

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF CARDIFF

The County Council of the City & County of Cardiff met at County Hall, Cardiff on 12 October 2023 to transact the business set out in the Council summons dated Friday, 6 October 2023.

Present: County Councillor Molik (Lord Mayor)

County Councillors Ahmed, Ahmed, Dilwar Ali, Berman, Bradbury, Brown-Reckless, Burke, Carr, Carter, Cowan, Cunnah, Davies, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Driscoll, Ebrahim, Ferguson-Thorne, Gibson, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Hinchey, Hopkins, Humphreys, Hunt, Owen Jones, Joyce, Lancaster, Latif, Lay, Lewis, Lister, Littlechild, Livesy, Lloyd Jones, McEvoy, McGarry, Melbourne, Merry, Michael, Moultrie, Naughton, Palmer, Proctor, Reid-Jones, Robinson, Robson, Sangani, Sattar, Simmons, Singh, Stubbs, Taylor, Huw Thomas, Thomson, Lynda Thorne, Waldron, Weaver, Wild, Williams, Wong and Wood

A minutes silence was observed remembering innocent lives lost and those suffering as a result of the conflict in the Middle East.

57 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ash-Edwards, Boes, Bowen-Thomson, Bridgeman, Choudhury, Elsmore, Goodway, Jenkins, Jackie Jones, Keith Jones, Kaaba, Lent, Mackie, Owen, Parry and Shimmin.

58 : 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 Joe Carter	3	Personal & Prejudicial	Nature of Employment with Asthma & Lung UK
Cllr Stephen Cunnah	3	Personal & Prejudicial	Nature of Employment with Sustrans
Cllr Callum Davies	3	Personal	Non-Executive Director, Cardiff Bus
Cllr Garry Hunt	3	Personal	Non-Executive Director, Cardiff Bus
Cllr Chris Lay	3	Personal	Non-Executive Director, Cardiff Bus
Cllr Owen Jones	3	Personal	Non-Executive Director, Cardiff Bus
Cllr Dan Naughton	3	Personal	Family Member in receipt of a Cardiff Bus Pension
Cllr Rhys Taylor	3	Personal	Non-Executive Director, Cardiff Bus

59 : NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillors Carter and Cunnah left the meeting during consideration of this item in accordance with the declaration of their personal and prejudicial interests.

The Lord Mayor noted that a Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr. Williams and seconded by Cllr. Davies had been received for consideration. An Amendment had been received from the Liberal Democrat Group.

The Lord Mayor invited Cllr. Williams to propose the motion as follows:

“This Council notes;

1. The Welsh Labour Government recently introduced The Restricted Roads (20 mph Speed Limit) (Wales) Order 2022, reducing the default speed limit in Wales from 30 mph to 20 mph.
2. A petition calling for the Welsh Government to remove the 20mph blanket speed limit as of Friday 29th 2023 had over 447,000 signatures. The total number of signatures surpasses the number of constituency votes Welsh Labour achieved across Wales in the recent 2021 Senedd Elections.
3. The direct cost to the Welsh economy of default 20 mph speed limits will be £4.5billion over a 30-year period. The Welsh Government admitted this could reach £8.9billion.
4. Cardiff Council, as a Local Highway Authority has the legal powers to exempt roads in the City from reducing to the default 20 mph speed limit. The Council has only applied this power to exempt a small number of roads in the City from reducing to 20 mph.
5. The change to default 20 mph speed limits in Cardiff has increased congestion and travel times for road users including bus companies, including Cardiff Bus; a Council-owed asset.
6. The change to default 20 mph speed limits in Cardiff has increased response times for emergency call outs, including emergency services and breakdown/recovery vehicles therefore potentially putting the public at increased risk of harm.
7. The reduction to default 20 mph speed limits will impact deliveries by slowing down drivers and this could increase the time for deliveries and add costs on for businesses and/or customers.
8. The Welsh Government has given Local Highway Authorities the power to introduce part time speed limits where a highway authority considers that an exception to the default 20 mph speed limit is appropriate at some times but Page 5 not at others. Cardiff Council does not appear to have applied this power to roads which should have remained at 30 mph.
9. The cost of introducing default 20 mph speed limits in Wales has cost £32 million. This money could have been more wisely spent on frontline public services including our NHS, schools and filling in our pot holes.
10. The change to default 20 mph speed limits does not align with the Council’s “stronger, fairer, greener” policy platform.

This Council calls on Cardiff Council, acting as the Local Highway Authority;

1. To exempt all roads within Cardiff that had 30 mph speed limits before the introduction of The Restricted Roads (20 mph Speed Limit) (Wales) Order 2022 from remaining at 20 mph and therefore revert these roads back to 30 mph speed limits.
2. To undertake an urgent review into the adverse impacts of the default 20 mph speed limit and publish findings within 3 months of the date of this Motion being debated.
3. Once roads in Cardiff revert back to 30 mph speed limits; work with local communities to ensure any requests to reduce roads to 20 mph speed limits are undertaken on a case-by- case basis.”

The Motion was formally seconded by Cllr Davies.

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:

“This Council notes;

1. The Welsh Labour Government recently introduced The Restricted Roads (20 mph Speed Limit) (Wales) Order 2022, reducing the default speed limit in Wales from 30 mph to 20 mph.
2. Cardiff Council, as a Local Highway Authority has the legal powers to exempt roads in the City from reducing to the default 20 mph speed limit.
3. The Welsh Government has given Local Highway Authorities the power to introduce part time speed limits where a highway authority considers that an exception to the default 20 mph speed limit is appropriate at some times but not at others.

This Council calls on Cardiff Council, acting as the Local Highway Authority, to:

1. review within three months of the date of this motion being debated, the impact of not applying an exemption to the 20 mph limit on those key and arterial routes within the city in places where the 20 mph limit has been introduced, in order to:
 - a. fully assess the impact on those routes of introducing the 20 mph limit, including on public transport; and
 - b. seek views through consultation, including directly with anyone living on those roads in question, on whether or not the 20 mph limit should still apply on these routes; and
2. subsequently determine, on a case by cases basis, whether any of these routes should be changed to being exempted from the 20 mph limit.”

The Amendment was formally seconded by Cllr. Hopkins.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the motion and amendments.

The Lord Mayor invited Cllr Williams to respond to the issues raised during the debate.

Cllr. Williams responded to the issues raised and confirmed that the Amendment was not accepted.

The Lord Mayor called for a Vote on the Amendment as moved by Cllr Berman and seconded by Cllr Hopkins.

FOR (9)

Councillors Berman, Gibson, Hopkins, Latif, Livesy, Naughton, Taylor, Waldron and Wood

AGAINST (51)

Councillors Ali Ahmed, Saleh Ahmed, Ali, Bradbury, Brown-Reckless, Burke, Carr, Cowan, Davies, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Driscoll, Ebrahim, Ferguson-Thorne, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Hinchey, Humphreys, Hunt, Lloyd Jones, Owen Jones, Joyce, Lancaster, Lay, Lewis, Lister, Littlechild, McEvoy, McGarry, Melbourne, Merry, Michael, Moultrie, Palmer, Proctor, Reid-Jones, Robinson, Robson, Sangani, Sattar, Simmons, Singh, Stubbs, Thomas, Thomson, Thorne, Weaver, Wild, Williams and Wong

There were no abstentions

The Vote on the amendment was LOST.

The Lord Mayor called for a vote on the Substantive Motion moved by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Davies.

FOR (11)

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

AGAINST (47)

Councillors Ali Ahmed, Saleh Ahmed, Ali, Berman, Bradbury, Burke, Carr, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Ebrahim, Ferguson-Thorne, Gibson, Green, Gunter, Henshaw, Hinchey, Hopkins, Humphreys, Hunt, Lloyd Jones, Owen Jones, Joyce, Latif, Lay, Lewis, Lister, Livesy, McGarry, Merry, Michael, Moultrie, Naughton, Palmer, Proctor, Sangani, Sattar, Simmons, Singh, Stubbs, Taylor, Thomas, Thomson, Thorne, Weaver, Wild, Wong and Wood

There were no abstentions

The Vote on the Substantive Motion was LOST.