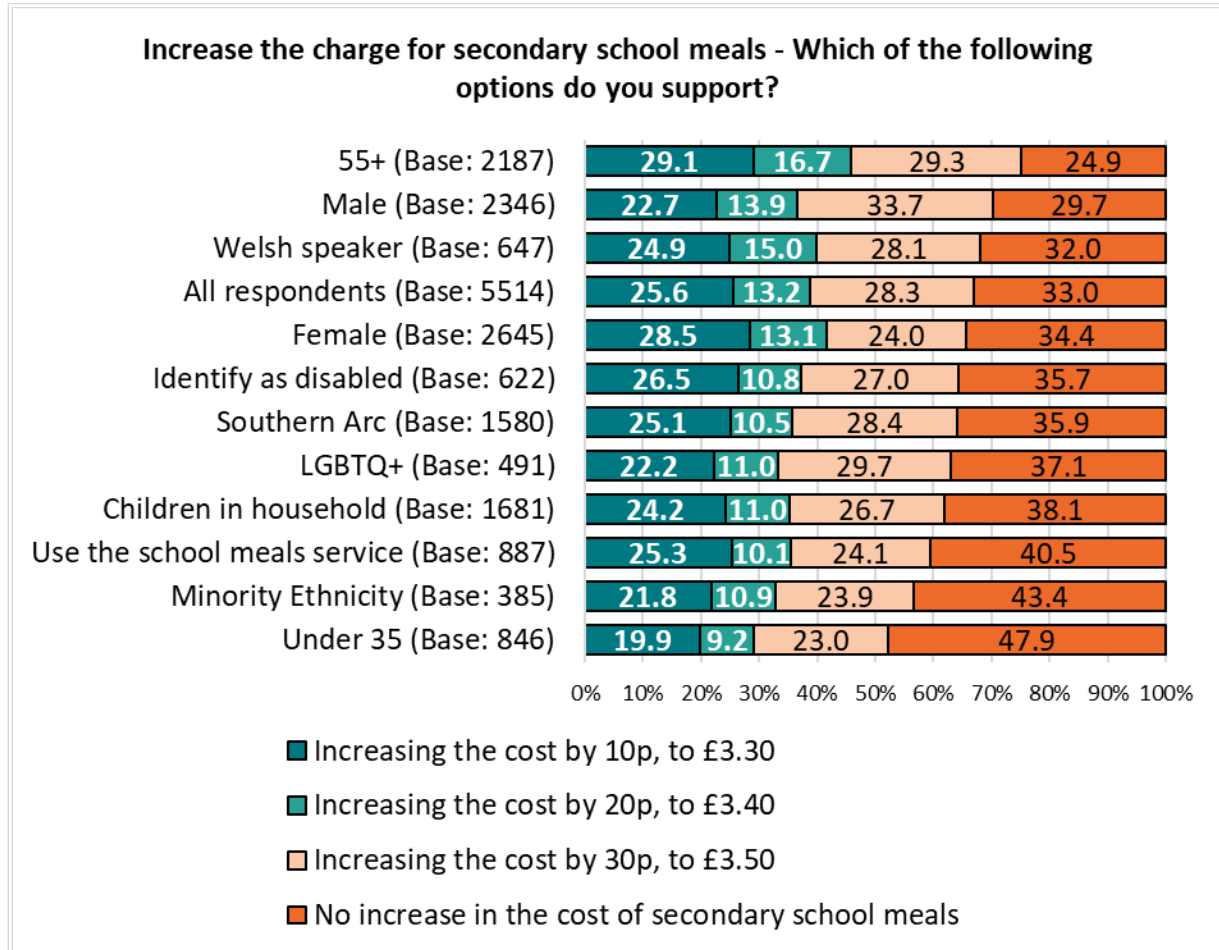
For those supporting an increase in the charge for school meals, in order of preference, 28.3% of respondents supported a 30p increase, 25.6% a 10p increase, and 13.2% a 20p increase.



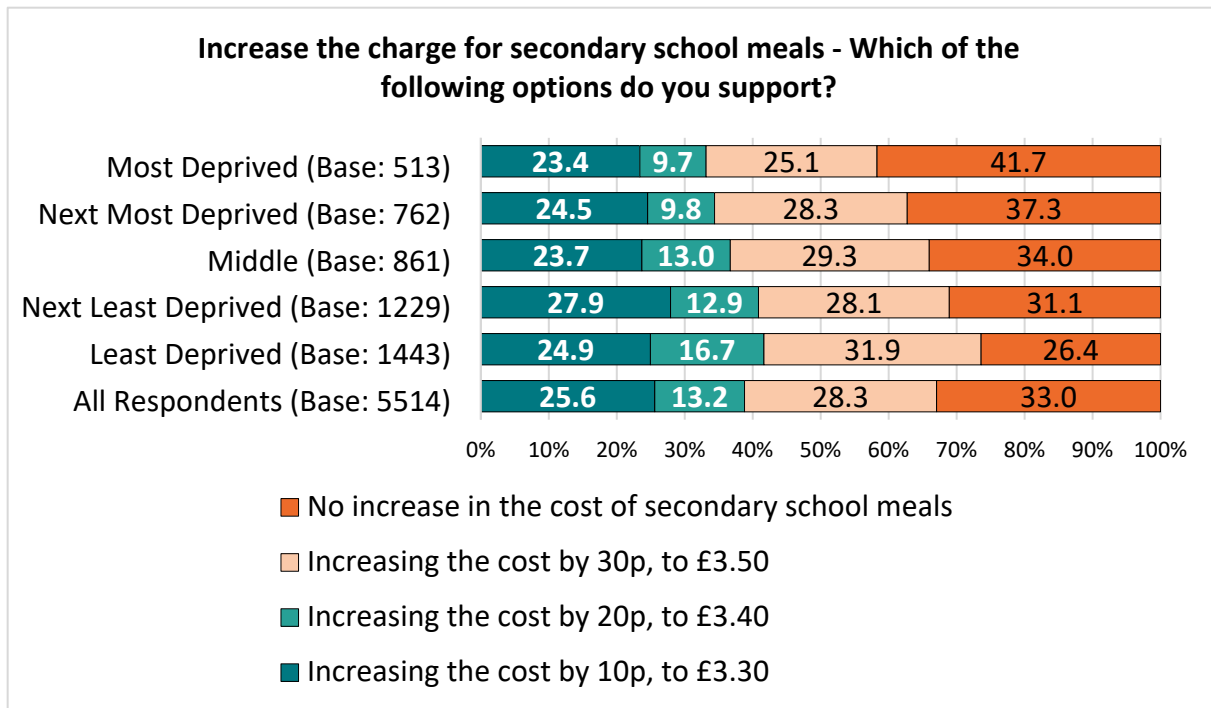
Over 100 comments relating to school meals were made in the open question at the end of this section; further details can be found in [Appendix 37](#).

Support for increased charges for school meals was highest amongst respondents aged 55 or older, with three-quarters (75.1%) indicating the price of the meals should rise.

Respondents under the age of 35 (47.9%). Those from a Minority Ethnicity (43.4%) or those who used the school meals service (40.5%) were most likely to want to see no increase in the cost of secondary school meals.



Support for increasing the charge for secondary school meals correlated with the level of deprivation, with respondents living in the least deprived areas more likely to support an increase, whilst those living in the more deprived areas more likely to support no increase.





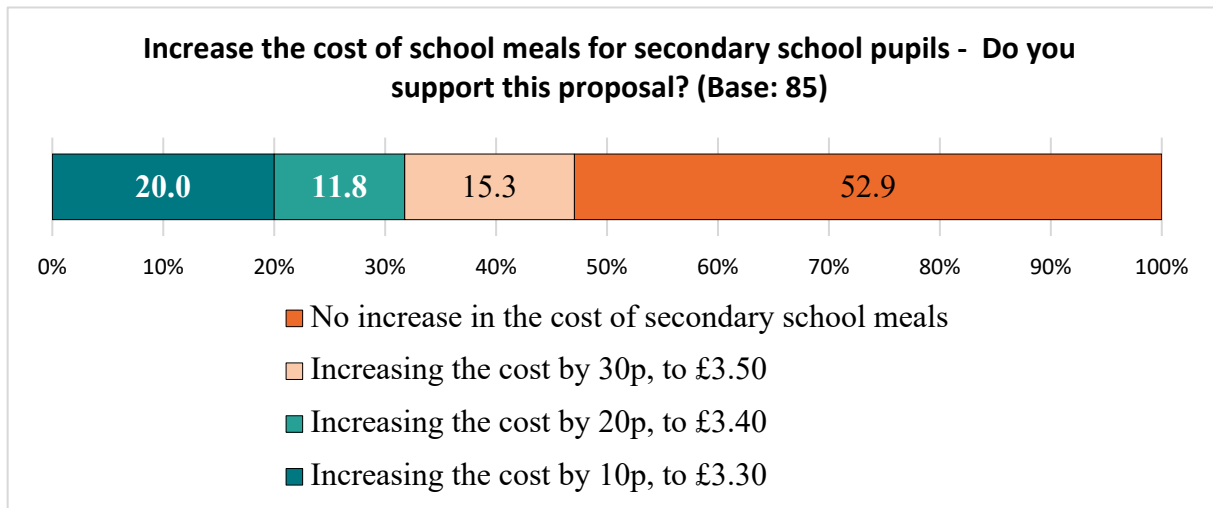
**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

The Council helps pay for secondary school pupils' meals, but the cost to make these meals keeps going up. To cover these rising costs without making meals too expensive, the Council might raise the meal prices. Right now, meals cost £3.20, and the Council plans to still help pay part of the cost after the price increase. Kids who get Free School Meals will still get them without any charge.

**Which of the following options do you support?**

A total of 85 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 82.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 9.2.

More than half of those answering this question in the Child Friendly Cardiff survey (52.9%) wanted no increase in the cost of secondary school meals; those who did support an increase were most likely to support the lowest level of increase.



With funding support from Welsh Government, the Council is in the process of rolling out universal free school meals to all primary age school children in Cardiff. However, some children in years 5 and 6 are still having to pay until all primary age children in all primary and special schools receive their meals for free, which will be from the next school year (starting in September 2024).

The cost of providing school meals continues to rise with inflation. This means that, without an increase in the costs of meals, the Council would face additional costs to deliver this service. The Council is therefore considering increasing the cost of primary school meals for children in year 5 and 6 who are not yet receiving the universal free school meal offer for the rest of this school year.

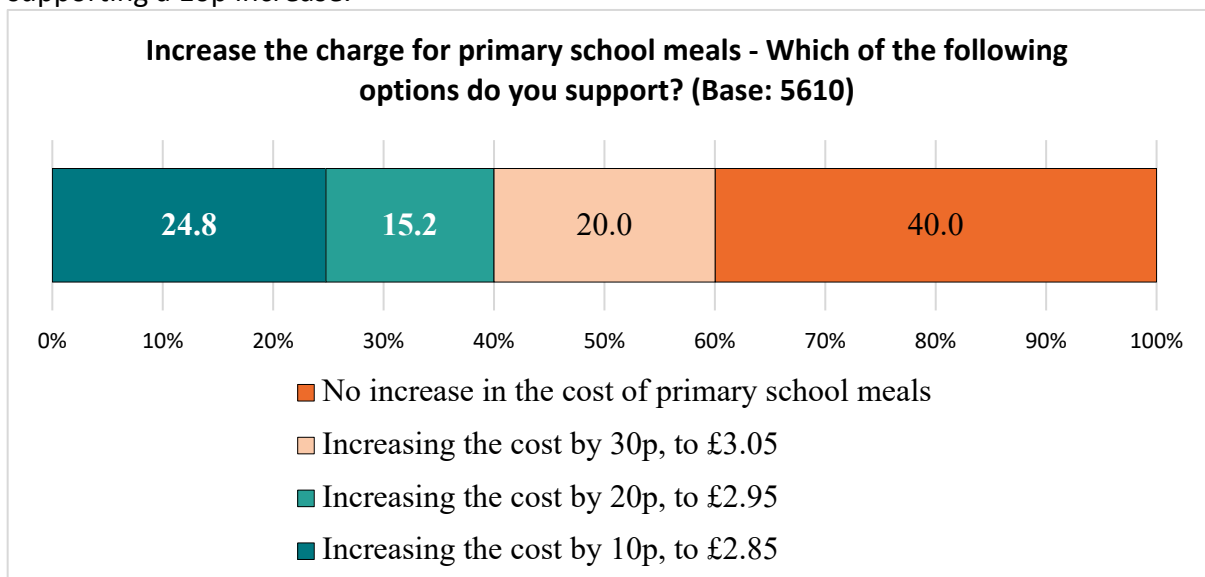
The charge for Primary School Meals is currently £2.75, and the Council is proposing to increase the price for children in years 5 and 6 who currently pay for school meals. The amount charged still does not reflect the cost of preparing the meals and the Council will continue to subsidise school meals.

Children eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) will continue to receive meals for free.  
**Which of the following options do you support?**

*A total of 5,610 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 62.3%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.1.*

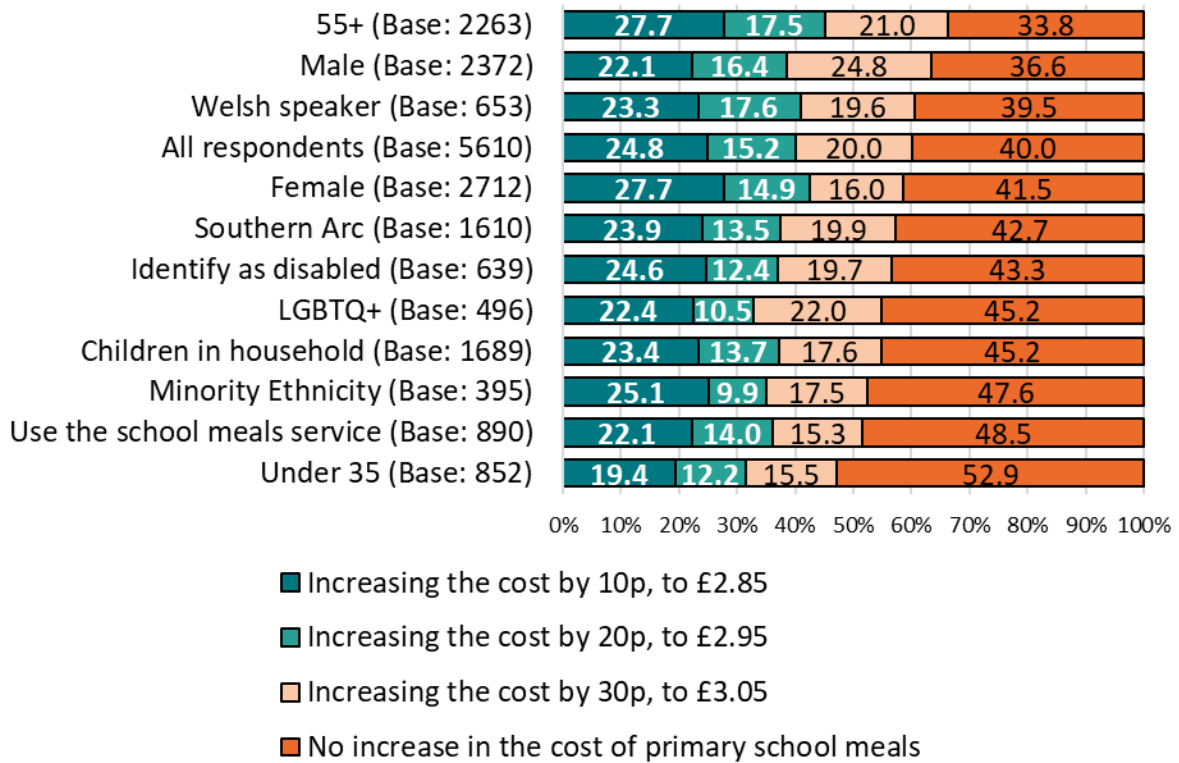
There was less support for an increase in the cost of school meals for pupils in years 5 and 6, whilst the roll-out of the Welsh Government's universal free school meal programme continued, with two-fifths (40.0%) of respondents supported no increase in the charge.

Those supporting an increase were more likely to want this to be minimised, with 24.8% supporting a 10p increase.

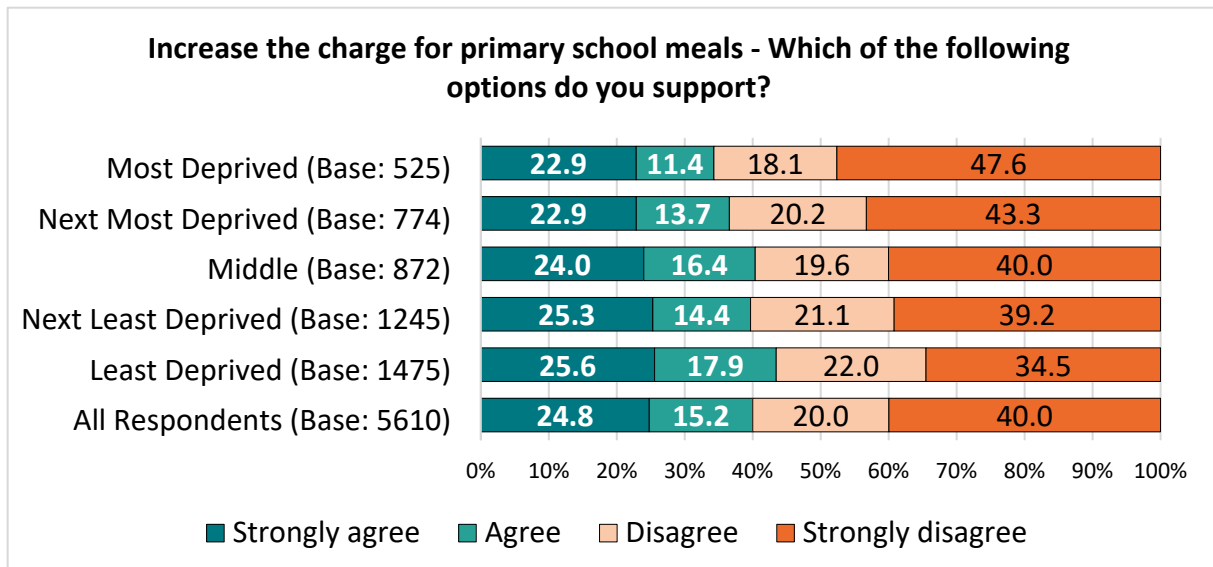


Again, support for an increase in the charge for primary school meals was highest amongst those aged 55 or older (66.2%); it was lowest amongst those under the age of 35 (47.1%), respondents who use the school meal service (51.5%) or those from a Minority Ethnicity (52.4%).

**Increase the charge for primary school meals - Which of the following options do you support?**



As for secondary school meals, support for an increase in the charge for primary school meals correlated with the level of deprivation, with those living in more affluent areas of the city more likely to support an increase.



### Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:

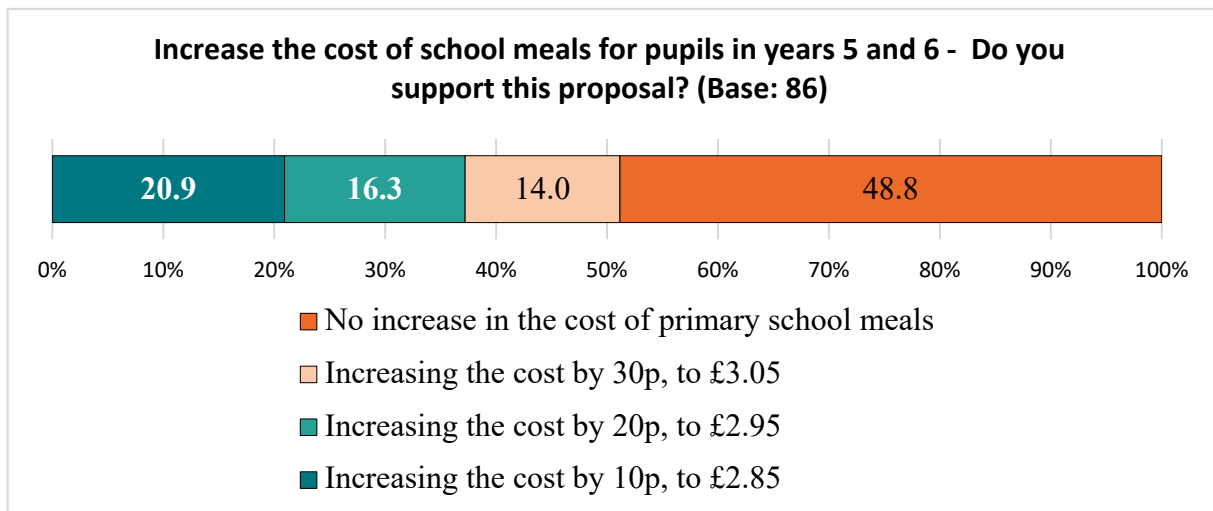
With Welsh Government funding, the Council is working to provide free school meals to all primary school children in Cardiff. But, until September 2024, some children in years 5 and 6 still have to pay for their meals. As the cost of making school meals is going up, the Council might increase the price for these years. Right now, meals cost £2.75, and the Council may raise this for the rest of the school year for years 5 and 6 who aren't yet getting free meals. The Council will still help pay part of the meal cost. Kids who get Free School Meals will still have them for free.

#### Which of the following options do you support?

A total of 86 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 83.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 9.2$ .

Almost half (48.8%) of those answering this question in the Child Friendly Cardiff survey did not support an increase in the charge for primary school meals for pupils in years 5 and 6, whilst the universal school meal programme continued to be rolled out.

Those supporting an increase in the charge were more likely to want to keep any increase as low as possible, with most (20.9%) supporting a 10p increase.



The Council provides home care services (personal care and support) for older and vulnerable people in Cardiff. It is estimated that next year the Council faces an increase of over £15 million in meeting the cost of care for vulnerable people.

Cardiff Council currently charges for home care services, however the amount of the hourly charge is much lower than that made by other Welsh councils and meets less than half of the hourly cost of the service. The Council is considering increasing the charge for home care services to more accurately reflect the cost of the services provided.

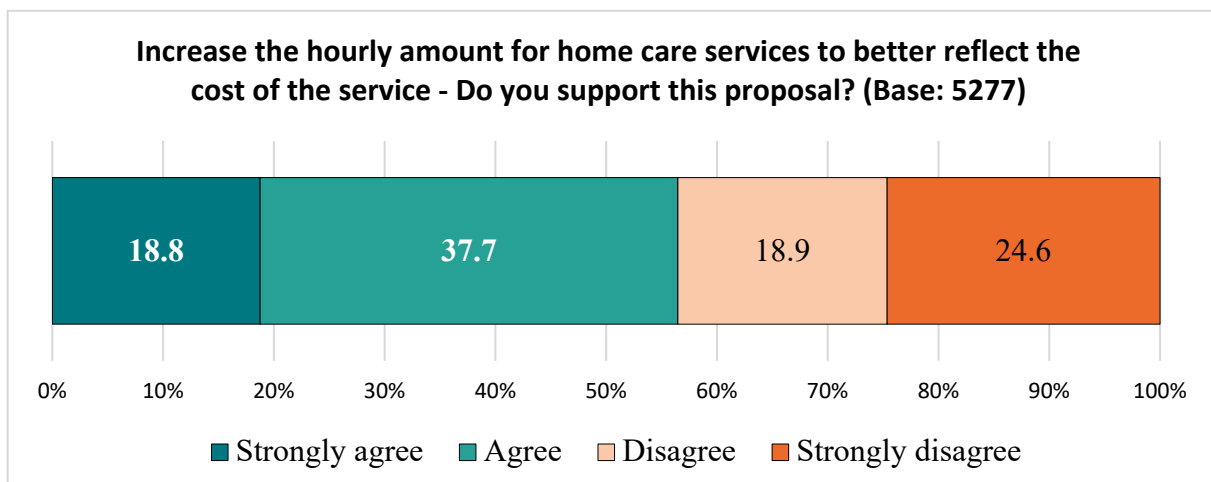
It is also proposed that the increase in charge is phased in, with half of the increase made in 2024/5 and the remainder in 2025/6. Each individual's ability to pay the charge will be assessed and they will not be charged more than they can afford to pay, or more than the Welsh Government cap on the amount that an individual has to pay each week (currently £100).

Ensuring that the charge better reflects the cost of these services will help the Council to fund sustainable social care services into the future, supporting the needs of the growing older population in the city.

**Do you agree the Council should increase the hourly amount charged for home care services, to better reflect the cost of the service?**

*A total of 5,277 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 58.6%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.3.*

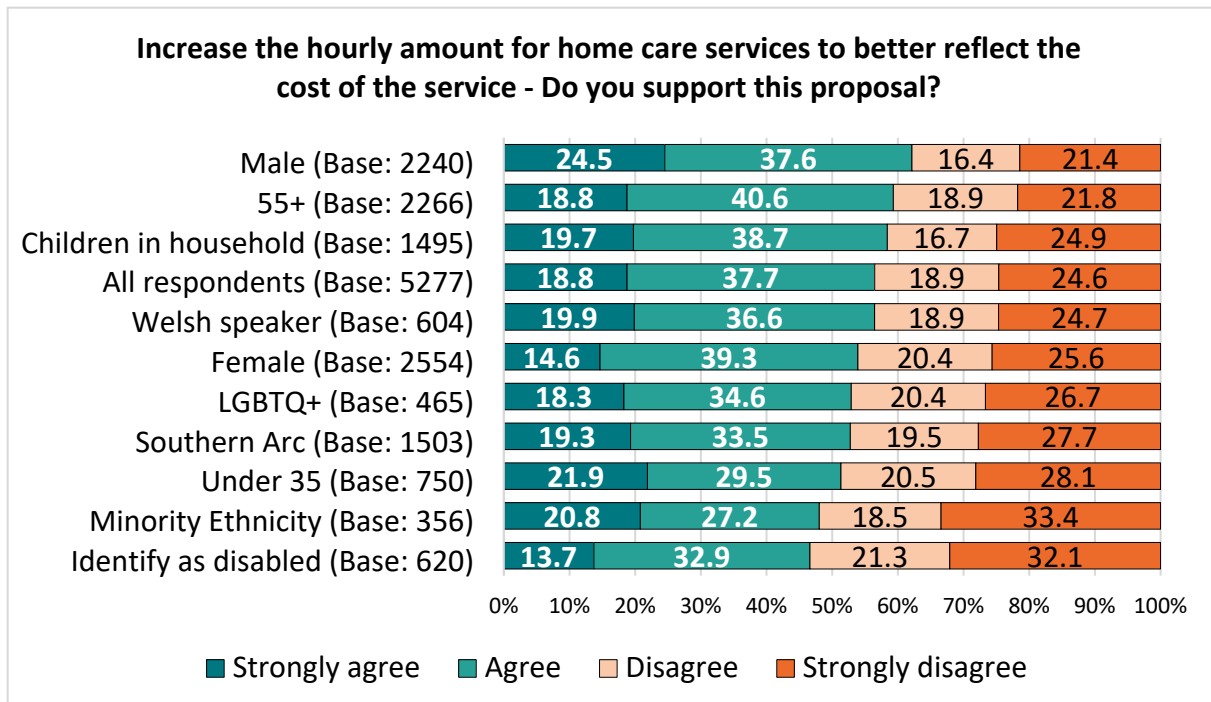
Just over half of respondents (56.5%) agreed with the proposal to increase the hourly charge for home care services, to better reflect the cost of delivering this service.



*Excludes 'Don't know' responses*

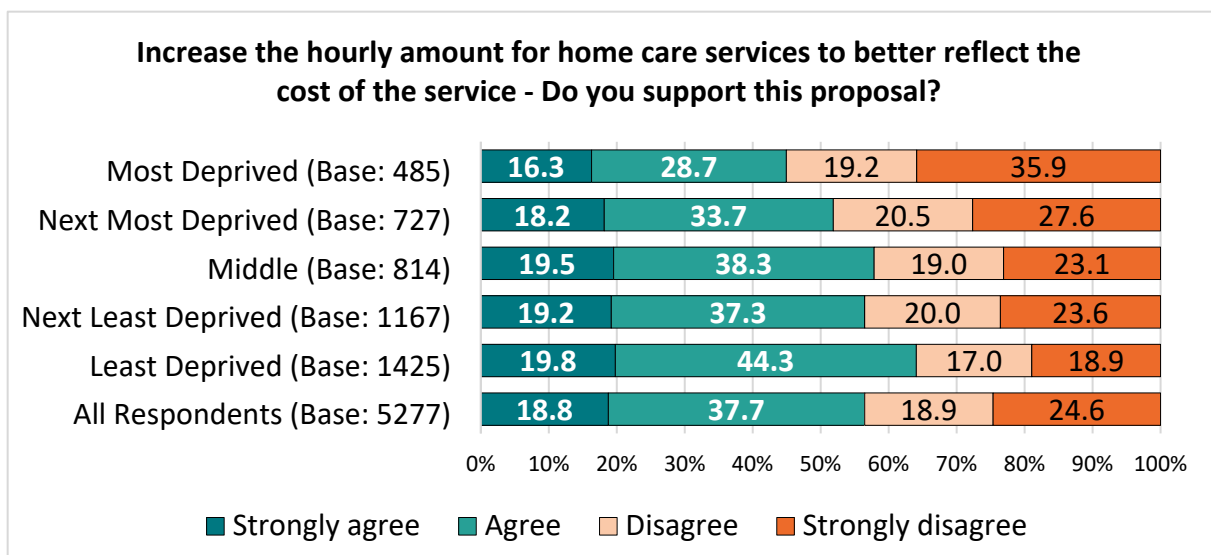
Over 80 comments on home care services were received in the open question at the end of this section; further details are available in [Appendix 37](#).

Men (62.1%) and those aged 55 or over (59.3%) were most likely to support this proposal, contrasting with respondents who identify as disabled (46.6%) or those from a Minority Ethnicity (48.0%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Whilst there was not a direct correlation, respondents living in the more deprived areas of the city were less likely than those in more affluent areas to agree with this proposal.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

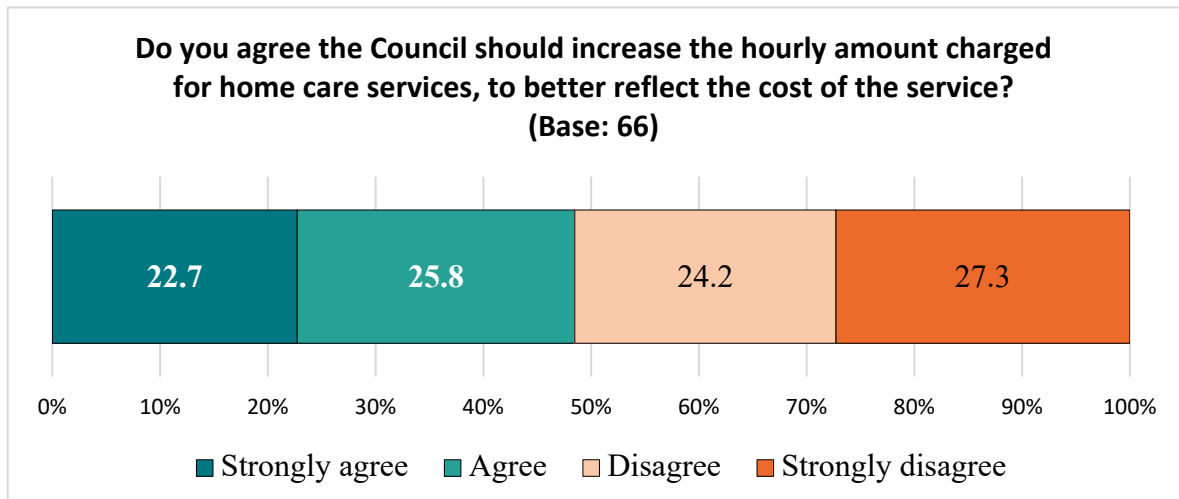
The Council helps older and vulnerable people in Cardiff with home care services. Next year, it will cost over £15 million more to provide this care. Cardiff Council currently charges for these services, but the price is lower than in other Welsh councils and doesn't cover even half of the

actual cost. The Council is thinking about raising the price to match the service cost more closely. They plan to increase the charge gradually: half in 2024/5 and the rest in 2025/6. People will only be charged what they can afford, up to a £100 weekly cap set by the Welsh Government. This increase will help the Council continue to support the growing number of older people in Cardiff in the future.

**Do you agree the Council should increase the hourly amount charged for home care services, to better reflect the cost of the service?**

A total of 66 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 64.1%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 12.1$ .

Younger people completing the Child Friendly Cardiff budget survey were a little less likely than those responding to the main consultation to agree with increasing the hourly charge for home care services (48.5%).



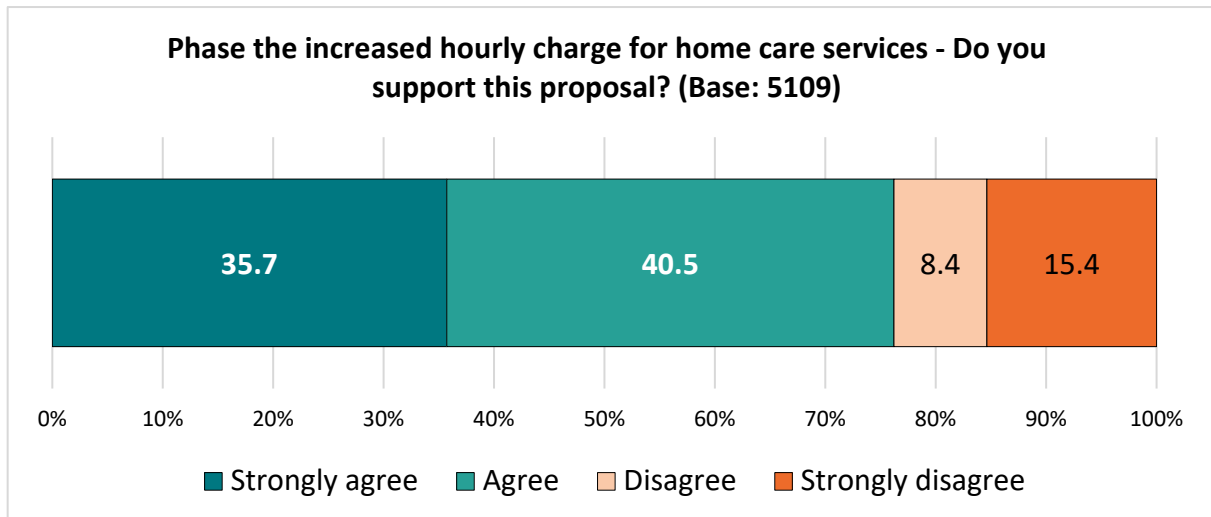
Excludes 'Don't know' responses



**If the increase in the hourly amount charged for homecare services goes ahead, do you agree with the proposal to phase in the increase?**

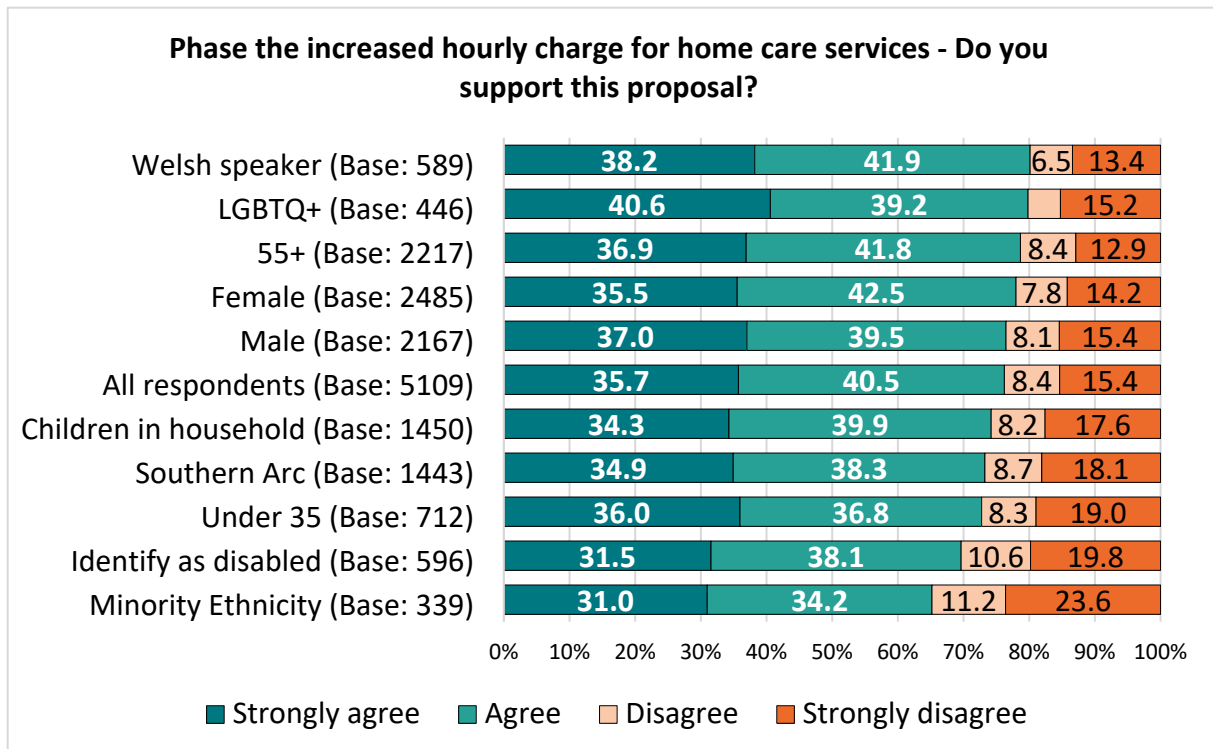
A total of 5,109 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 56.8%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.4$ .

Overall, three-quarters of respondents (76.2%) agreed that any increase in home care services charges should be phased in over a two-year period.



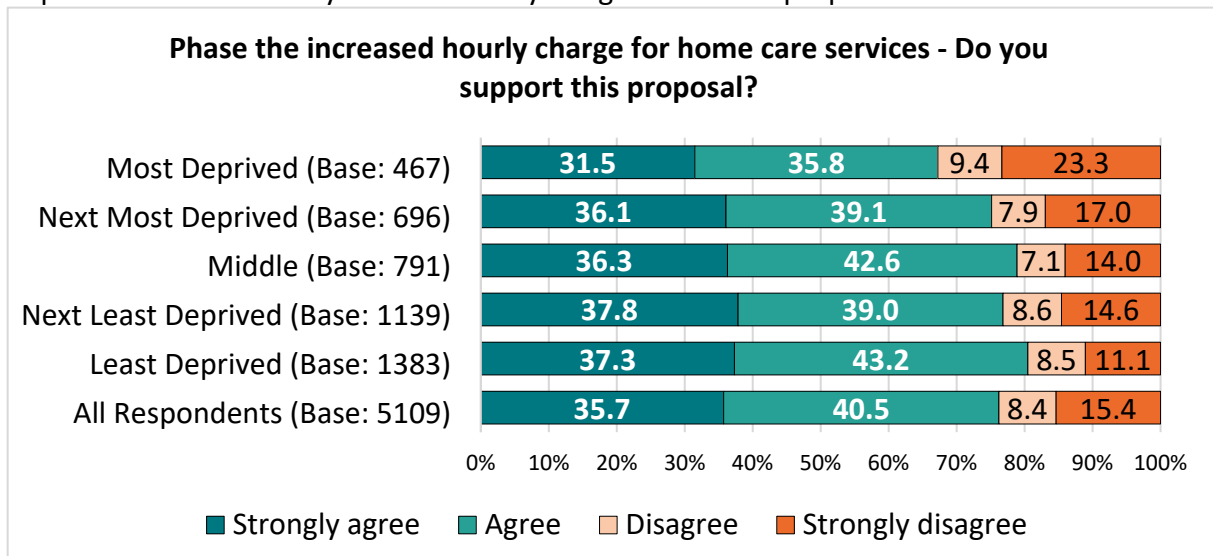
Excludes 'Don't know' responses

There was a broad consensus of opinion across the demographic groups analysed, however agreement was lower amongst respondents from a Minority Ethnicity (65.2%) or those identifying as disabled (69.6%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Whilst there was not a direct correlation with the levels of deprivation, those living in the most deprived areas of the city were less likely to agree with this proposal.



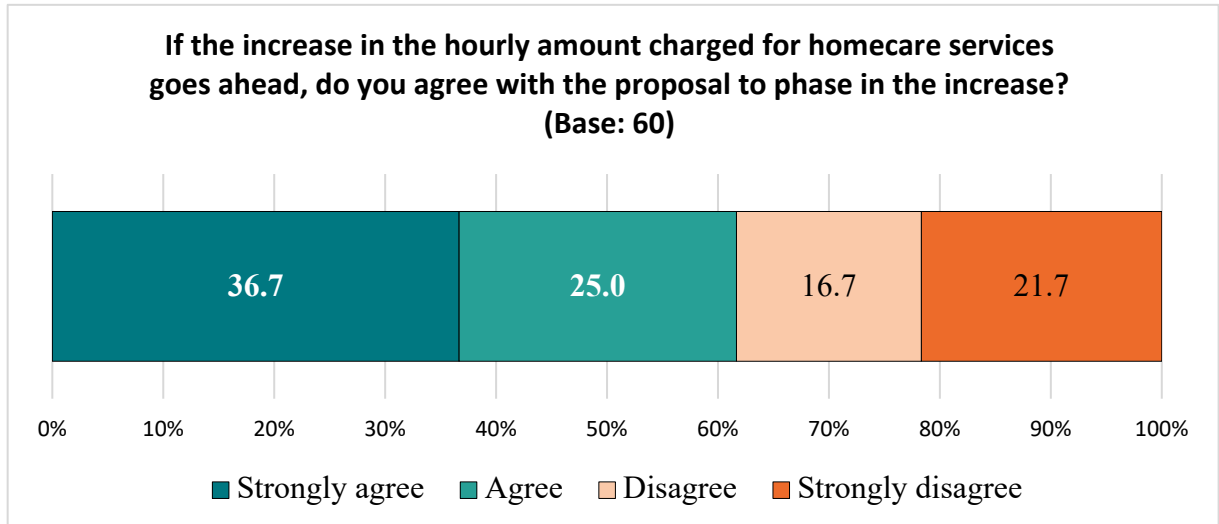
Excludes 'Don't know' responses

**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

**If the increase in the hourly amount charged for homecare services goes ahead, do you agree with the proposal to phase in the increase?**

A total of 60 were received for this question, giving a response rate of 58.3%.  
Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 12.7$ .

More than three in five (61.7%) of those answering this question in the Child Friendly Cardiff budget consultation agreed that any increase should be phased in.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

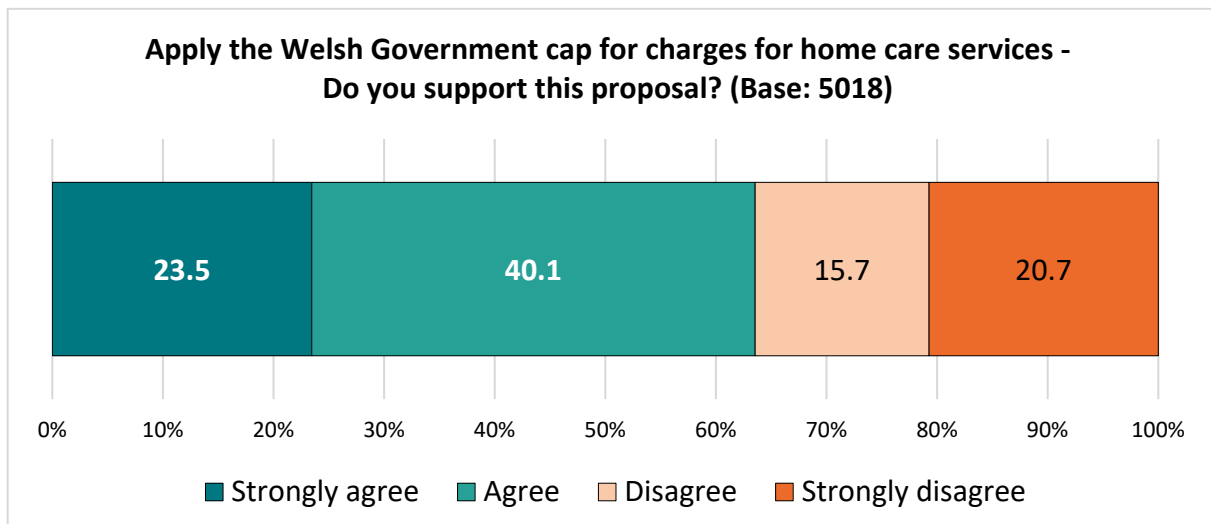
The Welsh Government sets a maximum amount (a 'cap') that an individual has to pay each week. Currently this is £100 per week but the level of this cap may be increased by the Welsh Government in 2024/25. The Council can choose whether it increases its charge to the level of the Welsh Government cap.

Again, each individual's ability to pay the charge will be assessed and they will not be charged more than they can afford to pay. Ensuring that the charge better reflects the cost of these services will help the Council to fund sustainable social care services into the future, supporting the needs of the growing older population in the city.

**If the Welsh Government were to increase the maximum weekly amount that an individual has to contribute towards their home care, do you agree that the Council should apply this new cap to better reflect the cost of the service?**

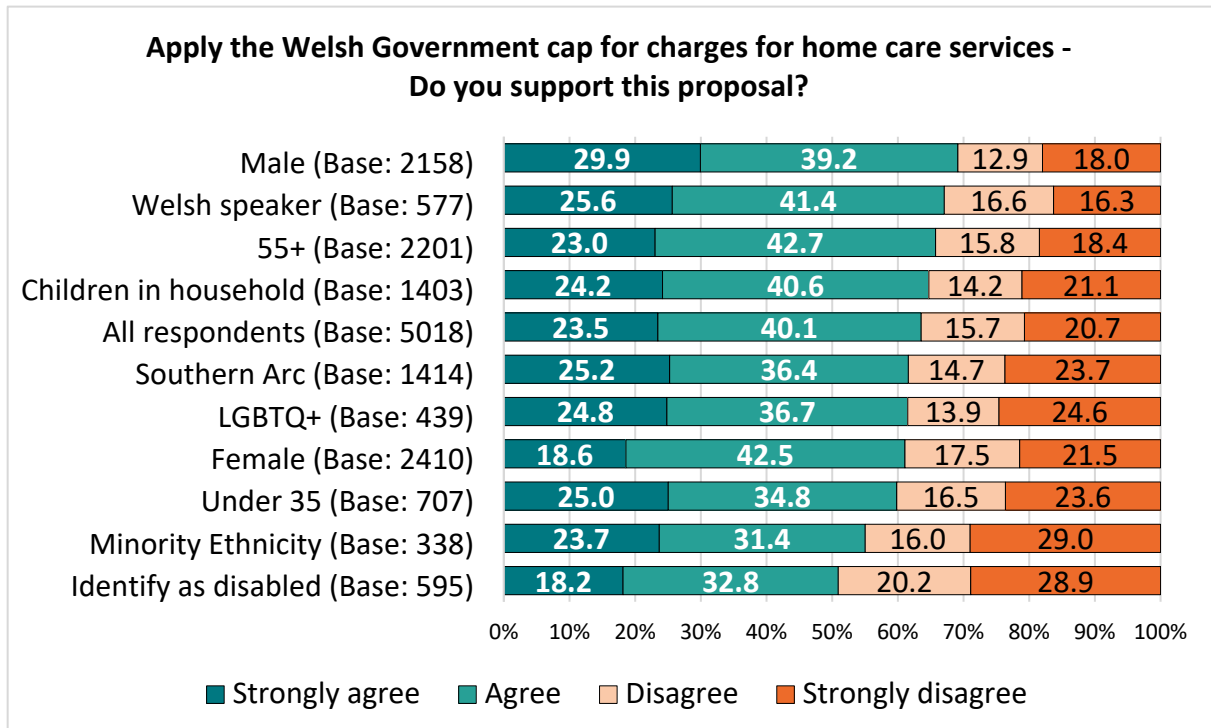
A total of 5,018 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 55.7%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.4$ .

Just under two thirds of respondents (63.6%) agreed with the proposal to apply any revised 'cap' set by the Welsh Government in the next financial year.



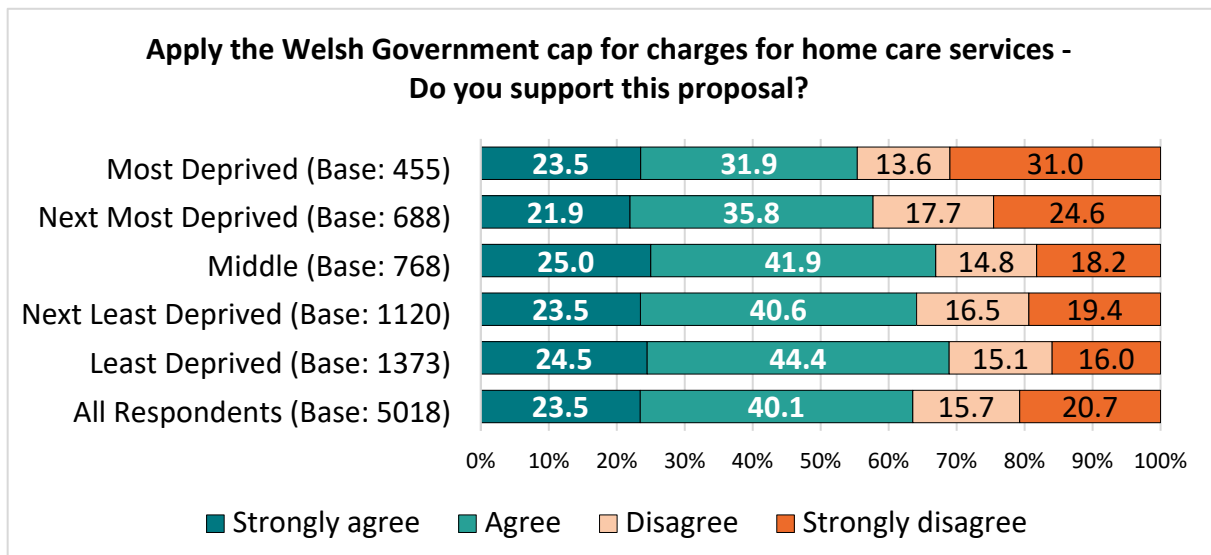
Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Males were most likely to agree with this proposal (69.1%), contrasting with those identifying as disabled (50.9%) and those from a Minority Ethnicity (55.0%).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Again, there was not a direct correlation with levels of deprivation, but those living in the more deprived areas of the city were less likely to agree with this proposal than residents in more affluent areas.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

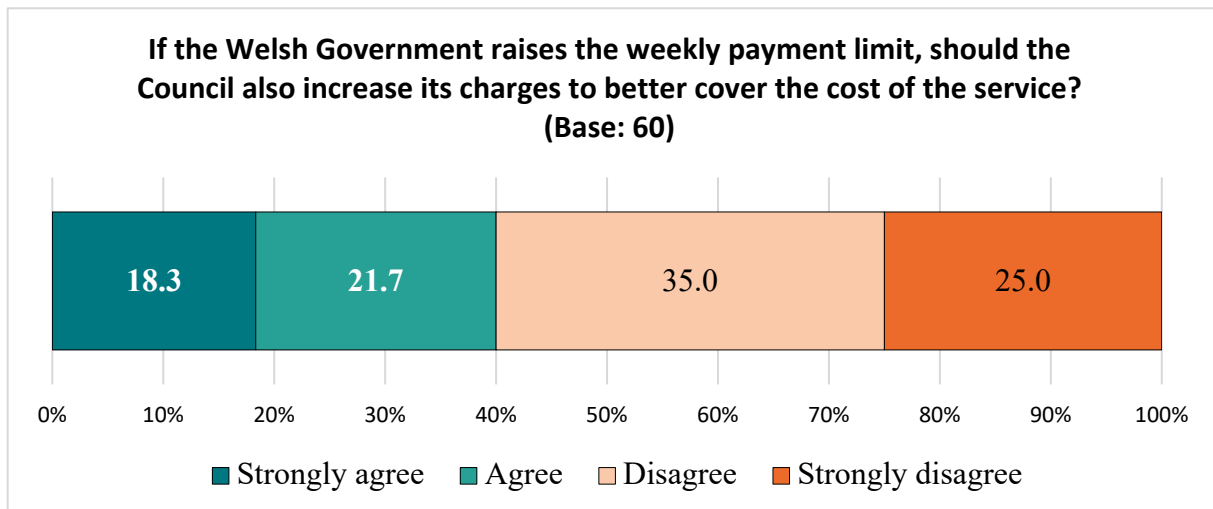
The Welsh Government has set a limit on how much a person needs to pay for care each week, currently at £100. This limit might go up in 2024/25. The Council can decide if it wants to increase its charges to this new limit. People will only be charged what they can afford.

Charging more accurately for these services will help the Council keep providing care for older people in the future.

**If the Welsh Government raises the weekly payment limit, should the Council also increase its charges to better cover the cost of the service?**

A total of 60 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 58.3%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 12.7$ .

Younger respondents, taking part in the Child Friendly Cardiff survey, were less likely to agree with this proposal, with two in five (40.0%) agreeing that Cardiff Council should implement any 'cap' set by the Welsh Government for home care.



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

The Council is facing a budget shortfall of £30.5 million next year because of rising prices and greater demand for our services. The proposals outlined in this consultation document will help to meet the budget gap by changing how services are delivered, by cutting some services completely, or by removing subsidies and increasing income.

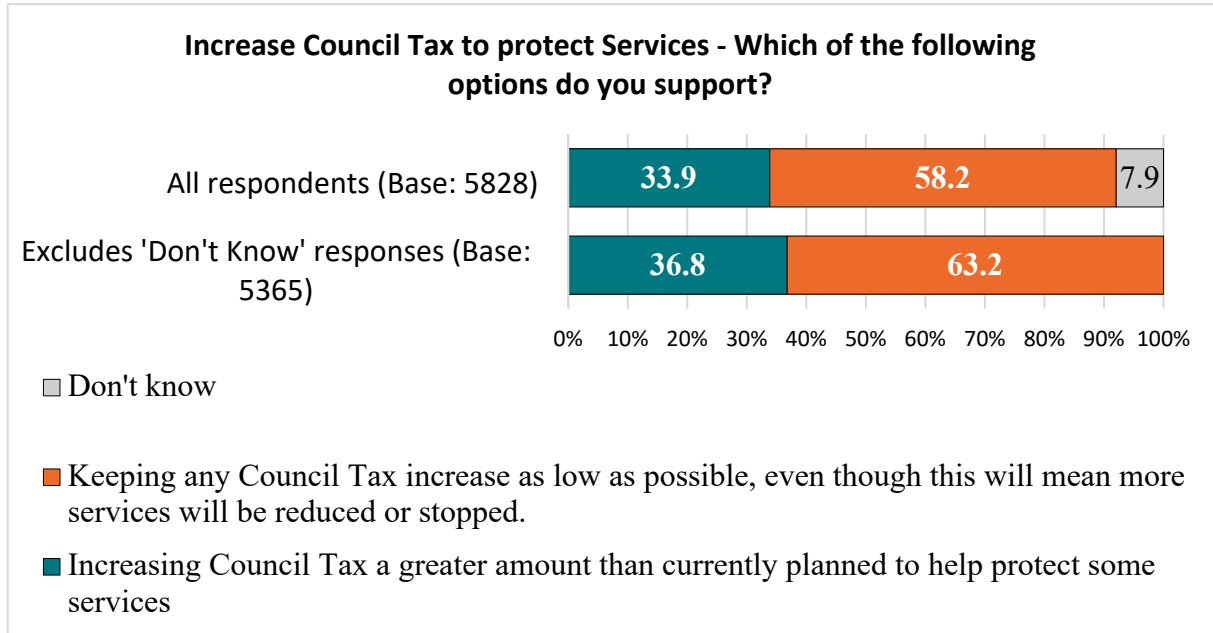
Another source of funding is Council Tax, which accounts for around 26% of the Council's budget. Increasing Council Tax by 1% would generate an additional £1.7 million, which would be used to protect some of the services identified as a way of saving the Council money. The Council is proposing an increase of 3%.

We are aware that there is a cost-of-living crisis, and everyone has been impacted by rising prices, so we want to understand how residents feel about increasing Council Tax to protect services.

**Which of the following options would you prefer?**

A total of 5,828 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 64.7%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 1.2. or ± 1.3 if 'Don't know' responses are excluded.

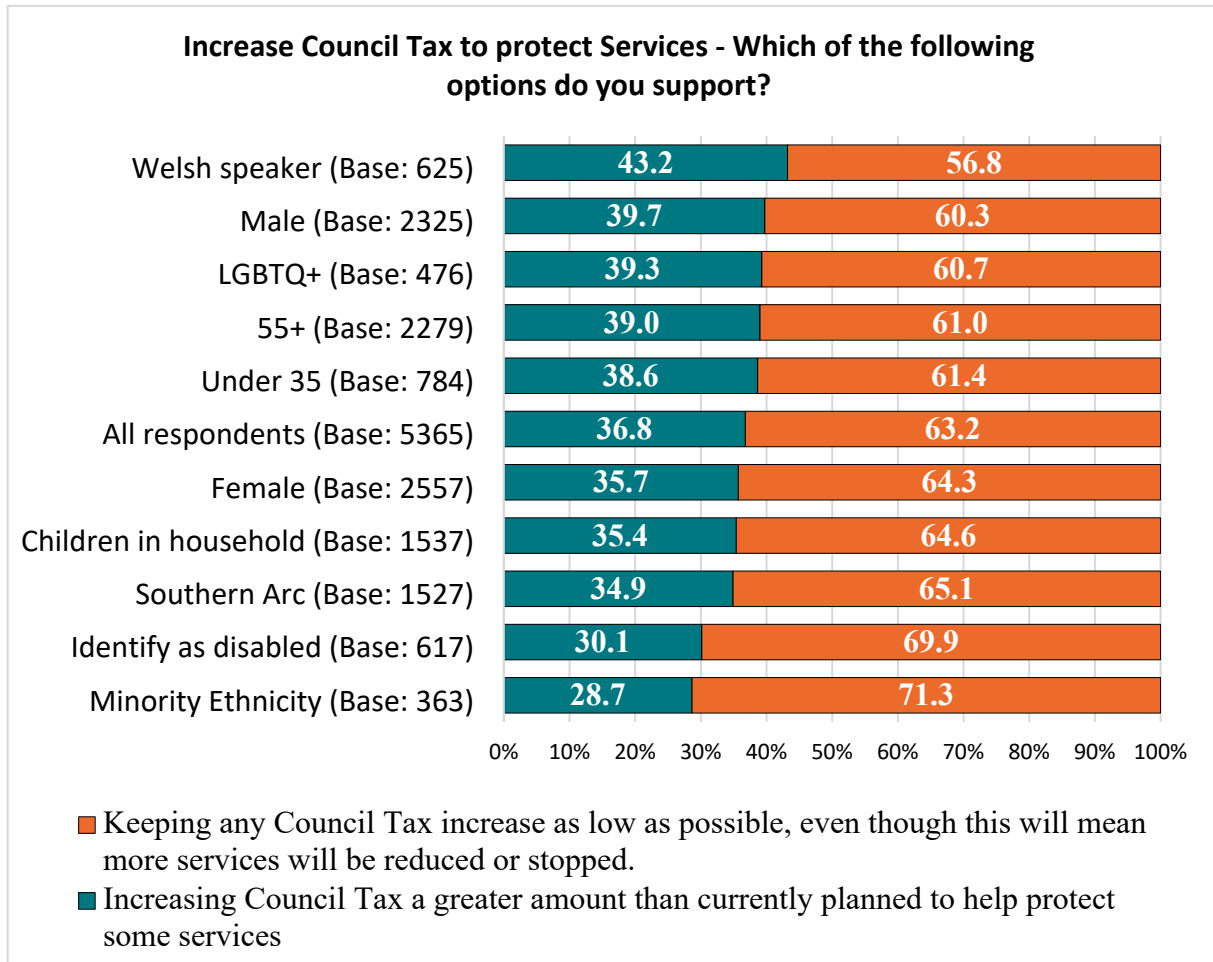
Respondents were almost twice as likely to support measures to keep Council Tax increases as low as possible, even in this would mean more services would be reduced or stopped (58.2% of all responses to this question, or 63.2% of responses excluding those answering 'Don't know').



Over 120 comments on Council Tax were received in response to the open question at the end of the section; details are available in [Appendix 37](#).

More than half of each demographic group analysed favoured keeping any increases in Council Tax as low as possible, even if that meant some council-run services would be reduced or stopped.

Support to minimise increases in Council Tax was highest amongst respondents from a Minority Ethnicity (71.3%) and those identifying as disabled (69.9%).



*Excludes 'Don't know' responses*

There was no correlation with level of deprivation (see [Appendix 35](#)).



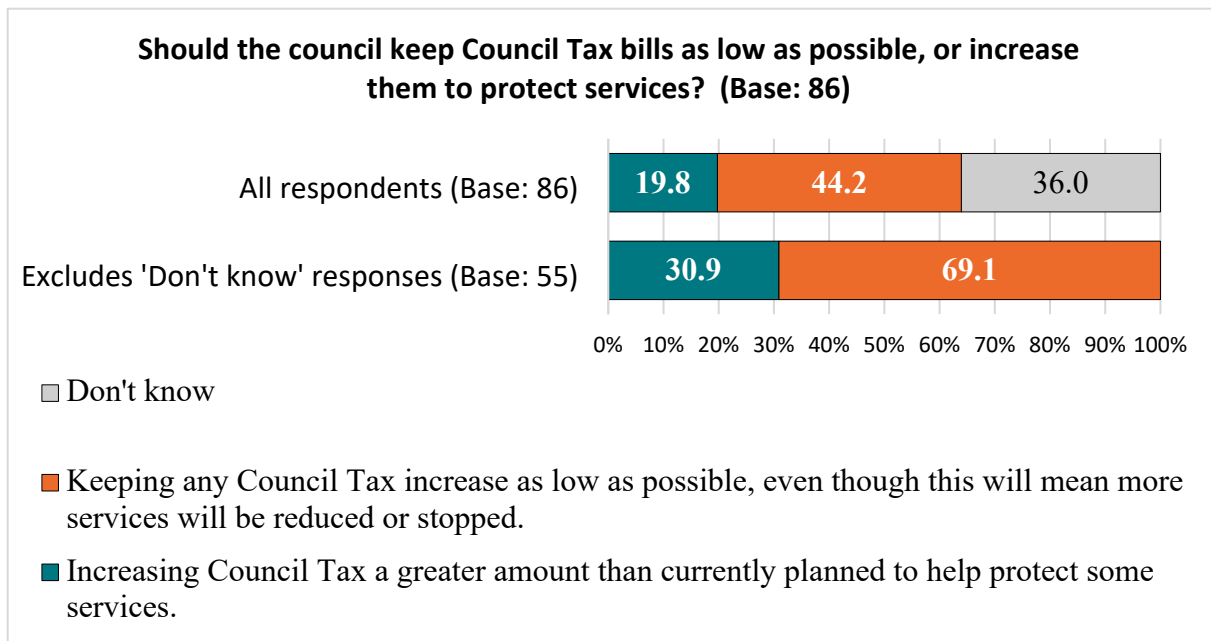
**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

The Council needs to find £30.5 million next year due to higher costs and more people needing services. This consultation suggests ways to save money, like changing, cutting, or removing some services and increasing income. Council Tax, which is 26% of the Council's budget, is one way to get more money. A 1% rise in Council Tax would bring in an extra £1.7 million to help save some services. The Council suggests raising it by 3%. But with the cost-of-living crisis affecting everyone, the Council wants to know how people feel about increasing Council Tax to keep services going.

**Which of the following options would you prefer?**

A total of 86 were received for this question, giving a response rate of 83.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of ± 10.6. or ± 13.2 if 'Don't know' responses are excluded.

Younger respondents taking part in the Child Friendly Cardiff budget consultation were also more likely to support keeping Council Tax bills as low as possible, rather than increasing Council Tax to protect services (44.2%, rising to 69.1% if 'Don't know' responses are excluded).

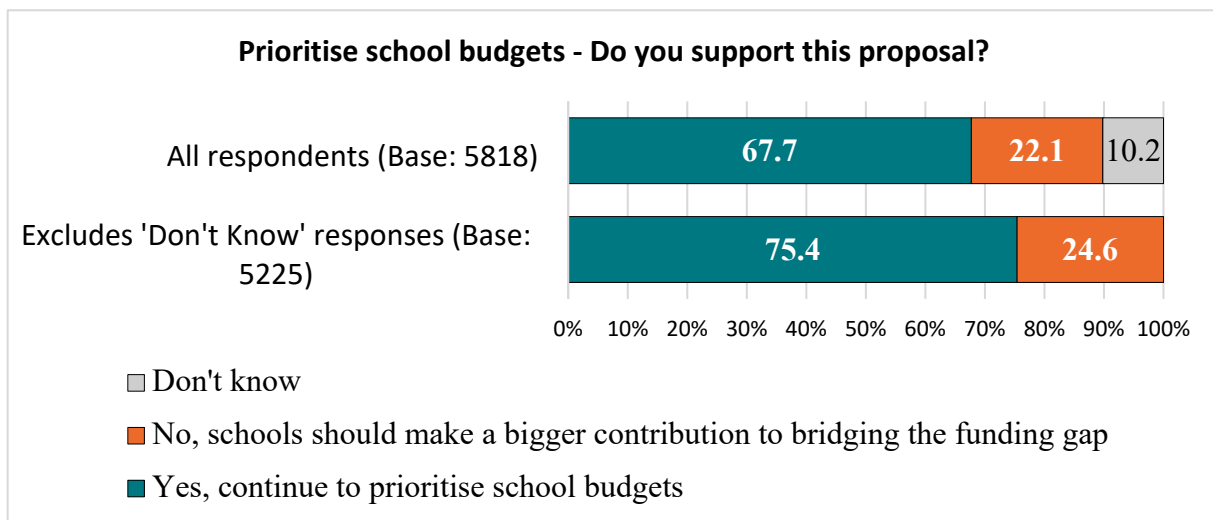


The Administration continues to consider Education its top priority, alongside Social Services, and we know from the Ask Cardiff survey that these are the public's priorities, too. The Council proposes to continue to prioritise schools.

**Do you support this proposal?**

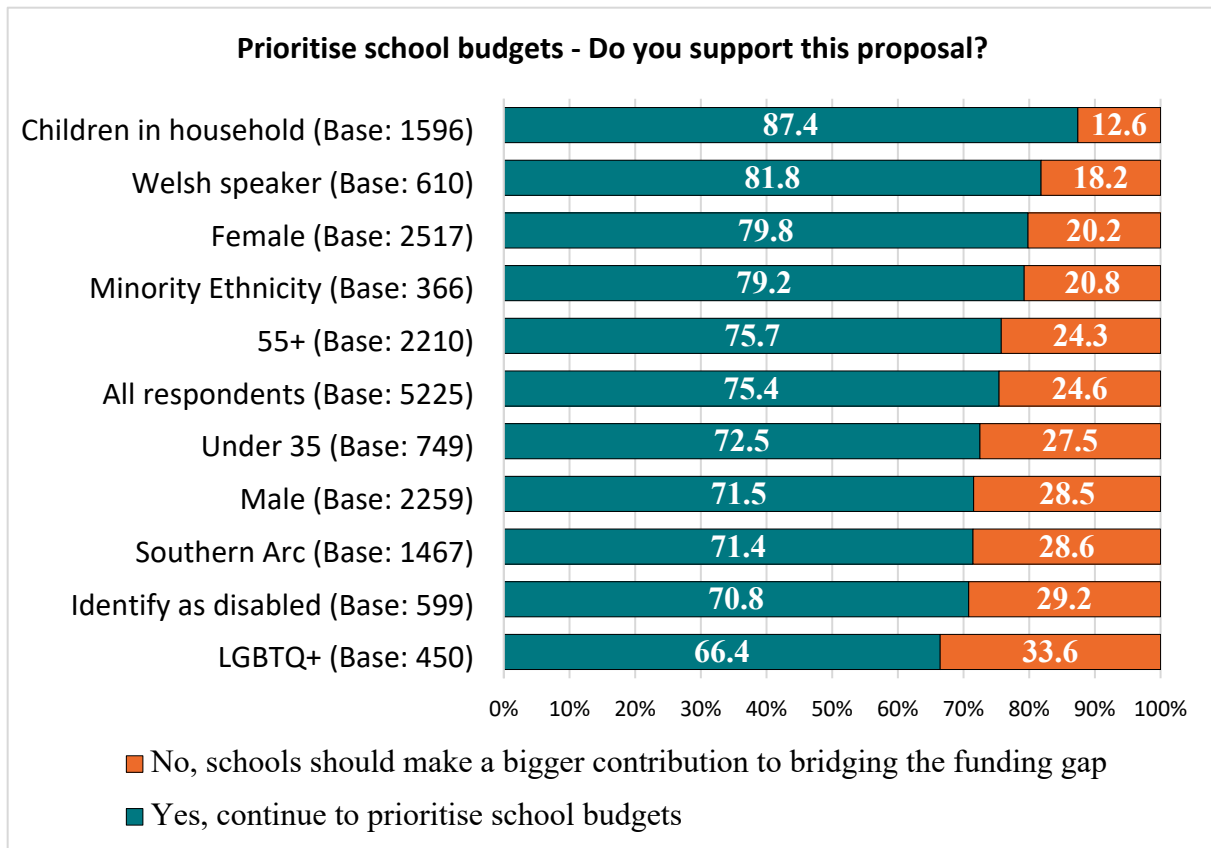
A total of 5,818 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 64.6%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 1.2$ , or  $\pm 1.3$  if 'Don't know' responses are excluded.

There was clear support to prioritise school budgets, with 67.7% of all respondents supporting this proposal, rising to 75.4% if 'Don't know' responses are excluded.



Forty comments on school budgets were received in response to the open question at the end of this section, with details of this in [Appendix 37](#).

There was generally a consensus of opinion that school budgets should be prioritised, with stronger levels of support amongst respondents with children in their households (87.4%, excluding 'Don't know' responses).



Excludes 'Don't know' responses

Responses were consistent across the five deprivation quintiles (details in [Appendix 36](#)).

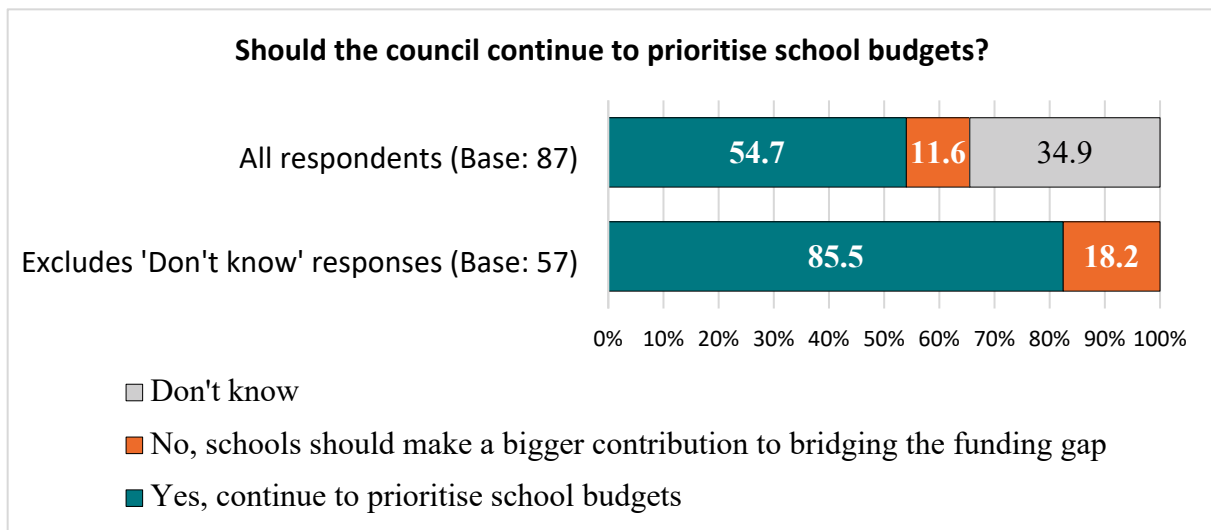
**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

The council is focusing mainly on Education and Social Services. The Ask Cardiff survey shows that these are also important to the public. The Council plans to keep prioritising schools.

**Do you support this proposal?**

A total of 87 responses were received for this question, giving a response rate of 84.5%. Confidence level 95%, confidence interval of  $\pm 9.9$  if including 'Don't know' responses, or 13.0 if these are excluded.

Support for prioritising school budgets was high amongst those completing the Child Friendly Cardiff Budget consultation, with around five in six respondents who expressed an opinion (85.5%) supporting this proposal.



**Do you have any further comments or suggestions on how the Council can reduce the budget gap?**

A total of 1,274 comments were received, and grouped into themes. The top three are shown below, with a full list available in [Appendix 37](#).

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
<b>Council needs to stop wasting money</b>	303	23.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spend less money on vanity projects maybe?</li> <li>- Stop building bike lanes that are hardly used.</li> <li>- Yes, stop wasting money on stupid projects like messing with the roads in the city centre, exposing the canal off queen street and other stupid projects. Where you have freedom of wasting tax payers money this has now come back and bitten you and Welsh government. None of you idiots would survive in the private sector as you ignore your end customer to deliver your vanity projects.</li> <li>- Stop wasting money on vanity projects and use the money more wisely for necessities. If you can't manage on the budget you already have that tells you you should not be having a pay rise and employing more staff to shuffle paper.</li> <li>- Stop needlessly wasting money and overpaying outside contractors and services</li> <li>- Rather than cut spending maybe you should stop wasting money on vanity projects like a pointless, ugly canal for £9m or spending £20m on a speed limit change which no-one wants. Oh look, there's your £30m shortfall. Tyrants, all of you.</li> </ul>
<b>Make Savings in House</b>	287	22.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cut the council bosses pay to help fill the funding gap.</li> <li>- Review whether the Council across all its estate/ buildings is on the most cost effective energy (gas and electricity) tariffs. A recent report showed how some councils in England and Wales are paying vastly more for their energy than others. I assume someone within Cardiff Council is responsible for regularly monitoring what the Council pays for gas and electricity and seeks out the best and cheapest available tariffs.</li> <li>- Cardiff council needs a full review of its expenditure. I'm sure there are cost savings that could be made elsewhere that would protect these services. I would happily invest my own time and provide my services to carry out that task.</li> <li>- I think councillors should be looking at themselves and their big wages for some cuts before expecting</li> </ul>

			<p><i>us the public to be making higher payments and cuts.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Council should look at personal spending such as allowances for lunches /expenditure/ administrative costs etc for themselves.</i></li> <li>- <i>STOP Paying your employees to be on the sick for months at a time- your sickness policy is ridiculous and massively taken advantage off - all at the price of reduced services and increases in Council tax to people that actually WORK for a living. STOP employing people who can only do part of the job they are employed to do!!</i></li> </ul>
School meals	105	8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Reintroduce school cooks rather than contracting out cooking with terrible meals.</i></li> <li>- <i>I would query increasing the costs of primary school meals for years 5 and 6 when the Welsh Government is paying a unit rate of £3.10 for each primary school meal. I would like to see more investment to ensure these learners are part of the UPFSM rollout - they have managed to achieve full roll-out in the Vale of Glamorgan.</i></li> <li>- <i>Stop universal free school meals.</i></li> <li>- <i>Disgusting thinking of not providing free school meals.</i></li> <li>- <i>School meals offer very poor value for money.</i></li> <li>- <i>Increase plant-based meals in schools and reduce meat and fish based meals as they cost more than vegetarian or vegan meals.</i></li> </ul>

### Face-to-face Engagement

Within the face-to-face work a number of participants took the opportunity to raise topics that were not included in the survey, including housing (perhaps biased by the discussions happening at Central Library, which was hosting housing advice sessions), and a range of issues outside the control of the Council:

*"So much money was spent on the coronation, it should have been spent on housing instead. People are queuing here for bread! The system, the government is not looking after its residents, just caring about the outside" (White woman, early 60s, Splott)*

*"My family, we live in a camper. We have thousands of issues. I won't complete anything [angry, upset]" (White British female, 30s, parents of young children)*

*"Is there something about the 20mph?" (Several respondents, from a range of backgrounds)*

*"How much did all of that [changing speed limit and signs to 20mph] cost?!" (ME woman, 50s, Grangetown)*

A large number of people approached were unconvinced that completing the survey would make any difference, and that doing so would be a waste of their time, reflecting views seen in the Participation Strategy consultation:

*"Cardiff Council or Welsh Government, the same! Wasting our money." (White British male, 70s, Tremorfa)*

*"What's the point in doing your survey? 5,000, 50,000 people have signed about the 20, and Pphhhh!" (White British male, 50s, Ely)*

## Welsh Language

If you access any Council services in Welsh, we want to know if you think the proposed changes will have any impact on how you access these services.

### Do you currently access any Council services in Welsh?

Around seven out of eight respondents did not access Council Services in Welsh. The services most commonly accessed in Welsh were Hubs & Libraries (11.7%) and Parks (11.2%).

	No.	%
<b>Hubs &amp; Libraries</b>	701	11.7
<b>Parks</b>	671	11.2
<b>Parking</b>	556	9.3
<b>Leisure &amp; Sports</b>	523	8.7
<b>Culture &amp; Events</b>	506	8.5
<b>Bereavement Services</b>	139	2.3
<b>Domiciliary Care</b>	182	3.0
<b>School meals</b>	62	1.0
<b>None of these</b>	5010	83.7
	<b>5984</b>	

### Do you feel any of these proposals will impact your ability to access Council services in Welsh?

Just over a quarter (27.2%) of those accessing services in Welsh felt that proposals outlined in the budget consultation would impact their ability to access Council services in Welsh.

	No.	%
<b>Yes</b>	252	27.2
<b>No</b>	676	72.8
	<b>928</b>	



**Please specify which proposal(s), and outline the impact you think these proposals will have (positive or negative)**

A total of 106 comments were received in response to this question, which have been grouped into themes. The top three are shown below, with a full list available in Appendix 38:

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
<b>Negative impact on Welsh language</b>	48	45.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ALL NEGATIVE!!</li> <li>- Negative</li> <li>- Lack of access, lack of staff, lack of resources invested</li> <li>- Any reduction in Welsh is a bad thing, its use should be encouraged.</li> </ul>
<b>Negative comments on the proposals, rather than their impact on Welsh</b>	29	27.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ones you want to take away</li> <li>- These will impact my activities very negatively and all because the council are out of touch.</li> <li>- If cuts are made then we won't be able to use parks if they're unsafe or the central library if closed.</li> </ul>
<b>Hubs / Libraries</b>	25	23.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to periodicals looks like it might become harder, as some are not online.</li> <li>- Volunteers - they may not speak Welsh and may be less supported to be able to manage enquiries in Welsh, order Welsh language books etc</li> <li>- Reducing the opening hours proposed in the Hubs &amp; Libraries section will prevent my child from accessing Welsh-language groups, which we have found hugely beneficial and enjoyable</li> </ul>

**Child Friendly Cardiff Survey:**

If you access any Council services in Welsh, we want to know if you think the proposed changes will have any impact on how you access these services.

**Do you currently access any Council services in Welsh?**

Twenty-seven respondents indicated they accessed Council services in Welsh, with Parks the most commonly mentioned.

	No.	%
<b>Parks</b>	17	22.7
<b>Culture &amp; Events</b>	12	16.0
<b>Hubs &amp; Libraries</b>	12	16.0
<b>School meals</b>	12	16.0
<b>Parking</b>	9	12.0
<b>Home Care</b>	4	5.3
<b>None of these</b>	48	64.0
	<b>75</b>	

**Do you feel any of these proposals will impact your ability to access Council services in Welsh?**

Just over a quarter (27.2%) of those accessing services in Welsh felt that proposals outlined in the budget consultation would impact their ability to access Council services in Welsh.

	No.	%
<b>Yes</b>	5	6.7
<b>No</b>	70	93.3
	<b>75</b>	<b>100.0</b>

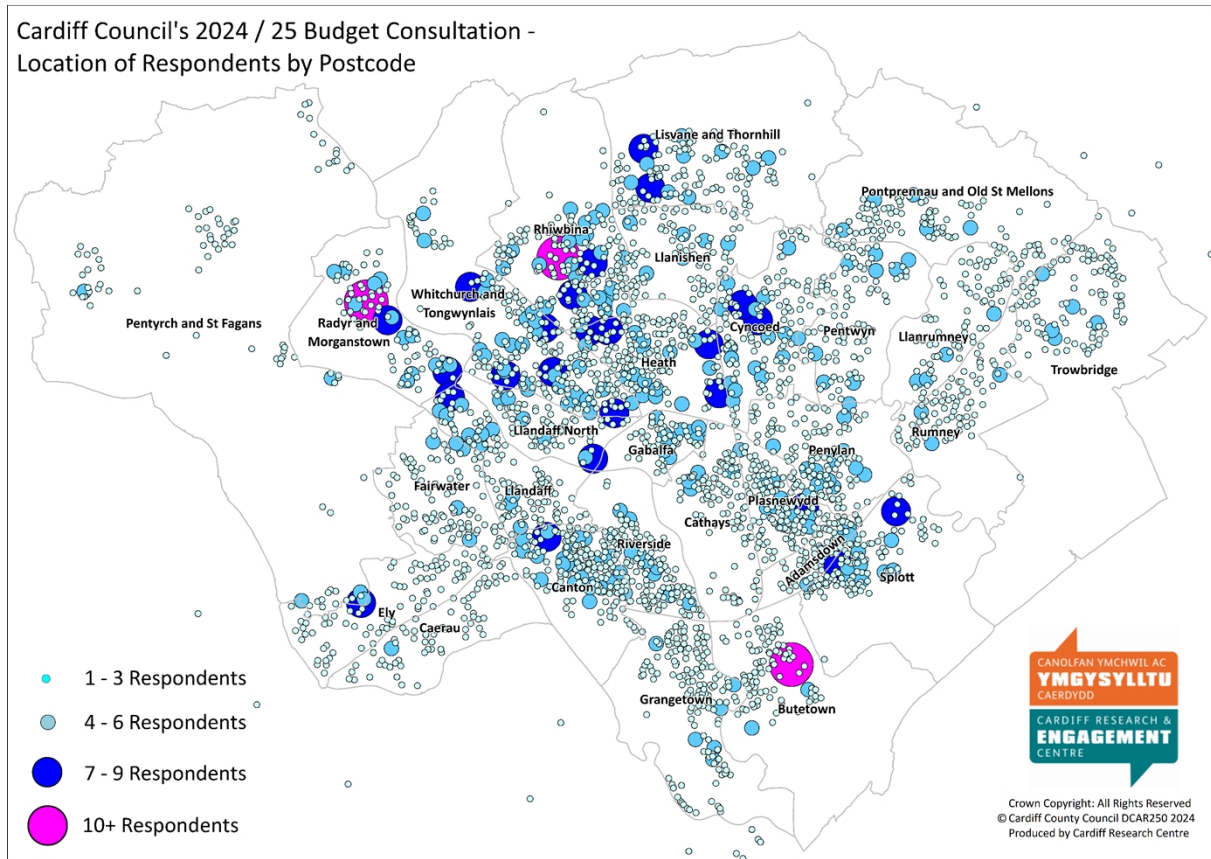
**Please specify which proposal(s), and outline the impact you think these proposals will have (positive or negative)**

No comments were made regarding the impact the proposals in the budget consultation would have on the ability to access services in Welsh.

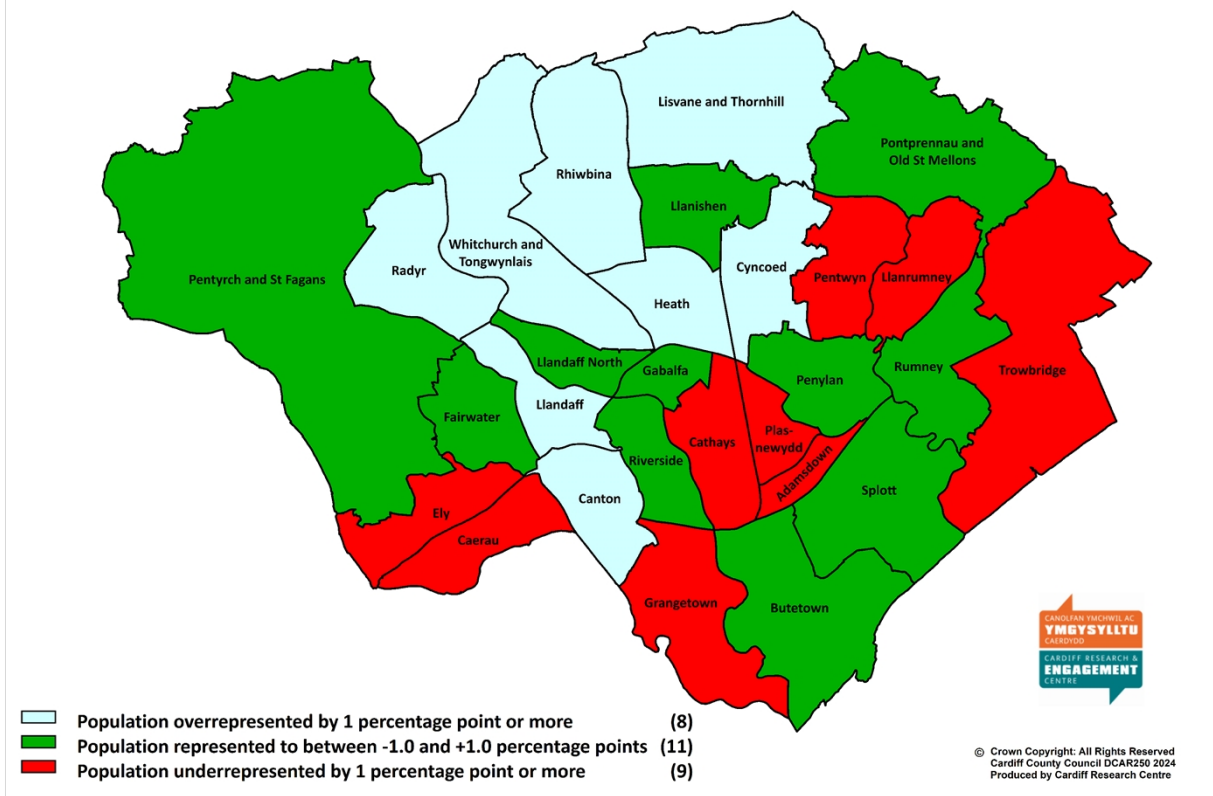
## About You

### Please provide your full postcode

Overall, 5,976 respondents provided their full postcode, which have been shown on the map below:



Over/Under Represented Ward Map - Budget Consultation 2024/25



	No	%
Southern Arc	1919	21.3
Rest of Cardiff	3898	43.3
Outside Cardiff	83	0.9
Postcode not provided	3101	34.5
	<b>9001</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**What was your age on your last birthday?**

	No	%	2022 Mid-Year Estimate
<b>Under 16</b>	10	0.2	
<b>16-24</b>	153	2.3	20.6
<b>25-34</b>	885	13.4	19.5
<b>35-44</b>	1349	20.5	16.0
<b>45-54</b>	1182	18.0	13.5
<b>55-64</b>	1206	18.3	12.8
<b>65-74</b>	1031	15.7	9.5
<b>75+</b>	532	8.1	8.2
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	236	3.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6584</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

	No	%	2022 Mid-Year Estimate
<b>16-34</b>	1038	15.8	40.0
<b>35-54</b>	3737	56.8	42.3
<b>55+</b>	2769	42.1	30.4

**Are you...?**

	No	%	2022 Mid-Year Estimate
<b>Female</b>	3291	50.1	50.5
<b>Male</b>	2845	43.3	49.5
<b>Non-binary</b>	49	0.7	-
<b>Other</b>	9	0.1	
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	377	5.7	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6571</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Do you identify as Trans?**

	No	%
Yes	42	0.7
No	5959	92.7
Prefer to self-describe	23	0.4
Prefer not to say	404	6.3
	<b>6428</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do any children live in your household?**

	No.	%
No children	4477	69.3
Yes, under 5 years old (pre-school)	569	8.8
Yes, aged 5 - 11 (primary school)	880	13.6
Yes, aged 11 - 16 (secondary school)	762	11.8
Yes, aged 16 - 18 in full-time education, or working	390	6.0
Yes, aged 16 - 18 but not in full time education or working	45	0.7
	<b>6460</b>	<b>-</b>

**Are you pregnant, or have you given birth within the last 26 weeks?**

	No.	%
Yes, I'm pregnant	41	0.6
Yes, I've given birth	39	0.6
No	6068	94.4
Prefer not to say	282	4.4
	<b>6430</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do you care unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without your support?**

	No.	%
Yes	1088	16.9
No	4902	76.2
Prefer not to say	441	6.9
	<b>6431</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Which of the following best describes what you are doing at present?**

	No.	%
Working full time (30+ hours per week)	3368	52.0

Working part time (less than 30 hours per week)	747	11.5
On a zero hour contract	40	0.6
On a government training scheme	7	0.1
In full time education	90	1.4
Permanently sick or disabled person	149	2.3
Wholly retired from work	1587	24.5
Unemployed - Registered Job Seeker	30	0.5
Unemployed - Unregistered but seeking work	47	0.7
Caring for a child or adult	142	2.2
Looking after home	81	1.2
Other	195	3.0
<b>Not specified</b>	<b>6483</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Which of the following best describes your housing tenure?

	No	%
Owned outright	2695	42.0
Owned with a mortgage	2605	40.6
Rented from Local Authority	135	2.1
Rented from a Housing Association	167	2.6
Private rented	652	10.2
Other	161	2.5
	<b>6415</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Are you or a member of your household:

	You		A Member of Your Household	
	No.	%	No.	%
Currently serving (regular or reserve) in the UK Armed Forces	15	0.3	22	0.6
An armed forces service leaver (veteran), regular or reserve	122	2.6	74	1.9
Not applicable	4575	97.1	3724	97.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4712</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3820</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Do you identify as a disabled person?

	No	%
Yes	742	11.6
No	5239	82.0
Prefer not to say	406	6.4
	<b>6387</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

	No	%
Deaf/Deafened/Hard of Hearing	433	8.1
Learning impairment/difficulties	45	0.8
Wheelchair user	45	0.8
Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, HIV, diabetes or asthma)	922	17.2
Mental health difficulties	459	8.6
Visual impairment	138	2.6
Mobility impairment	459	8.6
Neurodivergent (e.g. Attention Deficit Disorders, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Dysgraphia)	330	6.2
Prefer not to say	371	6.9
Other (please specify below)	85	1.6
None of these	3435	64.0
	<b>5363</b>	-



**Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion?**

	No	%
No, no religion	3087	48.2
Christian (Including Church in Wales, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	22	0.3
Buddhist	2434	38.0
Hindu	45	0.7
Jewish	18	0.3
Muslim	148	2.3
Sikh	2	0.0
Prefer not to answer	570	8.9
Other	83	1.3
	<b>6409</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**How would you describe your sexual orientation?**

	No.	%
Bisexual	247	3.9
Gay Woman/Lesbian	75	1.2
Gay Man	183	2.9
Heterosexual/Straight	4909	77.6
Other	61	1.0
Prefer not to answer	855	13.5
	<b>6330</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Are you:**

	No.	%
Single	1134	17.9
In a same-sex Civil Partnership	45	0.7
Married	3489	55.1
Living together	940	14.8
Separated/divorced or legally separated if formerly in a same-sex Civil Partnership	281	4.4
Widowed	279	4.4
Other	168	2.7
	<b>6336</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**How would you describe your Welsh language skills?**

	No.	%
Fluent	413	6.5

<b>Moderate</b>	360	5.6
<b>Basic</b>	1277	20.0
<b>Learner</b>	1007	15.8
<b>None</b>	3327	52.1
	<b>6384</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do you consider yourself to be Welsh?**

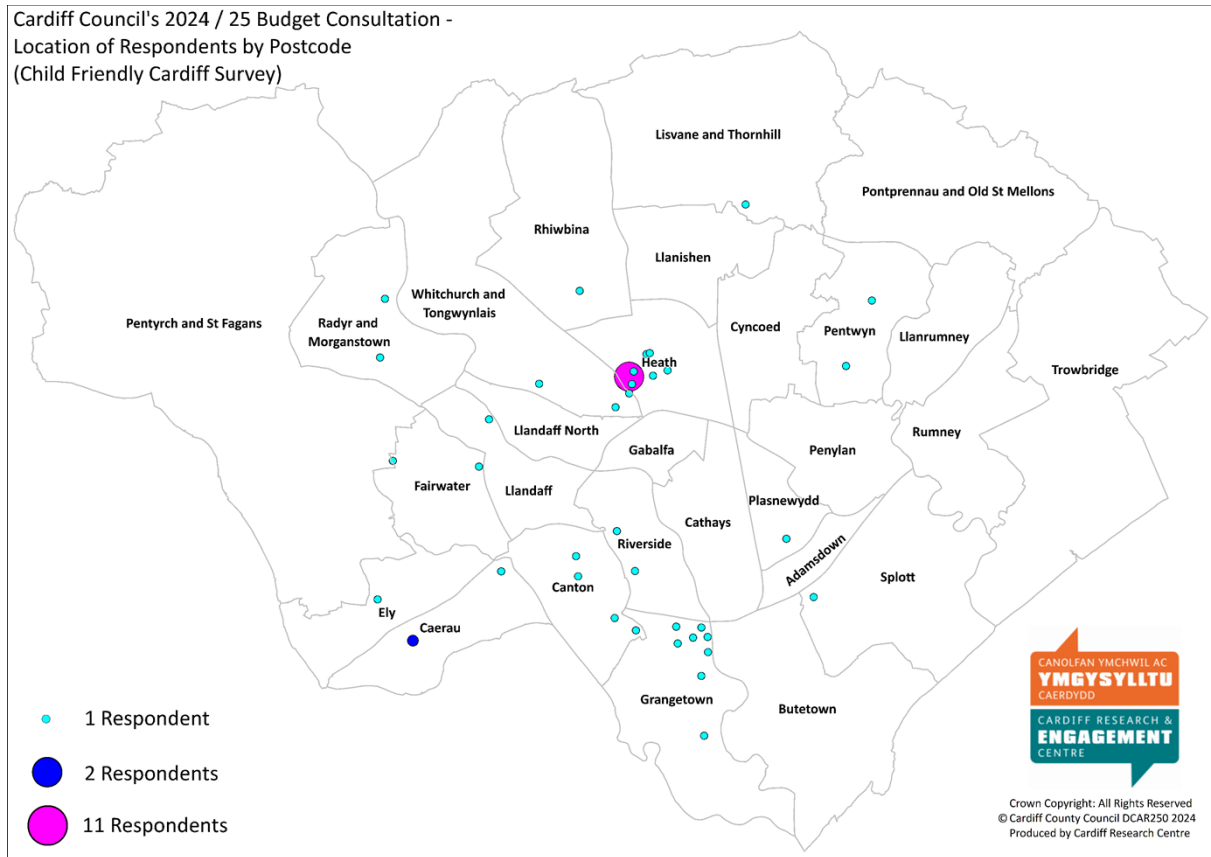
	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	4313	68.1
<b>No</b>	2023	31.9
	<b>6336</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**What is your ethnic group?**

	No.	%	2021 Census
White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	5350	83.4	73.6
White - Irish	69	1.1	0.6
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	3	0.0	0.2
White - Any other white background	247	3.9	4.8
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Asian Welsh / British / Other	44	0.7	1.2
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black African Welsh / British / Other	15	0.2	0.7
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black Caribbean Welsh / British / Other	25	0.4	1.0
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - Any other	38	0.6	1.1
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Bangladeshi	31	0.5	2.4
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Chinese	17	0.3	2.4
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Indian	8	0.1	1.9
Asian/Asian Welsh/British – Pakistani	24	0.4	1.4
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Any other	32	0.5	1.6
Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British - African	67	1.0	0.4
Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British – Caribbean	56	0.9	2.9
Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British - Any other	12	0.2	0.5
Arab	22	0.3	1.8
Any other ethnic group (please specify)	35	0.5	1.5
Prefer not to say	319	5.0	-
	<b>6414</b>	<b>100.0</b>	-

## Child Friendly Cardiff Survey: Demographic Profile

### What is your postcode?



### How old are you?

	No	%
<b>11 or under</b>	35	41.7
<b>12 – 15</b>	30	35.7
<b>16 – 18</b>	2	2.4
<b>19 – 25</b>	2	2.4
<b>Over 25</b>	15	17.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Are you...?

	No	%
Female	41	47.7
Male	37	43.0
Other	3	3.5
Prefer not to say	5	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Do you identify as a disabled person?

	No	%
Yes	3	3.6
No	73	88.0
Prefer not to say	7	8.4
	<b>83</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

	No	%
Deaf/Deafened/Hard of Hearing or Mobility impairment	2	2.8
Learning impairment/difficulties	0	0.0
Wheelchair user	0	0.0
Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, HIV, diabetes or asthma)	8	11.3
Mental health difficulties	6	8.5
Visual impairment	2	2.8
Neurodivergent (e.g. Attention Deficit Disorders, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Dysgraphia)	7	9.9
Prefer not to say	7	9.9
Other (please specify below)	2	2.8
None of these	44	62.0
	<b>71</b>	<b>-</b>

How would you describe your Welsh language skills?

	No.	%
Fluent	4	4.7
Moderate	7	8.2
Basic	25	29.4
Learner	38	44.7
None	11	12.9
	<b>85</b>	<b>100.0</b>

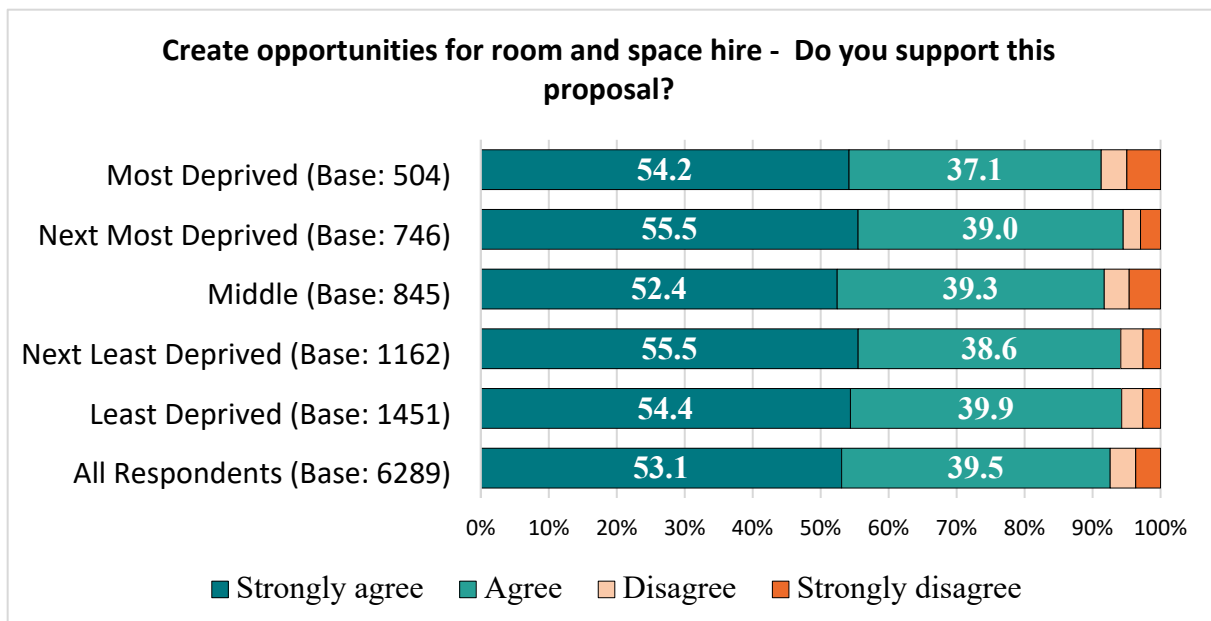
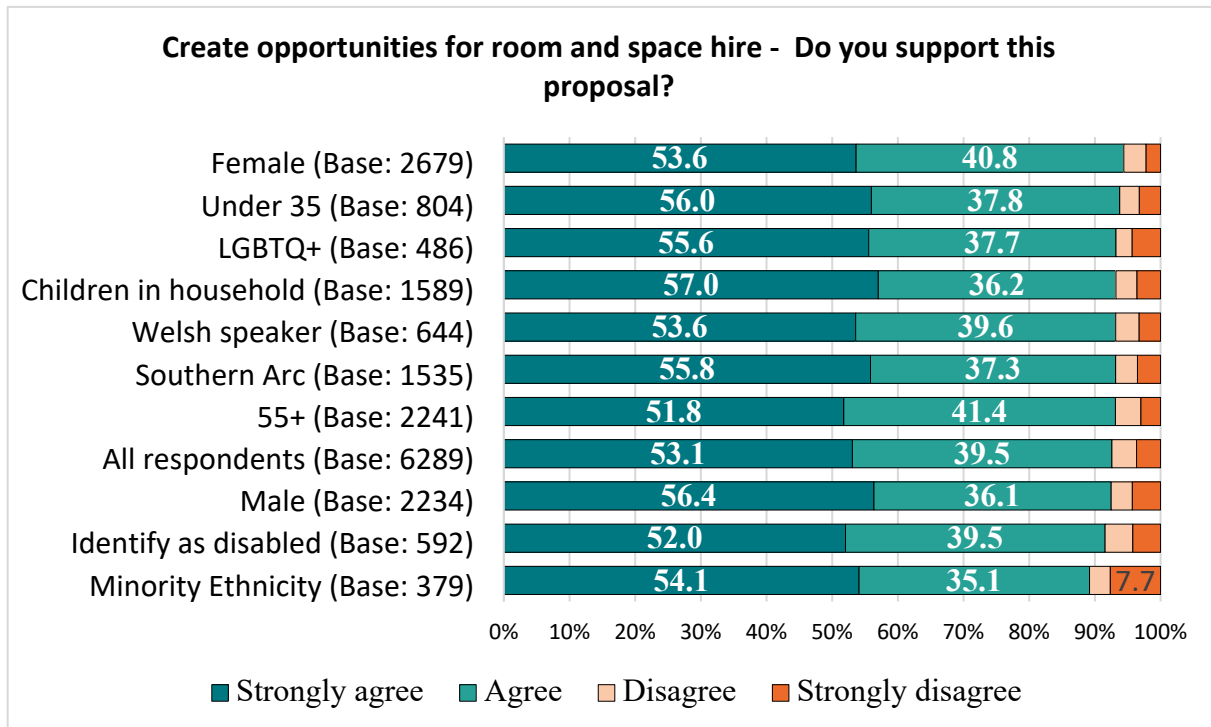
Do you consider yourself to be Welsh?

	No.	%
Yes	50	60.2
No	33	39.8
	<b>83</b>	<b>100.0</b>

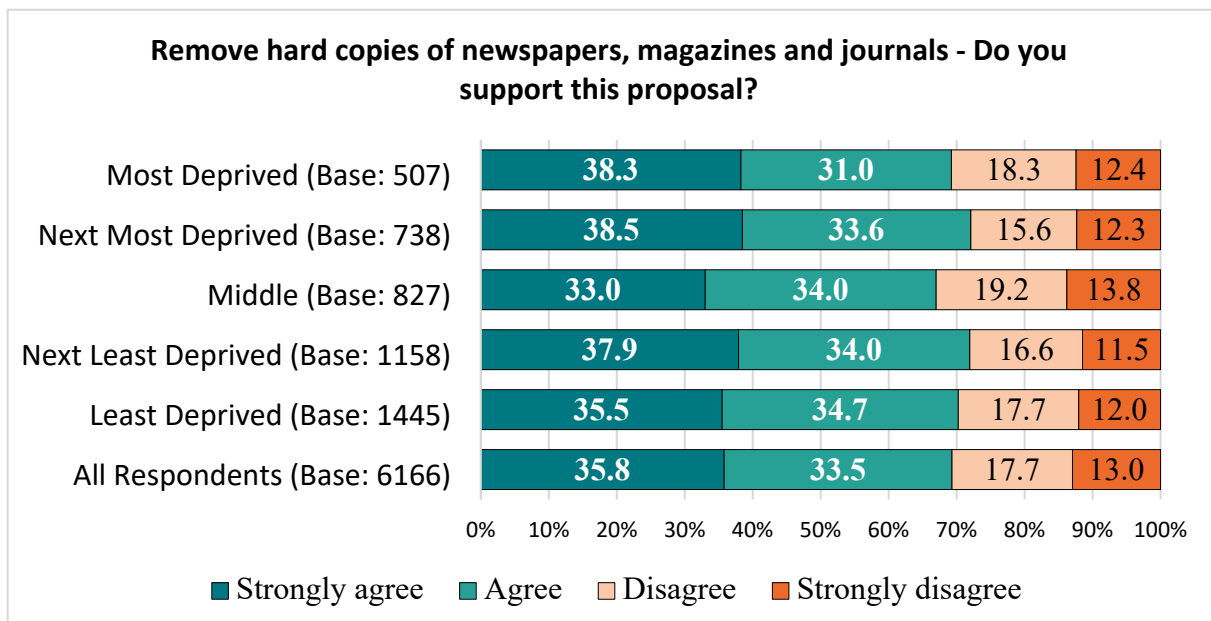
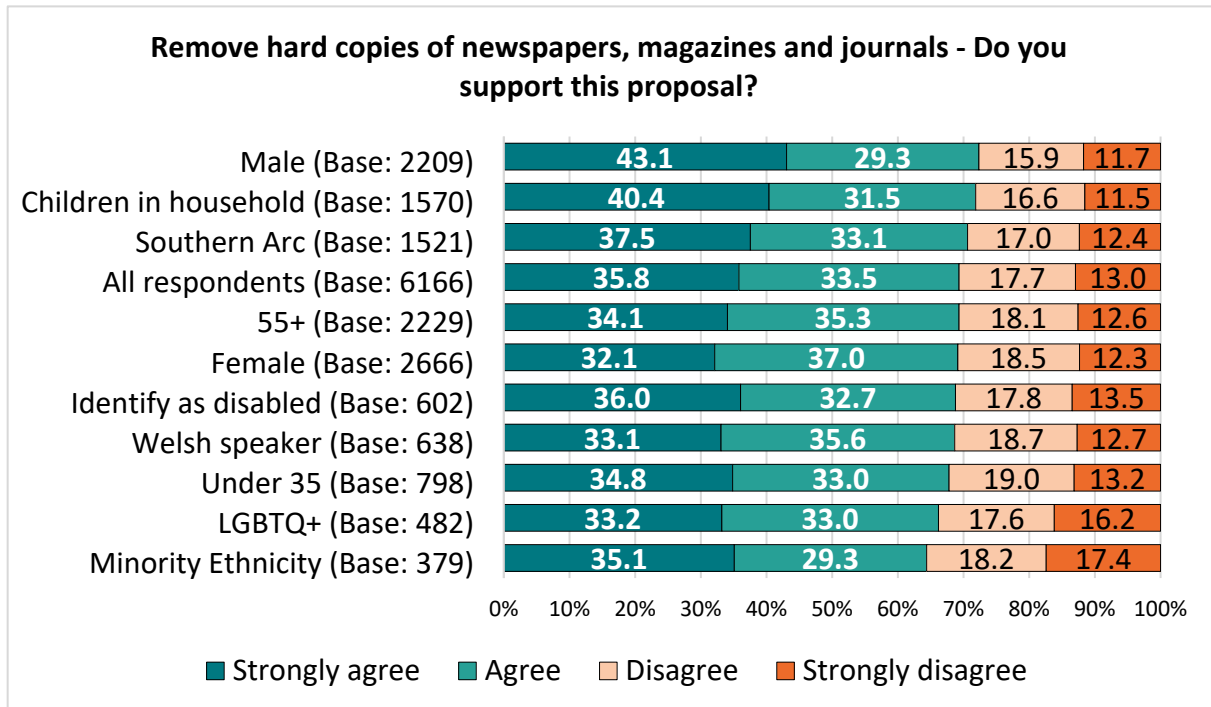
What is your ethnic group?

	No.	%
White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	39	48.8
White - Any other white background	4	5.0
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups British/Welsh/Other	7	8.8
Asian/Asian Welsh/British	16	20.0
Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British	3	3.8
Arab	3	3.8
Any other ethnic group (please specify)	3	3.8
Prefer not to say	5	6.3
	<b>80</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Appendix 1 – Create Opportunities for Room & Space Hire by Demographic & Geographic Groups

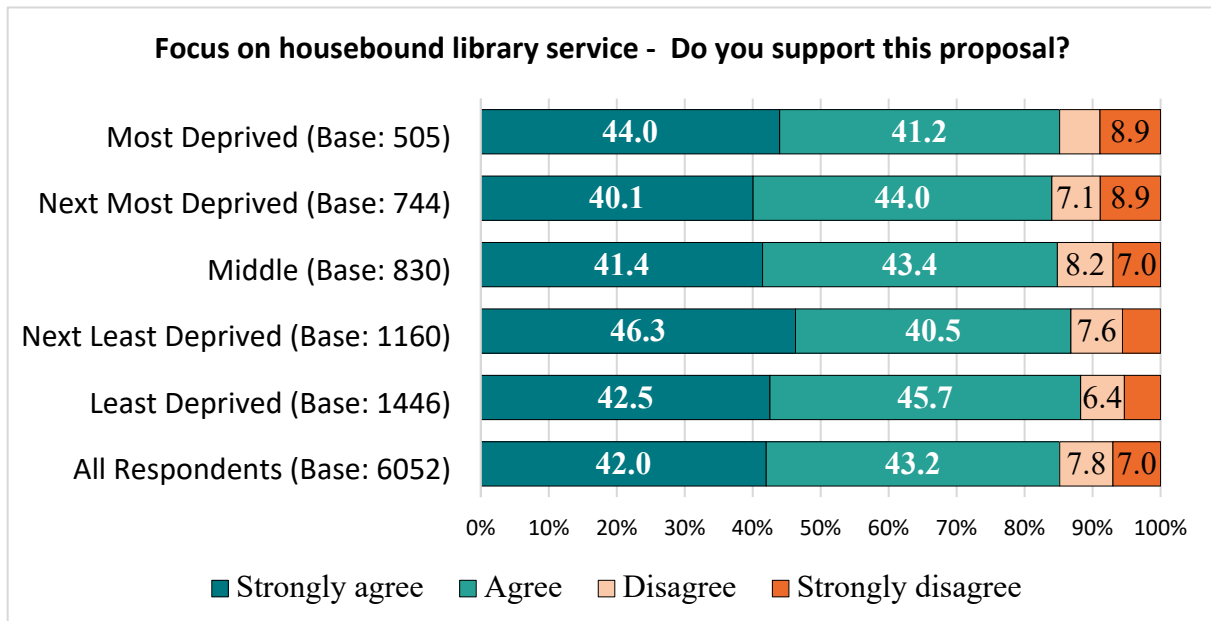
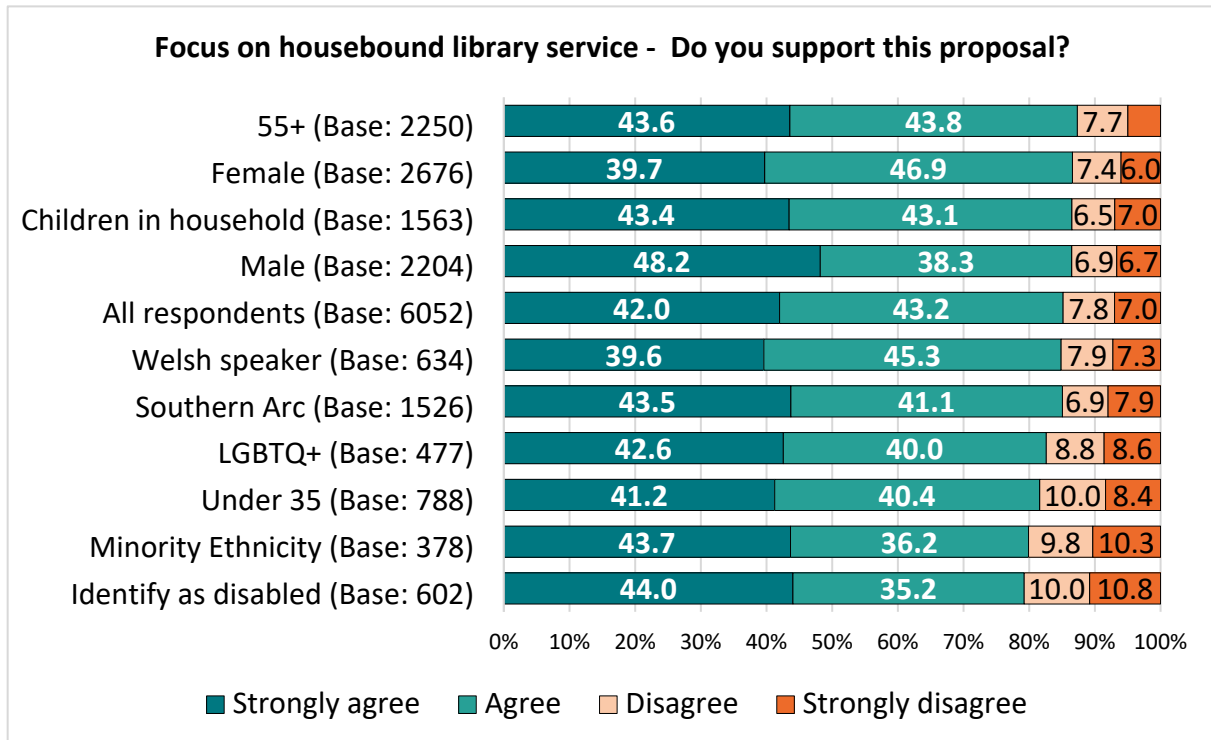


## Appendix 2 – Remove Hard Copies of Newspapers, Magazines & Journals by Demographic & Geographic Groups



### Appendix 3 – Focus on the Housebound Library Service by Demographic & Geographic Groups





## Appendix 4 – Comments on Proposed Changes to Hubs & Libraries

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
<b>Hubs / Libraries are a community asset</b>	379	29.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Libraries and hubs provide safe places for people to come together, creating community cohesion. Closure of these spaces outside of the centre of the city would undermine community cohesion</li> <li>- Public libraries are where the most vulnerable and less fortunate go to access information, be it digital</li> </ul>

			<p>or physical. Reducing their opportunity to access information is a complete disservice to those in the community who cannot otherwise access books or the internet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hubs are also important as a safe warm place for those who can't afford to heat their homes</li> <li>- Some residents rely on the hubs and libraries where closing them for one day in the week would be a huge mental health deficit</li> <li>- People need these services so please Do NOT scrap them. They provide more than library services. They are a social lifeline to many.</li> <li>- These are essential services for communities particularly the elderly and children. You must not reduce these services.</li> </ul>
<b>Residents working office hours need to be considered / Against a Saturday closure</b>	174	13.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening times should be accessible to those working office hours</li> <li>- please consider keeping open outside of normal office hours and perhaps close some during the day. those of us who work are finding to increasingly difficult to physically access services</li> <li>- Keep Hubs and Libraries open on Saturdays if possible for use by families/children - close on other days where possible</li> <li>- Access outside 9-5 should be kept for those who work</li> <li>- I work full time. Closing libraries on Saturday would mean I can never access them</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative option suggestions</b>	164	12.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many libraries tend to be less busy during working hours. One suggestion is opening only from lunchtimes onwards until say 7pm or agreeing with closing entirely for one additional day</li> <li>- Don't change hours at Central Library but you can change the hours to 9 to 5 for 5 days of the week with one day open later</li> <li>- Make Option 2 - 10.until 6</li> <li>- Main hub should remain open but other hubs closed</li> <li>- Option 2 could be an option if it's a 10-6 or 11-7 service for those working</li> </ul>
<b>Against a reduction in opening hours</b>	135	10.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leave it be, you're messing with peoples lives. You know you can make changes elsewhere!!!</li> <li>- People of Cardiff need our libraries and hubs. Leave them as they are.</li> <li>- Do NOT close further libraries or Hubs!!</li> <li>- DO NOT CLOSE ANY LIBRARIES, find savings elsewhere and ensure adequate messaging so constituents and locals know what resources are</li> </ul>

			<p>available at their local libraries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Library provision is a statutory service. Eroding its offerings to the point where the service is no longer used, and you can justify full closure, does not fulfil this statutory requirement.</li> </ul>
<b>Income Generation / Money Saving Suggestions</b>	112	8.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ask people who access the internet in hubs and libraries to make a donation to the cost.</li> <li>- You may be already considering this, but could income also be generated by sub-letting the Hubs and Libraries to other private, public and voluntary sector organisations who are looking for temporary or permanent hot desking for staff working from home across Cardiff?</li> <li>- Modernise your buildings, insulating them where possible to reduce the cost of heating. Invest in solar panels where practical to do so.</li> <li>- Look at income generation methods. Cut management. If hubs are closed where will excluded people be taught. Hubs are now the centre of communities and are needed to support people mental and physical health.</li> <li>- Look for new income streams. Rent out the space for public hire, sell small items like reading glasses, stamps, cards etc. Charge for computer courses, family history research. Bookstores, cafes, sponsorship from local businesses.</li> </ul>
<b>Hub / Library branch specific comments</b>	103	8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rhydpennau Library is already closed one day a week. I think it is important for it to be open on Saturdays and late one evening for working people. If hours are to be reduced, a survey of footfall should be undertaken to determine least used times and these are when closure could be considered</li> <li>- Please don't close Rhiwbina Hub</li> <li>- Radyr has little as it is please preserve what we have.</li> <li>- Just that as a full time working mum I would like to be able to take my children to Pen-y-Lan library on a Saturday afternoon</li> </ul>
<b>More info required</b>	83	6.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some of the questions are not too clear on implications I.e by using volunteers does the 84k saving come from perm staff members being made redundant?</li> <li>- It would have been easier to answer this question if you gave the existing opening hours of these libraries and hubs for reference.</li> <li>- I don't fully understand the impact of closing an extra day. If it's not used then do it. But I'm aware</li> </ul>

			<p><i>of the impact on mum/dads on maternity leave.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I find this difficult to decide without knowing the visitor statistics to each of these. Partial closures on some days seems a reasonable way forward in a very difficult climate</i></li> </ul>
<b>Generally in favour of downscaling / reducing Library provision</b>	80	6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Closing libraries for one extra day is fine, as long as it does not begin a slippery slope of closing them for good!</i></li> <li>- <i>Close them for more days to save more money</i></li> <li>- <i>Sad but the suggestions seem realistic</i></li> <li>- <i>Although libraries are lifeline to so many, an extra day of closing on the least busy day would perhaps save most money and we would get used to the new opening hours.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Concerns around finding volunteers with suitable skills / losing librarian expertise</b>	63	5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Don't let volunteers replace the library staff who are multi-skilled and have a wealth of knowledge of the book stock, electronic resources and IT support.</i></li> <li>- <i>Libraries very important to the community should be retained with librarians who have the knowledge to support the community and create the joy of learning for children for future</i></li> <li>- <i>It's OK to use more volunteers as long as the specialist librarian functions are retained.</i></li> <li>- <i>With regard to volunteers staffing hubs and libraries, i do not believe that there is sufficient appetite amongst potential volunteers to deliver admin / building roles. I would assume many who volunteer would be looking for more exciting opportunities etc.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Concerns the impact will have on staff - Less Pay / Redundancies</b>	55	4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Having more volunteers sounds like council are planning on making Librarians redundant and getting people to do their jobs for nothing.</i></li> <li>- <i>Strongly disagree with using volunteers instead of paid staff. ALL staff should be paid, there should be NO incentives to lose paid staff for free labour. Free labour is unreliable and will only lead to an increase in local unemployment!!</i></li> <li>- <i>Hopefully people will not lose their jobs if the volunteers option is submitted. More volunteers yes but not at the expense of people losing their jobs.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Comments around Newspapers / Magazines</b>	44	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Hard copies for magazines and newspapers should be available in printout form on request for some citizens who may struggle reading from an electronic device</i></li> <li>- <i>I totally agree with stopping the provision of hard copies of newspapers etc. as it would reduce waste and the need to recycle once they are finished with.</i></li> </ul>

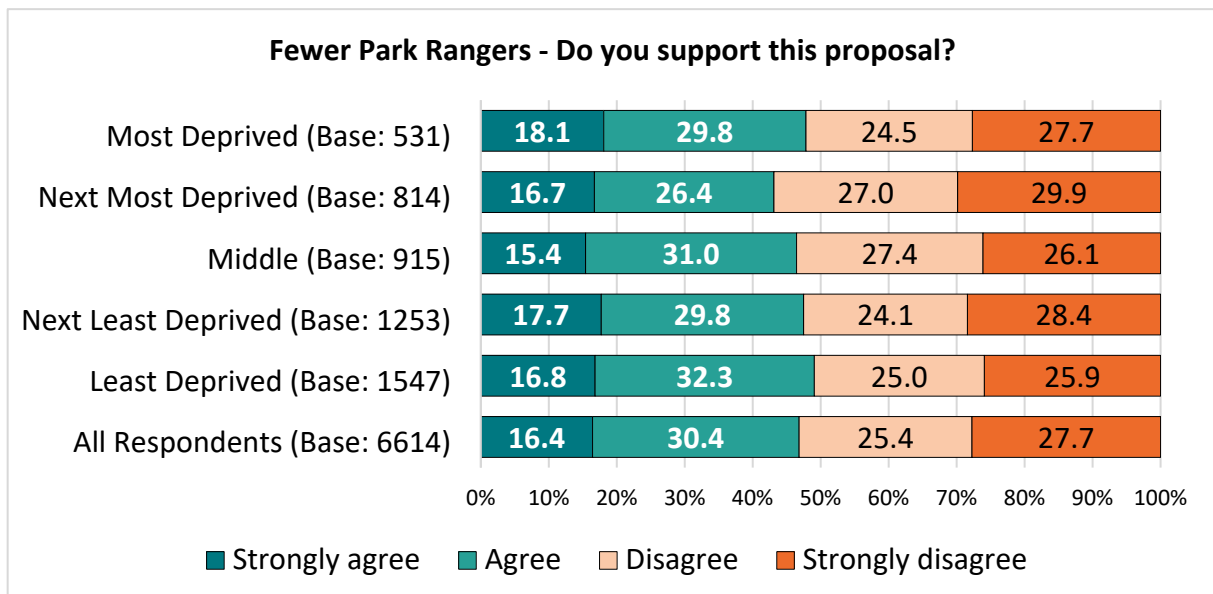
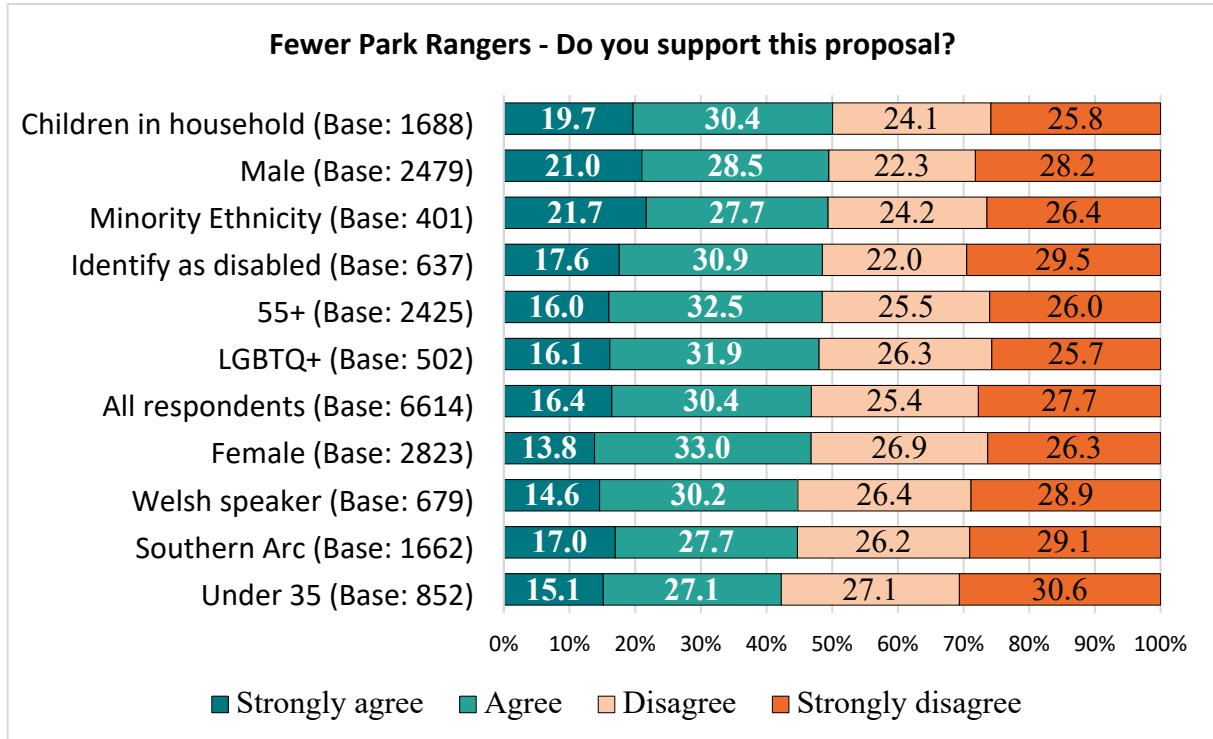
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Instead of fully eliminating hard copies, it might be better to significantly reduce it instead (90%?)</li> </ul>
<b>Concerns around digital exclusion</b>	41	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please don't move to a digital only service; this excludes a great number of the Cardiff population.</li> <li>- As long as there are staff available to help people who are not computer savvy.</li> <li>- It is important to keep the libraries and hubs open and accessible for those who do not have their own computers or smartphones so they can use the services that are only accessible online.</li> </ul>
<b>Savings here are minimal</b>	20	1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These savings are tiny in comparison with other areas and the shortfall you are trying to cover</li> <li>- These options all save such small amounts and libraries are critical for many people. Especially the least well off.</li> <li>- Libraries cost peanuts and the contribution they make to the lives of the people who live in this city far outweighs the cost. These are tiny sums compared to the deficit the council faces and will leave our communities gutted.</li> </ul>
<b>In favour of volunteers</b>	20	1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strongly support the involvement of volunteers to keep Hub cutbacks to an absolute minimum. Our Hubs are really important.</li> <li>- Vital point of contact for the community and volunteer workers should be sought to keep the service as it is.</li> <li>- Dont take volunteers for granted. Sit down and speak to them for their ideas and take them on board. They are probably better placed than council officials to offer ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>Querying why proposals only affect Hubs in North Cardiff</b>	16	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It feels unfair to purely target North Cardiff Hubs. I am sure these are used by many vulnerable people how value the service as much as those in the south of Cardiff</li> <li>- Why do the library closure options only apply to north Cardiff and none are proposed in the other areas? North Cardiffians can read and like to use the libraries</li> <li>- What about the other hubs in Ely for example and Gabalfa - these seem over staffed with less actual members of the public actually in the physical building</li> </ul>
<b>Rarely Use / Unaware of services / Suggest greater promotion</b>	12	0.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As a visually impaired person, I had no idea there was an online ebook service and I've been here nearly 20 years. I suggest you consider making your communications accessible to your residents.</li> <li>- Be more proactive with hubs and library services to</li> </ul>

			<p><i>promote use from all people to make it an attractive place for potential businesses that would match the culture of learning and development.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I don't use them so don't feel qualified to comment</i></li> </ul>
<b>Negative Council Comments</b>	9	0.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>We pay you for the services. You have mismanaged our money. Now you are trying to take them away.</i></li> <li>- <i>This is outrageous.. . Wasting my money and other tax payers... why do we even need you as a council... i think its time to sack all of you and go private</i></li> </ul>
<b>Concerns around potential money wasted modifying / upgrading Hubs</b>	8	0.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Council has invested millions in these facilities, it would be a dreadful return on investment to now reduce access.</i></li> <li>- <i>Youve just spent a load of money refurbishing both Rhiwbina and Whitchurch libraries/hubs and now you want to change the opening hours? Are you stupid or what!!</i></li> </ul>
<b>Mobile Library</b>	8	0.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mobile library should be ceased completely. Provide tablets and a tutorial for those who are housebound and would normally use the mobile library.</i></li> <li>- <i>provide a valuable service to older people and mobile news to be targeted at housebound residents</i></li> </ul>
<b>Concerns around community/ business use</b>	4	0.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Opening hubs to business and community will add management , security and cleaning cost , will this really cover any additional income which will be minimal</i></li> <li>- <i>Llanover Hall Art Space and Hibs should not be given over to commercial use at the expense of current provision</i></li> </ul>
<b>Accessibility Concerns - Poor Public Transport</b>	3	0.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>It is essential to keep the libraries and hubs open for elderly residents especially who use these places socially. There are number of events takes place in hubs especially Rhiwbina which must be encouraged and expanded. All the elderly folks struggle to get into central library due to the bad bus service so changes to Central library will make no difference.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	61	4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Library's and hubs provide vital services to Cardiff and its communities. Making cuts to these services should not be taken lightly. Greater integration between council workspaces for council workers and collaboration with local businesses would be a better</i></li> <li>- <i>Consideration needs to be given to the suggestion</i></li> </ul>



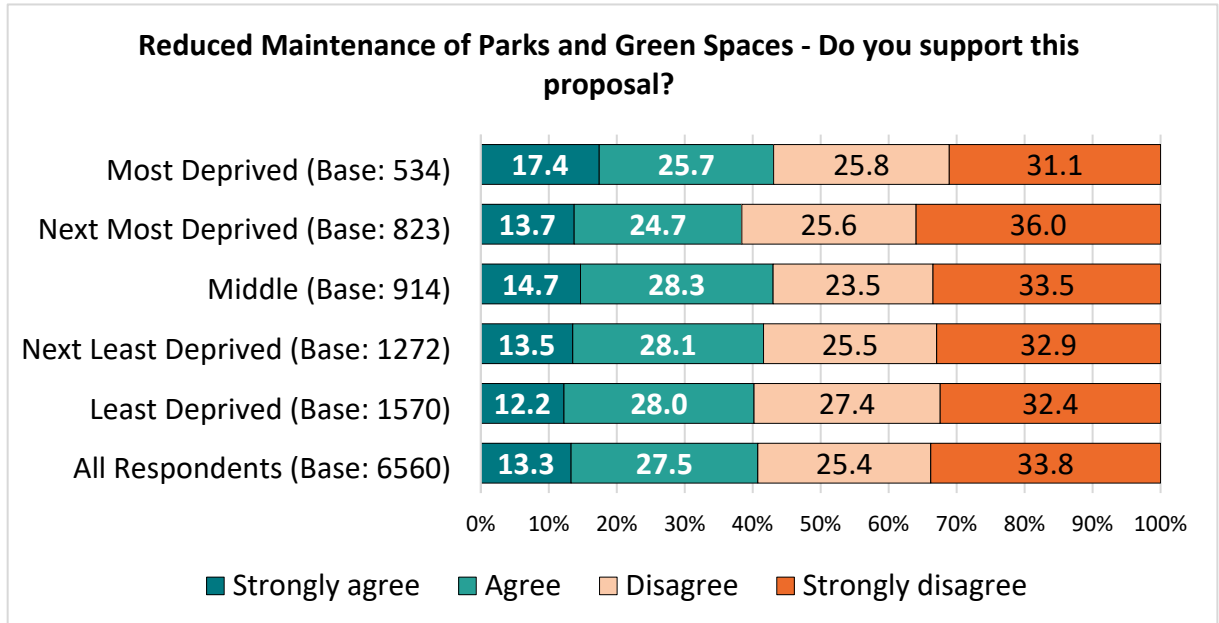
		<p><i>that hub could accommodate banking services.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The questions have been carefully worded to put a positive spin on it....there are implications to what you want to do.</i></li> <li>- <i>Why do we need so many hubs so close together? Crazy that there's one in Rhydypenau, Penylan and Llanishen</i></li> </ul>
	<b>1,267</b>	

## Appendix 5 – Fewer Park Rangers by Demographic & Geographic Groups

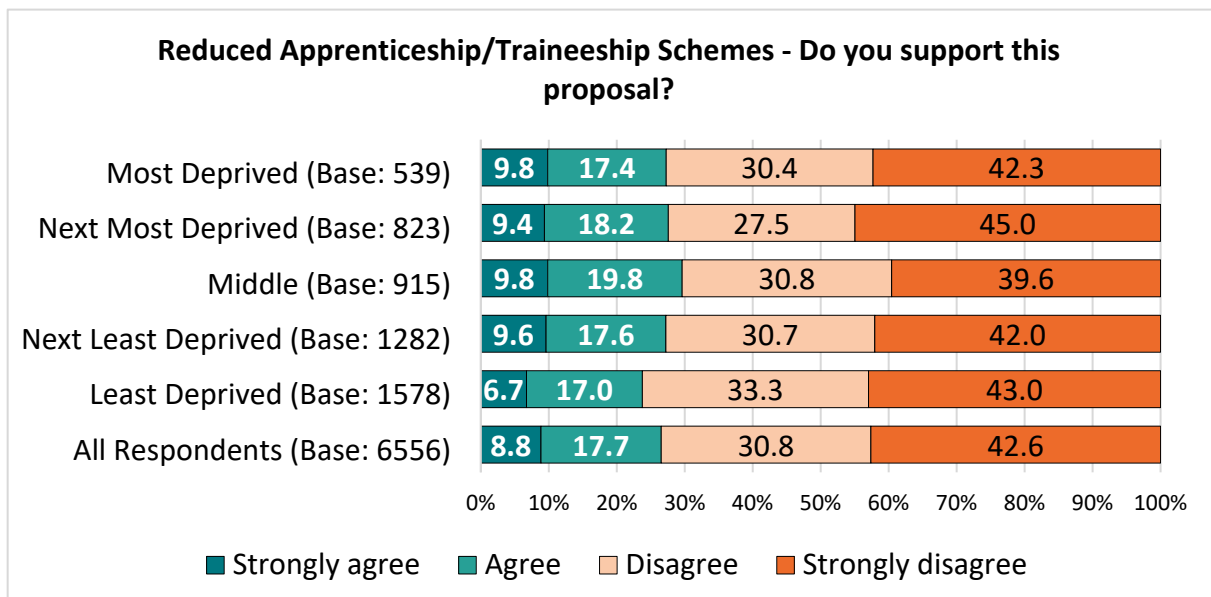
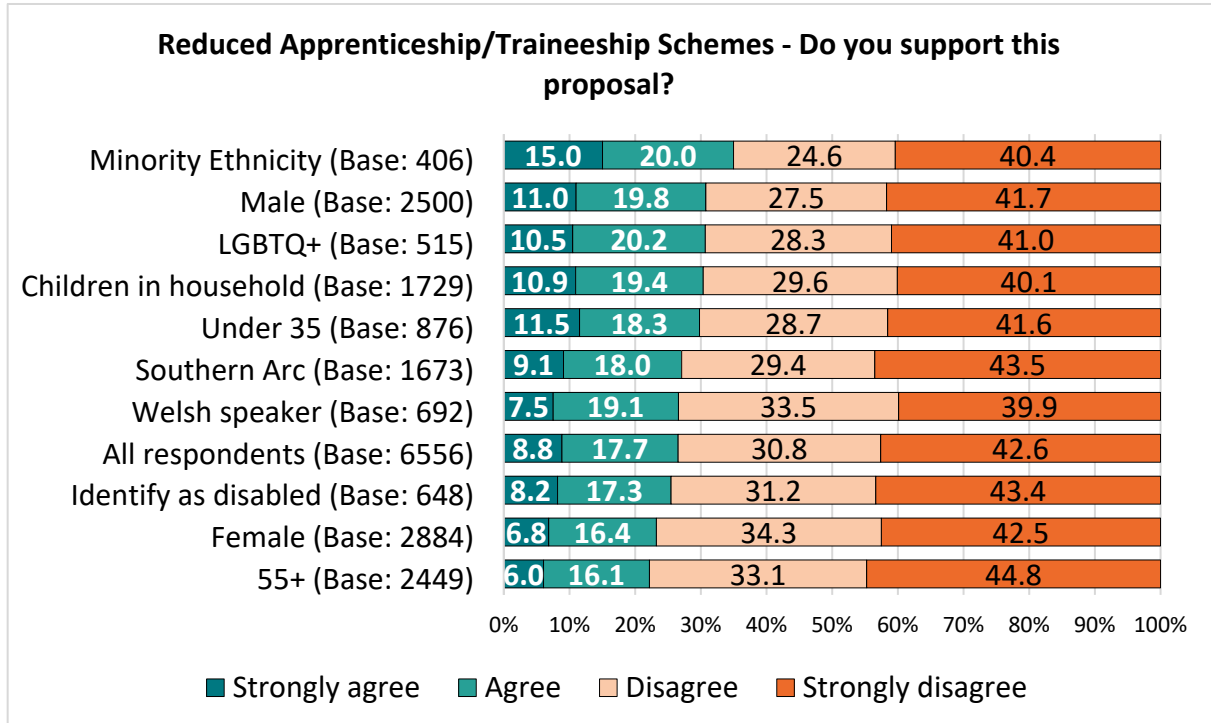


## Appendix 6 – Reductions to Maintenance of Parks & Green Spaces by Deprivation Fifths

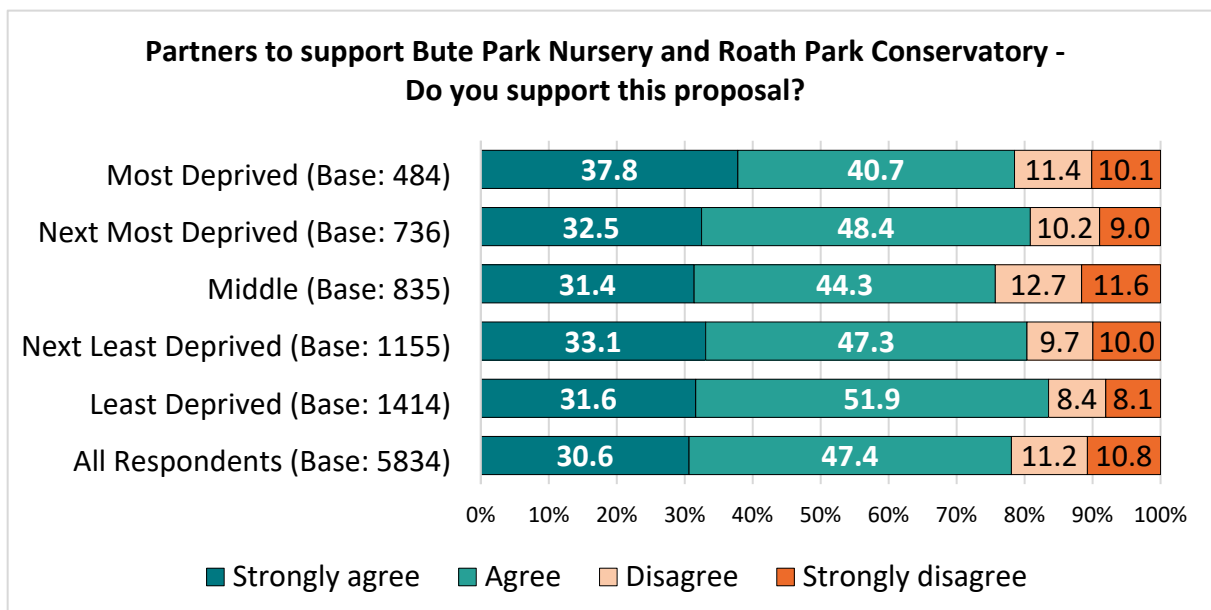
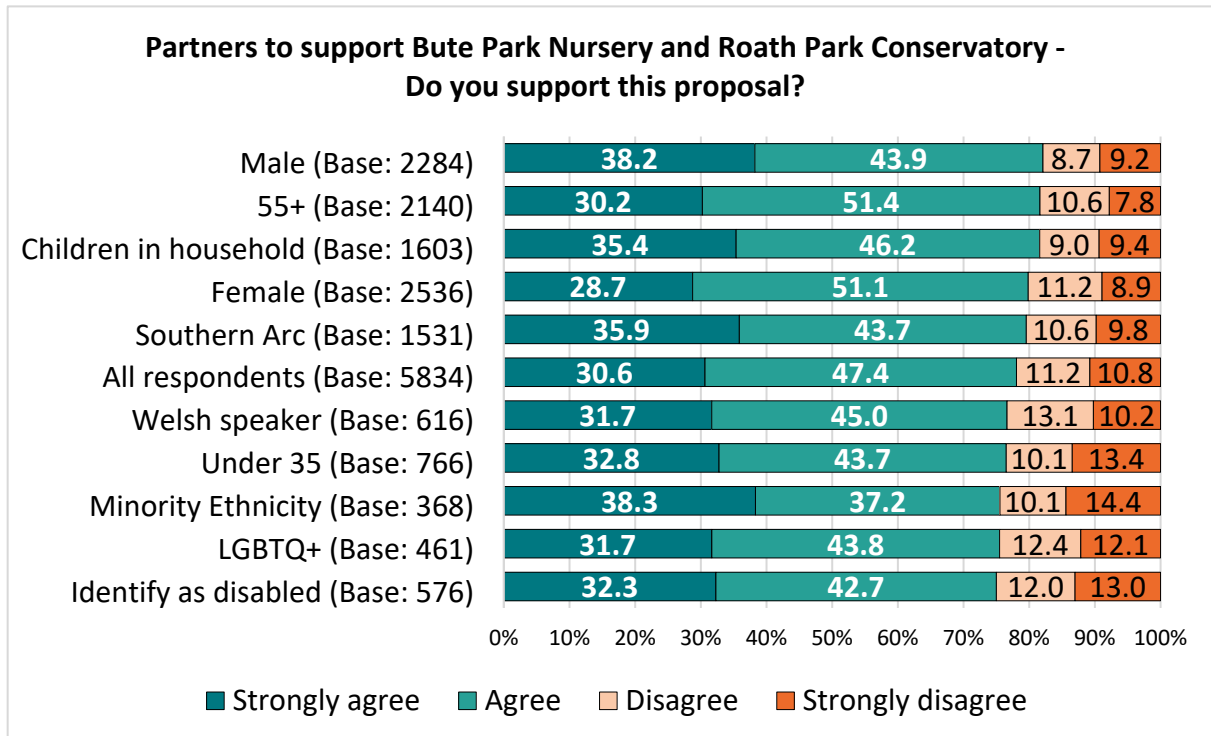




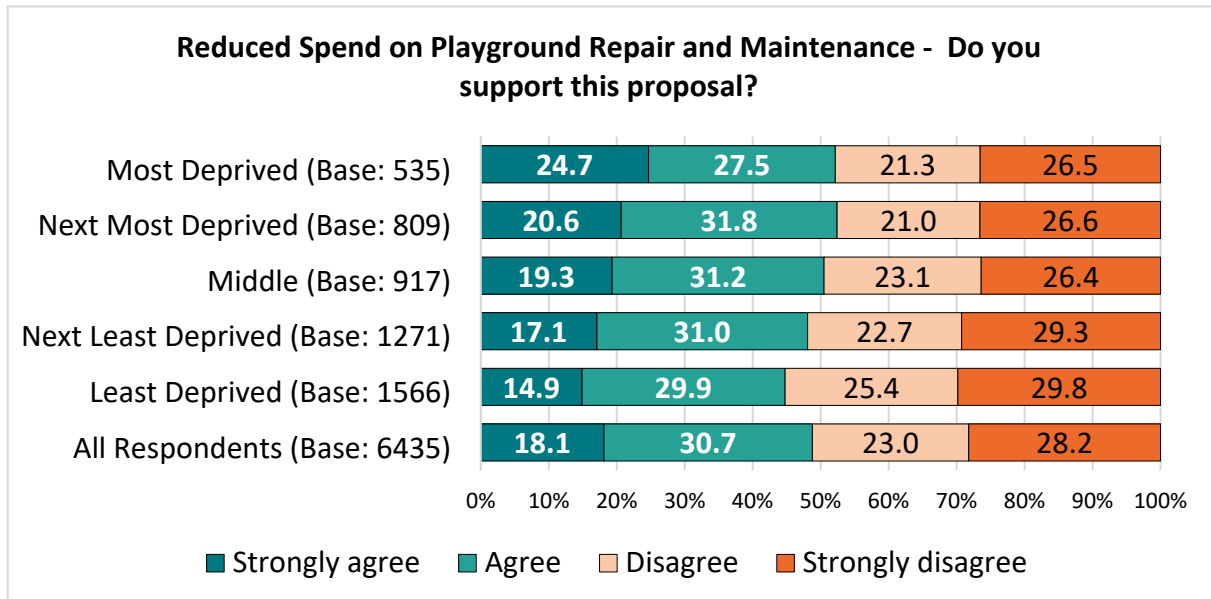
## Appendix 7 – Reduced Apprenticeship/Traineeship Schemes by Demographic & Geographic Groups



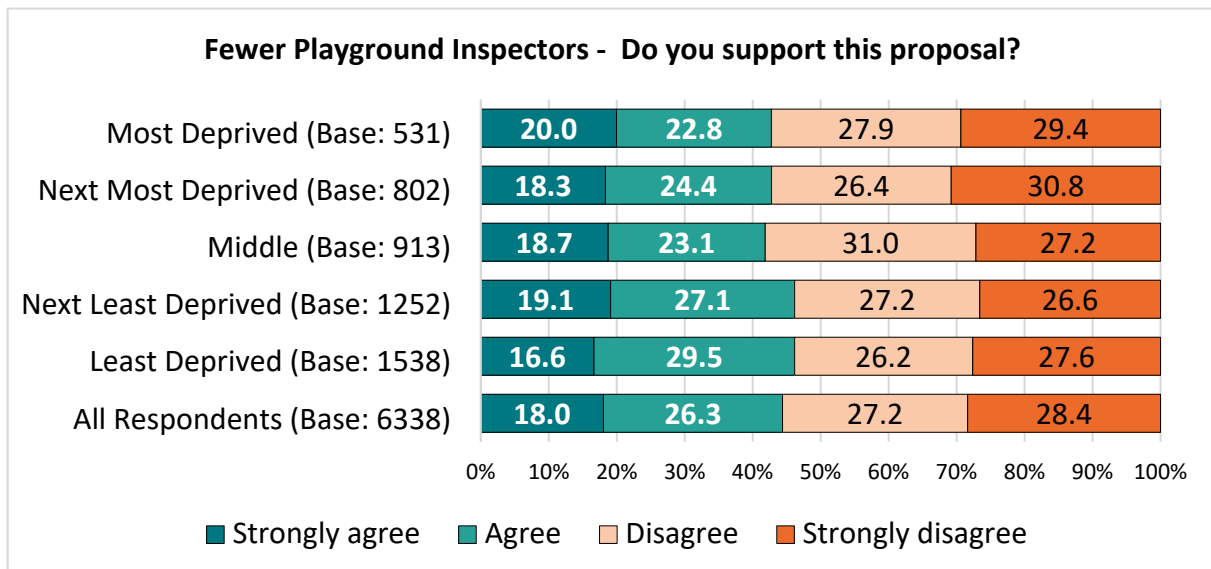
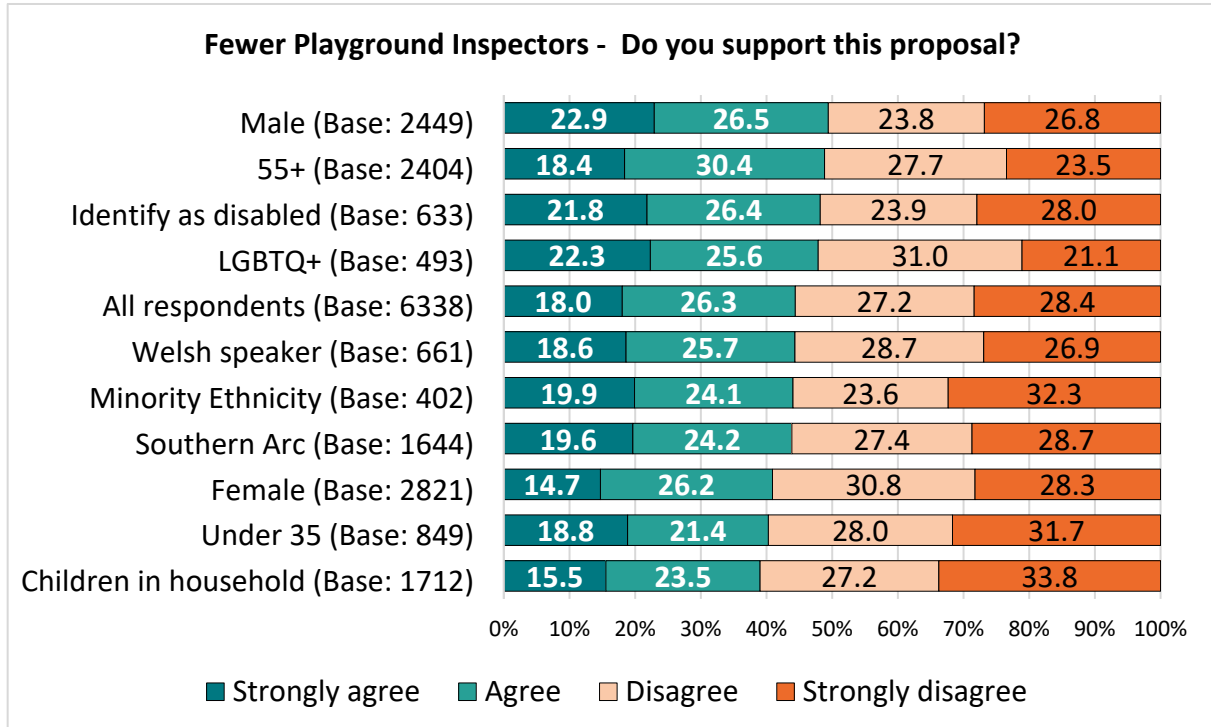
## Appendix 8 – Partners to support Bute Park Nursery & Roath Park Conservatory by Demographic & Geographic Groups



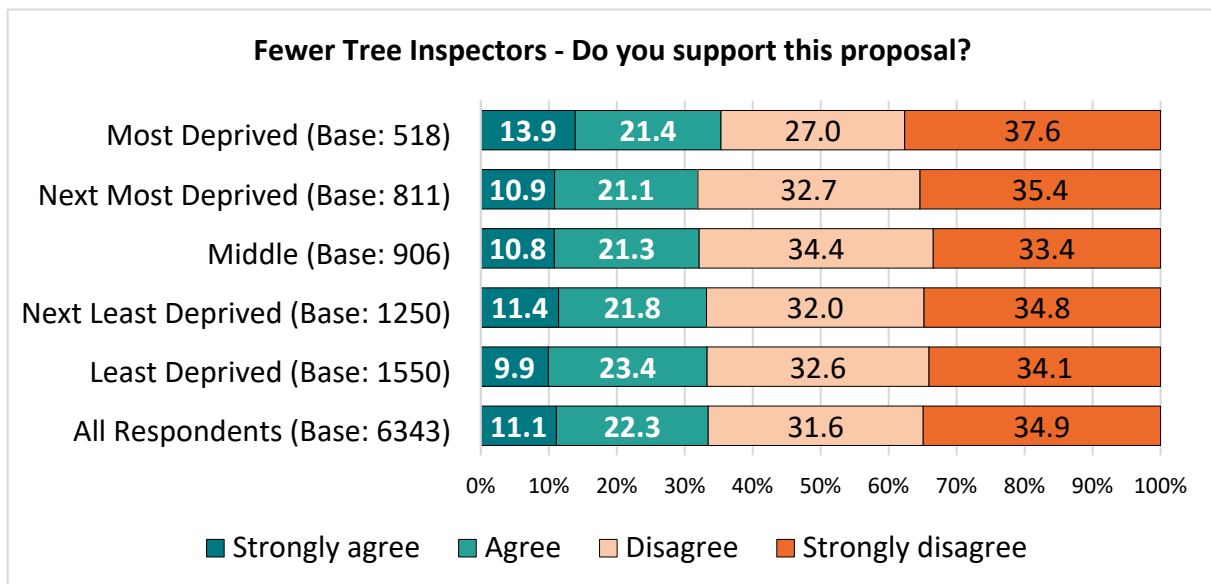
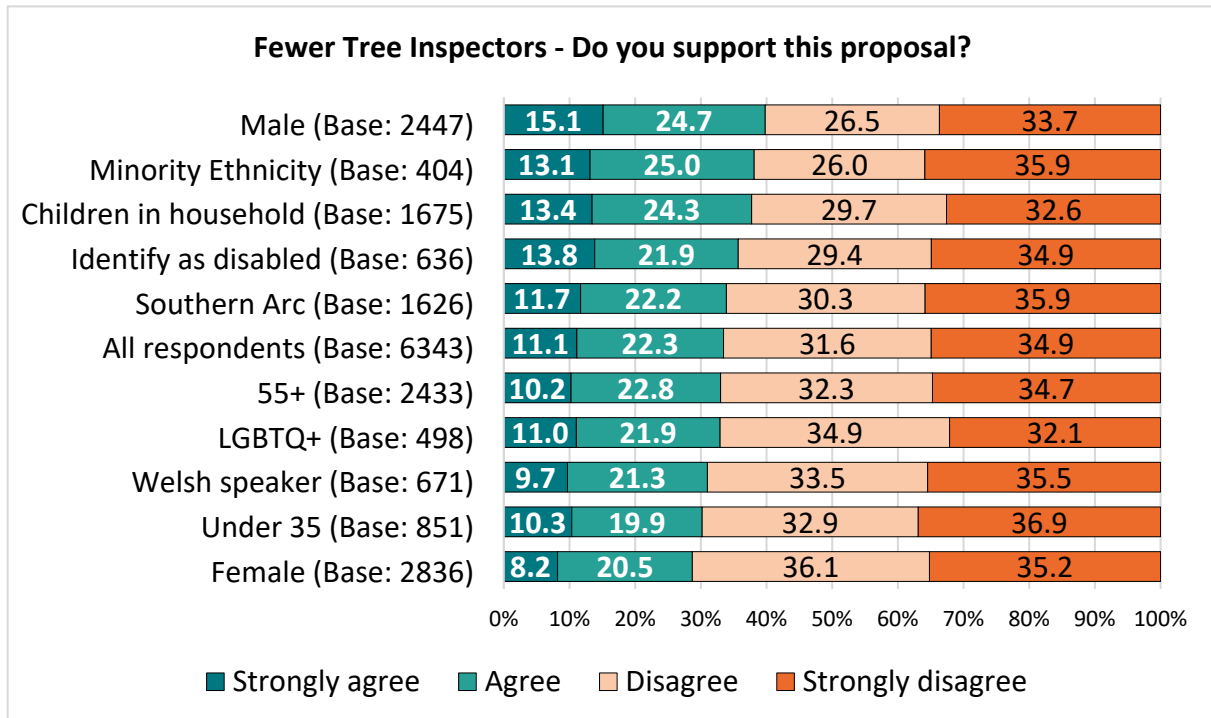
## Appendix 9 – Reduced Spend on Playground Repair and Maintenance by Deprivation Fifth



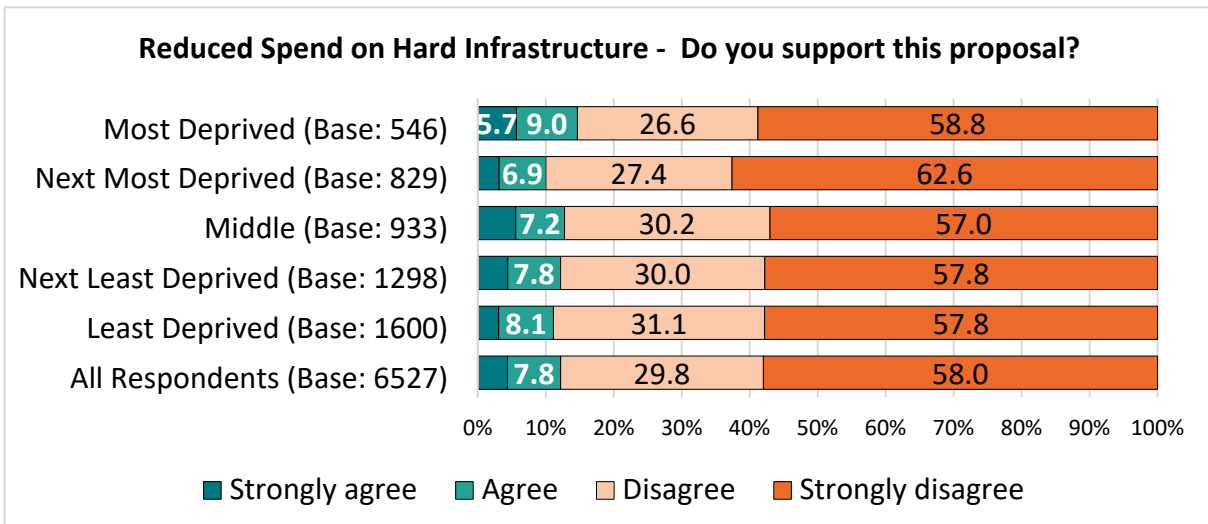
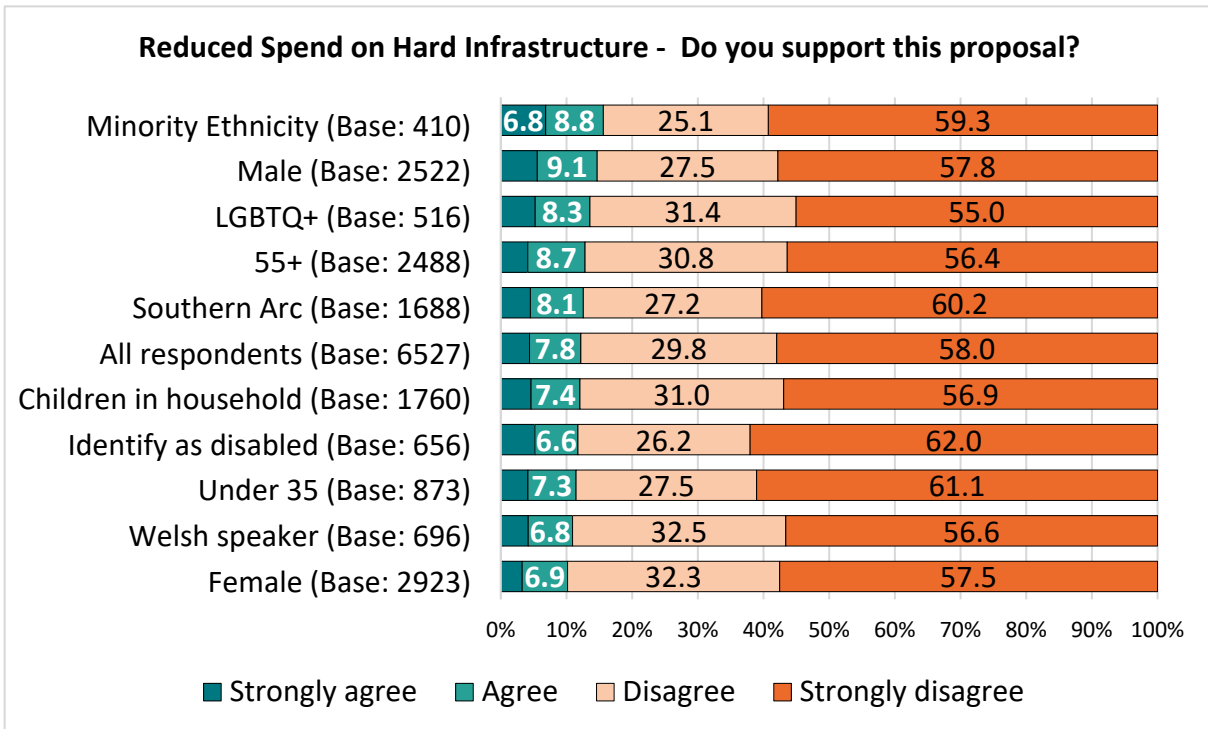
## Appendix 10 – Fewer Playground Inspectors by Demographic & Geographic Groups



## Appendix 11 – Fewer Tree Inspectors by Demographic & Geographic Groups



## Appendix 12 – Reduced Spend on Hard Infrastructure by Demographic & Geographic Groups



## Appendix 13 – Comments on Proposed Changes to Parks

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
<b>Parks are important for exercise, socialising, physical &amp; mental wellbeing, and free</b>	311	20.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They need to be maintained for mental health.</li> <li>- Important for Cardiff population from a health and wellbeing perspective so let's not water down the service too much.</li> <li>- They give support to many people with financial, physical and mental health problems and give much pleasure. Reduced quality of service would be detrimental to all who enjoy these spaces.</li> <li>- Parks are a vital facility for the city and need to be maintained and managed by the council for the health and well-being of all the residents.</li> <li>- Parks and environmental recreational spaces are absolutely necessary. We found this during Covid, and our parks are a great asset to the city.</li> </ul>
<b>Health &amp; Safety concerns</b>	302	20.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Budget cuts that result in any reduction in health and safety should not be considered whatsoever.</li> <li>- Parks need maintaining &amp; kept safe for people to enjoy.</li> <li>- If maintenance is downgraded, accidents will happen and litigation will increase. This is false economy.</li> <li>- Reduction to maintenance could lead to delays making repairs resulting in injuries.</li> <li>- Cutting the budget for carrying out work on hard infrastructure could be a case of shooting yourself in the foot, injury claims because of poorly maintain equipment, footpaths etc could skyrocket</li> </ul>
<b>To reduce would be a mistake / already on a shoestring/not maintained</b>	289	19.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many parks, particularly playgrounds, are neglected as it is. I wouldn't support scaling back maintenance budgets by the degree outlined here.</li> <li>- Parks are already under maintained.</li> <li>- The information you provided suggests parks services are already understaffed and severely underfunded.</li> <li>- They are already looking shabby, no further cuts can be made.</li> <li>- Parks are poorly maintained currently and cuts would just result in neglect.</li> </ul>
<b>Civic pride in parks</b>	193	12.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff's parks make the city, it's important to keep them nice.</li> <li>- Do you want the city to look like a run-down dump?</li> <li>- The city's parks are highly regarded as a jewel in the crown a great city, if anything, more money</li> </ul>



			<p>should be put into parks to create better spaces for people with the lack of garden space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The parks are a huge asset to people of Cardiff.</li> <li>- I strongly disagree with reducing the staff or general resources responsible for keeping the parks maintained to as high a standard as possible, this is a matter of civic pride and as a capital city with many visitors the parks should be maintained to a high standard.</li> </ul>
<b>Hard infrastructure is important / issues already not resolved</b>	175	11.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Hard infrastructure across Cardiff is in a poor state of repair at current levels of funding let alone starving it of more funding.</li> <li>- The money for hard infrastructure should not be reduced. This is a terrible idea given the state of some of the paths and drains.</li> <li>- Many pavements and paths are unusable when the weather is mildly bad so please keep this maintenance budget.</li> <li>- The drains are already poorly maintained causing localised flooding, to half this budget is ludicrous.</li> <li>- Maintenance should be a priority !!!</li> </ul>
<b>Playgrounds and children</b>	149	9.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cutting back on playground maintenance is not good for our first year as a child friendly city</li> <li>- More actual play parks for kids, this requires less maintenance on a regular basis. Why isnt there anything in Bute Park for young kids?</li> <li>- Some of the parks I visit with my granddaughter each weekend are already in disrepair, you cut anymore there will be nothing left for young children.</li> <li>- Don't reduce opportunity for children to play in nice clean parks</li> </ul>
<b>Cuts will damage Cardiff's nature / greenspace. Climate/ecological concerns</b>	127	8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect our green spaces. No cuts.</li> <li>- The council keeps pn about going Green and being Eco friendly. Cutting back on any of the above would not be very eco-friendly.</li> <li>- We are always being told how green the city of Cardiff is. Therefore, to compromise on its services would make the Council look extremely hypocritical.</li> <li>- If there is one thing that came out of lockdown that continues to stay true today, it's how much we value our parks and green spaces. This spaces and the people who maintain them should stay invested in, as it's a part of the city we all benefit from and we are lucky to have these spaces. They are too important to disinvest</li> </ul>
<b>Park Rangers are</b>	115	7.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The park ranger service is one of cardiff council's</li> </ul>

<b>important</b>			<p><i>best sectors. The service they offer city wide is unmatched, would be a great shame if this was to happen.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The rangers do brilliant work introducing more people to nature. It would be terrible if the number of rangers was reduced.</i></li> <li>- <i>The park rangers play a vital role and it would be dangerous to reduce their numbers.</i></li> <li>- <i>Rangers have to be present for volunteer groups to I assume ensure appropriate actions. A reduction in rangers would impact those volunteering in our communities. Surely that support should be encouraged to save monies.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Staffing levels / redundancies</b>	114	7.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I would only support a reduction in the number of rangers if there were no staff being made redundant, and instead being redeployed to suitable alternative employment or making the savings by natural wastage.</i></li> <li>- <i>Reducing job opportunities and staff numbers can lead to stress/increased workload - this may create problems in other areas.</i></li> <li>- <i>As long as the reductions proposed of staff doesn't blunt the proactivity of the various specific occupations affected such as long periods of sickness.</i></li> <li>- <i>No one should lose their job in this area.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Increase community involvement / volunteers</b>	113	7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Would be interested to see what, if any, savings could be made by increasing community involvement e.g. in park maintenance.</i></li> <li>- <i>I'd love to volunteer to help maintain my local park - I don't know how I can get involved.</i></li> <li>- <i>Good idea to use other agencies for example the one that runs Spectrwm in Fairwater who have existing garden/ horticultural expertise and use volunteers and people with additional needs.</i></li> <li>- <i>Look for volunteers and offer training.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Trees / tree inspectors</b>	110	7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>With regard to tree inspectors, why don't you partner with a reputable tree surgeon like TR33 to fill in for inspectors when required.</i></li> <li>- <i>We have loads of over grown trees such as on Celyn Ave by the school round about that block the view. Please do not reduce tree inspectors.</i></li> <li>- <i>Tree Inspection and lopping service is already slow.</i></li> <li>- <i>re Tree Inspectors - Don't get a response now!!</i></li> </ul>
<b>Fundraising &amp; Partnership suggestions &amp;</b>	102	7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Could money be generated from companies advertising in parks?</i></li> <li>- <i>Sponsorship opportunities could be explored with</i></li> </ul>

<b>comments</b>			<p>green spaces in Cardiff. Housing developments and contracts should include tariffs for keeping green areas in Cardiff open and without losing staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Look at revenue generating private/public partnerships to raise revenue from all these assets. Imagine yourselves as a real estate property owner and look at options of monetising every sq ft of land under council control.</li> <li>- The Council should charge commercial users who operate keep fit activities in the parks.</li> </ul>
<b>Change planting/ maintenance approach to reduce cost</b>	98	6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Could look at targeted maintenance reductions for parks. Perhaps increasing no-mow areas which could save money and support wildlife.</li> <li>- Re-wild instead of mowing</li> <li>- The council needs to implement permanent bed planting at all its parks rather than planting new and ripping out after a few months - this will save on cost of plants and also time.</li> <li>- In designated areas stop mowing and introduce "wild meadows" to save money and encourage bees/insects.</li> </ul>
<b>More info needed</b>	87	5.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need figures for some of these that don't have them.</li> <li>- more information required to be able to comment properly.</li> <li>- The services have increased with staff over the years, however is this been noticeable with the public, what extra things have happened since employing more staff? Would be good to see and hear of how having the extra staff has benefited the services.</li> <li>- Without any information that is the potential impact of changes (that is some insight why more park rangers were employed and work that can't be done by fewer rangers), it is difficult to make well informed judgement.</li> </ul>
<b>Cut something else</b>	73	4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Virtue signalling projects like painting rainbows on roads should be cut b4 parks!</li> <li>- Get rid of some of the senior managers who just create meetings to justify their jobs.</li> <li>- Don't waste money on signage in Welsh.</li> <li>- There are far better ways to save money. This is immaterial in terms of cost and yet massively important to residents.</li> </ul>
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b>	56	3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Certain parks are left to be over-run by antisocial behaviour due to lack of maintenance and the general feeling of being left behind.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LESS STAFF MEANS MORE VANDALISM</li> <li>- Parks are absolutely essential to everyone's wellbeing. They are also often not safe places to be and it is extremely disrespectful to suggest cutting park wardens given the awful things that have happened [...] in Bute Park so I'm particularly upset at this suggestion and think it should be removed from the consultation.</li> <li>- Parks and play spaces must not be allowed to fall into disrepair or they will attract an increase in vandalism and neglect. Reducing the number of staff involved in inspecting such spaces will only encourage this to happen.</li> </ul>
<b>Waste/rubbish in parks</b>	49	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The parks are a disgrace at the moment due to overflowing bins. Green space needs to be a priority and the suggestion of sacrificing health and safety for money is a joke and the perks. The person responsible for suggesting this should be let go.</li> <li>- Parks need more bins and rubbish collection</li> <li>- I've reported dangerous litter in the park by Moorland school twice it was not dealt with the mess was there a week later, Its a big problem that needs more resources. Clearly.</li> <li>- Make litter collection a priority.</li> </ul>
<b>Accessibility comments</b>	48	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By reducing the budget on 'Hard infrastructure', it will most likely make public areas less accessible to those with disabilities.</li> <li>- The parks I use tend to be poorly maintained and also unsuitable for disabled children - MORE play equipment and maintenance needs to be undertaken, not less.</li> <li>- Reducing the hard infrastructure by half would mean payments and dropped kerbs even more inaccessible than they are already to wheelchairs. This council really does not care about the disabled.</li> <li>- Parks should remain accessible - the proposal to cut 'hard infrastructure' may reduce the accessibility of green spaces - in built up areas where individuals may not have access to green spaces, it is important that they remain accessible.</li> </ul>
<b>Apprenticeships</b>	40	2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I do not understand why reducing apprenticeships will save money. I am strongly in favour of apprenticeships and there should be more in all walks of life rather than encouraging young people into universities and debt.</li> <li>- How are the Apprenticeships affected, are they not used to train replacements, what purpose is Parks</li> </ul>

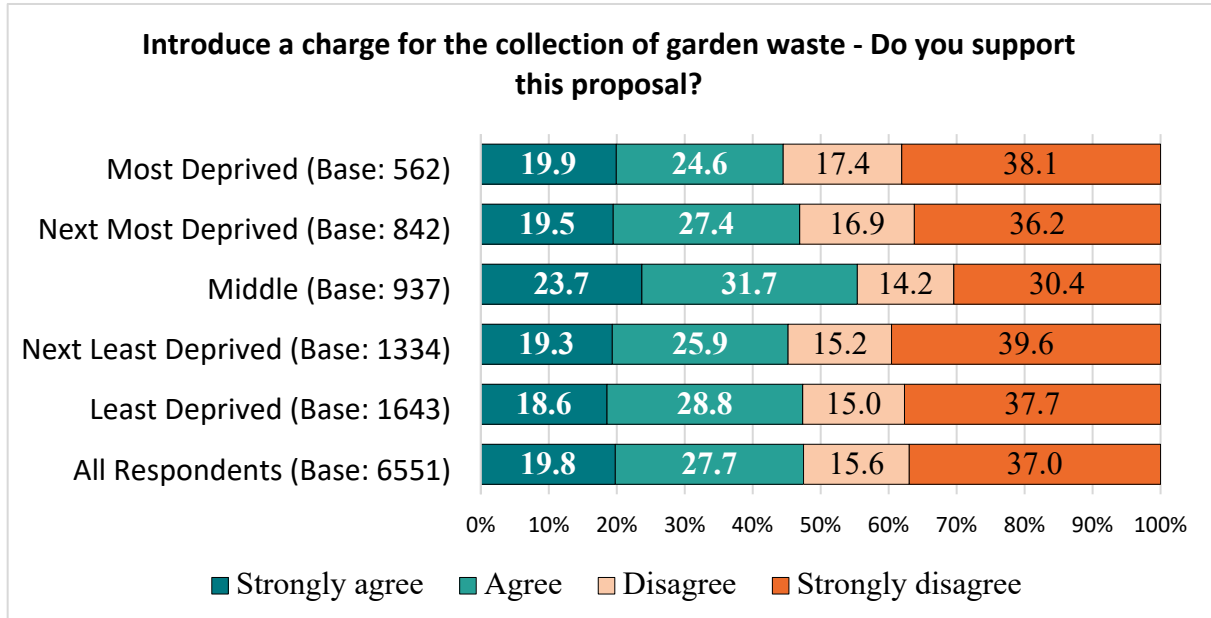
			<p>using Apprentices?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Job promotion/apprenticeships should be a priority.</li> <li>- We need MORE apprenticeship schemes NOT LESS.</li> </ul>
<b>Park Rangers need to do a better job/be more visible</b>	30	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I cannot recall seeing a Park Ranger in any of the parks I use regularly.</li> <li>- The Park Rangers who continue to be employed by the Council need to be encouraged to be more visible. Using Roath Park Lake as an example, Park Rangers are rarely to be seen.</li> <li>- I visit cardiff parks regularly, I have never seen a park ranger. The loss of sapling trees through vandalism has been tragic throughout the city. You need to police our parks better.</li> <li>- No idea you had park rangers</li> </ul>
<b>Why are you spending money on other projects e.g. Canal?</b>	29	1.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rather than cut spending maybe you should stop wasting money on vanity projects like a pointless, ugly canal for £9m or spending £20m on a speed limit change which no-one wants. Oh look, there's your £30m shortfall.</li> <li>- Maybe if the council didn't waste 120 million on a new music venue this money could have been better served elsewhere to cover budget shortfalls.</li> <li>- Maintenance of green spaces should be prioritised ahead of costly schemes such as cycle paths which are used less.</li> <li>- Are you maintaining that canal in the city centre - why do this when you can't manage your current responsibilities. You may have external funding to undertake the project but the ongoing maintenance falls to you</li> </ul>
<b>Sports pitches</b>	27	1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vital that sports pitches are maintained optimally - so much cancelled sport due to weather/pitch quality</li> <li>- I feel by increasing the costs for parks pitches would see a lot clubs folding this would not be good for all the communities within the Cardiff area</li> <li>- Must invest in park pitches for football</li> <li>- Sporting activities should be accessible to as many people as possible, which has health benefits which should result in less pressure on other public services, so charges should be kept to a minimum</li> </ul>
<b>Other parks / areas need consideration</b>	24	1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You only really focus on the parks and playgrounds in affluent areas but not areas such as Greenway Road so cuts you make will take even more away from children in our area which are way more deprived than those in Roath and Heath</li> <li>- We need more parks and green spaces in east</li> </ul>



			<p>Cardiff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They do not invest into outer suburbs like Llanrumney, St Mellons, just ones where the MPs live!</li> <li>- The "small reduction in maintenance of parks and green spaces" would result in the suburbs losing out as focus would be mainly focus on city centre. Personally I haven't seen any improvement in my area in any maintenance without having to complain!</li> </ul>
<b>Proposal for Bute Park Nursery &amp; Roath Park Conservatory</b>	15	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you partner with other organisations for Bute Park Nursery, its Visitor Centre and Roath Park Conservatory are run by the Council, the public shouldn't face increased cost for visiting/accessing these areas.</li> <li>- Any partnership with private companies should have sterling measures to maintain these heritage sites for future generations.</li> <li>- Not really possible to answer the Q about potential new model of delivery for Roath Park conservatory etc in the absence of any information about what the subsidy would be, if at all, and who partnering with.</li> </ul>
<b>Savings need to be made</b>	9	0.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It's a shame , but savings have to be made</li> <li>- Although I enjoy and appreciate Cardiff's parks I understand the financial position the council is in. I support the proposal to reintroduce or reinstate these services as soon as possible in the future</li> </ul>
<b>Park Rangers are expensive</b>	8	0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If Park Rangers cost an average of £42k each then remove altogether.</li> <li>- I am shocked that reducing park rangers by 4 will save £168,000. That implies that they are in salaries of £42,000 each. You say the provision has increased, but in Roath Park it is rare to see a Ranger now and they certainly don't enforce the bye laws. Our parks are our jewels and our green spaces are so important for those who don't have gardens when there seems to be so much emphasis on mental health in our increasingly fragile society.</li> </ul>
<b>Stop building on green spaces</b>	7	0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Again, green spaces are what Cardiff are known for. You are already building on every available green space you can get your hands on. Look after our parks for people without gardens.</li> <li>- Do not sell off public park land to developers (via a need for sewage pumping station despite having alternative options) as you have done with Hailey Park in Llandaf North. Cutting budget for</li> </ul>

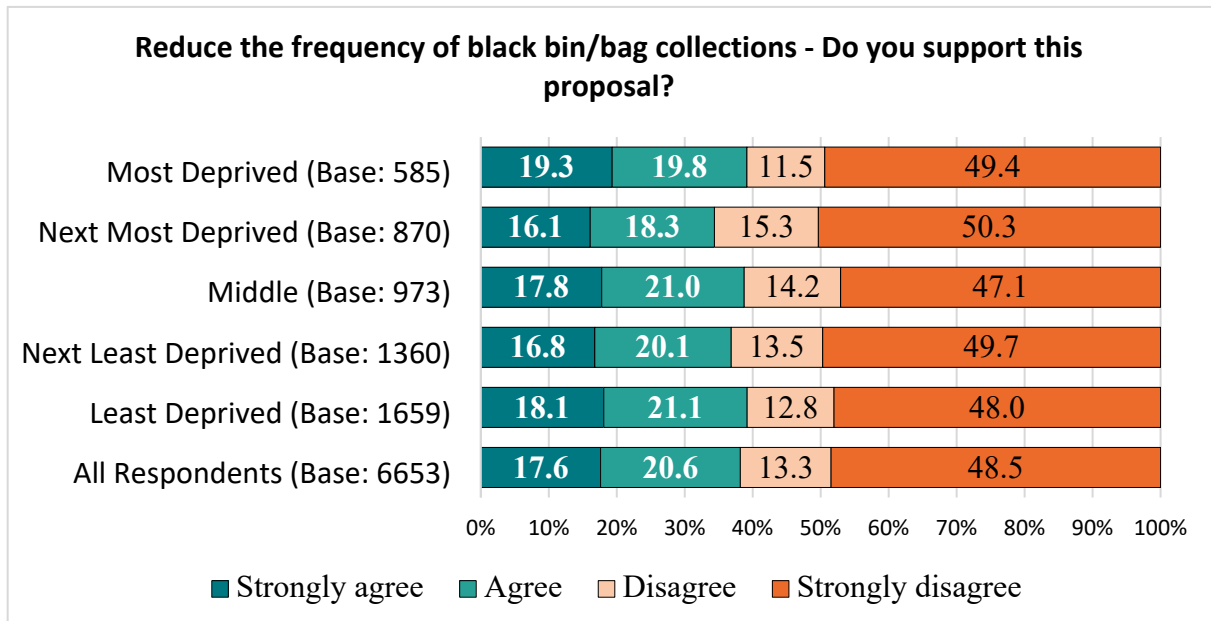
			<i>maintenance seems to have little gain financially in the bigger picture. Do not do this. Value the parks, they are part of what makes Cardiff stand out as a city.</i>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	82	5.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Stop paying cowboys stupid money to do a bad job! You haemorrhage money on some very lazy people</i></li> <li>- <i>We need toilets that open after cafes close. This feels like core infrastructure.</i></li> <li>- <i>Close Roath park conservatory</i></li> <li>- <i>Is it really necessary to close and open so many park gates?</i></li> </ul>
	<b>1,502</b>		-

## Appendix 14 – Introduce a Charge for the Collection of Garden Waste by Deprivation Fifths

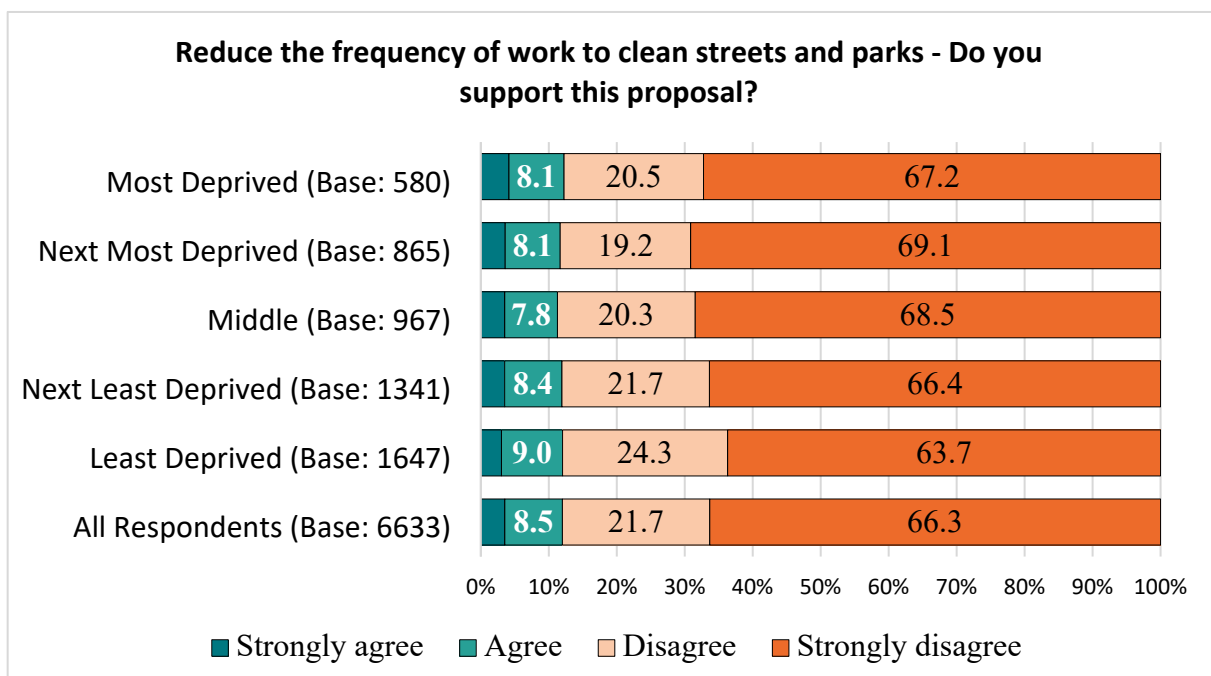
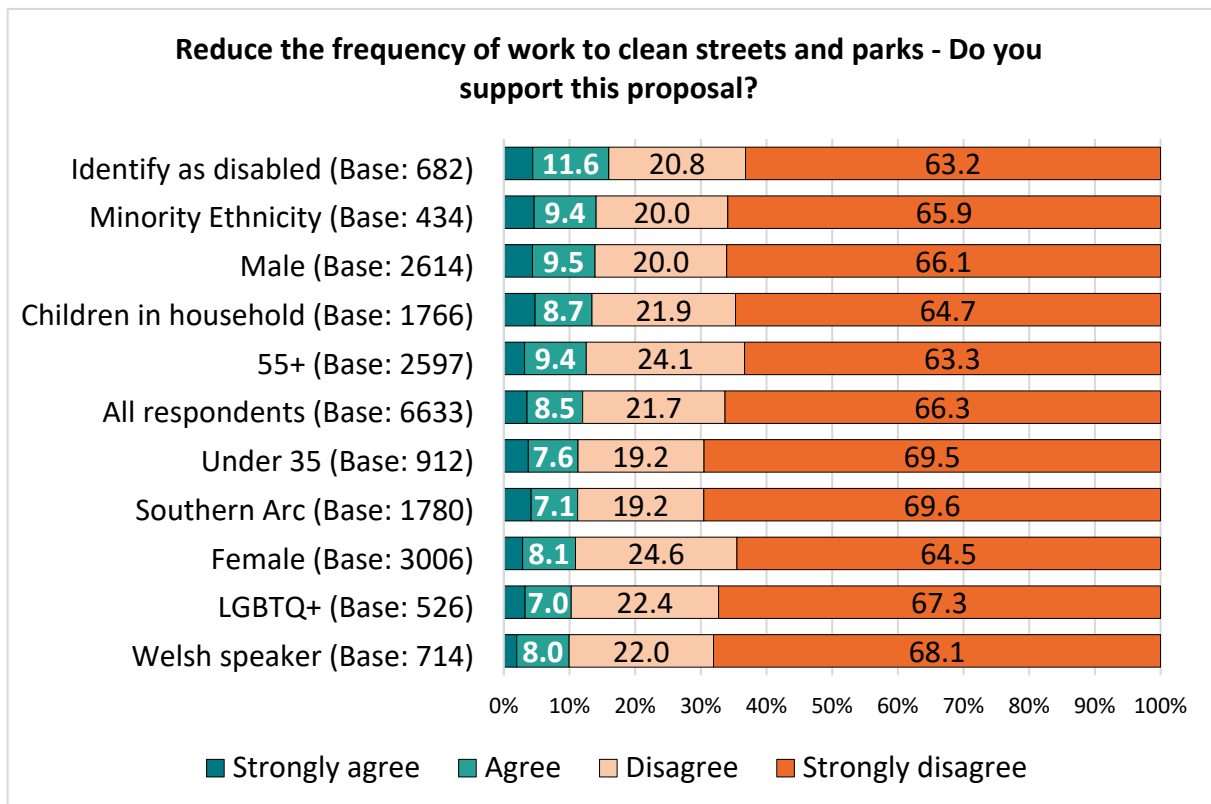




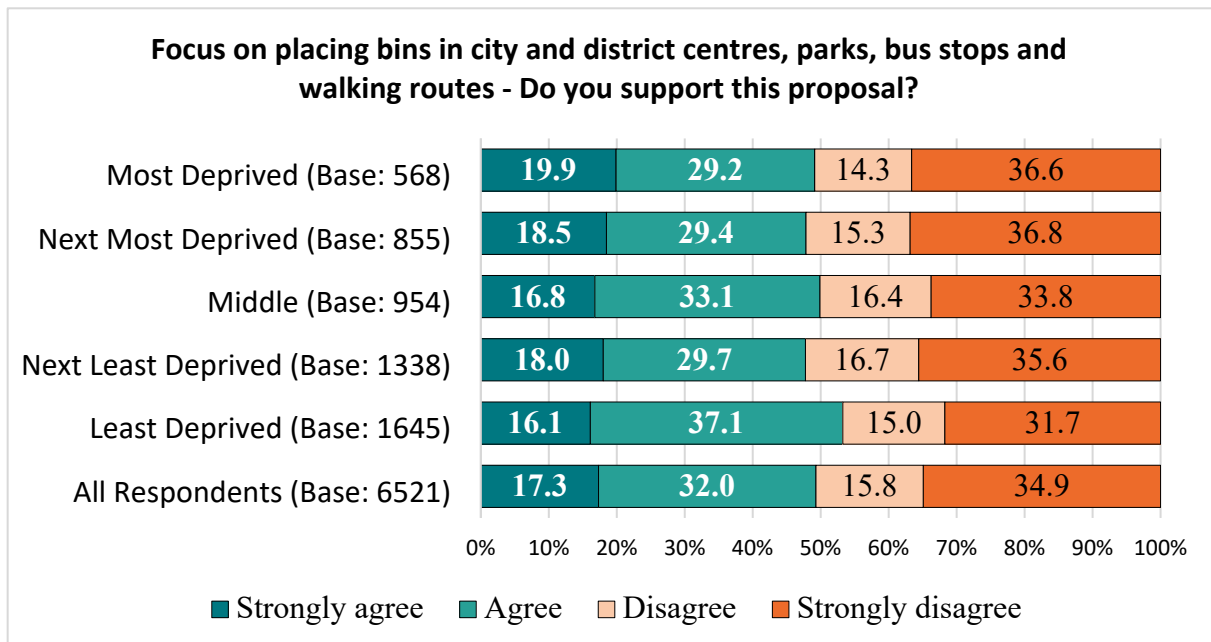
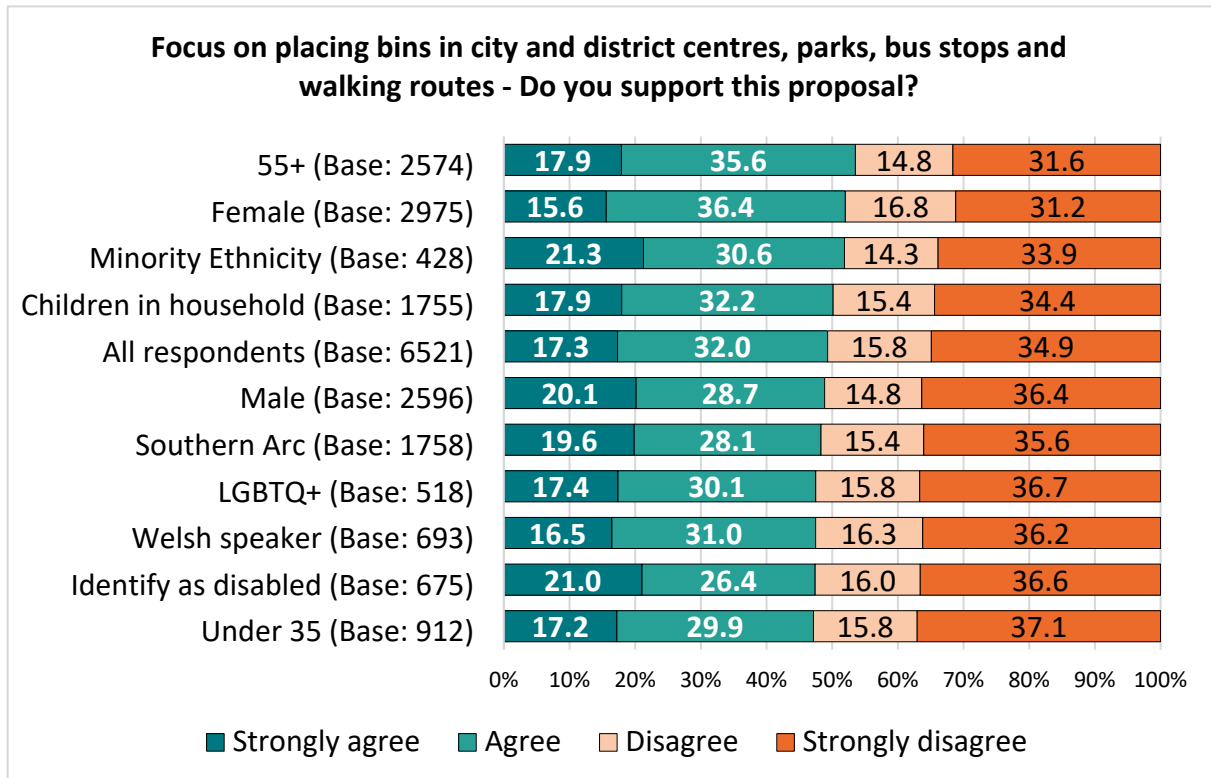
## Appendix 15 – Reduce the Frequency of Black Bin/Bag Collections by Deprivation Fifths



## Appendix 16 – Reduce the Frequency of Work to Clean Street & Parks by Demographic & Geographic Groups



## Appendix 17 – Focus on Placing Bins in City & District Centres, Parks, Bus Stops and Walking Routes by Demographic & Geographic Groups



## Appendix 18 – Comments on Proposed Changes to Waste & Street Cleansing

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
<b>Cardiff is already filthy</b>	893	54.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is it the council's ambition to host the Festival of Litter? It certainly feels like it.</li> <li>- Cardiff is the worst place for litter I have ever lived.</li> </ul>

			<p><i>You cannot reduce services and remove bins.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>An absolute joke. The streets are filthy enough as it is and now you want the public to pay to get rid of their litter?! We can't control our litter, I can assure you I recycle as much as possible and my black bin is still full! You are absolutely disgusting and a waste of space for proposing this. Cardiff is becoming a rancid, boring, dirty little city and you are to thank for that!</i></li> <li>- <i>Living near a park and since the occurrence of covid the prevalence of dog walkers has increased I would certainly resist any measures that reduced the availability of walkers to dispose of their collected dog excrement.</i></li> <li>- <i>Keeping our city as clean and free of litter as possible is a huge priority and reducing services in this area would be horrendous.</i></li> <li>- <i>The streets of Cardiff are already a filthy disgrace. How could you even think of this.</i></li> <li>- <i>Cardiff is one of the dirtiest and most litter-strewn cities in the UK I have experienced - any reduction to these services would have a terribly negative impact on our communities and the potential to for Cardiff to advertise itself as a tourist location and a centre of future economic development.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Black bin collection issues - keep fortnightly collections</b></p>	<p>486</p>	<p>29.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Absolutely awful idea to increase black bins to 3 weeks, especially for families with young children or pets where waste disposal is essential. Hygiene bins in my area have already been suspended for over a month. Also, if a household were to miss bin collection for whatever reason there will then be 6 weeks of waste to deal with. Unacceptable!</i></li> <li>- <i>Reducing black bin waste will only cause people to put more unrecyclable plastics into the recycling bins. This will also increase fly tipping. Families with pets or multiple children produce a lot of waste-most of which isn't recyclable. Further, some tower block flats do not have facilities for food waste. Their bins will pile up with food, increasing pest issues.</i></li> <li>- <i>Reducing these services or charging for them will inevitably lead to fly tipping. Short term saving for long term problems. Black bags every 3 weeks will lead to maggot infestations, especially if the householder and/or council miss a collection. Lamby Way will not dispose of household waste that won't fit in black bins, so more fly tipping...</i></li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not reduce black bin collection. I pay close attention to what is/isn't recyclable and I come close to filling my black bin every 2 weeks.</li> <li>- Reducing black bag collection will encourage rats.</li> <li>- The black bin collections for families are already a nightmare. Single occupancy households have the same bin space as a family of four. I think reducing collections could well increase fly tipping as it's not easy to dispose of general waste, even the recycling centres won't just take a black bag full of general household rubbish so there's nowhere for it to go.</li> </ul>
<b>Against reduction in street cleaning</b>	281	17.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff streets are very poor, lots have significant amounts of rubbish and do not get cleaned frequently enough as it is without reducing this service. It is a problem that needs addressing not cutting.</li> <li>- Street cleaning is important for sanitation, hygiene and also accessibility - keeping pavements safe. At the moment there is a big problem with litter in Cardiff, especially from rubbish bags which have been torn open / left on the street.</li> <li>- I'm sorry, but the streets of Cardiff are constantly dirty. There is way too many rubbish flying around the streets. You can't stop or reduce cleaning because we gonna drown</li> <li>- Streets of Cardiff are full of rubbish, litter and bags full of rubbish. It looks absolutely awful and the proposal to clean the streets even less is mind boggling!</li> <li>- Street cleaning is important for road safety of both pedestrians and cyclists. Both rubbish and leaves create slip and trip hazards.</li> <li>- Many streets in Cardiff are filthy through unfortunately litter louts but also the lack of street cleansing. Any reduction in this area would see Cardiff looking more and more like a third world country. Also many of the roadside verges are strewn with litter. If anything, additional services are required.</li> </ul>
<b>Against removal of Street bins</b>	268	16.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff is already resembling the third world. Removing the bins would make Cardiff even more grubby.</li> <li>- If you ditch street bins, Cardiff will be even filthier. It's embarrassing compared to other European capitals.</li> <li>- The streets are already covered in litter, more public bins are needed to tackle this, not less. More public</li> </ul>

			<p><i>bins may then reduce the need for street cleaning.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Cardiff has a severe litter problem. Removing bins will surely make things even worse.</i></li> <li>- <i>If you take away are bins Cardiff will become an even bigger rubbish dump. The amount of litter in Cardiff is absolute embarrassment. I will start documenting this on social media if it gets any worse.</i></li> <li>- <i>There are so few little bins our garden gets trashed with drink cans, bottles and drug paraphernalia thrown over the wall as revellers walk into town.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Improve services not reduce</b>	249	15.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>This city is filthy, litter everywhere! You need to do more not less.</i></li> <li>- <i>Cardiff is a filthy city already. Whatever the expenditure is at the moment it should be DOUBLED. I am ashamed of my home town.</i></li> <li>- <i>Rubbish collection services are not fit for purpose- collections missed, bags left etc. The level of service should be INCREASED not reduced.</i></li> <li>- <i>Seems that waste collection isn't as frequent as it should be already. Why are you proposing cuts?</i></li> <li>- <i>Cardiff is disgusting as is, we need more street cleaning and litter pickers not less</i></li> <li>- <i>Cardiff has become a '**** hole' with rubbish. Increased presence is needed not less.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Alternative suggestions</b>	198	12.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>If you are going to charge people to get rid of broken furniture, you will indirectly encourage fly tipping - people don't have money, just as you don't. Perhaps the council should do more to upcycle some of that stuff or really investigate how it can make money from so much wood and metal that gets thrown at the TIP.</i></li> <li>- <i>Scrap the appointment system at the tip, allow limitless trips and black bags to be taken there and the issue will go away.</i></li> <li>- <i>Work with local shops and retailers to take in old items instead of the consumer having to use the council for disposal. Some already do but make it mandatory; put the onus on the retailer to recycle the items.</i></li> <li>- <i>Could you sell the compost that is created from green waste collections? Maybe you could buy bags of it at the tips?</i></li> <li>- <i>Maybe bring back community skips. Help ppl who cant get to the local tips and cant afford collections.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Against charges for Garden waste</b>	173	10.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Garden waste contributes to recycling and should continue to be an included service.</i></li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you were to charge for garden waste, i believe you will find that a lot won't bother to keep their gardens looking tidy which will reverse some of the good work going on to keep estates tidy, i don't think people have the spare funds to pay for this service and it should be part of the c/tax budget.</li> <li>- Garden waste shouldn't be a paid collection. Honestly, what a joke.</li> <li>- Garden waste - we should be encouraging areas for wildlife in people's gardens, a charge would discourage this.</li> <li>- As the council has not collected garden waste since September because of the strike; its proposing to charge for a service that's not being provided !!</li> </ul>
<b>More enforcement - Fines for littering /fly tipping /incorrect waste</b>	156	9.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why doesn't Cardiff try to fine people for littering and fly tipping? The city's rubbish problem is shameful. I don't know anywhere in the UK as dirty as Cardiff. Enforcement would help and make you some money.</li> <li>- I would much rather income was generated by actively fining people for littering/failure to follow recycling rules.</li> <li>- Look into enforcement and fines for fly tipping, incorrect waste.</li> <li>- I live on Arran Street which is a fly tipping hot spot and a disgusting mess most of the time due to the businesses on City Road. The thought of you reducing waste services is horrifying and out of touch. If you actually enforced flying tipping charges with a camera you'd make a fortune on this street alone.</li> <li>- Increase fines for littering if possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Encourage and educate people on recycling/littering</b>	151	9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is needed is a campaign of education in all languages in an area maybe engaging with leaders of communities to win the hearts and minds of people not this punitive approach of which just annoys people.</li> <li>- Recycling currently isn't done well where I live, making changes to black bin collections wouldn't change this unless there is more education around what goes in each bin</li> <li>- I live on a street that is regularly fly tipped. It really impacts on our mental health and is upsetting. Can more work be done on education and fining people?</li> <li>- Encourage and educate people to take a pride in where they live and so do what they can to maintain the cleanliness of their surroundings.</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do more to encourage residents to keep their own gardens and streets clean. Projects in schools?</li> </ul>
<b>Against charges for Bulky waste collection</b>	135	8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The more people are charged for bulky item removal, the more likely they are to dump things in the alley or outside somebody else's house! Would any gain in charges be greater than the council's cost of collecting fly-tipped items?</li> <li>- Huge issues with littering/fly tipping in Cardiff. Charging for bulky waste will encourage this.</li> <li>- The savings for bulky waste are not really that huge in comparison to other potential savings elsewhere and fly tipping is already a huge problem, and charging for bulky waste collections would make this much worse.</li> <li>- Charging for bulky waste collection could lead to more fly tipping so suggest the proposed costs are removed and the booking fee is definitely removed.</li> <li>- Charging for bulk waste disposal will likely lead to an increase in fly tipping.</li> </ul>
<b>Recycling comments - Kerbside collection/recycling centres/green bags</b>	143	8.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You always seem to fail to pick up the recycling on the assigned day for collection which only adds to the litter problem we are seeing.</li> <li>- If you want to encourage residents to dispose of items appropriately and encouraging recycling, the council need to make sure that they collect items as promised. Too often items are left outside houses because promises are not kept or guidance about collection days are incorrect.</li> <li>- You have wasted money on the current red and blue bag recycling 'pilot' in North Cardiff, and keep stating residents should recycle more, but the bags are no big enough/fit for purpose!!</li> <li>- Why are there separate bins/bags for recycling and glass when it all goes in the same lorry?</li> <li>- Separate recycling as the rest of Wales does. Make tetrapack recyclable kerbside.</li> </ul>
<b>Local action Teams comments</b>	88	5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why should council estates have Local Action Teams? The rest of us have to keep our own gardens tidy without the nanny state cleaning up after us.</li> <li>- Surely people who live in estates where there are a high number of council homes should have some measure of responsibility for their community and not rely on someone from the council to do it for them.</li> <li>- The action teams are one of the better ideas. Their work is valuable in areas such as Ely.</li> <li>- this service should not be limited to areas of council</li> </ul>



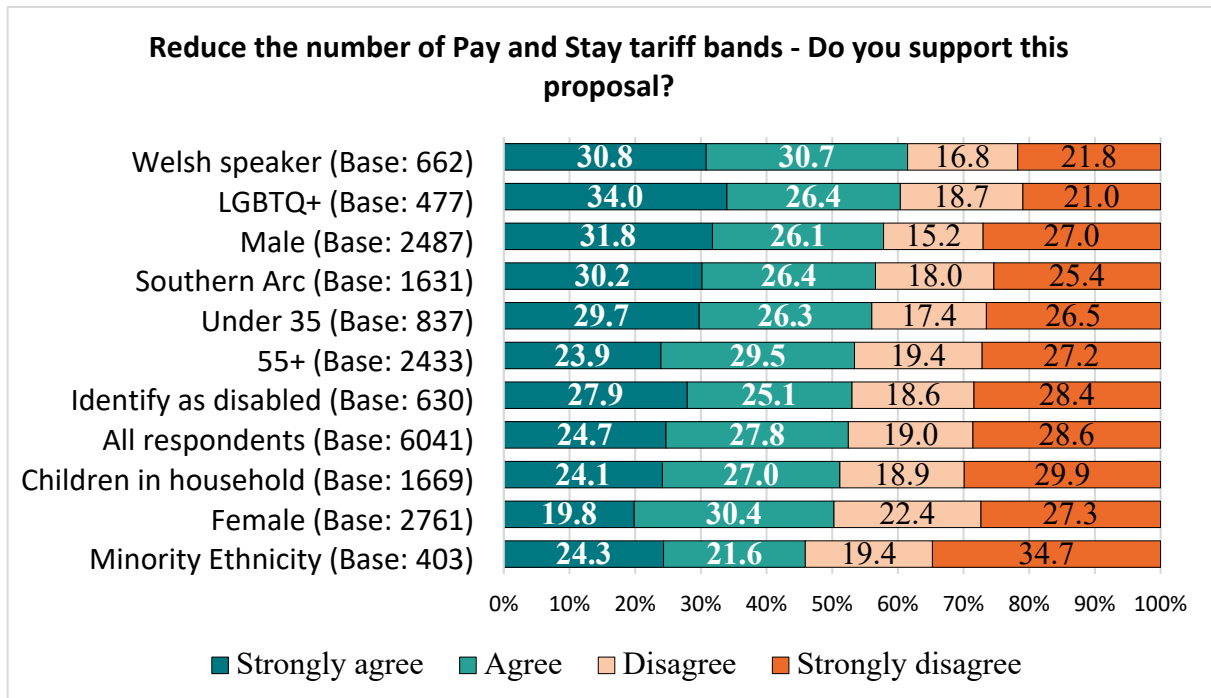
			homes. Local action teams are required throughout the city.
<b>Garden waste comments</b>	84	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OK to charge for garden waste but the service has to be reliable.</li> <li>- If charging for garden waste, collections should also be every two weeks and penalties if collection dates are not met. Consideration should be given to outsourcing with enforceable contracts.</li> <li>- I don't mind garden waste charges if they actually turn up. So many times I put the garden bin out and no one came. Maddening. I already paid for the bags...</li> <li>- If charges for green bins are introduced, there needs to be a significant upscaling of the quality of services - i.e. collections actually happening as scheduled and for longer during the year.</li> </ul>
<b>Council tax comments</b>	81	4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why are we paying council tax if everything else will need to be paid for on top? These proposals are shameful.</li> <li>- The waste service is already extremely poor and given the amount if council tax we pay, i will not pay additional cost unless council tax is scrapped.</li> <li>- What exactly do we pay so much for again? Stop giving out massive salaries, cut management and pensions...</li> <li>- What is the council tax used for? Certainty not waste collection.</li> </ul>
<b>Do not cut these services - funding for Waste must be prioritised as an essential service</b>	64	3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is not the area to cut the budget. The health implications and general cleanliness of the city would significantly deteriorate.</li> <li>- Parts of Cardiff are filthy. Endless strikes haven't helped. Cutting back on waste and street cleansing should be low on the list.</li> <li>- The waste services are already terrible, please don't reduce spending any further.</li> <li>- The streets of Cardiff are already filthy and covered in dog mess. This isn't an area you can cut back on.</li> <li>- I prefer CC to close all Libraries than to have dirty streets and parks</li> </ul>
<b>Comments on bin collections</b>	57	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pay your workers so they take our bins, streets of Cardiff are absolutely disgusting this past year.</li> <li>- The bin collectors have been on strike for while and rubbish bags pile up. should definitely avoid cutting the service further.</li> <li>- We haven't had regular collections due to strikes and the state of the road /areas were dreadful.</li> <li>- Ive seen a raise in rats and mice in the area due to</li> </ul>

			<i>poor collection times</i>
<b>Proposals must be fair and not discriminate against some residents</b>	48	2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>These changes disproportionately affect those who live in terraced houses or don't have cars. Surely there is a correlation with those two things and poverty. Please find the money in ways that don't discriminate against the poorest residents of Cardiff.</i></li> <li>- <i>I've already lodged a complaint re the proposal to modify waste collection to a 3 week basis, as a ostomy patient this would result in you directly discriminating against me, if this does go ahead i will persue legal action to seek a remedy.</i></li> <li>- <i>Not everyone has a car to get to Lamby Way.</i></li> </ul>
<b>If moving to 3 weekly collection you must provide a larger/extra bin</b>	47	2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Bring back the larger black bins to facilitate 3-week collections.</i></li> <li>- <i>If you have to go to three weekly bin collection, please revert to the larger black bin we used to have, I recycle everything and yet my black bin is always up to the top fortnightly.</i></li> <li>- <i>If you decide to go against popular public opinion and reduce black bin collection further, please provide slightly larger black bins or increase hygiene waste collection to weekly, as it's disgusting to have smelly hygiene waste bags festering in the streets like during recent strikes.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Concerns over people's Health and well being</b>	25	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>There is already a litter problem in Cardiff. Reducing waste and recycling services will result in dirtier streets and more fly tipping, affecting our health and wellbeing and encouraging crime and anti-social behaviour. Volunteers already do a lot of street cleaning, and you will lose their support if services are reduced. It will maybe Cardiff unliveable.</i></li> <li>- <i>Allowing these neighbourhood's to become waste grounds will only disenfranchise the communities, resulting in increased health and mental wellbeing demands and possibly increased anti-social behaviour.</i></li> <li>- <i>Environment is really important for people's wellbeing. Ensuring that everyone in Cardiff is entitled to the same levels of cleanliness is important.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Partly support charge for Garden waste</b>	24	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I would support a garden waste collection where you pay per collection rather than per year. I may only need a few garden collections in a year so would not be happy paying for a full years service and then only using it a few times. I would prefer to pay £5 a collection than £40 a year. Perhaps an</i></li> </ul>

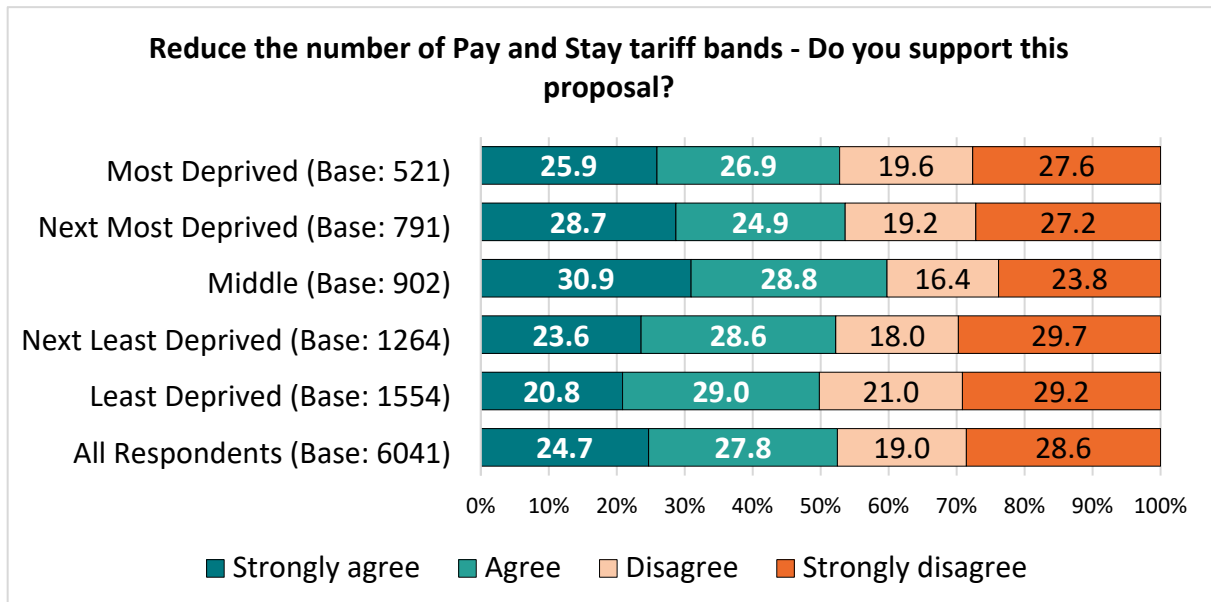
			<p>annual and one-off price could be offered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strongly disagree to all proposals apart from charging for garden waste collection.</li> <li>- I'm not against charging for collection of garden waste, but we use the service maybe once or twice a year so paying for a full year's collections seems unfair.</li> </ul>
<b>Stop spending on unnecessary projects</b>	24	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appreciate this is difficult but really. Question the money that has been spent on opening the Taff feeder.</li> <li>- Maybe stop building 15,000-seater venues and make Cardiff great.</li> <li>- Stop wasting money in unnecessary projects and IMPROVE waste collections!!!</li> </ul>
<b>Partly Support black bin proposal</b>	21	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposals on green waste and black bag collections have been run successfully in other local authorities despite initial resistance has increased recycling.</li> <li>- Fine with 3 weekly bin collections but want to ensure hygiene waste collection for people with babies, those with disabilities etc is not reduced.</li> <li>- While I have agreed with the proposal to reduce black bin collection I'm not sure it will result in more recycling but instead increase fly tipping.</li> </ul>
<b>Partly support charge for bulky items</b>	19	1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that consumers of whatever service are FULLY briefed on charges in advance and are kept informed as to precisely when bulky waste collections will take place.</li> <li>- While I feel the prices for bulky waste are more than fair I'd be worried that people wouldn't want to pay and would dump rubbish more frequently than already happens.</li> </ul>
<b>Partly support plans for street bins</b>	8	0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regarding the removal of bins: as long as the bins are emptied more frequently.</li> <li>- Removal of bins not used makes sense but there are many bins in residential area that are used, especially by dog walkers getting rid of dog poo.</li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	124	7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes to Waste Collections does not mention Hygiene Collections. Half of Hygiene Waste goes in Black Bins. Less Black Bin collections should equal more Hygiene collections.</li> <li>- Residents should be encouraged to report fly tippers</li> <li>- I help with collecting litter with Cardiff council pink bags. So a lot of people help</li> <li>- Councils can easily challenge Welsh Government recycling targets and indeed our black bag waste is burned by Viridor to create electricity and will create heating for some buildings in South Cardiff so isn't</li> </ul>

			<i>really an issue at all.</i>
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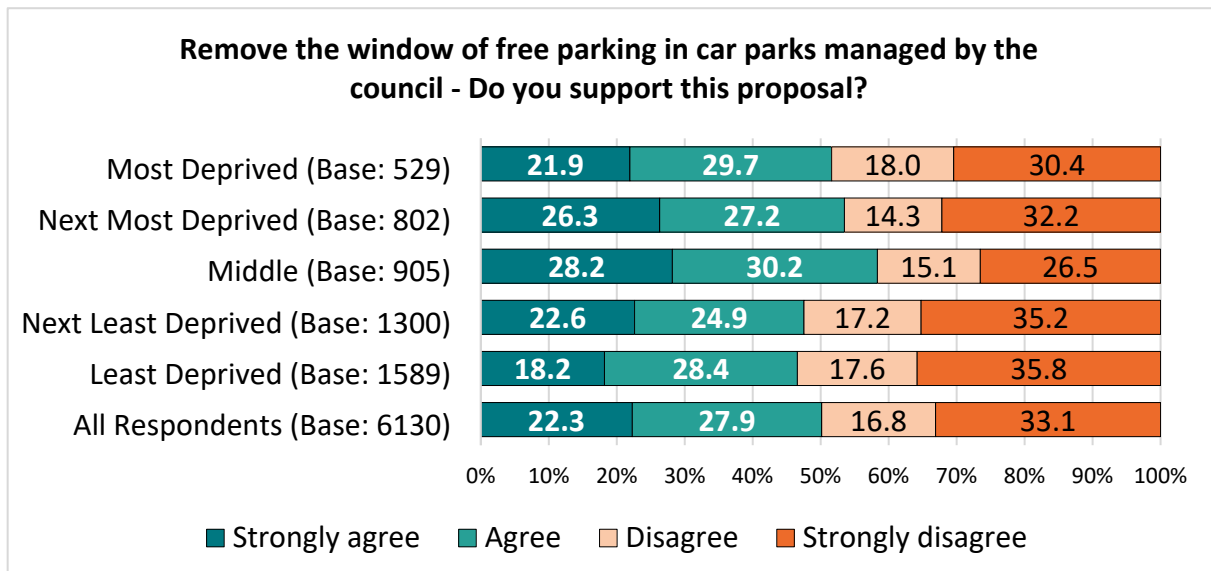
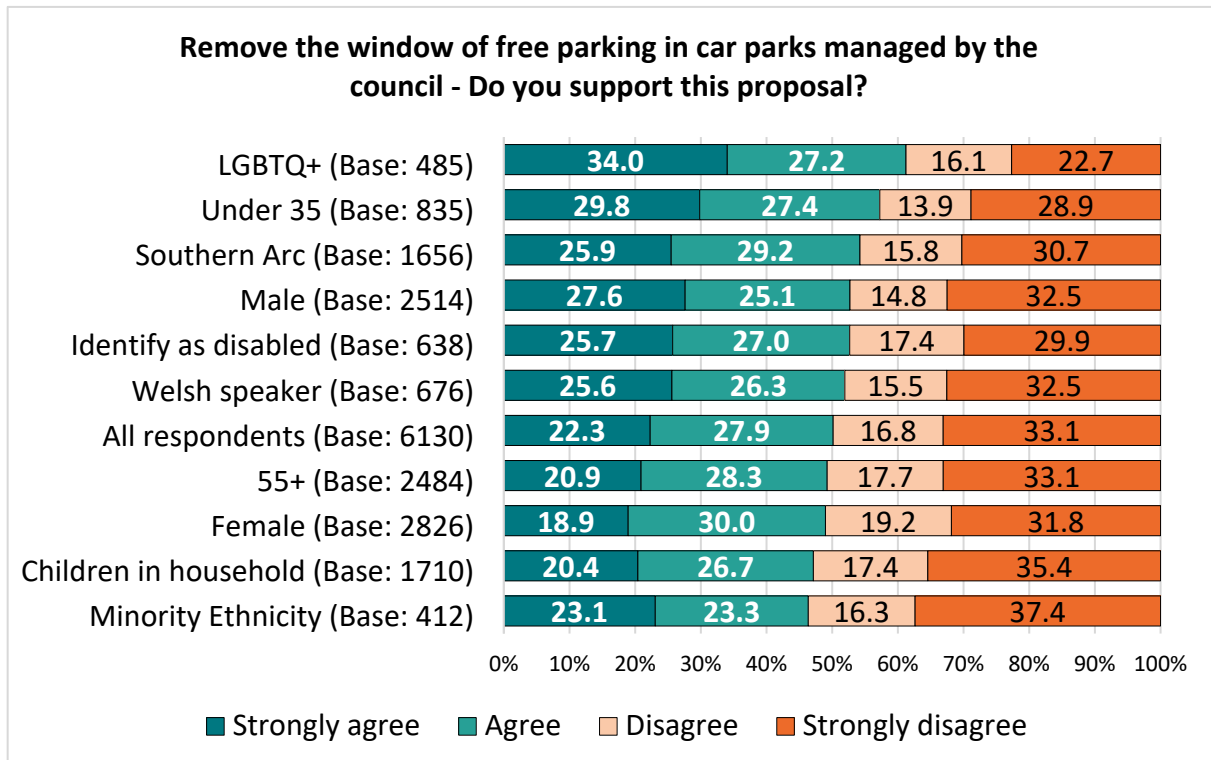
## Appendix 19 – Reduce the Number of Pay & Stay Tariff Bands by Demographic & Geographic Groups



Excludes 'Don't know' responses



## Appendix 20 – Remove the Window of Free Parking in Car Parks Managed by the Council by Demographic & Geographic Groups



## Appendix 21 – Comments on Proposed Changes to Parking

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
Public transport/ infrastructure - is poor / Needs to improve / Recent bus provision cut	552	32.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>More than happy to pay more for parking, but these increases need to be used to fund improvements to public transport so that people have genuine alternatives.</i></li> <li>- <i>Bus services in Cardiff are unreliable and therefore can't replace car services.</i></li> <li>- <i>Public transport is extremely poor in Cardiff and getting worse. I have experienced much better service in other cities I have lived in and when I lived and worked in Europe. This needs to be sorted out first before any other steps can be taken!</i></li> <li>- <i>Public transport is not reliable or frequent or sufficiently coordinated to meet increased demand.</i></li> <li>- <i>Public transport in Cardiff is particularly poor and requires substantial improvement before it is comparable to similarly sized cities - all savings from these should go towards improved transport networks where possible.</i></li> <li>- <i>Let's actually see some form of improved public transport first. Currently it's not really fit for purpose and leaves almost everyone reliant on cars to get around even within the centre of the city.</i></li> </ul>
Knock on effect of proposal - Businesses / visitors - local and city centre	423	25.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Short term free parking can facilitate use of local businesses perhaps reduce to 30 mins</i></li> <li>- <i>Where are commuters supposed to park? Public transport is not an option for many, as it is infrequent and unreliable, even non existent in some areas. Loss of the free 2 hour parking option in suburban car parks will adversely affect local shopping areas such as Whitchurch and Wellfield Rd.</i></li> <li>- <i>The city centre is dying as it is, charging motorist for parking further will reduce people coming into the city centres</i></li> <li>- <i>You are pushing visitors to cardiff away from the city centre</i></li> <li>- <i>The Council seems determined to drive away workers and visitors. Long-term, this will have a devastating effect upon town centres and businesses. It is a very short-sighted strategy. I guarantee it will not shift more people on to</i></li> </ul>



			<p>public transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is important to ensure that any changes do not adversely affect usage of local shops, restaurants, etc.</li> </ul>
Suggestions For more charges / Alternatives to proposed charges	352	20.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reducing pay and stay to first 30 minutes free for quick pick up and drop offs would be better, charges starting after.</li> <li>- Additional permits often required for homes with multiple cars which are part of the congestion problem. Council should not be subsidising households with too many cars.</li> <li>- Cut the Active Travel budget to support parking.</li> <li>- Perhaps reduce free parking to one hour rather than dispensing with it all together. And for the love of all that's holy, get the public transport, cycling and walking infrastructure right before trying to get people out of cars.</li> <li>- Enforcement officers need to check the 2 hour free parking window the system is much abused.</li> <li>- Bring back paper permits so residents can actually see if a vehicle has a current permit.</li> </ul>
Against proposed increase	339	20.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You have increased the first permit cost from £7.50 last year to OVER TRIPLE this year. An increase to FOUR TIMES what it was a few years ago is simply unacceptable with the money seemingly spent elsewhere and not on road infrastructure...</li> <li>- Parking permit went up well above inflation 22/23.</li> <li>- Do you realise there's a cost of living crisis? An increase of £26 for a second permit is scandalous.</li> <li>- The city centre is already costly to park in certain areas and the proposed higher increases would surely have an overall effect for shoppers, as the footfall is already suffering with the high cost of living. I believe certain bus routes and timetables have or are being reduced in some areas, so I don't think that would persuade people to use our basic bus service. I am fortunate that I do not require a parking permit outside my residence, but I think the proposed charges are quite steep, for people having no other choice to park near their homes.</li> <li>- Cannot pass on more payments to the residents of cardiff with the already increasing cost of living</li> <li>- It currently costs me £2276 per year to park for</li> </ul>



			<p>work. Do you think it's reasonable to increase that further on top of all of the other proposed increases whilst you're carrying out vanity projects across the city?</p>
<p>Current parking is expensive / difficult / Better enforcement needed</p>	296	17.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We hold paid parking permits for our street but can rarely park in residents parking due to customers of local business and supporters of cardiff city or Wales/cardiff rugby using these areas regularly.</li> <li>- They cost enough already.</li> <li>- NOT POLICED ENOUGH TO WARRANT HIGH COST OF PERMITS, TOTAL RIP OFF</li> <li>- The parking charges across Cardiff are shocking. Even more shocking to hear the idea to increase the charges further.</li> <li>- The level of illegal and dangerous parking is very high. Put more resources into catching and fining people who are parking illegally and dangerously. Move towards banning pavement parking, like Edinburgh,</li> <li>- Enforce fines for pavement parking</li> </ul>
<p>Against removing window of free parking in district car parks</p>	271	16.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removing the free parking will impact on communities, local shops and services and drive people to go to larger supermarkets and impact smaller businesses.</li> <li>- Parking should be flexible &amp; free in the city to help the businesses.</li> <li>- You will kill small businesses if you make people pay for an hour.</li> <li>- Having a free parking period for short period or time encourages the economy for small businesses, parks and even helps the hospital. This would be punitive on those that need this service the most as they're more than likely more needy. If anything, maybe reduce the time to 1 hour but tbh 2 hours as it is seems fair.</li> <li>- Our local shops (Whitchurch) will be badly affected by charging for parking. Why is there a need to get a ticket for a short stay, when a camera can determine the length of stay?</li> <li>- Abolishing the 2 hour free parking in Whitchurch car parks will result in more street parking in an already overwhelmed area.</li> </ul>
<p>Provide alternatives to the Car</p>	253	15.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff Public Transport is a shambles with busses either not running to time or not running at all. You can not reduce free parking unless you offer a viable alternative that actually works.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We need to put money into public transport to stop people using cars. We need more train stations around Cardiff</li> <li>- The council cannot expect people living in St Edeyrns Village to use the public transport! 1 bus an hour, if it shows up at all, that takes 75 mins to get into town</li> <li>- Resident and visitors would use their cars less (less need for parking) if public transport was increased/improved.</li> <li>- The Council cannot encourage use of public transport when it is severely limited in areas.</li> <li>- If public transport was better, less parking would be needed. This is another tax on motorists.</li> </ul>
Making it harder to drive / War on cars / penalising cars	157	9.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stop penalising motorists to pay for other services and projects.</li> <li>- Stop the war on the motorists.</li> <li>- This is a further tax on car owners that is uncalled for.</li> <li>- Stop attacking motorists with constant cost increases and fines.</li> <li>- Stop using the motorist as a cash cow</li> </ul>
System unfair /Need a blanket charge	146	8.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I would be happy to pay more for residential parking permits however this is only on the basis that parking in residential permit bays are properly enforced and that permits are validly issued. Currently a paperless system means that it is not obvious if someone is parking in a resident's bay without a valid permit for that particular street. Reporting vehicles through the Cardiff Council site whilst is relatively easy it is often to no avail and no parking enforcement officer attends and the problem parking continues This means that there is less incentive to pay for a permit as those who pay for permits have limited benefit as are unable to park in the residents bays</li> <li>- Define "central Cardiff" - would that include Cathays and Roath? Or literally the City Centre? It would be grossly unfair on residents of Cathays, Roath etc to treat residential housing the same as people who drive into the city centre for shopping.</li> <li>- If you reside in an area that does not have driveways why pay to park as those with driveways use the road to enter their driveway therefore causing the same amount of wear and</li> </ul>

			<p>tear. I don't drive but do believe in fairness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please add residential permit to all of Grangetown - only part of it has it currently.</li> <li>- We pay for a residents parking permit but there appears to be no enforcement in our area and the bays are usually filled by non residents so we cannot park. From our viewpoint this is purely a money making scheme.</li> </ul>
Effect on families/ vulnerable / those in deprivation / Workers	130	7.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff, and Wales as a whole, is poorer and more deprived than "across the UK."</li> <li>- These charges will hit the less fortunate. Labour are supposed to be the party of the people.</li> <li>- Could explore subsidy for lower income households?</li> <li>- My only concern is with home care providers and other services who need to park in these spots.</li> <li>- Some ways must be found of not penalizing tradespeople and carers who need to park and drive</li> </ul>
Against parking permits / increase in cost	129	7.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing the cost of parking permits incrementally would be preferable. I feel like I'm being fined for parking outside my own home. Digital permits also make it easier for people to cheat the system and not pay.</li> <li>- Parking permits should be free in the street lived in, with bigger fines for violations.</li> <li>- Why do residents have to pay to park outside their own home? A token payment is acceptable for a permit, but an increase is not.</li> <li>- Why should you have to pay to park outside your home?</li> <li>- I don't think anyone should have to pay for a car parking permit if they live in that street but do not have a drive.</li> </ul>
Happy with increase / Charge more	122	7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resident parking permits are criminally cheap compared to the price paid by those with a drive, who then pay more through Council Tax. £30 for a permit is insane, when you consider the impact parked cars have on traffic it should be more like £3000.</li> <li>- Charge for parking even more</li> <li>- I support car owners paying more towards the cost they impose on others, and the point about free parking subsidising car usage, and space usage solely for cars, is a good one.</li> <li>- I would increase the cost of 2nd permits by more- we are trying to encourage a reduction in cars -</li> </ul>

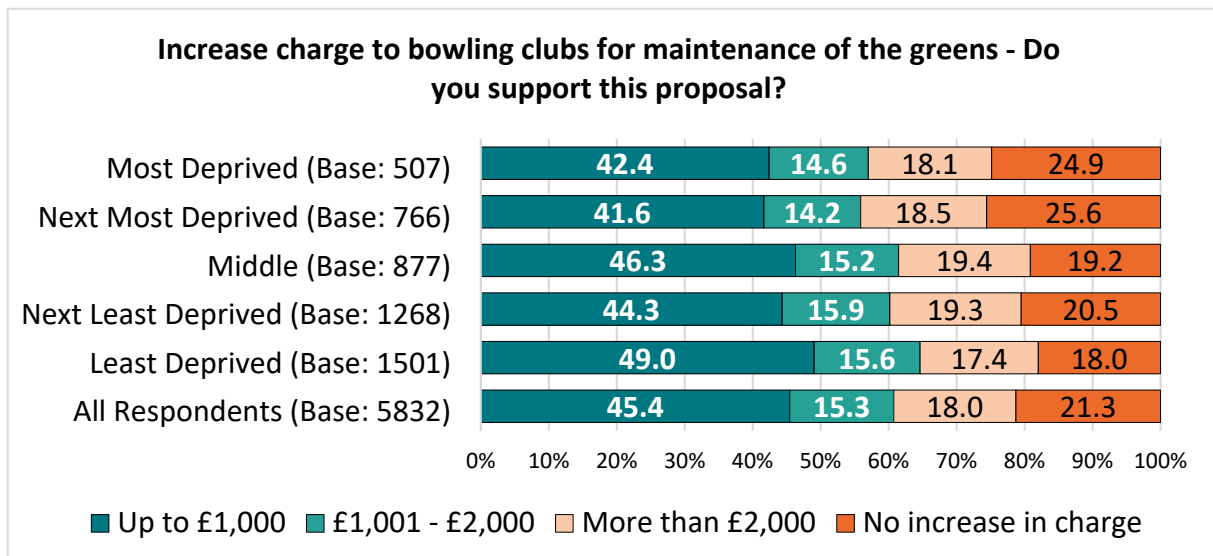
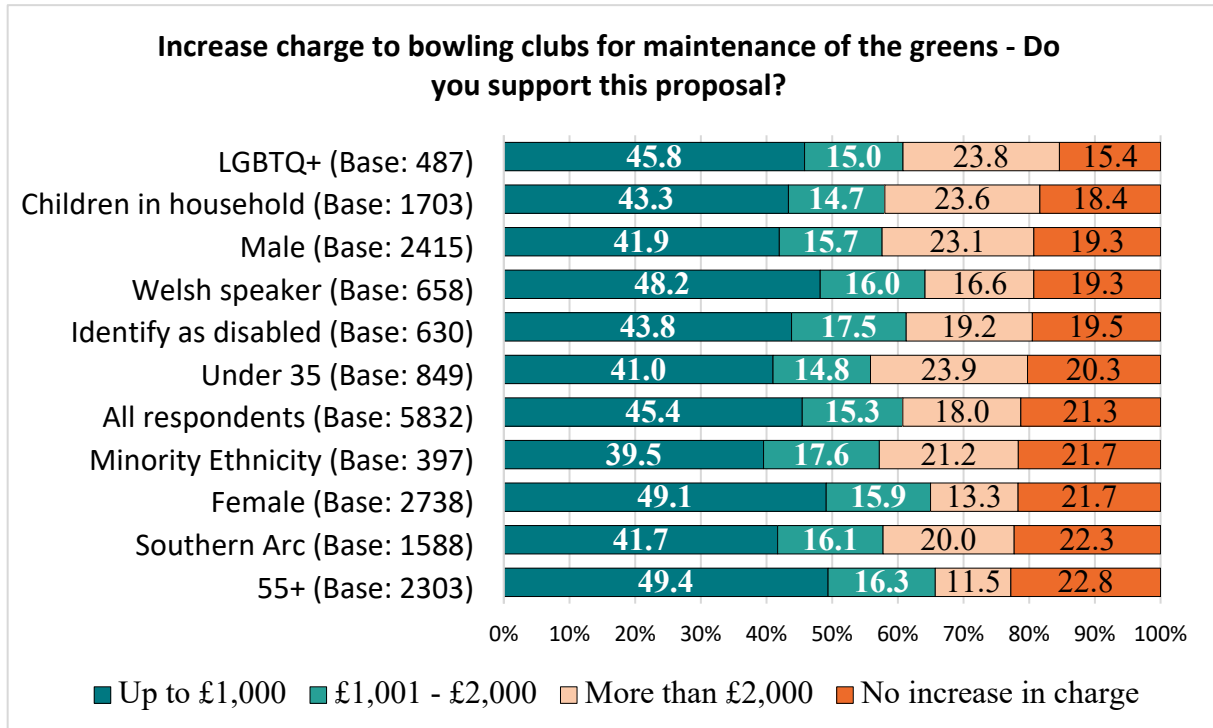
			<p>so consider charging more for a 2nd permit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff council run parking is extremely cheap already, so increases here (especially for residential permits) make sense</li> </ul>
Good to encourage alternative modes	96	5.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I don't have a car and would like to see much greater reliance on the use of public transport</li> <li>- The council should implement a ban on "pavement parking", with a suitable penalty, and enforce it meaningfully. Parking in bike lanes should also be penalised and penalties enforced. If you want to encourage "active travel" you need to take steps to make it safer.</li> <li>- Anything that encourages people to leave cars at home is welcome, walking, buses, trains are environmentally friendly &amp; improve the health of those able to travel this way which isn't everyone.</li> <li>- I recognise the importance of generating additional income. I am also in favour of measures that will either directly or indirectly promote the use of active travel.</li> </ul>
Against increases to parking charges	85	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are no words for this terrible suggestion!!!!</li> <li>- Until you sort out public transport, making it cheaper, more frequent and more reliable, I do not believe people who drive should be punished by being made to pay more for parking.</li> <li>- Parking charges in Cardiff city centre should not increase until public transport is improved and reduced in price.</li> <li>- Increased parking fees will drive people out of visiting the city and associated spending.</li> </ul>
Parking infrastructure concerns	80	4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If the free parking were to be changed to a priced model, I'd like to hope that the machines would be better maintained. More often than not, the parking meters and machines are filthy or otherwise dirty. Would the cost of signage be worth the hassle?</li> <li>- The MiPermit system and application performs poorly frequently, mainly when trying to pay for parking in the city centre. The pay stations are unreliable and the app often indicates a transaction has failed, when this is not the case and has resulted in me paying twice on a few occasions. The hardware has to improve to prevent the whole system coming into disrepute.</li> <li>- I never park in Cardiff Council car parks- cannot use phone payment, don't trust the machines</li> </ul>

			<p>anyway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Think revenue is being lost because the parking ticket machines are often out of order</li> </ul>
Will move the problem somewhere else	63	3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The more you charge the more people will not travel to these areas or encourage illegal parking.</li> <li>- Changes to existing arrangements could lead to parking congestion elsewhere in the City.</li> <li>- Reducing long stay parking to commuters will surly lead to people parking where they should not</li> <li>- Residential park shouldn't be charged more, some street where pay for permits not even enough spaces to meet demand. Herbert street, Cross place, Parkfield place Residents suffer massively due to Talybont students. Council don't want to know !!!!</li> </ul>
Accessibility concerns	56	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please consider the provision of disable parking where the disabled need to visit facilities such as post office, barber, hub.</li> <li>- Many people rely on cars due to the reduction in public transport services. Disabled persons in particular rely on having a car.</li> <li>- As long as disabled parking is not affected.</li> <li>- I don't know if there are exceptions for disabled people, but there should be.</li> </ul>
Need more info	30	1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hard to judge these proposals as you have given no figures for what will be achieved.</li> <li>- Just because other councils charge something, is that the right cost? How material are these savings? There are no numbers put on them? Why?</li> <li>- When comparing to other Local Authorities across the UK, does this take into account average incomes in the area? Is that a fair comparison?</li> </ul>
Environmental costs of cars / benefits for reduction	26	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you are serious about your response to the climate emergency then you should at least be charging for parking in line with your comparators. You should certainly not be subsidising car use!</li> <li>- Cars and parking should be charged even more highly. They cost thousands every year and use vital land in Cardiff which could be used for green spaces to combat the air pollution from remaining cars.</li> <li>- The parking permit should take in account the</li> </ul>

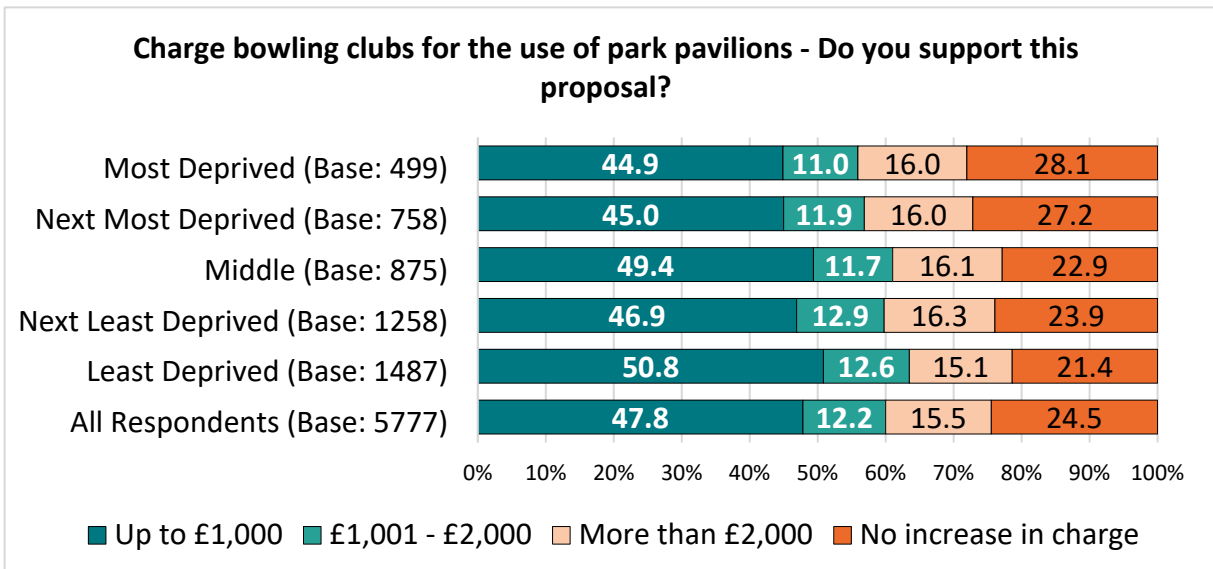
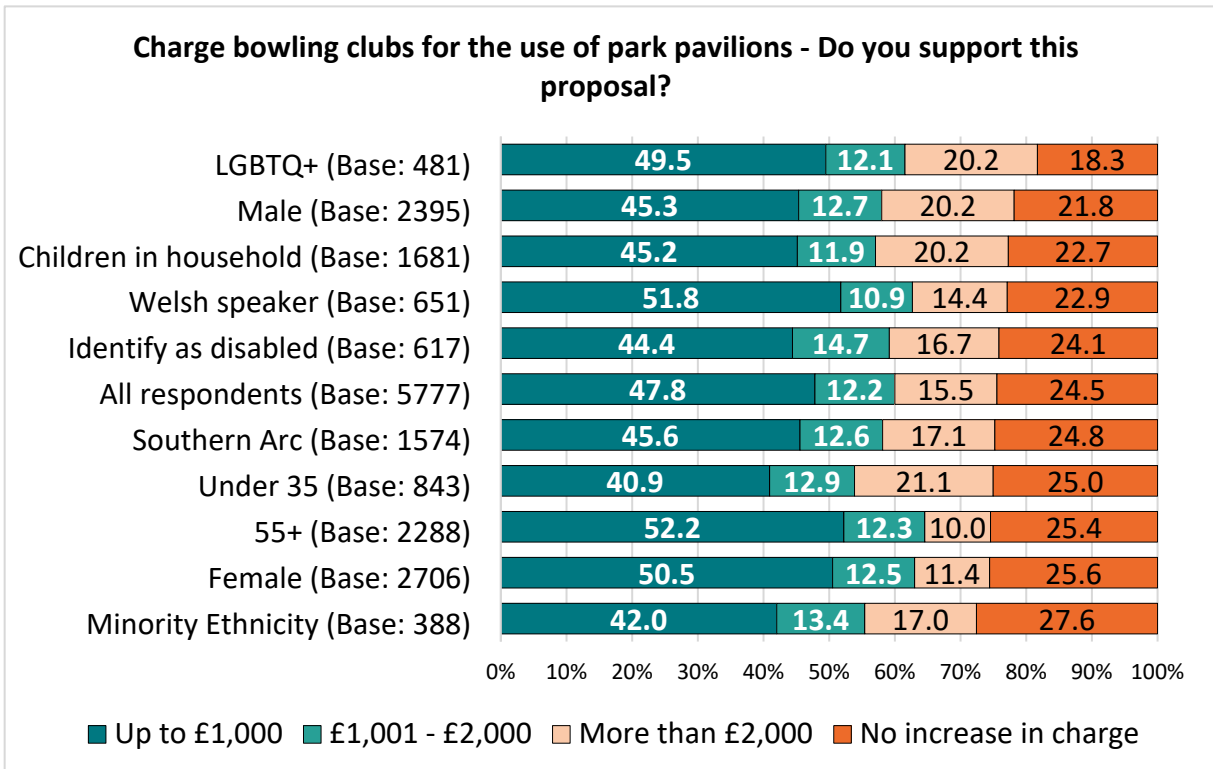
			<i>size of the car, charging more for SUV. This would be a green measure as well as it makes sense as larger cars take more space.</i>
Council services are poor / money wasted	25	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Cardiff council In such a financial state as it wastes money on projects that the residents and rate payers of Cardiff do not want or need</i></li> <li>- <i>Why waste money on uncovering an ugly canal in Cardiff City centre! Cancel the removal of St David's for a stadium.</i></li> <li>- <i>Cut councillors allowances to compensate for the shortfalls</i></li> </ul>
Agree with simplifying charges	14	0.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Agree with simplifying the parking charges to be uniform. Not a fan of the parking increase</i></li> <li>- <i>Simplify the number of tariffs, do not increase price.</i></li> </ul>
Do not own a Car	12	0.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Don't have a car.</i></li> <li>- <i>No car or transport. we walk.</i></li> </ul>
Charge in line with comparators	9	0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>So long as its cheaper than private competitors then it will be used, simples.</i></li> <li>- <i>I agree with you raising charges to be similar to other Local Authorities across Britain.</i></li> </ul>
Need some kind of incentive	6	0.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>It is difficult to tackle parking when the public transport system from the East of the city is so poor. Rail and bus links need to improve. Need more carrot and less stick.</i></li> <li>- <i>There should also be an incentive for people who do not park on the streets</i></li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	82	4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I thought this was about budgets, not forcing people to use your terrible public transport.</i></li> <li>- <i>Please be mindful of residents who don't have off street parking or permits and have to rely on local car parks</i></li> <li>- <i>The recent changes for visitors' permit is a joke. It makes it difficult to spontaneously visit people. Limiting the amount of hours available is not acceptable. In an increasingly lonely world, this is increasing the societal issues</i></li> <li>- <i>Residents do own the road in their streets</i></li> </ul>
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## Appendix 22 – Increase Charge to Bowling Clubs for Maintenance of the Greens by Demographic & Geographic Groups

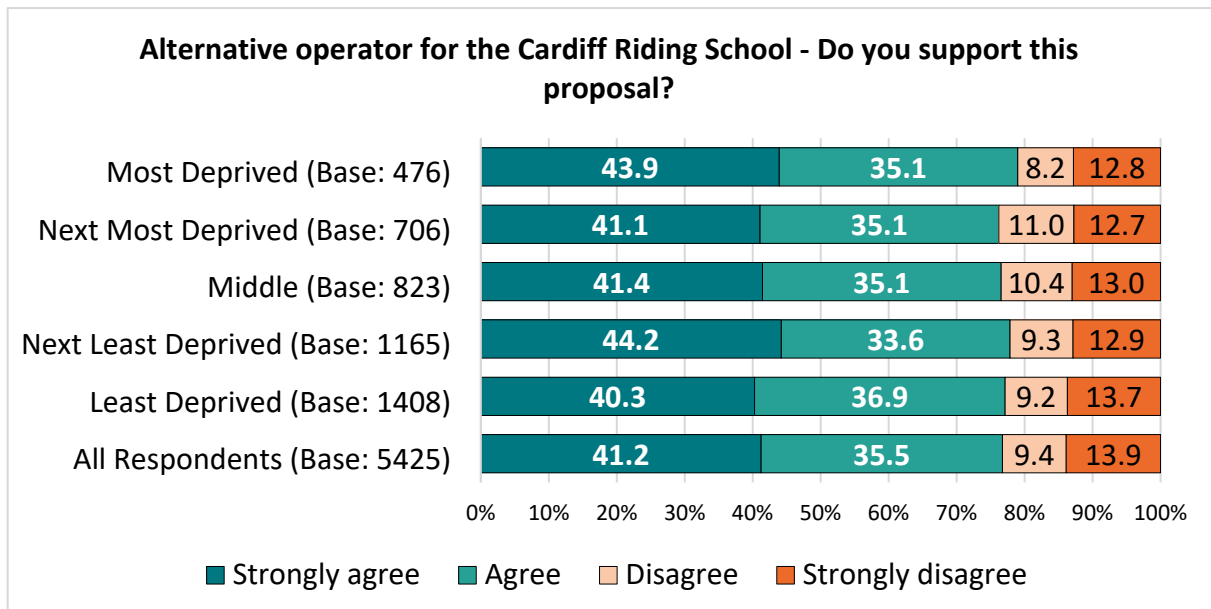
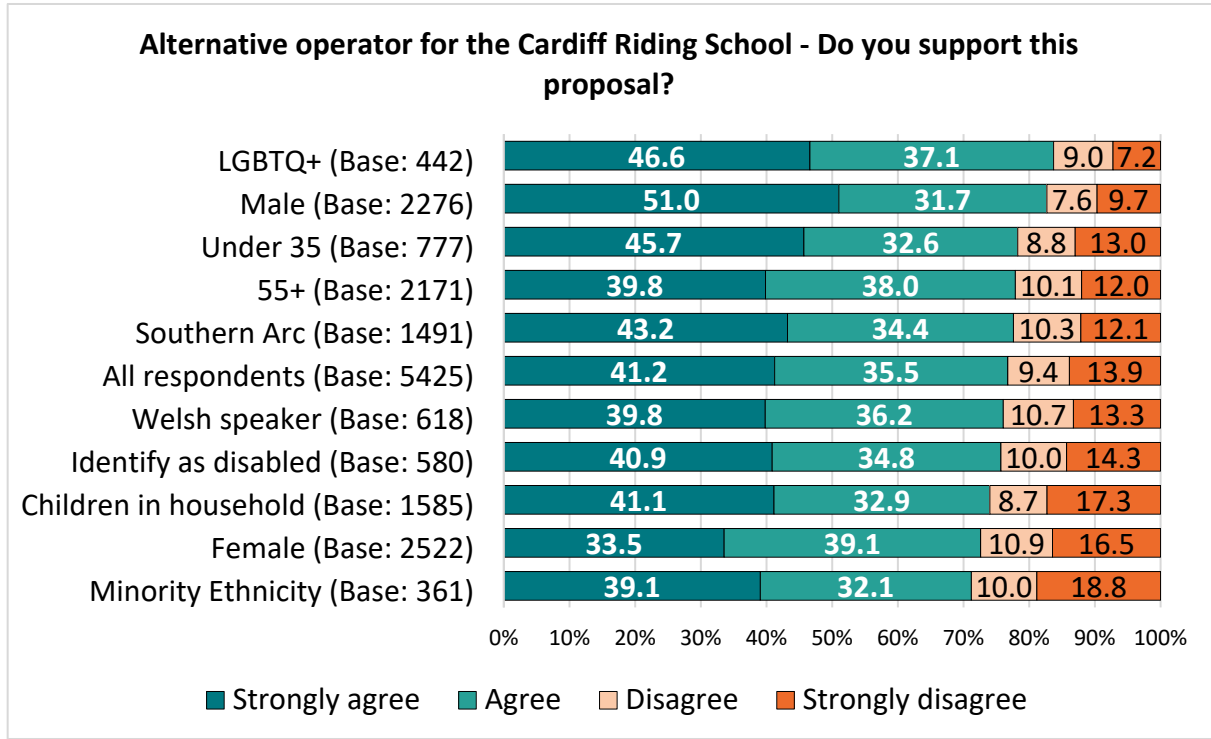


## Appendix 23 – Increase Charge to Bowling Clubs for Use of Park Pavilions by Demographic & Geographic Groups



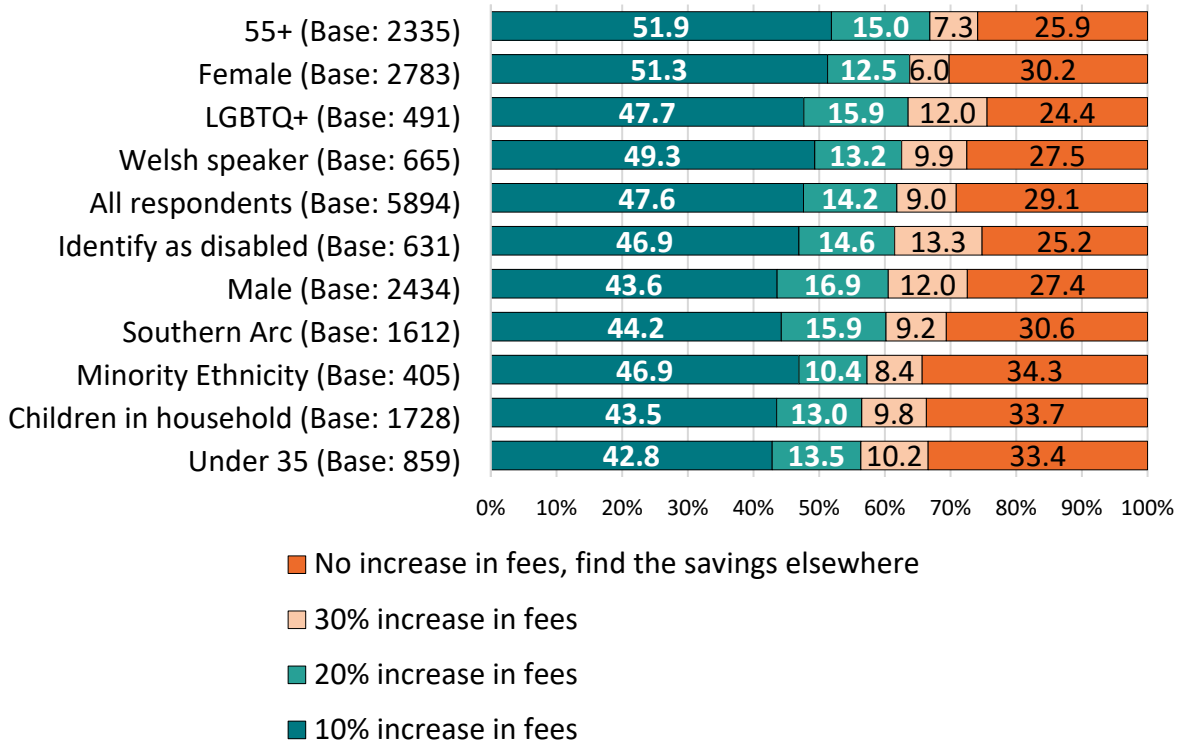


## Appendix 24 – Alternative Operator for the Cardiff Riding School by Demographic & Geographic Groups

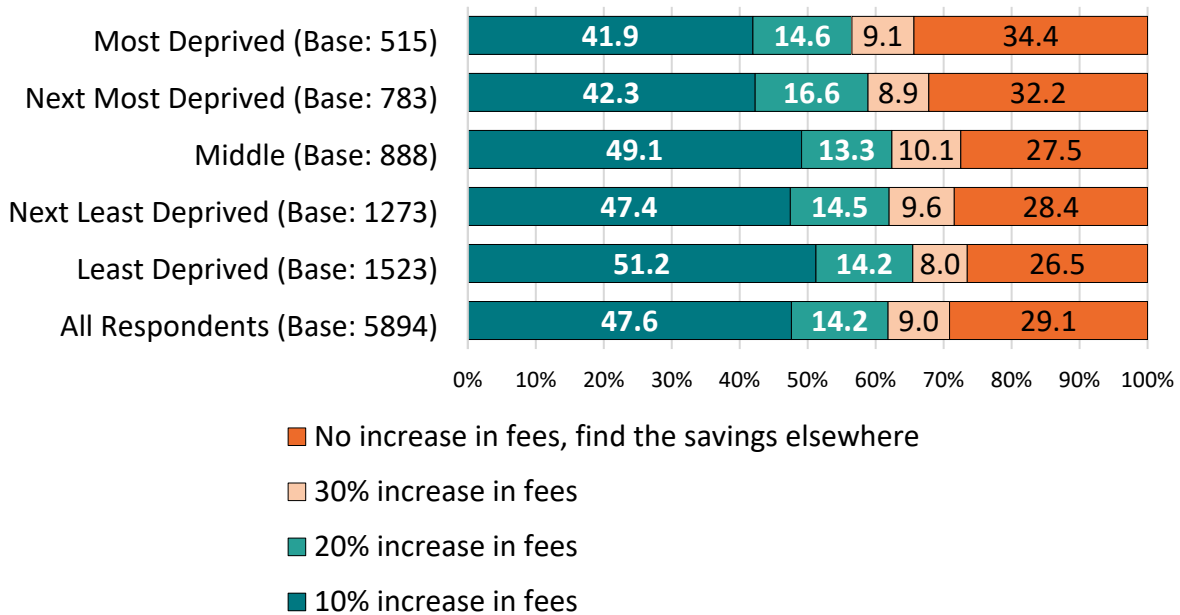


## Appendix 25 – Increase in Fees for Adults Hiring Sports Pitches and Changing Facilities by Demographic & Geographic Groups

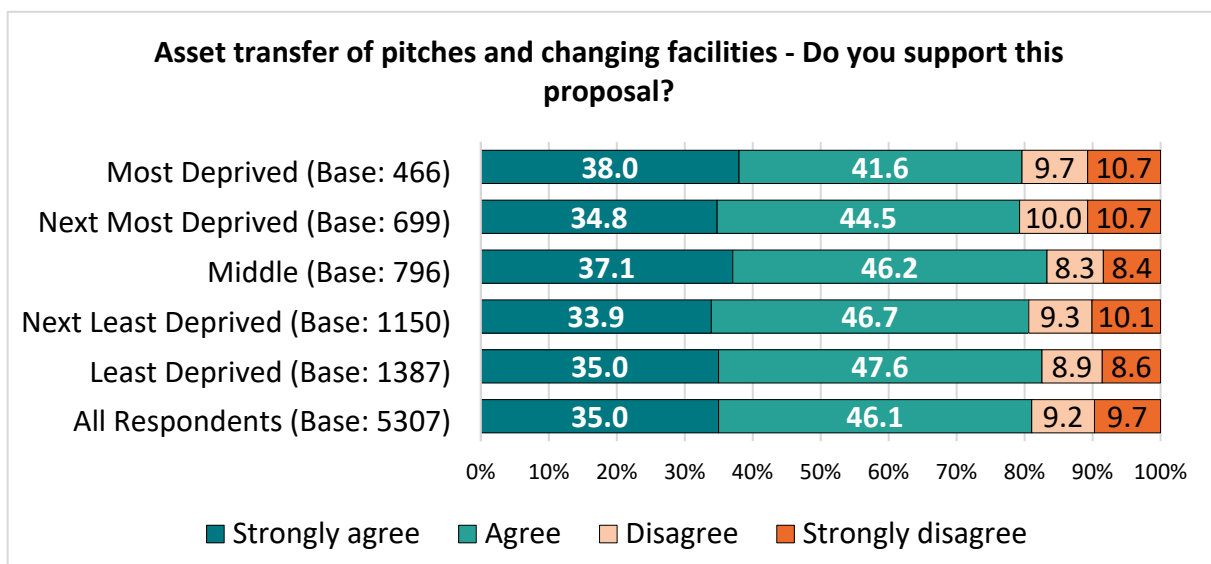
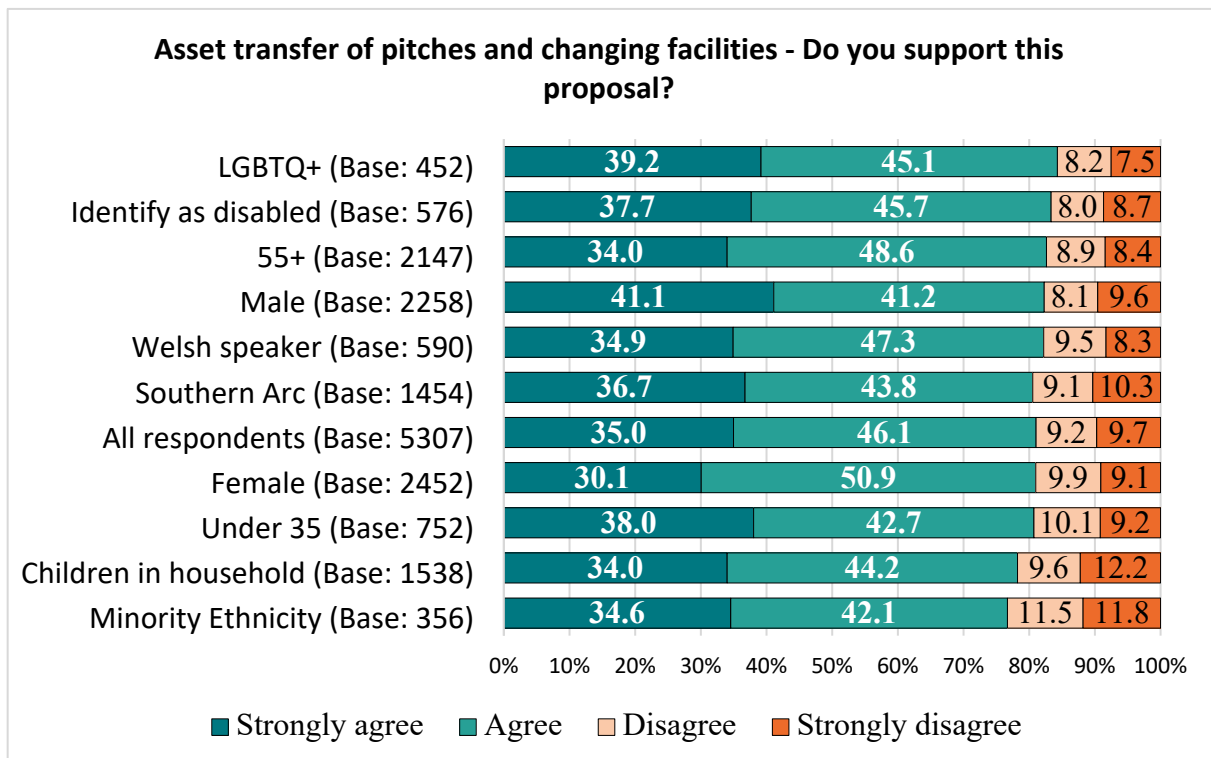
**Increase fees for adults hiring sports pitches and changing facilities - Do you support this proposal?**



**Increase fees for adults hiring sports pitches and changing facilities - Do you support this proposal?**



## Appendix 26 – Asset Transfer of Pitches and Changing Facilities by Demographic & Geographic Groups



## Appendix 27 – Comments on Proposed Changes to Leisure & Sports

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
Leisure & Sports affordable and	497	56.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is important to encourage exercise so increases to charges here should be modest.</li> <li>- 10% increase for sports clubs is too much. 5% is fairer.</li> </ul>

accessible to all / against proposals			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gyms need to be more affordable/accessible. Very hard to find anywhere to do any indoor exercise that doesn't charge large amounts.</li> <li>- It's important that these facilities are kept affordable.</li> <li>- Important to encourage participation in sports at all levels.</li> <li>- Plz don't discourage public from exercise</li> </ul>
Health & Wellbeing current and future implications	294	33.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep people healthy.</li> <li>- We need to be encouraging more people into an active lifestyle not putting them off if you were to introduce these costs then less people would be likely to participate.</li> <li>- By putting up fees too much would put people off using the facilities and not keeping fit.</li> <li>- Your proposals don't exactly encourage a healthy lifestyle if you look to increase costs of playing fields etc.</li> <li>- Exercise/sport for all is important for health and well-being. A survey such as this one fails to address the nuances of each situation.</li> <li>- Exercise is important. It helps the council in the long run if people can exercise.</li> </ul>
Impact on young / vulnerable / low income	266	30.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Just the rich kids playing sports then?</li> <li>- Sport is essential for good health and fitness. It should not become the reserve of the better off in our communities. We already have an obesity crisis!</li> <li>- The bowling clubs are mainly for the retired people of the city, people who have worked and supported the city in most cases all of their lives, it would be criminal to charge them for their leisure activity (and I do not play bowls).</li> <li>- I would not want to see the cost of providing sports facilities for children and young people going up by more than the rate of inflation.</li> <li>- Facilities to keep people fit and active must be maintained and not become the privilege of the rich.</li> <li>- Access to sport should be promoted and restrictions removed.</li> </ul>
Encourage participation but increase costs = contradiction	264	29.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- So for parking, you talked about adults being more active with the removal of parking. Now you want to charge them more for being active.</li> <li>- You cannot look to encourage exercise for people and increase cost.</li> <li>- Sport is great for health it must be affordable.</li> <li>- I hope increasing the price will not deter people from using these facilities that are great for mental health.</li> <li>- On the other hand there is an obesity problem in our</li> </ul>

			<p><i>schools and therefore raising the cost can create health problems. Research should be done to see what the impact of the pricing changes will be.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Good public health had a direct effect on the burden of need on other services and I think it is shortsighted to increase the costs of physical activity which could make it prohibitive to some groups &amp; therefore lead to poorer health outcomes.</i></li> </ul>
Alternative options suggestions	178	20.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Cut the Active Travel budget to fund leisure and sports.</i></li> <li>- <i>Shared ownership /control of facilities might work for the Council in ensuring that local people have a role in looking after local facilities.</i></li> <li>- <i>This is an area where communities could help themselves and the council should work to enable that. What we don't want to see is the appointment of paid monitors who are part of the council staff.</i></li> <li>- <i>Hand over buildings, pitches, venues to community groups instead of refusing them entry - one community in Ely are working hard voluntarily to support with this. The council are refusing to open venues.</i></li> <li>- <i>Subsidy for sport and leisure facilities should be based upon widespread use and accessibility. If clubs are making efforts to be more inclusive and accessible for people of all ages and backgrounds, then they are deserving of subsidy. Where clubs are exclusive, the subsidy should be removed.</i></li> <li>- <i>Just a thought - why not hand over the bowling greens and pavilions to the bowling groups and allow them to carry out their own building and greens maintenance? Maybe just have an inspection regime to ensure H&amp;S.</i></li> </ul>
Contractor / Asset transfer concerns	156	17.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Keep leisure services council run.</i></li> <li>- <i>The council should run sports facilities for the benefit of citizens/ council taxpayers. Giving licences to private companies/ sponsors results in the removal of access and general ignoring of patrons as has happened at the ice rink.</i></li> <li>- <i>Clubs taking in facilities needs to be managed carefully to maintain public access to those facilities.</i></li> <li>- <i>You've already privatised leisure centres. Now you want to put local football and rugby clubs out of business. No!</i></li> <li>- <i>You've already done a dodgy deal with Better a few years ago resulting in a dreadful and expensive service from an unscrupulous operator.</i></li> </ul>

These services are essential	85	9.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These facilities are vital.</li> <li>- These services are ESSENTIAL - Have you not heard about the benefits of Sport and Exercise not just on Health and wellbeing but on social cohesion. In fact the sports and leisure facilities need more investment. The drainage on football and rugby pitches in and around the city is inadequate leading to Children's games being cancelled. This needs to be improved not allowed to deteriorate further.</li> <li>- Again a vital part of the community.</li> <li>- Making sport more costly while promoting healthy living is hypocrisy. If people's physical and mental health are worsened, long term it will cost more to support them. Another short-sighted idea.</li> </ul>
Maintenance concerns - Current and Future	80	9.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The spending of money is not shared equally Grangemoor park near me doesn't receive any up keep.</li> <li>- Cardiff Council has never supported the City's sports club to levels of neighbouring authorities! This includes taking the issue of dog fouling of sports pitches seriously! This is particularly true of Llandaff and Pontcanna fields.</li> <li>- Some of the Cardiff parks pitches are awful...Roath Rec is full of bumps and craters.</li> <li>- You increase the cost you should make further laws regarding dogs fouling play areas.</li> </ul>
Grass root sports will decline	80	9.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parks pitches are not maintained regular and grassroots football suffers.</li> <li>- We can not afford any increase to pitch hires. Grass roots sports will not survive.</li> <li>- Clubs already struggle and will fold.</li> <li>- Further information is required on the implications to grass roots/children's sport.</li> </ul>
Remove / Against subsidies	78	8.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Users should pay for use.</li> <li>- I think it's fair to charge people to use these services.</li> <li>- Horse riding is a rich hobby. If you don't have the money to have a horse then get it or find a cheaper hobby. Same goes for pitches. Why should I subsidise your badminton? Fees at full cost, please.</li> <li>- Bowls and riding are sports generally engaged in by the financially well heeled, they should cover the majority of the cost of their participation themselves.</li> </ul>
Need more info	72	8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I do not use any of the services in this section therefore I do not know the impact these measures will have in the communities that depends on it.</li> <li>- It was difficult to answer the question about the bowling green because there was no information</li> </ul>

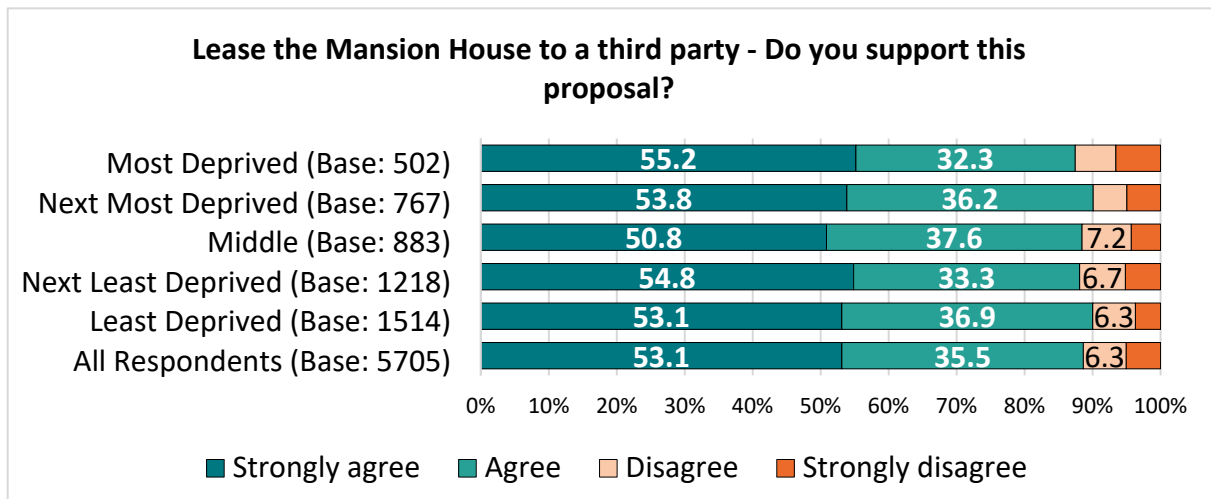
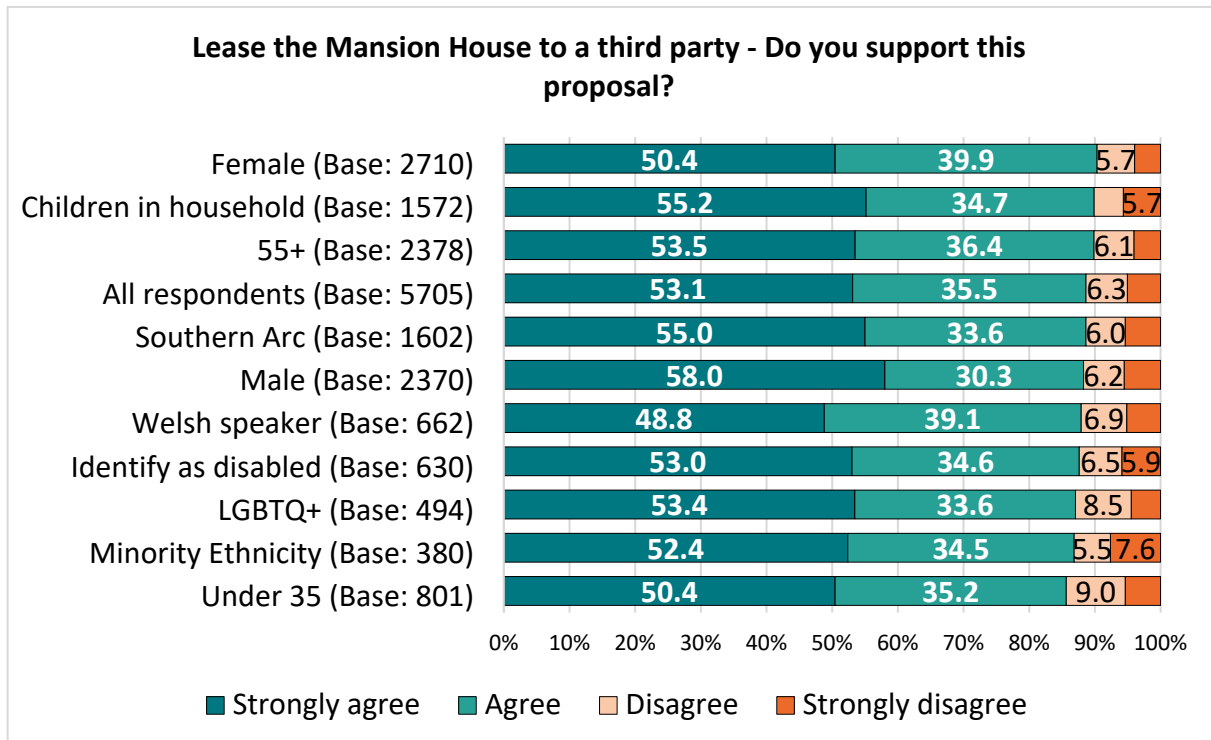


			<p>about the numbers using the facility so it is hard to put a figure on the proposed charges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to know more about what is proposed for Cardiff Riding School.</li> <li>- There's no indication of how many people are benefiting from these services? Impossible to know the impact of changing these subsidies.</li> </ul>
Riding School - Valuable / to be maintained	70	7.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff riding school is a well-used facility and supports riding for the disabled, BTEC students and young people from many backgrounds. It would be a real shame to let it go.</li> <li>- Please do everything you can to keep the Cardiff Riding School open, I took my son there back in the early 2000,s and now take my granddaughter there each week and she has been riding there for nearly 2 years, stop wasting money on ridiculous things - 33 million on 20mph signs please someone with a bit of sense sort this out and not to the detriment of council tax payers please</li> <li>- The riding school has many staff and volunteers such as children, taking them away would be awful for those already working and volunteering.</li> <li>- Protect the Riding School at all costs. That the city teaches it's children to horse ride is unique and interesting and is worthy of protection.</li> </ul>
Run as a business /Net Zero cost approach/ / Income generation ideas	52	5.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I think you should charge clubs who use public pitches for cleaning up after their sessions. Every week I see dozens of plastic bottles and sports tape left on the pitches from mainly adult sports clubs. They should either take care of the waste themselves by removing it all, be fined or charged for this service, or be banned from using the pitches if repeat offenders.</li> <li>- The riding school should be making money it is very poorly managed.</li> <li>- Clubs can tap into certain grants to help them out with some of these proposals.</li> <li>- As a Llanrumney resident, it's would be helpful if park's department staff make sure lighting is switched off before leaving work.</li> </ul>
Stop spending on non essential projects / Money wasted within council	35	4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The fact that £240k is spent on subsidising pitches screams of typical council inefficiency and poor productivity by council staff.</li> <li>- This all feels quite immaterial (to the council) in the scale of the budget shortfall - the wastage (my view) elsewhere dwarfs this.</li> <li>- Why waste money on uncovering an ugly canal in Cardiff City centre! Cancel the stadium at Red Dragon</li> </ul>

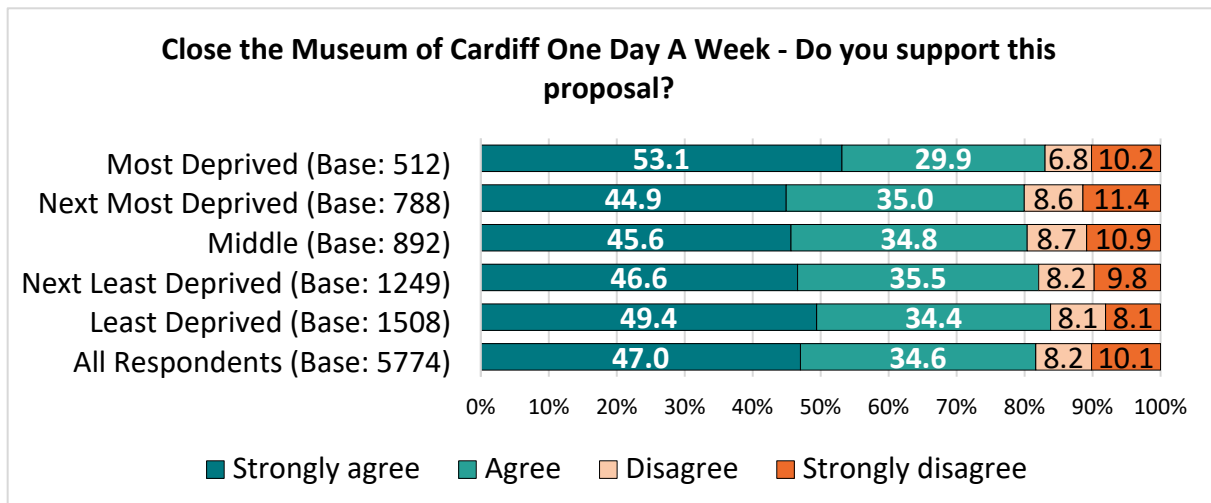
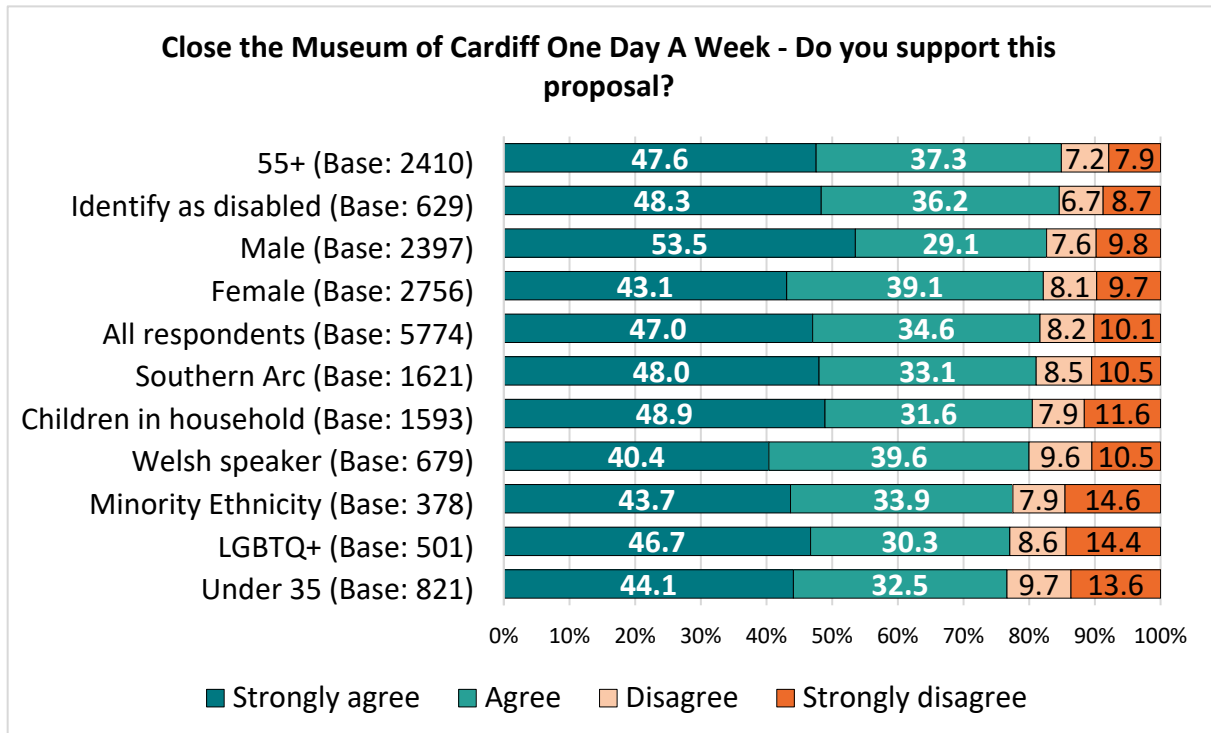
			<i>Centre!</i>
Pentwyn Leisure Centre	27	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>When are you opening Pentwyn Leisure Centre for the public again? You say every election that it will soon be available for use. Be honest. You're letting the community down.</i></li> <li>- <i>The catastrophic mistake of giving away most of Pentwyn Leisure Centre to a rugby club will never be forgiven. The leisure centre is for the residents, not a private rugby club. Their base should not be a community leisure centre. Voters will not forget this betrayal. Do not repeat the same error in other areas.</i></li> <li>- <i>We need Pentwyn leisure back open its impossible to get public transport to cardiff bay from my residency in Rumney.</i></li> </ul>
Hapy with proposed increases	21	2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>These clubs have many members so the cost could be very little added to subs and the fees.</i></li> <li>- <i>Maximize fees.</i></li> <li>- <i>I use the sports facilities and don't mind paying more as needed.</i></li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	60	6.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>It seems every variety of park user except dog walkers gets specific facilities provided. I would like to see a public dog agility course available - there's not really anywhere in Cardiff to do it.</i></li> <li>- <i>You just want to force people out from using green spaces so you can sell them to build on them.</i></li> <li>- <i>Keep remembering that people work generally Monday to Friday 0900 -1700 so it's no good offering service at this time. You have to be more flexible.</i></li> <li>- <i>I admire the Council's support of sports! I believe that this support helps to prevent more anti-social behaviour and gang activity with their concomitant costs.</i></li> </ul>
	<b>885</b>		-



## Appendix 28 – Lease the Mansion House to a Third Party by Demographic & Geographic Groups



## Appendix 29 – Close the Museum of Cardiff One Day a Week by Demographic & Geographic Groups



## Appendix 30 – Comments on Proposed Changes to Culture & Events

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
Against a weekend closure / Alternative option suggestions for The Museum of Cardiff	299	33.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closing the museum on Sundays seems a bit counterintuitive; that is the day the majority of the working population have off. Why not a weekday or if a weekday wouldn't equate to the same financial saving, two weekdays?</li> <li>- The days the Cardiff Museum should close must surely be based on the least used days, I would have expected weekend use to be higher the week days?</li> <li>- Agree with closing a day but not a Sunday.</li> <li>- Close the museum on the least busiest day.</li> <li>- Why Sunday? Close it on one or two week days when less likely to be used.</li> <li>- Why a Sunday when families could visit why not mid-week i.e Wednesday?</li> </ul>
Alternative location suggestions for The Cardiff Museum	74	8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Move museum of Cardiff to City Hall.</li> <li>- Move the museum of Cardiff into "National Museum of Wales".</li> <li>- As a retired tour guide (MBE) i think it is essential that the museum remains in the city centre site. Could part of the Howells store be used for this VIP purpose? Could the 'listed' church on that site be used?</li> <li>- Move the museum to St Fagans museum.</li> <li>- Could put the Museum of Cardiff in the Coal Exchange</li> </ul>
Cardiff's Culture and Heritage needs to be protected	72	8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff's culture is currently great and a big reason why people love the city. We must be careful not to lose this cultural identity simply to cut some costs.</li> <li>- Culture and events are important to safeguard in our Capital City. They are a key part of the Future Generations legislation.</li> <li>- It is important for the capital city to host major cultural and significant events that attract people to visit. I feel it would be a mistake to remove subsidies.</li> <li>- As a capital city Cardiff should have events through the year to reflect this.</li> <li>- Capital city needs culture- and a Tourist information office!</li> </ul>
Against Moving The Museum of Cardiff from City Centre	68	7.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The location of the museum is CENTRAL and needs to remain where it is. Moving it to a modern unit would destroy its heritage.</li> <li>- Do not move the museum! It is lovely where it is, I</li> </ul>

			<p>do agree with closing one day a week. Maybe on a weekday, though.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep the museum where it is.</li> <li>- I agree with closing the museum on Sundays (and maybe one weekday too), but not with relocating it.</li> <li>- Please keep the museum of cardiff in the centre of Cardiff.</li> </ul>
More info required	62	6.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will a lease and rent back save money? You don't say what the cost will be. I don't believe you can save money this way.</li> <li>- Is the Museum of Cardiff used much at all?</li> <li>- Update on St. Davids Hall would be good please.</li> <li>- Again asking for comments without information, how many people visit this museum? How much space is there in the chapter building to put it in there for example.</li> <li>- Can I be assured that reducing the cost of, or maximising the income from other events, such as winter wonder land, Cardiff beach, festivals and firework displays, is also part of your considerations here?</li> </ul>
Income generation suggestions	57	6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There should be a Tourist Office located in the Old Library and RWCMD should subsidise this - a hub for what's on in Cardiff.</li> <li>- The Cardiff museum is an important part of our offering to residents and visitors. If moved it will be sidelined or lost. Just advertise it more and get more visitors in. Have paid for events there too.</li> <li>- These things are important but funding can be moved more to tickets etc.</li> <li>- There are so many gigs and events in Cardiff, how much income is made to pay for the street cleaning, policing and road closures? Tickets are so expensive, the council must charge the event organisers more.</li> <li>- Users should pay for use, not subsidised by ratepayer.</li> </ul>
General Support for Arts & Culture Funding	53	5.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cardiff needs culture, people don't come here for the lovely weather...</li> <li>- How do other cities run these buildings and events. I don't think things getting into private hands works well generally. Plus, we should support art and culture.</li> <li>- If we are to be a modern European city which provides facilities for residents while encouraging tourism supporting arts and culture is vital.</li> <li>- Art &amp; Culture is what makes a city. We do need it</li> </ul>

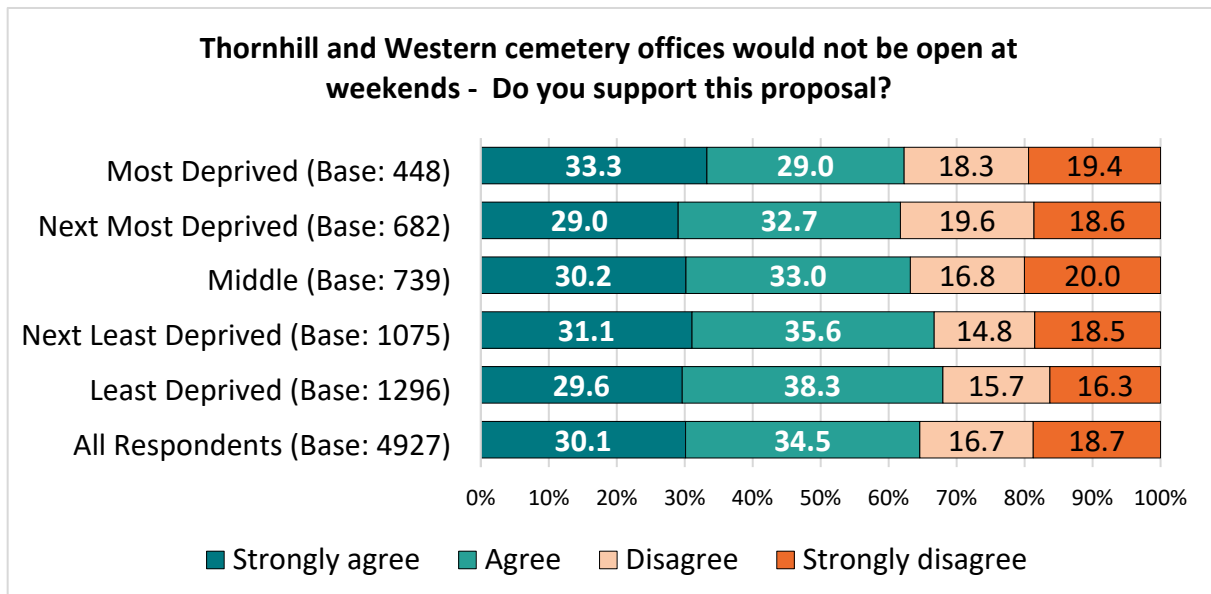
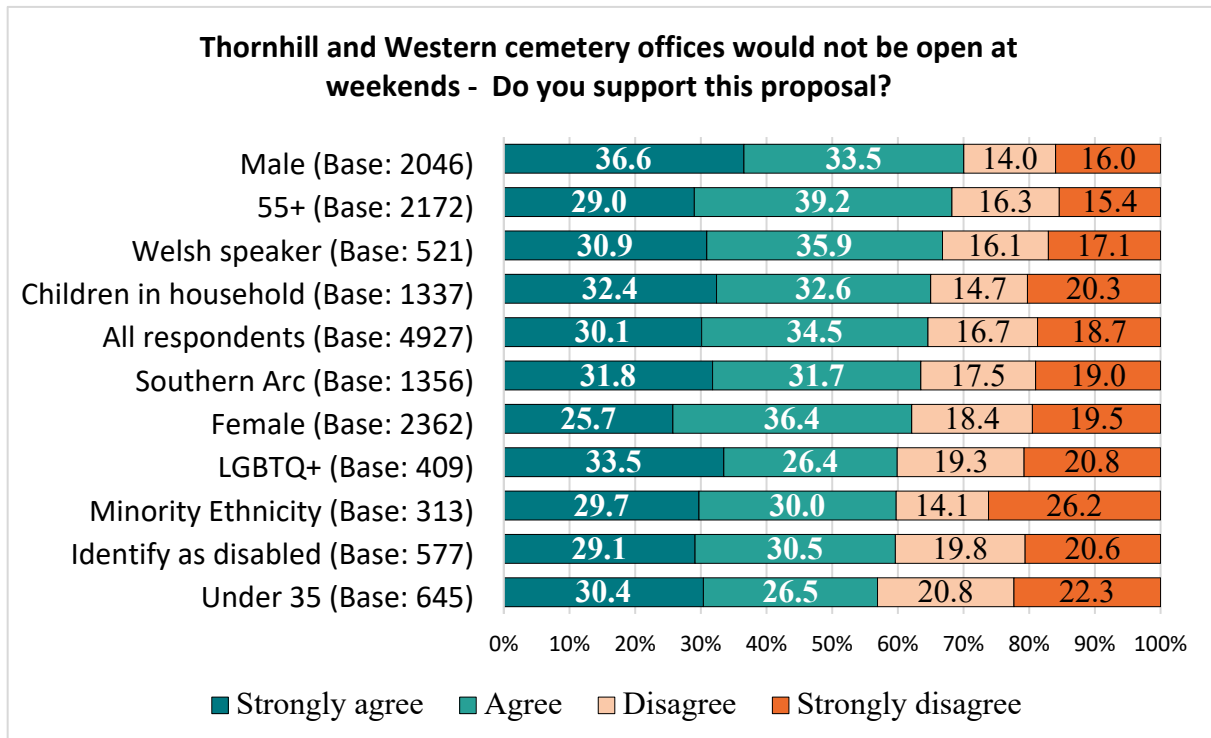
			<p>otherwise the world would be very boring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Culture and arts already taken big cuts. Essential for wellbeing, creativity, growth. We have few venues, for example art galleries, compared to other cities.</li> </ul>
More promotion / Greater awareness needed	48	5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The museum of Cardiff needs more advertising, no one knows it's there.</li> <li>- The museum needs better signage, many people don't know it exists.</li> <li>- Never heard of Artes Mundi or The Big Gig.</li> <li>- I have lived in Cardiff for three years and never heard of the events in section one. Publicity of events is very poor and often with short notice.</li> </ul>
Mansion House Comments	48	5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It would be a travesty if the mansion house fell into private hands. While it is in a state of disrepair, the council should be more innovative in seeking funding, such as HERITAGE Lottery to enhance the building. At the very least it should guarantee it is retained for the people of Cardiff into the future.</li> <li>- Sell the mansion house and get rid of the full cost and make some money. City hall can be used for functions.</li> <li>- THE MANSION HOUSE WAS GIFTED TO THE PEOPLE OF CARDIFF SO THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE MAINTAINED THE REPAIRS TO THIS BUILDING BEFORE NOW. YOU CANNOT GIVE AWAY SOMETHING YOU DON'T OWN</li> <li>- Sell the mansion house and get rid of the full cost and make some money. City hall can be used for functions</li> </ul>
Concerns around money being wasted elsewhere	46	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The £189 million proposed for a new arena at Butetown and should be diverted to maintaining what we have, especially the museum of Cardiff which reflects the history of the Capitol which was built on its docks and diverse people.</li> <li>- Mansion House should've been maintained by the ridiculous wasted money used on opening up the canal on Churchill Way which will eventually attract drunks, junkies and never ending rubbish.</li> <li>- Stop wasting money on stupid and divisive rainbow flags and road markings. Nobody cares about your virtue signalling and we shouldn't have to pay for it.</li> </ul>
These attractions generate income / boost economy	44	4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bear in mind events bring people into Cardiff and they contribute towards the economy... pushing them away by cancelling events, raising parking charges etc is likely penny wise but pound foolish.</li> <li>- Ensuring good provision of events will help bring in tourist revenue for the city, even if all people don't</li> </ul>

			<p>necessarily use them, so cuts here don't make sense.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free events can bring people into the city who spend money.</li> </ul>
The Museum is a tourist attraction, don't close at weekends	43	4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why close the museum on a Sunday when, potentially, there are more visitors (residents and tourists) in the City.</li> <li>- Museum of Cardiff-ensure any changes to opening days is based on attendance figures for tourists... not because Sunday is the weekend.</li> <li>- Sundays? It's when people and tourists go! Perhaps Mondays or Tuesdays.</li> </ul>
Stop / Reduce funding / for Museum of Cardiff / Close it	31	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Museum of Cardiff has a poor offer, no one attends it and its ridiculous that half a million pounds of public money is being used to fund such a poor and unwanted service.</li> <li>- Museum Of Cardiff costs too much</li> <li>- Close the Museum Of Cardiff - hardly anyone goes there - the cost per person must be massive.</li> </ul>
Concerns Around Leasing to 3rd Parties / Private Companies	26	2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you lease spaces to third parties presumably you will have to then pay for the usage of them? Hopefully these are genuine savings not false economies.</li> <li>- Culture and events should be a target for savings, on the provision that historic buildings are properly maintained by third parties.</li> <li>- Whilst leasing buildings can help it needs great oversight to ensure works are completed</li> </ul>
Concerns around the quality of attractions	20	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Been to Artes Mundi recently. It's awful. Support not funding it.</li> <li>- Cardiff Museum is disappointing and a wasted opportunity.</li> <li>- Went to the museum of Cardiff recently with a visiting friend and didn't find it exciting. Would suggest 'do it properly or not at all'.</li> </ul>
Money should be spent elsewhere	17	1.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please focus on maintaining essential services and supporting deprived communities.</li> <li>- I feel that the council should look deeper into the events they run and subsidise. There are many more that could be reduced and the money spent on COLLECTING THE BINS.</li> </ul>
Agree with closing museum on Sundays	16	1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The closure of the museum on Sundays would be more beneficial than other days.</li> <li>- Closing Cardiff Museum on Sunday is not going to hurt anybody</li> </ul>
General Agreement with the proposals	14	1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Totally agree with all proposals.</li> <li>- Sounds good.</li> </ul>



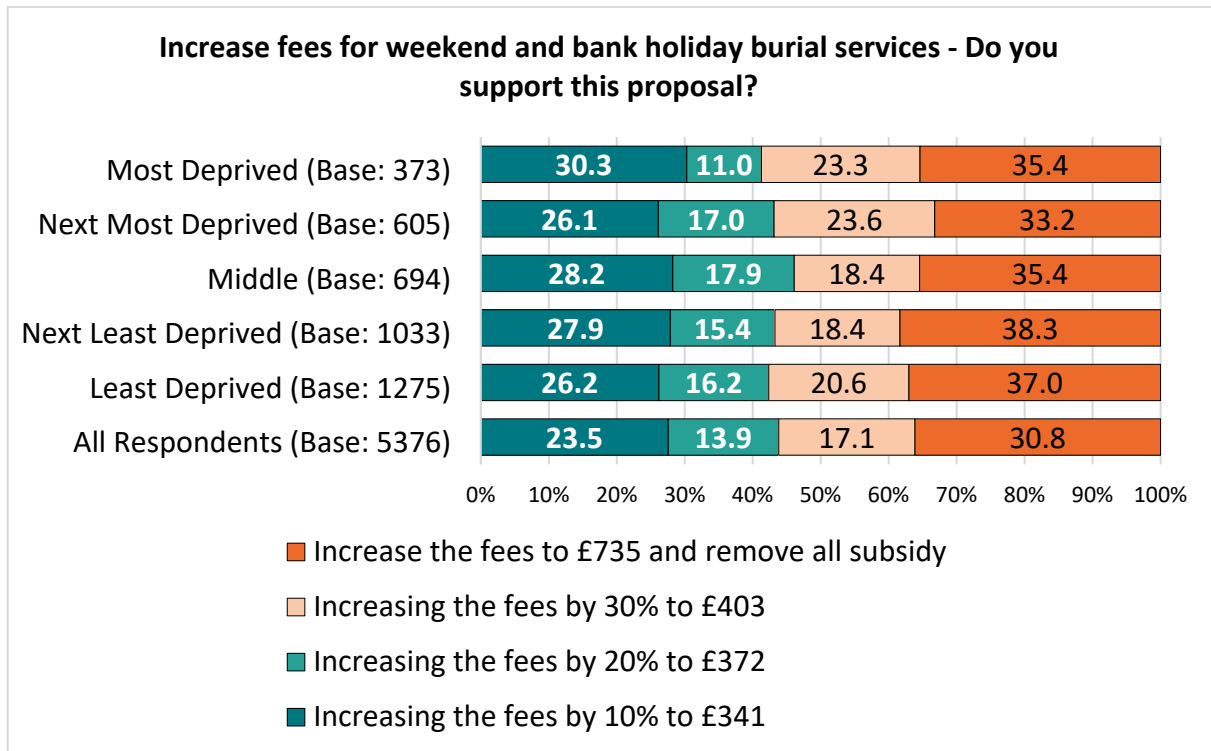
Spend less on Welsh Language	9	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please stop spending money on Welsh language.</li> <li>- Promoting a dead language Welsh is a total waste of money where ever it is promoted.</li> </ul>
Savings are small, don't do it.	9	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I dunno! It seems like a tiny proportion of the shortfall at great cost...</li> <li>- Put tend to agree on Artes Mundi &amp; Big Gig, but £36k is not a huge amount - can the council support the events to identify corporate sponsorship?</li> </ul>
St David's Hall Comments	8	0.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No mention here of the plan for St David's Hall</li> <li>- What about St David's Hall? This should not be sold but should be managed in a way that creates income.</li> </ul>
Consider In-House Savings - Cut Staff / Salaries	7	0.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closing the museum? What a joke. Iconic to the city centre, and what on earth would befit such a beautiful building? There is not reason it should cost over £500k each year to run at a loss. Cut programs, cut staff, but keep the museum.</li> <li>- Has council considered salary reductions to its highest paid employees? If anyone in the council gets bonuses, are they in the chopping block? Had the Council sought private donations from politicians, influencers, banks?</li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	87	9.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cuts to Eisteddfod.</li> <li>- The artist mundi and big gig appear to offer fantastic value. In contrast the museum of Cardiff which appears to be poor value and poorly visited.</li> <li>- Very dull ideas.</li> <li>- The RHS Spring Show was a bloody brilliant event. Please negotiate with the RHS to bring it back.</li> </ul>
	<b>897</b>		-

## Appendix 31 – Thornhill & Western Cemetery Offices Would Not Be Open at Weekends by Demographic & Geographic Groups





## Appendix 32 – Increase Fees for Weekend and Bank Holiday Burial Services by Deprivation Fifths



## Appendix 33 – Comments on Proposed Changes to Bereavement Services

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
Generally against increases in costs / negative comments	142	28.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- During a cost of living crisis these are a service people cannot afford to increase.</li> <li>- People are already grieving. To add more costs on top is just not good.</li> <li>- For some of the public this increases are far too much. A realistic increase needs to be revisited.</li> <li>- Shame on you. Disgusting behaviour.</li> <li>- This has to be a joke!!!!</li> <li>- People can barely afford funeral arrangements we cannot add to their stress with increased fees.</li> </ul>
Alternative option suggestions	103	20.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funeral directors make mega money they should pay more.</li> <li>- Should be more open - digital enquiry portal is too difficult to use and people could prefer face to face because of subject.</li> <li>- How about closing the cemeteries on a Monday instead of Saturday and Sunday? Surely people need the option of weekend burials and cremations?</li> <li>- Limit opening hours of cemetery offices on weekends, instead of full closure.</li> <li>- Perhaps the council could consider the cost of a one off advertising campaign encouraging people to take out funeral insurance or to pay for their own funerals in advance with a payment plan so the cost increase is not passed on to as many grieving relatives.</li> <li>- If anything, remove services on weekdays instead of weekends. Employ staff on contracts with 2 weekdays in place of weekends, as surely this is the time where the majority of people who work weekdays need to use these services?</li> </ul>
Improve affordability	92	18.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People can barely afford funeral arrangements we cannot add to their stress with increased fees.</li> <li>- Low income and elderly households would be hardest hit with these changes.</li> <li>- People from poor households or on pension cannot afford more than 10%. So it must be kept affordable.</li> <li>- Again, its a question of what people can afford.</li> <li>- Could there be a 'means tested' service so that pensioners and others on a fixed/low income would</li> </ul>

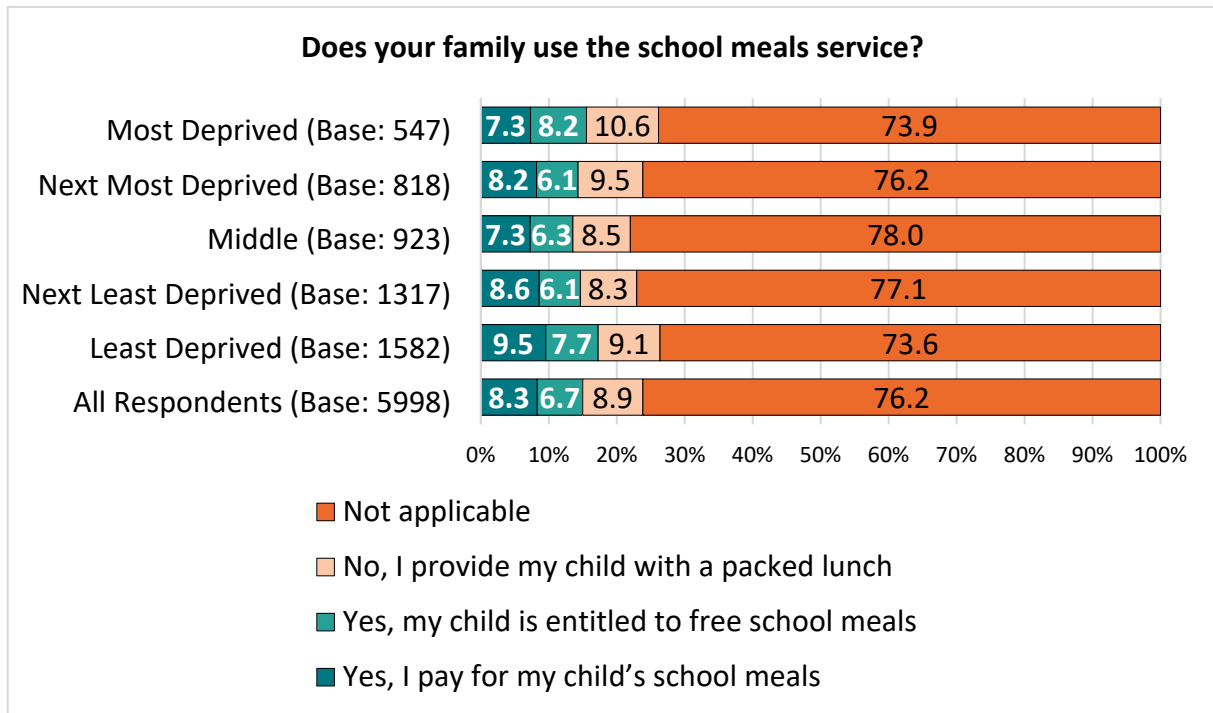
			<i>not be put under too much financial strain at a very difficult time?</i>
Already a bad time for families	91	18.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>This is a time that people need support not more stress.</i></li> <li>- <i>Death of a loved one is awful without all this unnecessary nonsense.</i></li> <li>- <i>You want to fleece money from bereaved families - have you literally no shame!</i></li> <li>- <i>You want to take the humanity out of the worst time in people's life when they are sad and vulnerable. Are you **** retarded? Silly ideas. Take it from something else, like your fund to paint roads with rainbow flags.</i></li> <li>- <i>Having been bereaved in 2022, it is stressful enough trying to organise things around working without shutting services at weekends when people actually have time to sort things.</i></li> </ul>
Individuals should pay the cost for cultural / convenience	69	13.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Religious and cultural burials need to be FULLY PAID FOR by people who insist on "immediate" burial services if that is important to them! We should NOT have to subsidise such funerals. Having a religion / cultural difference is a life choice and arbitrary.</i></li> <li>- <i>Regardless of religion we should all have the same bereavement times &amp; costs.</i></li> <li>- <i>A flat weekend and bank holiday fee implemented for all cultures and religions.</i></li> <li>- <i>Why are services related to cultural funerals protected? if you want a provision of service other than that provided for the general population you should be required to pay for it.</i></li> <li>- <i>If you want a funeral on weekends you should pay for it</i></li> </ul>
Bereavement Services are needed on the weekend / Residents working office hours need to be considered	66	13.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>People work so can only visit loved ones graves on the weekend.</i></li> <li>- <i>Many people, especially faced with cost of a passed loved one, cannot take time off work Mon-Fri, so offices need to be open weekends.</i></li> <li>- <i>Re: the closure of Cemetery offices - The council must recognise that many people work Mon-Fri, and so Saturdays are the only day that some people can access council services on a face to face basis. Keep the offices open on Saturday but close them on Sundays.</i></li> <li>- <i>People work weekdays and may not be any good online. We need the human touch.</i></li> </ul>
Fairness / Diversity	49	9.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>It is racially discriminatory to allow weekend</i></li> </ul>

issues / Racial discrimination concerns			<p><i>support for cultural burials only!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Has an Equality Impact Assessment been completed on the proposal to increase weekend and bank holiday charges. Some cultures and religions require a speedy burial and so would have no way of avoiding these higher charges. This might constitute indirect religious discrimination.</i></li> <li>- <i>An increase to bank holiday/weekend burials would be unfair to some cultures.</i></li> </ul>
More info required	44	8.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Again not clear how much could be saved so hard to answer these questions.</i></li> <li>- <i>No information about how much revenue this creates or costs saved. How can someone respond meaningfully?</i></li> <li>- <i>CCC do not demonstrate their prices are competitive. Need to demonstrate/provide records &amp; be open to challenge over the charges.</i></li> </ul>
Question why funerals take place on the weekends / Bank Holidays	40	7.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Why do you have to provide funerals on bank holidays and weekends? And why do cultural funerals have a special service? Surely this would be for a small minority of people?</i></li> <li>- <i>Do you need to offer burial services at a weekend?</i></li> <li>- <i>I do not think there is a need for funeral services at weekends or Bank Holiday. I waited three weeks to bury both my parents so to me an extra day or two is not an issue. Any political, religious or other reason to need during this period should be subject to a full charge to operate</i></li> </ul>
Increases are too high	37	7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Increase of normal costs could be possible but by less.</i></li> <li>- <i>You can increase the charges for burial/ cremation, but perhaps by less than proposed.</i></li> <li>- <i>The increase of charges for burial and cremation seems very steep, could the increase be incremental? Having said that, the extremely low cost they currently are seems astonishing.</i></li> </ul>
Concerns around Digital exclusion / Process requires face-to-face contact	36	7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Don't agree with everything being online. Not everyone is computer literate or has access. People still like to speak face to face whether in person or on phone.</i></li> <li>- <i>A lot of elderly can't use computers but would be more likely to go to the office during the week.</i></li> <li>- <i>It's wrong to just provide digital services. People are highly stressed when dealing with bereavement and the additional stress or portals is too much to cope with.</i></li> </ul>
Against any subsidies	35	6.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Sadly, death is not optional. I feel reductions to</i></li> </ul>

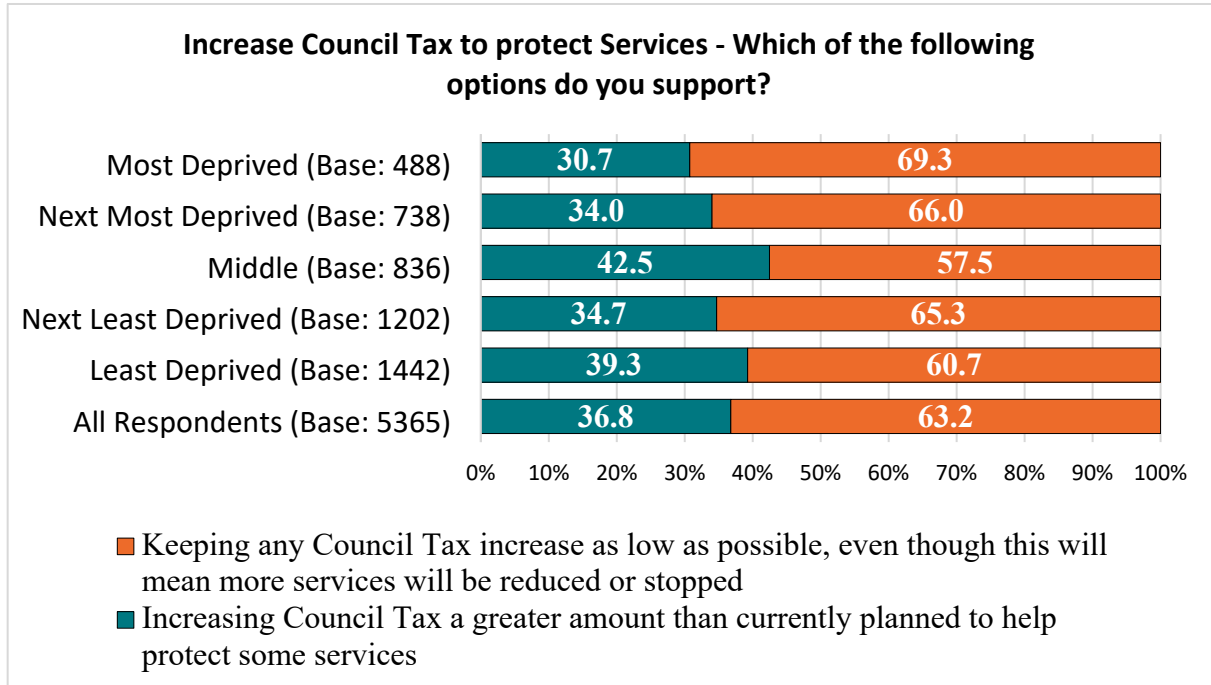
			<p>subsidies in this area should be minimal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The council can no longer afford to subsidise.</li> <li>- I don't see why these are subsidised unless they are means-tested.</li> </ul>
General agreement with the proposals	33	6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These proposals make sense.</li> <li>- This is a good service and gives real value for money.</li> <li>- Sad but have to agree with increases.</li> </ul>
Should not run at Loss / Income generation suggestions	16	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I am aware that a small number of local groups are now using Cathays Cemetery chapels as venues for their meetings/events. Could this facility be expanded/advertised to more local organisations as a means of generating revenue for Bereavement Services?</li> <li>- It's not an area I know much about and I'm guessing doesn't happen too often in peoples lives so I support an increase to cover costs and be in line with other cities</li> </ul>
Need to encourage cremations not burials	9	1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cremation services should be significantly cheaper than burial.</li> <li>- Increase burials yes but not cremations, no one needs to choose a burial instead these days.</li> </ul>
Maintenance concerns	8	1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I visit Cathays Cemetery for my grandparents and I can honestly say its a state, the grass is only cut once a year that I can tell, it just doesnt seem to be looked after at all in comparison to Thornhill, which I also visit once a month.</li> <li>- Not on these proposals, but I think the woodland burial area at Thornhill could be better maintained - it gets very overgrown in the summer with ferns and brambles.</li> </ul>
Burial costs should be higher	8	1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pay more to be buried - perfect example of death AND taxes.</li> <li>- Burials are unsustainable and not a good use of land and people should be charged much more.</li> </ul>
Explore environmentally friendly alternatives	6	1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The council should explore options for alternatives such as green burials.</li> <li>- People should be encouraged to choose sustainable methods of burial.</li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	51	10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Surely very few people understand the implication of this.</li> <li>- Having paid £11.00 per copy for death certificates today (card payment preferred)- something that cannot be ignored - whereas it was £4.00 per copy 6 years ago (cash only - how was this accounted for) - perhaps you would like to explain. You may also wish to chat with the coroner's office who are</li> </ul>

			<p><i>advising people that the registration of death can be undertaken "BY PHONE".</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>what happened to our social responsibility?</i></li> <li>- <i>They are essential and are very much a last tribute for our citizens.</i></li> <li>- <i>We sadly have recently used the bereavement services when our Mum died. The services (Registrar and Thornhill) are excellent. First class, sympathetic, kind - public service at its best.</i></li> </ul>
	<b>506</b>		-

## Appendix 34 – Does Your Family Use the School Meals Service by Deprivation Fifths



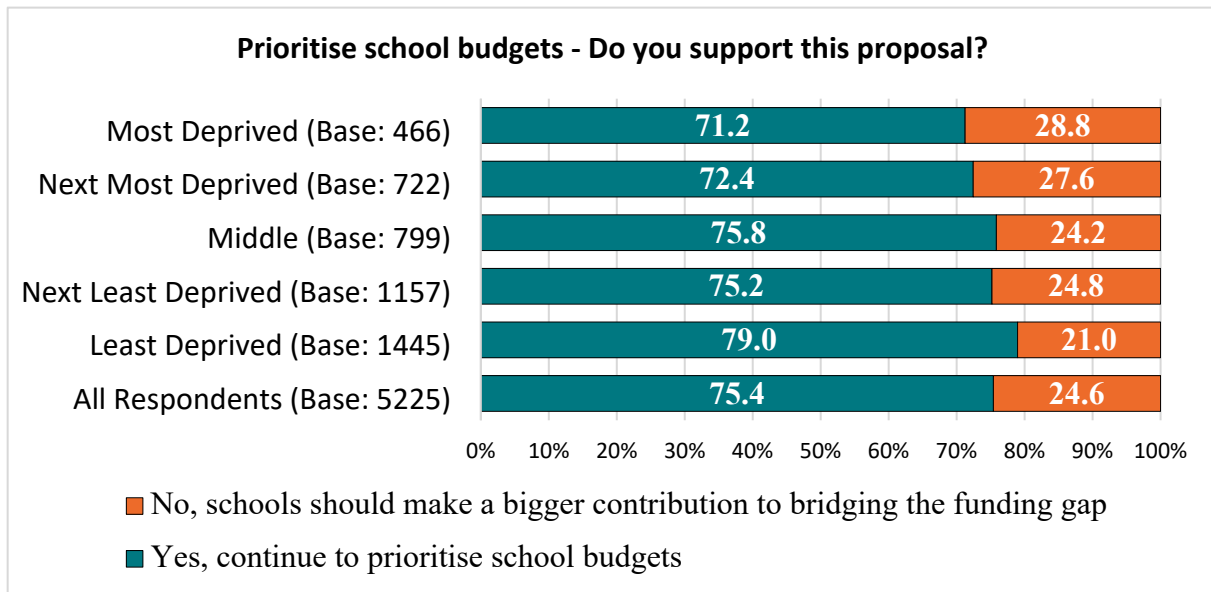
## Appendix 35 – Increase Council Tax to Protect Services by Deprivation Fifths



*Excludes 'Don't know' responses*



## Appendix 36 – Prioritise School Budgets by Deprivation Fifths



*Excludes 'Don't know' responses*

## Appendix 37 – Any Further Comments or Suggestions on How the Council can Reduce the Budget Gap

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
<b>Council needs to stop wasting money</b>	303	23.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spend less money on vanity projects maybe?</li> <li>- Stop building bike lanes that are hardly used.</li> <li>- Yes, stop wasting money on stupid projects like messing with the roads in the city centre, exposing the canal off queen street and other stupid projects. Where you have freedom of wasting tax payers money this has now come back and bitten you and Welsh government. None of you idiots would survive in the private sector as you ignore your end customer to deliver your vanity projects.</li> <li>- Stop wasting money on vanity projects and use the money more wisely for necessities. If you can't manage on the budget you already have that tells you you should not be having a pay rise and employing more staff to shuffle paper.</li> <li>- Stop needlessly wasting money and overpaying outside contractors and services</li> <li>- Rather than cut spending maybe you should stop wasting money on vanity projects like a pointless, ugly canal for £9m or spending £20m on a speed limit change which no-one wants. Oh look, there's your £30m shortfall. Tyrants, all of you.</li> </ul>
<b>Make Savings in House</b>	287	22.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cut the council bosses pay to help fill the funding gap.</li> <li>- Review whether the Council across all its estate/ buildings is on the most cost effective energy (gas and electricity) tariffs. A recent report showed how some councils in England and Wales are paying vastly more for their energy than others. I assume someone within Cardiff Council is responsible for regularly monitoring what the Council pays for gas and electricity and seeks out the best and cheapest available tariffs.</li> <li>- Cardiff council needs a full review of its expenditure. I'm sure there are cost savings that could be made elsewhere that would protect these services. I would happily invest my own time and provide my services to carry out that task.</li> <li>- I think councillors should be looking at themselves and their big wages for some cuts before expecting us the public to be making higher payments and cuts.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council should look at personal spending such as allowances for lunches /expenditure/ administrative costs etc for themselves.</li> <li>- STOP Paying your employees to be on the sick for months at a time- your sickness policy is ridiculous and massively taken advantage off - all at the price of reduced services and increases in Council tax to people that actually WORK for a living. STOP employing people who can only do part of the job they are employed to do!!</li> </ul>
<b>School meals</b>	105	8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reintroduce school cooks rather than contracting out cooking with terrible meals.</li> <li>- I would query increasing the costs of primary school meals for years 5 and 6 when the Welsh Government is paying a unit rate of £3.10 for each primary school meal. I would like to see more investment to ensure these learners are part of the UPFSM rollout - they have managed to achieve full roll-out in the Vale of Glamorgan.</li> <li>- Stop universal free school meals.</li> <li>- Disgusting thinking of not providing free school meals.</li> <li>- School meals offer very poor value for money.</li> <li>- Increase plant-based meals in schools and reduce meat and fish based meals as they cost more than vegetarian or vegan meals.</li> </ul>
<b>Higher charges for those who can afford to pay more</b>	94	7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase council tax for those in the biggest and most valuable houses.</li> <li>- Council Tax bands are outdated &amp; don't reflect the actual income of the residents re private renters &amp; social/council renters, and are therefore not affordable for most.. It needs completely restructuring so as it's more realistic/affordable for the majority of Cardiff residents.</li> <li>- Stop free school meals for ALL primary children. There are many families who can afford it, so why do they benefit?</li> <li>- Social care cost increases to the public may be adjusted to reflect cost to the council and of the relevant percentage increases given to recipients who are also in receipt of welfare benefit payments.</li> <li>- More tax for the rich people, less tax for low to mid income households. Math is simple, rich people are not affected at all for increased tax, while others are greatly and negatively affected.</li> </ul>
<b>Negative Council Comments</b>	93	7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You have a dire reputation of incompetence, a reduction or clear restructuring/reimagining of the</li> </ul>

			<p>roles and administration of the council should be explored. A public inquiry should be held to understand if corruption, negligence or gross mismanagement has led to such a budget gap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By being competent, something you are utterly failing at currently. I've never lived somewhere where residents were so negative about the council and with good reason.</li> <li>- Charging more taxes is outrageous considering the amount of devices and rubbish public transport we have in Cardiff.</li> <li>- The suggestion to increase council taxes above a planned level is not acceptable given Cardiff Councils track record over recent years of annual increases and declining services. It's a paradox of its own making.</li> <li>- I don't even know why I pay council tax we have received such poor service in our area in terms of street cleansing, tree maintenance, waste collection. If anything, I think we should be due a refund!</li> </ul>
<b>Education should be a priority / protected</b>	65	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schools are essential and budget should be prioritised.</li> <li>- Agree very strongly that education should be a priority, including Welsh language education.</li> <li>- Education is vital.</li> <li>- Keep schools funded, education is the best way out of poverty.</li> <li>- The young are our FUTURE!!</li> </ul>
<b>Social care</b>	60	4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a material difference in approach in Wales and England to paying for social care. The Welsh cap at £100 is materially lower than England. For this reason I'm supportive of a higher charge for care in line with the Welsh government cap as I hope that will enable more care to be provided / better pay for care workers. If we can get better care on place quicker it will reduce NHS pressures.</li> <li>- It is privatisation that has pushed up the cost of care in this country today. When the council had control over most care homes, it was fair, and the care needed was there. Privatisation has ruined this.</li> <li>- I would only support the increased costs of home care services if the carers were paid more.</li> <li>- Bring social care in house to ensure good standards and putting any profit back into LA.</li> </ul>
<b>Income generation</b>	50	3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start charging private transport which creates pollution and congestion within the City boundaries.</li> <li>- Charge Industrial and Business sectors for the</li> </ul>

			<p>impact they have, on roads, infrastructure and public services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A levy on commercial developments especially for-profit residential developments such as new blocks of flats.</li> <li>- I think the council also needs to consider ways it can generate income from new initiatives such as renewable energy and EV charging.</li> </ul>
<b>Council tax</b>	44	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I said "don't know" in relation to council tax. I know I would struggle with any increase but also don't want the school meals or the home care services to be affected.</li> <li>- Its a hard decision. Increasing council tax and diminishing services will definitely not be popular. Its a hard balance.</li> <li>- If increases to protect services are made then there should be a lock to ensure increases in council tax are not accompanied by service reduction.</li> </ul>
<b>Focus on delivering core services</b>	42	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Core services used by all are a necessity, bins shouldn't be sacrificed in budgets because it's an immediate negative standpoint as soon as bin services become a hardship everyone suffers.</li> <li>- Prioritise core services. Avoid vanity projects or those that are politically biased. The city needs a focus on core services and infrastructure.</li> <li>- Focus on the basics - infrastructure, transport, street cleaning, refuse collection etc review and stop any initiatives that are ideologically driven. Eliminate the subsidy of activities that are non core.</li> </ul>
<b>More info required / Greater transparency needed</b>	42	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not enough information provided about the reserves being held by the Council. My opinion is that releasing more reserves to cover the expected shortfall should be a key part of the strategy.</li> <li>- A 3% increase seems reasonable but it's impossible to comment without a breakdown of the figures and seems rash to ask people to do so.</li> <li>- I don't know - I'd like more information on internal efficiency savings. It's difficult to suggest short term measures without making life a bit more **** for the majority, with fewer services being delivered while having to pay more.</li> </ul>
<b>Against a rise in Council Tax / Proposed rise is too high</b>	41	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council tax is a regressive tax. Where possible, rises in it should be avoided with rises in progressive or flat taxes preferred.</li> <li>- Suggest a 1-1.5% increase in council tax. 3% is too big of a jump in one year.</li> <li>- Not fair to even propose or consider higher council</li> </ul>

			<i>tax ... as you said cost of living crisis where do you expect people to magically get this money from??!!!</i>
<b>Education to do their bit to bridge the gap / reduce costs</b>	40	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schools should have a greater responsibility to make savings and generate their own incomes.</li> <li>- Schools need to find further cuts. Many schools can make savings but not providing as much materials for pupils. Back in the nineties, I had to supply all of my own books and stationery for school and this should happen today.</li> <li>- After a long career in education I feel there is much schools can do to work more efficiently.</li> </ul>
<b>General comments on education</b>	39	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Slow down new school build so you can afford it.</li> <li>- School budgets divided equally - lots of money seems to be continuously ploughed into Welsh schools, faith schools do not seem to get a look in.</li> <li>- Continuing to prioritise school budgets should also mean greater scrutiny on spend, alongside (Children's) Social Services.</li> </ul>
<b>General agreement with Council Tax increase</b>	38	3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5% rise in Council Tax given the level of inflation would not seem unreasonable.</li> <li>- I'd be willing to pay more than in increase of 3% in council tax to keep services running, esp Youth Services and Street Cleaning.</li> <li>- I would support a significant increase in Council Tax. Good luck!</li> </ul>
<b>Reduce spend on multiple Languages</b>	37	2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cut down on paper costs of dual Welsh language. The mount of leaflets needed in Welsh are minimal.</li> <li>- Strip back non-essential services/commitments first - e.g. comply with legal requirements for Welsh Language but do not fund commitments/services over and above the legal minimum.</li> <li>- Please don't start translating content into languages other than Welsh (e.g. Polish, Arabic etc), I appreciate there are other nationalities living here, but we are an English-speaking country (and Welsh) and I can imagine more translation work would lead to unnecessary administrative costs.</li> </ul>
<b>UK / Welsh Governments / Other Public bodies</b>	33	2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Get rid of the Senydd.</li> <li>- Why does Wales have 22 LA's for 3M people? Inefficient, need to rationalize and reduce inefficiency.</li> <li>- The Welsh government has miss handeld the financial budget on a farm, airport, 20 speed limits, new gas power station you are now punishing the Welsh people.</li> </ul>
<b>Everyone to pay Council Tax including</b>	27	2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make students in Cathays contribute to Council tax, I pay £2000+ a year yet the majority of my</li> </ul>



<b>Students / People on benefits</b>			<p><i>neighbours pays absolutely nothing. This is hardly a fair system.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>All house residents whether private or council should pay a percentage of council tax instead of zero if on benefits.</i></li> <li>- <i>Make everyone pay not only people who work for a living.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Protect essential services / vulnerable residents</b>	25	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Any cuts should be done in a fair and proportionate way, Libraries and culture based institutions are easy targets . Do not underestimate the feeling towards these services.</i></li> <li>- <i>We have already agreed to many suggestions but targeting the vulnerable is not good.</i></li> <li>- <i>Elderly and infirm should be protected and helped at all costs. They have paid through years of national insurance, throw the charge back to the assembly.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Waste / Recycling / Street Cleansing</b>	24	1.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Three weekly black bin collections is a terrible idea - as a family of five who avidly recycle this would create huge issues for us and is a terrible idea. It's difficult enough for us with the smaller bin size we would not manage three weekly Collections even though we heavily recycle already. This proposal penalises larger families who are complying already as opposed to focusing on those who don't recycle.</i></li> <li>- <i>Schools and social services are important - but maintaining the city's infrastructure through effective cleaning is also very important.</i></li> <li>- <i>Get rid of green bags and replace with a reusable container. they do this in the Vale.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Explore sponsorship / Volunteering / Business Partners / Collaboration Working</b>	23	1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Encourage schools to pursue private sponsorship.</i></li> <li>- <i>Get more volunteers - litter picking, neighbourhood watches, etc.</i></li> <li>- <i>Has the Council considered using organisations like FareShare to obtain the food for schools?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Survey Concerns</b>	22	1.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>There are so many things the council do that are not listed as one of the potential areas for cuts that it boggles the mind. This entire survey is patiently constructed to elicit a positive response to "hard choices" but has excluded many areas and protects pet projects of the Cardiff Council and WAG.</i></li> <li>- <i>There should be more options for the last two questions, you should be providing options to express maintenance of current Council Tax levels.</i></li> <li>- <i>Your questions are so loaded that they are embarrassing, so much for the consultation process.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Greater enforcement / fines issued / Collect</b>	20	1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Dog mess and litter are the two things which, on a daily basis, make life in Cardiff worse. Rules on these</i></li> </ul>

<b>Debt</b>			<p><i>need to be enforced far better and fines issued - that would help reduce the issues, and also generate some income...albeit a drop-in the ocean.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Ensure fines from 20mph zones go back into Welsh government.</i></li> <li>- <i>Greater effort must be made to collect unpaid Council tax as the burden unfairly falls on them that do.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Against an increase in homecare costs / Social Services needs to be prioritised</b>	17	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Don't agree with the proposal to increase home care costs. It could result in increased demand for limited residential care which could cost the Council far more.</i></li> <li>- <i>Care costs are so hard for people pls don't increase this.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Increase charges on Car Drivers</b>	17	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Congestion charging. Raise money, and discourage car travel. Win win.</i></li> <li>- <i>Massively increase charges on car drivers, especially large vehicles. Investigate how much wear/tear having one car free Sunday a month would save.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Tax landlords on their properties</b>	16	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Charging landlord's a one thousand pound tax per year for each property they own. How much revenue would that generate.</i></li> <li>- <i>I do think landlords should be made to pay council tax for student properties they are letting out, they earn enough income on the rental charges and areas with the highest student density are notoriously the worst areas for litter and waste.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Better / Increased engagement with local residents</b>	16	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I didn't know about this survey . Publicize it more so more people are aware and can make a contribution through encouragement to complete.</i></li> <li>- <i>Consult on projects before undertaking them such as the canal such as the arena. We are not being consulted and it's our money and our city. We haven't got the basics right.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Protect Parks / Green Spaces</b>	12	0.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Ensure that our park services is not reduced. Our environment needs to be prioritised.</i></li> <li>- <i>Please prioritise parks and green spaces. It is very difficult and expensive to get these back once maintenance has dropped. It could cause a longer term budget issue.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Reduce Social Services / Cut Subsidies</b>	11	0.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Reduce caring for older people, they can afford more and are willing to pay too. Focus on the young people paying the taxes.</i></li> <li>- <i>Social services should just be axed completely, it costs far too much and shouldn't exist.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Public Transport</b>	11	0.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Sell Cardiff bus, it can't possibly get worse.</i></li> <li>- <i>We should be investing more in public transport.</i></li> </ul>



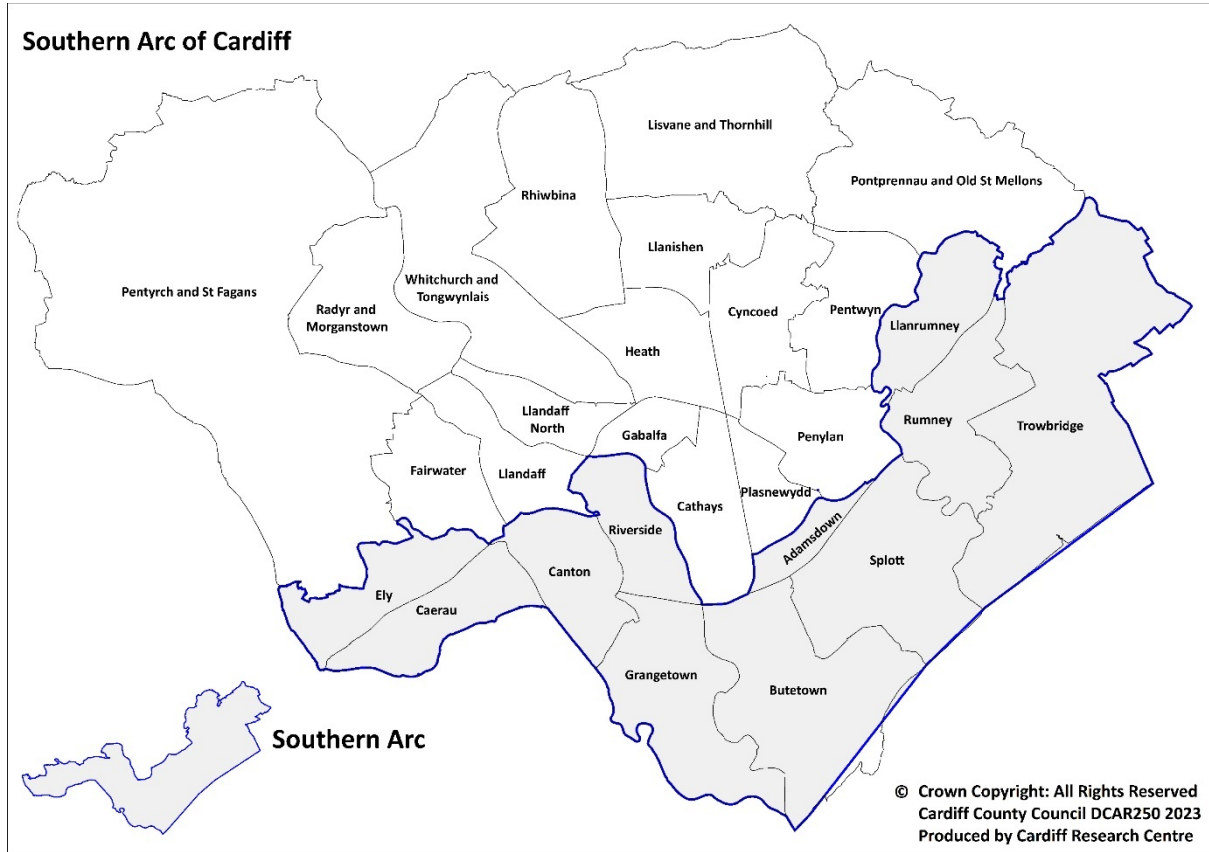
			<i>Without SIGNIFICANT improvements to public transport, the proposed changes to parking provisions will be a mess. Finish the bus station.</i>
<b>Comment on Culture / Arts / Libraries</b>	10	0.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Sorry to say but I think that any subsidies for cultural events should be slashed . Also organisers of large sporting and music events in the city should be made to pay higher charges for council services used during preparation, during and after these events.</i></li> <li>- <i>Social services are important as is education. But the fabric of a city is more than this. It's libraries and culture and heritage and arts etc. I don't think Social services and education should be prioritised above all else.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Concerns around paying for services that I don't use</b>	9	0.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>People who have children should pay extra for schools services. Why am I paying for services when I have no children.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Cut / Reduce Benefits / Encourage people back to work</b>	9	0.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Deeper thorough investigations in benefit fraud and who can have universal credit, a better push at encouraging people to work rather than live on benefits</i></li> </ul>
<b>Remove subsidies / Tax Private Schools</b>	6	0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Remove subsidies for public schooling to prioritise state schools</i></li> </ul>
<b>Lobby Government for more funding</b>	6	0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Request more funds from the UK government where we Welsh residents also pay our tax money</i></li> </ul>
<b>Homelessness comments</b>	5	0.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Provide incentives to reduce homelessness.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Immigration / 'illegals' comments</b>	4	0.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I believe all immigrants should not receive any funding until they pay council tax and income tax.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Generally against the proposals</b>	4	0.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Once again appalling proposals.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	39	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I would look at models in other countries. I worry that cuts cost more in the long run-so this should be monitored.</i></li> <li>- <i>Compare the teachers salary to bin men and drivers it's a big injustice already. And they still allowed to strike for more money. It's one of many examples I'm sure.</i></li> <li>- <i>Thank you for the opportunity to participate in these difficult decisions.</i></li> </ul>
	<b>1274</b>		

Appendix 38 – Please specify which proposal(s), and outline the impact you think these proposals will have (positive or negative)

Theme	No	%	Example Comments
<b>Negative impact on Welsh language</b>	48	45.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ALL NEGATIVE!!</li> <li>- Negative</li> <li>- Lack of access, lack of staff, lack of resources invested</li> <li>- Any reduction in Welsh is a bad thing, its use should be encouraged.</li> </ul>
<b>Negative comments on the proposals, rather than their impact on Welsh</b>	29	27.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ones you want to take away</li> <li>- These will impact my activities very negatively and all because the council are out of touch.</li> <li>- If cuts are made then we won't be able to use parks if they're unsafe or the central library if closed.</li> </ul>
<b>Hubs / Libraries</b>	25	23.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to periodicals looks like it might become harder, as some are not online.</li> <li>- Volunteers - they may not speak Welsh and may be less supported to be able to manage enquiries in Welsh, order Welsh language books etc</li> <li>- Reducing the opening hours proposed in the Hubs &amp; Libraries section will prevent my child from accessing Welsh-language groups, which we have found hugely beneficial and enjoyable</li> </ul>
<b>Welsh Language Act</b>	9	8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is important to be able to communicate in your mother tongue, especially as you get older.</li> <li>- It is necessary to have access to the Welsh language in all areas</li> </ul>
<b>Parks</b>	9	8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parks - bin collection reduction would hugely impact litter in parks and residential areas.</li> <li>- Parks</li> </ul>
<b>Parking</b>	6	5.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parking...any increase affect ability to pay for other services.</li> <li>- Negative impact of increased parking charges.</li> </ul>
<b>Welsh services are currently poor</b>	5	4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This council has for many years held the Welsh language in the lowest of regard and I/we would not like it to get worse but any means of cost cutting.</li> <li>- I have contacted C2C numerous times and whilst I press the option to continue in Welsh-operations usually are not available. The Hubs didn't have any more Welsh copies of this survey!</li> </ul>
<b>Events</b>	5	4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I feel that there may be less support for Welsh language gigs and events.</li> <li>- Culture and the arts are essential to the Welsh language and culture. Events and cultural art</li> </ul>

			<i>institution that promote welsh language and culture both in Wales and overseas are essential. Cardiff is a capital with its own language, where arts and culture should be prioritise and promoted. Not funding artes mundi would be a massive hit to the contemporary culture and to Wales future. We don't have a contemporary arts museum, and events/festivals like artes mundi are what's keeping Wales on the international cultural map.</i>
<b>Leisure &amp; Sports</b>	4	3.8	<i>- Currently the only place I access services in Welsh is Cardiff Riding School. They could offer so much more for the Welsh speaking community if they were better supported by the council.</i>
<b>All Services</b>	4	3.8	<i>- Fewer staff or opening hours will reduce all levels of service and morale amongst remaining staff.</i>
<b>Need more information</b>	3	2.8	<i>- you haven't said what the proposed change will be, how can I possibly comment? Are you planning on cutting back on the service? you have a duty under the Welsh language act to provide bilingual service and this should remain so.</i>
<b>Will impact English as well as Welsh</b>	3	2.8	<i>- They will impact our ability to access services in Welsh just as they will in English.</i>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	14	13.2	<i>- Everything has an impact in some way be it big or small but to balance the books is a priority too. - Increase in cost with a reduced service. - Maybe.</i>

## Appendix 39 – Southern Arc Map



## Appendix 40 – Promotion of the Consultation

- Cardiff Citizen's Panel (~6,000 members)
- Ward Members
- Community Councils
- C3SC
- Schools via Child Friendly Cardiff
- Youth Council
- PSB Members
- Tenants Website
- Partnership Team (to pass to Faith Groups, PCC, Disability groups including the Deaf Hub, SightLife and RNIB)
- Cardiff Council website
- Staff Intranet
- DigiGov
- Email to all staff from Staff Information

### Social Media Presence

- Cardiff Council's corporate accounts on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram
- Caerau (Cardiff) Residents
- Caerau and Ely MATTERS
- Residents of Canton & Riverside, Cardiff
- Victoria Park Matters
- Connect Cathays
- Keep Cathays Tidy
- Fairwater Community Group
- Gabalfa/Llandaff - Community Page
- Gwaelod y Garth villagers
- Heath & Birchgrove (Cardiff) Community Information Group
- Llandaff North & Whitchurch Daily Life Cardiff
- Llanishen and Thornhill Community Page
- Llanishen Residents' Group
- Llanishen & Rhiwbina Past And Present
- I love Llanishen and north Cardiff
- Llanishen Parks Group
- Llanrumney News
- Pentyrch Community Group
- Friends of Roath Brook. Protecting Penylan's parks
- Pengam Green residents
- Rhiwbina Community News
- Roath Living Streets Group

- Rumney Community
- Rumney and Cardiff East News
- Rumney News
- People of Splott
- Westfield Park Residents, St Fagans Cardiff
- St Mellons News And Info
- Trowbridge, Cardiff News and Events
- MyWhitchurch
- Friends of Whitchurch Library Park
- Tongwynlais Village
  
- Cardiff Covid-19 Mutual Aid Network
- Riverside Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group
- Canton Covid-19 mutual aid group
- Llanishen Covid -19 Mutual Aid Group
- Llandaff North COVID-19 Assistance
- Grangetown & Leckwith Covid Mutual Aid
- Cyncoed Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group
- Whitchurch COVID-19 Assistance Group
- Roath / Cathays / Gabalfa / Heath Mutual Aid Group
- Splott/Adamsdown Community Noticeboard
- Pontprennau Coronavirus Community Support
- Fairwater & Pentrebanе Mutual Aid for Covid-19 Coronavirus
- Ely and Caerau Covid-19 Support
- Thornhill Covid-19 - Mutual Aid
- Covid-19 Support and Positivity Cardiff
- Penylan Covid-19 Community Support
- Rumney Coronavirus Support Group
- Cardiff Coronavirus Support
- Cardiff North Coronavirus Response
- Llanrumney Coronavirus Support Group
- Pentwyn & Llanedeyrn Coronavirus Community Help
  
- Gwaelod y Garth Villagers
- Creigiau Hub
- Pentyrch & Creigiau Hub
- Pentyrch Community Group
- Pentyrch Community Council FB Page

## Appendix 41 – Additional Feedback to the Consultation

### **Friends' Forum Statement re proposed budget cuts**

This statement is made on behalf of the Friends Forum (a body formed of representatives of the 14 Friends groups in Cardiff) in response to the proposed budget cuts.

The budget cuts highlight a number of key issues which will cause undoubted serious impact to the way in which the Friends groups function, namely:-

1. The reduction in the number of Rangers (4) will seriously impair the ability of the volunteers to carry out any meaningful tasks. Without Ranger support, groups will not be insured to carry out any tasks involving tools, which in effect makes it impossible for the groups to function. Such impact cannot be underestimated as the total number of hours per annum is a massive 20,000 plus hours. A truly incredible figure.

2. The loss of ranger support also means that duties such as bye-law enforcement is lost opening up the parks to serious degradation in appearance and function. Paths, fences, tree planting etc will also suffer and add to a decline in the status of open areas. Green Flag status to some parks will obviously suffer which will be a retrograde step.

3. Parks provide the outlet and opportunity for people seeking good mental health and well-being and a escape from a sometimes challenging everyday life. They also provide an important habitat for wildlife which needs to be managed. Rewilding should in principle be supported but a balance needs to be achieved in open areas otherwise invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalyan Balsam can take over and smother sensitive species e.g. orchids.

4. The consultation does not appear to accurately reflect the total impact on the workload Rangers carry out. This may have an influence on the decisions about staffing the Council members need to determine.

5. Parks are an important feature to facilitate play for growing children of all ages. A reduction in spending means fewer repairs and maintenance to such areas and once redundant, equipment is likely to deteriorate, be vandalised, and detract from the overall appearance of the play facility. In conclusion, the potential impact of the loss of Ranger support to volunteer Friends groups must carry significant weight given the 20,000 hours undertaken for the benefit of both people and the environment.

The Forum would therefore respectfully ask that maintaining current Ranger levels is a very important priority for the citizens of Cardiff

#### Appendix

Friends of Mill Road Recreation Grounds (Wiggins Teape), Ely would like to contribute a comment please to the above.

"The support of the community ranger (Jess Hopewell) has enabled our small group of residents to make huge improvements to the safety, accessibility and biodiversity of Mill Road Recreation Grounds. This park has been a site of long term neglect, anti-social and criminal behaviour which has had a huge impact on our lives. With the support of the community rangers we have been able to establish a group and involve local children in conservation work. Since starting to look after the park in Oct 2022, the improvement to our community has been

noticeable with a reduction in noise, littering, vandalism and anti-social behaviour as well as criminal behaviour. For the residents living near the park, our health and wellbeing have benefitted greatly. The work we are doing with the Community Ranger will contribute to the prevention of both social and environmental problems in this deprived urban area, saving the local authority money in the long term. We cannot continue this work without the support of the Community Ranger"



Friends of St Mary's Gardens, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 1QN

30 January 2024



Re. Public Consultation on Cardiff Council Spending Cuts

Dear Councillor Kate Carr,

I am writing on behalf of The Volunteers and Friends of St Mary's Gardens, a small but historically and botanically important Public Open Space under the care of Cardiff Parks Department, to ensure that those involved in taking difficult decisions over cuts to Public Spending are aware of some hidden consequences to the proposed cuts to Ranger Services.

Following the Westminster Government Competitive Tendering Policy in the 1980's Cardiff Parks' funding was severely cut. Consequently the major Parks deteriorated and minor Open Spaces (such as St Mary's Gardens) had proper maintenance withdrawn. Although the preamble to the Council's proposed cuts to Parks' funding speaks of recent improvements to Parks' staffing that came after decades of ongoing deterioration. During that time the decline in the standard and provision of green open spaces for Cardiff residents was to an extent arrested through the collaboration of professional Rangers with unskilled Volunteers. It is important to realise that cuts to the Ranger Service, aside from the obvious regrettable consequences, will also result in a diminution in Volunteer services because:

- a) Volunteers Working Parties (in the case of St Mary's Gardens currently 15-20 Volunteers for 2 hours once a month) can only work under the supervision and direction of a professional Ranger. It would be beneficial if our Volunteers could be enabled to work more hours, not less, in order to restore the Gardens to their heyday for the health and happiness of the whole Community. The current proposals put the whole enterprise in jeopardy.
- b) Events organised by Friends' Groups, such as conducted History and Natural History walks and Open Days, can only take place with a Ranger present so these popular Community events are likely to be lost.
- c) Friends' Groups currently apply for Grants for spending on Cardiff's Parks from bodies such as The Postcode Lottery, Welsh Historic Gardens, ASDA Foundation etc. In the case of St Mary's Gardens we have raised over £6,000 in the last 4 years for provision of an Interpretation Board, a Notice Board, material to refurbish benches, and unusual ferns and shrubs for the Gardens.. However in applying for Grants we have to guarantee that their implementation and maintenance will be professionally overseen. It follows that capital

investment, as well as on-going maintenance, will be lost if the Ranger Service is cut as proposed..

The Committee and Members of the Friends of St Mary's Gardens would appreciate it if you would ensure that these possibly not fully appreciated consequences of any cuts to the Parks' Ranger Service could be given due consideration in the debate on cuts to public services.

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Pearce ( Chairman of the Friends of St Mary's Gardens)

Dear Kate Carr, Jackie Jones, Jamie Green and Marc Palmer,  
Having completed the Consultation document, I am now writing about the proposed Council cuts with particular reference to the Parks.

I acknowledge the difficult job the Council have in finding savings, but I want you to really consider the the impact of these proposals on the much valued green spaces Cardiff is so fortunate to have, the impact on biodiversity of neglect and, last but not least, the huge beneficial impact of nature and open spaces for our mental health. Green spaces, biodiversity and mental health benefits have been much vaunted by the Council.

Firstly, the opening paragraph of the section, Park Rangers are mentioned without any reference to the Community Rangers, who have a different job altogether. They are included in the figures but no distinction is made. Also, just mentioning bylaws and antisocial behaviour 'up-front' is misleading to say the least. Reference is made in the next section to wider duties and then the Council seem too be congratulating themselves on Green Flag awards as though this happens by magic when in fact attaining this status requires very hard work - and will need maintenance to retain this accolade.

I have been a member of the Friends of Forest Farm for over 20 years and more recently, also a Friend of St Mary's Gardens and am well aware of the range of work the community rangers carry out. I do not think the Council know or appreciate it. Surely you can see that Covid had a detrimental effect on the work the Rangers could carry out. It was absolutely clear at the quite small site of St Mary's Gardens, how quickly nature took over. In fact we are just about starting to make progress again there.

There are 20+ Friends groups in the Cardiff area. Their members support which generate the huge amount of volunteering that cannot be done unless Rangers are present. Those hours are collected and fed back to the Council. (It has been reported that volunteer hours reached 20,000 last year!! The Friends groups also help manage the habitat and promote conservation.

Management of the habitat is essential to maintain and promote biodiversity. At Forest Farm (part of which is a SSSI i.e Long Wood and the remains of the historical Glamorganshire canal - sorely in need of attention), a feeder from the River Taff, 2 Wetland areas and 2 ponds, an orchard, and areas managed as wild spaces. All this works to attract birds such as Bittern, Kingfisher, Snipe, beautiful dragonflies, wild flowers and fungi. Rushes have to be cut back, trees felled, paths maintained, as well as being called to storm damage and assisting in flood management if required. Bramble and invasive species like Himalayan Balsam soon get a hold, preventing native species from thriving.

Did you know that they also run a schools programme to get children involved in nature? This is in accordance with the national curriculum. Children need to experience nature both for their enjoyment and to learn about the environment they are and will be living in.

The Rangers work with other community groups and charities, liaison with groups/organisations concerned with nature e.g. RSPB, Wildlife Trust, Cardiff Rivers Group, Bug Life. these links are so important and will not be able to maintained if they are further stretched by staff reductions.

Please seriously consider these points when you and/or your fellow Councillors discuss and make decisions on the Budget cuts proposed.

Yours sincerely,  
Sheila Austin

Dear Sir / Mme,

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Hailey Park in response to the Council's proposed budget reductions.

1. We understand that Cardiff Council proposes to make 4 park ranger posts redundant.
  - a. Community groups like the Friends of Hailey Park, school, youth and business groups rely entirely on being supervised by park rangers in order to carry our voluntary activities in parks. Thus each FTE (full-time-equivalent) park ranger enables many FTEs of actual work in parks. It is therefore clear that, in terms of value for money, reducing the park ranger team would have a far greater impact on the ability of Cardiff Council to maintain its estate than the proposed numbers suggest.
  - a. Park rangers and the groups they work with, like our own, are the ears and eyes of the council on the ground. If their ability to be present or work with groups is reduced, Cardiff Council should expect to see escalating problems with invasive species, litter and fly-tipping - all of which are currently kept to a minimum thanks to the work park rangers do with community groups. Dealing with these problems in other ways is likely to cost far more than the rangers' salaries.
  - a. The Park Ranger Service give many children and families who cannot afford to pay in other ways for activity a chance to have their Duke of Edinburgh or Welsh Baccalaureate credited by joining the volunteer Workdays run with Friends Groups on the parks and nature reserves.
  - a. The Park and Urban Rangers in Cardiff have won a Green Flag Award for their excellence. Reducing the service and consequent volunteer hours could put the prestigious Green Flag Parks awards hard worked for across Cardiff at risk.
  - a. The Health and Wellbeing aspects of having publicly owned open green spaces like parks is well documented with growing evidence in this respect. Park Rangers are instrumental in creating the sense and culture of safety and freedom that allows for diverse and inclusive shared use of parks- young people sharing space with older people, families, dog walkers- brings behaviour change, brings a sense of community, somewhere to socialise, reducing social isolation and antisocial behaviour or conflicts where more powerful entitled groups grab ownership of public space over other less powerful people. In this respect it also becomes an Equalities issue which the council has a duty to fulfil. There's a risk, like in many other cuts to public health interventions and services, that it will increase the demand and risks to statutory council services like social care or to the police.
  - a. There is substantial and growing evidence for the health and wellbeing effects of citizens being in contact with nature whether through communing with nature itself or undertaking recreation in green/blue spaces. The education and facilitation function of Park Rangers in this aspect is substantial through their events programme and by their visibility, approachability and accessibility on parks in a routine everyday way. They are truly a frontline service.

- a. In a Nature and Climate Crisis the Park Ranger and Urban Ranger services are on the frontline of protecting and enhancing nature. They have a wealth of “on the ground” direct knowledge of our green spaces and the nature that inhabits this alongside us all. Current and Future Generations need such services to inform decision makers of this kind of knowledge and the way Rangers can link communities to care for and protect the nature and environments that are local to them. This is an important educational and directly protective function for nature and environment in this crisis which all citizens need to be informed and mindful of and take action on. It is shortsighted and detrimental to reduce this service at such a time.
  - a. The Park Ranger Service has an important liaison function with the Cardiff Local Nature Partnership which allows for citizens to access education and knowledge from a number of environmental organisations. The Local Nature Partnership has access to grant funding via Welsh Government and other bodies which can be used more effectively and efficiently by the Council on Parkland if informed by the Park Ranger Service in partnership with Friends Groups.
    - a. **The Friends of Hailey Park therefore strongly oppose any reduction to the park ranger service because such cuts would limit our ability to carry out our core mission.**
2. We understand that Cardiff Council proposes to reduce its number of Playground Inspectors to a single post.
- a. Playground Inspectors do not only inspect playgrounds but are also able to carry out many repairs quickly and cheaply without involving external contractors or other council staff. This is a very effective and efficient way of delivering the service which we understand would be impossible to achieve with only a single Playground Inspector.
  - a. The number of playgrounds that could be inspected per month would be halved by this proposal. This means that equipment that develops a fault could potentially stay dangerous for twice as long as at present.
  - a. Playground inspections would not be able to take place whilst the remaining Playground Inspector was taking annual leave or if they were unavailable for work. At worst, this could lead to health and safety incidents. At best it would leave playground equipment unusable for far longer.
    - a. **The Friends of Hailey Park oppose the reduction of the number of Playground Inspectors to a single post because this would make Hailey Park’s play facilities less safe and interesting for the children and young people that use them.**
3. We understand that Cardiff Council proposes to considerably reduce the budgets for both playground maintenance and the maintenance of hard infrastructure within parks
- a. **The Friends of Hailey Park oppose these budget reductions because they would make the park less safe and less inclusive for children, disabled and elderly people.**

We understand Cardiff Council claims that Cardiff is now the UK’s first Child-friendly city. The above budget cuts are inconsistent with this because they are focussed specifically in areas that would harm children’s wellbeing and enjoyment of the city’s parks in that they would:

- Reduce children's opportunities to participate in the management and improvement of their local parks and green spaces
- Reduce the amount of interesting equipment available in playgrounds
- Make green spaces, parks and playgrounds less safe for children to use

We therefore call upon you to remove the above proposals from the budget and retain the posts and budgets at their real-terms level.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Rock, Treasurer, Friends of Hailey Park

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CYNGOR CYMUNED  
TONGWYNLAIS  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Cardiff Council Budget Consultation

Tongwynlais Community Council are writing in regards to the Cardiff Council Budget consultation and in particular the option to remove some public litter bins and to reduce the frequency of household collections.

The Community Council have contacted the waste services department at Cardiff Council on several occasions to request an increase in public litter bin collections as the village is frequently prone to full or overflowing public bins, especially by the village play area. The Community Council kindly requests that no public litter bins are removed from Tongwynlais village, especially in our park areas and on Merthyr Road, through and outside the village, and on Castle Road/Mill Road. These areas are highly trafficked by pedestrians, cyclists and tourists using the Taff Trail and those visiting Castell Coch and the local woodlands.

Similarly, the reduction in household collections has caused some resident concern and the Community Council shares some of these concerns and feels that before, or if, any of these changes are introduced the concerns about health implications and increased littering and fly tipping are fully researched, with decisions taking into account the results, to ensure that there are no adverse impacts, from any changes, in our communities.

Tongwynlais Community Council kindly requests you consider these points raised as part of your consultation process.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Nadine Dunseath  
Clerk to the Council



Hello Councillors,

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda to you all!

I have completed and submitted both the online and hard copy surveys regarding the above.

There are many aspects of the proposed cuts that I fundamentally disagree with including the idea of reducing the number of street waste bins.

I attach a few photographs which illustrate that many of the bins in the Whitchurch area are heavily used and are often as you can see overflowing with waste before emptying.

As a Keep Wales Tidy volunteer for over 10 years, I am often appalled (like I'm sure you are) by the level of litter in the Whitchurch area.

As per my comments in my completed surveys, I firmly believe that we require MORE bins not less, or alternatively MORE frequent emptying of the bins we currently have.

I'd be very grateful then, as our elected representatives, if you would also please strongly oppose any reductions in the waste bins in your council ward.

In addition, without any knowledge of the Council's planned 'efficiency' savings to cut costs mentioned in the Consultation document, I have also listed a number of suggestions for potential savings for consideration - see attachment. These will also be submitted separately to Mr Huw Thomas as the Leader of the Council.

As you are all directly involved in how Cardiff Council operates, I'd be very grateful if you would also please make representation on the points raised, or let me know if a number of these are already being implemented within the Council.

Many thanks in advance for your support on this matter.

Enjoy the rest of your day.

Regards

Kelvin Hughes (Dr)



### **CARDIFF COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25 – CONSULTATION**

Assuming the aspects below have not already been assessed, I wish to suggest the following in terms of potential areas for budget savings: (None of these are mentioned in the Consultation document under 'efficiency' savings).

1. Ensure that energy costs across the whole of the Council's estate including schools, leisure centres, council offices etc etc are monitored and reduced as appropriate. A recent article/report published in the Times revealed that energy costs varied considerably between councils in both England and Wales. (Published by Box Power a not-for-profit energy consultant). Therefore the Council should:
  - ensure all premises use the cheapest available gas and electricity tariffs.

- run a 'save energy' initiative/drive to cut costs where appropriate.
- consolidate/rationalise and share office space, including 'hot desking', as it appears that many Council office-based staff now work from home most of the time.
- 2. Review and cut spending on consultants and agency staff.
- 3. Review and reduce spending on unnecessary courses for staff on topics such as 'Inclusivity' and 'Diversity' etc.
- 4. Review and reduce staff absenteeism within the Council.
- 5. Improve productivity across all roles within the Council.
- 6. Get more for less by improving procurement practices across all Council departments and functions (including schools).  
Adopting a group approach has been shown to reduce the costs for the procurement of goods and services significantly in many organisations, both public and private.
- 7. Claw back money from benefit cheats.
- 8. Proactively tackle fraud. For example, check household occupancy in relation to people claiming the Council Tax single person discount.
- 9. Review performance and the pay of senior Council executive staff where appropriate. (Introduce Performance Related Pay systems if not already in place for the top earners).
- 10. Scrutinise the allowances/expenses given to Councillors.
- 11. Review and cut the number of surveys/consultations the Council runs per year.
- 12. Stop providing free food and drink (including bottled water) at all Council meetings.
- 13. Minimise wasteful/duplicate practices and projects across all Council departments.
- 14. Hold senior directors and cabinet members accountable for failures (particularly when they significantly negatively impact budgets).
- 15. Based on my own experience as a Keep Wales Tidy Litter Champion volunteer for over 10 years, the Council could and should work **far more collaboratively and sympathetically** with such volunteering groups.
- 16. Finally, ask all Council staff for their list and suggestions for potential cost saving areas, as they are best placed to see where savings can be made.

The above list for consideration is based on experience working for over 30 years within the private sector, where we were always striving to reduce costs and be more efficient and productive in our operations.

It goes without saying that Councils should obviously be doing the same to ensure the efficient and effective use of public money.

At the end of the day, in these tough financial times, the Council must surely realise that it can't be 'all things to all men' and it has to make tough decisions regarding what sectors of the community it can support going forward, with less budget.

I apologise if a number of the above suggestions have or are being investigated within the Council already, but the survey does ask for other suggestions on how the Council can cut its costs.

In this regard, I would encourage the Council to be far more open and transparent with the public on such matters regarding its in-house 'Efficiency Savings' to avoid any confusion/embarrassment in the future when conducting such consultations.

### **General Point**

In recent years, the media has been full of large Council infrastructure projects that have turned out to be massively late in completion and over budget. A classic example is the long-awaited and still to be completed Cardiff Bus Station. It is now over 9 years that the city has been without a central bus station. From what I read, during this time there have been at least 2-3 redesigns and endless delays, many of them not due to Covid and the other usual excuses. I'm sure that in time the true cost of this eagerly awaited bus station will become known and I believe it's not going to be pleasant reading for the Council (or the tax paying residents of Cardiff).

In light of such financial mismanagement, I am sure that I am not alone in feeling that it is extremely disingenuous of the Council to conduct such a budget consultation asking for some relatively small savings in some areas and cuts to essential services, when a number of projects such as above are turning out to be a 'bottomless pit' consuming huge amounts of public money at a time of austerity.

Finally, as a public body, I feel very strongly that the Council needs to be far more OPEN, HONEST and TRANSPARENT regarding how it 'manages' its allocated budget. In this way, residents will be in a far better position to meaningfully contribute to future budget consultations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document.

To all members of the ruling group of Labour Councillors on Cardiff City Council.

Thank you for inviting me to state preferences which would make the lives of the people of Cardiff much worse by further cutting into inadequate budgets. Unfortunately, I do not feel able to do this.

Further, I'd like to point out that as a citizen of Cardiff I elect councillors. The point of electing is to have democratic control over our lives. It is not to provide yet another set of administrators to carry out the Tory government's single policy of making a small elite into an even more rich class on the backs of working and dependent people.

We live in the sixth richest country in the world. There is no need for austerity, poverty, food banks, homelessness.

I consider it the job of Labour politicians to fight for the rights of their electorate. I understand that you cannot deliberately bankrupt the council. You can, however, use the information you have to organise and lead a fight back to secure the funding that's needed. It's called politics!

I know that you haven't the will nor the guts to step down, but I have the will not to vote for your complicity.

Yours sincerely

Alison Spencer





## **UNISON formal response to the Cardiff County Budget proposals 24/25**

22 January 2024

Dear Cllr Thomas/Paul Orders,

Cc Cllr Weaver, Chris Lee, Tracey Thomas.

### A Difficult Council Budget

UNISON appreciates that the Welsh Government settlement on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 left Local Government Finance in an incredibly perilous position.

We welcome the efforts made by directorates to put together a budget that largely attempts to protect core services and where possible achieve any job losses through deletion of vacant posts, voluntary severance or reduction in use of agency staff but overall we are likely to be facing around 220 FTE staff posts at risk of deletion and even with any proposed increases in Council Tax or other revenues we are still a long way from closing the gap.

We are in the fortunate position where we are able to use reserves, but this is not a sustainable position, and we share concerns that this year's budget proposals are cutting into the bones of services.

As a union we are opposed to any outsourcing or cuts in services, and we seek to defend our members' jobs and resist compulsory redundancies. We therefore urge Cardiff Council to continue to explore alternative ways of funding provisions.

We would once again ask that managers do not mislead staff in believing that Trade Unions have agreed to service cuts and job losses. These decisions are made by managers, and the trade unions only attend briefings to be advised on proposals, so we are best placed to support members whether individually or collectively.

What seems clear is that the Welsh government, local authorities, and trade unions need to be working together to put maximum pressure on the UK Government for proper funding of our services as council cuts have become a soft touch for Government cuts and will probably continue to be so while there is little resistance.

The joint position should always centre around **INCREASED FUNDING: NO SERVICE CUTS, NO JOB LOSSES.**

*EK Garson*

Emma Garson, Branch Secretary, Cardiff County UNISON

Councillor J Burke  
Cabinet Office Room 512  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf

Cardiff  
CF104UW

4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Councillor,

We are writing to you today with regard to the current Cardiff Council budget consultation, in particular the proposed loss of four Park Rangers, including two from the Community Park Rangers team.

The Community Park Rangers are responsible for the conservation management of all of Cardiff Council's nature reserves (excluding Flat Holm), ensuring effective habitat management to preserve and enhance biodiversity. Overall, they play a fundamental role in the management of 58 locally designated 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' (SINC), 7 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSI), 1 'Special Area of Conservation' (SAC), 2 'Country Parks' and 4 'Local Nature Reserves' (LNR). Their broad areas of expertise are essential to ensure these areas are not just maintained but improved.

However, that is just a small part of their role. They have service level agreements with other departments and an emergency response remit. These include: the management of the waterways and vegetation in the Cardiff Bay Wetlands for Cardiff Harbour Authority; the operation and maintenance of Radyr Weir to deliver renewable energy for the Energy Management Team; fuelwood and timber recovery from Cardiff Bay (which is sent to Flat Holm); and specialist arborist support in times of severe storms (which are increasing in frequency).

And, of course, they support and supervise the many volunteer, charity and school groups that undertake practical and educational activities on Council-owned land throughout the city. CRG is proud to work closely with the Community Park Rangers, and is reliant on them for their expertise and experience in directing what we do. If there were fewer Rangers available to supervise volunteers it would inevitably mean fewer CRG events on council land, with the consequent loss of many hours of productive activity (CRG volunteers collectively did approximately 1830 hours of work on council-managed land in 2023.) And there would be a

similar impact on the more than 20 Friends groups, plus the numerous other community groups, charities and organisations with which the Community Park Rangers work.

We also find it impossible to reconcile the proposed cuts to the Community Park Rangers with the "Nature Emergency" declared by the council in 2021, a declaration that was supposed to give biodiversity equal prominence with climate change at the heart of the council's decision

making. We are also struggling to see how the Council can reduce such a small essential team and still meet its obligations under the following:

- a. Environment Act (Wales 2016); Section 6: Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystem duty
- b. Well-Being of Future generations (Wales) Act 2015; Section 4 the Well-Being goals, and section 5 The Sustainable Development Principle
- c. Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Part II: Sites of special scientific interest- section 28G
- d. Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP)
- e. Cardiff Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Forward Plan (BRED) 2019 in particular section 3.2 Protecting the natural environment .

There is no question that Cardiff Council have to make some difficult decisions to balance the books, but reducing a service that actually generates such a high return in terms of free volunteer resources to assist the Council deliver its statutory obligations makes no sense.

In conclusion, we urge you to reconsider these cuts and protect this essential service. Once we start losing the green spaces and across the city they will never be replaced. We would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss these proposals with you and discuss where savings could be made. For example:

- a. reducing the mowing of areas of parks and verges;
- b. reduce or stop the use of weedkillers such as glyphosate;
- c. encourage more volunteering across the city (no one can dispute the absolute mess the Bay and city generally is in);
- d. be much more flexible and support volunteers/groups by looking for ways they can be more involved in improving our green spaces;
- e. partner with charities that are able to access funding that Cardiff Council is unable to for improvement projects.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Signed on behalf of The Board of Trustees:



Dear Cllr Thomas,

I wish to express the serious concern of myself and fellow Trustees over the proposal to withdraw the City Council's funding of Artes Mundi.

We understand that the Council is under great financial pressure. In this light we have found the year-on-year reduction in Council funding challenging, but are grateful for it. We have maintained positive relationships with the Council and with other partner organisations and collaborators across the city.

I sincerely ask that the decision be reconsidered. Our biggest concern is the proposal to withdraw funding altogether. This would have really serious implications for us, especially since the Council's support is significant for Artes Mundi for more than simply the money, crucial as that is.

### **Impact on funding:**

We raise over 50% of our funding from individuals, Trusts, Foundations and other grants. These support the programme of exhibition, community engagement, professional development work and other direct support for artists and participants, as well as the Prize itself.

In this cycle this amounts to over £300,000 (excluding Arts Council Wales), most from outside the city, over £130,000 coming from outside Wales.

We rely on a core Arts Council grant and Cardiff City Council's grant to fund the small core team and its base in the city, as well as key aspects of our work.

Crucially, however, we are often asked by other funders whether we have the support of the City - it's important we can say we do. And of course, we don't want to lose the valuable relationship we have with the Council.

### **Working locally:**

Our year-round work with local people and organisations in Cardiff and across Wales is as substantial as the biennial exhibitions and prize, and we see it as integral.

As well as the National Museum, we have since 2012-13 worked with other arts partners such as Chapter, g39 and Ffotogallery as venues who host exhibits and projects. We share our project management capacity and our external funding to work together on presentation and engagement. In the present 10th edition we have created additional displays across Wales, but retained Cardiff as the centre, where all the selected international artists are on show.

We also engage and support locally based artists and educators in a range of other roles through the project, as project staff, freelancers and paid interns. We engage with Black people and people of colour, and people in minority communities, reflecting how we bring to the city artists from across the globe, including the global south.

We represent and help develop connections between people within our home communities and the artistic representation of this on a national and international level. This empowers people, demonstrates the impact their creativity, insights and experiences have, and raises a greater awareness of the impact of disruption and displacement and creates a wider context for understanding.

Over the last few years, for example, we have also worked with bodies such as Trinity Centre, Oasis and the Wales Refugee Council to create projects which reach some of the most vulnerable people in the city.

To take some current examples: we have worked with the Kurdish Association to build understanding and dissemination of the exhibit in Artes Mundi 10 by the artist Anwar Rushdi, himself a Kurdish refugee now resident in Australia.

We have worked closely with a group of women to run regular workshops and activities at the Trinity Centre as 'Aurora Trinity Collective'. I attach an interim report for Arts Council Wales to illustrate their project the 'Aurora Phenomenon'. The testimony here is to experiences that we need to continue and develop further.

We work with many other collaborators to create projects for other groups. For example, we are working with specialist BSL signers in a project called 'Our Visual Worlds' to develop skills in giving tours in that medium. This reflects our role as an active partner in the 'Creativity is Mistakes' development project with Disability Arts Cymru that has been really successful.

I emphasise this range of work since the high profile of the international exhibition draws most attention, but we aim to parallel that in the specific impacts of these focussed engagement projects.

**Wider impacts :**

The significance of the economic and employment impact we have in the city is set out in the independent evaluation of Artes Mundi 9. The statistics give a sense of what we think is incredibly good investment by the Council. The report gives a particular sense of how the city's reputation is enhanced by the high proportion of visits to our exhibitions and events by people from outside Wales.

Our new post-pandemic investment in online activity puts Cardiff-based creative practitioners and professionals on an international platform. We are confident that this year's edition will generate a comparable impact.

However, beyond economic impact I think above all the Council might see Artes Mundi as a statement of the city's values - locally rooted, international in its role, bringing people from across cultures together through celebrating creativity and urging mutual respect, care and understanding.

I hope we can continue the dialogue with you and your team and maintain our positive relationship.

Yours sincerely

Mike

**Michael Tooby**

**Chair of Trustees, Artes Mundi**

<https://artesmundi.org>

## LISVANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Claire Owens  
Senior Research Officer  
Policy, Partnerships and Community Engagement  
Cardiff Council

18 January 2024

Dear Claire

### *CARDIFF COUNCIL 2024-25 BUDGET CONSULTATION*

Lisvane Community Council (LCC) would like to submit the following comments as part of the Cardiff Council 2024-25 Budget public consultation.

#### *Hubs and Libraries*

Cutting back on opening hours and paid staff will be counter-productive. The suggested approach to involve outside organisations in use of the spaces will increase revenue and repay the large costs required to set up these hubs in the first place. Volunteers would be useful but only if they are supported and directed by trained staff.

#### *Parks*

LCC considers the proposals to be short-sighted. Cardiff wishes to be seen as a green city with outdoor activities encouraged. The number of Rangers currently in place are already stretched to cover the existing parks. With the increase in housing developments there will be even more areas where Rangers will be essential to protect and assist with the management of green spaces. This cannot be done by unsupported volunteers. The proposed cuts are draconian with relatively little financial benefit.

Members are concerned that because of all the other more topical issues the importance of the Ranger services to the local community will be overlooked. Without the Ranger cover in Cefn Onn Park and Coed-y-Felin there would be no volunteer work and residents would soon notice the impact and scale of neglect.

## *Waste & Street Cleaning*

Residents need to be prepared to pay more for waste collection. This can be done either on an individual basis (which will require management and bureaucracy) or by an increase in council tax. Education in problem areas would be helpful, as also would prosecution of fly tipping.

As regards a charge for green bin (garden waste) collection, LCC has no objection in principle to having to pay for this non-statutory service. However, if residents are to be charged then Cardiff Council should undertake to provide the service throughout the year – not stopping in the winter months when many residents in Lisvane are still clearing fallen leaves etc, and potentially have the greatest need for garden waste disposal..

## *Leisure and Sports*

Sporting groups should be made aware of the true cost of subsidising their activities and be prepared to pay a reasonable price. Fees etc - Users need to be aware of the true cost of providing a service and asked to pay more, provided there is a safety net for genuine hardship.

## *General Comments*

Council Tax needs to be increased to match inflation but no more as otherwise it encourages councils to continue to spend without accountability. If there is a budget gap that is bad planning and just expecting people to pay more when the UK already has one of the highest tax burdens in the world is simply running away from the problem. Services need to be sustainable and the Councils tendency to spend capital out of capital budget with no thought as to maintenance or success if the developments shows a lack of financial rigour and business expertise.

The large number of new housing developments should provide a boost to the council tax receipts. The Council could also ensure that S106 agreements for money from developments are not watered down by affordability arguments.

The background information to the consultation does not adequately explain the Council's current Reserves and that release of surpluses should figure more prominently in the strategy for filling the gap.

The 2022/23 draft accounts show total usable reserves of £204m made up as follows:-

£m

- 29 Usable Reserves
- 161 Earmarked Reserves
  - 1 Parking reserves
  - 6 Capital Receipts
  - 7 Unapplied Cap Grants

Of these the background information only refers to the £29m and implies that some of this might be released. However, the list of earmarked Reserves and parking contains contingencies held for every one of the categories of service that is subject to being cut. Arguably the 2024-25 gap is not a one-off contingency but a recurring deficit unless covered by either savings or additional income (grant, council tax) but the sums held seem very high and have more than doubled in recent years. The normal business principle is that you run down your reserves in times of need

and then build them up when things improve.

Members were also quite surprised that Cardiff Council, in a number of areas, claimed to be well below a number of Councils in their charges for a wide range of services and amenities. This suggests that Cardiff Council has been undercharging/subsidising these facilities and now the Council is having to catch up.

Yours faithfully



*Haydn Davies*

**Clerk to Lisvane Community Council**

Cardiff County Council  
Budget Consultations 2024  
19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

## Cardiff Council Tax increases 2024

I am responding in brief to the consultation process on the proposed council tax increases.

1. Council Tax
2. Uniform Business Rates
3. Council Debt
4. Waste Management
5. Council Waste / Council assets
6. 20mph & Other Causes
7. Poverty / Foodbanks / Loan Sharks
8. Rump Administration
9. Bankruptcy
10. Conclusion

### Council tax

I wrote to the council in 2007 to protest the council tax increases of that time suggesting that the tax was and is unsustainable and that council policies will lead to huge waste and heavy burdens on the council taxpayers of the city. Then you had a debt of some £36M and were sitting on some £40M worth of artworks you could have sold to eradicate this debt and the service costs of this debt. I suggested that you should look toward streamlining your operations to ensure the most effective use of the funding hard working taxpayers are forced to pay for. Your response was one of indifference. Indeed, the constant response was that it is all Westminster's fault. Which of course is untrue as Wales is governed now by yet another tier of unnecessary government by the Assembly.

Council tax in Cardiff has shot up by almost 50 per cent over the last decade, leaving households paying hundreds of pounds more every year. From 2011–12 to this year, the tax rate has increased by 47.36 per cent, with another increase of four per cent expected this April. This means those in Band A, paying the lowest rate, are now charged £342.97 more than 10 years ago, while those in Band I, paying the highest rate, are now charged £1,200.38 more.

Council Tax is and always has been a false system in that it has no basis in certifiable scientific formulae but is the result of the engagement of estate agents who just drove around the city deciding which areas would receive which banding. This is an utterly unsustainable system as is the format and structure of our method of delivering statutory services to taxpayers.

### Uniform Business Rates

Just like council tax Uniform Business Rates are a product of fantasy and have absolutely no grounding in any scientific formulae. The continued loss of small to medium size business and increases in failures of startup (particularly in the restaurant and retail arena) are a product of

a council mindset of “Well we need more money so we will increase council tax and Uniform Business Rates). What occurs then in both these areas is as any accountant will tell you “*The law of diminishing returns*” and defaults on payments will continue to increase.

The new rating list came into effect in April 2023. Depending on the commercial property type, businesses may have experienced an increase in their business rates bill because of rateable values changing.

#### Rateable values change since the last rating list (2017)

1. Offices increased by 10%
2. Factories Workshops & Warehouses increased by 27.8%
3. Large Distribution Warehouses increased by 35.6%

When you add these costs onto the many other costs to industry and commerce including bureaucracy it is no wonder the city centres are dying, and investment is low

### Council Debt

Cardiff's public debt is set to jump by about 70% - to more than £1.4bn - during the next three years.

Cardiff council is currently borrowing about £841m, which is forecast to increase to £1.435bn by the 2023-24 financial year. The local authority already pays about £34m each year in interest on its borrowing.

The leader of the council stated that the money was needed for new homes, schools, and an indoor arena. But let's not forget the other grand schemes that this administration and previous ones have indulged in and some of the highest paid staff in the country.

1. 17 members of your senior staff received over £100,000 of total remuneration in 2021-22 increasing from 14 staff the period 2020.
2. Whilst the council indulged in unjustifiable projects such as the Churchill Way Canal development.
3. Indeed, so many more projects that a cash strapped organisation would have thought prudent to hold off until all debts were paid and reserves were in the bank.

Clearly the authority has lost sight of its proper duties. That is to fulfil its statutory obligations first and foremost and most importantly to balance the books and reduce costs to taxpayers.

## Waste Management

In my career I have built seven profitable business in five different industries, but the largest part of my career was in Environmental and Waste management at all levels. Domestic, Recycling, Commercial, Clinical, Industrial, Special & Hazardous Wastes. I ran a local authority waste dept that was losing £1/2M per annum but in two years I turned that into a £1/4M profit, introducing new technologies and methods and winning awards. Also introducing the recycling to the authority. My experience in the authority was an eye opener and my view was when I left after two years was that they should all be closed. The Chief Engineer did not want me to leave. But either the managers managed and are accountable or the unions do.

I engaged both with the assembly and with the council on systems and costs in determining a bright future for the taxpayers using superb technology and methods. I showed you how you could create a modern waste management system with recycling and the circular economy at its heart. However, both the assembly and the council did not listen, instead you went for the outdated old technology with all its attendant pollution and high costs. I informed you very strongly that it was a system that was utterly unsustainable both environmentally and economically. But here you are with a toxic incinerator in the middle of the city owned and operated by the Chinese government and costing mega amounts of money in gate fees and pollution control along with major costs in the collection and transport structure to service it. It emits around 2,300 cars per day of pollution. *A full independent investigation on how this came about should be undertaken.* But of course, you cannot admit you got it wrong, so you try to continually sell it as environmentally friendly. Which it certainly is not. What's worse is that you have locked the taxpayers into a system that will face ever increasing costs for a 25-year period and in the process lock yourself out of new technology and systems that are more efficient and a fraction of the costs to run and maintain, more environmentally friendly and flexible systems that meet the circular economy. No wonder you continually have disputes with your staff.

## Council Assets

In 2007 when I wrote to you with my concerns about your growing debt you had some £36.00 million worth of artworks which you were duty bound to sell to bring your finances back into balance. I understand that the Welsh councils have some £2 Billion in useable reserves which could and should be used to bring your books back into balance and reduce your costs. You also need to explain and justify why you have written off some £19 Million in this last year?



## The 20mph Debacle

This disgraceful draconian law based on the whims of vested interests that clearly do not understand how a modern economy works and is successful has cost I understand some £30M to Cardiff but it is probably going to be more and what for? To create a new revenue stream for bankrupt local authorities who think that the motorist should foot the bill. Just some of the consequences of this and the out-of-control environmental lobby are: -

1. Drivers are utterly confused by it.
2. It makes no sense for many areas and times.
3. When drivers lose their licences, they will become unemployed.
4. Key workers losing their licences will create a huge crisis for the vital services.
5. Massive increases in pollution due to the slow speeds and traffic jams.
6. Modern economies are based on mobility and slim margins in a very competitive world.
7. Since its enforcement the bottom line of most companies are taking a hit and the Return of Capital employed will be damaged immensely and with the huge damage being done to the JITS system of supply and demand will create a reality of boardroom decisions to close or relocate their business.
8. Investors will certainly be thinking twice about coming to Wales.

The city council has also done huge amounts of damage with its war on motorists. Blocking streets off and main thoroughfares being converted to cycle lanes only has and is leading to a huge drop in financial mobility and profit for the thousands of small, medium, and larger businesses. On a personal level I stopped going into town to shop or use the entertainment facilities over 2 years ago and have no desire anymore to go in the future due to the nightmare the council has created for motorists. As a disabled person with polio, I rely heavily on my vehicle, and I am not interested in going to a place that does not want you. Well, were not all cyclists are we!

Possibly had you spent the £30M on creating railway stations along the Newport to Cardiff main railway line at all the communities along the track, Marshfield, St. Mellons, Trowbridge, Rumney, Tremorfa, Splott. You would have found that the circular economy would have benefitted along with a reduced traffic flow as many commuters could have utilised a commuter train back and forth, as was the successful example of the Cardiff to Ebbw Vale commuter train. This was researched and submitted to the Councils, The Assembly, and TFL by the *Rumney Community Development Association* back in 2007. But not one of these bodies have responded to it, including the elected members.

Further to this the whole kit and caboodle of the councils so called green agenda has been enforced **with** scant involvement of the taxpayers of the city without any thought of reviewing and changing the policy if it leads to loss of income and increased pollution. Are we to see electric charging cables running from all the terraced homes across the pavement to charge the forced upon them electric cars. Are the local authority paying for this. If you think that you are going to get away with **road charging** and many of the other ridiculous extremist green fantasist policies, you will be sadly mistaken.

## Poverty / Foodbanks / Loan Sharks

Tackling the impact of council tax on the poorest people should be a "high priority" for the next Welsh government, a charity has said. Citizens Advice Cymru said council tax arrears were the "biggest debt problem" faced by those seeking help from them. Council tax bills went up by at least twice the rate of inflation in 2021-

22. Citizens Advice Cymru estimated that 64,000 households have fallen behind on council tax payments since the start of the pandemic, while one in seven people had "struggled to keep up with their council tax bills" beforehand. In April 2020, a report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS), funded by the Welsh government, concluded council tax was "out of date, regressive and distortionary" and needed "to be revalued and reformed".

The report found revaluation of properties alone "would have little effect on the average tax bills" but "reform could make council tax much more progressive". A regressive tax places a larger burden on lower-income earners, while a progressive tax is based on an individual's ability to pay. Citizens Advice Cymru said debt arising from council tax was "more than other utility bills, more so than credit card bills or store card bills".

The charity's head of policy and campaigns, Rhiannon Evans, said it was the number one issue for clients who come to the charity for assistance and "needs to be a real priority for the next Welsh government to change that". She also called for the way tax debts were collected to be reformed.

*"Things like the use of bailiffs can cause unnecessary distress and make the situation worse for people already in vulnerable circumstances - and the use of bailiffs also often means that additional fees and charges are added to the original debt."*

The charity wants to see the voluntary council tax protocol put on a "statutory footing" so that councils are required to take all necessary steps before sending out bailiffs and stop the practice of making people liable for the full annual bill if they miss one payment.

Loan sharks in Wales are targeting disabled and vulnerable people with "horrific" interest charges and threats of violence. Illegal money lenders are using violent tactics including assault, blackmail, and even kidnapping to pressure victims into repaying loans. While many loan sharks use traditional community links, like church groups or chatting at the school gate, to snare potential victims, some now openly advertise loans on social media. With the cost of living expected to increase in April, as national insurance and energy bills are hiked up, the Welsh team fighting loan sharks is expecting their workload to grow. It sickens me when I see politicians standing outside foodbanks blaming the Westminster Government for the disaster, they created which has and is leading to horrific poverty for many and forcing them to use foodbanks.

1. The grand total of the personal debt owed by the British population as of June 2023 is £1,84 trillion.
2. The average household in the UK owes £65,529 of personal debt.
3. The average personal debt of British adults is £34,597.
4. 10.88 million households in the UK have an outstanding mortgage debt as of 2023.
5. The annual growth of credit card borrowing in the UK reached 13% in July 2022.
6. 24.60% of British consumers say they use credit cards to cover their costs of living.
7. 11% of British consumers say they are using credit cards, loans, and overdrafts more than usual.
8. 3% of UK adults report borrowing over £10,000 more in 2022 than in 2021.

## Rump Administration

Cardiff City Council is and has been for a long time a **Rump Administration**. This is because according to the election statistics and supported by the Electoral Reform Society The current administration does not reflect the wishes of the voting taxpayers. Labour the current administration holds some 70% of the seats but polled only 46% of the total Cardiff vote. For example, the Llanrumney ward has some 20,033 voters but only 5,000+ people actually voted and out of these only 3,000+ people voted for Labour, and this is the reality in just about all the electoral wards of Cardiff. So, in effect the administration is being instructed by these people to carry out the wishes of the Cult ideology of their party and not carry out sound practical management. Indeed, if you look at the Cardiff South and Penarth Ward the Assembly member was voted in with only 13,000+ votes out of a total voting population of 78,000+ In this vote at least 22,0000 people voted for other parties.

Cardiff Council has 248,545.00 registered voters. Of these 110,767.00 voted Labour with 97,528.00 voters not voting at all. Which means that 137,778.00 did not vote Labour and the current rump administration.

We also have another problem in that far too many elected members seem to think that they are there to represent the council. When in fact they are there to represent the people who elected them. They are there to scrutinise and pay due diligence to the demands of the executive. Clearly most have failed to do so otherwise they would never have allowed the scale of debt to build up and they would have consulted intensely with the people who elected them with projects that the executive were putting forward. Worse still is the fact that they have been ignoring this debt problem building for years. Too busy playing cult politics to do the job properly.

We have a major problem with our electoral system. Voters no longer trust any of these parties and have abstained, which suits the current political administration fine as they are getting in by default.

For our democracy to survive major changes need to be made not just in the council but throughout the UK. Wales is massively over governed. It has 22 local authorities and assembly who likes to think it is a government. Birmingham who has a larger population than Wales has 1 local authority.

## Bankruptcy

Without drastic action this council along with all the councils in Wales are going to go bankrupt. Not one local authority has been able to produce audited accounts for 2 years now in Wales. Should Cardiff go bankrupt like Birmingham (Labour) the council tax increase to just stand still in Cardiff will likely be like Birmingham anywhere between £286 – 362.00 per month on top of the existing tax.

*I confess I am puzzled by the lack of involvement and warnings from the District Auditors.*

## Conclusion

I am informing you that I thoroughly oppose any increase in the council tax! I have the following demands also.

1. you utilise the reserve funds to pay off the debts.
2. that the 20MPH debacle is rescinded.
3. that you reduce your wages bill from the top echelons.
4. that the current administration resigns and allow a council election to be held immediately.
5. a review into the madness of the cycling lanes.
6. that no further credence is paid to so called 15-minute cities.
7. that Net zero policies be ignored.
8. that independent auditors scrutinise your books and spending.
9. that the pay of top echelon officers be cut
10. that councillors' expenses be cut. Why should they be paid when they have systemically failed to control the finances.

J.G. Cuff

## Consultation Responses Reflected in the 2024/25 Budget

1.0 Appendix 5 (a) set out in detail the feedback that was received as part of the 2024/25 city-wide Budget consultation, which received over 9,000 responses. This Appendix illustrates how that feedback has helped to shape the 2024/25 Budget Proposal.

### 2.0 Proposals Consulted on but not taken forward.

2.1 After taking account of city-wide consultation feedback, several proposals have not been taken forward as part of the 2024/25 Budget, as set out in the table below.

Proposals consulted on but not take forward	Value £000	Support
Reduce Street Cleansing	880	12%
Focussed Placement of Bins	139	49.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,019</b>	

*(Across all tables, "support" indicates the total of consultation responses that indicated agreement or strong agreement for the proposal.)*

### 3.0 Proposals Consulted on and included in the 2024/25 Budget.

3.1 The 2024/25 Budget includes twenty-eight savings proposals totalling £2.551 million that were the subject of city-wide consultation and these are summarised in the next table.

3.2 Whilst responses indicated strong support for the majority of these, a minority of proposals received lower levels of support. Unfortunately, in the context of the financial position, it has not been possible to exclude from the Budget *all* proposals that received lower levels of support.

3.3 Proposals that are in blue and followed by an (R), are being taken forward at a lower than the maximum level of saving that was indicated in the consultation.

Proposals consulted on and included in the 2024/25 Budget	No	Value £000	Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asset transfer to local sports clubs - £25,000</li> <li>• Reduction in Museum offer - £24,000</li> <li>• Lease / dispose of Mansion House - £31,000</li> <li>• <span style="color: blue;">Increase fees for out of hours burials - £1,000 (R)</span></li> <li>• Streamline mobile library - £52,000</li> <li>• Increase use of hubs - £30,000</li> </ul>	6	163	75%+

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce funding support for events- £36,000</li> <li>• Increase charges for Outdoor Sports Pitches - £6,000 (R)</li> <li>• Reduce bowling green maintenance subsidy - £4,000</li> <li>• Increase charges for bowls pavilions - £3,000</li> <li>• Review Bulky Waste Charges - £71,000</li> <li>• Reduce operational hours of cemetery service - £49,000</li> <li>• Increase Bereavement fees &amp; charges - £102,000</li> <li>• Hubs – Core opening hours - £120,000 (R)</li> <li>• Removal of newspapers in libraries - £30,000 (R)</li> </ul>	9	421	60-74.9%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Parking Tariffs - £283,000</li> <li>• Remove Free Parking - £352,000</li> <li>• Local Action Team Review - £173,000 (R)</li> <li>• Increase Volunteers in Hubs - £84,000</li> <li>• Review Social Care Charges - £306,000</li> </ul>	5	1,198	50-59.9%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community &amp; Urban Park Rangers - £83,000 (R)</li> <li>• Reduced playground Management Service - £31,000</li> <li>• Playground Inspection - £52,000</li> <li>• Parks Maintenance - £80,000</li> </ul>	4	331	40-49.9%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree Inspections - £47,000</li> <li>• Hard infrastructure - £60,000</li> <li>• Parks Apprenticeships (vacant posts) - £87,000</li> <li>• Residual Waste Collections (three weekly) - £244,000</li> </ul>	4	438	Less than 40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2,551</b>	

### 3.4 Further information on items included at a lower level is set out below:

- Increased fees for out of hours burial – increases of between 0% and full cost recovery (237%) were consulted upon – a lower-level increase of 10% is being taken forward.
- Increase charges for Outdoor Sports Pitches – increases of between 0% and 30% were consulted upon – a lower-level increase of 10% is being taken forward.
- Local Action Team – options consulted upon included a) no change, b) reduce and prioritise (£312,000) and c) full removal (£854,000). The option with the highest level of support, was to make some reduction to service. This is the option that has been taken forward, but at a lower level than the £312,000 suggested in the consultation.
- Removal of newspapers in libraries – this proposal received significant support. The saving taken forward, allows for a residual budget of £5,000 to be retained for flexibility.
- Community Park Rangers – a total reduction of 4 FTE Park Rangers was consulted upon, but only 2 FTE reduction are being taken forward.
- Hubs – the consultation considered a number of options – there was over 70% for some level of change. The 2024/25 Budget supports the most favoured option (37.9% favoured this option). This was not the option that would have generated the largest saving.

4.0 Areas consulted upon that are being progressed but with no budget reduction.

4.1 The following areas consulted upon, predominantly received high levels of support. Whilst these are not included as savings in the 2024/25 Budget, they are all being progressed as detailed more fully below the table.

<b>Proposals consulted on – with support – but not included as 2024/25 Savings</b>	<b>Support</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Meal Price increases – 60%+ support for some level of increase</li> </ul>	60%+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase cost of Parking Permits</li> </ul>	61.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Social Care Charges in line with WG Cap</li> </ul>	63.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative Operator for Cardiff Riding School</li> </ul>	76.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative Operator for Bute Park Nursery &amp; Roath Conservatory</li> </ul>	88.8%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce Charge for Green Waste Collection</li> </ul>	47.5%

- In the case of parking permits and schools, the resultant additional income will be retained to support the service as opposed to forming part of the 2024/25 Budget Proposal.
- Social Care charges rising in line with the cap will be dependent upon the outcome of WG's own consultation on the matter which is expected to take place in coming months.
- For Bute Park Nursery and Cardiff Riding School, 2024/25 will be a transitional year to explore options, and subject to outcomes, savings will be taken in 2025/26 and beyond.
- Options in respect of green waste collection will be considered as part of a future Waste Strategy. There is no decision on whether to charge or not at this stage.

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Councillor Chris Weaver  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Councillor Weaver,

On behalf of the Cardiff School Budget Forum, I would like to thank yourself, Cllr Huw Thomas and Cllr Sarah Merry for your School Budget Update letter dated 21st February that provided schools with early sight of their individual school budgets in advance of the Cabinet and Council decisions planned for 29th February and 7th March respectively. During the last year it has been appreciated that Cllr Merry and Cllr Weaver have regularly attended and contributed to the School Budget Forum meetings.

The Budget Forum recognises the work that you and Education Directorate Officers do to give our learners the best education possible. However, there remain significant financial and educational challenges for schools in Cardiff and wider throughout Wales. The Budget Forum welcomes the setting up of Efficiency Boards which both allow greater understanding of the financial budgets and allocations and also provides a focus on ensuring value for money and quality of services. Stakeholders in these Boards have already provided some robust challenge to the current status quo. The Boards also have had discussions that have identified more cost effective ways of working together.

We are grateful for the clear intention not to apply any level of efficiency savings against delegated school budgets. We do note, however, that the financial challenges facing schools will not be resolved by a 4.34% increase in delegated school budgets as some schools will receive significantly less than that average figure and indeed some primary schools are set to receive negative changes (reduced year on year budget) through the school funding formula. We also note that the increase in school delegated budgets fully funds the Teacher's pay awards arising from the decisions made in September 2022 and September 2023 respectively without specific additional financial resource forthcoming from Welsh Government [WG].

The Budget Forum is keen to hear that a resolution will be found that provides additional funding into school budgets in respect of the Teachers' pension increases anticipated from 1st April 2024. We would urge Cardiff Council to lobby WG on behalf of schools to address the Teachers' pensions matter. When received, the Budget Forum asks that any money forwarded by WG is allocated on the basis of the pension increases for each school.

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#### GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

#### WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

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The Budget Forum continues to ask that WG recognise the need for earlier grant allocations in order to facilitate more accurate financial modelling and securing best value for money. Organisations operate successfully when financial assumptions are based on a robust financial model rather than on the basis of a “hope” that part of their income arrives in the last couple of weeks of the financial year! The Budget Forum remains concerned that a significant proportion of school funding comes from grants which are primarily used to fund staff, particular Teaching Assistants, but the administration burden removes funding away from fully reaching the learners. Planning budgets going forward remains difficult with uncertainty of grants continuing and how they are allocated. Specifically, the Budget Forum is also concerned about Post 16 changes and the real risk that the amount of funding is not commensurate to the number of pupils in Cardiff schools.

The financial pressures for schools are such that there are risks to intervention provisions and the additional but essential priorities of wellbeing, attention to attendance, numeracy & literacy aspects. Cardiff schools are still feeling the effects of the COVID pandemic and intervention, wellbeing and attendance requirements are greater than they ever have been. In addition, there is a risk of opportunities being restricted to just our most vulnerable learners across the City when we should be ensuring that every learner is allowed to fulfil their own potential.

The Budget forum recognises the financial and thus educational challenge for schools over the next few years and asks in these exceptional times that in considering deficit budget applications there will be some flexibility around the current processes for those schools of greater need,

I hope that these points are useful to you when considering the budget Report for Cabinet.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Skinner

Chair, Cardiff School Budget Forum

cc: Cllr Sarah Merry; Cllr Huw Thomas; Melanie Godfrey; Ian Allwood; Suzanne Scarlett

All School Budget Forum members

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**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET  
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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: [CE:0047806]  
Dyddiad / Date: 29 February 2024

Andrew Skinner  
Chair, Cardiff Schools Budget Forum

Annwyl / Dear Andrew,

**Draft Budget Proposals 2024/25**

I write in response to your recent letter, sent on behalf of the Cardiff School Budget Forum, regarding the proposals for the 2024/25 budget.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate you on becoming the Chair of the School Budget Forum. As in previous years, I would like to thank the School Budget Forum for the work it undertakes and for its effectiveness in bringing matters of financial concern to the Cabinet's attention. I can confirm that both myself and Councillor Merry, as regular attendees, as well as the wider Cabinet, place great value upon having direct input from school leaders and governors.

In your letter you have stated you are grateful for the clear intention not to apply any level of efficiency savings against delegated schools' budgets and the budget fully funds teacher pay awards from September 2022 and 2023. It has been our intention to safeguard delegated school budgets from efficiency savings that have been required to set a balanced budget, whilst also setting budget that will ensure pay awards are fully funded.

I am hopeful that the programme of work from Efficiency boards will minimise schools' deficits and ensure schools are more financially resilient moving forward. I am very grateful to all Headteachers taking part in these, and all their work during these challenging times.

You note that there are financial and educational challenge for Schools over the next few years and we will continue to work with Schools that are required to make deficit budget applications, to ensure each school can return to a balanced position within a suitable timeframe. Through collaborative working it is the intention that educational impacts are minimised and will enable the school system to fulfil its essential priorities, which are also the priorities of this administration.

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**GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI**

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I will ask officers and cabinet members to continue to lobby the Welsh Government on behalf of our schools, regarding funding Teacher pensions increases and grant allocations. I have asked officers to continue to work and inform Schools of any funding decisions as they are received and terms and conditions are understood.

I hope that this letter captures all the points raised in your letter. I want to thank you once again for your support in the budget process and look forward to future discussion and debate with the School Budget Forum.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature appears to be 'C. Weaver' written in a cursive style.

**Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Chris Weaver**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance**

**Cc:**

Cllr Sarah Merry; Cllr Huw Thomas; Melanie Godfrey; Ian Allwood.  
All School Budget Forum members

Date: 28 Feb 2024

**Cllr Chris Weaver**

**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance.**

*Correspondence Sent via e-mail.*



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Dear Cllr Weaver,

**CASSC Scrutiny Committee 26 Feb 2024: Draft Corporate Plan 2024-2027 and Draft Budgetary Proposals 2024-2025**

Our sincere thanks, to you, your Cabinet colleagues and officers, for attending Committee on 26 Feb 2024. Understanding and testing the decision making within the Council's proposed budget, and its Corporate Plan, is of vital importance. As such, the opportunity this meeting provides; to allow Committee Members, and members of the public, to examine or hear the rationale for the decision making, is welcomed; and we thank all attendees for facilitating this and attending our meeting.

**Corporate Overview**

Due to the ongoing cost of living crisis, we tested how the managing of the council's budget, particularly the aspects which have direct implications for residents (*such as council tax rises and increase in fees and charges*) is offset against demand on services, service sustainability and the council's future outlook. From the response, we heard managing this matter requires a constant, iterative discussion to ensure the decisions made on revenue raising from fees and charges are reasonable and are made with the current financial context in mind.

Due to the significant and sustained pressure on services within this committee's remit, it was interesting to explore the decision-making process regarding the use of reserves; for example how it is determined how much reserve is required to draw down, and how much reserve residual is deemed sufficient to ensure sustainability and lessen risk in future years.

From the discussion, we note the use of reserve is done in tandem with the service area, alongside continuous risk assessment and monitoring. Further, we also note officers' assurance later in the meeting, that when grant funding is achieved; this is often used to reimburse reserves.

We questioned the rationale for the £0.5m reduction in Adult Services' contingency budget, however we do recognise that within these budget proposals, Adult Services has seen an overall growth of around £15m which is welcomed.

Regarding the employee implications for the overall 2024-2025 budget proposals, we note that 62 posts are currently marked as '*TBC / Redeployment*' and we were informed the reasoning for the uncertainty is largely in part to many of the post being agency. Owing to the importance of employee implications, we would welcome in future years that employee implication be known prior to determining or proposing budget proposals.

Lastly, we welcome the increased level of response to this year's budget's consultation, and we hope this increased level of engagement between the council and residents continues on a positive trajectory.

#### **Cllr Sangani – Cabinet Member for Public Health & Equalities**

As Cllr Sangani will be aware, we as a committee have been briefed by council officers, and third sector organisations, of the significant capacity issues and growing demand, facing the asylum seeker and refugee services the council manages. We are very aware that these services 'could soon reach breaking point.' Taking this into account, it was relatively disappointing there appears to be no additional steps being taken to address this issue in both the financial and Corporate Plan proposals before us.

Although we note and concur with Cllr Sangani and officers on the importance of external funding and partnership work (both inside and outside the Council) to address this issue, we are disappointed that more prominence or commitment to addressing this issue has not been included in the proposals, particularly in terms of assigning staff resource. In addition, we also have specific concerns around the reliance on grant/external funding in terms of sustainability in future years.



### **Cllr Peter Bradbury – Tackling Poverty and Supporting Young People**

We welcome the revision of the Advice Service targets (KPI 3.09 & 3.10) in the Corporate Plan as this increase of targets is something we have been requesting for some time. However, we were initially disheartened to see that despite past assurances on the importance of the Advice Services, and the administration's desire to protect the team wherever possible, a saving proposal for the loss of two posts within the Advice Services team had been put forward. Further, we also questioned how targets could be raised if resource within the team is diminished and the subsequent implications and pressures this could place on remaining staff.

From the discussion, we are aware, the posts within the saving proposal (*Ref: HACE11*) have been vacant from some time, and the proposed use of money within the Earmarked Reserves (*Ref: Line 67, General Reserves & Line 3, HRA reserves*) will be used to provide additional staff. Further, we have noted Cllr Bradbury's comments that we are currently in the second year of Shared Prosperity Funding, and the next (third year) of funding may present significant challenges for Cllr Bradbury's portfolio; and services within it. We look forward to working with the administration in navigating this in future years.

### **Cllr Norma Mackie – Cabinet Member for Adult Service**

When considering the overall achievability of the savings proposed for Adult Services, we noted all the service change proposals hold a degree of amber risk categorisation in terms of its achievability and residual.

For this reason, we sought insight on the proposals deliverability and were subsequently informed; the reasoning for the amber/green or amber/red categorisation is largely attributed to timescales owing to proposals largely relating to recommissioning of services.

Given the majority of the service change proposals for Adult Services are interlinked with the care an individual receives (*whether it be the costing or model of care provided*) we do wish to stress the importance of 'personalised care'.

Through our work with yourself and officers, and from the response we received at the meeting, we know the importance of personalised care is shared by the Cabinet

Member and service area. The discussion reassured us that care provision will only be offered to individuals where it best aligns with their needs and wishes.

We also wish to reiterate the importance of all proposals being carefully and slowly phased in, especially as it appears the proposals comprise a longer-term programme of change.

Remaining mindful of the sustained pressures within the council's Community Resource Team since the outbreak of the pandemic, and the ongoing efforts and initiatives being deployed to assist the team (*e.g., return to the teams reablement focus, new rostering et al*) we were disappointed to see their savings proposal (*Ref: ADUSC4*).

When exploring the rationale for this budget proposal, we were informed the savings relates to a reduction in back office / admin related service and is being proposed as part of the teams ongoing reform and is not offered specifically to help the council bridge its budget gap.

We welcome progression of the council's neuro-divergent commitments yet sought clarity on how they will be achieved given it received no financial contribution within this budget proposal. From the subsequent discussion, we heard it is the intention for this work to be progressed by drawing upon current resource within the council, its partners and through grant funding.

We note, the work is currently in a scoping phase, and we look forward to monitoring its progression.

### **Cllr Thorne – Housing & Communities**

Given the significant, and ongoing housing situation we questioned if the revenue budget proposed for the service area is sufficient to address the sustained pressures placed on services and the range of commitments detailed in the Corporate Plan.

We note from the discussion, it is recognised the situation is challenging, however there is confidence it will meet the need; particularly as the service area will continue to apply for a range of grants.



We are aware of the forthcoming Welsh Housing Quality Standards and the significant financial and resource challenges this will generate. For this reason, we explored why no money had been set aside with the budget proposals for this issue and we heard although money is being put aside, challenges remain as the exact cost required for this work is not yet known.

We are aware and share the concerns of Cllr Thorne regarding the significant finance and resource this work will require. We therefore welcome the commitment that the forthcoming years there will be a concentrated effort on understanding how much this WHQS requirement will cost, and how will it be achieved. Further, we note and concur with Cllr Thorne that owing to the significant work required, clear direction and support must be offered by the Welsh Government.

Regarding volunteers, we commend and support the skills and opportunity volunteering provides individuals. However, given this year, and the previous year saw budget proposals to increase the use of volunteers in Hubs we are concerned about the unintended consequence and pressure this could place on paid staff. We note this concern is shared by officers and Cllr Thorne and we welcome the assurance that this will be closely monitored to ensure the proposal has no adverse impact for staff.

Lastly, in line with this Committee's performance monitoring work, we welcome the increased capital allocation for council house repairs, and the introduction of specific steps and KPI's on Council House repairs within the draft Corporate Plan.

On behalf of the Committee, thank you once again to you, your Cabinet colleagues and officers for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the proposals.

A response to this letter is not requested.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhys Taylor', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**COUNCILLOR RHYS TAYLOR**

**Chair - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

cc Members of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Julie Sangani, Cabinet Member, Public Health & Equalities  
Cllr Norma Mackie, Cabinet Member, Adult Services  
Cllr Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member, Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People  
Cllr Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member, Housing & Communities  
Cllr Joel Williams, Chair – Policy, Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Chris Lee, Corporate Director, Resource  
Rita Rohman, PA/Secretary to Corporate Director, Resource  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities  
Jane Thomas, Director, Adults, Housing & Communities  
Helen Evans, Assistant Director, Housing & Communities  
Gareth Newell, Head of Performance & Partnerships  
Dylan Owen, OM Policy & Improvement  
Group Leaders  
Cabinet Office  
Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit  
Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations



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Councillor Chris Weaver,  
Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance,  
Room 519,  
County Hall,  
Atlantic Wharf,  
Cardiff CF10 4UW.

Dear Councillor Weaver,

### **Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee – 26 February 2024**

On behalf of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you, Councillor Lister, Councillor Merry, Cllr Bradbury and officers for attending the Committee meeting on Monday 26 February 2024 to consider the Draft Budget Proposals 2024/25 and Draft Corporate Plan 2024-2027.

The meeting initially considered the Corporate Overview and was followed by scrutiny of the draft budget proposals and sections of the draft corporate plan relevant to the terms of reference of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee. The comments and observations made by Members following this item are set out in this letter.

#### **❖ Corporate Overview**

In terms of your Portfolio, Members felt there were a number of issues that would require your input and commitment going forward and would appreciate your views on.

Firstly, the Committee wish to commend you and Cabinet colleagues for the commitments given to budgets in Education, Children's Services and the protection of the Youth Service budget. The uplifts were very welcomed particularly with regard to Children's Services where the uplift amounts to more than 12%. Notwithstanding the 4.3% uplift to the delegated schools' budget, the committee expressed concerns about the pressures on schools' budgets and the predicted significant deficit position in 2024/2024. We will support you in ensuring Directorates are achieving their

commitments and priorities and budgets are used effectively across all Directorates that fall within this Committee's Terms of Reference.

During our questioning, we asked you about the following issues and noted responses:

- The resilience of the budget and the robustness of the financial strategy, particularly in terms of protecting services
- The nature of any dialogue between Welsh Government and the Council given the predicted budget gap of £142.3 million over the next three years and the risk this poses to the delivery of services in the short and medium terms.
- The extent of collaboration in the provision of services across the region currently and in the future and the relationship between this and the potential for making efficiency savings that could then be devoted to the delivery of front-line services.
- Clarification around the use of the Financial Resilience Model
- The uncertainty surrounding the funding of the increased costs associated with the teachers' pension scheme and the significant implications should this not be fully covered.
- Reassurance that the teacher's NJC pay awards over the last two years have been covered in full and that this will continue for future awards.  
Reassurances also with regard to the pay awards for non-teaching and support staff.
- The key challenges to the budget across the Council
- Issues in relation to particular KPIs

In addition, we asked questions on the following areas. We request a response to these.

- In the corporate overview and across individual portfolios, we asked questions in relation to the national context, particularly around grants. We **request** a response on what the administration intends to do in its dialogue with Welsh Government about grants, particularly the short and medium term position, given the very significant concerns about the coming year and the next 2-3 years; and how grants to schools will be distributed, as officers stated that this was an area that still required detail from Welsh Government.

- In the corporate overview and across individual portfolios, we asked questions in relation to KPIs. This resulted in us asking about results against these KPIs. We therefore **request** that going forward, the Corporate Plan includes current performance, not just in this area, but across all portfolios.
- We asked a question in relation to medium term financial forecasting and were pointed to the Medium-Term Financial Plan Annex 1, and you kindly provided a copy of this document to us via email before the end of the meeting. You also stated that detailed questions on this issue would be welcomed during the year. Therefore, we would like to take up this opportunity for issues within our terms of reference; and therefore, **request** that you provide us with suitable timelines of when we could do this, and we will add to our work programme accordingly.
- We also asked a number of questions seeking clarity around school budgets - both deficits and surpluses. We voiced our concerns around a potential £10m deficit, and how the Council is responding to, and supporting schools. Whilst we noted the responses received, officers stated that there needs to be a conversation between finance and education on this issue, particularly around ALN. Therefore, we **request** further clarity and information be provided on how this will roll-out over the coming months. In addition, we **request** that the response includes further information on how the local authority is going to work with schools to successfully manage deficits in a way that does not damage the quality of education, given that schools are facing very significant demands on a number of fronts.

#### ❖ **Children's Services**

The Committee welcomed the over 12% net increase in the Children's Services budget for 2024/25 and would like to thank the Cabinet for continuing to support this area.

We welcomed news from Councillor Lister that the innovations in Children's Services were coming to fruition, and we will look at this issue in detail at our meeting on the 7 May 2024.

During our questioning, we asked you about the following issues and noted responses:

- Youth Justice Service Restructure
- Assurances that the Service can meet demand.
- Ensuring that the safeguarding self-assessment and the recent inspection have been reflected in both the budget proposals and corporate plan
- Risks relating to placements
- Spend to save issues in relation to employees
- The impact of national strategies and policies going forwards (such as eliminating profit from care etc.).

### Budget Proposals

During the Q&A session, we asked a number of questions on the budget, particularly around what the service wishes to deliver with additional funding; the potential impact of efficiency savings proposed; and the review of the business support service. We noted the responses given.

### Corporate Plan 2023-26

In relation to the Corporate Plan, Members asked a number of questions in relation to commitments and KPIs. This included new KPIs and awaiting targets to be set; sought assurances that current KPIs could be met; and whether the Cabinet Member and officers were confident that the KPIs (K1.19 – 1.24) on external placements would be met. We also asked a question on new KPIs on the family advice service, which we will address more fully below.

### Family Advice Service

We asked about the progress of the service review in this area, and we heard that a service area alignment review was commenced; that an external company undertook a review (which revealed that clients were being referred to the MASH, rather than early help); and plans for a triage system. There was also a suggestion that bringing those two services together could improve preventative services and offer potential efficiency savings, and that some detail of this could be brought back to this scrutiny committee. We therefore **request** that this be done and that a timeline is provided for consideration by this committee.

## Demand on Services and Complexity of Demand

Members noted the range of reasons given for the complexity of cases coming into the service. We acknowledge the issues affecting the children & young people themselves such as poor mental health across all age ranges which is placing pressures on Children's Services and schools; the increase in children with neurodiversity issues, and difficulties in accessing services; and complexities around very young children and babies with complex needs and disabilities and meeting their needs.

We also note the wider complexities associated with poverty and parents' ability to support children; the increased impact of poor mental health on parents, including substance abuse and domestic violence; and we understand that Children's Services are trying to understand the impact of the significant change in the environment – pre-pandemic to now. We will continue to look at ways in which we can support this; as well as review these issues going forward.

## Children's Services General

As we have done at previous meetings, the committee would wish to seek reassurance regarding the efficiency savings and demands on the service. We would therefore **request** further information on this, particularly ensuring that there will not be any adverse impact on service delivery.

We also note that there are numerous discussions taking place (or planning to take place) between the Council and Welsh Government on a range of issues that affect Cardiff. We note that legislation on eliminating profit from care is imminent; and this could throw up more challenges for the Council. We also note and support Cllr Lister's desire for any conversation between Welsh Government and Council Leaders includes experiences of practice staff. If this scrutiny committee can support these discussions, we would welcome this opportunity.

## **Education & Lifelong Learning**

Notwithstanding the concerns expressed about the pressures on schools' budgets, members of the Committee would like to again commend the Cabinet for the continued priority given to education as set out in the Corporate Plan and in the budget proposals.

During our questioning, we asked you about the following issues and noted responses:

- Performance in relation to specific KPIs, including school meals
- Deletion of a post in School Admissions
- Capital Programme, especially around school organisation planning
- Alternative funding for areas such as sports facilities

### Budget Proposals

Much of the discussion on overall budget proposals have already been addressed earlier in this letter. However, further questions were asked in the following areas:

### Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the funding of ALN, including seeking assurances that interim funding is available and on the Council's radar; whether ALN additional funding has been clearly communicated; what support is being offered in understanding when schools can approach the Council for financial assistance; and the overlap between ALN, with Children's Services and School Transport.

We also asked for clarity on the numbers of those children who have Individual Development Plans and noted that 8% of the current school population have them, which has a knock-on effect in terms of demand and need for provision for complex needs. We would seek assurances in this area and therefore **request** that further information be provided.

### Active Travel

Linked to discussions on ALN, Members asked whether there were funds in place to shrink the radius from schools (currently 3 miles for Secondary schools and 2 miles for Primary schools) – both in the short time and into the longer term. The Head of Finance stated that he could provide further information on this issue. Therefore, we **request** that this information be provided.

### Education Psychologists

Members asked about the deletion of vacant posts in this area. (Appendix 6a in scrutiny papers) We heard that the rationale for deleting these posts was that they



were long standing posts that were named on the system, but the structure had moved on and that there was a full complement, and no reduction in service. The Director suggested that she could clarify this position; and we therefore **request** further information be provided on this proposal.

### Single Sex Toilets

Members asked for the number of single sex toilets in schools and whether there had been any issues in schools in relation to this. The Director of SOP responded that he had not had any issues brought to his attention but could find more information/ further clarity on this. Therefore, we **request** further information be provided.

### **Supporting Young People**

#### Youth Service

Members have, at previous meetings of this Committee, championed the work of the youth service and would wish to state that it fully supports the work that Cllr Bradbury and officers are aiming to achieve in this area, and progress to date.

As with previous years, this Committee wishes to again strongly advocate a move towards sustainable core funding; and consider putting the service on a statutory basis – reducing the reliance on grant funding. We agree with Cllr Bradbury's desire to move from a 50/50 budget split to a 75/25 split. We would therefore **request** your thoughts on this and a commitment from the administration to work towards this in the coming years.,

As Members stated that the meeting, youth services do not just offer activities to young people in their areas; but also have a community cohesion role; provide mental health and well-being support; and tackle criminal exploitation.

We strongly support Cllr Bradbury's vision to rebuild the service; support the locality approach and would wish to offer our support in discussions with Welsh Government on this issue.

**To recap**, the Committee is requesting the following information:

### **Corporate**

- A response on what the administration intends to do in its dialogue with Welsh Government about grants, particularly the short and medium term position, given the very significant concerns about the coming year and the next 2-3 years; and how grants to schools will be distributed, as officers stated that this was an area that still required detail from Welsh Government.
- Agreement that, going forward, the Corporate Plan includes current performance, not just in this area, but across all portfolios.
- Provide us with suitable timelines of when we could ask questions relating to progress against the MTFP during 2024/25.
- School budgets – to provide further clarity and assurances on discussions relating to ALN, and how this will roll-out over the coming months. We also request that the response includes further information on how the local authority is going to work with schools to successfully manage deficits in a way that does not damage the quality of education, given that schools are facing very significant demands on a number of fronts. We would also welcome an in-year update, at the appropriate time, on the schools' budget deficit position and how this is being managed.

### **Children's Services**

- Family Advice Service – that the results of any reviews of the family advice service be brought back to this scrutiny committee and that a timeline is provided for consideration by this committee.
- Children's Services General – provide reassurances regarding the efficiency savings and demands on the service; particularly assurance that there will not be any adverse impact on service delivery.

## **Education & Lifelong Learning**

- ALN - clarity and assurances on the numbers of those children who have Individual Development Plans, and narrative in terms of demand and need for provision for complex needs.
- Active Travel – the Head of Finance provide further information on the impact on funds to shrink the radius from schools (currently 3 miles) – both in the short time and into the longer term.
- Education Psychologists - That the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning provide further information on the rationale for deleting 2 x Education Psychology posts.
- Single Sex Toilets - that the Director of SOP provide details of the number of single sex toilets in schools and whether there had been any issues in schools in relation to this.

## **Supporting Young People**

- Youth Service – that a commitment be given towards sustainable core funding for the Youth Service; and consider putting the service on a statutory basis – reducing the reliance on grant funding.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments and work with the relevant Cabinet portfolio holders to provide a response to the content of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', written over a light blue grid background.

**COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN**

**Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: Members of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Ash Lister, Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's Services)  
Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education

Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People  
Councillor Joel Williams, Chairperson of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Chris Lee, Corporate Director Resources  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Melanie Godfrey, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning  
Richard Portas, Programme Director of School Organisation Planning.  
Suzanne Scarlett, Suzanne Scarlett, Operational Manager – Partnerships & Performance, Education & Lifelong Learning  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People & Communities  
Deborah Driffield, Director of Children’s Services  
Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services  
Dylan Owen, Policy and Improvement  
Adam Foster, Head of Cabinet Office,  
Claire Deguara, Cabinet Support Office  
Tim Gordon & Jeremy Rhys, Media and Comms  
Cllr John Lancaster – Group Leader  
Cllr Rodney Berman – Group Leader  
Cllr Andrea Gibson – Group Leader  
Gavin McArthur – Chair Governance & Audit Committee

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET  
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**



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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: Budget 24.25 [CE:0047799]  
Yddiad / Date: 29 February 2024

Councillor Lee Bridgeman  
Chairperson Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee  
Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Lee,

**Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee – 26 February 2024  
Draft Budget Proposals 2024/25**

Thank you for your letter received on 28<sup>th</sup> February and the useful comments raised. I can assure you that Cabinet was able to reflect on the points raised prior to our meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The following paragraphs address each of the Committee's further information requests:

**Corporate**

**Request: A response on what the administration intends to do in its dialogue with Welsh Government about grants, particularly the short and medium-term position, given the very significant concerns about the coming year and the next 2-3 years; and how grants to schools will be distributed, as officers stated that this was an area that still required detail from Welsh Government.**

This Council along with all other local authorities will continue to undertake dialogue with Welsh Government at all levels and stress the need for early indications of changes in grants and levels of funding. I recognise that grants are a significant factor in the funding for schools and I have been assured by officers that as funding information is received it is passed out to schools.

**Request: Agreement that, going forward, the Corporate Plan includes current performance, not just in this area, but across all portfolios.**

We note your request that, going forward, the Corporate Plan includes current performance, not just in this area, but across all portfolios. I would remind the committee that the Corporate Performance Dashboard has been developed to provide performance data on all Corporate Plan KPIs. This includes information on performance over time and

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**GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI**

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedl.

**WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU**

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



**STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER**

Page 647



against target. These KPIs can also be viewed by Well-Being Objective, by Directorate as well as by Scrutiny Committee based on their Terms of Reference. The dashboard can be accessed [here](#) and further training on its use can be made available should members find that useful.

**Request: Provide us with suitable timelines of when we could ask questions relating to progress against the MTFP during 2024/25.**

The Cabinet will receive an annual Budget Strategy Update in July that will provide a refresh and a strategy update for 2025/26 and the Medium Term. I am happy to attend your Scrutiny Committee during 2024/25 at any time. If the Committee wanted to explore further the process by which specific service area calculate expected future demand, for example Children's Services, you may want to invite the Cabinet Member and an officer for that service area as well, who may be able to discuss this with you in more detail.

**Request: School budgets – to provide further clarity and assurances on discussions relating to ALN, and how this will roll-out over the coming months. We also request that the response includes further information on how the local authority is going to work with schools to successfully manage deficits in a way that does not damage the quality of education, given that schools are facing very significant demands on a number of fronts. We would also welcome an in-year update, at the appropriate time, on the schools' budget deficit position and how this is being managed.**

It is the responsibility of the Individual School Governing Body to set a balanced budget based on the financial allocation provided from the formula, grants and any other income available. Individual schools are best placed to make decisions for their children, and we understand that there will be difficult decisions to make. However, this is one of the reasons why a deficit budget maybe required in the short term if there is a view from the Director of Education that educational outcomes would otherwise be severely compromised. Deficits will need to be managed and no school will be allowed to simply increase its deficit year on year.

Officers in Education and Finance work with schools to support them setting their budgets and will continue to do so over the coming weeks and months, and groups of Headteachers will be meeting as 'Efficiency Boards' to collaborate and support each other and help identify savings and best practice that will help schools set and manage their budgets. Regarding ALN, I think this may be best addressed in a detailed session with the Cabinet Member for Education and her officials, though if there are specific finance elements, I'd be happy to try to answer any questions the Committee has.

### **Children's Services**

**Request: Family Advice Service – that the results of any reviews of the family advice service be brought back to this scrutiny committee and that a timeline is provided for consideration by this committee.**

There is a review of the interface between Early Help and Children's Services at the point of first contact which has commenced, and I have asked officers to provide the Committee with updates as it progresses. No review of the Family Advice Service is currently planned.

**Request: Children's Services General – provide reassurances regarding the efficiency savings and demands on the service; particularly assurance that there will not be any adverse impact on service delivery**

It is a very challenging budget and along with all services Children's Services have looked to see how we can deliver some efficiencies in line with the direction set out in the Children's Services strategy. We will strive to ensure that any impacts are kept to a minimum and that over time will lead to more sustainable service delivery.

### **Education & Lifelong Learning**

**Request: ALN - clarity and assurances on the numbers of those children who have Individual Development Plans, and narrative in terms of demand and need for provision for complex needs.**

We currently have 3196 Individual Development Plans (337 are local authority maintained for the following cohorts: Children Looked After, Elective Home Education, Early Years, Education other than at school, Dual Registered, Detained, the rest are school maintained) for learners identified as having ALN (under the new ALN system).

5,554 currently are recorded as having SEN (school action, school action plus and statement of SEN) or ALN.

In Cardiff we are seeing an increase in the demand for specialist provision for learners with significant and complex needs; this is due to a combination of factors including but not exhaustive to the increased identification of ALN, increased complexity of need and learners moving into Cardiff. I have asked officers to provide you with more data in this regard.

**Request: Active Travel – further information on the impact on funds to shrink the radius from schools (currently 3 miles) – both in the short time and into the longer term.**

Further information is provided below:

- We are targeting all ALN pupils in New Curriculum Year 9 and above with independent travel training, so that those pupils that are capable to be trained, are trained with this life-skill and reduce future transport requirements.
- For ALN pupils the distance criteria does not apply for most cases as transport entitlement is based on their individual needs in line with the Welsh Learner Travel Measure. As a result, the majority of pupils receiving transport on ALN grounds within the city live within the 2 and 3 mile criteria already.
- With more ALN SRB units being opened across the city the distance ALN pupils travel, or are transported will gradually reduce over coming years, with more pupils being able to attend more local provision. (Although demand is still out stripping supply of places)

- Provision allocation is prioritised based on the pupils with the greatest need for the support.

**Request: Education Psychologists - further information on the rationale for deleting 2 x Education Psychology posts.**

These posts have been vacant for a long period of time and the service is able to deal with the current capacity of cases without them. Whilst additional resources would be welcome, it is incumbent on all services to make efficiencies where they can.

**Request: Single Sex Toilets - details of the number of single sex toilets in schools and whether there had been any issues in schools in relation to this.**

We do not hold the information that breaks down into unisex or single sex toilets in schools.

**Supporting Young People**

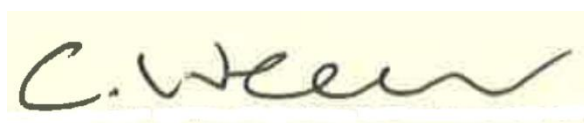
**Request: Youth Service – that a commitment be given towards sustainable core funding for the Youth Service; and consider putting the service on a statutory basis – reducing the reliance on grant funding.**

The Welsh Government's Youth Work Strategy Implementation Board is currently reviewing the Legislative basis for Youth Services in Wales, and is overseeing an Independent Review of funding and expenditure on youth work services. Cardiff Youth Service is actively represented in the Strategic Participation Groups involved in this work. We will continue to work towards a sustainable model for youth work in Cardiff, building upon the imminent changes agreed by Cabinet in November 2023, whilst working alongside the national review team to set the direction for the future.

The financial picture for the Council going forward is challenging, and there are potentially difficult financial decisions that will need to be made, so in this context any consideration of additional base budget funding, for any service area, will be considered each year alongside the need to set a balanced and sustainable budget. I am pleased however to reiterate that we have not proposed any cut to Youth Services this year, and we recognise the value and importance of this service.

I hope that this letter captures all the points raised in your letter and thank you again for your support in the budget process.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,



**Councillor / Y Cyngorydd Chris Weaver**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance**



**Cc:**

Members of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Ash Lister, Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's Services)  
Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education  
Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People  
Councillor Joel Williams, Chairperson of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
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Tim Gordon & Jeremy Rhys, Media and Comms  
Cllr John Lancaster – Group Leader  
Cllr Rodney Berman – Group Leader  
Cllr Andrea Gibson – Group Leader  
Gavin McArthur – Chair Governance & Audit Committee



Date: 28 February 2024

Councillor Weaver  
Cabinet Member, Finance, Modernisation and Performance  
Sent Via E-mail

Dear Councillor Weaver,

**Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee: 28 February 2023**

On behalf of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee, our sincere thanks to you, your Cabinet colleagues, and officers, for facilitating our scrutiny of the draft Corporate Plan 2024-2027 and draft Budgetary Proposals.

This letter summaries the key comments and observation made by Members at the meeting. Please also note our requests, listed at the end of our letter.

**Overall Corporate Overview**

Members note shortly before the meeting, yourself and officers received the final settlement from the Welsh Government which confirmed the Council remains in the anticipated financial position on which this budget is based; and so no further addendums will be required.

As I'm sure you will agree, undertaking Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) on the budget proposals is of vital importance and it was pleasing to hear, all relevant budget proposals have been subject to an EIA, and the findings of which, have informed the Council's consultation and engagement activity.

Remaining mindful to the importance of these assessments, and the recent Motion passed by Council, we are of the view that, in future years the budget papers provided to Scrutiny Committees must include the full EIA information as standard.

Further, we ask that all the EIA's carried out on these 2024/25 Budget proposals be circulated to all Scrutiny Committees.

From the meeting's discussions, Members note, and are reassured, that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) remains a key commitment within the Council's Corporate Plan and has a central focus in the development and delivery of key Council strategies, such as Cardiff & Vale's Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy.

Turning our attention to financial matters, it was interesting to explore the process used to determine the use and allocation of the reserve funds and we note the assurance offered by the Council's Section 151 Officer, that within these budget proposals, the Council will retain a level of reserves that provides financial resilience.

In terms of borrowing, and its implications on the Council's revenue budget, Members would appreciate a break-down on what proportion of capital financing is covered by income stemming from the projects we are borrowing for, what proportion is covered by grants, what proportion is money allocated from the council's general revenue/reserve fund etc.

Lastly, Members note and share the concerns of yourself and officers regarding the financial situation with schools and hope, through close collaboration with schools, we manage and mitigate the situation.

### **Councillor Burke's portfolio**

Given the current financial context, and overall budgetary position of the Council Members noted and questioned why no price increase has been proposed regarding hiring Cardiff Castle. Although we note the rationale is in part due to the promotion of the Castle, given the wider context, the committee would like this to be given consideration.

Remaining in the remit of fees and charges, given the city's status and its popularity for tv production companies, Members believe charges for filming in the city could be a significant avenue to generate income; and so, queried why the budget proposals contain no proposed price increase for filming in the city.

Upon reflection, Members wish to explore this matter in greater detail and so will task our support officer to work with the relevant officers to allow us to examine this topic in greater detail.

To facilitate our future consideration, we would like to receive insight on when the filming fees for Cardiff last increased, the costs our neighbouring cities charge for filming along with a wider fee comparison with core cities.

Regarding the Mansion House Budget service change proposal (*Ref: ECDSC4*) we sought assurance and confirmation that the gifting agreement allows the Council to lease or dispose of the property. From the discussion we note the assurance provided; however, we welcome written confirmation of these assurances, once further checks on this matter have been undertaken. In addition, we welcome the agreement that the full detail on the Mansion House proposal will be brought to Cabinet and this Committee at a future date.

In conjunction, we were informed as a result of the Protocol budget service change proposal (*Ref: ECDSC14*) there will be a reduced programme of events for the Lord Mayor, however this impact will be carefully managed through utilising resource in the Council's Event teams.

We noted our concern regarding the playground budget proposals (*Ref: ECDSC8 & ECDSC9*) exploring if this will result in safety implications. Through the response we were informed these results will have no adverse impact on safety or statutory obligations.

We again highlighted our concern regarding the budget service change proposal to reduce the provision of park rangers (*Ref: ECDSC6*). It was unclear to Members how this proposal would impact on Friends Groups, so we would appreciate further clarity on this matter.

In addition, remaining mindful to the Council's aspirations and commitments surrounding EOTAS, some Members raised concerns regarding the proposal to reduce 3 apprenticeship posts in the parks scheme (*Ref: ECDSC13*).

In terms of the Pentwyn Leisure Centre redevelopment; we note the development work is anticipated to be concluded by summer 2025, £3m has been allocated to this project within the Capital Programme, and the intention for this project to access Welsh Government funding in relation to carbon reduction.

We also welcome the confirmation that £1.5m of Shared Prosperity Funding has been agreed in January 2024 for the development of leisure projects; of which, Pentwyn is specifically named.

We wish to reiterate the importance of your Cabinet colleague's engagement with this scrutiny committee on the Pentwyn redevelopment proposals and their acceptance of our recommendation regarding a firm grounding for local community consultation. We are of the view, agreeing to this recommendation, and ensuring the development has firm local community consultation is vital.

### **Councillor Goodway's portfolio**

Members wish to pass on their thanks to Cllr Thomas for answering questions on this portfolio, in the absence of Cllr Goodway.

Given the significant sums of monies allocated within the Capital Programme to projects in our remit we explored the aspect of risk management. We note the risk management assurance made by Cllr Thomas regarding resilience and future spend. Further, we note Cllr Thomas' view, that the indicative economic forecast, particularly around interest rates, is given additional assurance and confidence.

We as a Committee, look forward to closely monitoring and assessing the development of these projects.

In terms of the velodrome at the Sports Village, we sought confirmation on its funding, in light of the potential new options for the Band B rebuild of Cathays High School. We note timeframes are still unknown but there is a strong commitment to provide a 'state of the art' school; and all opportunities regarding location are worth exploring.

### **Cllr Merry's Portfolio**

Members are pleased to note that Cardiff Commitment is to receive an allocation of £200,000 through the Financial Resilience Mechanism. Further we also welcome the insight offered by Cllr Merry at the meeting regarding the opportunities for the Council to access funding to further support this commitment.

### **Councillor Bradbury's portfolio**

Members recognise the overall achievement and performance of the Into Work teams, noting in particular, the increase in the number of jobseekers supported from the ethnic minority community.

However, we do wish to stress the importance of the Performance Panel's action (*Appendix 2, Feb 2024*) for the executive to assess, in collaboration with the Race Equality Taskforce, the number of meaningful interventions. And, in line with this work, we are of the view a sustainability KPI and target on this matter should be developed and included in future Corporate Plans.

It was also important to recognise that the academic performance of different ethnic groups did not translate into the ability to access the labour market, and further work is needed to explore why this discrepancy can occur and what we as a Council can do to address it.

We do wish to stress the importance of this issue remaining at the fore of Cabinet's priorities and are pleased to note, Cllr Bradbury's commitment toward addressing this, and more general inequity matters.

### **Cllr Thorne's portfolio**

Generally, Members were pleased with the diligent approach regarding local consultation for the reduced hub and library opening times proposals (*Ref: HACSC3*). However, we do still have concerns regarding potential impact of the proposal on staff, local groups, and residents. As such, we would like to request a break-down of how this proposal would affect each of the listed libraries / hubs in turn (*albeit indicative, if still unknown*), to enable local members to understand the impact in their communities.

We also explored the impact of the saving proposal to increase volunteers in the Hub & Libraries (*Ref: HACSC5*). Assessing the impact, or potential loss of knowledge and skill this proposal could entail. From the response, we note the need to retain specific knowledge and skill is recognised and so specific posts within the Hubs and Libraires will be retained. In addition, we were also informed it would roughly, on average, be 4 or 5 volunteers to match the equivalent workload of 1 FTE, due to the fluctuating available hours of volunteers.

In line with this we also tested the equitability of Hubs and Libraires given they are not located in every ward of the city. We note this is recognised by the Cabinet Member and welcomed the assurance within the discussion the value of Hubs & Libraries is recognised, and they will be protected as much as possible.

Some Members highlighted their concern regarding the removal of papers and periodicals from libraries and hubs; noting this would be a significant loss for some. We welcome the assurance offered at the meeting that this is recognised, and it will be carefully managed. We are also pleased to note, officers agreeing to explore our proposal for the future consultation (*or other relevant work of the service area*), exploring the possibility of business sponsoring the availability of hard copy newspapers in Hubs & Libraries, which in turn, provides them with advertisement.

Thank you once again to you, your Cabinet colleagues, and officers for attending Committee and facilitating our consideration.

To confirm, this letter requires a response please, to the following requests:

### **Request**

1. **Members request:** all the EIA's carried out on all the budget proposals be circulated to all Scrutiny Committees.
2. **Members request:** a break-down on what proportion of capital financing is covered by income stemming from the projects we are borrowing for, what proportion is covered by grants, what proportion is money allocated from the council's general revenue/reserve fund etc.
3. **Members request:** written confirmation that the Mansion House gifting agreement, allows the Council to lease or dispose of the property.
4. **Members request:** clarity on how the budget proposals, to reduce provision of park rangers will impact on Friends Groups.
5. **Members request:** a break-down of how the proposal to reduce opening and closing times, will affect each of the listed Libraries / Hubs in turn (*albeit indicative, if still unknown*).

Regarding our request to explore filming charges in the city in more detail and for the additional information requested; our support officer will be in touch with relevant officers to take this request forward.

Yours sincerely,



---

**COUNCILLOR PETER WONG  
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Zack Hellard – Youth Council representative  
Group Leaders  
Chair, Governance & Audit Committee  
Cllr Merry Cllr Thorne Cllr Thomas Cllr Bradbury Cllr Goodway Cllr Burke  
Chris Lee Ian Allwood Gill Brown  
Neil Hanratty Jon Day Jon Maidment  
Helen Evans Rebecca Hooper  
Rita Rohman Christine Brain Clair James  
Cabinet Support Office  
Chris Pyke Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys



Fy Nghyf / My Ref: Budget 24.25/ECSC [CE:0047770]  
Eich Cyf / Your Ref: SharePoint/E&C Library/Correspondence/February 2024  
Dyddiad / Date: 29 February 2024

Councillor Peter Wong  
Chairperson Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Peter,

**Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee – 27th February 2024  
Draft Budget Proposals 2024/25**

Thank you for your letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and the useful comments raised. I can assure you that Cabinet was able to reflect on the points raised prior to our meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The following paragraphs address each of the Committee's further information requests:

**Request: All the EIA's carried out on all the budget proposals be circulated to all Scrutiny Committees.**

All relevant budget proposals have been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), the findings of which have informed the Council's consultation and engagement activity, thereby ensuring that the voice of those disproportionately impacted by any changes is heard in the budget setting process. Impact Assessments will also reflect the findings of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken. These EqIAs will be made available to members via a dedicated SharePoint space.

**Request: a break-down on what proportion of capital financing is covered by income stemming from the projects we are borrowing for, what proportion is covered by grants, what proportion is money allocated from the council's general revenue/reserve fund etc.**

The Capital Financing budget reflects the estimated costs of undertaking the Council's Treasury Management activities (interest payable and receivable) and other costs in relation to capital expenditure activities including provision for Prudent Minimum Revenue Provision (A sum towards repayment of historic capital expenditure paid for by borrowing money). Numerous factors that can impact on the costs such as timing of borrowing, scheme progress and interest rates.

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**GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI**

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

**WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU**

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



A breakdown of estimated Capital Financing Costs for the whole council are as follows for 2024/25:

General Fund Capital Financing Costs estimated for 2024/25 are £37 million. These costs are met from Welsh Government Grant and Council Tax as part of the Councils annual revenue budget process.

The above budget assumes that projects and expenditure deemed to pay for themselves from additional borrowing, do so. This is illustrated on Page 14 Annex 3 of the Capital Strategy. i.e Capital financing costs for such projects are deemed net neutral to the Capital financing budget as other identified revenue budgets are in place to meet these costs.

In addition to the £37m, the following capital financing costs are projected to be recovered from the following sources for 2024/25:

- £5.5m - Recoverable from Welsh Government Grant where there is a commitment from WG to provide a specific revenue grant over future years (Local Government Borrowing Initiative).
- £3.3m - Recoverable from Red Dragon Centre Income.
- £10.4m - Recoverable from identified revenue budgets (21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Financial Model) held to support the Council's previous and future investment in new schools as part of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.
- £4.4m - Recoverable from Invest to Save / Invest to earn schemes, where it has been identified that capital expenditure will result in future financial and non-financial benefits, allowing any initial expenditure to be repaid from revenue budgets as a result of savings or additional income. These projects include Highway assets LED conversion; Property Energy measures retrofit, Radyr Weir and Lamby Way Solar Farm energy generation, Cemetery expansion, Core Office Strategy and buying vehicles instead of leasing where deemed more effective to do so.

#### Housing Revenue Account

In addition, Capital Financing Cost estimates for HRA for 2024/25 are £33m. These are to be met by rent payers and service charges.

#### Arena Multi Storey Car Park and Development

Capital Financing costs are expected to commence on completion of the development in 2026/27 estimated at £9m. These are assumed to have no impact on the Capital Financing Budget in 2024/25, as assumed to be recovered from developer and parking income and other mitigations in the short term, as identified in the Arena Funding Strategy considered by Cabinet in November 2023.

**Request: Written confirmation that the Mansion House gifting agreement, allows the Council to lease or dispose of the property.**

As confirmed at the meeting, the Council has an unencumbered freehold ownership of the building and as such there is no legal impediment or covenant that restricts the Council's ability to explore private sector investment.

**Request: Clarity on how the budget proposals, to reduce provision of park rangers will impact on Friends Groups**

As confirmed at the meeting, the Park Rangers service was awarded additional funding in 2019/20 and 2020/21 which enabled the service to be increased by 4 posts. The proposed saving will reduce this growth of 4 posts by 2 posts. The service currently has c16.5 FTE and this will now reduce to c14.5 FTE.

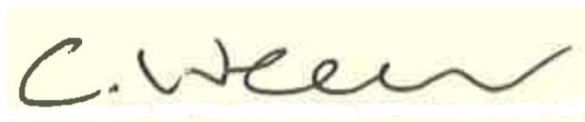
There will be a reduction of one post in the Community Park Rangers team, which currently consists of 9 FTE, and one post in the Urban Park Rangers team, which currently consists of c7.5 FTE. The Community Park Rangers team provides support to Friends Groups and as a result of the reduction of one post it is expected to result in a small reduction in volunteer hours of less than 10%.

**Request: a break-down of how the proposal to reduce opening and closing times, will affect each of the listed Libraries / Hubs in turn (albeit indicative, if still unknown).**

Please find attached a draft, indicative timetable that will reduce the opening hours in Hubs as laid out in the proposal by 15.5 hours in total. This is a draft and is subject to change following public consultation which will be carried out after a Council decision is made.

I hope that this letter captures the key points raised in your letter and thank you again for your support in the budget process this year.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,



**Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Chris Weaver**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Zack Hellard – Youth Council representative  
Group Leaders  
Chair, Governance & Audit Committee  
Cllr Merry, Cllr Thorne, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Goodway, Cllr Burke  
Chris Lee, Ian Allwood, Gill Brown  
Neil Hanratty, Jon Day, Jon Maidment  
Helen Evans, Rebecca Hooper  
Rita Rohman, Clair James  
Cabinet Support Office  
Chris Pyke  
Tim Gordon, Jeremy Rhys

Draft Proposed Amendment to Hub Opening/Closing times- Subject to Consultation Total proposed 15.5 hour reduction

Location	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Central Library Hub</b> – Current 53.5 hrs / week	9 – 6	9-6	9-6	10-7	9-6	9-5.30
Proposed 49 hrs / week, Loss of 4.5 hrs	9 - 5	10 - 6	9 - 5	10 - 7	9 - 5	9-5
<b>Penylan Library</b> – Current 54.5 hrs	9 – 7	9 - 6	9 – 6	9 - 6	9 - 6	9 -5.30
Proposed 50 / week, Loss of 4.5 hrs	9 – 7	9 - 5	10 – 6	9 - 5	10-6	9 - 5
<b>Rhydypennau Hub</b> – current 40.5 hrs	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 -7	closed	9 – 1 & 2 -6	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 -5.30
Proposed 40 / week loss of 0.5	9 - 5	10 - 6	N/A	10 - 6	9 - 5	9 - 5
<b>Whitchurch Hub</b> – Current 40.5 hrs	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	Closed	9 – 1 & 2 -7	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 – 5.30
Proposed 40 / week loss of 0.5	9 - 5	10 - 6	N/A	10 - 6	9 - 5	9 – 5
<b>Canton Library</b> – Current 40.5 hrs	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 -7	Closed	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 – 5.30
Proposed – 40 hrs / loss of 0.5	9 – 5	10 - 6	10 - 6	N/A	9 -5	9 - 5
<b>Rhiwbina Hub</b> Current 44.5 hrs	10 – 7	Closed	9 – 6	9 - 6	9 - 6	9 – 5.30
Proposed – 40 hrs / loss of 4.5	10 - 6	N/A	9 – 5	10 – 6	9 – 5	9 - 5
<b>Cathays Heritage Library</b> - 40.5 hrs	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	9 – 1 & 2 -7	9 – 1 & 2 – 6	Closed	9 – 1 & 2 – 5.30
Proposed 40 Hrs loss of 0.5	9 - 5	10 - 6	9 - 5	10 - 6	N/A	9 – 5

**Ref:** SharePoint/Scrutiny/Env/Correspondence 27.02.2024

**Date:** 28 February 2024



**Councillor Chris Weaver**

Dear Councillor Weaver,

**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

**DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25 & DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024 - 2027**

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, I would like to thank you, your Cabinet colleagues and officers for attending Committee to facilitate our consideration of the Draft Budget 2024/25 and the Draft Corporate Plan 2024-27.

The meeting initially considered the Corporate Overview and was followed by scrutiny of the draft budget proposals and sections of the draft Corporate Plan relevant to the terms of reference of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee. At the meeting Members had the opportunity to question the relevant Cabinet portfolio holders and supporting officers on their draft budget and Corporate Plan proposals for the coming year. Members agreed that I pass on the following observations to inform Cabinet discussion later this week. You will find our recommendations and requests, listed at the end of the letter.

### **Corporate Overview**

Members noted that it was positive that following the consultation exercise some of the proposed service changes were not now being taken forward.

Committee members also noted with concern comments made in the consultation that the Councils accounts have not been audited in the last two years. Officers reassured the members that this was possibly the case in England, however, not in Wales, although delays were acknowledged due to Audit Wales capacity/workload.

Members asked if sufficient funding has been allocated to support the delivery of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy. You recognised the challenge to meet net

zero by 2030, and commented that the issues to deliver net zero lie beyond the control of the Council, however the many issues are being addressed and the OPC action plan will be reviewed and there is a commitment to continue to deliver against the strategy.

The Committee asked how challenging had it been to set the budget this year compared to previous years? You and officers agreed that it had been very challenging although for different reasons than previous years i.e. the cost of living currently and the rate of inflation. The committee also asked about the use of general and earmarked reserves to help build the budget. Officers commented that these are constantly monitored and reviewed, however they play a relatively small part in balancing the budget, and that a risk based approach is taken to ensure ongoing financial resilience.

Members appreciated that 'back office' efficiencies are sought before service changes that impact delivery of front line services, however, the question was asked, how long this continues before frontline services are affected? You commented that this will differ across the Directorates, and that use of technology can support changes to that way services are delivered. However, if current budget trends continue, difficult and potentially damaging service change will need to be made.

A Member asked about the impact of 'mothballing' parts of building has had on insurance, e.g. the need to maintain the building at a certain temperature. Officers were confident that there were no issues that they were aware of, and that insurers had recently visited County Hall.

The Committee asked how the level of Council tax had been determined and whether a higher increase had been considered. You responded that local Councils will make decisions and choices based on their local circumstances and that the decision had been made recognising the cost of living impact for residents and the need to develop a balanced and resilient budget going forward.

## **Cllr Wild - Recycling & Neighbourhood Services**

Members raised concerns about the potential change to three weekly collection of residual waste for households with pets. Officers commented that some wood-based materials were able to be recycled, and that information on the website needed to be updated to ensure residents were able to make informed decisions and choices regarding the disposal of pet waste materials.

The Committee asked about RNSE4 and how the review of Street Cleansing vacant posts would impact on service delivery? Officer clarified that the £151,000 represented approximately 5 posts out of a service of circa 150 WTE (3.33%) and that by working 'smarter' there will be no impact to service delivery. Officers also noted the proposed shift changes at the Materials Recycling Facility, that currently operates a two shift system and the wish to modernise and move to a single shift that would enable management support during operating hours.

A member asked why there was no proposed increase to FPNs, for 'poor' behaviour, when charges for 'doing the right thing' i.e. bulky waste collections were being increased. Officers explained that FPN charges are determined by Welsh Government and that Cardiff is at the higher end of the charges, and with regard to bulky waste collections, the charges are set to provide residents with a viable and competitive alternative to a commercial company. Following this members asked if there was a danger that fly tipping would increase as a result of the increased charges. Officers commented that yes there is always a risk that fly tipping will increase however, there will always be those that disrespect their environment and that fly tipping is usually the result of private contractors, disposing of waste without a licence and not residents.

Members asked about RNSE1, review and restructure of recycling waste treatment, depot and restructure and the risk analyses being red/amber. Officers clarified that the recent 6 month of strike action has impacted on the delivery of this work and that a lot of work is going on to make the changes as

painless as possible, and that there was a need to change as the service has remained the same for a significant period.

In relation to RNSSC2 – Residual collections, why is this still being considered when the outcome of the consultation shows there is little public support.

Officers explained that segregated waste and three weekly collections are Welsh Government policy to meet their recycling target of 70%. Officers also reminded the committee that there is currently an historical fiscal penalty of circa £3m with the potential of an additional £1.9m if recycling targets continue not to be met. There were also comments that if the wording of the question in the consultation had been structured differently the response may have been more positive.

The Committee asked how much money does the Enforcement Team bring in? Officers replied approximately 15/20% of the cost of the service. It was acknowledged that there was also a balance between education and enforcement and that it was hoped the restructure would support changes going forward.

The Committee asked about the use of Agency staff, and officers commented that there would always need to be some on the books due to some seasonal services e.g. garden waste, however more were moving to permanent contracts and there was a wish to have more 'multi functional' staff to support digitising of some services.

Members asked about the deferral of the introduction of garden waste collection services. Officers advised that currently no decisions have been made and the work was ongoing with colleagues in the Vales of Glamorgan Council where charges were introduced 18 months ago. Based on their experience charges would be approximately £30-40, and with a 20% uptake of the service generate about £900k. Officers reiterated that the council can only statutorily charge for the collection of waste and not the disposal, however any green waste collected would contribute to the Council's overall recycling rates.



The Committee asked about sickness absence rates in the service are that have traditionally been comparatively high. Officers acknowledged that last year the rate was 22 FTE days per year and that the target going forward was 20 days. It was noted that the strike had had an impact on managing this and however there has been an impact on long term sickness absence.

Members also comments on the continued issues of the absence of a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in North Cardiff. Councillor Wild stated that he believes the city does not need a third HWRC, and commented that what is needed is a different model of recycling, repair and reuse centre, and that officers have already been tasked with finding a suitable site.

Members asked about the potential to charge more for a bulky waste 'quick' pick up service. Officers commented that the service has been impacted by the strike action and that the aim of the service is to pick up within 48 hours.

In terms of accessing services digitally, i.e. booking collection HWRC visits, it was noted that this digital interface may be difficult for the elderly. These concerns were noted and C2C staff were available to support those unable to access services digitally and work would be ongoing with the 'digital team' to make them as accessible as possible.

### **Cllr Wild - Climate Change**

Members asked about the potential to replicate Radyr Wier to provider more income/energy generation. Officers stated that this was not currently intended although more energy generation from solar farms is being explored.

Members also asked about the potential energy generation from the Severn Estuary and the work of the Western Gateway, Cllr Wild commented that this was in the early stages, following the recent appointment of a chair and the potential links to the Aberthaw Cardiff Capital Region site.

The committee asked if sufficient funding has been allocated to meet the significant challenges of delivering the One Planet Cardiff Strategy. It was noted that some of the projects e.g. coastal flood defence are Welsh Government funded. However there were challenges in relation to transport and the biggest challenge is in relation to the retrofit of schools and houses. It

was noted that UK council have the same concerns and that a Cabinet Report will be coming forward. Cllr Wild also noted the potential opportunities in relation to the workforce that would be required if funding was made available to undertake the retrofitting.

### **Cllr De'Ath - Transport & Strategic Planning**

The Committee asked if the target in relation to modal shift is achievable given the recent cuts to bus services. Officers responded that significant infrastructure is required to support the planned sustainable travel options i.e. Metro, CrossRail, bus priority routes, cycleways and parking zones, along with behaviour change by residents. It was also recognised that some bus services will always need to be subsidised as they have failed to attract passenger numbers that were travelling pre-pandemic. It is anticipated that bus corridors will assist in the improvement in running times and reliability. The proposed franchising of bus services was also noted as a positive as it would allow cross subsidisation of profitable and non profitable routes. The walking distance to access key bus corridors was noted as a concern by members for the elderly and disabled, and that this needed to be addressed. to 'tempt' people to use the services. It was also noted that an efficient, reliable, integrated transport system is essential to deliver this modal shift.

The issues raised by the committee in relation to parking included:

- Removal of free parking
- New parking charges/tariffs
- Visitor permits
- Enforcement
- Parking Machines

Officers responded that the risk rating of achieving some of the saving related to parking was in relation to the consultation process required to introduce charges and zones and the related Traffic Regulation Orders, and only part year savings being achieved.

The issue noted about a number of machines not working was explained as the transition from 3G to 4G systems which are being rolled out.

Members notes the availability of S106 planning gain monies and following the Joint T&F report reiterated the recommendation for visibility of how and where the monies are spent. Officers noted that developers will also deliver schools and roads as part of planning agreements.

No requests for additional information or formal recommendations were made.

Once again thank you once more for attending Committee and for considering our comments and observations.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor Owen Jones**

**Chairperson Environmental Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: *Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee*

*Cllr Caro Wild, Cabinet Member, Climate Change*

*Cllr Dan De'Ath, Cabinet Member Transport & Strategic Planning*

*Cllr Joel Williams, Chair of PRAP*

*Chris Lee, Corporate Director, Resources*

*Ian Allwood, Head of Finance*

*Neil Hanratty, Director, Economic Development*

*Andrew Gregory, Director, Planning, Transport & Environment*

*Matt Wakelam, Assistant Director, Street Scene*

*Claire Moggridge, Head of Transport*

*Simon Gilbert, Head of Planning*

*Cllr John Lancaster, Group Leader, Conservatives*

*Cllr Andrea Gibson, Group Leader, Common Ground*

*Cllr Rodney Berman, Group Leader, Liberal Democrats*

*Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit*

*Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations*

*Claire Deguara, Cabinet Business Manager*

Date: 29 February 2024

Councillor Chris Weaver,  
Cabinet Member. Finance, Modernisation & Performance  
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Neuadd y Sir  
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Dear Chris,

### **PRAP Scrutiny Committee 28 February 2024: Draft Budget Proposals 2024/25**

On behalf of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee sincere thanks for attending Committee on 28 February 2024 to present the budget proposals for 2024/25. Please also pass on our appreciation to the Corporate Director Resources, Chris Lee, Corporate Director People & Communities, Sarah McGill, Head of Finance, Ian Allwood, and Capital Account Manager, Anil Hirani, and the Policy & Improvement Manager, Dylan Owen for attending in person to answer Members questions. The Committee acknowledges the value of bringing budget proposals forward simultaneously with the draft Corporate Plan. I therefore pass on Member's comments and observations following our discussion at the Way Forward.

Firstly, Committee Members wish to commend you and the Finance team for arriving at this budget within an exceptionally challenging financial context. We acknowledge that many Local Authorities are in financial difficulty. The Committee considers the presentation of budget papers to be professional, and communication with scrutiny on budget proposals a credit to both the leadership and finance offices.

#### **Revenue Budget 2024/25**

The Committee acknowledges the challenging financial context in which you are setting this year's budget and closing a £30m gap. We note the proposed 6% Council Tax increase for residents and the use of £3.5m of reserves. We are reassured by the final settlement announcement from Welsh Government, confirming the anticipated settlement on which this budget is based. Whilst Welsh Government have indicated they will pass on monies from central government, some uncertainty remains until summer 2024 regarding unfunded pension schemes for Teachers and

the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service. Members raised concerns and note your confidence that this issue can be appropriately managed.

### **Education funding**

The Committee focussed on education, the current and future financial position of the city's schools and the need to support schools before they find themselves in deficit. Members were interested to hear of the forthcoming Collaboration and Federation Strategy, seen as a potential tool to address deficit budgets in the longer term.

However, given the current position we note:

- the onus placed on schools governing bodies in setting and managing their budgets and being a key part of the solution if issues arise.
- that if a school sets a deficit budget, they must present to the Council how they will come out of it within three years.
- schools in Cardiff have been in deficit over the past fifteen years and occasionally it takes longer than 3 years to resolve.
- the current position is that 28 Cardiff schools are in deficit, with three of those schools expected to balance their budgets by the end of March 2024.

### **Advice Services**

Members explored the implication of Universal Credit on the Council's budget, noting the transition has resulted in a reduced staff resource as the new system is managed by the Department for Work & Pensions. We highlighted with concern the loss of staff within the Council's Advice Services team and were advised this budget proposal relates to a reduction in vacant posts. The Committee would be interested in exploring the availability of Advice Services further and will explore the possibility of a short scrutiny when the Committee sets its 2024-25 Work Programme.

### **Waste Management**

The Committee highlighted the importance of the Council encouraging responsible citizenship in waste disposal and ensuring that this is reflected in the budget. We note that a market assessment undertaken in relation to waste fees and charges suggests the proposed fee increases represent good value for money.

## Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) & Consultation

The Committee feels that undertaking Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) on budget proposals is important. We commend you and officers on ensuring these assessments are in place. Further we note that Cabinet is committed to improving its approach to EIA's and so additional monitoring work has taken place that provides a confidence that the EIA's are robust. In addition, Members wish to congratulate you on the consultation exercise delivered in support of setting a budget that reflects citizens preferences. In line with our interest in EIA's we **request** further clarity on the impact of the proposed Shopmobility saving.

## Capital Budget

### Affordability

Given the significant sums of money within the Council's Capital Programme Members explored its overall affordability. We note the Corporate Director Resources view that a balance must be struck between the cost of capital investment versus costs the Council will incur if it does not invest in its assets. Further, we note the Section 151 Officer's assurance that the Council's Capital Budget is affordable. As discussed at the meeting, Members wish to reiterate the importance of a return on investment when spending significant sums within the Council's Capital Programme.

### Public understanding of *Revenue* versus *Capital* budgets

The committee considers it is important there is clear public understanding of the difference between *Revenue* and *Capital* Budgets. We **recommend** that the Council actively invests in improved communication to ensure members of the public understand that investment in large projects, such as the Arena development, is funded from the Capital budget, thereby improving understanding of the rationale for Council decision making.

Members sought assurance on the following specific Capital Investment lines:

- **Line 7: Footway Investment.** whether the £595,000 allocated within this budget is sufficient given the challenge and scope of work required. We note you share our concern regarding the need for additional money for this issue. and are assured it is managed through the Highways Maintenance policy.

- **Line 36: Coastal Risk Management Programme.** £4,416m over 5 years supported by WG grant funding.
- **Line 37: Flooding and Drainage.** £934,000 over the next 5 years, match funding for WG grant funding.
- **Line 48: City Hall Phase 1 Heating & Mechanical.** We are assured that sufficient funding has been set aside for this phase, however further money will be required for phase 2.
- **Line 91: GLL Leisure.** £600,000 proposed to install solar panels at GLL Leisure Centre, considered an ‘Invest to Save’ proposal that will benefit the Council as the GLL contract expires in five years.
- **School’s Property Estate:** Members enquired how a school can apply for Capital Programme funding to secure a facility. We note the Education directorate assesses need in an operational discussion with the school. As offered, Members **request** more information and clarity on this process.
- **New Council House Build Programme,** and the significant financial allocation in this budget to support its delivery to provide best value for citizens. We note builds are subject to the 30-year HRA business plan and viability assessments factor in the cost of borrowing, grants available and rental charges.
- **Pentwyn Leisure Centre.** This project does not appear in the Capital Budget however Members note the timetable for its redevelopment is still on track, £3m has been allocated to this project within the Capital Programme. This project will access Welsh Government funding in relation to carbon reduction, and £1.5m of Shared Prosperity Funding.

## Resources Directorate Budget Proposals

### Resourcing the back office efficiently

Members consider that back-office efficiency is critical to deliver assurance on Council-wide efficiency and capability. The committee notes that the finance service’s current approach to reducing costs is through service transformation and reducing the number of processes within teams. We note that the overall loss of finance posts in this budget results in £1m of savings and there is no further excess capacity to support future budgets. You assured us that no posts are to be taken from Audit, Insurance, Tax or Schools Support. We note and concur with the emphasis on the

need to work smarter and improve technology. In line with this we note the apparent programme of change for accountancy professionals, where there is a renewed emphasis on the importance of working alongside directorates as opposed to monitoring their use of budgets. We have also noted that as the Council's finance resources decrease and its need for accountancy support on complex projects increases there may be a need to buy in consultancy services.

### **Staff redundancies**

The committee was reassured that Directorate redundancies in these budget proposals, across both Finance and C2C, are not compulsory, with the majority of FTE losses achieved via the deletion of vacant posts and 2 voluntary redundancies.

### **Customer Service**

Members considered the increased use of volunteers and removal of posts in Hubs and Libraries and stressed how important it is that the Council recognises there is a level of inequity in service provision as not all areas of the city benefit from a Hub or Library.

Finally, whilst Members acknowledge the value of digitalisation and its capacity to deliver efficiencies, the Council must ensure its services can be accessed through non-technological channels, and Members urge that a telephone service must always be offered.

### **Requests following this scrutiny:**

As there are two requests following this scrutiny, I request a response to this letter providing the following:

- We note the Education directorate assess a school' property estate need in an operational discussion with the school. We **request** more information and clarity on this process, how needs are identified and allocated to the Capital Programme.
- Clarity on the impact of the proposed Shopmobility saving.



**Recommendations following this scrutiny:**

To summarise, the Committee makes 1 formal recommendation as set out below. As part of the response to this letter I would be grateful if you could, for each recommendation, state whether the recommendation is accepted, partially accepted or not accepted and summarise the Cabinet’s response. If the recommendation is accepted or partially accepted, I would also be grateful if you could identify the responsible officer and provide an action date. This will ensure that progress can be monitored as part of the approach agreed by Cabinet.

<b>Recommendation</b>	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
We <b>recommend</b> that the Council actively invests in improved communication to ensure members of the public understand that investment in large projects, such as the Arena development, is funded from the Capital budget, thereby improving understanding of the rationale for Council decision making.				

On behalf of the Committee, thank you once again for facilitating scrutiny of budget proposals for 2024/25. With your support, I look forward to continuing the valuable internal challenge established between this Committee and the Cabinet.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR JOEL WILLIAMS  
CHAIR, POLICY REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Leaders of Opposition Parties – John Lancaster, Rodney Berman &  
Andrea Gibson  
Chris Lee, Corporate Director, Resources  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Anil Hirani, Operational Manager, Capital, Corporate & Treasury  
Gareth Newell, Partnership & Community Engagement Manager  
Mr Gavin McArthur, Chair, Governance & Audit Committee  
Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit  
Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations  
Jeremy Rhys, Assistant Head of Communications and External Affairs  
Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services  
Rita Roman, PA to Chris Lee  
Alison Taylor, Cabinet Support Officer  
Claire Deguara, Cabinet Business Manager  
Andrea Redmond, Committees Support Officer.

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET  
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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: [CE:0047808]  
Dyddiad / Date: 29 February 2024

Cllr Joel Williams  
Chairperson, Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Joel,

**Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee 28th February 2024**

Thank you for your letters dated 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and the useful comments raised in relation to the 2024/25 Budget and Corporate Plan. I can assure you that Cabinet was able to reflect on the points raised prior to our meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Responses to requests and recommendations in respect of the Corporate Plan are included below:

Thank you for your consideration of the Corporate Plan and the Committee’s ongoing commitment to supporting the Council’s Planning and Delivery Framework. A number of issues were rehearsed, and we would welcome the opportunity to return to these at future meetings of the Committee and the Scrutiny Performance Panel. The Committee’s consideration of both the Mid-Year and End-of Year Self-Assessment of Performance represents excellent opportunities for doing so.

The Committee made one formal recommendation regarding staff engagement. I agree with the committee over the importance of making sure staff are valued and that their voices are heard. As the Chief Executive outlined with the committee, this is a piece of work which is currently in development, and the new programme of staff engagement will commence early in the next financial year.

**Recommendations - Corporate Plan**

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted, Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
We consider there is a gap in facilitating staff voices in developing the Corporate Plan. We recommend you address closing this gap and the Committee will monitor progress on this at Mid-year 2024/25.	Accepted	Refreshed Staff Engagement Programme to Commence in Q1 2024/25.	Chief Executive	Commence Q1 2024/25

**GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI**  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

**WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU**  
The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



Responses to requests and recommendations in respect of the 2024/25 Budget are included below:

**Request: We note the Education directorate assess a school’ property estate need in an operational discussion with the school. We request more information and clarity on this process, how needs are identified and allocated to the Capital Programme.**

I have asked Education officers to provide the Committee with a note that sets out how asset renewal allocations are prioritised.

**Request: Clarity on the impact of the proposed Shopmobility saving**

The Shopmobility project was a third sector project which was based in the city centre of Cardiff and assisted people with limited mobility to shop and use the other facilities in the city centre. The project was closed prior to 2020 due to the enhanced accessibility for disabled people in the city centre, and the post was there for no longer needed.

Contained within your letter, you set out some important points regarding schools in deficit and Pentwyn Leisure Centre. I would like to point out that the total number of schools currently in deficit is 38, and the Shared Prosperity Funding contribution to Pentwyn Leisure Centre is £1.0 million.

**Recommendations - Budget**

Please see response to the Committee’s recommendations in the table below

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted, Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
We recommend that the Council actively invests in improved communication to ensure members of the public understand that investment in large projects, such as the Arena development, is funded from the Capital budget, thereby improving understanding of the rationale for Council decision making.	Partially Accepted	Within available resources, we will look at ways to build on information that is currently already available in the Council’s financial strategy documents to see how this can be simplified for a wider audience.	Chris Lee	July 2024 (Budget Update Report)

I hope that this letter captures all the points raised in your letter and thank you again for your support in the budget process.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,



**Cynghorydd / Councillor Huw Thomas**  
**Arweinydd / Leader**  
**Cyngor Caerdydd / Cardiff Council**



**Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Chris Weaver**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance**

**Cc:**

Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Leaders of Opposition Parties – John Lancaster, Rodney Berman & Andrea Gibson  
Chris Lee, Corporate Director, Resources  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Anil Hirani, Operational Manager, Capital, Corporate & Treasury  
Gareth Newell, Partnership & Community Engagement Manager  
Mr Gavin McArthur, Chair, Governance & Audit Committee  
Chris Pyke, OM Governance & Audit  
Tim Gordon, Head of Communications & External Relations  
Jeremy Rhys, Assistant Head of Communications and External Affairs  
Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services  
Rita Roman, PA to Chris Lee  
Alison Taylor, Cabinet Support Officer  
Claire Deguara, Cabinet Business Manager  
Andrea Redmond, Committees Support Officer

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## EARMARKED RESERVES GENERAL FUND

	Reserve	Estimated balance at 31.03.2024 £000	Estimated Movements		Estimated balance at 31.03.2025 £000	Purpose /To fund:
			To finance budget £000	Other Commitments £000		
1	Adults Social Care	2,166	0	(1,750)	416	Service specific pressures and enhance financial resilience
2	Apprenticeships & Trainees	602	0	(311)	291	Corporate Apprentice Scheme
3	Arena Funding Strategy Mitigation	10,000	0	0	10,000	Mitigate interest rate risk associated with the major project
4	Bereavement Services	12	0	30	42	Planned programme of refurbishment and improvement
5	Building Control Regulations	176	0	(59)	117	Smooth effects of future deficits within ring fenced Building Control account
6	Building Safety Developer Loans Administration	500	0	0	500	Administration, set up and due diligence costs for the repayable Welsh Government scheme
7	Bute Park Match Funding	29	0	(22)	7	Match funding for grant funded initiatives in relation to Bute Park, as per related Heritage Lottery Fund agreement
8	Capital Business Case Development	1,294	0	(270)	1,024	Development of capital business cases
9	Capital financing coastal erosion project	1,211	0	(1,211)	0	Manage Welsh Government income re. capital financing costs over 30 year period for coastal erosion
10	Cardiff Academy Training	50	0	0	50	Support initiatives undertaken in connection with the Academy
11	Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	129	0	(43)	86	Contribution to the Joint Cabinet for the Cardiff Capital Region
12	Cardiff Dogs Home Legacy	193	0	(105)	88	Donations left to Cardiff Dogs Home to be used in connection with service improvements
13	Cardiff Enterprise Zone	4,997	0	(4,997)	0	Cardiff Enterprise Zone in future years
14	Central Market Works	135	0	(135)	0	Works at Cardiff Central Market as match funding for external grant bids
15	Central Transport Service	1,788	0	(130)	1,658	Central Transport vehicle service
16	City Wide Management & Initiatives	701	0	(4)	697	City-wide management and initiatives including support for marketing and infrastructure
17	Community Based Services Transition	105	0	0	105	Better integration of community facilities across the public sector
18	Community Initiatives	2,066	0	(716)	1,350	Initiatives arising from the legacy of the Communities First Programme
19	Corporate Events & Cultural Services	6,808	0	0	6,808	Feasibility studies and costs of major events, and to offset future pressures arising from fluctuations in income within Venues and Cultural Services
20	Corporate Landlord Function	335	0	0	335	Corporate landlord functions across the Council in order to provide a cohesive and commercial operating model
21	Corporate Recovery Risk	3,150	0	(400)	2,750	Mitigate risk of transition post pandemic
22	Council Tax & Council Tax Reduction Scheme	2,153	0	0	2,153	To manage both CTRS Demand and CT Premia Fluctuations
23	Demand Pressures	5,602	0	0	5,602	Financial resilience to help manage demand volatility and uncertainty
24	Digital Transformation	2,371	0	0	2,371	To provide Investment in driving digital change in our delivery of services
25	Discretionary Rate Relief	100	0	0	100	NDR due diligence
26	Emergency Management, Safeguarding and Prevent	139	0	0	139	Preventative measures in relation to safeguarding, the Prevent agenda and emergency management

## Appendix 6

	Reserve	Estimated balance at 31.03.2024 £000	Estimated Movements		Estimated balance at 31.03.2025 £000	Purpose /To fund:
			To finance budget £000	Other Commitments £000		
27	Employee Changes	9,627	0	(2,000)	7,627	Costs associated with voluntary redundancy and other employee costs in future years
28	Empty Homes & Housing Needs	1,519	0	(623)	896	Housing needs including activities relating to investing in empty homes and bringing them back into use
29	Energy Conservation (One Planet)	1,102	0	(317)	785	Energy conservation initiatives
30	Energy Market Volatility	2,336	(500)	0	1,836	Unexpected fluctuations in energy costs
31	Flatholm	7	0	0	7	Initiatives, repairs and renewals
32	Fraud Detection	44	0	0	44	Supplement staffing and other costs associated with fraud detection
33	Governance & Legal Services	140	0	0	140	Future Governance & Legal Services initiatives, including projects in connection with ICT upgrades
34	Harbour Authority Projects and Contingency Fund	130	0	0	130	Improvement and enhancement of infrastructure, assets, activities and services in or around Cardiff Bay
35	Highways Section 278	167	0	(33)	134	Highway investment
36	Homelessness	1,763	0	(1,315)	448	Increases in homelessness pressures
37	Housing Support	674	0	(270)	404	Improve sustainability by maintaining the independence of people in their own homes
38	ICT Holding Account	731	0	(150)	581	Future business process improvement initiatives and other future ICT initiatives
39	Insole Court	148	0	(100)	48	Council building repairs liabilities in line with the lease terms
40	Inspectorate Support	808	0	(600)	208	Consultancy for inspections and the regulatory environment
41	Insurance	8,179	0	(300)	7,879	Protect from future potential insurance claims
42	Invest to Save	261	0	0	261	Revenue invest to save schemes
43	Joint Equipment Store - Pooled Budget	515	0	0	515	Offset deficits or one off expenditure items in the pooled budget, in future years
44	Local Plan	159	0	(126)	33	Local Development Plan and any potential appeals or judicial reviews
45	Major Projects	117	0	0	117	Support to Major Projects
46	Members Development	20	0	0	20	Members' ICT software
47	Municipal Election	391	0	100	491	Local elections
48	Municipal Mutual Insurance	935	0	0	935	Liabilities to pay a percentage of claims previously settled by Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) and contribute to the cost of future settled claims
49	New Theatre Repairs	439	0	40	479	Council building repairs liabilities in line with the lease terms
50	Non-Domestic Rates Due Diligence	60	0	0	60	Manage fluctuations between years on NDR Revaluations
51	Out of School Childcare	76	0	(15)	61	Surplus balances from each school operating an out of school childcare scheme. These can be drawn upon by each school to balance their in-year financial position
52	Parking & Enforcement	532	0	(145)	387	Surpluses on parking & enforcement schemes which, under the Road Traffic Act 1984, have to be reinvested in Road Traffic Schemes
53	Property Asset Management	16	0	0	16	Managing timing and fluctuations of income from fees relating to the disposal of properties



	Reserve	Estimated balance at 31.03.2024 £000	Estimated Movements		Estimated balance at 31.03.2025 £000	Purpose /To fund:
			To finance budget £000	Other Commitments £000		
54	Red Dragon Centre	1,667	0	(1,230)	437	Premises funding requirements
55	Rentsmart Wales	582	0	0	582	Training and service delivery in respect of Rentsmart Wales
56	Resources	2,886	0	(273)	2,613	Number of areas within the Resources directorate, particularly where transition to new methods of operation are required
57	Schools Formula Funding	1,882	0	(700)	1,182	Unplanned and unforeseen expenditure incurred by or on behalf of the delegated schools budgets
58	Schools Organisation Plan	2,283	0	(1,430)	853	Manage the cash flow implications of the School Organisational Plan financial model
59	Scrutiny	81	0	0	81	Support Scrutiny function including member development and training
60	Social Care Worker Mobility	542	0	0	542	Increase domiciliary support service capacity in conjunction with decarbonisation of services
61	South East Wales Construction Framework	2,002	0	0	2,002	Ringfenced revenue to fund future costs of the project. Remaining funding to be distributed amongst the participating authorities
62	Strategic Budget	7,058	(3,000)	(306)	3,752	Financial resilience and future budget reduction requirements over the period within the Medium Term Financial Plan
63	Treasury Management	7,442	0	(2,138)	5,304	Management of risk in relation to major projects and to offer some protection and flexibility to the wider capital programme
64	Town Centre Loan Scheme	120	0	0	120	Administration and re-investment of interest. This is required in accordance with the terms and conditions of the loan
65	Wales Interpretation and Translation Service	331	0	0	331	Manage in-year fluctuations in funding and financial performance of the service
66	Waste Management	1,365	0	(1,165)	200	Initiatives to achieve recycling targets and offset impact of additional tonnage and associated costs
67	Welfare Reform	2,366	0	(729)	1,637	Mitigate pressures and reduced funding within the Housing Benefit Service following the transfer of services to DWP, as part of the rollout of the Universal Credit Scheme
68	Youth Service	437	0	(125)	312	Costs connected with the refurbishment of youth centres
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108,752</b>	<b>(3,500)</b>	<b>(24,073)</b>	<b>81,179</b>	

	Reserve	Estimated balance at 31.03.2024 £000	Estimated Movements		Estimated balance at 31.03.2025 £000	Purpose /To fund:
			To finance budget £000	Other Commitments £000		
1	Council General Reserve	14,255	0	0	14,255	Impact of unexpected events or emergencies

**SCHOOLS RESERVES AND BALANCES**

	Reserve	Estimated balance at 31.03.2024 £000	Estimated Movements		Estimated balance at 31.03.2025 £000	Purpose /To fund:
			To finance budget £000	Other Commitments £000		

## Appendix 6

	Reserve	Estimated balance at 31.03.2024 £000	Estimated Movements		Estimated balance at 31.03.2025 £000	Purpose /To fund:
			To finance budget £000	Other Commitments £000		
1	Schools Reserves	5,000		(15,000)	(10,000)	Aggregate School Balances / Deficits
2	Primary / Special School Repairs	1,001		(100)	901	To fund schools repairs and maintenance

**EARMARKED RESERVES HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**

	Reserve	Estimated balance at 31.03.2024 £000	Estimated Movements		Estimated balance at 31.03.2025 £000	Purpose /To fund:
			To finance budget £000	Other Commitments £000		
1	Housing Development Resilience Reserve	1,000	0	1,600	2,600	Improve resilience within the Housing Development Capital Programme
2	Housing Repairs and Building Maintenance	4,121	0	(1,500)	2,621	Housing repairs and to mitigate against risk within the Construction Industry
3	Welfare Reform	179	0	(179)	0	Project costs and scheme development to address issues for council tenants due to benefit cap and universal credit
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(79)</b>	<b>5,221</b>	

	Reserve	Estimated balance at 31.03.2024 £000	Estimated Movements		Estimated balance at 31.03.2025 £000	Purpose /To fund:
			To finance budget £000	Other Commitments £000		
1	HRA General Reserve	15,502	0	0	15,502	Impact of unexpected events or emergencies within the HRA

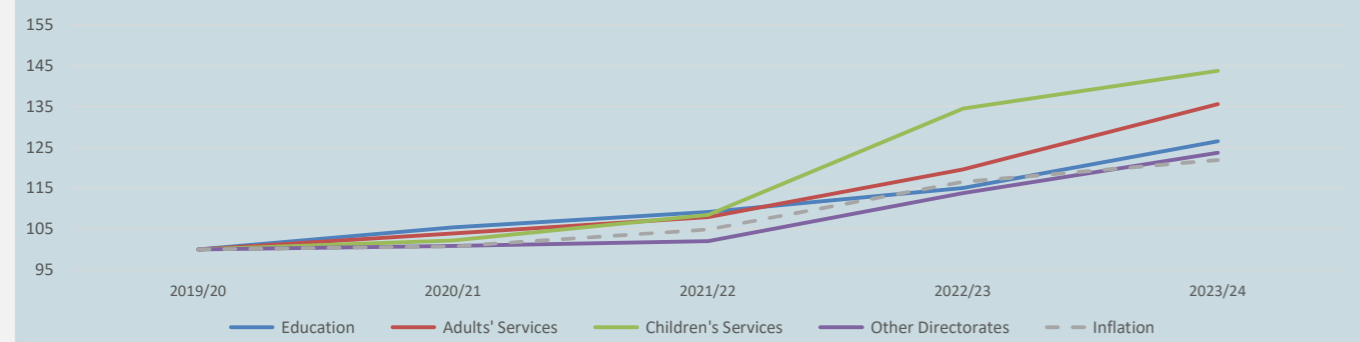
# Financial Resilience Snapshot

## 2023-24 Month 9

### Revenue Position Month 9 - 2023/24

Directorate	Budget £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000	Variance %
Corporate Management	29,417	29,394	(23)	(0.1%)
Economic Development	12,814	15,048	2,234	17.4%
Recycling & Neighbourhood Services	40,705	40,999	294	0.7%
Education	343,417	345,163	1,746	0.5%
Planning, Transport & Environment	10,225	10,331	106	1.0%
People & Communities				
- Housing & Communities	50,563	50,083	(480)	(0.9%)
- Performance & Partnerships	3,102	2,996	(106)	(3.4%)
- Adults' Services	149,924	149,924	0	0.0%
- Children's Services	90,674	94,307	3,633	4.0%
Resources				
- Governance & Legal Services	7,550	8,174	624	8.3%
- Resources	18,937	18,391	(546)	(2.9%)
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>757,328</b>	<b>764,810</b>	<b>7,482</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Capital Financing	36,193	33,993	(2,200)	(6.1%)
General Contingency	1,000	0	(1,000)	(100.0%)
Summary Revenue Account etc.	9,373	7,973	(1,400)	(14.9%)
Council Tax	0	(150)	(150)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>803,894</b>	<b>806,626</b>	<b>2,732</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

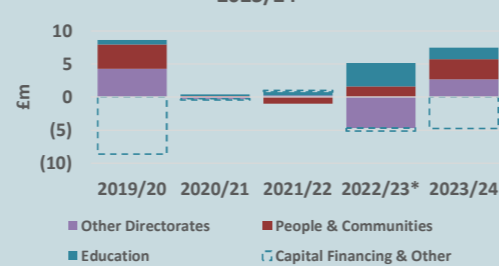
### Directorate Outturn Growth



### Directorate Outturn Position: 2019/20 - 2023/24

Directorate	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Education	272,812	287,533	297,868	313,914	345,163
People & Communities	224,524	232,204	242,373	269,560	297,310
Other Directorates	94,282	92,890	92,891	112,313	122,337
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>591,618</b>	<b>612,627</b>	<b>633,132</b>	<b>695,787</b>	<b>764,810</b>
Capital Financing & Other	31,971	43,559	49,120	47,959	41,816
<b>Total</b>	<b>623,589</b>	<b>656,186</b>	<b>682,252</b>	<b>743,746</b>	<b>806,626</b>

### Directorate Variance to Budget 2019/20 - 2023/24



\* 22-23 variance includes underspend against Covid Recovery Budget within Other Directorates category

### Capital Position Month 9 - 2023/24

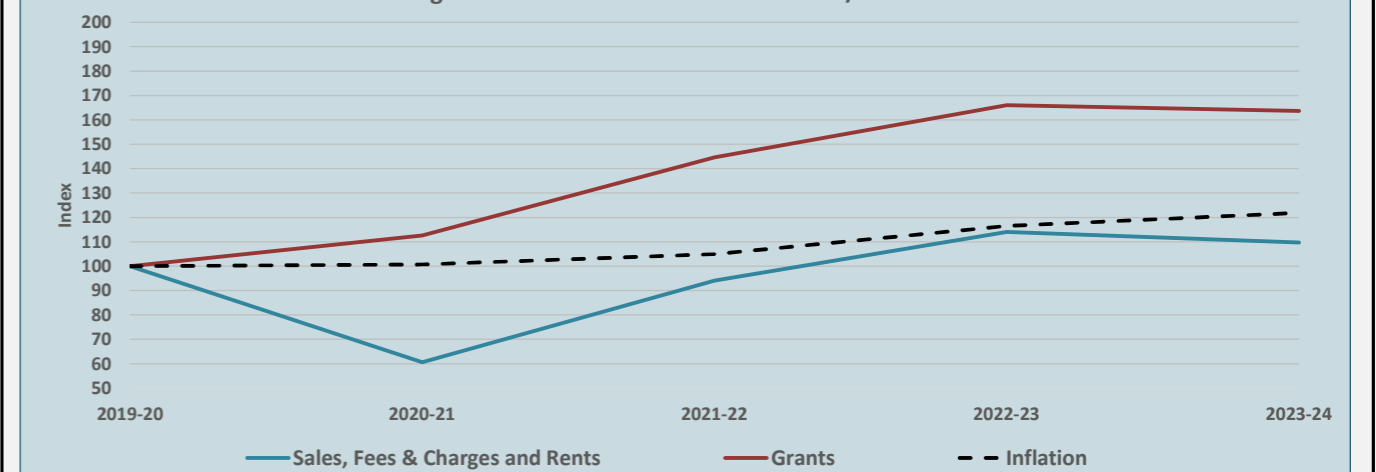
Directorate	Budget £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000	Variance %	(Under)/Over £000	Slippage £000
Economic Development	36,350	16,843	(19,507)	(54%)	0	(19,507)
Education	108,315	98,525	(9,790)	(9%)	0	(9,790)
People & Communities	22,051	16,390	(5,661)	(26%)	(346)	(5,315)
Planning, Transport & Environment	55,341	41,329	(14,012)	(25%)	0	(14,012)
Resources	19,272	12,818	(6,454)	(33%)	0	(6,454)
<b>Total</b>	<b>241,329</b>	<b>185,905</b>	<b>(55,424)</b>	<b>(23%)</b>	<b>(346)</b>	<b>(55,078)</b>

## External Income

### Directorate Outturn Position: 2019/20 - 2023/24

Directorate	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Sales, Fees & Charges and Rents	(94,022)	(56,958)	(88,448)	(107,185)	(103,077)
Other Grants & Reimbursements	(38,007)	(34,875)	(38,938)	(72,739)	(68,462)
Interest & Investment Income	(200)	(111)	(240)	(368)	(222)
Grants	(115,847)	(130,394)	(167,600)	(192,360)	(189,545)
Grants (external spend)*	(145,827)	(139,115)	(131,146)	(113,526)	(112,346)
Covid Grants (inc. Hardship Fund)	0	(106,254)	(82,044)	(19,721)	(1,978)

### Changes in External Income Streams - 2019/20 Base Year



### Fees & Charges, Highest Directorate Receipts: 2019/20 - 2023/24

Directorate	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 * £000
Economic Development	35,562	8,575	23,821	30,606	23,361
Central Education	7,454	1,536	5,161	6,239	3,234
Delegated Schools	7,663	3,783	5,476	5,779	5,387
Planning, Transport & Environment	23,709	14,573	21,431	25,169	26,846

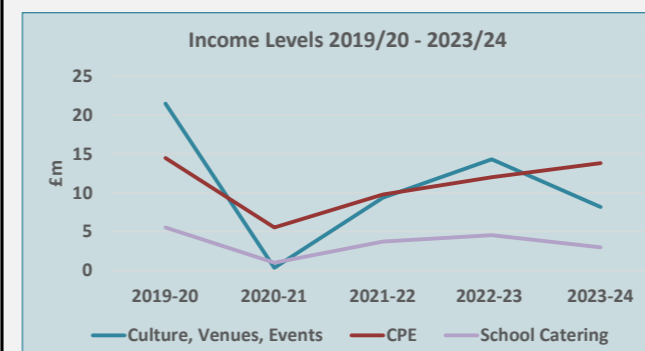
\* Economic Development's figure reduced in 2023/24 due to the closure of St David's Hall

### Specific Grants, Highest Directorate Receipts: 2019/20 - 2023/24

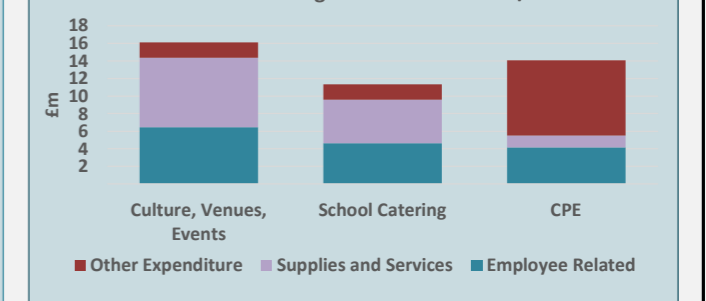
Directorate	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Central Education	45,133	48,085	64,873	66,694	67,245
Delegated Schools	12,375	13,951	17,595	16,905	17,996
Housing & Communities*	37,722	39,358	48,898	59,479	62,532
Social Services	7,900	13,016	23,695	34,107	35,207

\* Excluding HB, 20 hour childcare and concessionary fares

### Trend Analysis: Highest Fees & Charges Receipts 2019/20 - 2023/24



### Break down of Budgeted Cost Base 2023/24



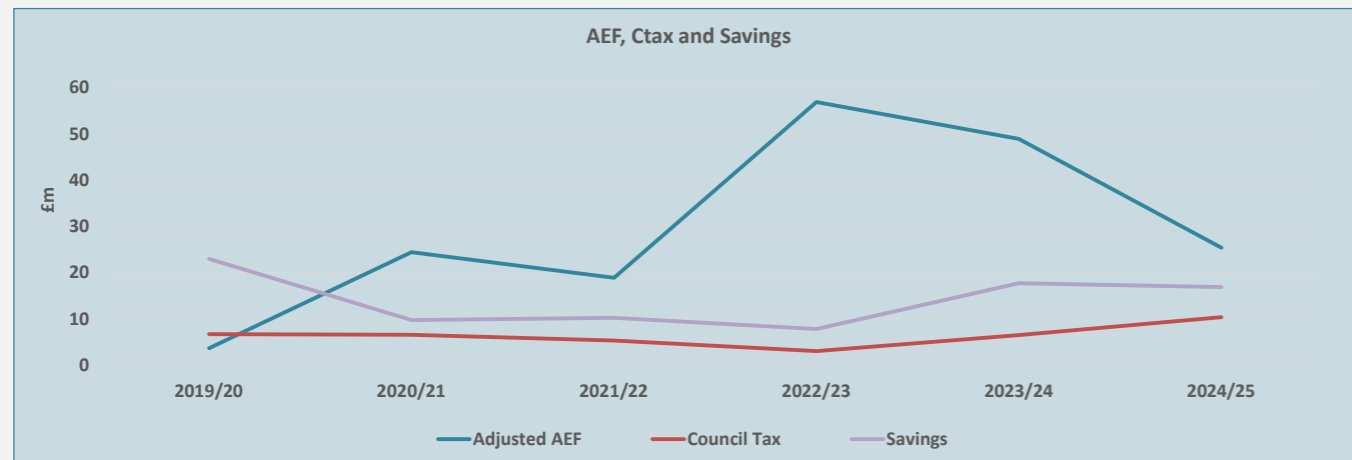
# Financial Resilience Snapshot

## Budget Strategy, Savings & Budgeted Resilience

### Net Revenue Funding & Budget Strategy

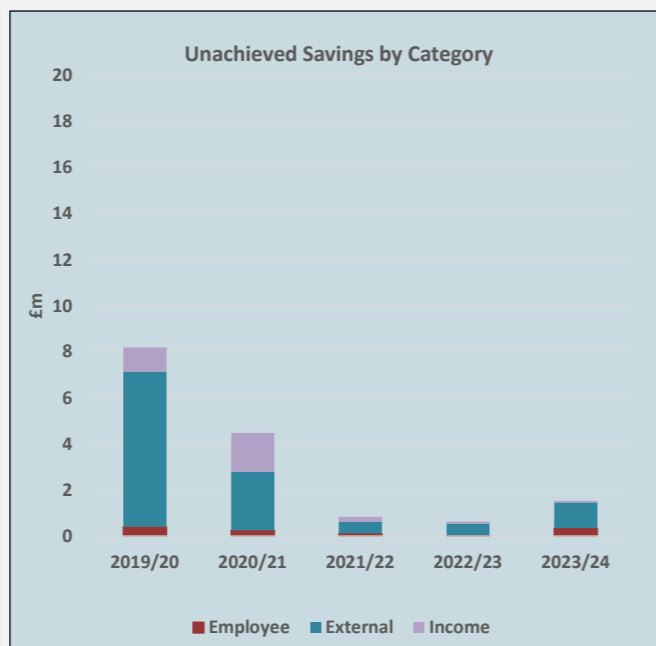
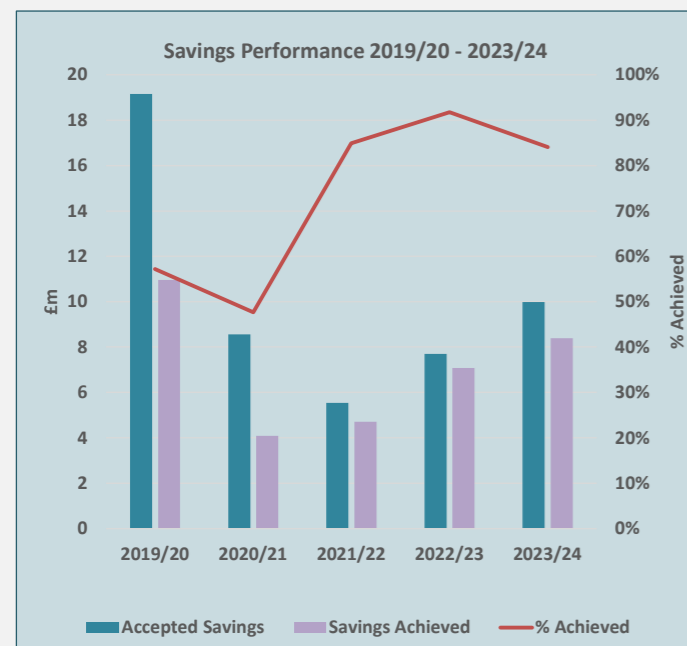
Directorate	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000
Savings	(22,943)	(9,764)	(10,244)	(7,857)	(17,666)	(16,908)
Council Tax Increase (rate)*	(6,744)	(6,594)	(5,351)	(3,065)	(6,550)	(10,419)
Reserve Funding	(2,750)	(750)	(750)	0	0	(3,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(32,437)</b>	<b>(17,108)</b>	<b>(16,345)</b>	<b>(10,922)</b>	<b>(24,216)</b>	<b>(30,327)</b>

\* Net of impact on Council Tax Reduction Scheme



### Budget Corporate Resilience

Directorate	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000
Covid Recovery Budget	0	0	0	10,000	0	0
Financial Resilience Mechanism	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	2,000	2,000
General Contingency	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	0
Adults' Contingency	0	0	0	3,000	2,000	1,500
Children's Contingency	2,000	2,175	2,175	2,175	2,175	2,000
MRF	350	350	350	350	350	350



\* Achievement of Directorate Savings in year - Savings unachieved in year would either be achieved in future years or would require budget realignment.

## Financial Ratios and Earmarked Reserves

### Financial Indicators : Cardiff Council Single Entity

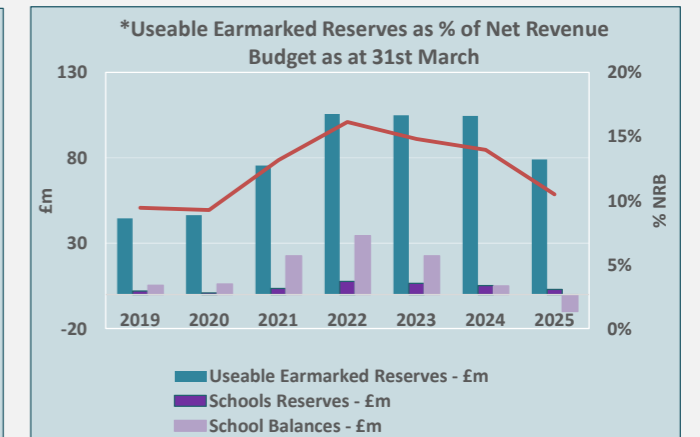
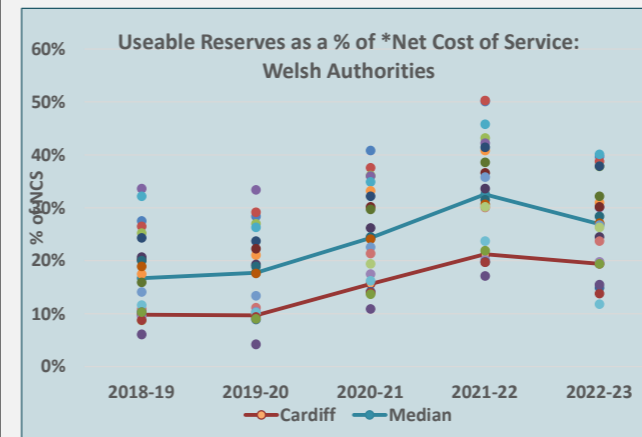
Ratio / Indicator - Availability of Resources	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23*
** Changes in Useable Reserve	(10.68%)	1.74%	68.85%	41.55%	(1.31%)
Net CTAX Proceeds / Net CTAX budgeted	100.48%	102.16%	100.55%	100.36%	101.23%
Current Ratio	1.47	1.61	1.77	1.99	2.19
Working Capital as % of Gross Revenue Expenditure	7%	11%	15%	16%	16%
General Reserve to Gross Revenue Expenditure (days)	6	6	5	4	4
Capital Funding Req/Net Revenue	114%	121%	109%	102%	104%
LT Borrowing to LT Assets (ratio)	37%	38%	37%	37%	36%
LT Borrowing to Tax & AEF	104%	115%	100%	96%	95%
Interest Payments / Net Revenue	7%	7%	7%	9%	5%

\* 2022/23 - Draft Statement of Accounts figures - Subject to Audit.

\*\* Useable Reserves defined as Council Fund and Earmarked Reserves, School Balances and Reserves, and Joint Committee reserves in line with Audit Wales definition.

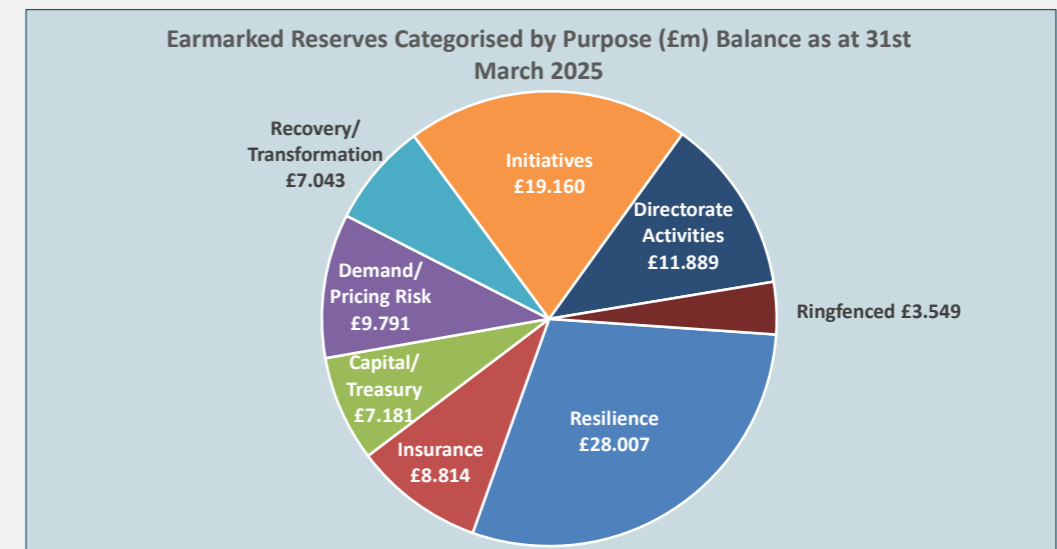
- 2018/19 - Reduction in Useable reserves due to in year funding of higher than anticipated pay award and a reduction in School balances.

- 2020/21 and 21/22 - Increase in reserves to fund short term Covid based pressures and recovery.



\* Latest available information provided from Audit Wales. Usable reserves is Council Fund and Earmarked Reserves, School Balances and Reserves and Joint Committee reserves. Net cost of Services includes Precepts, Levies and Debt but excludes HRA.

\* This is a local Financial Resilience Indicator that diverges from Audit Wales reserve indicator. Useable Reserves definition is more stringent than Audit Wales and only includes funds readily available to fund Council Revenue activities i.e. - Council Fund and Council Earmarked Reserves. Measures coverage of reserves as at 31st of March to fund revenue activities in the proceeding year.



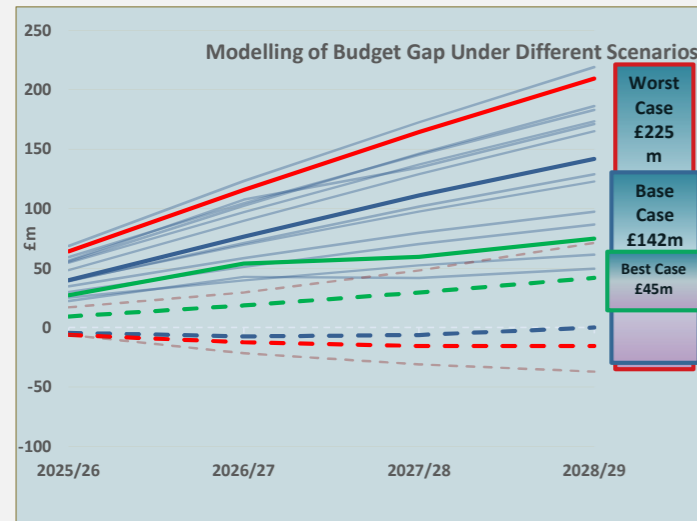
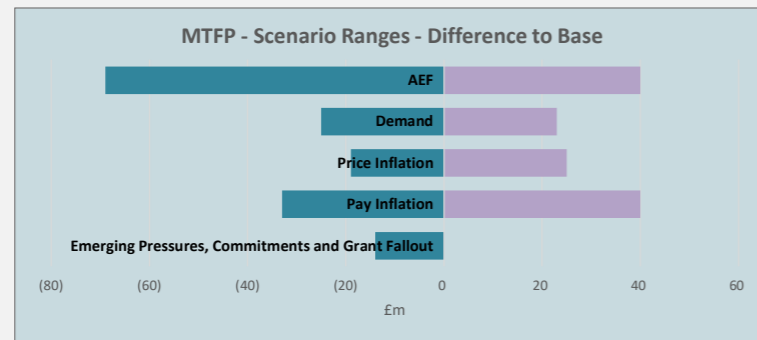
# Financial Resilience Snapshot

## Medium Term Financial Outlook: Revenue

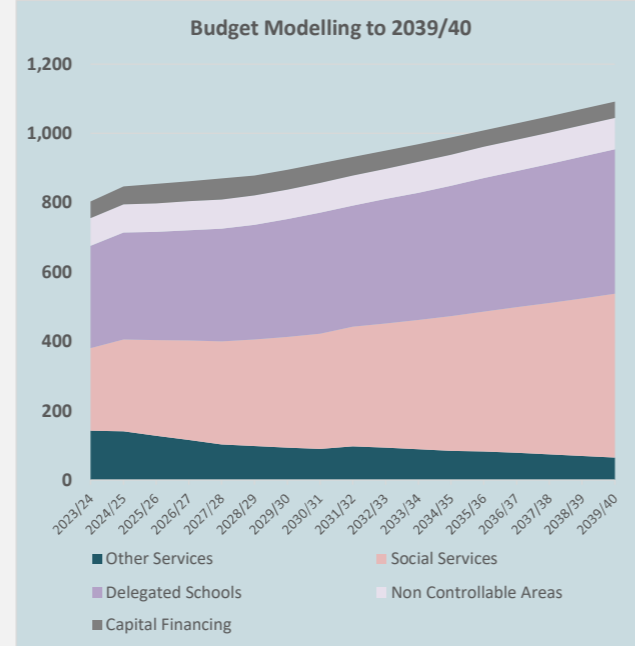
Medium Term Budget Gap					
Directorate	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total £000
Pay Inflation	11,643	11,116	13,472	14,141	50,372
Price Inflation	8,305	8,937	8,624	8,667	34,533
Capital Financing (pre school Band B Cont.)	5,855	2,747	864	(844)	8,622
Commitments & Realignment	3,285	531	143	105	4,064
Demographic Pressures	7,360	9,946	7,824	5,154	30,284
Emerging Financial Pressures	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	14,000
Funding - AEF & Reserves	4,369	3,625	(1,256)	(6,269)	469
<b>Total Budget Gap</b>	<b>44,317</b>	<b>40,402</b>	<b>33,171</b>	<b>24,454</b>	<b>142,344</b>
Council Tax - Modelled at 3.95%	(7,382)	(7,674)	(7,977)	(8,292)	(31,325)
Savings	(36,935)	(32,728)	(25,194)	(16,162)	(111,019)
<b>Budget Strategy Requirement</b>	<b>(44,317)</b>	<b>(40,402)</b>	<b>(33,171)</b>	<b>(24,454)</b>	<b>(142,344)</b>

Medium Term Budget Gap Scenario £m		Demand - Scenarios		
		High	Base	Low
Economic Scenarios	Recession - High Inflation	+83	+59	+47
	Recession - Low Inflation	-8	-56	-44
	<b>Base</b>	<b>+23</b>	<b>£142m Budget Gap over 4 yrs</b>	<b>-13</b>
	Economic Growth - High Inflation	+6	-42	-30
	Economic Growth - Low Inflation	-61	-109	-97

9 of the 14 alternative scenarios had a lower Budget Gap than the Base case. The single biggest variable in the MTFP budget Gap is AEF - i.e. Local Government Settlement



Graph above illustrates the different planning scenarios. Maximum budget gap over medium term period is £225m, minimum is £45m and the average was £126m which is comparable to base case of £142m.

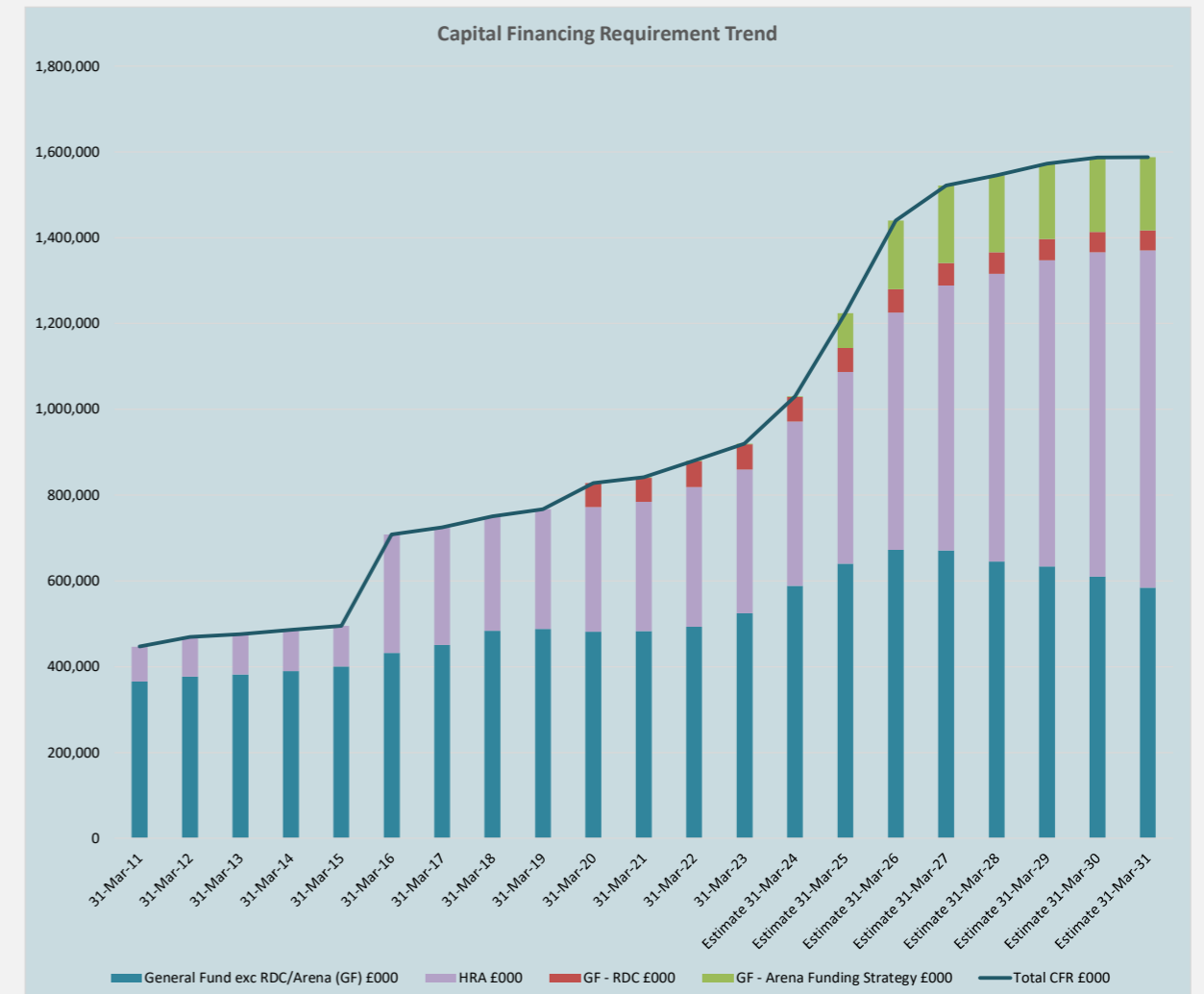


## Capital Financing

Capital Financing Requirement as at 31st March each year							
Element	2022/23 Actual £m	2023/24 Estimate £m	2024/25 Estimate £m	2025/26 Estimate £m	2026/27 Estimate £m	2027/28 Estimate £m	2028/29 Estimate £m
General Fund	525	589	640	671	671	645	634
General Fund - RDC	59	57	56	54	52	51	49
General Fund - Arena Funding Strategy	1	1	81	161	181	179	176
Housing Revenue Account	335	383	447	553	618	670	714
<b>Total</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,573</b>

Capital Financing Requirement as Ratio of the Net Revenue Stream							
Element	2022/23 Actual %	2023/24 Estimate %	2024/25 Estimate %	2025/26 Estimate %	2026/27 Estimate %	2027/28 Estimate %	2028/29 Estimate %
General Fund	0.77%	0.81%	0.83%	0.85%	0.84%	0.80%	0.77%
Housing Revenue Account	3.76%	3.98%	4.25%	4.94%	5.16%	5.36%	5.46%

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Budget Stream							
Element	2022/23 Actual %	2023/24 Estimate %	2024/25 Estimate %	2025/26 Estimate %	2026/27 Estimate %	2027/28 Estimate %	2028/29 Estimate %
General Fund - Gross Capital Financing Budget	6.09%	5.86%	7.13%	7.53%	8.88%	8.89%	8.56%
HRA - Gross Capital Financing Budget	29.29%	28.84%	30.13%	33.45%	36.44%	38.28%	40.08%



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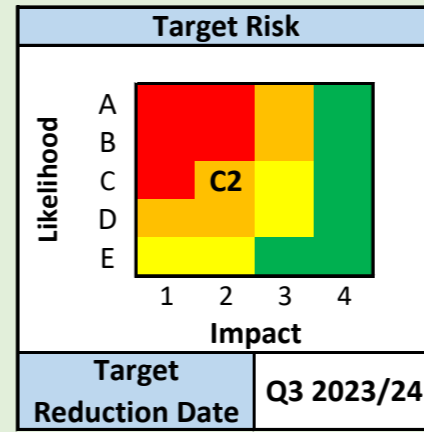
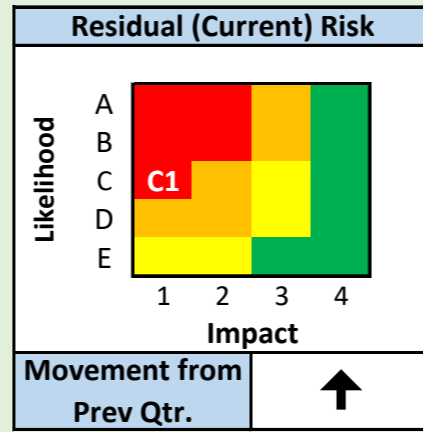
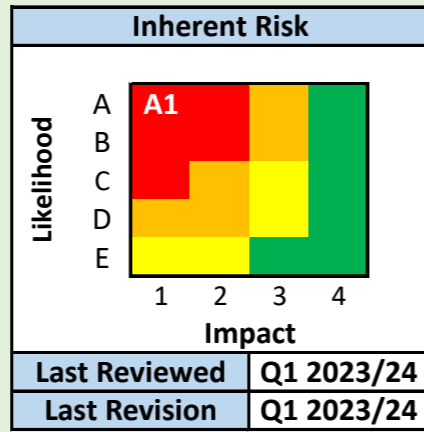


## Financial Resilience

**Description**

Within the context of there being a Budget Gap of £142 million for the period 2025/26 to 2028/29. There is a risk of:

- Failure to deliver a balanced annual budget.
- Failure to provide a fully informed Medium Term Financial Plan along with a timely strategy to address resultant gap.
- Lack of appropriate mechanisms to identify and manage unexpected financial liabilities.



**Risk Owner(s)**

<p><b>Chris Lee</b> (Ian Allwood)</p>	<p><b>Councillor</b> <b>Chris Weaver</b> Finance, Modernisation and Performance</p>
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**What we've done/are currently doing to achieve the Residual Risk Rating**

2023/24 and Medium Term

- Regular monitoring to understand the in-year position and gain early insight into emerging risks which includes earmarked reserves review to establish level of need reflecting the current priority is balanced budget.
- Engaging and working in partnership with directorates during the budget process to ensure that budget proposals and services are deliverable within timescales and quantum (revenue and capital).
- Mechanisms in place such as Treasury Management Reserve and Financial Resilience Mechanism in order to dampen the impact of a worse than anticipated financial climate / settlements.)
- Preparation of Prudential Indicators to help assess the affordability, prudence and sustainability of the Capital Programme and associated levels of borrowing.
- Close alignment with Corporate Plan objectives, to ensure resources are allocated appropriately, and that longer term financial savings are developed in enough time to be realised.
- Annual review of contingent assets and liabilities, and provisions to ensure the Council has adequate cover for emerging liabilities.
- An approved Treasury Management Strategy that identifies borrowing interest cost and refinancing as a significant risk to be managed. Security, Liquidity and Yield in that order to preserve investments.
- A Major Projects accountancy function supporting the identification of key risks / financial issues in relation to large schemes. Targeted accountancy support to areas of financial challenge and ensuring the appropriateness of internal charges.
- Maintaining approach to robust financial control mechanisms and strengthening complex / areas of risk through training e.g. VAT.
- Undertaken initial assessment against CIPFA FM code with high level findings.
- Established a corporate approach to business case development, viability assessment, approval and post project monitoring to ensure expenditure assumed to pay for itself can do so over its expected life thus providing assurance that financial resilience will not be undermined by projects exceeding their cost parameters.
- Development of 2024/25 Fees & Charges using Income Generation Framework- has assisted income planning and visibility of income streams relative to costs etc.

**What we plan to do to meet target**

**2024/25 and the Medium Term**

- Further strengthening links between financial planning and asset management strategies, which consider the current condition of assets and future requirement or activity. Q3 2024/25
- Direct Property Service to ensure clear, detailed plans and timescale for delivery of capital receipts targets. Q2 2024/25
- Maintain the enhanced focus on a multi-year position (recognising limitations where settlement information is for one year only) outlining key risks in MTFP where quantification is not possible / problematic. Q3 2024/25
- The level of the gap over the Medium Term is likely to require a review of budget-setting timelines and decision-making points with likely need for earlier decision-making. Q1 2024/25
- Refresh self-assessment against the CIPFA FM code and Balance Sheet Review and develop implementation plan in respect of any findings or recommendations, which provide further financial resilience. Q1 2024/25
- Working with Directorates to identify cost and all available funding streams for decarbonisation. Q3 2024/25
- Implement financial resilience actions identified in the HRA MTFP. Q2 2024/25
- Ensure a finance structure with skills and adequate capacity to meet regulatory, interest rate, treasury and budgetary risk in the face of ongoing budget reduction requirements. Q4 2024/25

**Potential Impact(s)**

Failing to meet statutory obligations and potential for service delivery to be adversely affected.

Reputational damage to the Council.

Needing to draw down significant unplanned amounts from reserves.

Inability to progress policy initiatives through inadequate Business Cases and no forthcoming external funding to bridge any affordability gap.

- Inability to manage adverse external factors - e.g. adverse funding settlements, WG rent policy etc.
- Financial constraints and budget proposals result in unintended consequences such as increased instances of non-compliance and financial impropriety.
- Requirement for significant savings at short notice that are therefore not identified in a coherent, strategic way and which impact on service delivery.
- Level of borrowing limits the ability of future generations to take forward new priorities.
- Reaching the point where a s114 notice is required to be issued by the S151 Officer.

**Linked Risks**

Budget Monitoring (Control)

**Key Indicators / Measures used to monitor the risk**

- Financial Snapshot which highlights historical & current performance with regards budget monitoring, achievability of savings, levels of borrowing, and financial ratios.
- Outturn vs Budget: Main budget lines under or overspend as a % of budgeted expenditure.
- Delivery of planned savings: Total (£) unachieved planned savings as a % of total (£) planned savings.
- Use of reserves: 1) Ratio of useable reserves to Net Revenue Budget (NRB), 2) Amount of useable reserves used to balance budget as % of NRB.
- Council tax: 1) Council tax and other income as % of NRB, 2) Council tax collection rates (in-year actual).
- Borrowing: 1) Total commercial investment income as % of total net general fund budget, 2) Total commercial investments with borrowing outstanding, 3) Capital Financing Requirement related to commercial investments as proportion of overall Capital Financing Requirement, 4) Capital interest costs and MRP as a proportion of NRB.
- Performance against Budget Timetable.
- Frequency / timeliness of engagement with SMT/Cabinet.
- Proportion of Savings Proposals in Realised or at Delivering stage.
- Section 151 Officer Statement in respect of capital strategy, adequacy of reserves and other statutory commentary.
- Benchmarking data re: financial resilience produced by External Audit Bodies

**Type(s) of Impact**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Delivery</li> <li>• Reputational</li> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• Financial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder</li> </ul>
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## Civil Parking Enforcement and Parking Reserve

1. The Traffic Management Act was introduced in 2004 to tackle congestion and disruption on the road network. The Act places a duty on local traffic authorities to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic on their road network and the networks of surrounding authorities. It gives authorities additional tools to better manage parking policies, moving traffic enforcement and the coordination of street works. Welsh Ministers granted Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers to Cardiff Council in July 2010. This extended to the enforcement of Bus Lanes and Moving Traffic Offences (MTOs) in November 2014.
2. CPE activities are funded from income derived from on-street and off-street parking fees, Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) for both on-street and off-street and Moving Traffic Offences (MTOs) enforcement plus residents parking permits.
3. All charges for pay and display tickets and permits are set through Member approval. The Council has no control over the PCNs or MTOs as these are statutory charges set by Welsh Government.
4. The income is allocated to a CPE account and operational costs, including the cost of the enforcement service are deducted.
5. The table below illustrates the financial forecast for the next five years using various assumptions and scenarios.

<b>Civil Parking Enforcement</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Income</b>					
On-street car parking fees	5,134	5,269	5,404	5,532	5,660
Off-street car parking fees	1,854	1,887	1,920	1,952	1,984
Residents' parking permits	911	911	911	911	911
Penalty Charge Notices	2,450	2,475	2,475	2,475	2,450
Moving Traffic Offences	5,150	5,201	5,201	5,201	5,149
Miscellaneous income	84	84	84	84	84
<b>Total income</b>	<b>15,583</b>	<b>15,827</b>	<b>15,995</b>	<b>16,155</b>	<b>16,238</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Operational costs parking	644	650	653	656	661
Enforcement service	6,933	7,025	7,167	7,259	7,350
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>7,577</b>	<b>7,675</b>	<b>7,820</b>	<b>7,915</b>	<b>8,011</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>8,006</b>	<b>8,152</b>	<b>8,175</b>	<b>8,240</b>	<b>8,227</b>

6. For 2024/25, income from car parking fees, residents' permits, PCNs and MTOs is forecast to be £15.583 million. This includes increases of £283,000 in Pay & Display fees following the planned consolidation of the tariff structure and £352,000 for the removal of free parking for on-street and district car parks. It

also includes an additional £140,000 to be gained through changes to working practises.

7. Expenditure is estimated to be £7.577 million and includes the operating costs of the off-street car parks and maintenance of the on-street parking bays plus the cost of the enforcement service. This figure incorporates an assumed staff pay award and anticipated increases in software licences. It also reflects efficiency savings of £23,000 for the planned in-house provision of Blue Badge Enforcement and £71,000 on staff costs.
8. The net trading position anticipates a surplus of £8.006 million.
9. In proceeding years, income is forecast to grow through incremental increases in parking fees. PCNs and MTOs are anticipated to remain constant with a small reduction of 1% in 2028/29 to reflect anticipated changes in driver behaviour. No further increases in Residents' Parking Permits have been included.
10. Future expenditure levels incorporate staff assumed pay awards. From 2026/27, an additional provision of £50,000 is also included for the replacement of computer hardware.
11. The assumptions carry risks which could have an impact on the figures. These include the timing of both the revised parking tariffs and removal of free parking. In addition, inflation will continue to be a factor in terms of operating costs.
12. The surplus from CPE activities is transferred to the Parking Reserve.
13. The table below sets out the predicted movement in the reserve.

<b>Parking Reserve</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Estimated Opening Balance	429	279	275	294	378
CPE net surplus	8,006	8,152	8,175	8,240	8,227
<b>Funding Availability</b>	<b>8,435</b>	<b>8,431</b>	<b>8,450</b>	<b>8,534</b>	<b>8,605</b>
Contribution to support revenue budget	7,556	7,556	7,556	7,556	7,556
Active Travel	600	600	600	600	600
<b>Use of Reserve</b>	<b>8,156</b>	<b>8,156</b>	<b>8,156</b>	<b>8,156</b>	<b>8,156</b>
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>449</b>

14. The use of the reserve includes a budgeted contribution of £7.556 million which supports a range of highway, transport and environmental maintenance improvements. It also includes recurring funding of £600,000 for the promotion of Active Travel initiatives including assessing the transportation impact on the Local Development Plan.

15. The reserve shows a consistent balance for the next couple of years and is then forecast to gradually increase which will provide a degree of resilience against the income forecast and consequential surplus from CPE.

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## Prudential Indicators

### The CIPFA Prudential and Treasury Management Codes of Practice

The two integrated Codes of practice have been developed as frameworks to support the decisions local authorities make for capital investment and borrowing decisions. Originally introduced in 2004, its latest update was in 2021. Compliance with the Code is a statutory requirement when carrying out their duties under Part I of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations.

#### **Objectives of the Code**

The key objectives of the Codes are:

- To ensure that capital expenditure plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable
- That Treasury Management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice
- That local strategic planning, asset management planning and proper option appraisal are supported
- To provide a clear and transparent framework to ensure accountability.

#### CIPFA required Prudential Indicators to be produced

The indicators required are shown below, with further explanation as to their meaning:

##### **1(a). External Debt - Operational Boundary (See Treasury Strategy)**

The most likely, prudent view of the level of gross external indebtedness. External debt includes both borrowing and long-term liabilities (e.g. finance leases). It encompasses all borrowing, whether for capital or revenue purposes. This indicator will be subject to the level and timing of borrowing decisions and so the actual level of borrowing can therefore be below or above this initial estimate. However, what cannot be breached without a further report to Council is the authorised borrowing limit.

##### **1(b). External Debt - The Authorised Limit (See Treasury Strategy)**

The upper limit on the level of gross external indebtedness, which must not be breached without Council approval. It is the worst-case scenario. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded but may not be sustainable. Any breach must be reported to the executive decision-making body, indicating the reason for the breach and the corrective action undertaken or required to be taken. This limit is a statutory limit required to be set by the Council under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

##### **1(c). External Debt - Actual External Debt (See Treasury Strategy)**

The indicator for actual external debt will not be directly comparable to the operational boundary and authorised limit, since the actual external debt will reflect the actual position at one point in time.

## **2. Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) (See Capital Strategy)**

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) replaced the 'Credit Ceiling' measure of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It measures an authority's underlying need to borrow or use other long-term liabilities, to pay for capital expenditure.

## **3. Capital Expenditure (See Capital Strategy)**

The level of capital expenditure incurred and likely to be incurred in future years. This is to be based on an accruals basis and on the definition of capital expenditure.

## **4. Gross External Borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement (See Treasury Strategy)**

The level of external borrowing is required to be compared to the Capital Financing Requirement which represents the underlying need to borrow. Requires that borrowing in the medium term can only be for capital purposes.

## **5. Maturity Structure of Borrowing (See Treasury Strategy)**

Local Authority debt portfolios consist of a number of loans with differing maturities. Setting limits assists in ensuring any new borrowing in particular when combined with existing borrowing does not result in large concentrations of borrowing maturing in a short period of time.

## **6. Liability Benchmark (See Treasury Strategy)**

The Liability Benchmark is the Net Borrowing Requirement of a local authority plus a liquidity allowance. In its simplest form, it is calculated by deducting the amount of investable resources available on the balance sheet (reserves, cash flow balances) from the amount of outstanding external debt and then adding the minimum level of investments deemed required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

CIPFA recommends that the optimum position for external borrowing should be at the level of the Liability Benchmark (i.e., all balance sheet resources should be used to maximise internal borrowing). If the outputs show future periods where external loans are less than the Liability Benchmark, then this indicates a borrowing requirement thus identifying where the authority is exposed to interest rate, liquidity and refinancing risks. Conversely where external loans exceed the Liability Benchmark then this will highlight an overborrowed position which will result in excess cash in the organisation requiring investment thus exposing the authority to credit and reinvestment risks and a potential cost of carry. The treasury strategy should explain how the treasury risks identified by the Liability Benchmark are to be managed over the coming years.

The Authority is required to estimate and measure the Liability Benchmark for the forthcoming financial year and the following two financial years, as a minimum. CIPFA strongly recommends that the benchmark is produced for at least 10 years and should ideally cover the full debt maturity profile of a local authority.

### **7. Principal sums invested for greater than one year (See Treasury Strategy)**

This indicator measures the exposure of a local authority to investing for periods of greater than one year.

### **8. Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream (See Capital Strategy)**

This indicator is a measure of affordability of historic and future capital investment plans. It identifies the trend in the cost of capital financing which include:

- interest payable on borrowing and receivable on investments
- penalties or any benefits receivable on early repayment of debt
- prudent revenue budget provision for repayment of capital expenditure paid for by borrowing
- reimbursement of borrowing costs from directorates in respect of Invest to Save schemes.

This is calculated for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. For the General Fund, the net revenue stream is the amount to be met from non-specific Welsh Government grants and Council Tax, whilst for the HRA it is the amount to be met from rent payers. An increasing ratio indicates that a greater proportion of the Council's budget is required for capital financing costs over the planned Capital Programme period.

It should be noted that these figures include a number of assumptions such as:

- no new approvals of additional borrowing apart from that currently proposed over the period of the programme
- estimated interest rates
- the level of internal borrowing and timing of external borrowing decisions and capital expenditure
- the total level of the Welsh Government revenue support etc. which can fluctuate due to transfers in or out of the settlement
- Invest to Save / Earn schemes do perform as intended over the period identified in the initial proposal for investment.

### **Locally determined Prudential Indicators**

### **9. Capital Financing Requirement (Debt) to Net Revenue Stream – (See Capital Strategy)**

This ratio shows the amount of debt proportionate to Net Revenue Stream and is an indicator of financial sustainability. It helps to explain the relationship of debt to annual resources available to deliver services.

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**CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****COUNCIL : 7 MARCH 2024****CABINET PROPOSAL****AGENDA ITEM:****COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS****Reason for this Report**

1. To provide information and consider the discretionary powers to charge higher amounts of Council Tax (Premiums) on long-term empty dwellings provided for by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

**Background**

2. The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 amended the Local Government Finance Act 1992 by inserting section 12A, which gave the Council the discretion to discontinue any discounts granted to long-term empty homes and apply a premium of up to 100% on top of the standard rate of Council Tax.
3. In 2019, Cardiff Council decided to apply a premium of 50% on long-term empty dwellings and then, in March 2023, the Council decided to increase the premium charge to 100% from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The reason for introducing the premium was to encourage homeowners to bring properties back in occupation. A long-term empty dwelling is defined as a dwelling that is both unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a continuous period of at least a year. Therefore, a Council Tax charge of 200% is currently made on these properties (a 100% premium plus the 100% standard charge).
4. In March 2023, the Council decided to charge second homes/furnished properties that are no-one's residence a 100% premium. The Council provided the statutory 12 month notice for this premium and this charge will become effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.
5. The Council can make, vary, or revoke a determination made under Section 12A of the 1992 Act, but only before the beginning of the financial year to which the determination applies. Where a determination is made to apply a Council Tax premium, a local authority must publish a notice of the determination in at least one newspaper circulating in its area within 21 days of the date of the determination.

6. Council Tax legislation provides for several specific exemptions from the charge, including several exemptions where a dwelling is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished such as a dwelling that is undergoing structural repairs (for up to 12 months) and a dwelling that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (for up to 6 months). A dwelling that is exempt from Council Tax is not liable for a premium. However, where a dwelling is no longer eligible for an exemption, but remains unoccupied, it may become liable for the premium. In the case of a dwelling that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished, it could be liable for a premium after it has been empty for a continuous period of one year.
7. Additionally, a premium cannot be charged on a dwelling that falls within an exception class. The Council Tax (Exceptions to Higher Amounts Wales) Regulations 2015 set out the following exceptions:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Application</b>
Class 1	Dwellings being marketed for sale – time limited for one year.	Second Homes and Long-Term Empty Properties
Class 2	Dwellings being marketed for let – time limited for one year	
Class 3	Annexes forming part of, or being treated as part of, the main dwelling	
Class 4	Dwellings which would be someone's sole or main residence if they were not residing in armed forces accommodation	
Class 5	Occupied caravan pitches and boat moorings	Second Homes
Class 6	Seasonal homes where year-round occupation is prohibited	
Class 7	Job-related dwellings	

8. The Council Tax (Long-term empty Dwellings and Dwellings Occupied Periodically) (Wales) Regulations 2022 have now further amended Sections 12A and 12B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to provide that, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, the Council has the discretion to charge a premium of up to 300% on top of the standard rate of Council Tax on both properties occupied periodically and long-term empty properties.
9. This will enable Councils to decide the level which is appropriate for their individual local circumstances. Councils will be able to set the premium at any level up to the maximum, and they will be able to apply different premiums to properties occupied periodically and long-term empty properties.

## **Long-term empty dwellings**

10. Many issues of community concern arise from some of the empty properties within the city; these include fly tipping, nuisance, vandalism, criminal activity, and visual deterioration, all of which have the potential to adversely affect neighbouring properties and residents. Some empty properties can be a blight on a local community and boarded up dwellings have a significant impact on the way potential investors perceive an area. In addition to the above, empty properties also represent a wasted resource considering the housing demand within the city. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, there were 1563 empty for more than six months at any one time and the Housing Enforcement Team within Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) actively monitors 200 of those empty properties on a prioritised basis as part of the Private Sector Empty Homes Policy. Priority is given to problematic empty homes and those vacant for more than 5 years.
11. In addition to reactive visits to complaints about empty properties, SRS work proactively to capture the wider scope of long-term empty properties. The Council seeks to incentivise owners to act positively in bringing properties into beneficial use in several ways. These include signposting owners to the Houses into Homes loan scheme, providing a list of private property developers, referring to a Housing Association for lease and repair where feasible or providing proof of empty status letters for VAT reduction on renovation costs. Although some owners may be receptive to this approach, there are of course situations where owners are absent and cannot be traced or are resistant to resolving the issues. In these circumstances, SRS can exercise a number of enforcement powers. These can deal with immediate issues such as fly tipping and making premises secure to more long-term solutions such as enforced sale or compulsory purchase.
12. The number of long-term empty properties that are charged a Council Tax premium has only reduced from 882 at the beginning of April 2023 to 808 on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, despite the level of the premium charge being increased to 100% from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Even more concerning is that more than half of these properties (406) have currently been empty for more than 2 years and 252 of these properties have been empty for more than 3 years. This is an indication that the current level of premium may not be sufficient to act as an added incentive to bring properties back into beneficial occupation.

## **Options for level of premiums**

13. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, the Council has the discretion to charge a premium of up to 300% on both long-term empty dwellings and properties that are occupied periodically.
14. Where a Council decides to charge a premium on long-term empty dwellings, it may specify different percentages for different dwellings based on the length of time for which they have been empty. This enables Councils to take a stepped approach, with incremental increases applying over time.

## **Proposal to increase the rate of premium for long-term empty dwellings**

15. The Council is committed to minimising the number of empty properties that exist in view of the housing demand within the city and the impact that some empty properties have upon the local community.
16. To seek to achieve this, it is proposed that the premium rate for long-term empty dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than 24 months is increased from 100% to 200% and for more than 36 months is increased from 100% to 300%. It is proposed that this change is effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.
17. The reason for adopting this incremental approach where premium charges increase over time is that the Council is keen to target those dwellings that have been empty for an extended period. It is hoped that this increased premium will encourage owners to either sell or bring the property back into occupation.

## **Consultation**

18. A determination by a Council to charge a premium must be made by full Council. Prior to doing so, a Council must give due consideration to its statutory duties to carry out equality impact assessments under the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Public Sector Equality Duties 2011 (see **Appendix 1**) and to all other relevant considerations. The Welsh Government has also stated that a Council should consider engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, including the local electorate, before taking a decision as to whether or not to charge a premium.
19. The advice from Welsh Government is guidance and has no statutory obligation. The Council has previously consulted twice on the implementation of long-term empty premiums. The most recent consultation concluded in January 2023, which was overwhelmingly in favour of long-term empty premiums.

## **Other Councils**

20. Over recent years, the use of premiums by Welsh Councils has increased with the majority now charging some form of premium.

## **Potential additional income**

21. The Welsh Government has confirmed that Councils are able to retain any additional funds generated by implementing premiums and amendments to the calculation of the tax base will be made to facilitate this. However, Councils are encouraged to use any additional revenue generated to help meet local housing needs in line with the policy intentions of the premiums.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

22. It is necessary for the Council to consider the discretionary powers that are available in relation to applying Council Tax premiums.

## **Financial Implications**

23. Local authorities will be able to retain any additional funds generated by implementing the Council Tax premiums, although it should be noted that the Welsh Government is encouraging authorities to use any additional revenue generated to help meet local housing needs. The additional cost of administration and recovery needs to be considered when identifying the overall benefits of implementing a premium. No additional administration resources are requested currently as it is difficult to assess the impact prior to its implementation. This area will be kept under review and if additional resources are required it would be a first call on any income generated.

## **Legal Implications**

24. The relevant legislative references appear throughout the text of this report. Specifically, section 12A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which empowers the Council to implement Council Tax premiums of the type described within the report, subject to following the processes set out within the Act and in the body of the report.
25. Section 12A does not impose a formal consultation requirement on the Council. However, the Welsh Government does advise that Councils undertake engagement and consultation when considering a Council Tax premium. The most recent consultation on this subject was concluded in January 2023. It is good practice for the Council to take that recent consultation into account as a part of its decision-making process.
26. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. standing orders and financial regulations; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Equalities & Welsh Language**

27. In considering this matter the decision maker must have regard to the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must, in making decisions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are: (a) Age, (b) Gender reassignment, (c) Sex, (d) Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, (e) Disability, (f)

Pregnancy and maternity, (g) Marriage and civil partnership, (h) Sexual orientation, (i) Religion or belief –including lack of belief.

28. When taking strategic decisions, the Council also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage ('the Socio-Economic Duty' imposed under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010). In considering this, the Council must take into account the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers ([WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 \(gov.wales\)](#)) and must be able to demonstrate how it has discharged its duty.
29. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out which aims to identify the equalities implications of the proposed decision, including inequalities arising from socio-economic disadvantage. Due regard should be given to the outcomes of the Equality Impact Assessment annexed at **Appendix 1**.
30. The decision maker should be mindful of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.

#### The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

31. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales – a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and is globally responsible. In discharging its duties under the Act, the Council has set and published well-being objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the national well-being goals. The well-being objectives are set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-26.
32. When exercising its functions, the Council is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its well-being objectives. This means that the decision makers should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the well-being objectives and must be satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those objectives.
33. The well-being duty also requires the Council to act in accordance with the 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Council to act in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, the Council must:
  - Look to the long-term
  - Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems
  - Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals

- Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions
  - Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them
34. The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible online using the link below:  
<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

### **HR Implications**

35. There are no HR implications in this report.

### **Property Implications**

36. There are no further specific property implications in respect of the Council Tax Premiums report. Where there are any relevant property management matters, property transactions or valuations required to deliver any proposals, they should be done so in accordance with the Council's Asset Management process and in consultation with Strategic Estates and relevant service areas.

## **CABINET PROPOSAL**

Council is recommended that, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, the premium charge of 100% on long-term empty dwellings is increased to 200% for dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than 24 months, and to 300% for dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than 36 months.

## **THE CABINET 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

*The following appendix is attached:*

Appendix 1: Single Impact Assessment

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# Single Impact Assessment

Cardiff Council



## 1. Details of the Proposal

<b>What is the proposal?</b>	
Title:	<b>Consideration as to whether the Council should increase the council tax premium from 100% to 200% on dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than 24 months and from 100% to 300% on dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than 36 months.</b>

<b>Is this a new proposal or are you amending an existing policy, strategy, project, procedure or service?</b>	
New	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Directorate/Service Area:</b>
Resources/ Revenues

<b>Who is developing the proposal?</b>	
Name:	Mike Taylor / Gary Watkins
Job Title:	Council Tax Manager /Operational Manager

<b>Responsible Lead Officer (Director or Assistant Director):</b>
Ian Allwood – Head of Finance

<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>
FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE

<b>Authorisation</b>	
Completed By:	Mike Taylor
Job Title:	Council Tax Manager
Date:	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Approved By:	Gary Watkins
Job Title:	Operational Manager

**Document History – do not edit**

*The Single Impact Assessment (SIA) can be strengthened as time progresses, helping shape the proposal. Version control will provide a useful audit trail of how the SIA has developed. Draft versions of the assessment should be retained for completeness, however only the final version will be publicly available. Draft versions may be provided to regulators if appropriate.*

<b>Version</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	FG	Senior Corporate Policy Officer	12/10/2022
2	FG	Senior Corporate Policy Officer	12/04/2023
3	FG	Senior Corporate Policy Officer	12/12/2023

## 2. Overview of the Proposal

### **What action is the Council considering and why?**

*Please provide a detailed outline of the proposal. This information will support your findings in the impact assessments.*

#### **Long Term Empty Dwellings**

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 amended the Local Government Finance Act 1992 by inserting section 12A which gave the Council the discretion to discontinue any discounts granted to long term empty homes and apply a premium of up to 100% on top of the standard rate of council tax.

The Council Tax (Long term empty Dwellings and Dwellings Occupied Periodically) (Wales) Regulations 2022 have now further amended Section 12A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to provide that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 the Council has the discretion to charge a premium of up to 300% on top of the standard rate of council tax on long-term empty property.

Many issues of community concern arise from some of the empty properties within the city; these include fly tipping, nuisance, vandalism, criminal activity, and visual deterioration, all of which have the potential to adversely affect neighbouring properties and residents. Some empty properties can be a blight on a local community and boarded up dwellings have a significant impact on the way potential investors perceive an area. In addition to the above, empty properties also represent a wasted resource considering the housing demand within the city. Current figures show that there are 1563 empty for more than six months at any one time and the Housing enforcement team within the Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) actively monitor 200 of those empty properties on a prioritised basis as part of the Private Sector Empty Homes Policy. Priority is given to problematic empty homes and those vacant for more than 5 years.

In addition to reactive visits to complaints about empty properties, the SRS also work proactively to capture the wider scope of long-term empty properties. The Council seeks to incentivise owners to act positively in bringing properties into beneficial use in several ways. These include signposting owners to the Houses into Homes loan scheme, providing a list of private property developers, referring to a Housing Association for lease and repair where feasible or providing proof of empty status letters for VAT reduction on renovation costs. Although some owners may be receptive to this approach, there are of course situations where owners are absent and cannot be traced or are resistant to resolving the issues. In these circumstances, the SRS can exercise a number of enforcement powers. These can deal with immediate issues such as fly tipping and making premises secure to more long-term solutions such as enforced sale or compulsory purchase

In 2019 Cardiff Council made a decision to apply a premium of 50% on long term empty dwellings with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. The reason for introducing the premium was to encourage home owners to bring properties back in occupation. A long term empty dwelling is defined as a dwelling that is both unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a continuous period of at least a year. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 the Council made a further decision to increase this premium from 50% to 100%.

As a result of this change the number of long-term empty properties that are charged a council tax premium has only reduced from 882 at the beginning of April 2023 to 808 on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 .Even more concerning is that more than half of these properties (406) have currently been empty for more than 2 years and 252 of these properties have been empty for more than 3 years. This is an indication that the current level of premium may not be sufficient to act as an added incentive to bring properties back into beneficial occupation.

Therefore, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, the Council is considering increasing the premium charge to 200% for properties that have been empty for more than 24 months and to 300% for properties that have been empty for more than 36 months.

The Council can make, vary, or revoke a determination made under Section 12A of the 1992 Act, but only before the beginning of the financial year to which the determination applies.

The Council is committed to minimising the amount of empty properties that exist in view of the housing demand within the city and the impact that some empty properties have upon the local community.

**What are the costs and/or savings?**

*What will the proposal cost and how will it be funded?*

*How might costs be reduced through involvement and collaboration, across Cardiff Council and/or with external stakeholders?*

*Are there savings and how will these be realised?*

As this is an amendment to an existing scheme the new cost structure will be met from existing resources. The policy intention is to encourage owners of long-term empty properties to take steps to bring them back into occupation. Consideration will be given to ring fencing any additional income for housing purposes.

### 3. Impact Assessments

#### Which impact assessments do you need to complete to support your proposal?

Further information is included about each assessment at the start of the relevant section.

The [Impact Assessment Screening Tool](#) provides advice tailored to your proposed policy, strategy or project regarding which impact assessments may be required and who to contact to find out more.

The screening tool is an online form with mainly multiple-choice questions which should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Once the answers have been submitted, an automated email will be sent to you with the recommended next steps and details of who to contact for expert advice.

**Put Yes or No next to each of the impact assessments listed below to indicate which ones are being carried out. For assessments which are not being carried out, please delete the relevant sections on the subsequent pages.**

Impact Assessment	Completed: Y/N
A. Equality Impact Assessment	y
B. Child Rights Impact Assessment	n
C. Welsh Language Impact Assessment	y
D. Habitats Regulations Assessment	n
E. Strategic Environmental Assessment	n
F. Data Protection Impact Assessment	n
G. Health Impact Assessment	n

For further information on all the above impact assessments including who to contact for advice, please visit the [Policy Portal](#).

# A: Equality Impact Assessment

Guidance in completing this assessment can be accessed [here](#). Please consult the Equality Team for any further assistance with completing this assessment [EqualityTeam@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:EqualityTeam@cardiff.gov.uk)

Under the Equality Act 2010, “differential impact” means that people of a particular protected characteristic (e.g. people of a particular age) will be significantly more affected by the change than other groups.

## Impact on the Protected Characteristics

### Age

Will this proposal have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on different age groups?

	Yes	No	N/A
Up to 18 years		X	
18 - 65 years		X	
Over 65 years		X	

### Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

Officers work proactively to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use and this proposal will aid the council’s commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and any associated problems.

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change on the grounds of age.

### What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

No differential impact in relation to age

### Disability

Will this proposal have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on disabled people?

	Yes	No	N/A
Hearing Impairment		X	
Learning Disability		X	
Long-Standing Illness or Health Condition		X	
Mental Health		X	
Neurodiversity		X	
Physical Impairment		X	
Substance Misuse		X	

Visual Impairment		X	
Other		X	

**Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.**

Officers work proactively to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use and this proposal will aid the council's commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and any associated problems.

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change on the grounds of disability.

**What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?**

No differential impact in relation to disability

**Gender Reassignment**

Will this proposal have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on transgender people?

	Yes	No	N/A
Transgender People (Transgender people are people whose gender identity or gender expression is different from the gender they were assigned at birth.)		x	

**Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.**

Officers work proactively to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use and this proposal will aid the council's commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and any associated problems.

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change on the grounds of Gender Reassignment.

**What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?**

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change on the grounds of Gender Reassignment

### Marriage and Civil Partnership

Will this proposal have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on marriage and civil partnership?

	Yes	No	N/A
Marriage		X	
Civil Partnership		X	

**Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.**

Officers work proactively to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use and this proposal will aid the council's commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and any associated problems.

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change on the grounds of Marriage and Civil Partnership.

**What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?**

No differential impact in relation to Marriage and Civil Partnership

### Pregnancy and Maternity

Will this proposal have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on pregnancy and maternity?

	Yes	No	N/A
Pregnancy		X	
Maternity		X	

**Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.**

Officers work proactively to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use and this proposal will aid the council's commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and any associated problems.

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change on the grounds of Pregnancy and Maternity.

**What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?**



No differential impact in relation to Pregnancy and Maternity

**Race**

Will this proposal have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on the following groups?

	Yes	No	N/A
White		X	
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups		X	
Asian / Asian British		X	
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British		X	
Other Ethnic Groups		X	

**Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.**

Officers work proactively to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use and this proposal will aid the council's commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and any associated problems.

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change on the grounds of Race.

**What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?**

No differential impact in relation to Race

**Religion, Belief or Non-Belief**

Will this proposal have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on people with different religions, beliefs or non-beliefs?

	Yes	No	N/A
Buddhist		X	
Christian		X	
Hindu		X	
Humanist		X	
Jewish		X	
Muslim		X	
Sikh		X	
Other belief		X	
No belief		X	

**Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.**

Officers work proactively to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use and this proposal will aid the council's commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and any associated problems.

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change on the grounds of Religion, Belief or Non-belief.

**What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?**

No differential impact in relation to Religion, Belief and Non-belief

**Sex**

Will this proposal have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on male, female or non-binary persons?

	Yes	No	N/A
Male persons		X	
Female persons		X	
Non-binary persons		X	

**Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.**

Officers work proactively to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use and this proposal will aid the council's commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and any associated problems.

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change on the grounds of sex.

**What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?**

No differential impact in relation to Sex.

### Sexual Orientation

Will this proposal have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on people with different sexual orientations?

	Yes	No	N/A
Bi		X	
Gay		X	
Lesbian		X	
Heterosexual		X	
Other		X	

**Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.**

Officers work proactively to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use and this proposal will aid the council's commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and any associated problems.

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change on the grounds of sexual orientation.

**What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?**

No differential impact in relation to Sexual Orientation.

### Socio-economic Duty

Is the change anticipated to reduce or contribute to inequality of outcome as a result of socio-economic disadvantage? (e.g. will the change negatively impact on those on low-incomes or those living in deprived areas?)

	Yes	No	N/A
Socio-economic impact	x		

**Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.**

More significant numbers of long-term empty dwellings seem to be located in less affluent areas of the city. Therefore the work that is being carried out to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use along with the potential increase in the council tax premium may have a more positive impact on some of the less affluent areas by improving the environment (please see details above).

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change.

<b>What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?</b>

**Welsh Language**

Will this proposal have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on the Welsh language?

	Yes	No	N/A
Welsh language		X	

**Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.**

Officers work proactively to incentivise owners in bringing their properties back into use and this proposal will aid the council’s commitment to reducing the number of empty homes and any associated problems.

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change.

No differential impact on the Welsh language or Welsh speakers is therefore anticipated as the premium will affect all such owners, regardless of their chosen language.

<b>What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?</b>

**Consultation and Engagement**

What arrangements have been made to consult/engage with equality/ community organisations, especially those who are representative of those you have identified as being likely to be affected?

<p>The Council has previously consulted twice on the implementation of long-term empty premiums. The most recent consultation exercise took place between 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 when considering increasing the council tax premium charge on long term empty properties to 100%.</p> <p>Responses were received from over 350 different stake holders including residents, businesses, landlords and second home owners.</p> <p>The overwhelming majority of responders (78%) supported the Council’s proposal to increase the premium on long term empty property from 50 to 100% from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.</p>
---

In view of this and given the tight timescales involved it is not proposed to undertake a further consultation exercise.

### Summary of Actions (Listed in the sections above)

	<b>Actions</b>
Age	<b>none</b>
Disability	<b>none</b>
Gender Reassignment	<b>none</b>
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<b>none</b>
Pregnancy & Maternity	<b>none</b>
Race	<b>none</b>
Religion/Belief	<b>none</b>
Sex	<b>none</b>
Sexual Orientation	<b>none</b>
Socio-economic Impact	<b>none</b>
Welsh Language	<b>none</b>
Generic/ Over-Arching (applicable to all the above groups)	<b>none</b>

### Next Steps

Any recommendations for action that you plan to take as a result of this Equality Impact Assessment (listed in Summary of Actions) should be included as part of your Service Area's Business Plan to be monitored on a regular basis.

Where the Equality Impact Assessment shows negative impacts, you must append the form to the Cabinet or Officer Decision Report.

On completion of this Assessment, please ensure that the whole form is submitted to the Equality Team mailbox so that there is a record of all assessments undertaken in the Council [EqualityTeam@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:EqualityTeam@cardiff.gov.uk)

## C: Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Please consult with Bilingual Cardiff's Policy Team for any assistance with completing this assessment by emailing [Materion Polisi Iaith Gymraeg / Welsh Language Policy Matters](#).

### Welsh Language Standards 88-97 (Policy Making)

Cardiff Council's full Compliance Notice can be found [here](#), but the Standards noted above specifically relate to what impact, if any, your proposal (be it a policy decision, new or updated policy or strategy, or a new or updated service delivery provision) has on the Welsh language and on Welsh speakers. The impact identified could be **direct or indirect** and any such evidence must be included.

They are summarised below, and you **must** provide evidence, especially from, but not limited to, any consultation exercises undertaken, in order to support your comments, regardless of whether you are noting a positive, negative or neutral impact.

- Will this proposal impact on a) the opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and b) treating the Welsh language **no** less favourably than the English language? (Please tick where relevant.)

	Positive	Negative	Neutral
a)			x
b)			x

**Based on your above answer, please provide supporting comments and evidence in the relevant boxes on the following questions, for each one of the above that you have ticked.**

- Could this proposal be formulated or re-formulated, so that it would have positive effects, or increased positive effects?

Could this proposal be formulated or re-formulated to ensure that it does not have adverse effects, or a decreased adverse effect?

Liability to council tax is assessed in accordance with existing statute and this will not change.

No differential impact on the Welsh language or Welsh speakers is therefore anticipated as the premium will affect all such owners, regardless of their chosen language.

- When consulting on the proposal, were views considered, and sought, on the effects (both positive and negative) that it would have on the Welsh language and for Welsh speakers in the wider community?

Did the consultation seek and give consideration to views on how the proposal could have positive, or increased positive effects?

Did the consultation seek and give consideration to views on how the proposal could have no adverse effects, or decreased adverse effects?

Please include a copy of the relevant consultation question/questions below along with your evidence.

The Council has previously consulted twice on the implementation of long-term empty premiums and given the tight timescales involved it is not proposed to undertake a further consultation exercise.

It is planned to contact affected households directly in advance of any increase being implemented.

There is no differential impact regarding the Welsh Language.

- If the proposal includes the awarding of grants, has consideration been given to the guidance presented in Cardiff Council's Policy on Awarding Grants in Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards with regard to a) the opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and b) in terms of treating the Welsh language **no** less favourably than the English language?

Note **N/A** if no awarding of grants was involved.

n/a

- If research was undertaken or commissioned to assist with the development of the proposal, did it give consideration to whether it would have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on a) the opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and b) in terms of treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

Did the research undertaken or commissioned to assist with the development of the proposal give consideration to how it could have a positive effect, or increased positive effects?

Did the research undertaken or commissioned to assist with the development of the proposal give consideration to how it could have no adverse effect, or decreased adverse effects?

Note **N/A** if no research was undertaken or commissioned.

n/a

## Material and Services

In addition to the impact assessment to ensure that the proposal meets the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards, consideration must also be given to the supporting materials and services that may be required.

Click on the following to view further information on specific issues:

- [Correspondence](#) - receiving and replying (emails, letters, online communication).
- [Education Training Courses](#)
- [Meetings & Public Events](#) – public meetings or events, group meetings, consultation, individual meetings.
- [Procurement Checklist](#)
- [Producing Forms](#)
- [Producing Public Documents](#) - policies, strategies, annual reports, corporate plans, guidelines, notices, codes of practice, consultation papers, licences, certificates, rules, brochures, leaflets, pamphlets or cards, ticket/vouchers.
- [Public Address Announcements](#)



- [Public Messages – electronic – video](#)
- [Publicity & Advertising](#)
- [Reception Services](#)
- [Self Service Machines](#)
- [Signs, Notices & Display Material](#)
- [Social Media](#)
- [Telephone](#) – receiving and answering calls.
- [Websites, Apps and Online Services](#)

**Are all supporting materials and services compliant with the requirements of the Welsh language standards? If not, please send any required translation work to Bilingual Cardiff's Translation Log – the request form can be found [here](#).**

Yes

### Cardiff Council's Welsh Language Skills Strategy

This strategy may be viewed [here](#) and additional guidance documents have been produced to support its implementation:

- [Assessing Welsh Language Skills and Identifying Welsh Essential Roles](#)
- [Recruitment, Selection, and Interview Procedures and the Welsh Language](#)

**Do you have access to sufficient Welsh speaking staff to support the delivery of the proposal in compliance with the requirements of the Welsh language standards?**

Yes

### Next Steps

Where it is considered that a Welsh Language Impact Assessment is required, you must append the form to the Cabinet or Officer Decision Report.

A copy must also be emailed to Bilingual Cardiff's Policy Team [Materion Polisi Iaith Gymraeg / Welsh Language Policy Matters](#).

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# CYNGOR CAERDYDD CARDIFF COUNCIL

**COUNCIL:**

**7 MARCH 2024**

## REPORT OF THE INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER

### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

#### Reason for Report

1. To receive nominations and make appointments to current committee vacancies as set out in the report and in accordance with the approved allocation of seats and political group wishes.

#### Background

2. The Annual Council meeting 25 May 2023 established the Committees and Panels of the Council and their composition. The seats allocated to political groups on each committee were calculated in accordance with the rules on political balance, and nominations were received for each committee from the political groups.
3. In accordance with the Welsh Audit Office Statement of Action P3b (report March 2016), Membership of Committees is a standing item on monthly Group Whips meetings and Full Council, as appropriate.

#### Issues

4. Current Committee vacancies, in accordance with the approved allocations to political groups, are as follows:

Table A

Committee	Vacancy	Group	Nomination Received
Planning Committee	1 vacancy	1 x Liberal Democrat	
Governance & Audit Committee	1 vacancy	1 x Liberal Democrat	
Democratic Services Committee	2 vacancies	1 x Labour 1 x Non-grouped (Propel)	Councillor Elsmore

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Nomination Received</b>
Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	1 vacancy	1 x Labour	Councillor Ebrahim

5. Further nominations to fill existing vacancies received from political groups prior to Full Council on 7 March 2024 will be reported on the amendment sheet.

### **Legal Implications**

6. The Council is required at its Annual Council meeting (and at certain other specified times) to determine the allocation of Committee seats to political groups in accordance with political balance principles set out in Section 15 of Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Having determined the allocations, the Council is under a duty to exercise its power to make appointments to each Committee so as to give effect to the wishes expressed by the relevant political group about who is to be appointed to the seats allocated to their group (section 16 of the 1989 Act).
7. The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ('the 1990 Regulations') requires political groups to be notified of their allocation on each Committee in order that they may nominate individuals to serve on that Committee (Regulation 14). Regulation 15 contains a residual power for the Council to make appointments if the political groups fail to do so. However, apart from this provision, the Council has no discretion in the matter - its function is simply to make appointments, which give effect to the wishes of the political groups.
8. The wishes of a political group are to be taken as those expressed to the Proper Officer (a) orally or in writing by the leader or representative of the group; or (b) in a written statement signed by a majority of the members of the group. In the event that different wishes of a political group are notified, the wishes notified in accordance with point (b) shall prevail (Regulation 13).

### **Planning Committee**

9. The Size and Composition of Local Planning Authority Committees (Wales) Regulations 2017 (made under s.39 of the Planning Wales Act 2015), provide that, *except in the case of a local authority which is comprised solely of multiple member wards*, only one Member from a multiple member ward may sit on the planning committee, in order to allow other ward Members to perform the representative role for local community interests (Regulation 6 of the Size and Composition of Local Planning Authority Committees (Wales) Regulations 2017). As Cardiff is currently comprised solely of multiple member wards, this rule is not currently applicable to Cardiff.

### **Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is recommended to receive nominations and appoint to the vacancies on the Committees, in accordance with the Party Group wishes, as set out in Table A and on the Amendment Sheet.

**D MARLES**  
**Interim Monitoring Officer**  
1 March 2024

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**COUNCIL**

**7 MARCH 2024**

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**REPORT OF INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER**

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**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Reasons for the Report**

1. To receive nominations and make appointments of Members to outside bodies to fill vacancies which have arisen.

**Background**

2. The appointment of representatives to outside bodies is reserved to full Council (unless the appointment is an executive function or is expressly and lawfully delegated) – Article 4.1(f) of the Constitution.
3. The Council at its Annual meeting on 25 May 2023 received nominations and agreed appointments of Members to serve on bodies which are required on an annual basis and other vacancies.
4. The Council from time to time receives nominations to vacancies that occur during the Municipal Year

**Issues**

5. The Council is asked to receive nominations and agree appointments of Members to serve on outside bodies which are required to fill vacancies which have arisen.
6. Nominations for appointments to Outside Bodies are submitted by the Party Group Whips.
7. Current Outside Bodies vacancies and nominations are set out below:

**Table A**

<b>Name of Outside Body</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	<b>Nomination Received</b>
Cardiff Bus (formally, Cardiff City Transport Services Ltd)	1 vacancy	Cllr Mike Ash-Edwards
Wales Council for the Blind	1 vacancy	
Willie Seager Memorial Homes Trust	1 vacancy	

8. Further nominations to fill existing vacancies received from political groups prior to Full Council on 7 March 2024 will be report on the amendment sheet.

### **Legal Implications**

9. The provisions for the Council to make appointments to outside bodies are set out within the constitution or other governing document of each outside body concerned. All appointments are to be made in accordance with the relevant governing provisions and Legal Services can provide any further advice requested in this regard.
10. The appointment of individuals to serve on outside bodies is a Local Choice function under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007. In the approved Scheme of Delegations the Council has determined that responsibility for such appointments shall rest with Full Council, unless delegated or provided otherwise. Responsibility for appointments to the outside bodies listed rests with Full Council.
11. Guidance for Members appointed to outside bodies has been published by the WLGA explaining the roles and duties of Members in relation to both the outside body and the Council, including advice on managing potential conflicts of interest. The WLGA Guidance is accessible here: ([Appointments to Outside Bodies: The Councillor's Role - WLGA](#)) Further advice is available from Legal Services.

### **Financial Implications**

12. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report

### **RECOMMENDATION**

13. The Council is requested to receive nominations and approve appointments to outside bodies as set out in Table A and on the Amendment Sheet.

**DEBBIE MARLES**  
**Interim Monitoring Officer**  
1 March 2024