

COUNCIL, 26 NOVEMBER 2015 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CO OPERATIVE & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE QUESTION (COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOODMAN</u></p> <p>When will councillors be provided with a copy of the review done in relation to the removal of the football photos exhibition from Central Library , and when will councillors be provided with the emended policy in relation to bookings being accepted/declined for council owned premises please?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The exhibition review and proposed new policy and booking process has been drafted in order for appropriate consultation to take place. The new process will involve stakeholders in providing advice to the Council and it is important that the request for involvement is formally agreed by those named in the policy. With this in mind Officers have discussed the development of the new process with stakeholders and formally presented the draft review to the Interfaith Council of Wales at its meeting on 19th November.</p> <p>The Interfaith Council were supportive of the approach contained within the report with some suggested amendments. The views of stakeholders will be incorporated into the final draft of the review and will be circulated to members once completed.</p>
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ENVIRONMENT (COUNCILLOR BOB DERBYSHIRE)

W2

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

A district council in Northamptonshire [recently introduced a byelaw](#) whereby dog owners must prove how they would clear up mess left by their pet. The new powers come into force next month, and will see those not carrying a 'poop bag' with them liable to a £100 fine. What plans are there to introduce a similar byelaw in Cardiff?

Reply

The Council won't be introducing by Laws as they are expensive and can take a long time to introduce. However, we will be using newly adopted legislation to tackle dog fouling across the City.

As part of the Enforcement Paper that went to Cabinet on 12th of November, the use of public spaces protection orders has been approved.

Our approach to tackling irresponsible dog ownership and dog fouling will be consulted upon as part of the new control orders that we are introducing.

As part of this process consideration needs to be given to appropriate circumstances under which to issue fixed penalty notices.

Many responsible dog owners may only carry one bag whilst walking their dog, and once the fouling has taken place, they responsibly dispose of the waste, but no longer have a bag in their possession. It would seem unfair and not in the public interest to fine a dog owner in such circumstances. Nevertheless, Urban Park Rangers and Waste Education and Enforcement Officers are already actively issuing fixed penalties to those owners that do not clean up after their dogs as part of our zero tolerance campaign.

QUESTION TO LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS)

W3	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GOVIER</u></p> <p>When can the council expect an update on the Great Western Partnership?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Great Western Cities (Cardiff, Bristol & Newport) are currently in the final stages of preparing a high level strategy, which will be launched in the New Year. We will also be making our case for investment to the UK Government's National Infrastructure Commission. I will ensure that Council Members are kept up to date on these developments in the New Year.</p>
W4	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GOVIER</u></p> <p>Please could the council outline how the Great Western Partnership financing package will work?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Great Western Cities are currently working on developing the strategy, building the evidence base and the arguments, and identifying the key national infrastructure projects that will enable the Cardiff and Bristol city-regions to successfully compete both nationally and internationally.</p> <p>The Great Western Cities will be collectively making the case to UK Government for investment in to these projects. In turn, the nature of the projects – be it investment to enhance connectivity or energy infrastructures - will determine the nature of the financing package.</p>
W5	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GOVIER</u></p> <p>Please could the council outline how the City Deal financing package will work?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The City Deal funding approach has now been well established by UK Government and is being rolled out across many city-regions in the UK.</p>

It involves UK Government providing a capital sum on the basis that it is matched locally and is dependent on the delivery of agreed outcomes. This is normally a significant up-lift in GVA.

In terms of the Cardiff city-region proposal, the total fund proposed is £1.28bn. This is made up of:

£580m from UK Government

£580m from Welsh Government

£120m from Local Authorities

The UK Government contribution would need to be borrowed by Local Authorities and would then be paid back by UK Government on the delivery of the agreed outcomes. This means Local Authorities will also have to cover the costs of borrowing (interest charges) relating to this up-front borrowing.

The proportion of costs attributed to Cardiff will depend on the final agreed size of the Fund and the local mechanism agreed for the distribution of costs. In previous City Deals this has been on the basis of a per head split, or on a project by project basis, or a combination of both. At present the approach for the Cardiff city-region is yet to be agreed.

SKILLS, SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT QUESTION (COUNCILLOR DAN DE'ATH)

W6

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GOVIER

Have there been any discussions, between Westminster officials or politicians about a model of governance involving a directly elected mayor as they are pursuing in a number of English Regions?

Reply

We have not been involved in any such discussions.

The legal framework which underpins the Welsh model is different in Wales as set out in the Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions and Directions) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

TRANSPORT, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY (COUNCILLOR RAMESH PATEL)

W7

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

At the October meeting of Full Council, in response to written question W15, you said: *“I would very much welcome the opportunity to undertake round-table meetings over the next few weeks to gather councillors’ views on the [parking] 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.”* What progress has been made?

Reply

Public consultation on the new draft Parking Strategy was launched on the 3rd November and will remain open until 16th December. Members will have received a list of dates, times and locations of specific sessions for Members from Democratic Services. These are as below:

Venue	Day	Date	Time	Room
County Hall	Mon	7 December	5.00pm-6.00 pm	Committee Room 3 , County Hall
County Hall	Wed	9 December	10.30am-11.15am	Courtyard Meeting Room , County Hall
County Hall	Wed	9 December	11.15am-12.00pm	Courtyard Meeting Room , County Hall

W8

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GORDON

The route through Sophia Gardens is important for cycle commuters and commuters / shoppers accessing the public car park here. Road safety on the ‘Spine’ road avenue needs investigating as taxis drop people off on the road opening car doors on to the driver side as there is no pavement on either side of the road. In addition with no pavements people wander across on foot from bus stops on Cathedral Road and from taxis across the coach exit and entrance. A serious accident will happen sooner or later. What is the Council doing to improve road safety for pedestrians and passengers joining or leaving the coach park facility?

Reply

Officers have arranged the provision of temporary signage warning of the presence of cyclists and pedestrians in the road. The Council will work closely with National Express to establish what permanent measures can be taken to address these conflicts.

W9

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GOVIER

With regards to the bus lane and yellow box fines, there is always a risk that people will perceive this as no more than a general revenue raising tool especially in times of financial challenge. With spending on roads at an 11 year low, would the Cabinet Member consider publishing on a quarterly basis what money raised from bus lane and yellow box infringements is being spent on?

Reply

The accounts with regards to Civil Enforcement are published annually in the Council's Statement of Accounts. These accounts are audited prior to being published. Releasing information outside of this process may mean that information is not accurate or misleading.

Any income received over and above that utilised for supporting frontline services has been utilised to expand enforcement by procuring further bus lane and yellow box cameras as well as an additional enforcement car. Income received has been spent on sustainable transportation that support the Local Transport Plan; such as park and ride, bus lanes and cycling improvements. Further to this new parking meters and technology, such as park smart sensors, will be introduced into the City.

W10

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOODMAN

Could you please provide an update on the progress on improving /speeding up the adoption process for new estates , following the notice of motion on this matter?

Reply

Sufficient funding is always retained under the bonds associated with Section 38 highway agreements to cover the cost of outstanding works. This can, in the event of developers failing to do so, be accessed by the Council and used to implement Works which may be required to bring new estate roads up to the standard required for adoption.

The reason for the delay in adopting the roads on most of the longer outstanding sites is the requirement that the surface water drains are adopted by Welsh Water. In these circumstances the bond money is of limited use as the issue lies between the Developer and Welsh Water.

The recent appointment of new Team Leader (Flood and Water Management) has offered an opportunity for the Council to act as a mediator between these parties in an effort to address the outstanding issues which have prevented the adoption of the drains to date. It is the intention that meetings will be arranged in the near future with a view to finding a satisfactory way forward which will enable the roads of these estates to be adopted.

The issues relating to the adoption of new estates is being addressed under this administration. However, it should be recognised that these issues were present prior to current administration.