

COUNCIL, 22 OCTOBER 2015 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CORPORATE SERVICES AND PERFORMANCE (COUNCILLOR GRAHAM HINCHEY)

W1

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

Please give the grade, number of officers and total package of all employees with salary of over 60,000. Please include teaching staff.

REPLY

Following table shows the grade and number of officers earning a total package asked for over £60,000 p.a.

Grade	No. of Officers
Chief Executive	1
Corporate Dir.	1
Director	6
Assistant Dir.	5
Chief Officer	2
Operational Mgr.	23
Soulbury (specialist Education grade)	1
Schools Leadership	98
Grand Total	137

The total package asked for of the above officers (including on-costs of employers NI and Pension) is approximately £13.5m.

EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN & FAMILIES (COUNCILLOR SUE LENT)

W2

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDERS

Please could you provide as at 1 September 2015-

1. total number of Looking after Children, Cardiff elected members have responsibility for
2. put the total number into age bands
3. Where they live (total numbers in each category below)
 - a. Council foster care
 - b. 'Private' foster care
 - c. Cardiff children's home
 - d. Out of area
 - e. Anywhere else

REPLY

Total number of Looking after Children, Cardiff elected members have responsibility for is 636 in the following age bands:

Age	
0 - 4	141
5 - 10	156
11 - 15	191
16 - 17	148
	636

The Looked After Children reside in the following areas:

- a) Council foster care = 146
- b) 'Private' foster care = 316
- c) Cardiff children's home = 6
- d) Out of area = 221

Comprised of:

In house fostering	22
Private fostering	129
External residential	54
Placed with Parents	10
Independent Living	4
NHS	1
Custody	1

- f. Anywhere else – not included in a – c above = 168
Comprised of:

	Placed for adoption	15
	Placed with parents	57
	Independent living	34
	Residential home	49
	Residential school	9
	Secure Unit	1
	Supported Lodgings	1
	NHS	1
	Custody	1

EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W3	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>In light of the Welsh Government's decision to suspend the Bronze Award for Governing Bodies, how satisfied is the Council with the support and services provided by Governors Wales. What does it do well? What could it do better?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Governors Wales provides an independent source of advice for school governors across Wales. It produces documentation and guidance on all aspects of school governance. This is easily accessible through its website and helpline. The independent advice and information is valued by governors and by Chairs in particular.</p> <p>The principle behind the Quality Mark is that it acts as a governing body self-review. If governing bodies are to make a significant impact upon the achievements of schools, they need to have in place excellent processes and practices that they follow.</p> <p>The Bronze Award provides a benchmark against which governing bodies can assess their effectiveness. The Award benefits not only the day-to-day operation of the school is beneficial when the governing body are preparing for inspections and assessments to show that the governing body is meeting their statutory requirements. Following its decision to suspend the Quality Mark Bronze Award, Welsh Government has asked Governors Wales to lead on the construction of a national self-evaluation template for Governing Bodies in Wales, consistent with Estyn's guidance, to complete as part of the annual school planning cycle.</p> <p>Governing Bodies that want to achieve the Quality Mark Bronze Award have up to 31st December 2015 to complete the process.</p>
W4	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>How many incidents of physical assault against school staff has the Council logged over the past year? How does this compare to previous years? [Could any figures please be broken down by headteacher, teaching and non-teaching staff?]</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>From October 2014 – September 2015 there have been 88 malicious</p>

physical assaults reported to the Education Directorate involving school staff at 29 of our 127 schools.

These can be broken down as assaults against:

- Headteacher 4
- Teaching Staff 76
- Support Staff 8

The reported incidents include Faith, LA maintained and Special school pupils.

84 of the reported incidents were from pupils on staff. The majority of pupils involved in the incidents have a behaviour support plan in place and staff had received Team Teach training which emphasises “calm” communication and defusing skills that work best for the specific individual concerned, acknowledged within the care, behaviour or positive handling plans.

Four of the reports received were for an assault or intimidating behaviour against Headteachers, with one from a primary aged pupil and three from parents in primary schools. In each of these cases involving parents, the Governing Body has decided to ban the parent from entering the school for a set period of time to safeguard staff.

The Education Directorate have actively promoted the need for complete and timely incident/accident reporting and additionally contacted every school directly to advise of the reporting format and process - resulting in an increased number of reports for the last 12 months.

For the period October 2013 – September 2014, there were 64 malicious physical assaults and the incidents are broken down as follows:

- Headteacher 4
- Teaching Staff 56
- Support Staff 4

For the period October 2012 – September 2013, there were 67 malicious physical assaults and the incidents are broken down as follows:

- Headteacher 3
- Teaching Staff 61
- Support Staff 3

ENVIRONMENT (COUNCILLOR BOB DERBYSHIRE)

W5

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOWDEN

Grass-free lawns using low maintenance perennials have been successfully trialled in other parts of the UK as an alternative to traditional grass. These reduce the need for mowing, absorb more rainfall, and increase the visiting pollinating insects 10- fold. Could the Council adopt this approach in parts of the city?

Reply

You will be aware of my interest in exploring less intensive, more sustainable maintenance regimes that increase and enhance biodiversity and enable the Council to make more effective use of its decreasing resource base. With this in mind you may also be aware of the Cardiff Pollinators Project, which this year saw us converting an approximate area of 25 hectares to more informal maintenance regimes and for the reasons outlined above and I am committed to building on the work done to date, in future years.

I am aware of the concept and benefits of grass free lawns, I would however sound a note of caution in terms of the on-going maintenance implications, whilst the need to mow is reduced there are a number of other maintenance operations that would be required to be undertaken. These include over sowing, replanting / gapping up and clipping and depending on the type of lawn created, species or mix used. In many instances arisings from mowing operations would need to be collected which increases resource inputs. The costs in installation such areas must also be considered.

In considering conversion to alternative plantings / maintenance regimes for any areas of public open space the purpose and use of the land in question needs to be carefully considered.

I am, along with Officers looking at trialling a pollinator lawn perennial mix which contains over twenty five species including Lawn Daisy, Common Selfheal, Orange Hawkweed, Heartsease, and Tufted Vetch with some limited grass composition. This mix is designed to provide a jewel like, low growing meadow over a long flowering period and with the benefit of increasing pollinators.

W6

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOWDEN

Dogs without leads in Cardiff parks present a hazard for other users of these facilities. Having witnessed groups of very young school children pupils being harassed by unrestrained dogs could you tell me what steps are being taken to introduce a blanket ban on unrestrained dogs in Cardiff parks?

Reply

We agree that unrestrained dogs can cause problems in certain circumstances and I am currently working with Officers to develop proposals that will be brought forwards next month. These proposals will look at wider enforcement powers for tackling environmental crime and anti- social behaviour throughout our public realm, and will include powers on dog controls.

Any changes to the controls of dogs across the City will be developed through consultation with our communities.

The current byelaw does require owners who exercise their dogs throughout our public open space provision to keep them under control.

Parks byelaws are enforced by the Council's Park Rangers who are active in challenging owners who act irresponsibly by not being in control of their dogs, spoiling the enjoyment and putting the safety of parks users at risk.

Our Park Rangers work closely with our Dog Wardens gathering intelligence and targeting patrols in problem areas. With this in mind it would be helpful if any such instances that you or your constituents are aware of are reported through to us providing as much detail as possible, in terms of owners, types of dogs and patterns of use in order for an effective response to be made.

W7

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

Could the Council provide a street-by-street schedule for when pavements in Penylan will be swept of leaves this autumn? The main trouble-spots should be well-known by now and residents are already complaining about slippery pavements and asking when they will be swept.

Reply

The leaf-fall programme commenced on Monday the 5th October and

	<p>targets areas with of high numbers of trees as well as heavy footfall. Penylan was attended on 16th October, and will then be visited fortnightly thereafter. The streets prioritised for leaf clearance in Penylan are Penylan Road, Marlborough Road, Saint Margaret's Crescent, Waterloo Road, Kimberley Road, Sandringham Road, Westville Road, Ty Draw Road, Melrose Avenue, Ty Gwyn Road, Colchester Avenue, and Llwyn y Grants Road.</p>
W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>What is the estimated cost for the full roll out of the smaller wheelie bins and associated waste changes?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The full cost of the expansion of new wheeled bins and exchange of the city wide smaller bins is approximately £1.5m and the City wide communications and support resources cost £500,000.</p> <p>There are also over £620,000 of saving associated with these changes as we make our collection services more efficient.</p> <p>But let's not forget the main driver for these changes; The Council must make steps changes in our recycling performance or face £400,000 fine for every 1% we fail the targets by. We must increase our recycling performance or the annual fines will dramatically outweigh the cost of these changes in less than two years.</p>
W9	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>How did the council identify staff to collect the old bins and replace with new bins? What would these staff have been doing if not required for this?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council undertook a procurement exercise to secure an experienced contractor that provided not only the best value quality wheeled bins, but had experience in delivering such a large scale bin exchange programme that Cardiff required.</p> <p>The bin supplier has full time teams that undertake this type of work for them. The teams work all round the UK to support Local Authorities with deliveries and exchange programmes. When they have finished in Cardiff they will move on to the companies next project.</p>

W10	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>What is the cost of disposing the old large black bins?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The old wheeled bins will be recycled into new bins by the supplier. The cost of the new bins has been off- set by the income that would have been achieved by the recycling these old bins. As we procured a complete solution, I am not able to provide a specific income associated with recycling the old bins, but our original market testing placed the income from recycling the old bins at approximately £100,000 to £150,000</p>
W11	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>How many times a year will pavements and roads be sprayed with weed killer?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The roads and pavements will be treated for weed growth twice a year. The treatments are generally between May and September but are weather dependant, therefore adverse conditions may cause some delay to completion times.</p>

**HEALTH, HOUSING & WELLBEING (COUNCILLOR SUSAN
ELSMORE)**

W12

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER

What was the total cost (including travel and expenses for experts) of the Fairer deal for social care project commissioned by former Cllr Luke Holland in 2012/13 and 2013/14?

Reply

The project incurred no costs in 2012/13

In 2013/14, staff supporting in the project were internal secondments and as these posts were not backfilled expenditure was not incurred by the Directorate.

The expert advice offered to the project was funded directly by the WLGA and £675.00 was paid in expenses to the expert witnesses that were used to provide advice on the context and content of the report.

LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS)

W13

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

Which Councillors, or grade of officer accepted hospitality for the ashes and the rugby World Cup please specify days or matches?

Reply

As an official host city to the 2015 Rugby World Cup, Cardiff has hosted 8 matches in the Millennium Stadium. A key element of the city's commitment as host city was to support the Rugby World Cup Tournament Guest Programme. This programme brought together representatives of participating rugby nations, local and national government, sponsors, businesses and key stakeholders. Accordingly the authority developed a rota of appropriate Members and officers to support the scheduled programme and ensure that, from a host city perspective, the business and networking opportunities afforded through hosting the event were maximised. These included the Leader, Chief Executive, Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor together with four Economic Development officers who are responsible for Economic Development, Tourism and Inward Investment respectively and who were considered best placed and suitably skilled to promote Wales and its Capital city within the Tournament Guest Forum. Senior officers from City Operations also attend to support investment and partnership opportunities.

As is customary, the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive were also required to participate in welcome arrangements for royal guests.

In addition, the Cardiff Business Council hosted an event at Twickenham for the England v Wales match. This event was used to advocate a City Deal for Cardiff and to explore investment and other opportunities on behalf of the city. It was attended by the Leader, Chief Executive and the Head of Economic Development with politicians and senior business representatives with an interest in Cardiff.

A separate invitation was also extended for one of the Council's inward investment officers to attend the England v Wales match to support a London based development company who are seeking development opportunities in Cardiff.

Details are listed below as requested:

Date	Match	Venue	Cllr or Officer Grade
19 September	Ireland vs Canada	Millennium Stadium	Principal Officer
20 September	Wales vs Uruguay	Millennium Stadium	Lord Mayor Chief Executive Leader of the Council
26 September	England v Wales	Twickenham Stadium	Principal Officer Chief Executive Leader of the Council Head of Economic Development
23 September	Australia vs Fiji	Millennium Stadium	Principal Officer
1 October	Wales vs Fiji	Millennium Stadium	Lord Mayor Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co- operatives & Social Enterprise. Director of Economic Development Principal Officer Director of City Operations Assistant Director of City Operations
2 October	New Zealand vs Georgia	Millennium Stadium	Leader of the Opposition Chief Executive
11 October	France vs Ireland	Millennium Stadium	Head of Tourism
17 October	New Zealand vs France	Millennium Stadium	Principal Officer
18 October	Ireland vs Argentina	Millennium Stadium	Deputy Lord Mayor Head of Economic Development

In terms of the Ashes, the only officers who attended were the Director and Head of Economic Development.

Members may attend events outside the knowledge of the Authority however they have a responsibility to record details of receipt of hospitality in the Register of Member's Hospitality & Gifts and the register indicates that the Leader of the Opposition attended and received hospitality at the Ashes.

W14

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

What was the total cost of the 'Cardiff Capital Connection' report by Deloitte?

Reply

The total amount paid to Deloitte for the brochure was £25,623 coming under the contract award amount of £27,487.

The 'Competitive Capital' document was subject to a competitive tender exercise undertaken in October 2013 with Deloitte selected as the preferred bid. The contract started in January 2014 and the Council has worked closely with Deloitte over the last 2 years to develop a statistical, fact based investment document that can promote and differentiate the city on a UK and International level and highlight the advantages of investing in Cardiff.

Having the Deloitte name on the investment brochure provides reassurance to investors that the information and statistics are reputable and provides commercial status to the document.

The Economic Development team have had a very good response to the brochure with businesses throughout the city, and particularly the property agents responsible for attracting investors, commenting on the quality of the publication and its usefulness.

TRANSPORT, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY (COUNCILLOR RAMESH PATEL)

W15

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

I welcome the recent proposals on parking in Cardiff, and can assure the Cabinet Member of my constructive support as he and his officers develop them. In order to ensure that Members of all party groups have the relevant information to hand when examining this issue, will you commit to holding a series of round-table meetings with interested councillors, with plenty of advance notice of timings, to elicit their views on the proposals?

Reply

Your support is appreciated in respect of this matter.

As you are aware a copy of the Consultation Draft Parking Strategy and Policies was distributed to all members via email on the 15th September, ahead of its consideration by Cabinet on October 1st.

I would very much welcome the opportunity to undertake round-table meetings over the next few weeks to gather councillors' views on the proposals, and will ensure that these are planned with plenty of advance notice.

These will take place concurrently with the 6 week public consultation period which will commence later in October.

W16

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

The draft parking strategy contains a very welcome discussion of business permits. Will you agree to hold a detailed consultation on business permits? And in the meantime, will you extend the business permit pilot to Whitchurch Road so that you can see how the scheme works in an area with a high student population and the associated parking challenges this presents?

Reply

Public consultation of the new Parking Strategy is currently being prepared and it is planned that this will be launched by the end of October for a 6 week period. Following a review of consultation responses any necessary amendments will be made to the Strategy and its associated Action Plan.

The draft Action Plan currently includes an action to 'Review the past operation of the car park business permit scheme, utilising

	<p>information from the parking sensor trial, and consider whether this could be deployed to other areas of the city.'</p> <p>The current timescale for this action is for this to be undertaken by the end of March 2016. Following this review it may be considered appropriate to extend the scheme to other areas and I am sure you will agree that extending the scheme ahead of a review would be pre-emptive.</p>
W17	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></p> <p>Page 29 (para 7.4) of the draft parking strategy contains a strong analysis of parking issues in district and local centres. It mentions that there are 12 such centres, but doesn't name them! What are they?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Thank you for alerting me to this omission. I will arrange for officers to amend the strategy document to include this information following the consultation.</p> <p>For your information the main centres reviewed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitchurch Road • Penarth Road/Clare Road • Clifton Street • Crwys Road/Woodville Road • Cowbridge Road East • Llanishen • St. Mellons/Llanrumney • Merthyr Road, Whitchurch • City Road • Albany Road/Wellfield Road • Mermaid Quay/Lower Bute Street and • Cathedral Road
W18	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></p> <p>The draft parking strategy acknowledges that residential streets around Cathays, Gabalfa and Plasnewydd are already overcrowded and that student vehicles are a contributing factor. Given this, and also taking into account the specific pressures added by new halls of residence with no on-site parking, would you support the idea of</p>

reviewing the SPG on parking in relation to guidelines for new student halls of residence?

Reply

Part of the work undertaken on the development of the Local Development Plan includes a review of the Supplementary Guidance relating to Access, Circulation and Parking.

Initial work is in progress in order to bring the SPG up to date and ensure it meets the requirements of Cardiff for the future. This SPG is included in the LDP Annual Monitoring Framework which commits the Council to approve it within 6 months of adoption of the LDP. The adoption of the LDP will follow publication of the Inspectors Report which is anticipated to take place early in 2016.

This work will include a review of how the guidance relates to parking in respect of student accommodation in Cardiff.

W19

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

Please can you provide the list of roads which will receive preventative surface treatment (for footway and/or carriageway) in 2015/16?

Reply

**APPROVED LISTS – 2015/16 PREVENTATIVE PROGRAMME
CARRIAGEWAY**

Ward	Name
CAERAU	CHURCH ROAD
CAERAU	CLARKE STREET
CANTON	CHURCH ROAD
CANTON	OVINGTON TERRACE
CYNCOED	CEFN COED GARDENS
ELY	ARCHER ROAD
FAIRWATER	FAIRWATER ROAD
GRANGTOWN	MERCHES GARDENS
HEATH	CRYSTAL AVENUE
LISVANE	LLWYN Y PIA ROAD
LLANDAFF NORTH	ABERDULAIS ROAD
LLANDAFF NORTH	ABERTEIFI CRES INC WESTERN AVE NRTH
LLANDAFF NORTH	GABALFA AVENUE
LLANISHEN	GARRICK DRIVE
LLANISHEN	WYNDHAM CRESCENT
PENTWYN	GLYN COLLEN

PENTWYN	AWEL MOR
PENTYRCH	HEOL GOCH (FINATEX)
PENTYRCH	PENMAES X3 SECTIONS (FINATEX)
PENYLAN	CARISBROOKE WAY
PLASNEWYDD	ROATH COURT PLACE
RUMNEY	HARRIS AVENUE X2 SECTIONS
SPLOTT	MERCIA ROAD (GEOGRID TRIALS)
TROWBRIDGE	COLEFORD DRIVE
WHITCHURCH	MANOR RISE

The footway resurfacing/treatment programme is currently under development and should be completed within approximately 4 weeks. Once the list has been approved the information will be made available to members.

W20

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

Please can you advise which roads were on the list of streets for consideration for preventative treatment in 2015/16 but which did not make the final list.

Please can you also advise why these roads did not make the final list and who makes the final decision as to which roads make the list?

Reply

The streets put forward for consideration in the preventative treatment programme but were not selected for inclusion in the final list are as follows:

Ward	Street
Butetown	Loudoun Square
Cyncoed	Heol Esgyn
Cyncoed	Windermere Avenue
Grangetown	Forrest Street
Grangetown	Pentre Street
Grangetown	Sevenoaks Street
Grangetown	Virgil Street
Pentyrch	Bryn Siriol
Pentyrch	Bryn-yr-Eglwys
Pentyrch	Clos Caewal
Pentwyn	Bryn Celyn
Penylan	Trafalgar Road
Penylan	Ty-Gwyn Road
Plasnewydd	Byron Street
Plasnewydd	Shakespeare Court

Rhiwbina	Heol-Yr-Efail
Rhiwbina	Lon Cae Porth
Rhiwbina	Lon Isa
Riverside	Railway Terrace
Rumney	Rhyl Road
Trowbridge	Vaendre Close

The proposed list will include a number of roads that are suitable for a preventative treatment, however, the final list must tie into available budgets and therefore some roads will not be selected. There are various reasons for elimination – existing condition, estimated deterioration rate, suitability for treatment, usage and requests for service.

The responsibility for the approval of the final list lies with the Director of City Operations.

W21

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

Please can you advise when Lon Cae Porth will have much needed resurfacing works carried out?

Reply

Lon Cae Porth will receive preventative treatment in February/March 2016, weather conditions permitting. To bring Lon Cae Porth up to a reasonable standard and address any safety concerns a large extent of localised patching would be required. The cost differential between this patching and preventative treatment work indicates best value in the longer term to treat the whole road. This work will be completed as an addition to previously approved list of streets.