

## 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 November 2016 to transact the business set out in the Council summons dated Friday, 18 November 2016.

Present: County Councillor Monica Walsh (Lord Mayor).  
 County Councillors Ali Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed, Dilwar Ali, Aubrey, Tariq Awan, Bale, Boyle, Bradbury, Bridges, Burfoot, Carter, Chaundy, Clark, Richard Cook, Cowan, Chris Davis, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Elsmore, Ford, Goddard, Goodway, Gordon, Govier, Graham, Hill-John, Hinchey, Howells, Hudson, Hunt, Hyde, Keith Jones, Margaret Jones, Joyce, Kelloway, Knight, Lent, Lloyd, Magill, Marshall, McEvoy, McGarry, McKerlich, Merry, Michael, Mitchell, Murphy, Parry, Patel, Phillips, Rea, David Rees, Dianne Rees, Robson, Sanders, Simmons, Stubbs, Thomas, Ben Thomas, Graham Thomas, Lynda Thorne, Walker, Walsh, Weaver, White, Wild, Darren Williams and Woodman

### 100 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bowden, Ralph Cook, Evans, Groves, Holden and Derrick Morgan.

### 101 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

<b><u>Councillors</u></b>	<b><u>Nature of Interest</u></b>
Councillor Elizabeth Clark	Item 11 – Cabinet Member Health, Housing and Wellbeing Statement – Personal interest as family member in receipt of Social Services care and Telecare services.
Councillor Russell Goodway	Item 13: Motion 2 – Personal and Prejudicial interest as employee of organisation of providers of syringe & need exchange services in the same area.
Councillor Lyn Hudson	Item 11 – Cabinet Member Health, Housing and Wellbeing Statement – Personal interest as family member in receipt of Social Services care and Telecare services.
Councillor Judith Woodman	Item 11 – Leader’s Statement - Personal interest as family member is employed by HMRC. Item 11 – Cabinet Member Health, Housing and Wellbeing – Personal interest as a Member of the Management Board of the Goldies Cymru Charity.

### 102 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on the 20 October 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

#### 103 : GRANGETOWN BY-ELECTION

The Lord Mayor welcomed Councillor Tariq Awan to his first Council meeting following his election to the vacancy in the Electoral Division of Grangetown on 3 November 2016.

Councillor Awan expressed thanks to fellow Councillors and officers for their kind welcome and assistance since his election.

Councillor Awan paid tribute to Councillor Lomax who had served the people of Grangetown so well over the last 4 years and would be greatly missed. Councillor Awan hoped that he could approach his new role with the same kindness and humility that Councillor Lomax when he served the residents of Grangetown.

Councillor Awan was honoured to have been elected to representing the constituents of Grangetown and undertaking his role as a County Councillor. Councillor Awan was looking forward to working with the whole community on issues and matters of concern and improvement.

#### 104 : PETITIONS

The following petitions were received: -

- 1 Councillor Hudson – 644 signatures (67 from Cardiff Council area) calling for Cardiff City Centre to remain car friendly, replace parking spaces lost through demolition, and to ensure that alternative methods of transportation for all visitors to Cardiff, not just those who live close to a train station.
- 2 Councillor Boyle - 624 signatures petitioning for Marlborough Primary School to remain in the Cardiff High School catchment area and that pupils in the catchment area should be provided with school places should they apply;
- 3 Councillor Marshall – additional signatures to petition presented at Council on 20 October calling on the Council not to close Cardiff Central Sport and Community Centre in Ocean Park.
- 4 Councillors Bradbury and Simmons – 59 signatures calling on Cardiff Bus to ensure that the No 15 bus continued to run along Cwrt Yr Ala Road and Heol Yr Odyn.
- 5 Councillor Michael – 101 signatures calling on the Council to consider the possibility of a toddler/child park within the Tarwick Drive/Ferntree Drive Estate in the St Mellons/Trowbridge area of Cardiff.

#### 105 : PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**Public question:** *Mr Rhys Taylor*

Local businesses on Whitchurch Road have long called for business parking permits to be introduced in the area allowing local businesses to utilise resident-only parking

spaces during working hours. Cardiff Council has previously conducted a trial of a similar scheme in Riverside; however, the evaluation of this scheme has yet to be published. Can you confirm that the Council intends to publish the evaluation of this scheme in order for business parking permits to be rolled out across the City?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

The review of the business permit pilot scheme in Riverside was initiated during the production of the Council's Parking Strategy in 2015 and is programmed for completion during 2016/17.

The outcome of the review will be reported in the 2016/17 annual parking report, which is expected to be published in June next year.

**Supplementary question:** *Mr Rhys Taylor*

This will have been 18 months after the initiation of the pilot. Why is there such reluctance to engage businesses at this point in the project, given the pressure on local businesses in the current climate? Will you commit to engaging with businesses before the end of the pilot to roll this out further across Cardiff?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

Absolutely, I am always committed to speaking to the businesses or any other Members who wish to have any concerns. If you have any concerns or any other businesses have any concerns then by all means please contact myself and the office and I'll be more than happy to have those discussions.

But there is a review, and we have to accept that we're going to have to look at it as a city-wide because obviously the question that came in was regarding Riverside but this problem is not just in Cardiff – this problem is all over the country. Probably further than that. I have just come back from London recently, and they have got similar problems there as well. So, this is a problem which is the whole of the United Kingdom.

But certainly I will be more than happy to have a further discussion with yourselves.

**Public question:** *Mr Tom Walker*

In the 2016 secondary school admissions round a significant number of Marlborough Primary School children who had been long term residents within the Cardiff High School catchment area were not initially allocated a place at Cardiff High School. This resulted in disruption to established peer groups and caused considerable distress to the children concerned.

In view of this, please confirm what, if any, action has the Council taken to ensure that the rights and interests of Marlborough Primary School children, and the preferences of their parents, are adequately and fairly taken into account when allocating places at Cardiff High School?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

Firstly, I would like to say that I have the greatest sympathy with any parent faced with uncertainty about school places.

The admissions policy is agreed annually a year in advance of the school year to which the policy will apply so that parents are clear on the policy when they apply for a school place, and it is applied equally to all community schools across the authority.

In the event of a school being over-subscribed, a number of criteria are applied. Whilst children resident within a catchment area have priority for admission, living within catchment is not a guarantee of a school place.

As I am sure you are aware, Cardiff High School was over-subscribed last year, but there are sufficient school places for the wider area.

To help parents, the Council has worked with the Governing Body of Marlborough Primary school to increase understanding of admissions arrangements.

The Governing body was invited to consider and input into this year's parents admissions information to try and ensure that the information we give out is clear and helpful to parents: it is important that parents exercise their right to express 3 choices to increase the chance of their child receiving a school place in the first round of admissions.

A senior admissions officer attended the open evening held at Marlborough to advise parents on the process and the options available. Information about take up and the appeals process was also supplied to parents.

Representatives of other local high schools also attended the event to give information to parents so that they could consider all options.

The Council will also be consulting on a trial of a coordinated admissions process at secondary school level from 5<sup>th</sup> December to 23<sup>rd</sup> January. A coordinated admissions policy would significantly reduce the anxiety of parents waiting to find out what school their child will attend.

**Supplementary question:** *Mr Tom Walker*

I didn't detect the final few sentences of that answer in the written response. Can I just ask the Councillor to read them out again, please?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

No, I felt rereading the question sat here that it didn't actually address the longer term considerations, which I know would be top of parents' priorities.

Earlier this year, a resolution was put forward that the catchment area for Cardiff High should be changed. We amended that resolution to state that, where schools

are oversubscribed, the Council will consider expansion, catchment change, or new build, which will be the basis going forward.

**Personal Explanation:** *Mr Tom Walker*

Let me just explain; the written response from Councillor Merry didn't include that last very significant few sentences about what was actually planned. If I could just present a few words, please, just to put this in context, Councillor Boyle has presented a petition with signatures of 624 parents concerned about the arrangements that currently apply because 23 children long-term resident in Cardiff High catchment area weren't initially allocated places at that school. However, 49 children from out of catchment were.

It follows, then, that a child moves into the area on the day of application takes priority over a child who may have lived there all their lives. That is manifestly unfair.

In terms of the response of Councillor Merry, unfortunately, it still doesn't answer the question – it's a rehash of current policy and no engagement of the underlying unfairness, in my submission, of the existing policy. In effect, the response relates to how the Council makes the existing unfair policy quicker, not fairer.

So will the Council agree to consultation or review of the current policy, addressing the underlying unfairness to include consideration of whether a length of residence in catchment area criteria should be adopted over a proximity criteria? That would end the practice of opportunistic post-code shopping, it would end the practice of people moving into the area and bumping people off the list. So will the Councillor agree to consider that?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

I think there needs to be a clarification over the admission process. Is where children are admitted from outside the catchment area is because there are some classifications that trump residents, and they are around statements of educational needs linked to schools, and also for looked-after children. They have a higher weighting than pure residency. And that is part of our admissions policy that we have agreed as a local authority. Obviously, we review it every year but I expect that Members would not actually wish to change that element of the admissions policy.

We could give consideration to a term of residence test. This was raised by parents and I took it to Officers. The legal advice we have actually had to date is that actually that could be viewed as prejudicial under the Equalities Act. But that is always open as a possibility as we consider the admissions policy each year. But I feel there would be many parents who would equally feel that if they live close to a school but they happen to have moved within the last year or two years of a child's primary school time that it was equally unfair to them not to obtain a place at the school.

106 : LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) Former Lord Mayor Councillor Max Phillips - it is with great sadness that we have been advised that former Lord Mayor, Councillor Max Phillips passed

away peacefully after a short illness on 16 November. The Lord Mayor invited tributes from Members and advised that she had on behalf of the Council sent sincere condolences to his daughter Sian and family.

Tributes were made by Councillors Bradbury, Cowan, Hunt, Kelloway, McEvoy, Michael and Walker about Councillor Phillips' contributions as Lord Mayor, his support of the arts and music in Cardiff in particular in his role on the St David's Hall and New Theatre Committee; his work in the community of Fairwater and Pentrebanе which he represented; and his love of sport – rugby in particular; and support to Cardiff's Twinning links over many years.

- (2) Recognition and Awards - the following had been received during the last month and the Lord Mayor congratulated teams on their achievements.

Living Wage Week - officers from the Council's Procurement team joined other Living Wage employers in Wales to mark the end of Living Wage Week by summiting the highest mountain in South Wales.

Staff joined representatives from Taff Housing, Brecon Carreg Water, Action in Caerau and Ely, Citizens Cymru Wales to climb Pen Y Fan in the Brecon Beacons to celebrate the end of Living Wage Week (31<sup>st</sup> October – 5th November).

Organised by Citizens Cymru Wales, the ascent began at Storey Arms Outdoor Education Centre and was led by the head of the centre, Andrew Meek. Once at the top of Pen Y Fan, the walkers celebrated with a group photo with the Living Wage flag.

Street Lighting Team - congratulations to the Council's Street Lighting Team who have been awarded the HEA (Highways Electrical Association) Contracting Member of the Year 2016 award.

The Nationally Acclaimed award presented at the HEA Annual Conference and Exhibition Awards Dinner on 3rd November 2016, at the Celtic Manor Hotel.

In competition with over 120 competing organisations, this award is fantastic recognition for the team who deliver such a high standard of work and it's great to see them being recognised amongst the industry's top performers in the UK.

St Bernadette's Primary School - congratulations to St Bernadette's Primary School who reduced their electricity consumption by a massive 23% during the recent '10 Day Turn Down' competition sponsored by Viridor. The competition aimed to encourage schools to reduce their energy consumption and educate pupils about energy saving measures.

The school beat second place Radnor Primary by a slim 1% margin, winning an all-expense paid visit to the Education Centre at Viridor's Energy Recovery Facility.

Small steps can make the difference when it comes to saving energy. If all Cardiff's schools followed the example set by St Bernadette's during the competition it could save approximately £400,000 from the council's £6.2million annual electricity bill.

Thank you to all the schools that took part.

'Ball in the Wall' receives Sport Innovation recognition - Cardiff's position as one of the World's top sporting venues has been underlined by receiving 3 nominations at this year's prestigious Global Sport Tourism Awards in London.

The Welsh capital was shortlisted for best Tourism City, the Tourism Innovation award for the hugely popular 'Ball in the Wall' feature at Cardiff Castle during last year's Rugby World Cup and in the Mass Participation category for the World Half Marathon Championships.

- (3) The Lord Mayor's Charity Fundraising - donations and collections for The Lord Mayor's Charity Cancer Research Wales have reached £30,000 with generous donations from the Welsh Rugby Union; Castle Bingo; and Winter Wonderland.

The Lord Mayor thanked Councillor Dilwar Ali for hosting the Lord Mayor's Curry Night that raised over six hundred pounds towards Councillor Ali's target for his Walk the Wall China trek. So far he has raised £4,800.

The Lord Mayor was delighted to support Council staff, fellow councillors and colleagues from the Cardiff Dogs Home on the Walk the Wharf event last Friday that raised a wonderful £500.

The Lord Mayor thanked the Archdiocese of Cardiff and the Metropolitan Cathedral Church of St David's; fellow Councillors and officers who attended and participated in the Lord Mayor's Civic Service. The Archdiocese is celebrating 100 years this year and also donated £500 to my charity.

Thanks also to Councillors Hudson and Dianne Rees for providing the Nativity Scene for display in the City Hall main hall once again this year with donations to the Lord Mayor's Charity.

The following events are arranged in December: -

The Reindeer Run - Saturday 3rd December in Whitchurch Village. Council staff members, who are regular volunteers for the charity, Ceri Gauci and Amanda Venning, are taking part in the event this year to help raise money for the charity on behalf of the Lord Mayor's charity. For full details of the event or if you want to take part in the Reindeer Run visit [www.crwreindeerrun.co.uk](http://www.crwreindeerrun.co.uk)  
Lord Mayor's Christmas Coffee morning at the Mansion House on Wednesday 14 December 2016

Lord Mayor's Annual Member and Staff Carol Service at 10.30am on  
15 December 2016.

107 : APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Council was requested to approve the recommendations of the Audit Committee Appointments Panel 7 November 2016 to appoint two Independent Members to the Audit Committee: -

The Lord Mayor advised that Professor Maurice Pendlebury, who had attended Council on several occasions over the last six years, would be standing down at the next Audit Committee 29 November 2016.

RESOLVED – That the Council

- (1) the appointment of Mr David Price to fill the current vacancy for an Independent Member of the Audit Committee with effect from 25 November 2016 was approved;
- (2) the appointment of Mr Gavin McArthur to fill a second vacancy was approved. This vacancy will be filled from 1 December 2016;
- (3) thank Prof. Pendlebury for his significant contributions to the work of the Audit Committee and previous Audit Panel and wish him all the very best for the future.

108 : CARDIFF HOUSING STRATEGY 2016-2021

The Council was requested received and approve the Cardiff Housing Strategy 2016-2021.

The Cabinet Member, Health, Housing and Wellbeing, Councillor Susan Elsmore proposed the report and Councillor Bale seconded.

The Housing Strategy for Cardiff is the strategic document setting down the direction for housing provision and services across all tenures in the City and the key priorities for the Council and partners. The Strategy has been developed in a time of increasing housing need and reducing resources; and therefore focuses on prioritising and meeting the housing needs of the most vulnerable.

The Strategy references the findings of the Local Housing Market Assessment 2015, which was commissioned to provide a robust evidence base for future housing need, to inform the Housing Strategy. The Market Assessment will be updated bi-annually in accordance with Welsh Government requirements. It also responds to recent Welsh Government legislation including the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 and changes in UK Government policy, specifically around welfare reform.



The Strategy supports tall four of the Council's key priorities: -

- To develop a full understanding of housing need in the city (Housing Need)
- To take a coordinated and evidence based approach to developing and improving homes in Cardiff (Homes)
- To ensure that the housing needs of the most vulnerable are met (People)
- To improve neighbourhoods and help build stronger communities (Communities)

The Strategy sets out a number of activities to be undertaken by the Council and partners over the next five years, and a separate action plan will be developed and a monitoring framework established to track progress against these commitments. It is proposed that this take the form of an annual report card, with activities identified through a RAG system.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the strategy. Members were supportive of the Strategy that had been subject to detailed consultation and scrutiny. A number of issues were raised including support for lifetime homes; home ownership; allocation of land for Council homes; numbers of Council houses built; use of local builders; affordable housing guidance and the use of funding from Section 106 planning obligation. The design and architecture of new housing provision and preservation of uniqueness of communities was also highlighted.

The Cabinet Member responded to the questions and particularly thanked Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee for their positive contribution to the Strategy. She underlined the important work being undertaken to support the most vulnerable in communities; the development of affordable units; the importance of partnerships and new developments in the pipeline.

RESOLVED – That Cardiff's Housing Strategy 2016-2021 was approved.

#### 109 : TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2016-17

The Council's Treasury Management activities are governed by legislation and the revised Code of Practice 2011 developed by Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Performance, Councillor Hinchey presented the mid-year monitoring report of Treasury Management activities since 1 April 2016 and the position as at 30 September 2016. Councillor Hunt seconded the report.

In the budget report February 2010, Council adopted CIPFA's revised Treasury Management Code by formal acceptance of the Four Clauses of Treasury Management and Treasury Management Policy Statement as Council policy. The Council's Audit Committee has undertaken the scrutiny of the accounting, audit and commercial issues of the Treasury Management Strategy and Practices.

The Lord Mayor invited questions and or debate and assurances were given on the Council's level of debt that was within appropriate guidelines and policies and was benchmarked with other core cities.

RESOLVED – That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2016-17 (Appendix 1) was noted.

## 110 : STATEMENTS

### The Leader Statement and Economic Development & Partnerships

The Leader provided a statement on meeting of the Cardiff Breakfast Club on 11 November 2016 in which he set out our vision for Cardiff to become Europe's most liveable capital city; and the current position in terms of the City Deal and the economic strategy for the Cardiff Capital Region; the Welsh Local Government Association Annual Conference held on 3 November 2016 at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff which included a keynote address from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford AM, which set out his proposals for local government reform and further consultation, which is expected to take place in December and into early 2017.

The Leader's statement also included details on other projects and developments including identify a location for a new 'Google Digital Garage'; the HMRC who had recently announced their shortlisted sites in Cardiff that will that will house a new regional tax centre that will provide additional jobs and investment; updates on the City Deal and the Cardiff Commitment.

The Leader responded to questions on Business rates; City Deal and transport and infrastructure matters; projects; land allocation and potential developments.

### Corporate Services & Performance Statement

The Cabinet Member provided a statement on New Integrated Property IT System; Connect to Cardiff (C2C) who on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, C2C spoke to their 6,000,000<sup>th</sup> customer; the All Wales Interpretation and Translation Service (WITS); Cardiff Academy and Member Briefings on Draft Budget Proposals 2017-18.

### Transport, Planning and Sustainability Statement

The Cabinet Member provided a statement on the commencement of the LED street lighting project.

The Cabinet Member responded to questions relating to street lamps; level of lighting and public safety. When available the Cabinet Member would provide a timeline for street lighting works to be completed for next 12 months.

### Community Development, Co-operatives and Social Enterprise Statement

The Cabinet Member provided a statement on the Co-Operative Councils Innovation Network.

There were no questions on the statement.

#### Skills, Safety and Engagement Statement

The Cabinet Member provided a statement on the Cardiff University Taxi Study the findings of which would be collated into a report for the Council to consider and use as a means to improve the functioning of the taxi industry in the City.

The Cabinet Member also provided an update on the White Ribbon Campaign and the White Ribbon town award received in September 2014.

The Cabinet Member responded to a number of matters raised in relation to Taxi Survey; and concerns raised around bullying of councillor colleagues and the Cabinet Member agreed to reflect on the issues raised with the Monitoring Officer and officers and take this matter forward.

#### Health, Housing and Wellbeing Statement

The Cabinet Member provided a statement on a collaborative trial between Telecare Cardiff and the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST); Frequent Flyers Project a successful joint working initiative that has been undertaken in Housing & Communities. The Homelessness Service has started working with Cardiff & Vale UHB on the frequent flyer project. This project was established to address the complex needs of the most vulnerable individuals who frequently attend the Accident & Emergency department, call the Out-of-Hours GP service, or for an ambulance.

The Cabinet Member provided details of the Llanishen Gets Together on Saturday, 21st October. This was an initiative to get the community to support older people.

Members were advise of the Scrutiny Members' Workshop – The Role of Scrutiny after the Implementation of the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014 (SSWB); the Members' Safeguarding Workshop; and of work with Public Health colleagues on Dementia Friendly Communities.

The Cabinet Member had also become an Independent Member (Local Authority) to Cardiff & Vale University Health Board

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on the funding of Good Neighbours Schemes; the work of the 50+ Group and future events.

#### Deputy Leader, Early Years, Children and Families Statement

The Deputy Leader provided an update on a number of areas within her portfolio Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) - The "Not in our city, Not to Our Children" campaign; Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC); Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH); the Members' Safeguarding Workshop and the Scrutiny Members' Workshop – The Role of Scrutiny After the Implementation of the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014 (SSWB)

There were no statements on the Deputy Leader's statements.

### Education Statement

The Cabinet Member provided a statement on the Schools Organisational Plan (SOP) and in particular information on the official opening of the extension to Coed Glas Primary School in Llanishen; the construction of the new Eastern High School in partnership with Cardiff & Vale College and the procurement for the new secondary school, for the wards of Ely & Caerau.

The Cabinet Member provided a statement on the Oakfield Primary School's Breakfast Club, which was selected as winners for the Best Breakfast Club in Wales award for the second year running; funding for the Erasmus+ programmes; participation by two young people from Cardiff in the UK Youth Parliament, House of Commons Annual Sitting; the Show Racism the Red Card initiative which will add to the school support provided by the Cardiff Against Bullying team.

Finally the Cabinet Member advised that the Cardiff Governors Association the key organisation in supporting school governance held its Annual Training Conference and its theme was 'Schools and Business in Partnership'; the Welsh Government consultation on proposals to revise and consolidate the school governance regulatory framework in Wales. The proposals are to revise the legislative framework for school governance, to place a stronger focus on skilled governing bodies. In addition, the Local Authority Governor Panel met on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and recommended 21 candidates for appointment. 13 were new applications and the remaining 8 were re-appointments. A number of the appointments were made to schools that have had vacancies for a significant amount of time and to schools that are in the greatest need of improvement. The Panel noted the high calibre of applications received at this meeting and in previous meetings.

The Cabinet Member responded to questions raised on the Erasmus international links, and future funding of such schemes; PISA education standards and the benefits of learning from best practice in other European countries; operational issues at Eastern High School; further partnership working with organisations such as Stonewall in tackling homophobia in our schools

### Environment Statement

The Cabinet Member provided a statement on, Recycling & Treatment Services; Cardiff Parks and Bereavement Services; Cardiff Dogs Home; and Neighbourhood Services.

The Cabinet Member responded to questions raised on the new recycling campaign; launch of the new free recycling bulky collection service; postponement of the closure of Wedal Road household waste recycling centre; the neighbourhood blitz initiatives; and the uptake of landlords with the Rent Smart Wales. Scheme.

111 : MOTION 1

The Lord Mayor advised that a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Keith Jones and seconded by Councillor Thorne had been received and was included on the Summons for the meeting.

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor Keith Jones was as follows:

This Labour Council:

1. Recognises the critical shortage of affordable housing across the UK. In Cardiff, there are more than 8,000 people on the common housing waiting list for social housing, with over 4,000 in housing need.
2. Recognises that the sale of council housing has exacerbated the problem of addressing housing need.
3. Recognises that Labour both in Cardiff and Welsh Government have introduced a number of schemes, such as the reduction of the discount available, which has slowed down the number of 'right to buys'.
4. Welcomes the Welsh Government's policy of ending the sale of social housing in Wales, and the Council's decision to consult on the suspension of the right to buy across Cardiff.
5. Recognises that the Council are embarking on its second Housing Partnership Programme to build more council and affordable homes in Cardiff.
6. Calls upon the Cabinet to investigate other innovative approaches, both permanent and temporary, to increase the availability of affordable housing in Cardiff.

Councillor Thorne formally seconded the motion.

The Lord Mayor advised that there were three amendments to the motion.

Amendment 1 was proposed by Councillor Walker and seconded by Councillor Hill-John and was as follows:

The following amendments be made to the motion

First line: Delete the word Labour

Point 1: Deletion of the words '*across the UK*' to be replaced by '*in Wales and Cardiff.*'

Point 2: Deletion of Point 2 and replace with

2. '*Notes that this Labour Council has consistently failed to build or provide an adequate number of council houses and to make an impact in meeting growing housing demand. It needs to make a 'step change' in this area after years of underperformance.*'

Point 3: Deletion of Point 3 and replace with '*Notes the wide range of government schemes and support available to those seeking to rent or buy.*'

Point 4: Deletion of the word '*Welcomes*' and replace with '*Regrets*'.

Point 4: The addition of the following sentence: *'These measures merely serve to provide a smokescreen to cover failure at WG and Council level to address Welsh housing supply problems, including the provision of council housing'*.

Point 5: the deletion of the word *'Recognises'* and replace with *'Notes'*.

Point 5: After the word Council, insert *'is belatedly'*.

Point 5; the addition of the following sentence: - *'It is now also clear that the administration failed to honour its 2012 manifesto pledge to increase the supply of affordable housing and Council houses and to provide new impetus to the development of cooperative and mutual models of housing'*.

The addition of a new Point 6:

*'6. Notes that the Council recognises its own failure to return an adequate level of unoccupied homes to the city's housing stock. This is a waste of existing unused resources requiring effort rather than cost'*.

Original Point 6 now Point 7: the addition of the following sentence: - *'This should include assessment of new construction technology developed in Europe and elsewhere where reports of high quality, rapidly built, low cost housing units could revolutionise and accelerate provision for those on waiting lists'*.

The addition of a Point 8: -

*'8. Recognises and supports the spirit of aspiration which many Council residents possess to improve their housing provision whether in the private or public sector'*.

The addition of a Point 9:

*'9. Calls upon the Cabinet to ensure that a proportion of affordable homes built in new developments are available to first time buyers to purchase. It should also encourage the building of smaller units for home owners wishing to downsize, so freeing up larger homes for family occupation'*.

The substantive motion would read:

This Council:

1. Recognises the critical shortage of affordable housing in Wales and Cardiff. In Cardiff, there are more than 8,000 people on the common housing waiting list for social housing, with over 4,000 in housing need.
2. Notes that this Labour Council has consistently failed to build or provide an adequate number of council houses and to make an impact in meeting growing housing demand. It needs to make a 'step change' in this area after years of underperformance.
3. Notes the wide range of government schemes and support available to those seeking to rent or buy.

4. Regrets the Welsh Government's policy of ending the sale of social housing in Wales, and the Council's decision to consult on the suspension of the right to buy across Cardiff. These measures merely serve to provide a smokescreen to cover failure at WG and Council level to address Welsh housing supply problems, including the provision of council housing.
5. Notes that the Council is belatedly embarking on its second Housing Partnership Programme to build more council and affordable homes in Cardiff. It is now also clear that the administration failed to honour its 2012 manifesto pledge to increase the supply of affordable housing and council houses and to provide new impetus to the development of cooperative and mutual models of housing.
6. Notes that the Council recognises its own failure to return an adequate level of unoccupied homes to the city's housing stock. This is a waste of existing unused resources requiring effort rather than cost.
7. Calls upon the Cabinet to investigate other innovative approaches, both permanent and temporary, to increase the availability of affordable housing in Cardiff. This should include assessment of new construction technology developed in Europe and elsewhere where reports of high quality, rapidly built, low cost housing units could revolutionise and accelerate provision for those on waiting lists.
8. Recognises and supports the spirit of aspiration that many Council residents possess to improve their housing provision whether in the private or public sector.
9. Calls upon the Cabinet to ensure that a proportion of affordable homes built in new developments are available to first time buyers to purchase. It should also encourage the building of smaller units for homeowners wishing to downsize, so freeing up larger homes for family occupation

Amendment 2 was proposed by Councillor Carter and seconded by Councillor Boyle

Delete 'Labour' in first line

Delete paragraph 2, 3 and 4 and replace with:

'Recognises that the sale of council housing in the 1980s and 1990s at huge discounts has exacerbated the current housing problem'

'Recognises that the Welsh Government successfully reduced the discount available to people seeking to buy their social housing so that councils recover the vast majority of the value of the property.'

Add an additional paragraph at the end of the motion:

'Calls upon the Welsh Government to end the remaining discount for Right to Buy so council's recover 100% of the property sold.'

The substantive motion would read:

This Council:

1. Recognises the critical shortage of affordable housing across the UK. In Cardiff, there are more than 8,000 people on the common housing waiting list for social housing, with over 4,000 in housing need.
2. Recognises that the sale of council housing in the 1980s and 1990s at huge discounts has exacerbated the current housing problem
3. Recognises that the Welsh Government successfully reduced the discount available to people seeking to buy their social housing so that councils recover the vast majority of the value of the property.
4. Recognises that the Council are embarking on its second Housing Partnership Programme to build more council and affordable homes in Cardiff.
5. Calls upon the Cabinet to investigate other innovative approaches, both permanent and temporary, to increase the availability of affordable housing in Cardiff.
6. Calls upon the Welsh Government to end the remaining discount for Right to Buy so council's recover 100% of the property sold.

Amendment 3 was proposed by Councillor Marshall and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

The following amendments be made to the motion: -

First line: Delete the word Labour

Point 1: Change *recognises* to *acknowledges*

Point 2: After '*addressing*' insert '*those in desperate*'

Point 2: After '*need*' insert the following: '*by successive Conservative & Labour Governments*'.

Delete Points 3, 4 & 5

Add new Point 3:

3. *Acknowledges that the abject failure of the UK and Welsh Governments' to allow Councils to use their Capital receipts from the sale of Council house stock for new Council house building has exacerbated the issue.*

Add new Point 4:



4. *Calls upon the Cabinet to work with the WG and other Welsh Councils to investigate innovative approaches to resolving the shortage of affordable housing on a regional planning basis as advocated by Plaid Cymru.*

Add new Point 5:

5. *Calls upon the Cabinet to work with the WG & other Welsh Councils to firstly bring empty properties back into use, ensure a system of controlled rents, in both the public and private sectors, in order to keep affordable rents affordable, ensure all tenancies are secured tenancies and bring in a policy of no evictions for those penalised by the iniquitous bedroom tax.*

The substantive motion would read:

This Council

1. Acknowledges the critical shortage of affordable housing across the UK. In Cardiff, there are more than 8,000 people on the common housing waiting list for social housing, with over 4,000 in housing need.
2. Recognises that the sale of council housing has exacerbated the problem of addressing those in desperate housing need by successive Conservative & Labour Governments.
3. Acknowledges that the abject failure of the UK and Welsh Governments' to allow Councils to use their Capital receipts from the sale of Council house stock for new Council house building has exacerbated the issue.
4. Calls upon the Cabinet to work with the WG and other Welsh Councils to investigate innovative approaches to resolving the shortage of affordable housing on a regional planning basis as advocated by Plaid Cymru.
5. Calls upon the Cabinet to work with the WG & other Welsh Councils to firstly bring empty properties back into use, ensure a system of controlled rents, in both the public and private sectors, in order to keep affordable rents affordable, ensure all tenancies are secured tenancies and bring in a policy of no evictions for those penalised by the iniquitous bedroom tax.
6. Calls upon the Cabinet to investigate other innovative approaches, both permanent and temporary, to increase the availability of affordable housing in Cardiff.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the motion. At the conclusion of the debate, the Lord Mayor invited Councillor Keith Jones to sum up.

A vote was taken on each of the Amendments in turn.

Vote on Amendment 1 as proposed by Councillor Walker. The vote was **LOST**.

Vote on Amendment 2 as proposed by Councillor Carter. The vote was **LOST**.

Vote on Amendment 3 as proposed by Councillor Marshall. The vote was **LOST**.

The Lord Mayor called for a vote on the motion as proposed by Councillor Keith Jones. The Motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

This Labour Council:

1. Recognises the critical shortage of affordable housing across the UK. In Cardiff, there are more than 8,000 people on the common housing waiting list for social housing, with over 4,000 in housing need.
2. Recognises that the sale of council housing has exacerbated the problem of addressing housing need.
3. Recognises that Labour both in Cardiff and Welsh Government have introduced a number of schemes, such as the reduction of the discount available, which has slowed down the number of 'right to buys'.
4. Welcomes the Welsh Government's policy of ending the sale of social housing in Wales, and the Council's decision to consult on the suspension of the right to buy across Cardiff.
5. Recognises that the Council are embarking on its second Housing Partnership Programme to build more council and affordable homes in Cardiff.
6. Calls upon the Cabinet to investigate other innovative approaches, both permanent and temporary, to increase the availability of affordable housing in Cardiff.

#### 112 : MOTION 2

Prior to the commencement of this item a Motion without notice under Council Procedure Rule 25 (a) (viii) that the meeting agree to proceed to next business was proposed by Councillor Gordon and seconded by Councillor White.

Following advice given by the Monitoring Officer the Lord Mayor advised that under Council Procedure Rule 26 she would not accept the closure motion as proposed.

In accordance with the procedure rules, a vote was taken on the Motion without Notice as proposed by Councillor Gordon.

The Vote was **LOST**

The Lord Mayor proceeded to the second notice of motion proposed by Councillor Neil McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Tariq Awan had been received. The motion was as follows:

This Council agrees the following:

1. to welcome the undertaking given not to lease the former PDSA building in Butetown for it to become a drug rehabilitation centre.
2. that given the widespread problem of discarded, dirty needles in some parts of the City, extra specialist cleansing resources will be allocated to such areas in order to solve the problem.

3. that in order to alleviate the problem of the injection of drugs in public places in Cardiff, the Council will support a pilot scheme of medically supervised, safe injection rooms, when the agreement of partner agencies and authorities is reached.

The Lord Mayor advised that one amendment to this Motion had been received.

Amendment 1 was proposed by Councillor Elsmore and seconded by Councillor Ali Ahmed and was as follows: -

The following amendments be made to the motion.

Point 1: first line after 'given' insert the words '*by partners*'

Point 1: delete all words after Butetown and insert - '*for substance misuse advice, information and counselling services, with a specific focus on alcohol*'

Point 2: delete all up to 'Specialist and insert: '*As now, specialist cleansing resources will be allocated to clear localities of discarded needles, and this will continue*'

Point 3: delete all and replace with

3. '*This Council supports all efforts of partners, including Public Health Wales, the Area Planning Board, South Wales Police and third sector organisations, to reduce harm and improve outcomes for service users and residents*'

The substantive motion would read:

This Council agrees the following:

1. To welcome the undertaking given by partners not to lease the former PDSA building in Butetown for substance misuse advice, information and counselling services, with a specific focus on alcohol.
2. As now, specialist-cleansing resources will be allocated to clear localities of discarded needles, and this will continue.
3. This Council supports all efforts of partners, including Public Health Wales, the Area Planning Board, South Wales Police and third sector organisations, to reduce harm and improve outcomes for service users and residents.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the motion. At the conclusion of the debate, the Lord Mayor invited Councillor McEvoy to sum up.

The Lord Mayor asked for a vote to be taken on the Amendment proposed by Councillor Elsmore.

The vote was **CARRIED**.

Councillor Elsmore was given the right of reply prior to a vote being taken on the Substantive Motion

The Motion was **CARRIED** as follows:

This Council agrees the following:

1. To welcome the undertaking given by partners not to lease the former PDSA building in Butetown for substance misuse advice, information and counselling services, with a specific focus on alcohol.
2. As now, specialist-cleansing resources will be allocated to clear localities of discarded needles, and this will continue.

This Council supports all efforts of partners, including Public Health Wales, the Area Planning Board, South Wales Police and third sector organisations, to reduce harm and improve outcomes for service users and residents.

113 : ORAL QUESTIONS

**Question:** *County Councillor Carter*

Does the Cabinet Member expect to be able to deliver the limited list of highway repairs he announced in September by the end of March, in light of work being stopped for two months due to the weather?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

If you are referring to the resurfacing, reconstruction and surface treatment programmes, as opposed to highway repairs that are ongoing throughout the year, then the answer is yes.

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

In light of the fact that the list in question was only announced in August and now it's stopping for two months, does the Cabinet Member share my concern that it might seem slightly suspicious to the electorate that almost a year's worth of work is going to be commenced and dealt with one or two months just before a Council election?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

No, I do not share your views.

This is factual: by the end of this financial year, 579 roads will have been resurfaced since 2012.

I am sure you will agree this is far from being limited when compared to 215 roads being resurfaced during the Lib Dem/Plaid administration from 2008 to 2012.

In addition, the schedule is on schedule, as it is in all financial years, and we are hoping to complete it by February and March next year.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Robson*

When you start comparing the number of roads that have been resurfaced between different administrations, can you next time give the miles of roads in the city that have been resurfaced between different administrations? Then we can get a true picture, whichever way it may fall.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

Put it in writing to me and I am sure we can certainly have a look at that for you.

**Question:** *County Councillor Walker*

Due to lack of capacity, many of the early Rhymney Valley trains bringing commuters into Cardiff cannot accommodate passengers wishing to board trains. This problem is noted at Lisvane and Thornhill Station and does not improve as the full trains proceed into Cardiff. There is the additional problem that car parking at these stations is at full capacity.

I understand that Arriva is waiting for the rollout of the Metro system before investing in rolling stock. Will the Leader explain what steps he can take personally and working with Welsh Government to resolve the rolling stock and car parking under capacity of Arriva Trains and Network Rail?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

As you are aware we are constrained by the current devolution settlement around rail, and we do have to work around the relationship with both UK Government and Network Rail when we are looking at these issues. I am pleased to say the agreement of the £1.2 billion City Deal has started to put in place a framework among the 10 councils to try and engage around regional transport, and of course, we are establishing a new regional transport authority to help us to do that.

However, I have to say I am disappointed in the announcement by the Chancellor yesterday in terms of the autumn statement. Because what we do see now is that while those investments that we want to see coming forward in the metro, what we want at the end of that is a station that is able to deal with the increased capacity from the metro itself. In addition, we have not seen from the Chancellor a green light yet on Cardiff Central Station. That is something I do implore my colleagues around the chamber to lobby on as much as possible, because it is vital for the future of this city.

In terms of your specific point around car parks, I have myself as a local ward Councillor raised this repeatedly with the train operators and it is something I will continue to push. However, previous decisions, I have to say, in this part of the city

have meant that we have lost opportunities in terms of car parking and the provision of future car parking going forward.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Walker*

I do support the efforts to improve Cardiff Central Station but in some ways, I am more concerned with my local halt, because that is where people get out of bed to go to at 7:50 in the morning to get a train into Cardiff and cannot actually get on the train. The platform is long enough but there are not enough coaches provided by Arriva Trains. In addition, they will not buy any rolling stock until the Metro scheme is approved. And that might never happen or it might be so slow it could take years.

Therefore, I think with the LDP coming up now, Leader, it is all the more important that we make representations. In addition, could I ask you, please, to do that to reinforce the representations to whoever – Arriva Trains, Welsh Government, and Network Rail – to just see what can be done to make sure that they're aware; they anticipate the problems before they become a crisis.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

I absolutely agree that we need to engage with operators. As I said earlier, in terms of the statutory responsibility for rail infrastructure funding in Wales, that still lies under the Railways Act 2005, in terms of some of the responsibilities there.

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

How much has Cardiff to find to put into the City Deal?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

In terms of the City Deal, I do believe it is important and valuable not just to the city but to the wider region. In terms of the funding, we are still working through some of the more detailed financial implications of that. However, I do not think this is just about money. It has never been about money – it is about developing a broader regional strategy that drives forward jobs, drives forward opportunities for our region, which is vitally important.

**Question:** *County Councillor Marshall*

Do you agree that the road network in Cardiff is now at critical capacity and how are you addressing this?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

No, I do not agree.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Marshall*

The reason I asked this question is that I have daily complaints about the number 11 bus. So I wrote to Cardiff Bus about this and their response was, I will make it brief, “the layout and lane priorities of the junction of Glossop Terrace and Newport Road has been changed. This has significantly affected services. On average, it is taking our buses twice as long. More generally, the level of traffic in the city’s road network continues to worsen. The road network is increasingly at critical capacity.”

Cardiff Bus that came from them, you are saying you do not agree with me. Obviously, Cardiff Bus feels differently.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

Clearly, what we have to make very clear is congestion can be expected to occur at any commuting peak times and other periods in a very successful city as the size of Cardiff, which is continuing to grow. As you are aware, Cardiff is very different to west Wales.

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

You may disagree, but I have written recently to the Highways Department and told them it took me an hour and 45 minutes to get from my home in Old St Mellons to get to Penarth, leaving before – well before – eight o’clock. That cannot be right in a city the size of Cardiff. In addition, it took me 45 minutes to go less than a mile. It was total gridlock on the A48, Eastern Avenue, Newport Road, and A4232. I could get to Birmingham in an hour and 45 minutes on a good run.

I am afraid you are wrong and it is quite absurd of you to deny that the city, at times, is at gridlock. We have another 35,000 houses coming and you are pretending that there is no gridlock.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

I am not trying to pretend at all. What you have to understand there are accidents that occur on the main roads. In addition, when they do, like the example you have given, that is when sometimes there is a gridlock, and that happens in any major city. And you cannot avoid that, unfortunately. As I said earlier on, I have been to London and there are lots – it is a big city – there is lots of congestion there. Therefore, it is one of those things.

However, I think what is important here, the transport improvements required to support the city’s growth are documented in both the Local Transport Plan and the Local Development Plan. The sustainable travel improvements in these plans will give greater people opportunity to choose to walk, cycle, and travel by public transport rather than private car. In addition, unfortunately, your group voted the LDP down. In addition, because you voted the LDP down, you do not wish people to walk – you want everyone to drive everywhere. That is the problem.

**Question:** *County Councillor Keith Jones*

Can the Leader provide an update on the redevelopment of Llanrumney Hall?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

I pay tribute to the work the Llanrumney Councillors have been doing in terms of restoring Llanrumney Hall with the Llanrumney Hall Trust.

As you know, they are now the leaseholders of that building and they operate and intend to operate the building for community sport and leisure uses.

The lease includes a clause that provides a three-year period for the Trust to undertake works to refurbish the building.

The Trust has been awaiting the outcome of a grant application to Welsh Government. However, the Trust along with the support of yourselves has enjoyed a commitment now – irrespective of the outcome of their application – which they will commence work early in the New Year and complete within one year ready for the local community to enjoy.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Keith Jones*

What opportunities does the Leader think this redevelopment of Llanrumney Hall will offer not just Llanrumney but Cardiff, this historic building, and how can we ensure that it is utilised by as many people as possible?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

I have been to the building. I have seen inside. It is a fantastic facility with great potential. In addition, I think the location actually does mean it is well placed in terms of acting as a hub not just for the immediate community of Llanrumney, but broader afield. And I am sure that the trust itself, working alongside the Council and yourselves and the local community will make sure that the investment that is made in that community but for lots of different communities across the city.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Margaret Jones*

Would you agree that Councillor Bowen of the last Lib Dem-Plaid administration had a lot of foresight when he was looking at Llanrumney Hall?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bale*

I cannot comment on previous Councillors. I've only dealt with this issue more recently and I've been very impressed with Steve Borley and the individuals who have really taken a personal interest in this project because they're from that community, they see the potential of that building, and they want to work with people that they grew up with in that area to make this asset the best value it can be for the community going forward.

**Question:** *County Councillor Boyle*



The transport assessment for the proposed new Howardian Primary School claims, “there is no reason to suggest that the proposal would give rise to road-safety issues.” Does the Cabinet Member really believe there is no reason?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

The independent transport assessment considered the existing site context of the proposed new Howardian Primary School. As set out in the assessment, any issues that arise because of the increased traffic and transport in the area in connection with the new school can be mitigated and managed effectively in line with national and local policies.

The School Organisation Planning team are working closely with the Highways and Planning departments in order to assess the potential impact of new school. There is careful consideration of active travel methods/routes to schools to minimise additional car use and the impact on residents at drop off/pick up times. The safety of our children travelling to and from school is a clearly a priority.

Obviously, equally, there is an important role for governors in developing active travel plans for their schools.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Boyle*

We desperately need this school but, as you quite rightly say, children’s safety is paramount. Now, as you point out, the consultant’s transport assessment says there is no road-safety issue in these proposals. Yet a transport assessment that has been produced by Highways catalogues the very problems that we predicted when we first wrote back in 2014.

So, as things stand, which are we to believe? Is the transport assessment by the consultant right, or is the report by the Highways department right? Do you believe there are road-safety issues attached to the proposals as it stands or not?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

If I refer you back to my answer, Joe, it actually says, “any issues that arise as a result of the increased traffic and transport in the area in connection with the new school can be mitigated”. It would be naïve to suggest the creation of any new school would create no issues. However, it is the fact that they feel they can be addressed and mitigated.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Weaver*

In your answer, you referred to active-travel planning for people going to school. That is the best way of reducing any traffic problems is to get people, wherever possible, to walk or cycle or scoot to school. And I just wonder if I can ask, the next time you address the heads of governors or of a governors meeting, which you do regularly, could you push that and encourage governing bodies to make contact with groups

like Living Streets and Sustrans and other organisations that can help schools do exactly that.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

Yes. If there are any school governors here, Living Streets are an organisation that are definitely worth making contact with.

**Question:** *County Councillor Robson*

What attempts were made to get a Christmas tree sponsored for this Christmas?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bradbury*

I can confirm that the Council actively pursued all of the sponsorship opportunities associated with the city centre "Christmas in Cardiff" offer this year with the same vigour as it has always done.

The decision to put in place an illuminated artificial structure had nothing to do with affordability or lack of a sponsor.

Perhaps all of the publicity that has been created around the issue this year will raise the profile of the tree and we will be more successful in landing a naming rights sponsor next year.

No doubt, you would have heard the positive feedback we have received about the lighted reindeer outside the Castle

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Robson*

I find this whole thing bizarre that this Council is surprised by Christmas. It just seems to be so strange to this Council that actually, in a month's time, we might want a tree that people can come and have a look at. In addition, of course, we get it from China, which seems even more bizarre when there are so many local businesses in Cardiff, in Wales, further afield in the UK that we could get, get sponsorship for, or as Councillor Cowan managed to do get perhaps a smaller tree, but a tree donated to the city nevertheless without much effort.

I find the strategy here very strange, and I think it shows how bad the relationships of this executive with the city businesses are that we have ended up with the farce that we have had over the last few weeks.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bradbury*

On your last point, actually Admiral are providing sponsorship for the Winter Wonderland outside, and they provided it last year for the tree.

The issue here is we think this tree will be fantastic. Once you see it, and the residents of Cardiff see it, it will be great. I counted, incidentally, as there is all this

talk there is no tree in the city centre yet – I counted six trees through St David's Centre as I walked through.

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

When is the Christmas tree going to arrive?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bradbury*

Soon I hope. In all seriousness, the tree only cost us £30,000 over three years. That is the equivalent of £10,000 a year.

Last year's tree cost, even with the sponsorship, cost £15,000. Therefore, we are making a saving on the tree.

**Question:** *County Councillor McEvoy*

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the former recycling centre site at Waungron Road?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

Since our meeting in March, detailed design of the Cardiff West Transport Interchange hub scheme has been completed and planning consent has been obtained.

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

Is the Cabinet Member confident that the £500,000 allocated for Waungron Road represents value for money, given its past use?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

I am confident that this is going to be a huge benefit to the communities of Cardiff. What everyone in this chamber also needs to understand is that you have not put in an objection to the Planning Department regarding the Cardiff West Transport Interchange in Waungron Road. Therefore, it is very clear that you must support this; otherwise, you would have objected to the application.

**Question:** *County Councillor McGarry*

Can the Cabinet Member responsible give an update on the amount of rubbish that has been cleared during the latest cleaning blitz in Plasnewydd?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

The cleaning blitz in the Plasnewydd Ward took place during the week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> October and saw the team's clean 31 streets with 4.63 tonnes of waste being removed and recycled where possible.

The streets targeted included Oakfield Street, Partridge Road, Elm Street, Wordsworth Avenue, Oxford Lane, Vere Street, Byron Street, Milton Street, Talworth Street to name but a few, with the bottom part of City Road also being cleansed before rush hour.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor McGarry*

I am very grateful for the blitz. I think it has made a lot of difference. But, with thanks to Keep Roath Tidy and the Roath Residents Group, who are involved in picking up litter on a regular basis, what I'd like to do is try and get to the bottom of why people are dropping litter and trying to educate people more not to drop litter and if we could have a visible presence showing that they will be fined if they drop litter and fine everyone who drops litter then we'll stop it happening again.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Yes, I think we would all like to discover why people drop litter because I am sure none of us in this chamber do. However, it does go on – it goes on all over the UK. What we have done to try to mitigate it as best we can is I have employed two new enforcement teams specifically for that purpose. They will be going round the city, and already going round the city, taking enforcement action. In addition, I think that is the only way some people will learn, unfortunately.

And I look forward to helping, when we get to Plasnewydd again for the next round of the blitz, appreciating the help and support that we get from both local Councillors and the volunteer groups.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Rea*

It was with great anticipation that the blitz came to Plasnewydd. However, among members of Keep Roath Tidy, which I am one, we really looked forward to it – “great it's going to be finally cleaned up.”

Yet, the section that was done – well, most of the members when I was on the litter pick the week after that thought they could have done more themselves in half the time.

So, given how small an area of our ward – one of the largest wards in the city in terms of number of streets – was covered... I know you have said you cannot tell me immediately, but could you try to work out how long it is going to take to get round the whole ward? Because my residents and members of Keep Roath Tidy really do want to know that.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Yes, of course there is always work to do. In addition, I am sure that the people who went and picked up the litter did it probably quite quickly.

However, you do not seem to understand what the blitz was. Perhaps you were not one of those people who went out and helped. The blitz is talking about a proper deep clean. That was where people actually went round individually, clearing out the gutters, cleaning in between the cracks in the pavement. It was not something about just picking up litter.

**Question:** *County Councillor Woodman*

Will the Cabinet Member advise if she is content with current quality checks following repairs to Council-owned properties, and will such quality checks be increased once the commissioning for Housing Repairs and Maintenance and Disabled Adaptations phase one is up and running as per Cabinet report 21/11/16?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

Post quality inspections are undertaken by the Council's technical officers, and the results analysed monthly to identify concerns requiring remedial action. Issues are then raised with contractors at scheduled contract management meetings. Given that 90% of responsive repairs are now undertaken in-house, quality checks also take place on their outputs.

We also do customer telephone surveys each month to ensure satisfaction with the overall repairs service. We have a satisfaction rate to date of 88% this year. In addition, that exceeds the service area target.

In addition, the new contractual arrangements will contain performance measures for quality of work. Contractors failing to meet the set standards will be subject to financial penalties, whilst serious breaches may result in termination of the framework.

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

Thank you very much for that reply, and I'm heartened to hear it because there have been quite a few problems in my ward where repairs have been inadequate and they've had to come back and come back and come back.

When you say that the new one will also carry out checks and there will be financial penalties, will you give a commitment to report to Members twice yearly if any contractors do suffer from those financial penalties and if you do withdraw their contracts, please? Because it is very frustrating for us and, at the end of the day, there is a Council tenant on the end of this bad performance.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

You're absolutely right, Councillor Woodman, and as you and I know, in terms of conversations and correspondence, and across the chamber of course, these issues can be very distressing for individual tenants. Therefore, I am happy to give that commitment to report half-yearly.

**Question:** *County Councillor Andrew Graham*

Will the Council commit to undertake the essential work required to fix the regular flooding problems at the Thornhill football pitches on Glenmount Way, which frequently render the pitches unusable for scheduled football matches and other recreational users?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bradbury*

Discussions have taken place with representatives from the resident club, Thornhill FC, in respect to the draining issues on the site. We have commissioned an assessment from a sports turf specialist in order to identify solutions to address the current problem and will continue to work with the club. In addition, I know local Councillors have been involved with conversations with Officers on this as well.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Andrew Graham*

The residents of Thornhill pay some of the highest Council Tax rates in the city. Bearing that in mind, would the Cabinet Member agree with me that the residents of Thornhill do not receive an equitable share of the expenditure undertaken by this Council.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bradbury*

I would not agree with you on that. I think this question is all around providing better sporting facilities for your community, which I am all for sitting down with Members from any political persuasion from any ward to discuss that particular issue.

However, on the broader philosophical point, no, I do not think the people of Thornhill have it any harder than the people of Caerau and Ely or anywhere else.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Hunt*

It's a subject that comes up in many PACT meetings, where a whole wide range of issues related to Glenmount Way are discussed, including the play area, including the parking there, and also including the pitches as well.

Part of the difficulty we do have, certainly in north Cardiff, is something that is shared all around the city I think is the difficulty of excessive rain and flooding and the difficulty we have with our pitches. I would just like an assurance, if possible, from the Cabinet Member that the situation regarding Thornhill is being considered seriously and Glenmount Way is being considered seriously and what solutions he may think or may have projected for it.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bradbury*

On your last point, I am happy to work with Local Members on finding a solution to this problem. It is a problem, as you have mentioned, that is widespread right across the city. In addition, we have lost many many games of football over the last couple

of years because of poor weather right across the city. Trelai Park is no less affected, I suspect, than Thornhill up in your patch.

I can give a commitment to meet with Local Members and the Sports Development Officer, and see what we can do. However, I am sure I have had Councillor Jones pushing for 4G facilities in his ward; we have 4G coming in our ward, everywhere. The future is that. It is finding the money to do it. In addition, I think we need to discuss ways to make sure we have a sustainable future for our municipal football clubs and parks. Otherwise, we are going to continue to have this problem of losing matches year in year out.

**Question:** *County Councillor Mitchell*

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that there was never any consideration to close Channel View leisure centre?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bradbury*

As I stated clearly at the last Council meeting, and numerous times in social media and in public and on the doorsteps, and am happy to repeat again, there has never been any consideration by the Cabinet to close Channel View Leisure Centre.

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

You have just confirmed that this was never, ever considered. It has never been discussed in Cabinet. It has never been put forward in papers. It has never been even remotely considered.

Then can you explain why that appeared in literature during recent by-elections and what you did to rebut that shameful thing? It has not happened just in this ward – in my ward, my ward colleagues have claimed to have saved Cantonian, Peter Lea, St Mary Immaculate – schools that were never discussed to be closed or ever under threat. Now this sort of thing causes issues because, if you are sending parents to that school, it causes issues for the schools to make those false claims. Similarly, don't you agree the staff in Channel View and residents were unfairly worried by this clearly misleading and inaccurate statement?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Bradbury*

I cannot explain why. I think that is for the party who were putting that information to explain why they put that out.

Sadly, it was put out in an awful lot of houses in Grangetown. Many of the staff in Channel View were very worried about it. Contrary to what was put out, investment has gone into Channel View. It is remaining inside Council control because it makes fiscal sense to remain in Council control and strategic sense because of the fact that there is a road that leads up to the water centre.

I will say this: I do not think the Member who won the election was necessarily behind it. I think his Leader may well have had something to do with it. In addition, I think he made a great and gracious speech earlier on and I welcome him to the chamber.

**Point of personal explanation:** *County Councillor Mitchell*

The new Member of the chamber gave a very courteous speech and this is not directed at him. He knows that full well. And I wish him well. And I hope he is sincere in his intentions to work with the rest of us, so I welcome you to the chamber.

**Question:** *County Councillor Sanders*

Will the Cabinet Member set out the details for Operation Mistletoe this year including its funding streams and launch date?

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

As of course you will be aware, Operation Mistletoe is an annual package of multi-agency interventions around the city centre to cope with the increased demand and footfall into Cardiff over the festive period. That ranges from urinal facilities, extra support for our taxi marshals, to closing roads and are a visible benefit to residents, business, and visitors.

It is funded by ourselves, South Wales Police, and for the first time by the Cardiff Business District. In addition, it is one of the first initiatives ever to be funded in this way and it of course launches in a week or two's time.

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

As you can imagine, I welcome Operation Mistletoe happening again and recognise, as you said, the partnership work that takes place to keep the city centre safe, clean, and generally a great place to spend leisure time in.

However, it is a concern, as we found in the CASSC Task and Finish report about the resource pressures for such partnership initiatives. So, could I ask you to commit, as set out in one of our report recommendations to identify sustainable funding so that every year there is an Operation Mistletoe, without the annual worry it may not be rolled out?

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

I am absolutely committed to doing everything I can to ensure that Operation Mistletoe carries on being the success that it is. I think with the extra funding from the BID, I think that its future is certainly secure for several years to come.

**Question:** *County Councillor Boyle*

In the forthcoming cold winter months, will the council review the possibility of gritting the Taff Trail in the interests of cycle safety?



**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

Yes, we are looking to do so as part of our commitment to promote cycling in the city.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Boyle*

Great. Could you give more details?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

Obviously, there are physical constraints of access and the nature of the path, which is quite narrow. However, we are investigating his use of smaller vehicles, such as carts or quad bikes, to actually put the material down on the Taff Trail.

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

One of my constituents got in touch very indignant because he had fallen off his bicycle on the Taff Trail because of slippery leaves. In addition, he said, given that it is Cardiff Council policy to induce people onto bicycles, why do not they sweep the leaves off the Taff Trail.

Therefore, I asked the Waste Management department and was told that the reason was that they do not have any equipment that was capable of doing the job. In addition, in my naïveté, I passed it on to my constituent, who said, "well, they had a sweeper that did it last year and the year before. Don't they have any road sweepers anymore?" What should I tell him now?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

Obviously, this is something that I am going to have to work with my colleagues within Highways and of course with my Cabinet colleague over there. Therefore, I will certainly talk to him about all these things.

**Question:** *County Councillor Hudson*

Can you explain why Cardiff Council spent the most of all Welsh councils on credit cards at £5.4m between 2015/16 in comparison to £779k it spent four years earlier?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Hinchey*

Let me first correct you. These are government payment cards, not credit cards. They are commonly used on low-value items and no interest is paid. These represent good value for our tax payers.

The Council receives a monthly bill, which is strictly audited in-house and repayments are made on a monthly basis by each service area that uses them.

The increased use of these cards by the Council over recent years follows a policy change that aims to stop low-value items being procured through an internal logistics

network, which is a more expensive way to buy low-value goods and services. They also help to increase the efficiency of our workforce by delivering services directly to our customers, rather than operating from a depot.

The practice is in line with other local authorities in Wales. In addition, I have read the Taxpayers Alliance, which I presume you are referring to. And I also note the recent Taxpayers report on this issue also shows that Monmouth Council had a 1072% increase in payment on their spending cards, which is double the increase in Cardiff in half the time.

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

I was just wondering if I could have a breakdown of items, say, over £200 in one go under certain headings like fuel, travel, food, etc. Because I am not sure where the credit card is going up in those increments. I do not understand why the sudden increase.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Hinchey*

This is not a credit card; it is a government payment card that is used. Let me just give you an example: CMS, our Community Maintenance Service, use it to procure goods that go directly to our house owners or other examples would be directly to them to do the job.

Previously, you will remember that we had housing maintenance depots where we had to run a logistics organisation and order things in and pay for them. However, we are not in that game now. All big organisations procure in this way and all authorities. If you read the Taxpayers Alliance report more thoroughly, you will see that all organisations are doing this in the same way.

In addition, if you look at examples in Pembroke, for example, over the same period has procured £26.4m on their government payment cards. They are a much smaller authority. Cardiff is the largest organisation in Wales and the largest council, and we are fourth on that list. We are behind Swansea, we are behind other authorities.

Rather than put a lot of work on Officers for something that may be simple to answer, I am more than happy to sit down with and go through things. However, they are credit cards; they are payment cards where the goods – it may be a tap, it may be an electrical item – goes directly to the customer and that is a far better way of working.

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

When will the cycling strategy be ready for consultation with interested groups and members of the public?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

Full public consultation on the draft cycling strategy is programmed to start in the New Year following consideration by the Council's Cabinet.

Engagement with stakeholder groups and members of the public has formed an essential part of the process to produce a new cycling strategy for the city.

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

The cycling strategy will be consulted in the New Year. That means that the current cabinet will have been talking about a cycling strategy for over two and a half years. Why has it taking so long to produce a strategy? Because cyclists in this city are rapidly coming to the conclusion that the Cabinet and the administration is not serious about cycling that we cannot produce a strategy in two and three quarter years, how are we actually going to do anything about cycling in this city and how are we going to get to a 50/50 modal split?

The strategy just says what you are going to do. You then have to go and do it. As far as I am concerned, that is five years wasted.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Patel*

I don't consider it to be wasted at all and the strategy, I can go through it in detail and I probably won't be given time to do it but engagement to date has included stakeholder workshops in the summer and autumn; engagement with secondary pupils at their schools; and engagement with members of the public on Car Free Day; stakeholder workshop facilitated by the world some of the best architects, which is Ghel Architects, was held in June and September; with external workshops attended by representations from cycling, public-sector partners, higher-education institutions, retailers, and businesses.

This engagement identified the key themes that will be addressed by the cycling strategy. Council Officers undertook engagement with secondary schools in collaboration with Sustrans as part of the Active Journeys programme funded by the Welsh Government. Engagement with the public was undertaken at a stand at Park Place during Car Free day. Full public consultation will comprise online questionnaires, public events, stakeholder workshops, and further activities at Fitzalan High School and Ysgol Plasmawr.

In addition, what is important: we have just had a briefing and a presentation from Ghel Architects at Cabinet very recently over the last few days. Therefore, there is certainly nothing being wasted. We are doing it properly – that is the difference. Things do not happen overnight. These things have to be done properly. If we are going to start doing just a lip service then that is no good. Let us do it properly and deliver it properly.

**Question:** *County Councillor Clark*

Please could you state how many people are signed up to the:

- (i) new tidy text service on 60163 and what are the initial set up and annual costs of running the scheme for the Council;

- (ii) new Binfo Cardiff service and what are the initial set up and annual costs of running the scheme for the Council.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

To date, 6,700 people have been subscribed to the new Tidy Text service, 5,200 to Binfo Cardiff, and 3,350 have signed up to the new email reminder.

A total of 15,303 subscribers to these services and the figure is growing each month.

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

You have not answered all the question: I asked what the initial setup and annual costs of running the new Tidy Text and the Binfo service were. So can I have those replies, please?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Under the old system, it was costing us £43,000 a year. Under the new system, its £6000 to set up the text and the remainder at is £10,000.

**Question:** *County Councillor Graham Thomas*

The Council has a Charter with all their hard working community councils. I attend two of these and every month they both complain bitterly about the lack of communication from the Council, which renders the Community Charter meaningless. What steps are taken to ensure that our Officers are updated and fully aware of the Charter?

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

As you know, I hold community councils in the highest of esteem. They do some great work out in our communities. I am always keen to hear any issues they are experiencing we might be able to assist with. I have not been approached by them personally but I get a kind of inkling that the issues you allude to might involve planning, SIL, Section 106 money – you asked a question on this matter a few months ago.

If there is anything I can assist with, or Councillor Patel, we would be happy to help. Alternatively, the Councillor we can see if we can try to resolve the issues that the Councils are experiencing.

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

I think the question really relates to general communication between the community councils and the county council, or the lack of it. In addition, I asked the question really out of respect, which I hope you hold as well, for the Community Councils.

At a time when the Council are looking for alternative methods, we should be embracing them and encouraging their hard work that they all put in on a voluntary basis. In addition, we do have a new Monitoring Officer here with us today and, for example, it is important to note that only this month I was told of an Operational Manager that was very unaware of the charter. Unaware of it.

It is not a criticism of our Operational Managers for one second but what assurances can you give me that, next time I ask one of them, I will not get the same response?

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

I am very sorry to hear that has happened. As you will know, the charter's due to be refreshed, hopefully, not in the distant future. In addition, when that happens, we have various mechanisms of disseminating information through the Officer machine, electronically, and that is discussed at team briefings. Therefore, absolutely, Officers in this organisation will be aware of the charter, of community councils, and what they are expected to do and how to act with them.

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

The Wallich Rough Sleepers Intervention Team has reported a 29% increase in the third quarter of 2016 compared to the third quarter of 2015. There are now 25-36 people sleeping rough in Cardiff every night. What are the reasons for the increase and what is the Council doing to tackle this increasing problem?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

You will know the absolute importance that I attach to this issue.

The number of people sleeping rough has been an increasing trend since April 2014, when benefit entitlements were restricted for some European Economic Area migrants. Other changes worsening the situation include welfare reform, benefit sanctions, loss of employment, and family breakdown.

The Homeless Service works extremely proactively with partners to address what are often complex problems to ensure that individuals are supported.

In October alone, 10 people were resettled. Indeed, in the past 12 months, the new reconnection team has supported 52 people to return safely to friends and family, either abroad or to their own local authority within the UK.

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

I would like to congratulate Council staff and yourself for all that you are doing to mediate this increasing trend across UK cities.

I think Councillors across this chamber who belong to the current UK government have to take full responsibility for this increase in homelessness. I am sorry that some of those Councillors perhaps do not agree with the current UK policy but would

you agree that policy has meant that more homeless people are finding it difficult to live in homes and therefore have to live on the street? In addition, we can see it daily across our city as we cycle, walk and travel from County Hall to our homes.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

I absolutely agree. If we compare ourselves in terms of Cardiff, Wales with the situation in England, homelessness has risen by 54% since 2010 in England, in London by 79%.

In addition, I think the one thing that, as I said, I will take back your congratulations to Officers because I think our work in this area is exemplary. Welsh Government sees us as that really, really sort of best practice example. In addition, of course, people coming from as far afield as Australia last year were delighted in the work we are doing. We have to do more of it but, in keeping with my aim, I think our goal, which is to eradicate rough sleeping as far as possible from Cardiff.

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

Councillor Elsmore, could you recommend to Councillor Cook that if his bike can take him abroad, he travels and looks to see what happens in other cities? I have recently come back and seen numerous people sleeping homelessly in Cologne and in Amsterdam and in Heidelberg. Last year, I saw, if you did not Charles De Gaulle Airport overnight, you will see hundreds of people sleeping in that airport. In addition, that is a socialist country. If you go to even more socialist Russia and China, you will find millions of them sleeping on the streets. This is not a problem caused by the Conservative government, however ingeniously you might seek to pretend it is.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Elsmore*

It is a slightly tricky issue responding to a question, comments Councillor through me was trying to make to my erstwhile colleague Councillor Cook. I am concentrating on the problems and issues for Cardiff and looking, Councillor McKerlich, to solve very, very serious and entrenched issues. In addition, I think your government has to take some of the share of the blame.

**Question:** *County Councillor Chaundy*

Is there a "list" of school buildings prioritised by criteria of specific condition or "suitability as school buildings" and have those considered to be the worst primary schools building stock on the "list" been brought to the attention of Councillors?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

There is no list in the format that you are asking.

The Council holds condition and suitability information for all school buildings. That information is currently being reviewed and further surveys are being commissioned.

If you have any specific, more detailed questions you want to ask outside the chamber.

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

Are you able to confirm that you have met with both the Anglican and Catholic dioceses to establish those schools that are in need are on a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools money in whatever list that might be? Because there are, some that are in particular need.

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

As I stated, the condition list that we have is being reviewed and we are doing further surveys. I suspect you are thinking about the band B funding. We are in the process of getting information together about the condition of our schools and, hopefully, I should be able to give some information in the near future about how the strategy will develop over the next few months.

**Question:** *County Councillor Stubbs*

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the measures that the Council is taking to improve educational standards across the city?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

Since 2012, we have been acting to improve education in Cardiff by:

- Building partnerships between schools, business, communities, and institutions, including encouraging members from those communities to go on to school governing bodies
- Enabling schools to lead improvement across the system and developing a “self-improving” school system
- Improving data and performance management and transparent use of data
- Improving attendance and reducing exclusions
- Closing the gap
- And of course working with the consortium

Building on this we have developed our Cardiff 2020 strategy for education going forward with the ambition that every school in Cardiff will be a “great school”. The key goals are:

- Excellent outcomes for all learners
- A high-quality workforce
- 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments
- A self-improving school system
- Schools and Cardiff in partnership

For those Members who have not had a chance to read the document, I would really strongly encourage them to do so. Education is such an important issue for our school.

Obviously, also, we are working with our Education Development Board, which oversees the delivery of the Cardiff 2020, providing strategic direction, support, and challenge to all our partners.

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Stubbs*

We are all aware how important it is we have the best schools we can. I am very proud to be a governor at Willows High School, one of the fastest improving schools anywhere in Wales, if not the fastest. However, the measures you have just laid out – can you spell out what impact they have had and how much our schools have improved, I don't know say, since May 2012?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

I am certainly not suggesting that we have solved all of our problems in our education system, but just to have a comparison about how we have compared to the rest of Wales over that period, in 2012/13 on most criteria we were below the Welsh average. Currently, we are above the Welsh average on most of those criteria.

So if we take the foundation phase outcome indicator, at the end of year 2, not only have we improved performance by eight percentage points, we've gone from a ranking of 18 – Cardiff was 18<sup>th</sup> in Wales – to seven.

For the core subject indicator, a similar improvement of seven percent. We have gone from below the Welsh average to above the Welsh average and up six places. We were 17<sup>th</sup>. Now, I don't think 11<sup>th</sup> is good enough for Cardiff but why were we at 17<sup>th</sup> on that?

**Supplementary question:** *County Councillor Boyle*

Could you provide your analysis of the effect the pupil premium, or pupil deprivation grant, had on closing the gap?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Merry*

I am supportive of the pupil premium. Anything that recognises the fact that some of our schools in our city have particular issues due to the poverty and deprivation those children experience in their home lives. I go to some primary schools where the head teacher will have soap powder and household supplies under their desk to try to help needy families.

Some Members have complained about the disparity in the per-pupil funding. Actually, we need that funding to address the deprivation at home, narrow that gap, and give the children in Cardiff the best chance.



114 : URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

115 : APPOINTMENT TO TEMPORARY GOVERNING BODIES

The Council was requested to approve the recommendations for the Parent Governor appointments to Cardiff West Community High School.

RESOLVED – That Council

- (1) the appointment of Ms Joanne Howell to the non-teaching staff governor position as her skills and experience match those required by the temporary governing body was approved;
- (2) requests that the temporary governing body consider co-opting Peter Hunt to one or more of its sub-committees to access his skills and expertise.

116 : APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Council was requested to approve the recommendations of the Local Authority Governor Panel 8 November 2016.

RESOLVED – That

1. the following appointments be approved to existing vacancies

School	Ward	Start of Vacancy	Applications received
Baden Powell Primary School 2 x vacancies	Splott	17/09/2016 17/09/2016	
Bryn Hafod Primary School	Llanrumney	19/05/2016	
Creigiau Primary School	Creigiau	08/10/2016	
Danescourt Primary School 2 x vacancies	Danescourt	01/09/2016 01/09/2016	
Ely and Caerau Children's Centre	Ely	14/07/2016	
Glan Yr Afon Primary School	Llanrumney	13/10/2015	Les Maxim
Grangetown Nursery School	Grangetown	02/09/2016	
Grangetown	Grangetown	16/09/2016	

Primary School			
Hawthorn Primary School 2 x vacancies	Llandaff North	10/05/2016 26/09/2016	Steven Chadwell Paul Rock
Marlborough Primary School	Penylan	10/05/2016	Rodney Berman
Meadowlane Primary School	Trowbridge	02/09/2016	Dawn Mitchell-Williams
Moorland Primary School	Splott	26/09/2016	
Oakfield Primary School	Trowbridge	04/03/2015	
Pencaerau Primary School	Caerau	01/09/2010	
Pentrebane Primary School	Fairwater	27/06/2016	
Peter Lea Primary School	Fairwater	27/06/2016	
Rhiwbina Primary School	Rhiwbina	18/10/2016	
Riverbank Special School 2 x vacancies	Caerau	13/06/2016 29/06/2016	
St John Lloyd RC Primary School	Trowbridge	30/01/2013	
St Patrick's RC Primary School	Grangetown	16/09/2016	
The Hollies School	Pentwyn	26/09/2016	
Trelai Primary School	Caerau	13/09/2016	
Thornhill Primary School	Llanishen	22/06/2015	Jackie Jones
Trowbridge Primary School	Trowbridge	11/02/2016	Mike Thomas
Whitchurch High School	Whitchurch	11/09/2016	Nicola Davies
Whitchurch Primary School 3 x vacancies	Whitchurch	01/09/2016 25/10/2016 25/10/2016	Sarah Lewis Mike Phillips Nicola Davies
Windsor Clive Primary School	Ely	23/03/2016	
Woodlands High School 2 x vacancies	Caerau	10/12/2015 29/09/2016	
Ysgol Glan Ceubal	Llandaff North	01/10/2016	
Ysgol Glan Morfa	Splott	29/01/2014	Anne Hughes

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr	Fairwater	25/09/2006	Gareth Owens
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern 2 x vacancies	Penylan	27/01/2016 27/09/2016	Nick Speed Gaynor Williams
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	Fairwater	22/10/2015	
Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd X 2 vacancies	Whitchurch	21/11/2015 04/10/2016	
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf	Llandaff North	25/10/2016	
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	Gabalfa	16/12/2015	Rhys Taylor
Ysgol Pen Y Pil	Trowbridge	11/09/2013	Michael Jones
Ysgol Pen Y Groes 2 x vacancies	Pentwyn	01/09/2012 28/09/2016	Ailsa Newton
Ysgol Pencae	Llandaff	01/09/2016	
Ysgol y Berllan Deg	Pentwyn	29/02/2016	Rhodri Asby

2. the following appointments be approved to future Local Authority vacancies

School	Ward	Start of Vacancy	Applications Received
Bryn Celyn Primary School	Pentwyn	13/12/16	Cllr Keith Hyde
Fitzalan High School	Canton	19/12/16	
Herbert Thompson Primary School	Ely	20/01/17	
Thornhill Primary School	Llanishen	01/02/17	ynne Schofield
Pontpennau Primary School	Pontpennau	01/01/17	
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Eirwg	Llanrumney	01/02/17	
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	Canton	01/02/17	

#### 117 : POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Council received a report setting out the current political balance arrangements and identifying the Committee vacancies. The Party Group nominations to vacancies on Committee were included on the amendment sheet.

RESOLVED – That

1. note the change in the political composition of the Council as set out in the report; and
2. the appointment of Councillor Keith Jones to fill the vacancy on the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee was approved.

118 : APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council was requested to consider the appointment of Council representatives to Outside Bodies under the Local Choice functions in accordance with nominations received from Party Groups as set out on the amendment sheet.

It was noted no nominations had been submitted.

RESOLVED – That Party Group consider nominations to bring forward to the next meeting.

(The meeting closed at 9.50pm)

119 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How many Cardiff council play centre centres were there in Cardiff on May 3rd 2012?

How many were there on November 3rd 2016?

Reply

In May 2012, there were 7 play centres (Adamsdown, Ely, Grangetown, Llanedeyrn, Llanrumney, Riverside and Splott).

The same number of play centres were in operation on 3rd November 2016, including Llanedeyrn Play Centre that was recently transferred to the 1st Pentwyn Scout Group.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

Can you list the Cardiff Council play centres, youth centres and youth clubs in existence on May 3rd 2012 and those still existing on 03/11/16?

Reply

In terms of play centres, I would refer you to the answer provided to the previous Written Question.

As of 3rd November 2016, the Council supports 20 youth clubs/projects – either managing these directly or through a Youth Innovation Grant – and 6 youth centres as follows:

#### Youth Clubs/Projects

Secured open access provision by alternative providers via Youth Innovation Grant:

Caerau – Cardiff City Foundation  
Cathays – Cathays Youth and Community Project  
Ely – Cardiff City Foundation  
Fairwater/Pentrebane – ACE  
Gabalfa – Ministry of Life  
Grangetown – SRCDC & Girls and Boys Clubs of Wales  
Llanishen – Cardiff City Foundation  
Llanrumney – Full Circle  
Plasnewydd – YMCA  
Radyr – YMCA  
Riverside – SRCDC & Girls and Boys Clubs of Wales  
Rumney – Cardiff City Foundation  
Tremorfa – Ministry of Life  
Whitchurch – YMCA  
Welsh Medium Provision – Urdd

Targeted inclusive youth support provided by the Council:

Inclusive Youth Work provision – Ely (Trelai)  
Inclusive Youth Work provision – Cathays  
Inclusive Youth Work provision – Gabalfa  
Young Carers provision  
Deaf Youth Club

#### Youth Centres/Youth Activity Centres

Butetown Pavilion  
Eastmoors Youth Centre  
Grassroots  
North Ely Youth Centre  
Powerhouse, Llanedeyrn  
St Mellons Youth Centre

In addition, the Council provides:

6 area based street based/outreach youth work teams;  
Youth mentors who are engaged with all secondary schools in Cardiff; and  
4 Youth Mentors working with post-16 young people not in education, employment of training.

The Council's Active Involvement Team also works closely with the Cardiff Youth Council in undertaking participative work within communities across the city.

Back in May 2012, the Council supported 3 part-time, one night a week youth clubs and 20 youth centres in Cardiff. Whilst we are no longer directly providing a service at the locations listed below, we are continuing to support youth provision through Youth Innovation Grants and working with partner organisations in most of these communities, as can be seen from the list of current youth clubs/projects provided above.

Buzz Café, Grangetown  
Creigiau (part-time)  
Dusty Forge, Ely  
Fitzalan – closed & transferred to Riverside Warehouse  
Gwaelod-y-Garth (part-time)  
Heol Hir Youth Centre  
Howardian Youth Centre  
Llanrumney Youth Centre  
Pentwyn Dome  
Rumney Youth Centre  
Radyr Youth Centre  
Riverside Warehouse  
Trelai Youth Centre  
Ty Celyn Centre  
Waterhall Youth Centre  
Whitchurch Youth Centre  
WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How many hours in Grangetown Play Centre were funded per week in May 2012 and now?

How many hours per week will be funded after April 2017?

Reply

In May 2012, Grangetown Play Centre would have been open for 20 hours per week and 30 hours per week during holiday periods, except for those weeks that included a bank holiday, which is the current situation now. It would be wrong of me to state how many hours will be funded after April 2017 as the centre will transfer to Grangetown Nursery School.

Together with the work of our Neighbourhood Play Team, play opportunities will continue to be delivered right across Grangetown, including at Grangetown Play Centre. They will also be funded to the same level in the Grangetown and Riverside areas as different venues will be used to provide a more comprehensive offer than at present.

EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How many Cardiff Council youth clubs and youth centres were there in Cardiff on May 3rd 2012?

How many were there on November 3rd 2016?

Reply

I would refer you to the answer provided previously to your second Written Question.

ENVIRONMENT (COUNCILLOR BOB DERBYSHIRE)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

What is the council's currently policy on sweeping fallen leaves and unblocking drains which have become clogged with fallen leaves?

Reply

As I outlined in response to an oral question from your group colleague, Councillor Rea, at last month's Council meeting, the Council has a number of teams working together to ensure that appropriate resources are committed to clear the leaf fall from streets and pavements across the city.

There are three key elements to work to clear the leaf fall:

Firstly, tidal parking, where we ask residents or businesses along tree-lined streets to move their vehicles in order to facilitate access to kerb channels or gullies. This timetable started on 5th September and runs through to 13th December 2016.

Secondly, during the main leaf fall period from 10th October through to 23rd December, we publish a timetable of the areas in which resources are targeted and these main areas are blitzed on a regular basis.

And, thirdly, after the main leaf fall has happened, we will target hot spot areas at risk of surface water flooding, especially when bad weather is predicted in order to reduce leaf build up around drains.

In general, the removal of leaves from the surface of a gully will allow the water to drain away; however, if any surface water remains following the removal of the leaf fall, then it is usually an indication that the gully has become blocked. The Council has drainage teams that undertake both scheduled drain cleansing and reactive works when any such instances are identified.

TRANSPORT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY (COUNCILLOR RAMESH PATEL)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

Constituents have been enquiring about the proposed yellow box outside the entrance to Tesco on Ty'n y Parc Road. How long has it been since the box was added to the transport projects list and when the box will be painted?

Reply

I can confirm that a yellow box junction for facilitating access to the entrance of the Tesco Express store and petrol station on Ty'n Y Parc Road is on the Council's future programme and will be implemented by the end of the financial year.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

Will the council consider introducing a scheme whereby developers are asked to make a bond payment when work starts on any development, which will only be returned when the work is complete and if the development has caused no damage to the public realm? There have been numerous recent examples of developers causing damage to the public realm, only for the cost of it to be met by the over-burdened council taxpayer.

Reply

Where work is carried out to existing highways or public open space, the relevant council service areas require bonds to be paid.

Bonds are required for works under section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 where a development requires alterations or improvements to be made to the adopted highway. However, this provision allows the Council to call upon the bond to complete any works if the developer defaults on their commitment, as set out in a legal agreement with the Council.

Damage to Council property by developers would be managed directly by officers and the Council would seek to ensure that the developer repairs any damaged property that is evidenced as being due to the developers' activities.

If damage is caused by unauthorised trespass, then damages can be recovered through the Courts.