

COUNCIL:

25 OCTOBER 2018

**QUESTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE
(CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)**

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM ADAM JOHANNES

For years grassroots groups have distributed free food in Cardiff City Centre. Recently several groups report being asked by the council to move from their usual spots away from the centre to areas where the volunteers feel unsafe and vulnerable. One group asked to move has served food once a week in the same spot for almost a decade.

These projects have become increasingly important with the growth of people in extreme poverty including rough sleepers and asylum seekers. The food provided by the volunteers is one of the small comforts these people can look forward to, especially as the weather gets colder a hot meal could literally be life-saving.

On social media many people have expressed concern saying 'the volunteers should not be treated like a nuisance by Cardiff Council and shoved off. They should be supported and applauded for their generosity'.

We would like to know the reason and rationale for these projects being asked to move out of the city centre and the formal justifications for this new change in policy and approach?