

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF CARDIFF

The County Council of the City & County of Cardiff met at County Hall, Cardiff on 24 March 2016 to transact the business set out in the Council summons dated Friday, 18 March 2016.

Present: County Councillor David Walker (Lord Mayor)

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

161 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Manzoor Ahmed; Ralph Cook, Govier, Javed, Marshall, Derrick Morgan and Elaine Simmons.

162 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations were made:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Councillor Boyle	Item 11	Personal Interest as a Local Authority School Governor of Howardian Primary School; and personal friend of many families who are seeking a place at Cardiff High School.
Councillor Carter	Item 11	Personal Interest as have children in primary school in the east of the city.
Councillor Kelloway	Item 11	Personal interest as a Local authority School Governor for Marlborough Primary School which is in the Cardiff High School catchment area.
Councillor Lent	Item 11	Personal Interest as a Local Authority School Governor and Chair of Governors at Howardian Primary School.

In addition the Lord Mayor advised that Directors affected by the Pay Policy Item 8 have a pecuniary interest and will leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

163 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 February 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

164 : PETITIONS

The following petitions were submitted to Council:

1. Councillor Dilwar Ali – 105 signatures calling on the Council to relocate or install additional warning signs in relation to the low bridge in Mynachdy Road / Aberteifi Crescent, Llandaff North; and install traffic calming measures on this heavily used road where there have been several near misses involving cars.
2. Councillor Cowan – to date 3486 signatures against the proposed closure of Meadowbank School in Gabalfa because they are lacking students to come to this school. Meadowbank is the ONLY school in Wales which specialises in supporting children who have speech and language Impairments. Meadowbank is a friendly family environment school with dedicated teachers and helpers who are there for us. We all think we need to keep this speech and language Impairment School to help children succeed.

165 : LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lord Jack Brooks of Tremorfa

It was with great sadness that Members learnt that Jack Brooks passed away on 4 March. The Lord Mayor on behalf of the Council had written to his widow and family to express their sincere condolences.

Lord Brooks was an influential Leader of the former South Glamorgan County Council; local Councillor for Splott, who was made a lifelong peer in July 1979. A truly remarkable individual that some of our Members and officers here today had the opportunity to work with and be inspired by.

The Lord Mayor invited further tributes to Lord Brooks from Councillors. Councillor Bill Kelloway, Monica Walsh, Russell Goodway and Graham Hinchey spoke of Lord Brooks leadership, political astuteness, inspiration; guidance and friendship over decades of work for the City of Cardiff and the transformation of Cardiff Bay; and of his significant involvement with the British Boxing Board of Control and the development of British boxing.

The Funeral Service was to take place on Friday 1 April in Llandaff Cathedral at 11.15am.

### Former South Glamorgan County Councillor Emlyn Williams

Sadly Emlyn Williams MBE a former South Glamorgan County Councillor passed away at the age of 91 on Tuesday 15 March. First elected in 1977 to South Glamorgan County Council and then elected to the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council in 1999 where he served as Mayor in 2004/05 and 2009/10.

The Lord Mayor on behalf of the Council extended sympathy to his widow and family.

The Funeral service was being held on Saturday 26 March at All Saints Church, Barry at 9.00am.

### Recognition and Awards

The Lord Mayor congratulated and commended all on their achievements and successes.

### Crosslands Children's Home

The Crosslands Children's Home won a Golden Spoon Award for whipping up some delicious recipes. Residential Childcare Officers, along with young people from the Home have been busy learning all about cooking and healthy eating.

Hosted by The Children's Food Trust and funded by Iceland Foods Charitable Foundation, the aim of the programme was to learn new skills and try new recipes with the 'Lets Get Cooking' recipe books. The programme encouraged the young people to start cooking and improve their cooking skills as well as teaching them to manage a food budget, portion control and food hygiene.

The 3 young people who took part in the programme completed 10 recipes in their journals and were awarded a £20 gift voucher. Crosslands was awarded £300 towards cooking equipment along with a Golden Spoon Award trophy and certificate.

### C2C recognised for its People Engagement

Last month C2C won a Welsh Contact Centre Award for People Engagement. The multi-award winning, Investors in People accredited contact centre provides a 'one stop shop' to access all council services and prides itself on the excellent customer service it provides.

### Procurement Team

The Procurement team were nominated as finalists in two categories of the National Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards. The team went on to be highly commended for the 'Procurement Team of the Year' at the awards on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

Now in their 16<sup>th</sup> year, the National GO Awards are the benchmark by which progress in this multi-billion-pound sector is measured.

The team were nominated for:

- Procurement Innovation or Initiative of the Year for their successful utilisation of a range of technology to deliver innovative solutions that meet Directorates procurement requirements across a range spend categories.

- Procurement Team of the Year as recognition for their work over the last four years to implement and embed category management, raise awareness of 'Buying Responsibly' and deliver significant savings from the Council's £350 million annual procurement spend.

#### National award for Hub Librarian

One of the neighbourhood development librarians has picked up an All Wales Library Marketing Innovations award for a project he established at Ely & Caerau Community Hub.

Established at the Ely & Caerau Hub Sports Club in September last year, the project, which won in the Joint Marketing Project of the Year category, has gone from strength to strength.

#### World Half Marathon

The Lord Mayor advised that Cardiff was delighted to be welcoming participants and visitors from all over the world to the City of Cardiff for the prestigious World Half Marathon event which takes place on Saturday 26 March. Cardiff was pleased that many elite runners were participating in the race and the Lord Mayor was sure many citizens would be on route to support the runners around the course.

The Lord Mayor wish fellow Councillors Boyle and Kelloway and the large number of employees who are taking part all the best for the day.

#### Lord Mayor's Charity

The Lord Mayor was delighted to announce that his charity was on target to raise £150,000 this Municipal Year.

The Lord Mayor thanked all those who had supported his charity of the year. The why the Lord Mayor hopped would be the Annual St David's Day dinner supported by business and rugby legends had raised over £20,00 on the night.

#### Last meeting

The Lord Mayor as the last full meeting of Council in his year of office, thanked Members for their positive contributions to the democratic process of Council and the lively debates. The Lord Mayor indicated that he would wish to support the work of the Constitution Committee in ensuring that Council meetings are more focussed going forward.

#### 166 : LORD MAYOR AND DEPUTY LORD MAYOR ELECT

The Council received nominations for the positions of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor for the 2016/17 Civic year.

Councillor Bale proposed the nomination of Councillor Monica Walsh as Lord Mayor elect. Councillor Dianne Rees seconded the proposal.

Councillor Woodman proposed the nomination of Councillor Georgina Phillips as Deputy Lord Mayor elect. Councillor Susan Lent seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED – That the nominations of

- (a) Councillor Monica Walsh as Lord Mayor Elect for the Civic year 2016/17 was approved;
- (b) Councillor Georgina Phillips as Deputy Lord Mayor Elect for the Civic year 2016/17 was approved.

167 : CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL

The Council received an updated from Cabinet on the progress on the City Deal and the next steps. Council Bale proposed the report which was seconded by Councillor Hinchey.

In accordance with Section 100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, I have certified this report as a late item by reason that the Heads of Terms Agreement was signed on 15th March, and a report was submitted to the next available Cabinet on 21st March; and in addition there is no Full Council meeting in April to fulfil the timetable requirements for future steps that all parties to the deal will be involved in.

The Lord Mayor invited debate and Members expressed the importance of this collaboration for the region; the need to develop the essential transport links and networks; the importance of the governance arrangements; and the economic benefits to the City region and employment and upskilling and development of skills for job opportunities which would bring greater prosperity to the region.

RESOLVED - That the Council noted the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal report and approved delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Corporate Director Resources and Monitoring Officer to conclude any interim arrangements necessary to facilitate the development of the final City Deal (including without limitation to the generality of the foregoing appointment of external consultants and any interim appointments that may be required), provided the requisite budget provision is available.

168 : PAY POLICY 2016/17

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

The Council was asked to agree a Pay Policy Statement for 2016/176, in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

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

RESOLVED – That the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17 prior to 31 March 2016 in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 was approved

169 : LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER STATEMENTS

The following Leader and Cabinet statements were received, and the Lord Mayor invited questions from Members.

1. Leader Statement (Economic Development & Partnerships):

City Deal

Last week saw the signing of a City Deal heads of terms agreement for the Cardiff Capital Region. I joined with the Leaders of the other nine local authorities in the region, as well as the First Minister of Wales, Welsh Minister for Finance and Government Business, Secretary of State for Wales and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, for the signing at Admiral's city centre headquarters. The £1.229 billion deal is expected to bring up to 25,000 new jobs and encourage large-scale private sector investment. One of the main priorities will be delivering the South East Wales Metro, ensuring a sustainable transport infrastructure for the region.

Great Western Cities

Following our initial prospectus on Great Western Cities early last year, Metro Dynamics was commissioned to produce a more detailed analysis of the region, developing the case for a Western Powerhouse. In their recently published report, they make a number of recommendations on how progress could be accelerated. The report recognises that, unlike the Northern Powerhouse, the Great Western Cities are already net contributors to the UK economy and have the potential for even higher growth and value. Metro Dynamics' recommendations include City Devolution Deals, better connectivity and a strategy aiming for Government funding and support similar to that of the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine.

New Ice Arena

On 12 March 2016, I attended the first Cardiff Devils match at the new Ice Arena Wales at the International Sports Village in Cardiff Bay. I was very impressed with the new £16m twin ice rink arena and it was great to see a sold-out crowd cheering on the home side to a win over Belfast Giants. The new rink has been described as of world-class standard and gives the Devils a permanent home in Cardiff, as well as offering excellent facilities for public skating.

Yr Hen Lyfrgell

The Leader spoke at the recent official opening of the Welsh Language Centre – Yr Hen Lyfrgell – on 25 February 2016. This is an excellent example of partnership working between the Council, Cardiff University, Clwb Ifor Bach, Mela Media, Menter Caerdydd and Mudiad Meithrin. The centre was funded through Welsh Government capital investment and, significantly, has created more than 40 bilingual jobs. This unique centre will host a variety of events and activities for Welsh speakers and learners. It also complements the provision for visitors in the neighbouring Cardiff Story Museum, which pleasingly had around 600 visitors on Yr Hen Lyfrgell's opening day.

UpRising

UpRising is a UK-wide organisation which hopes to open pathways to power for talented young people from diverse and under-represented backgrounds. One of the ways it does this is through schemes such as their core leadership programme. As an Ambassador for UpRising, I've been supporting such a programme for 16-25 year olds that was launched in October 2015. I attended an UpRising Cymru discussion at City Hall on 2 February 2016 to talk about my own leadership journey and I was highly impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the young people who attended the session. Those that I spoke to were very passionate about local issues

and I am sure many will become future leaders in whatever career they choose to pursue.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> most Liveable European Capital

In the most recent European Commission “Quality of Life in European Cities” survey, Cardiff was voted joint third capital city, along with Copenhagen and Stockholm. This is based on citizens’ satisfaction with their city and it is great to be in such company. This result is a significant step towards realising the vision of being Europe’s most liveable capital city.

In response to a question the Leader undertook to clarify the data in respect of the EU urban audit and the Council’s Corporate Plan.

## 2. Environment Statement

### Rent Smart Wales

Since Rent Smart Wales (RSW) launched on the 23 November 2015, until 1 March 2016, 5880 landlords have registered and 1435 people have booked onto classroom training. Training is generally very well received with 98% of delegates stating that they would recommend the course to others and 98% stating that they found the course useful to them.

Key recent achievements are that:

- a) We have published the revised fee structure for Agents. This change follows consultation with the Letting and Management Agent professional bodies. We have been able to accommodate some of their proposals. Specifically, we have introduced a fee structure which is:
  - i. Graduated based on the size of the organisation, specifically the number of properties they manage;
  - ii. A reduced fee is applied to those who are a member of a specified professional body;
  - iii. Payment options are available to smaller companies.

This new fee structure will be effective from the 25 April 2016.

- b) We have now launched the functionality within the RSW website to complete a licence application on line. This means that a landlord / agent can now:
  - a) Complete and pay for a registration on line;
  - b) Book and pay for training for himself and his employees;
  - c) Complete and pay for a licence, including uploading training records (required where the applicant has attended training not delivered by RSW)
- c) We have now approved 11 courses that meet the requirements of the Act and 9 training providers. One of our latest approvals is Carmarthenshire Council. They have recently achieved course approval and training authorisation status and will soon be advertising courses to meet RSW Licensing requirements. We are encouraging as many training providers to apply as possible, as it will

help us to make sure that there is sufficient capacity to meet the expected demand from landlords and agents, over the coming months.

### Waste Management

#### i) Recycling

The Cabinet Member was pleased to see the key actions from this years' recycling strategy are all falling into place. The restricting changes have now been completed and the recycling figures are all showing positive increases towards our target of 58%. An additional 2200t have been collected since the changes began last August, which is as predicted. Seasonal opening of the Household Waste Recycling Centres and ID checks are now in place and residents are becoming familiar with the changes. We have delivered on the savings promised and doubled our support for the hygiene service.

We still face challenging financial times as the income from the global recycling markets continue to decline on all fronts, but we are working on high quality processing.

As we turn to next year we are already securing contracts for mattress and carpet recycling, paint reuse and also a community focused reuse partner to support us across the city.

#### ii) Restricting Update

The city wide waste restriction programme has now been concluded to schedule.

The savings of £267k for 2015/16 have been achieved.

Since mid-October when the main changes began with significant coverage, to date we have seen an increase of over an extra 1000 tonnes of recycling. This is a 19% increase on food recycling and an 8% increase in green bag recycling.

As was anticipated the demand for the hygiene services has doubled and the Council continue to provide even more families with this support while encouraging the additional recycling by slimming the bins and restricting residual bag provision in line with our Strategy and improved recycling performance.

C2C stood down their extra support at the end of January as the call volumes have reduced back to expected business as usual levels.

#### iii) Green Bag Controls

Since moving to council buildings, online and the sticker system, we have saved £300k on green bag and food liners purchases. This means that only local Cardiff residents can access the bags/liners. By just allowing one roll per visit this means more bags are available to more when people they need them.

In the past people, businesses and non-Cardiff residents would just help themselves to rolls, meaning there would be not bags/liners available when people needed them and the bags were abused



### RHS Show

The Royal Horticultural Society will be commencing set up for the 2016 RHS Show, on Coopers Field, Bute Park shortly after the Easter break. This year's show will run from 15th -18th April and pre ticket sales are 72% up from this point last year. Exhibitor and trader pitches are at full capacity and this year's show will, for the first time since 2005 benefit from a main show sponsor, Riviera Travel, a Torbay based travel agency who have committed to a one year deal initially. The show is now firmly established in the RHS and Cardiff's event calendar and it is hoped that visitor numbers will surpass last year's record breaking figure, subject, of course to weather conditions over the 3 days which has a significant impact on 'walk up' numbers.

### WW1 Memorial Hendre Lake

On 23 February 2016 staff at Bereavement Services organised the inaugural planting of trees at Hendre Park as part of the World War 1 Memorial Woodland being created which forms part of the centenary commemorations of the conflict. The event was attended by myself, local Ward Members and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, High Sherriff, Lord Mayor, Friends of Cath Cobb and children from local schools.

The area will become a lasting memorial to those from the Cardiff area who died during the Great War. A bigger opening event for the area is currently being organised for July 2016 to link in with the 100 year anniversary of the battle of Mametz Wood and will see the unveiling of a new memorial and interpretation boards.

A number of questions were raised in relation to Rent Smart, Waste management; data on targets and efficiency savings. A member queried why the RHS Show was not being sponsored by a Welsh company. The Cabinet Member responded to the questions.

### 3. Health, Housing and Wellbeing Statement

#### Syrian Resettlement Programme

Significant progress has been made on our participation in the Home Office Syrian Resettlement Programme since the Council was last updated. Preparation is key to ensuring that these individuals are best able to integrate into the life of the City. Recently an invitation to tender was issued for the provision of a comprehensive Support and Integration Service. This will ensure the successful resettlement of 60 Syrian refugees in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Home Office will provide financial support to the Council to meet the needs of those assisted by this programme. The contract will be awarded in mid-April with refugees likely to arrive in the region in May. We are continuing to work with the Vale of Glamorgan and the Regional Leadership Group of which I am the Chair continues to provide strategic direction as we move forward. During the interim period while the contract is being commissioned the Operational Group will continue to prepare and plan and I am grateful to the Vale of Glamorgan for establishing and hosting the role of Regional Resettlement Co-ordinator.

### Advice Year End Update

The Money Advice Team helped over 6,000 customers and helped gain nearly £9 million in additional weekly benefits for customers over the year. Since the move Our Money Advice Team helped over 6,000 customers and helped gain nearly £9 million in additional weekly benefits for customers over the year. Since the move of the service from Marland House to the Central Library Hub in July, which was carried out with minimal disruption to service users, customer numbers have almost doubled. Customers on average had to wait less than 15 minutes to be seen by an advisor. The co-location and close working of a number of agencies including Citizens Advice, Speakeasy Advice and Cardiff and Vale Credit Union and many other partner organisations make the Central Library Hub a true one-stop shop for those needing help and advice.

### Welfare Reform Changes

The Cabinet Member reported that the number of social housing tenants affected by the under occupation charge (bedroom tax) has reduced to 2,650, from the original number of 4,194 in October 2012, a 37% decrease to date. During this time we have made 2,562 offers of social housing. To date 713 tenants have chosen to move and we are also helping those who wish to stay with budgeting advice and help to maximise their income. Support remains available to those who wish to move or who need an additional bedroom due to disability or caring responsibility. No tenant is evicted if they are genuinely working with officers to resolve the issue.

The Benefit Cap is currently affecting 144 tenants of all tenure types, which is a 36% decrease since November 2013. Assistance to get back to work is available at Hubs across the city, with Into Work Advice Services offering support including training and assistance with CVs. 118 of those initially affected have returned to work and claimed Tax Credits. Discretionary housing payments are being made available for those affected by the Benefit Cap while they engage with Into Work Services.

Universal Credit was introduced to Cardiff on the 30th of November 2015 as part of a phased introduction and affects single people who are fit to work. The claim must be made online and is paid monthly, in arrears, directly to the claimant. Face to face advice and support is provided by Hub staff, on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions, with Budgeting advice available in Central Library Hub and Digital Inclusion and Into Work Services across the city.

The year ahead will be challenging with many more Welfare Reform changes being introduced. Of particular concern is the further reduction in the Benefit Cap and the restrictions to be placed on social housing rents. However there are a range of other changes. I will keep colleagues updated of these changes and how we are planning to help those affected.

### Independent Living Services

The Independent Living Service aims to help older people and people with physical disabilities to stay safe and independent at home. The service launched the "First Point of Contact" in October 2015 with a dedicated telephone line on 0292034234 to provide advice and assistance about a wide range of support that is available to promote independence. Since its launch the First Point of Contact has helped to reduce the demand on Social Services. Prior to its launch 31% of calls were dealt by the contact officers with 69% being transferred to Social Care. Since the start of the new service 44% of calls on average have been dealt with at First Point of Contact

without going to Social Care, allowing our care services to focus their resources on those who need them most.

The Independent Living staff have received a significant amount of training to enable them to provide a holistic service. Recently the Independent Living Officers achieved Trusted Assessor Status, which allows them to prescribe basic equipment to help people live more independently, while telephony staff are being trained in delivering better customer-focussed outcomes by the Social Services Improvement Agency. This training aligns well with the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

Other Achievements of Independent Living Services so far this year include:

- 881 new clients have been referred to the Independent Living Officer Visiting Service, of these just 64 (7%) needed to be referred to social care as their complex needs could not be met by Independent Living Services.
- 375 people have had their income maximised, identifying additional unclaimed benefit income of £1.2 Million.
- 231 people have received a timely intervention for low level adaptations avoiding slips, trip and falls. This is estimated to save £2.43 for every £1.00 invested, equalling indicative cost avoidance to Health care of £162,688.
- 151 people have been moved out of Social Isolation, whether taking part in community activities or volunteer support.
- 210 people have been provided with assistive technology such as community alarm to help them live in a safer environment with increased independence.

Customer outcomes have been good with 97% of service users stating that Independent Living has helped improve their quality of life, while 85% state that as a result of services provided they felt more independent in their own home.

The aim for 2016/17 will be to build on this service and to create a Holistic Prevention Service by connecting services and developing a multi-disciplinary team. This will include the Occupational Therapy Service, Equipment service, delivery of disabled adaptations, as well as the new Day Opportunities team to prevent social isolation. To achieve this we will work closely with our Health colleagues and with third sector organisations to provide a comprehensive approach to supporting independence.

Other plans include developing a new approach to delivering services on a locality basis and providing more efficient services tailored to the local community, with improved management and coordination of both care and housing provision to meet local needs. A pilot will be initiated to identify gaps in services for older people whether provided by the local authority, the private sector, or 3rd sector within the community.

We also aim to make Cardiff a Dementia-Friendly City, undertaking a gap analysis of dementia services within localities and developing dementia-friendly programmes with the aim of making daily living and activities easier and more accessible for people with dementia and their carers.

#### Adult Social Care

The Cabinet Member was pleased with the way that Adult Social Care has progressed over the last 12 months. It is a vital service for some of the most

vulnerable people in Cardiff and is therefore so important that we as a council get this right. It is particularly pleasing to see all staff and partners beginning to come together to deliver real change in this area. Over the coming 12 months this will be progressed as we look to provide a more integrated Health and Social Care Service. We now have a better understanding of needs, can predict future demands and importantly it has enabled better decision making.

Over the past 12 months improvements include:

- Increase in the number of completed carer assessments has increased by 19% compared to the same period in 2014-15.
- The percentage of known carers who have had an assessment offer has increased to 62% at end of Quarter 3 2015-16 compared to 51% for the same period in 2014-15.
- The total number of adults using the direct payments scheme is 610, with 46 Adults working towards Direct Payments.
- The percentage of people helped back to independence without ongoing care services through short term intervention has shown improvement during 2015-16 – 80% as at Quarter 3 compared with 75% for Quarter 3 2014-15.

As we look to modernise the service to meet the growing demands we need to look at utilising the latest technology to increase our efficiency. The Agile Working project has been rolled out to 275 members of staff based at Global Link. These officers have been provided with the resources to mobile work, enabling them to spend more time out with clients and less time at a desk.

The Cabinet Member was very impressed with not only the delivery of this project from management and project staff, but all officers who this affects. It has been a significant change to the way they have worked for many years and it pleasing to see them embrace this change. This successful project means that we will no longer need Global Link, saving the authority £689,000 in annual building costs alone.

Additionally, the Community Resource Teams have gone live with mobile scheduling in the South and East Teams. North and West teams will go live in April. Again through the use of the latest technology these staff will no longer be required to come into a central base and can access key information anywhere. The scheduling software will also enable better allocation of care workers to support the client's needs and/or preference.

Members asked a number of questions around the resettlement programme and the Cabinet Member responded and reassured Members of the positive work being undertaken through the Refugee Leadership Group.

#### 4. Corporate Services and Performance Statement

##### WAO

The WAO follow-on report published in February recognises the progress that we have made in the past two years, specifically noting better, more cohesive leadership and management; improved engagement with our Members and staff; and a clear strategic direction for the Council moving forward. The WAO report has also

identified improved arrangements in financial planning, HR management, performance management, asset management, IT, scrutiny, and governance.

As such the WAO have set out a number of proposals for improvement in the areas of: Leadership and Management; Governance; Performance Reporting; and the ways in which our Corporate Enabler services work together. We have responded with a statement of action that clearly sets out how we will meet these improvement areas by building on the progress we have already made.

### Estyn

The Cabinet Member was pleased to say that Estyn have concluded that the Council is no longer in need of significant improvement and that we have made satisfactory progress against each of the six recommendations from their original 2014 findings. Cardiff schools are being challenged more rigorously, and we are working more effectively with our partners to provide services for children and young people. This approach has produced tangible results that Estyn have recognised: Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 performance is improving faster than any other area in Wales and our Key Stage 4 performance including English or Welsh and maths exceeded the Welsh Government benchmark in 2014-15.

### CCSIW

CCSIW's report into our Children's Social Services identifies many areas of strength. It notes that there is a clear strategic direction and strong corporate support for our children's services, with the needs of the child kept at the forefront of assessments. CCSIW report that both timeliness for managing contacts and referrals and the timeliness of initial assessments had improved in the first two quarters of 2015/16.

CCSIW found that our staff's morale was generally positive, workloads are manageable and both managers and social workers were optimistic about the plans for improving early preventative services. It was also noted that investment in workforce planning has resulted in improvement in the ability to recruit suitably qualified and experienced staff, which will be essential to ensuring the success of planned improvements to the service and continued achievement of outcomes for our city's children.

### Property (Operational) Assets

Strategic Estates are in the process of finalising year end property completions. An ambitious target was set in terms of rationalising the estate and delivering important capital receipts for the capitalisation target.

The Cabinet Member reported that £3.6m is set to be delivered for the capitalisation programme. Statistics on the targets set out in the 2015/2016 Corporate Asset Management Plan will be finalised at year end next week and new targets will be set for 2016/2017.

The relinquishment of Global Link to the Health Board is progressing and the structure of this deal is being finalised. The office rationalisation project continues to make excellent progress vacating the building and moving staff into County Hall.

There are a number of Community Asset Transfers on going and the Estates Department are working on new processes to be implemented that will work to expedite CATs next year.

#### Finance

The final budget gap was £33 million and was bridged through a combination of savings totalling £28.835 million and a 3.7% Council Tax increase.

Whilst this is still a very significant gap, it is an improved position to that which was faced, following three post-consultation updates:

- A better than expected settlement from Welsh Government (funding reduction of 0.1% rather than the 3% reduction the Council had anticipated);
- Generation of additional council tax income as a result of additional properties and an improved collection rate, based on the Council Tax Base Report taken to cabinet in December 2015; and,
- Indicative energy price reductions for 2016/17.

This allowed the Council to review financial pressures and budget planning assumptions in order to reduce risk and to support corporate priorities. Consultation savings proposals were also reviewed in order to improve their achievability and take account of consultation feedback and financial resilience has been improved through the introduction of a new mechanism enabling one off investment and development in priority areas.

For 2016/17, this mechanism provides one off investment of £4 million, including:

- £1.9 million for Disabled Adaptations Grants, enabling more people to remain in their own homes for longer and reduce waiting times for adaptations.
- £500,000 to establish a fund for NEETS, Looked After Children, Apprenticeships and Youth Guarantee. This sum is in addition to growth of £11.185 million (5.45%) on delegated schools' budgets, which far exceeds the 1.85% protection requirement.
- £320,000 for targeted repair of potholes, allowing nearly 3,000 more repairs to be undertaken.
- 100,000 for City Centre and Neighbourhood Street Cleansing, increasing the ongoing funding already allocated of £220,000 to £320,000.
- £700,000 to support our workforce as the Council is reshaped, through additional training and development.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan identifies a budget gap of £73 million over the three year period 2017/18 – 2019/20. Closing this gap will be extremely challenging given that the Council has made savings of £190 million over the 10 year period 2006/07 – 2015/16 and that over half of these were between 2013/14 and 2015/16, but planning work is already ongoing to ensure that this gap can be bridged.

With regard to the current financial year the overall position as reported to Cabinet in February showed a potential surplus of £988,000. This is confirmed by the latest monitoring which continues to indicate of potential surplus of circa £1 million. This is despite the impact of increasing demographic and other financial pressures particularly in Social Services and has been achieved through sound financial

management and an effective challenge process which has been in place throughout the year.

Significant support has also been provided in relation to the City Deal for the Cardiff Capital Region. This was recently confirmed including a £1.2 billion investment in the city region's infrastructure which is expected to deliver up to 25,000 new jobs and leverage an additional £4 billion of private sector investment across the region over the next 20 years.

#### Health & Safety

Donna Jones has taken over as our lead Health & Safety Manager in a collaborative working arrangement with Caerphilly County Council

#### HR People Services

Following Cabinet approval in January 2016, a revised and streamlined Disciplinary Policy, 6 new additional guidance documents and a new resolution policy will go live from 1 April. The revised arrangements represent a major cultural shift in how disciplinary/conduct issues will be addressed within the Council in the future. Preparation for go live is well underway with over 150 managers attending briefings on the revised arrangements throughout March at a number of Council locations and more are scheduled for early April. An e-learning module for completion by all managers will be available in April and compliance will be required by July as part of cascaded PP&DR objectives for 2016/17.

Specific and mandatory training to support those required to fulfil roles of Investigating Officers and Hearing Chairs is being piloted at the end of March with programmes to be made available from April onwards.

The new arrangements will be subject to on-going monitoring, with an interim review at 6 months and a full review after 12 months operational experience.

The Council successfully gained Living Wage accreditation in November 2015 during the annual Living Wage Week. Cardiff became the first Council in Wales to pay its entire workforce the Living Wage in September 2012 and since April 2015, all agency staff employed by the Council have also been paid the Living Wage. The current Living Wage in the UK outside London is £8.25 per hour, £1.75 more than the national minimum wage and the Council will pay this from April 2016. The Leader was presented with the plaque at County Hall on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 from Citizens UK. In gaining the accreditation, the Council has committed to work closely with its contractors and other organisations that provide services on Council property to encourage them also to pay the Living Wage.

#### Connect 2 Cardiff - Wales Contact Centre Awards

The Cabinet Member had the pleasure of accompanying the Connect 2 Cardiff Team at the 2016 Welsh Annual Contact Centre Awards. I was extremely proud of the team who won the People Engagement Award ahead of organisations including Admiral, Virgin Media and HSBC. The award was a testament to the hard work and collaborative approach from the management and staff working at C2C. Regular 121 sessions, staff forums, an online staff suggestion form, and on site team building exercises put staff right at the heart of C2C and create a positive working culture. I have visited Willcox House on numerous occasions and I am always impressed by how well a key front facing service is operating. It links to the Welsh Audit Office

report that recognised the improvements that have been made across the council in relation to staff engagement and our task now is to

Members raised a number of matters in relation to performance; regulatory reports; collaborative working; Welsh Government grant funding; agency staff and the living wage.

The Cabinet Member responded and advised that there was realignment being made to performance reporting and timing of reports to scrutiny.

#### 5. Deputy Leader Statement, (Early Years, Children and Families)

##### CSSIW

The Cabinet Member provided an update on the Children's Services inspection which took place over two weeks in January.

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) undertook an inspection of children's services in the City of Cardiff Council in January 2016. Inspectors looked at the access arrangements for children and young people and their families who were either referred for care and support or where information was received about children's well-being. This inspection included reviewing the effectiveness of the interface between preventative and statutory provision; there was no focus on services for disabled children. Inspectors considered the quality of outcomes achieved for children and families who received a service. Inspectors read case files and interviewed staff, managers and professionals from partner agencies. An electronic staff survey was carried out across children's services. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition, inspectors evaluated what the local authority knew about how well it was performing and what difference it was making for the people who it was trying to help, protect and look after

The inspectors assessed 60 cases within the following cohort:

- Child in Need
- Child Protection
- Looked After Children
- Cases closed within the last two years
- Contacts which did not progress to a referral
- Referrals which did not progress to an assessment

The City of Cardiff Council has welcomed the findings of the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) inspection of Children's Services published on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016.

The inspectorate found significant improvement since its last inspection in 2014 and the report makes recommendations to ensure this improvement continues. It has reported finding evidence of a clear strategic direction, led effectively by the Director of Social Services. Staff morale is seen as generally positive and the number of vacancies has fallen since 2014/15, when 31 per cent of posts were unfilled.



CSSIW inspector confirmed that the needs of the child are kept at the forefront of assessments, work is appropriately undertaken to help keep them safe, families supported to keep children safe and child protection procedures are well understood by staff. As a result of social work intervention, outcomes for children and young people are found to be improving.

The published report confirmed that the council is committed to prioritising services that support those who are most vulnerable, but had to deliver this against a backdrop of a declining budget and increasing demand. There is strong corporate support for children's services which had a high profile across the council. Elected members and the corporate management team demonstrated a common understanding of the direction and drive needed to ensure the service effectively supported improved outcomes for children and young people in Cardiff. There is a clear strategic direction articulated for children's services which was effectively led by the director of social services. There was a high level of confidence expressed in the leadership arrangements, particularly considering the relatively short time these had been in place.

Most importantly, the inspectors found that children and young people who were, or were likely to be at risk of harm, were identified, and work was appropriately undertaken to help keep them safe. The arrangements for child protection enquiries and investigations (including those which were outside working hours) were timely and effective.

This was a major test for the Council, coming two years after the last Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales visit, when Children's Services was in a much less robust position. I welcome the findings of the report which reflect the positive effects of our two year strategic journey and confirm the areas we are focussing on to ensure this significant improvement continues.

The full inspection report can be found at <http://cssiw.org.uk/news/160323-cardiff-childrens-report/?lang=en> .

Members welcomed the positive regulatory report and hoped that the direction of travel would continue.

## 6. Education Statement

### Creative Education Partnership

The Cabinet agreed a report on the new Creative Education Partnership for Cardiff. This will forge close working links between the city's education provision and its successful creative sector. The brand new secondary school in the west of the city would act as a "pathfinder" school to promote these links. The eight "Founding Partners" are National Museum of Wales, BBC Wales, Cardiff Council, Cardiff and Vale College, Creative and Cultural Skills, University of South Wales, Wales Millennium Centre and Welsh National Opera and I would like to thank the Founding Partners for having the vision and ambition to take part in the partnership which will strengthen education through putting creativity at the heart of learning.

The partnership will have a strong focus on ensuring that children and young people have the right skills by developing team working, flexibility, adaptability,

communication & entrepreneurial skills. It is part of improving outcomes for all our city's children. We want to ensure that no one is left behind and that a child's social background is not a determining factor in their education outcomes and life aspirations.

#### School Governors

A further 16 governors were appointed or reappointed at the last Panel meeting. The deadline for the next round of applications is 19<sup>th</sup> April and vacancies/upcoming vacancies can be checked here:

<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Schools/School-Governors/becoming-a-governor/Documents/vacancies.pdf>

#### Schools Organisation Planning

There has been progress on a number of fronts including:

Eastern High – Demolition work has commenced on the Trowbridge site.

New school in the West – the latest legal stage was completed and Cabinet have agreed to proceed with the project that will deliver a new high school in the west at a cost of £36.4m with the help of the Welsh Government 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. In August 2017 the Glyn Derw/Michaelston Federation will formally close with a new school established from September 2017. The new school will then transfer to a newly built school on the current Glyn Derw site from September 2018.

Four Wards – the Cabinet have agreed to build a new 2FE Welsh medium school on the Hamadryad site (initially 1FE on former Tan yr Eos site) and increase Ninian Primary School from 2 FE to 3FE from September 2017. This, along with a planned expansion of St Mary the Virgin, is to address the shortfall of primary school places in the area and represents a £14.8m investment jointly with the Welsh Government.

Llandaff North – from September 2017 Gabalfa Primary will be consolidated at 1FE and Glan Ceubal will be permanently established from September 2016 with an extended age range 3-11. £6.83m investment

Adamsdown/Splott – the Cabinet agreed the outcome of the statutory notice to increase the capacity of Ysgol Glan Morfa from 1FE to 2FE from September 2017 transferring to a new school building on land at the Maltings from September 2018 and to increase the capacity of Moorland Primary School to 3FE from September 2017. £6.86m investment

#### Youth Innovation Grants

The final awards for Youth Innovation Grants have been made following a robust application process that involved young people in the evaluation process. We will be working with a wide range of partners to deliver youth provision, these organisations will also be in the position to seek external funding to supplement council funding.

The latest grants to be awarded are as follows:

Neighbourhood Partnership Area	Area	Youth Work Delivery Partner
East (Trowbridge, Llanrumney, Rumney & Trowbridge)	Llanrumney	Full Circle Education
	Rumney	Cardiff City FC Foundation
West (St Fagans, Pentyrch, Radyr & Morganstown, Whitchurch & Tongwynlais, Llandaff North, Llandaff, Fairwater)	Fairwater	ACE
	Whitchurch	YMCA
	Radyr	YMCA

Members welcomed the progress. The following matters were raised in relation to those not in education and employment; Key Stage 4 gap between boys and girls; the need to support the most vulnerable children; the Welsh language provision and school governor attendances at meetings. The Cabinet Member responded to the issues raised.

170 : MOTION 1

The Lord Mayor advised that a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Dilwar Ali and seconded by Councillor Darren Williams had been submitted and was included on the Summons for the meeting.

The Notice of Motion was as follows:

This Council notes:

1. That the EU and USA launched negotiations in July 2013 on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
2. That negotiations are underway to determine which goods and services TTIP will apply to and if new rules can be agreed to protect investors, harmonise standards, reduce tariffs and open new markets throughout the EU and USA.
3. That there has been no impact assessment about the potential impact on local authorities.
4. That there has been no scrutiny of the negotiating texts by local government and no consultation with local government representatives.
5. That MPs are also unable to scrutinise the negotiating documents.

This Council believes that:

1. TTIP could have a detrimental impact on local services, employment, suppliers and decision-making.
2. A thorough impact assessment of TTIP on local authorities must be undertaken before the negotiations can be concluded.
3. The proposed Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism has been used by corporations to overturn democratic decisions by all levels of

governments at significant public cost. Local decision-making must be protected from ISDS.

4. The EU's food, environmental and labour standards are better than those in the US and TTIP negotiations must raise and not lower these standards across the EU and USA.
5. Sourcing supplies and employment locally is important to strengthening local economies and meeting local needs. TTIP must not impact on local authorities' ability to act in the best interests its communities.

This Council resolves:

1. To write to the Welsh First Minister and Minister for Public Services; Cardiff MPs and AMs; and all Welsh MEPs, raising our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and the secrecy of the negotiating process.
2. To write to the local government association to raise our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and ask them to raise these with government on our behalf.
3. To call for an impact assessment on the impact of TTIP on local authorities.
4. To publicise the council's concerns about TTIP; join with other local authorities which are opposed to TTIP across Europe and work with local campaigners to raise awareness about the problems of TTIP.

The Lord Mayor advised that one amendment had been received

Amendment 1 was proposed by Councillor Boyle and seconded by Councillor Kelloway as follows:

After 'This Council resolves:' - delete point 4.  
The amended to the Motion would then read:

This Council notes:

1. That the EU and USA launched negotiations in July 2013 on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
2. That negotiations are underway to determine which goods and services TTIP will apply to and if new rules can be agreed to protect investors, harmonise standards, reduce tariffs and open new markets throughout the EU and USA.
3. That there has been no impact assessment about the potential impact on local authorities.
4. That there has been no scrutiny of the negotiating texts by local government and no consultation with local government representatives.
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3. The proposed Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism has been used by corporations to overturn democratic decisions by all levels of governments at significant public cost. Local decision-making must be protected from ISDS.
4. The EU's food, environmental and labour standards are better than those in the US and TTIP negotiations must raise and not lower these standards across the EU and USA.
5. Sourcing supplies and employment locally is important to strengthening local economies and meeting local needs. TTIP must not impact on local authorities' ability to act in the best interests its communities.

This Council resolves:

1. To write to the Welsh First Minister and Minister for Public Services; Cardiff MPs and AMs; and all Welsh MEPs, raising our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and the secrecy of the negotiating process.
2. To write to the local government association to raise our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and ask them to raise these with government on our behalf.
3. To call for an impact assessment on the impact of TTIP on local authorities.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the motion.

Following the debate a vote on the Amendment proposed by Councillor Boyle was taken.

The Vote was LOST

The Lord Mayor called on Councillor Dilwar Ali as the proposer of the original Motion to give a right of reply before going to the vote.

The Motion was CARRIED.

171 : MOTION 2

The Lord Mayor advised that a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Boyle and seconded by Councillor Carter had been submitted and was included on the Summons for the meeting.

The Notice of Motion was as follows:

The Council notes that:

- the number of children in primary schools in Cardiff increased from 27,789 in January 2010 to 32,300 in January 2015, according to the Welsh Government school census;

- in September 2015, a new 2 FE primary school was opened in Penylan with no current plans to expand the size of Cardiff High School;
- this year, Cardiff High and St Teilos Church in Wales high schools were massively over-subscribed;
- between 2004 and 2008, councils across Wales were instructed to reduce surplus places by Welsh Government and Estyn, with almost 8,000 surplus places existing in Cardiff at that time.

The Council calls on the cabinet to start the process for a review of English-medium secondary school catchment areas in the East of the city so that all 11 year olds can access a local school.

The Lord Mayor advised that one amendment had been received

The amendment was proposed by Councillor Merry and seconded by Councillor Lent as follows:

The deletion of all words after bullet point 1 and insert the following wording to capture a city wide response

- *education is of fundamental importance to economic growth and Cardiff as a growing, prosperous city will continue to need to provide additional school places;*
- *the ambitious schools building programme under this administration, with the help of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme, is already expanding provision across the city for primary, secondary and Welsh Medium education including innovative brand new secondary schools and the provision of numerous new primary schools, including a 2FE primary school in Penylan.*
- *it is a Cardiff Council Corporate Priority that every school should be a good school and that Cardiff's schools have improved markedly under this administration and we will see to it that they continue to improve;*
- *in the National Categorisation 70.5% of primary schools are in bands one and two up from 48.4% from 2014-15 and 55.6% secondary schools are in band one and two up from 44.4% in 2014-5;*
- *That last year at Key Stage 4 Level 2 + Cardiff results improved by 9.44% moving Cardiff 7 places up the Wales ranking – testimony to the work of pupils, teachers, the LEA and the Central South Consortium*

*Council calls on the Cabinet to continue to address the issue of school places across the city by expanding existing provision, the building of new schools and the redrawing of school catchment areas as appropriate and with the appropriate consultation.*

*Council also supports moves to develop, in dialogue with the dioceses, a joint application process for school places which would streamline processes and remove uncertainty for parents.*

The Amended motion would read: -

The Council notes that:

- the number of children in primary schools in Cardiff increased from 27,789 in January 2010 to 32,300 in January 2015, according to the Welsh Government school census;
- education is of fundamental importance to economic growth and Cardiff as a growing, prosperous city will continue to need to provide additional school places;
- the ambitious schools building programme under this administration, with the help of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme, is already expanding provision across the city for primary, secondary and Welsh Medium education including innovative brand new secondary schools and the provision of numerous new primary schools, including a 2FE primary school in Penylan.
- it is a Cardiff Council Corporate Priority that every school should be a good school and that Cardiff's schools have improved markedly under this administration and we will see to it that they continue to improve;
- in the National Categorisation 70.5% of primary schools are in bands one and two up from 48.4% from 2014-15 and 55.6% secondary schools are in band one and two up from 44.4% in 2014-5;
- That last year at Key Stage 4 Level 2 + Cardiff results improved by 9.44% moving Cardiff 7 places up the Wales ranking – testimony to the work of pupils, teachers, the LEA and the Central South Consortium

Council calls on the Cabinet to continue to address the issue of school places across the city by expanding existing provision, the building of new schools and the redrawing of school catchment areas as appropriate and with the appropriate consultation.

Council also supports moves to develop, in dialogue with the dioceses, a joint application process for school places which would streamline processes and remove uncertainty for parents.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the motion and amendment.

At the end of the debate a vote was taken on the amendment as proposed by Councillor Merry.

The amendment was CARRIED

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Merry as the proposer of the amendment as carried the right of reply following which a vote was taken on the amended Motion as agreed.

The vote on the Substantive Motion was CARRIED

172 : MOTION 3

The Lord Mayor advised that a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Cowan and seconded by Councillor Robson had been submitted and was included on the Summons for the meeting.

The Notice of Motion was as follows:

The Council notes

1. The severe deterioration in the state of the city's streets since this administration came to power;
2. The increase in fly-tipping across the city as a direct consequence of Cabinet decisions to cut spending and, amongst other things, close household waste recycling centres at Wedal Road and Waungron Road;
3. The significant amount of litter left uncollected on the roads and pavements across the city;
4. The growing number of dangerous potholes left unrepaired.

The Council calls upon the Cabinet to

1. Re-prioritise its spending commitments to address this unacceptable situation;
2. Reverse its decision to close Wedal Road HWRC or provide an alternative facility to serve the residents of Cardiff North;
3. Bring forward alternative delivery arrangements to ensure these services can be delivered more cost-effectively and efficiently as other councils have demonstrated is possible;
4. Develop, as a matter of urgency, an improved programme of street cleansing and repairs to remedy the current situation.

The Lord Mayor advised that an amendment had been received. The amendment was proposed by Councillor Derbyshire and seconded by Councillor Patel as follows:

Delete everything after "The Council notes" and replace with:

1. *The severe financial pressures faced by this administration since it came to power, as a result of an austerity agenda imposed by the UK Government in London;*
2. *Rapid population growth has caused increased pressure on waste management in the City;*
3. *Cardiff has additionally had to meet ambitious recycling targets set by the Welsh Government;*
4. *A better than expected settlement from the Welsh Government has enabled the Council to allocate £320,000 extra funding to street cleaning in high footfall areas, funding that the opposition voted against;*
5. *A further £320,000 funding has been assigned to fixing approximately 3,000 potholes across the city, which was opposed by the opposition;*



6. *An extra £100,000 will be used to fund a team carrying out enforcement activities in relation to littering and dog fouling offences;*

*The Council calls upon the Cabinet to*

1. *Provide a suitable re-use alternative provision prior to the closure of Wedal Road facility;*
2. *Recognise there are areas of higher need in our city, and ensure that resources are concentrated in those areas in collaboration with local Councillors.*

The Amended Motion would read:

The Council notes” and replace with:

1. The severe financial pressures faced by this administration since it came to power, as a result of an austerity agenda imposed by the National Government in London;
2. Rapid population growth has caused increased pressure on waste management in the City;
3. Cardiff has additionally had to meet ambitious recycling targets set by the Welsh Government;
4. A better than expected settlement from the Welsh Government has enabled the Council to allocate £320,000 extra funding to street cleaning in high footfall areas, funding that the opposition voted against;
5. A further £320,000 funding has been assigned to fixing approximately 3,000 potholes across the city, which was opposed by the opposition;
6. An extra £100,000 will be used to fund a team carrying out enforcement activities in relation to littering and dog fouling offences;

The Council calls upon the Cabinet to

1. Provide a suitable re-use alternative provision prior to the closure of Wedal Road facility;
2. Recognise there are areas of higher need in our city, and ensure that resources are concentrated in those areas in collaboration with local Councillors.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the motion and amendment.

At the end of the debate a vote was taken on the amendment as proposed by Councillor Derbyshire.

The amendment was CARRIED.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Derbyshire as the proposer of the Carried amendment the right of reply following which a vote was taken on the amended Motion as agreed.

The vote on the Substantive Motion was CARRIED.

173 : ORAL QUESTIONS

The following Oral Questions had been notified for response: -

**Question:** *County Councillor Clark*

I understand the criteria used to define fly tipping by Cardiff Council changed following the issue of guidance from Natural Resources Wales in 2012. Please could you provide the total number of incidents classified as fly-tipping and the total number of incidents classified as a waste presentation issue for each of the following years: 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, and 2015/16 to date.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Looking at the number of incidents reported is a narrow way of gauging the true measure of fly tipping across the city. For example, the average fly-tipping tonnage removed each week in 14/15 was 23 tonnes; in 2015/16 it is 20 tonnes.

In addition, the new Neighbourhood Services approach means our teams are cleaning and reacting proactively in these areas as their cleaning methods have improved. More incidents are captured and waste is being removed quicker. Hence, our performance has improved in quarter three to 96% removal within five days.

The fly-tipping that you asked for is as follows:

- 10957 in 2012/13
- 4621 in 2013/14
- 3905 in 2014/15, and
- 4448 in 2015/16 up to mid-March.

With regard to figures for waste presentation issues, these are not formally recorded and will take time to collate together for the last three years.

I can confirm 9987 cases, which include reactive and proactive work, have been logged to date in 2015/16. The vast majority of cases in 2015/16 were in the first few months of the “Out of the Black into the Green” recycling campaign as people got used to the new recycling system. A similar peak is always seen after city wide changes.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Clark*

I'm really disappointed that I haven't had the separate figures for fly tipping for each of those four years, and the separate figures for waste presentation, because what has come out at Scrutiny Committee is that from 1 April 2013 the criteria changed so the data for 2012/13 is about 10000/11000 incidents and these have halved in 2013/14 to around 4000. I'm very disappointed those figures haven't been available

to me because I do know in 2014 the figures were available at Scrutiny Committee and when the two figures are added up, they come to about 13000 incidents all together.

Why haven't I had these figures and what is your comment on the fact that the figures for 2014/15 have gone up so much, please?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I'm completely at a loss, Councillor Clark, because I've just given you the figures, and, as I said, they were not formally recorded and will take time to collate. That is the information I have been given.

**Question:** *County Councillor Cowan*

Does the Cabinet Member support the campaign to keep Meadowbank School open?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

I'm surprised the Member would expect me to comment on a current consultation or pre-judge the future outcome of that presentation.

When we go out to consult, it is a genuine consultation. I did not scuttle past the parents outside – I asked them in and spoke to them. That is the way we conduct consultations when as a Council we go out.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Cowan*

If you find consultation that important. Can I ask why you weren't at the public meeting last week where officers outlined the proposals so that parents and interested people could ask you directly your view because people did ask where you were?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

I had a personal reason for not being there but I was happy to speak to the parents today and I promised to go out to the school.

Just to make a more general point, this consultation it's really important we get it right. I'd like Members to read the Cabinet report and come to me with questions and points they want to make, including yourself Councillor, as I've not received any [feedback yet.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor McEvoy*

Could you lay out the timetable of the process for Meadowbank over the next few months, please?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

The consultation closes for responses on 6 April and then consideration will be given to all of those responses.

**Question:** *County Councillor McEvoy*

Why does the Council refuse to agenda in a Council meeting the authority's role in reclassifying the land for now infamous Welsh Government's land deal at Lisvane?

**Reply** *County Councillor Bale*

The matter was not considered at the Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January as it did not meet the test of Rule 22(k) and Rule 35 of the Council Meeting Procedure Rules.

For the sake of clarity, issues relating to the marketing and valuation of the land were not the responsibility of this City Council.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor McEvoy*

With the greatest of respect, I was assured outside of the meeting that the issue would be agenda'd. And it's not on the agenda. And I was told before the meeting when I emailed that it was not going to be put on.

The land was valued at £14,000 per acre. Not long after you took over the Council, that land was reclassified, making it worth £2m an acre.

Now what I want to know is how the reclassification of that land came about on this Council?

This Council reclassified that land so who, when, how, and why?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

I don't think you're listening to the answer I've given you, Councillor McEvoy.

Officer advice is that the process that you followed did not meet the rules of the constitution to be able to raise these issues in the chamber.

As far as the allocation of land, there was a very detailed local development process that went through all of the criteria, we had a proper debate in this chamber, and we voted it through, which is something that your administration when you were Deputy Leader failed to do.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Carter*

Do you believe that your colleagues acted fairly in this project, or do you have misgivings that Cardiff and the planning in Cardiff has been put at risk by decision making in the Assembly?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

It would be totally inappropriate for me to comment on an issue that entirely rests with central government. There's been a great deal of comments within the Assembly

about this. Committees have considered these issues. It is not the remit of this Council to pass judgement on what's happened in this particular case.

**Question:** *County Councillor Evans*

What are the Council's intentions now that the 18 month 'pilot' Advice Services Contract, introduced in 2014 under a competitive procurement process, is coming to an end?

Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

The Council undertook a full procurement process during 2014 to appoint an advice provider and the contract was awarded to Cardiff and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau. The contract was for 18 months with an option to extend for a further 12 months.

The Council has indicated its intention to extend the contract for that further 12 months allowed.

A further procurement process will be undertaken in order to award a new contract from April 2017.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Evans*

Obtaining advice services through competitive procurement was, arguably, contrary to the spirit of being a cooperative council and it left most community-based advice services unfunded and contributed to the closure of Cardiff Law Centre.

What feedback, research, and consultation with the advice sector in Cardiff and others has been undertaken to enable us to evaluate whether this is a better process than former grant funding to community agencies?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elmore*

As you'll know, because we had a full and frank exchange at our meeting this morning. In terms of evaluation going forward, we discussed that and Officers will look at it.

I take on board your point about cooperative tendering. A decision was made before my time in terms of ending grant funding and that the principles of competitive tendering would go ahead.

I absolutely take on board your comments made at the meeting and in the spirit of your question in terms of cooperation. I would always, as I said at the meeting and I'll repeat in the chamber, I would always encourage collaboration so that we have the healthiest advice sector for the city.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Carter*

Do you envisage this whole project increasing the learning of the department when it comes to tendering out and encouraging social enterprises in the city?

I think this is a valuable exercise for the authority. I just wondered what thoughts have you had within the directorate to learn from this as we seek to expand and encourage social enterprises across the board?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

As you'll know from CASSC, social enterprises will feature very clearly in relation to services, particularly in terms of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

I think what we've learned from this process - we are after all a learning Council, and so it will be very important that we evaluate the processes in the past. What I would be very welcome to have contributions from Members of the chamber to how we can improve our processes.

**Question:** *County Councillor Bridges*

When will a report outlining the conclusions of the 20mph trial zones in Cathays and Plasnewydd be publicly available?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

A report on the full results of the pilot is expected to be presented to the Cabinet later this year and I will advise Members on the date in due course.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Bridges*

I'm delighted that the results of the trial will be made public but I am conscious that you announced at the start of this month, the trial will be expanded to Riverside, Canton, Grangetown, and Rhiwbina. While I and the residents welcome and my residents welcome the idea of that 20mph scheme being extended, can you perhaps explain why you would announce that and why you would move into the process of doing that expansion before publishing the results of the lengthy trial?

I mean what's the point of having a trial if you don't then make the result of it public so there can be a public conversation about the benefits of extending that scheme or not?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

What you remember is the pilot is one element of it but there are many other elements to it. I've been to conferences; I'm looking at good practice from other cities which have also done the 20mph. I went London - parts of London have been doing it; Edinburgh has been doing it. So there's quite a lot of evidence to show that it is good practice.

So what we're saying is that, basically, our vision is very clear, that we will be expanding it, and that we will be looking at a city-wide expansion as well with consultation with Members. And that's the important bit.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Richard Cook*

Councillor Patel, you've just mentioned that at the conference in London you made the welcome statement that Cardiff will go 20mph. Is it your intention to have 20mph zones across the whole of Cardiff or would you envisage specific areas of Cardiff? Because I would prefer the whole of Cardiff to be 20mph, other than the main routes. And what I think is confusing is if motorists have to go to a 20 to a 30 to a 20 again.

I think the whole-Cardiff approach would be better rather than specific zones, and I fear that we're going to have the zones, not the whole approach.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

What we're looking at is going city-wide, and a city-wide consultation with Members. The only ones we're certainly not going to be looking at this stage is the actually the main arterial routes.

But as far as the rest of the city goes, we won't be able to do this in one go – it is a costly exercise – it will have to be done in a phased manner as the money starts to come in. But we are looking at a city-wide. There may be some areas where Councillors say they do not want it.

If they do not want it that is something we will reflect on.

**Question:** *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

The grass verges, hedgerows, and roundabouts along many of the main arterial roads into and out of the city are strewn with long-standing litter. Fly-tipping incidents are increasing in quiet lanes and highways and even main highways. As an illustration of how badly littered our roads are, Lamby Way and Rover Way have verges and hedges strewn with shreds of plastic wrappings and green recycling bags along with soft drink cans and snack food litter. As these roads are close to the Council's main recycling and waste disposal site, it is poor reflection on the Council's attitude towards litter.

What was the cost of clearing litter and fly tipping last year, how many prosecutions were there for littering and fly tipping, and what will the Council do to cut down on littering and fly tipping?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Due to the nature of the main arterial routes, they can only be cleansed when traffic-control measures are in place. We are in the process of cleansing the main arterial routes into the city at present, prioritising those that will be used during this weekend's World Half Marathon. Following on from this, other areas such as Rover Way and Lamby Way are also scheduled to be cleaned.

Estimated costs for removal of reported fly tipping are £148,200 plus the cost of disposal.

To date in 2015/16, we have cleared over 96% of reported fly-tipping within five working days and enforcement action has been taken in 85% of reported incidents.

Between 1 April 2015 and March 2016, 502 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for various littering offences and prosecutions have been progressed in relation to 10 fly-tipping and littering cases.

502 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for various littering offences and prosecutions have been progressed in relation to 10 fly-tipping and littering cases.

Officers continue to be proactive in tackling waste and littering issues, and additional resources will be invested in targeting littering offences in particular during the next financial year.

We will also be refreshing our Usual Suspect Campaign in May and, remember, the Council doesn't fly tip – irresponsible people do that.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

I'm interested in the fly-tipping cases that are going to prosecution. I wonder if you could find out for me or give me the response as to how many prosecutions took place in 2012/13, 2014/15 and the present year the 10 fly-tipping cases prosecuted. Is that the case?

I really am concerned because I've had visitors from Australia recently who were appalled by the state of the roads going into the city. Since then, I've noticed how many cans are appearing around our roundabouts, grass verges, and hedgerows alongside the A48, the entrance to the M4 and the number of incidents I've had reported to me constantly by my ward on a daily basis.

I've also noticed two mattresses that have appeared, one of which is actually on the A48 slip road to UHW. That's been there for three days. Could you let me know if that's been removed?

I've never seen that in my life.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

As I said, it's people who are responsible for it. And this is the problem. I hope you reported the incident about the mattress to the Council and I'm sure it will be dealt with.

In terms of the information requested, yes, I'll get that to you.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Woodman*

It's been mentioned about Lamby Way, and I totally concur – it is an absolute mess. But you also have another problem – you have the shrubbery, which is so overgrown it's hiding all the daffodils that have come out. You talk about people making a mess – let's make our city more presentable for people to respect it a bit better.



So will you cut back the shrubbery to expose all those daffodils that are trying to grow there? Councillor Walsh raised that when we were in administration and we dealt with it. Now it's worse than ever and she's silent while you're in power. I wonder why?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Well, you don't know if she's been silent or not, Councillor. She may have already raised the issue for all you know. There are more ways than Council meetings to raise issues with Cabinet Members, I can assure you, and most people use them.

In terms of cutting back the shrubbery, I'll discuss it with colleagues because I'm not even sure whose responsibility it would be to do that. But I'll discuss it and we'll have a look at it.

**Question:** *County Councillor McEvoy*

What did Cardiff Council do when the stream at Waungron Park was found to contain serious pollutants and when will a notice be served to ensure that action is taken to resolve the problem?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

The Council has no power to serve a Notice, but as riparian landowner is working with Dŵr Cymru–Welsh Water to support their investigations. I am further advised that they have identified a specific source and are taking the appropriate action.

Public Health Wales has also been consulted on the matter and is of the opinion that the ongoing investigations between the Council and Welsh Water are the best course of action to try and resolve the misconnected foul drainage outfalls to the brook. They advised against placing any warning signs or fencing off the stream so that local people do not become over-alarmed.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor McEvoy*

I'll set the context then I'll ask the question.

The context is that raw sewage is going into the stream. It's been known for some time that sewage is going into the stream. The bacterial results were quite shocking from the water testing and children play in that park and balls go in the stream. They pick the balls out and their hands become contaminated.

Now, Welsh Water tell me that the Council should have served a notice and the person who used to serve these notices has been made redundant.

Now, the question is if it is the case that a notice should have been served, what will the Councillor do about it?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I know that you've been in conversation with Officers for some time over this so you actually know the answers without going through the process of spending Council time doing it.

You were informed that regulatory responsibility for that matter lies with Welsh Water. They have a responsibility to trace unlawful connections to surface water drains and are aware of the problems in this area, as are Natural Resources Wales.

A single water sample was taken from levels of low water last summer which revealed faecal matter in the brook. You were advised that Council received advice from Environmental Health that one sample alone at one point in time from one location would not be sufficient to fully characterise the water quality within the stream.

However, Council is still in conversation with Welsh Water, with Natural Resources Wales and will endeavour to get the situation resolved. However, as I've said, it is not the Council's responsibility.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Mitchell*

As you are aware, since Christmas, I have been raising the issue of water quality, not just in a single brook but right across the city.

We've recently had a Scrutiny meeting – it would be nice if some of the opposition Members would come to the scrutiny meetings – they'd find out more about the water quality across the city.

So, would you not agree with me that the steps taken so far with Natural Resources Wales, Dŵr Cymru, and Glamorgan Anglers, and all the others who came to that working group that we have now set up under the auspices of Dŵr Cymru to tackle not just single streams, which are not the Council's responsibility, but also the rivers. For example, many of you do not know that Ely is technically dead because of all the sewage that's coming down from missed connections in the clean and the sewage outlets from farms.

Would you agree with me that the Council should support that working group fully to tackle not just this one missed connection in the brook but missed connections across the region?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I do support that, Councillor Mitchell, and I do commend you and your scrutiny committee for actually taking this matter on board and looking at it in a much more rounded way to see where missed connections may be and to try and get a connected way of actually resolving the problems.

**Question:** *County Councillor Evans*

What quality control mechanisms are built into the Advice Services Contract, awarded by competitive procurement in September 2014, to ensure that those requiring help receive the best advice and the Council obtains best value for its £500K investment in the contract? Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

As you know, the Council has formally contracted with Cardiff and Vale Citizens Advice to provide advice services.

As part of the tender evaluation, the quality assurance processes carried out within the organisation were assessed. This showed that there were rigorous compliance procedures that must.

Council Officers hold regular contact meetings with Citizens Advice on a monthly and quarterly basis the results of these quality checks and general performance are reported to these meetings.

Customer satisfaction surveys are also carried out by the organisation itself and as part of our Hub monitoring. Feedback from customers is very good. Overall, I am assured that the quality of advice that we have procured is good and that value for money is being achieved.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Evans*

For the public record, there is not external, independent evaluation or peer review of client files undertaken with a view to rating the quality and consistency of the advice, which is the kind of practice within the advice sector. And, in particular, it explores the extent successful outcomes for clients. So currently there is no external independent, external evaluation or peer review of client files that actually also tracks outcomes?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

As we discussed earlier this morning, individual Citizens Advice organisations are actually reviewed and there will be file checks that are done external to our processes by the main body, by their main holder. So those are done.

They also hold the main AQS quality mark, so there will be regular assurance done independently.

**Question:** *County Councillor Howells*

Has the Council given any consideration to creating an English immersion centre to support those schools who accept a significant number of children who arrive at the school with limited or no English?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

The Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) has considered the concept of an English immersion centre in the past. In the 1980s, there were such centres.

This concept has now been raised again by several parties, including yourself, and current research is being considered by EMTAS.

The service continues to provide support to schools in their work with learners who have limited or no English.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Howells*

I welcome that response.

I note that that is part of our Welsh education strategic plan. We do have a Welsh immersion unit for latecomers to Welsh and I'll give you an example of why it's so important.

In Adamsdown Primary School, we have children who speak 27 different languages. We regularly accept children with no English and this puts significant pressure on the teachers, other staff within the school, not to mention an impact on standards because we accept children with no English up to year six. So I'm convinced that an immersion unit, even if it's for just part of the week, would have a significant impact on those children, reduce the pressure on schools, but more importantly allow those children to make better progress when they do return to school.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

I appreciate the pressures on Adamsdown. There are similar experiences in Gladstone School.

As I say, we will look at the evidence and come back to you.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Bowden*

I completely agree with Councillor Howells. We also have, I think, 26 or 27 different languages spoken at the primary school in Birchgrove. And the idea of an English immersion centre is, I believe, essential.

But what we do need if we haven't got that is more money to assist these children. Because in one year alone we have, for example, someone who speaks Hebrew, someone who speaks Russian, and someone who has just arrived from Syria, all of whom have gone into the same class and have to be resourced.

So can we consider funding for supporting these children?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

Well obviously EMTAS provide support. If you've got serious issues about the amount of support the school is receiving, perhaps we could meet about it.

**Question:** *County Councillor Hudson*

Dog fouling is a scourge on our parks and open spaces, risking the health of children and young people who play there and ruining the pleasure of a walk in green areas. How many fines have been given for dog fouling last year and what measures has the Council considered implementing to deal with dog owners who are irresponsible in not clearing up after their dogs?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

This is an issue that we take very seriously in what is a difficult financial climate. The administration has taken major steps to tackle this problem and the blight.

We have authorised Waste Enforcement Officers, PCSOs, and Park Rangers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to those caught in the act of allowing their dogs to foul.

We have also sourced the forthcoming use of body cameras will also help to secure robust evidence to help prosecute those who allow their dogs to foul without clearing up.

In the next financial year, we will also be increasing the number of waste officers, some of whom will be dedicated to dealing with littering and dog fouling in the city.

Catching someone in the act – and their dog in the act, for that matter – can be difficult, as many people do clear up after their dogs if they become aware that they are being watched. Nevertheless, between 1 April 2015 and 22 March 2016, 45 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for dog fouling.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Hudson*

Could I ask, please, how many new notices regarding the dog fouling have been erected and has a review been undertaken to renew those which have become unreadable?

Some of the notices are quite faded through time we need to renew them, please.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

You won't be surprised to know that I can't answer that question off the top of my head.

But what I will say is, and I'm happy to get you the information, however we don't need a notice to prosecute people. It is an offence. A notice may or may not have some impact but in reality, the fact of the matter is if people allow their dogs to foul and don't clear up after them, that is an offence. A notice is not required to enforce that.

We know what the speed limit is. And it does deter motorists.

**Question:** *County Councillor McEvoy*

Will Cardiff Council accept the BSL Charter and act upon it?

**Reply:** *County Councillor De'Ath*

A key work stream of the new Strategic Equality Plan, which was discussed at Cabinet earlier this month, was to progress access for deaf citizens and Council staff over the next four years.

We are already working towards achieving British Sign Language Charter status as it provides an excellent framework within which we can plan and deliver our objective of ensuring wide access to council information, environments, and services.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor McEvoy*

I heard you mention four years. It wasn't particularly clear in terms of acceptance of the charter.

Can you tell me when everything in the charter will be in operation?

**Reply:** *County Councillor De'Ath*

At the moment we're working with Bridgend Council, who achieved charter status quite recently. It depends on when the British Deaf Association grants us charter status but I would anticipate between 12 to 18 months.

**Question:** *County Councillor Ali*

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the UK Government's budget cuts to Personal Independence Payments for the disabled?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

I'm pleased to make a statement. As a Council, we were deeply saddened by the original proposal.

So, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's volte-face. The dictionary defines one: as an abrupt and complete reversal of attitude, opinion, or position. This is precisely what the Chancellor has done. Within the course of 72-hours he reversed what was one of the most heinous proposals in the Budget, to save £4.4b through disability benefit changes while rewarding the wealthy.

In Cardiff we care about individuals who need our support and are working enormously proactively with individuals, including disabled people, to ensure they maximise their entitlements.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor McKerlich*

Thank you, Councillor Elsmore. It was most gratifying to hear your comments on volte-faces and budgets but I wasn't entirely clear. Were you talking about the recent one in Parliament or your volte-face in your budget last year?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

I think it's very clear which one I was talking about.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Ali*

Is the Cabinet Member aware approximately £33b has already been cut from the welfare budget since 2010, £300m to disabled people of working age in Cardiff?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

I'm aware how difficult the impact of welfare reform has had on citizens in Cardiff and, in particular, the impact on disabled people.

The Council has worked proactively with partners to raise awareness of the changes and the support that is available. This includes the recent Tackling Poverty conference that was co-hosted by the Council.

Discretionary housing payments to help people pay their rent of £815,000 have been paid this year. More than £100,000 paid to disabled people affected by the bedroom tax, who need an extra bedroom either because a couple cannot share a bedroom for medical reasons or to store equipment. No financial test is carried out for this support, meaning that any disabled person who needs an extra bedroom gets the extra help.

**Question:** *County Councillor Bowden*

Will the Leader take up the suggestion of the Mayor for Cardiff campaign to hold a referendum on a directly elected mayor on 23 June 2016, the same day as the EU referendum, thus minimising potential cost to the taxpayer while at the same time giving the people of Cardiff a say on the leadership of this city rather than it being decided by Councillors of the majority party?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

It's really not within my power to call a referendum and the Council's powers and duties in relation to the mayoral petition are prescribed by law and we have to follow the due legal process. The Council has no discretion to waiver the required numbers of signatures for a valid petition.

And I understand the UK Government has also indicated it doesn't intend to make any provision to enable the combination of the poll at the referendum with the poll at any other election.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Bowden*

Surely there is capacity within this chamber for a motion to be brought to call for a referendum for the elected mayor for Cardiff. I'm just looking at... just in terms of what you just said, it is possible to call a motion.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

Just to be clear, it is set out the process very clearly in legislation. I think this Council would be in very dangerous territory if it was starting to dictate when it felt it should hold referendums or not. In this case, the legislation is very very clear, very specific – there is a certain percentage of electors that need to sign that petition. The moment you've been able to get those signatures, I'm sure we'll be able to start talking then about the actual referendum if it's possible.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor McEvoy*

First of all, I'd like to say that maybe you should realise that the stewardship of this Council over the last four years has guaranteed, virtually, that there will be a referendum.

And what you can still do – unless I misunderstand, so you can maybe clarify this for me. Hence the question... So what you're saying is that it's impossible – impossible – for this Council to make a decision which would actually save quite a bit of money. Is that the case?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

I've been very clear. The legislation sets out this process very very clearly. If you're able to secure the 10% of electors that you need to have a referendum, then the Council will have to go through the process of holding that.

We're also well aware of the costs – around £.5m of the previous election that the Council held – and what we're saying is that if it's possible to minimise those costs, it isn't in our gift to dictate when referendums are held with another election that's due to take place. We sought guidance from UK Government on this. We're just not in the position to do that.

And constant requests for us to go above and beyond the law – I think, simply, you're asking this administration to do something it's not in a position to do.

**Question:** *County Councillor Sanders*

Given the increase in reporting of fly tipping across the city, what measures are you putting in place to keep all our streets clean, across the whole city and how will you ensure visitors to all parts of the city don't leave believing we are a dirty city who takes no pride in our appearance?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

We have put in extra resources in the financial year coming up and committed more for next year to tackle littering, waste presentation, and fly tipping.

Extra waste enforcement officers have been recruited and are in place to ensure that we undertake more activity on those irresponsible few that drop litter and dump their waste. This would almost double the size of the team, which demonstrates the Cabinet's commitment to zero tolerance on waste crimes.

In addition, the neighbourhood services, which is now being rolled out, is removing contrary waste quicker – hence the improved results from fly tipping of 96% – and also starting to yield improvements in our cleansing scores too.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Sanders*

The issues regarding fly tipping, etc. have been well rehearsed going back and fore tonight, so I'm not going to go round that loop again.



But I'm interested in your views that to keep the areas clear, many volunteer groups have been doing an awful lot of clean-up sessions. We've heard Councillor Thomas talk about that in Whitchurch and I'm aware of others across the city. And that really ought to be a Council function paid for by our council tax payments. So I'm just interested in your views on the volunteer groups that are having to do something that the Council isn't doing at the moment.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

It is obvious, isn't it, that over the past few years not just in Wales but in England as well how important volunteer groups have become as budgets have been cut from council's right across the UK.

And you look anywhere in the country and you'll find more volunteer groups are coming along to do all sorts of things. We've already had them in parks for many years and they do a great job there.

And I welcome volunteer groups' involvement. The Council has a commitment to try and do its best. Nevertheless, if you've got a volunteer group like the ones that Ben talked about in Whitchurch in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy, which I think do a fantastic job, and they can actually go out and specifically target a particular area that has a particular problem, then I welcome their help assistance.

That doesn't mean that I and my Officers are abdicating their responsibilities to try and keep the streets clean – it just means that that help makes it even better.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Chaundy*

Bob, can I ask you if you could ask the city centre waste team to clear litter that's along the Blackweir running along Boulevard de Nantes? I've often walked along there and thought "goodness me!" and it's sort of increasing regularly from the New Theatre onwards. I think it is maybe clubbers and whatever but there's obviously a considerable amount down by the New Theatre and it's behind a fence running along the river. So, if that could be cleared because it's becoming a bit of an eyesore all the way along there.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

It would be helpful if you actually contacted me directly and give me the information because I'm not 100% certain whether that – it's often difficult with those areas – whether or not it's our land. So I need to check on that. But if it is our land, I'm more than happy to get that sorted.

**Question:** *County Councillor Clark*

Please provide the figures for the number and total sum of penalties/fines issued for the 2014/2015 and 2015/16 financial years to date for inappropriate activity regarding:

- Skips;

- Scaffolding
- Portaloos
- Dumping building materials on the highway

Please could you also let me know whether the fines for these breaches in each of these areas are returned to the Council or not?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

As you are aware, you recently asked the same question at Scrutiny.

But I do need to make you aware that no fines were issued by the previous administration with regard to Highway Licensing in Cardiff. It is only under this administration that direction and approval has been given for Fixed Penalty Notices to be issued for enforcement purposes. These powers were agreed by the Cabinet in November last year.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Clark*

I asked for clarity at the last Scrutiny meeting because it wasn't recorded in the minutes but, from memory, and from a reply from your question, it seems that no fines have been issued for overflowing skips dumped on the highway in the last two years

The fact is, though, that over the last two years, problems with skips left out for weeks on end, building rubble, and cement mixers have got worse in my ward. Keeping in mind the fines are returned, I understand, to the Council, do you think that issuing no fines is acceptable when the rules are blatantly flouted and will the problems be addressed in the future?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

I'm a little bit confused by the supplementary question as the first part of your question I've already answered. As I've said, these powers were only given to us very recently where we now stand to look at it, which was in November of this year.

Under the previous administration, you hadn't brought any powers in. We've brought them in. And now what we're going to do is use enforcement processes, including technical support and body cameras are also currently being developed as part of our neighbourhood services approach, which will allow for the implementation of these powers and for Fixed Penalty Notices to be issued.

**Question:** *County Councillor Murphy*

What is going to happen to the homeless outside Marland House?

Generally, there are about three to four people sleeping in the area and also, at least once a week, there is one person in a wheelchair who also sleeps in the area. Now the building work in Central Square has started, is there anything in place to keep these people safe?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

We are aware of the persons that you referred to in your question. They are engaging with services. However, often to the chaotic nature of their lives, this can be intermittent. But what I think is important, Jim, to reassure you that Adult Services and Housing together are working closely to accommodate the person in the wheelchair.

The Breakfast Run visits the area of Marland House and around Marland House every morning and actually rarely finds – and I've been out with them – anyone who has been rough sleeping in that location. However, it is an area where people clearly congregate during the day and some street begging activity does take place due to its proximity to Cardiff Central train station.

I think what I want to say as we improve markedly our transport interchange, we absolutely have to ensure that alongside that we support our most vulnerable people and we will continue to do that.

**Question:** *County Councillor Kelloway*

Does the leader agree that the ID cards issued to councillors certify that they are authorised to carry out any duties required of them as Elected Members of the Council?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

Whilst ID cards are issued to all Elected Members, they are not always a suitable form of identification for every aspect of our role as a Member.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Kelloway*

The wording of the question is as it is because that is how the statement on the reverse of our ID cards is actually worded. It actually says there that they are to certify that Members are authorised to carry out any duties required of them as Elected Members.

Now, I raise this point because I recently had occasion to – in the course of my duty – to take some waste that was deposited outside someone's home but wasn't collected by the regular waste collection team. So I took it upon myself to take it to Wedal Road. Now, I didn't have any other form of identification except my Councillor's ID card. Now, when I showed it to the official on the gate, he said "We cannot accept that."

Now, I find it very difficult when you read what's on the reverse of it to come to terms with a minor official telling me as an Elected Member of the Council that he's going to obstruct me in my duty.

So will you please answer the question? Does this card enable me to deposit waste at our waste disposal sites without having to show my address? Because, if I need to show my address to do my duty then straight away Councillor Goodway, for example,

who is not a resident of this city, cannot discharge his duties as a Councillor by taking rubbish to a waste tip.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

I am aware of the incident that you experienced. Obviously, Councillor Kelloway, you've been very much in contact with us since that incident to raise your concerns.

There is a very clear list of identifications accepted for using Council waste recycling centres. Obviously, we are reviewing the identification that's required to speed up the process. Indeed, we're looking at identification to go onto vehicles now to try and speed up that process.

It is very hard to create a form of identification that covers every single aspect of our role as Members. As you can appreciate, sometimes we find ourselves in very different environments. We've got a range of different services that require different levels of verification/authorisation. In this particular instance, it wasn't possible. Of course, we are mindful of the experience you felt when you visited the household waste recycling centre and we will take that on board when we are reflecting on any improvements we can make to the service available there.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Richard Cook*

Would you agree that the most important part of the identity card that we all have is the expiry date? And it tells the citizens of Cardiff that we all have an expiry date of 8/5/17. And that's when they can re-elect all of us.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

I just want to clarify that mine's got a very different date on it. So we've clearly got different dates on our ID cards as well.

**Question:** *County Councillor Dianne Rees*

What will be the opening hours and activities housed within the Pontprennau School Community facility from September 2016?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

The current hours which are available for bookings are 4.00pm till 9.30pm Monday to Friday. On Saturday, 10.00am till 2.00pm. However, longer hours can be accommodated on request.

And I have no reason to believe they will be any different in September.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Kelloway*

Sarah, can you tell me what will be the opening hours and activities housed within Howardian School community facility when the new school opens in 2017 or -18?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

I'm sorry, Councillor, that'll have to be an email.

**Question:** *County Councillor Richard Cook*

The last Cardiff Council Cycling Strategy was agreed in 2007. I understand that a new strategy is in preparation. Please can I have an update on when the new strategy will be published?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

The new cycling strategy is in the early stages of preparation. A programme of consultation and engagement is scheduled for May/June 2016 when elected members, stakeholders, and the public will be invited to provide input on the principal themes of the strategy and priorities for future action.

This consultation will be undertaken in parallel with the initial consultation on the plan for the future cycle network, which the Council will be producing as part of the Active Travel Integrated Network Map.

The draft cycling strategy and draft Integrated Network Map are expected to be considered by the Cabinet later this year prior to formal public consultation in the autumn.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Bridges*

It's always good to hear you reaffirm your commitment to cycling in Cardiff. And I know from things you said previously about your desire for a 50/50 modal split in the city.

Given the need for Councillors to set an example, can you tell us how did you get to City Hall tonight?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

I am able to quite clearly inform you I did come by car. Like many others, quite simply – and I openly have said this to many of my colleagues – I don't have the confidence as a cyclist. I never have. Even as a child. And, obviously, I'm hoping that one day I will.

**Question:** *County Councillor Clark*

Last year, it was decided to move the local studies collection away from the fifth floor of Cardiff Central Library and move the collection to Dominions Way in Newport Road. Instead, an IT suite and creative suite were installed on the fifth floor of Central Library.

Please could you clarify:

- How much it has cost to rent the space to house the local studies collection in Dominions Way?

- How much the Canton Library consultation cost in staff time and other resources with regard to the proposals to relocate the local studies collection there?
- How much it cost to install the IT suite and creative suite on the fifth floor of Cardiff Central Library?
- How much income has been generated through the rental of the IT suite and creative suite in the Central Library since they were established in 2015 to date?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bradbury*

I can confirm that no additional rental costs have been incurred through the temporary housing of the local-history studies collection within Dominions Way.

Additionally, the initial proposal to relocate the collection to Canton Library was included as part of the overall budget public consultation for 2015/16 and this was not progressed due to the public feedback received.

A £150k Welsh Government Community Learnings Capital grant was secured to create the digital floor within the Central Library Hub, which includes the creative suite.

The creative suite has enabled the Library Service to expand upon delivery of the digital literacy offer through coding, Minecraft, and programming sessions in collaboration with Code Club and Adult Community Learning that have been enjoyed by children and adults across the city.

Room bookings have generated £3,000 to date and booking charges for the 2016/17 financial year have just been set. Officers are in the process – along with myself – of actively marketing the rooms in order to fully capitalise upon the commercial opportunities they represent.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Clark*

£150,000 is a goodly sum of public money and a £3000 return on income so far – though I appreciate it is just for a few months – is pretty low.

Do you think the cost of the suites in Central Library and the low level of income thus far represents good value of use of public money?

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Bradbury*

First of all, it cost this Council nothing because it was £150,000 from the Welsh Government Community Learning Libraries Capital Grant.

I do think it's value for money particularly when you have a fantastic digital suite teaching young people and enabling young people to be creative with modern technology; ensuring his Council is up to date with contemporary technological advances.

So, yes I do think it's value for money. £3000 in eight months, considering we haven't really had a lot of marketing time, is not a bad amount. I am very confident it will grow

and grow and grow. I would hope that your confidence will grow as well and that you will actually applaud what is a fantastic scheme for this city.

**Question:** *County Councillor Gordon*

Are there any plans to improve the surface of the access road and signage at the temporary coach depot in Sophia Gardens?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

We have identified the need for surfacing improvements relating to the introduction of coach services to Sophia Gardens and, as part of this work, I will also ensure that signage and further traffic-calming measures are introduced to control speeds at this location.

Officers are currently assessing the issues to identify a solution to the problems. Once this assessment has been undertaken, a scheme will be developed and implemented by early summer.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Gordon*

Are you aware that that road is actually a 5mph zone anyway, so some signage to that effect would be hugely effective. Do you think that could be implemented?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

What we can certainly do is certainly look at that. There is a slight problem there: the road in Sophia Gardens is not a public highway. And, therefore, the signage place is, unfortunately, not enforceable and therefore advise drivers of the appropriate speeds. Because it's not a public highway. So that is important. But, certainly, I will get Officers to look at advisory signs because that may help.

**Question:** *County Councillor Gordon*

Do Waste Management have a timetable for consultation with representatives from the streets that participated in the "Big Sweep" of autumn leaves, in order to plan and prepare a similar exercise this autumn?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

There are no specific consultation processes for activities such as the leaf-fall clearance that took place in the autumn. However, Officers are happy to support such community-stimulated initiatives wherever possible across the city. And I think your community group do a fine job there and I'm really pleased with what they do and I'm certainly more than happy for Officers to help you next year, if that's what you'd like.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Carter*

I represent a ward where I still have autumn leaves gradually rotting on them. I'd just be curious whether there are any plans to liaise with Members across the city as to

when and how our own streets will be cleaned throughout the year. Because I appreciate our litter pickers are very busy and do go from place to place. But there are pavements, certainly across my ward in Pentwyn, which haven't seen a brush in a good long time.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

If you tell me where there are streets in your ward that have got a particular problem, as you see it, then by all means let me know and I will make sure Officers go and check them out.

**Question:** *County Councillor Gordon*

Will the City Deal's opportunity to create a metro system for the region be a bus-based system using the existing road network?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

The metro vision is for a new, fully integrated transport network in the Cardiff Capital Region, which will deliver a step change of improvement in public transport through investment in a range of transport modes: heavy rail, light rail, and bus rapid transit.

The decision on the actual metro projects is yet to be determined but, as I say, we'll bring that back to Members as soon as it's been decided.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Graham Thomas*

The metro is a key element that must be delivered to achieve a 50/50 modal split and in the northwest of Cardiff in particular, which suffers from a poor road network, a poor rail network, a virtually non-existent cycle network, and even disintegrating pavements in many places.

Will you please make sure that the northwest-corridor element of the metro remains high on the regional agenda and will not rely on buses?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

As you are aware, the Welsh Government metro project has very much been driven by Welsh Government to date. We now have an opportunity through the City Deal to have a much more co-created product and we are and will continue to make the case for strategic transport infrastructure investment in the city.

Obviously, any investment in Cardiff has the potential to benefit the wider region, connecting people into and out of the capital city to the rest of the region. We'll continue to make that case as we go forward.

And the master planning that has been undertaken by the LDP is some of the finest you'll find in any local development plan across the country. We're very careful but very confident that the planning that has gone into designing transport around those communities has been well thought through and will help to sustain different modes of transport in those communities as they develop in the future.



174 : URGENT BUSINESS

None

175 : APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Council is requested to approve the nomination that has been received as set out on the Amendment Sheet.

RESOLVED – That the following nomination to Committee vacancies was approved as follows: -

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Nominations</u>
Constitution Committee	Councillor Dilwar Ali

*(The meeting finished at 21.15pm)*

176 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

*In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, Rule 17(f) Written Questions received for consideration and response for the meeting are set out below.*

EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOWDEN

Schools across Cardiff are welcoming refugees from Syria. Could you please advise what support is being given to schools to assist them with the integration of these vulnerable children; what central role Council is playing in terms of starter classes for learning English as a second language; and what additional financial assistance will be given to schools to enable them to provide the additional support that these children need?

Reply

The Syrian resettlement scheme is likely to commence in May 2016.

Many Cardiff schools are used to admitting pupils on a regular basis from many different countries. Schools with high proportions of Black and Minority Ethnic pupils and pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) have additional funds from the Education Improvement Grant to meet the language and development needs of these pupils.

The Council's Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) includes six Closing the Gap Officers – one officer for each of the neighbourhood partnership areas in the city who support schools to build capacity in this area of work.

There is also a central New Arrivals team which responds on a termly basis, if necessary, to schools' needs across the city.

There are no Authority-wide starter classes, but some schools have their own, which are funded from the minority ethnic achievement portion of the Education Improvement Grant.

ENVIRONMENT (COUNCILLOR BOB DERBYSHIRE)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOWDEN

Could you update me on what progress is being made towards making all Cardiff parks areas where dogs must be kept on leads?

Reply

As you may be aware, a report to expand enforcement powers was approved by the Cabinet in November 2015. The report encompassed numerous powers including Dog Control Orders.

Officers are currently in the process of preparing consultation documents for both the Cabinet and the public in order to consider areas to be designated for such powers, as it is essential that any changes to the control of dogs across the city is developed through consultation with our communities.

In the interim, the current byelaw does require owners who exercise their dogs throughout our public open space provision to keep them under control. These byelaws are enforced by the Council's Park Rangers who are active in challenging those owners who act irresponsibly by not being in control of their dogs and who spoil the enjoyment and put at risk the safety of other park users.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McKERLICH

Please advise how frequently the team cleans outside the shops in Station Road, Radyr and the days this occurs. This shopping area is frequently in a poor state in respect of street cleanliness.

Reply

The local shopping centre on Station Road in Radyr is currently scheduled to be cleansed three times per week. All bins are emptied on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Litter picking also takes place in the area on those days and mechanical sweeping is undertaken on a fortnightly basis.

Education and Enforcement officers will attend the area to identify whether there is a need for preventative action, such as working with local retailers to help tackle the litter generated from the shops.

HEALTH, HOUSING AND WELLBEING (COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELSMORE)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOWDEN

Could you provide details of the arrangements that are in place, and the services that are being provided, for the Syrian refugees in the City and whether central government has provided financial support to the Council for this vulnerable group of people?

Reply

I am pleased to be able to confirm that the City of Cardiff Council, together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and working with partners at our Joint Leadership Board have agreed to resettle an initial number of 60 Syrian refugees as part of the UK Government Syrian Resettlement Programme.

An operational group made up of officers from a range of council and partner services has been involved in detailed preparations for the delivery of the programme and to ensure the successful long term involvement of the region over the life of the scheme.

An opportunity to tender, with a closing date in early April 2016, was issued recently on 29 February 2016 for the provision of a wide range of support services across the region.

The Home Office will provide financial support to the Council to meet the needs of those assisted by this programme and it is likely that refugees settled through this scheme will arrive in Cardiff in May 2016.

There are, of course, refugees from Syria who have arrived in Cardiff as part of the Asylum Seeker dispersal arrangements. The contract for the provision of services for those seeking asylum is with a private sector provider and no funding is available to the Council for the support of these refugees.

TRANSPORT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY  
(COUNCILLOR RAMESH PATEL)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

Please set out the number of parking enforcement notices issued in Gabalfa ward and Plasnewydd ward after 8pm in each of the last six months for which data is available.

Reply

Month	Gabalfa Ward PCNs Issued	Plasnewydd Ward PCNs Issued
October 2015	22	79

November 2015	9	20
December 2015	11	38
January 2016	5	55
February 2016	5	56
March 2016 (up to 20 March 2016)	16	53
Total =	68	303

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McKERLICH

How many primary schools and secondary schools are now in a 20mph zone?

How many of each are not in a 20mph zone?

Can you name those which are not in a 20mph zone and append the target date for putting them in a 20mph zone?

Reply

There are 29 Primary Schools and 8 Secondary Schools in Cardiff which are within 20mph speed limit areas.

There are 40 Primary Schools within School Safety Zones, which have physical traffic calming measures that are intended to reduce traffic speeds to 20mph. Of these 40 schools, 17 are also within 20mph speed limit areas.

There are 12 Secondary Schools within School Safety Zones. Of these 12 schools, 7 are also within 20mph speed limit areas.

There are 47 Primary Schools and 6 Secondary Schools which are not within either a 20mph speed limit area or a School Safety Zone. These schools are as follows:

Primary Schools (47)

Adamsdown Primary School  
All Saints C.W. Primary School  
Allensbank Primary School  
Bryn Celyn Primary School  
Bryn Deri Primary School

Creigiau Primary School  
Glan-Yr-Afon Primary School  
Glyncoed Primary School  
Greenway Primary School  
Howardian Primary School  
Kitchener Primary School  
Lakeside Primary School  
Lansdowne Primary School  
Llanedeyrn Primary School

St Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School  
St David's C.W. Primary School  
St John Lloyd R.C. Primary School  
St Joseph's R.C. Primary School  
St Mary The Virgin C.W. Primary School  
St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
St Mellons C.W. Primary School  
St Patrick's R.C. Primary School  
St Paul's C.W. Primary School  
St Peter's R.C. Primary School  
St Philip Evans R.C. Primary School  
Stacey Primary School  
Tredegarville C.W. Primary School  
Trowbridge Primary School

Moorland Primary School  
Ninian Park Primary School  
Pen-Y-Bryn Primary School  
Rhiwbeina Primary School  
Rhydypenau Primary School  
Rumney Primary School

Severn Primary School  
Springwood Primary School  
St Bernadette's R.C. Primary  
School  
St Cadoc's Catholic Primary  
School

Secondary Schools (6)

Cathays High School  
Corpus Christi R.C. High School  
Radyr Comprehensive School  
St Illtyd's Catholic High School  
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern  
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf

Willowbrook Primary School  
Windsor Clive Primary School  
Ysgol Bro Eirwg  
Ysgol Glan Morfa  
Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd  
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen-y-  
Groes  
Ysgol Pen Y Pil  
Ysgol Pencae  
Ysgol Y Wern

We do not have a target date for the implementation of 20mph speed limit areas outside all schools in Cardiff.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

5 years ago a constituent contacted me regarding the lack of crossing facilities at the Pantbach/Ty Wern/Ty'n y Parc Road (Monico) crossroads. At that time, their son had just moved into Year 3 of primary school and they contacted me with concerns that the route to school would be made much safer if pedestrians were able to cross all 4 roads at this junction. Despite repeated requests from local Councillors, and from residents wishing to access the Pantbach Road bus stop, there is still no safe way for local residents to cross Pantbach Road on the Rhiwbina side at this junction. The child in question is now in High school – will we have to wait until he is at University before much needed improvements to this junction are made?

Reply

I can confirm that a scheme to provide controlled pedestrian crossing facilities at the Pantbach/Ty Wern/Ty'n y Parc Road junction is currently in the Council's approved Local Transport Plan and will be implemented when funding is available.

The schemes included in the Local Transport Plan have been prioritised using an objective method of assessment and funding will be allocated to schemes on this priority basis. The objective method of assessment takes into account traffic and pedestrian flows, injury collision incidents over a five year period, traffic speed, site layout and delay in implementation.

In view of this, it is not possible to predict exactly when a scheme will be implemented due to many factors, such as the available budget; varying site conditions such as road casualty figures, and whether any new projects have been added to the Future Programme.

An assessment of the police injury collision record shows that there have been no recorded collisions at this location over a five year period.

This project is currently ranked as number 64 on the Future Programme, and is therefore unlikely to be implemented in the near future using funds from the Council's capital budget. However, should other funding sources become available, such as from planning conditions, we shall endeavour to deliver this road safety project sooner.