THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF CARDIFF

The County Council of the City & County of Cardiff met at County Hall, Cardiff on Thursday 25 October, 2012 to transact the business set out in the Council Summons dated 19 October 2012.

Present: County Councillor Derrick Morgan (Lord Mayor).


Apologies: County Councillors Manzoor Ahmed, Hinchey, Lloyd and Marshall

103: WEBCASTING AND RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Members were reminded of a decision of the Constitution Committee on 10 July, 2008 to webcast the Council meeting. Members were also reminded that the Constitution Committee had previously agreed that Council proceedings be recorded for administrative purposes.

Formal approval to record the proceedings was granted.

104: OBSERVANCE OF A MINUTE SILENCE

The Lord Mayor invited Council to observe a minute silence as a mark of respect to a community in grief following the tragic events that occurred in areas to the West of the city on Friday 19 October. On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor extended sympathy to Ms Karina Menzies’ family, and sent good wishes to those who were recovering from serious injuries.
The Lord Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to make a statement.

The Leader wished to take an opportunity, following the tragic and shocking events in the West of Cardiff on Friday 19 October, to thank all of the emergency services and officers from the Council who were involved in the response to the tragic incident. It was clear that everyone dealing with the immediate aftermath, the ongoing investigation and recovery would have encountered an incredibly difficult and traumatic set of circumstances that would have tested even the most experienced individual.

She advised that there was little doubt that the communities involved would continue to need help and support over the coming weeks and months as they come to terms with what happened, and the Leader advised that she had asked the Chief Executive to ensure that any Council resources needed were made available.

The whole of the City had been deeply affected by what had happened and it had been touching to see support coming from across Cardiff, and it was hoped that this would be of some small comfort to the people and communities who have been badly affected.

The Leader on behalf of Council expressed her sincerest sympathies to those involved and affected by what had happened and advised that the Elected Members would continue to keep them in their thoughts and prayers.

**105 : CODE OF CONDUCT**

Prior to considering the minutes of the last meeting the Lord Mayor made statement in which he advised that following the last Council meeting Councillor McEvoy had apologised for the personal comments he made and that the Lord Mayor had accepted this apology, and had now drawn a line under this matter.

The Lord Mayor reminded all Members about the general principles outlined in the Code of Conduct for Elected Members and in particular in relation to Councillor’s conduct at meetings, and the expectation that all Members will show respect and consideration for others during all
debates at Council and that Members should not conduct themselves in a manner that could bring their office or the authority into disrepute.

106 : MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on 27 September 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson subject to the following amendments:

Page 179 – Delete County Councillor Aubrey from those present and insert in Apologies

Page 180 – Min No 76: Inclusion of County Councillor Holden in the declarations made under Item 7 as a Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme

Page 188 – Min No 80: Inclusion of County Councillor Holden in those that declared an interest.

Page 201 – Min No 86 Corporate Questions
Supplementary Question: County Councillor McEvoy
2nd line - change leaflet to leaflets.

107 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded Members of their responsibility under Article 16 of the Members’ Code of Conduct to declare any interest, & to complete Personal Interest forms, at the commencement of the item of business.

The following declarations were made:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Councillor De’Ath</td>
<td>17 (b) Sports Leisure and Culture Questions</td>
<td>Personal interest as an employee of the national Museum of Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Derbyshire</td>
<td>Item 7 Cardiff Local Development Plan 2006 – 2008: Preferred Strategy for Consultation</td>
<td>As a Board Member of Cardiff Bus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Councillor Magill  Item 7 Cardiff
Local Development Plan
2006 – 2008: Preferred Strategy for Consultation

Councillor Mitchell  Various Questions

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108 : ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Awards

The Lord Mayor was pleased to advise on the achievements and awards that had been received by individuals and teams from across the different service areas of the Council:

Cardiff Castle receives prestigious award

The Lord Mayor was delighted to announce that the Education Centre at Cardiff Castle had been awarded the prestigious Sandford Award for excellence in heritage education. A handful of heritage sites throughout the UK achieve the Sandford Award which is presented by the Heritage Education Trust, and the Castle joins an elite group alongside the Tower of London, Blenheim Palace and Edinburgh Castle among others.

The judging panel looked at best practice in the interpretation of the site; excellence in educational services and facilities; and contribution to the understanding of local and national heritage.

Learning Ambassador of the Year (Wales) Award

Congratulations to Rebecca Bradshaw of HR People Services who recently won the ‘Learning Ambassador of the Year (Wales) Award from Learning Pool for the excellent work on Cardiff Academy On-line and the promotion of technology as a method for learning and development.
(b) **Eid Celebrations**

The Lord Mayor indicated that there were a number of celebrations taking place in Cardiff on 26 October to mark the end of Hajj. The Lord Mayor on behalf of Council wished all involved Eid Mubarak.

(c) **Congratulations**

The Lord Mayor congratulated Councillor Bradbury and his wife on the birth of their son on 23 October 2012.

(d) **Condolences**

The Lord Mayor advised that sadly over the past month Cardiff had seen the loss of two dedicated public servants of Cardiff:

**Betty Jones**
Former Lord Mayor, City & County Councillor Betty Jones passed away on Sunday 14 October 2012. Councillor Jones had been Lord Mayor in 1989/90 and served the community of Llandaff loyally from 1967 to 1973 and again from 1976 to 1996, and also represented Llandaff Ward on the County Council during the 1970's. The Lord Mayor expressed the Council’s sympathy to family and close friends.

**Olive Bowen**
Former Mayoress Olive Bowen passed away on 27 September after a short illness. A message of sympathy was sent on behalf of the Council from the Leader and Lord Mayor to Bill, his daughter Bernadette and Martin and all the family.

**Councillor Goddard**
The Lord Mayor expressed sincere sympathy to Councillor Goddard who sadly recently lost her sister.

108 : PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**Question:** *Mr Joel Williams*

It has been recently reported in the local press and Wales On-line that a report has been submitted to the Labour Cabinet looking at ‘alternative ways’ of providing service delivery. It claims improvements in public services could be made by using alternative models of delivery. These
might include involving the private sector, collaboration with other councils, social enterprise models and public–private partnerships. Whereas it is recognised there are inefficiencies in the way in which the public sector currently operates, there are serious concerns over the impact these considerations could have on council employees and the people of Cardiff in general.

If the review results in ‘alternative ways of service delivery’ being agreed can we be assured that there will not be wholesale privatisation of essential services and there will be an overall improvement in the provision of services?

Reply: County Councillor Goodway

I am grateful to Mr Williams for his question this afternoon and for so publicly demonstrating his unwillingness to rely on the local media as a source of accurate reports on important matters of public policy. It is a message that elected members everywhere would be wise to observe.

I am grateful for the opportunity to clarify the Administration’s position as we take forward an ambitious agenda against a backdrop of the most severe set of Government imposed austerity measures for generations and levels of cuts in public sector funding that the UK has ever experienced.

I would refer Mr Williams to the report which I presented to Cabinet colleagues at our meeting on 18 October 2012, available on the Website. It captures absolutely the Administration’s ambitions, priorities, preferences and the direction of travel we intend to follow as we navigate the storms ahead. These commitments reflect the manifesto commitments on which we fought the county council elections on 3 May, which made clear our understanding of the difficult financial position facing the public sector generally and local government in particular and the consequential need for a new Labour administration to explore alternative service delivery vehicles in order to protect services and save jobs. That remains our clear commitment and the measures outlined in the cabinet report seek to help us achieve those objectives. The report makes clear that we have no ambition, let alone an intention, to embark on a wholesale privatisation of council services and, as stated in the report, the outsourcing of services to the private sector would be a measure of the last resort.
The Leader of the County Council has set out our position repeatedly publicly and in meetings with trade union colleagues. However, our manifesto does commit the Administration to explore using co-operative and other social enterprise vehicles as a mechanism to deliver services and avoid job losses. In so doing, the Leader has made clear that we will ensure that we have access to the best advice and that we will work closely with trade union colleagues as we explore all of the alternatives in order to ensure that we have the best opportunity of protecting important services and saving as many jobs as possible.

The Administration has to recognise the elephant sat on our doorstep. Welsh Government is eager for local authorities to bring forward collaborative arrangements as a mechanism for reducing costs. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced last week, about which I will say more later, reinforces that message with some £10 million set aside to provide funding for councils to explore opportunities for collaborative working. Cardiff has indicated that it wishes to make an early bid against the amount allocated to encourage increased collaboration between Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils and other public and third sector organisation.

However, collaboration per se, does not guarantee minimal job losses or that jobs will necessarily been retained in the public sector. The Council will be aware that Prosiect Gwyrdd, entered into by the previous administration, is a collaborative arrangement between five local authorities and which involves the use of a private sector partner for the disposal of residual waste. Proposals for dealing with the Council’s organic waste were recently the subject of a report to Cabinet which involves a collaborative arrangement between Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils. Again, the proposal is to appoint a private sector operator to handle the waste generated by both authorities replacing the service provided by New Earth Solutions – a private sector operator appointed by the previous administration – albeit with a locally based solution.

Notwithstanding that, the Administration is eager to explore arrangements which will maximise the number of employees working in the public sector. In addition, we are eager to explore partnership opportunities with organisations which might enable external investment
in our services whilst allowing those delivering services to continue to be employed by the Council.

I need to respond specifically to that aspect of your question which seeks a commitment to achieving an overall improvement in public services. I am not in a position to give you that commitment. Like local authorities across the UK, Cardiff is facing difficult choices. The Leader of Birmingham City Council yesterday announced some 1100 job losses as part of a programme to cut council spending by £600 million by 2017. He spoke publicly about the need for his council to begin to think about the need to completely decommission some services. This announcement comes on top of that made by the Leader of Sheffield Council who also announced 1100 job losses for similar reasons.

My previous public statements have made clear that the position in Wales is not dissimilar albeit on a much smaller scale. I have pointed out that as an Administration we have inherited some serious shortcomings and deficiencies in some important service areas which will require additional investment. That will inevitably result in disproportionate cuts in other service areas which will mean a reduction in service standards or services being decommissioned altogether.

I trust that this will help clarify the position.

Supplementary Question: Mr Joel Williams

Thank you, Councillor Goodway, for that rather lengthy response to my question.
How do you think the people of Ely in your ward, and the people of Cardiff would feel about the prospect of losing up to 1100 jobs in the public sector?

Reply: County Councillor Goodway

I am sure that the people of the city would be horrified by the thought of losing 1100 jobs, either in the public or the private sector. My whole political life has been spent looking at ways we can maximise the number of jobs by increasing the amount of economic activity that takes place within the boundaries of this city. And we will do more in that direction as we take the Council forward.
It has been acknowledged that there is one reason, and that there is one reason alone why the number of jobs are being lost in the public sector is at the levels that they are. And that is because of the extreme austerity programme being imposed by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat administration in the United Kingdom, who seem set upon using the difficult financial circumstances facing the whole world to ultimately destroy the public sector as we know it.

110 : PETITIONS

The following petitions were submitted:

Councillor Groves – from 18 residents of Heol Don and Tredegar Court concerned about irresponsible parking on the entrance to Tredegar Court from Heol Don which restricts access to emergency vehicles, public transport, delivery vehicles and residents’ personal access.

Councillor Dilwar Ali – from 33 residents of River View and the surrounding area calling on the Council to vary their proposal for double yellow lines on the north side of River View in front of the properties; to put double yellow lines or ‘No Waiting at any time’ signs on the south side i.e. the river bank side of River View; and to impose a residents only parking area on the north side of River View in front of the properties, with parking permits provided for all residents of River View.

Councillor Cowan – to be presented to the representatives of South Wales Police and Cardiff County Council from 77 residents of Ty-Wern Avenue, Rhiwbina, and the surrounding area raising objections to and to Ty-Wern Avenue being used as an area for the long term storage and parking of a number of vehicles, owned by and registered to an individual or individuals at one address on Ty-Wern Road, Rhiwbina.

Councillor Bowden – from 145 residents calling on the Council to urgently improve the junction of Caerphilly Road and Rhydelig Avenue to ensure that the crossing by the New Inn is made safer for children and pedestrians who use this crossing and to prevent any further incidents of cars going through red lights causing danger to people crossing on the ‘green man’
Councillor Craig Williams – from 462 residents in Pentyrch and surrounding area who frequently use the facilities at Parc y Dwrlyn Fields requesting that the entrance road be adopted by Cardiff Council as the park it serves is a public park run by the Pentyrch Sports Association on behalf of the community, and the local clubs that use the facilities have, at their own expense resurfaced the car park to a very high standard.

111: STATUTORY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Council was recommended to approve the 2011/12 Statutory Improvement Plan. The Lord Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to present the report, and respond to Members questions.

The Leader advised that the report provided a statement of progress made against the Council’s Corporate Plan 2011/14 during the last financial year. The report reflected on the priorities set out by the former administration, and the Leader advised that the Cabinet with officers would be working on a new Corporate Plan over the next few months which would set out this administrations agenda for action.

The report before Council is required in order to discharge an element of the Councils Statutory obligations under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and the associated Wales Programme for Improvement guidance. The report is audited by the Auditor General for Wales and will inform the Wales Audit Office future work Programme. If approved the document would be published bilingually before the statutory deadline of 31 October 2012.

There followed a debate on the Plan and a number of issues were raised in relation to performance and trends; the importance of meeting targets particularly in services provided to the most vulnerable residents and young people in the city.

The Leader advised that the Cabinet would bring forward a Corporate Plan that would support the key priorities of the administration which was to support all citizens of Cardiff, and a monitoring process for performance going forward.

RESOLVED – That the 2011/12 Improvement Plan be approved
112 : LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: PREFERRED STRATEGY

(County Councillors Derbyshire and Magill declared an interest in this item under Article 16 of the Members’ Code of Conduct)

This report was to enable consideration of a Preferred Strategy for Cardiff’s Local Development Plan for purposes of consultation.

The Lord Mayor invited Cabinet Member – Strategic Planning, Highways, Traffic & Transportation, County Councillor Ralph Cook to introduce the report.

The Cabinet Member underlined the need for a new plan for Cardiff as the most recent previously adopted Local Plan was now 16 years old, having been adopted in 1996. Considerations and decisions of the previous Council administration had left the Council without a Local Development Plan in place and with an ear-marked residential land-bank of less than 3 years, when a minimum of 5 years is required. As a result Cardiff Council was seriously weakened in its ability to defend against development proposals in even the most valued areas of countryside. The outcome of a recent planning appeal involving an application to build 79 homes in a conservation area illustrates how vulnerable Cardiff is to “planning by appeal”.

The decision of the previous Council administration to drive forward with a LDP for the years 2006-2021 that relied entirely on meeting housing needs through the allocation for residential development of brown field sites and also failed to pay heed to other evidenced needs culminated in the Council having to withdraw the Plan. This meant any new plan would have to span the years 2006-2026, with the additional five years meaning adding an extra 8,000 homes (based on a 10 year past build rate) to the number previously required under the withdrawn plan.

Cardiff needs a sound LDP, not only to ensure the vital new homes and jobs are provided but also because in the absence of a LDP, the Council cannot effectively control where development takes place, the quality of that development and the community benefits arising from the new development. The Plan would seek to provide the necessary homes and jobs which current and future generations need. However, it proposes to do this in a way which best respects Cardiff’s environmental assets with sustainable transportation solutions at its core. The aim will be to create
sustainable neighbourhoods of the highest possible quality design which have the right range of facilities provided at the right time.

A master-planning process will follow the consultation period and will work up the detailed aspects of potential of new development areas including the provision of necessary infrastructure. There will be further opportunities to comment on such matters later in the LDP process as the Preferred Strategy sets out only the proposed strategic approach to meeting future development needs.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the on the Preferred Strategy. As part of the discussion County Councillor Walker proposed a reference back to Cabinet for further consideration. The reference back as proposed was seconded by County Councillor Dianne Rees.

As part of the debate comments and observations were made on matter relating to regional collaboration; growth predictions; green field and brown field development land; green belt; infrastructure and transport links; sustainable communities; and economic growth and Cardiff as the city region as a driver.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Highways and Traffic and Transportation in his summing up hoped that the Council would work together to get the best conclusion for the City and the City Region and emphasised the need for a coherent and workable LDP to protect the future of the City. The cost of the process to date was £1.35m and any further delays because of the reference back would inevitably incur additional costs. He commended the Preferred Strategy report and the proposed consultation process to Council.

Following a request for a recorded vote on the reference back, voting was as follows:

For (28)

County Councillors Aubrey, Bowden, Boyle, Bridges, Burfoot, Carter, Chaundy, Clark, Cowan, Kirsty Davies, Ford, Graham, Holden, Howells, Hudson, Hyde, Margaret Jones, Kelloway, McEvoy, McKerlich, David Rees, Dianne Rees, Robson, Sanders, Graham Thomas, Walker, Williams and Woodman
Against (41)

County Councillors Ali Ahmed, Ali, Bale, Bradbury, Ralph Cook, Richard Cook, Corria, Davis, De’Ath, Derbyshire, Evans, Furlong, Goddard, Goodway, Govier, Groves, Hawkins, Holland, Hunt, Javed, Keith Jones, Joyce, Knight, Lent, Lomax, Love, Magill, McGarry, Merry, Michael, Mitchell, Murphy, Parry, Patel, Phillips, Simmons, Benjamin Thomas, Huw Thomas, Thorne, Walsh and Weaver.

Following a request for a recorded vote on the recommendations of the Local Development Plan: Preferred Strategy report, voting was as follows:

For (40)

County Councillors Ali Ahmed, Ali, Bale, Bradbury, Ralph Cook, Richard Cook, Corria, Davis, De’Ath, Derbyshire, Evans, Furlong, Goddard, Goodway, Govier, Groves, Hawkins, Holland, Hunt, Javed, Keith Jones, Joyce, Knight, Lent, Lomax, Love, Magill, McGarry, Merry, Michael, Mitchell, Murphy, Parry, Patel, Simmons, Benjamin Thomas, Huw Thomas, Thorne, Walsh and Weaver.

Against (28)

County Councillors Aubrey, Bowden, Boyle, Bridges, Burfoot, Carter, Chaundy, Clark, Cowan, Kirsty Davies, Ford, Graham, Holden, Howells, Hudson, Hyde, Margaret Jones, Kelloway, McEvoy, Mc Kerlich, David Rees, Dianne Rees, Robson, Sanders, Graham Thomas, Walker, Williams and Woodman

Abstain (1)

County Councillor Phillips

113 : APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council was requested to consider the proposed arrangements for the appointment by the Council of three independent representatives to serve as Non-Executive Directors of Millennium Stadium Plc, and for these to be advertised externally. The Council is also requested to establish a politically balanced five Member Appointments Panel to shortlist and
interview applicants. The outcome of this process and related nominations will be reported to the meeting of Council on 13 December 2012.

RESOLVED – That

(1) the current position relating to the Council’s appointment of three independent representatives as Non-Executive Directors of Millennium Stadium plc be noted, and it was agreed to proceed with the advertising and appointment of the three independent Non-Executive Director positions;

(2) the establishment of a politically balanced Members Appointment Panel with five Members for the purpose of this appointment process (based on three Labour; one Liberal Democrat and one Conservative Member) be agreed;

(3) delegate authority be granted to the Chief Operating Officer and Monitoring Officer to support the appointment process.

114 : COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Council was requested to note changes made by Party Groups to the Membership of Committees, details of which were included on the amendment sheet.

Licensing Committee – County Councillor Elaine Simmons

Public Protection Committee – County Councillor Elaine Simmons

115 : APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Council was recommended to approve the appointment of Local Authority School Governors as listed in the appendix to the report, and as shown on the Amendment Sheet.
RESOLVED - That the following appointments of School Governors be approved;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Start of Vacancy</th>
<th>Appointments Approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coed Glas Primary</td>
<td>Llanishen</td>
<td>27/09/2012</td>
<td>Cllr G Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grangetown Nursery – 2 Vacancies</td>
<td>Grangetown</td>
<td>07/07/2012 - 08/08/2012</td>
<td>Mr A Ishtiyaq - Cllr J C Lomax</td>
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<td>Rhiwbeina Primary</td>
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<td>28/06/2012</td>
<td>Mrs JA Alexander</td>
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<td>Ely</td>
<td>21/11/2012</td>
<td>Mrs Thomas</td>
</tr>
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<td>Adamsdown</td>
<td>21/11/2012</td>
<td>Ms S West</td>
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<td>Whitchurch Primary – 4 vacancies</td>
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<td>01/09/2012 - 01/09/2012</td>
<td>Mr R Cooper - Cllr D J Groves - Cllr C Davies</td>
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<td>Splott</td>
<td>21/11/2012</td>
<td>Dr M McClatchey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf</td>
<td>Llandaff</td>
<td>21/07/2012</td>
<td>Mr C James</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

116 : NOTICE IOF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Woodman and seconded by Councillor Boyle

That this Council believes that the proposed new Senior Management structure as agreed by Cabinet 11th October 2012, is not value for money for the residents of Cardiff

Following a request for a recorded vote on the Notice of Motion, voting was as follows
For (24)

County Councillors Aubrey, Bowden, Boyle, Bridges, Burfoot, Carter, Chaundy, Clark, Kirsty Davies, Ford, Graham, Holden, Howells, Hudson, Hyde, Margaret Jones, Kelloway, McEvoy, Mc Kerlich, David Rees, Dianne Rees, Graham Thomas, Walker and Woodman

Against (38)

County Councillors Ali Ahmed, Ali, Bale, Bradbury, Ralph Cook, Richard Cook, Davis, De’Ath, Derbyshire, Evans, Furlong, Goddard, Goodway, Govier, Groves, Hawkins, Holland, Hunt, Javed, Keith Jones, Joyce, Knight, Lent, Lomax, Love, Magill, McGarry, Merry, Michael, Murphy, Patel, Phillips, Simmons, Benjamin Thomas, Huw Thomas, Thorne, Walsh and Weaver.

Abstain (4)

County Councillors Corria, Cowan, Robson and Sanders

The Motion was not carried.

117 : CORPORATE AFFAIRS QUESTIONS

Question: County Councillor Boyle

Could Cllr Joyce give us an update on the meeting that took place on July 24th between the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welsh and lead elected members from Cardiff and tell us when she thinks we might be in position to submit a project to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme?

Reply: County Councillor Joyce

A recent meeting held on 19 October 2012 and attended by Council Officers and partners from the Armed Forces community considered the draft Covenant currently being developed for Cardiff.

Arrangements are now taking place to formally sign the Covenant, subject to the endorsement of each individual signatory organisation. Once this has been achieved and the Covenant is signed, projects can be submitted to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme.
Early discussions have already been undertaken to scope potential projects and officers are happy to work with individuals or organisations who wish to develop relevant projects to bid for grant funding in advance of the anticipated launch of the Covenant.

**Supplementary Question:** County Councillor Boyle

Congratulations for having pushed this forward. It really is good news that the covenant will be signed, and we will be in a position to start applying to the Community Grants Scheme. As the aim of the Community Grants Scheme is to financially support projects at the local level, which will strengthen the ties between the armed forces and the communities they belong, is the Leader in a position to say how the wider community can become involved in these grant schemes, because clearly the armed forces communities have already been involved, but it would be interesting to know how the local communities can become involved in these projects?

**Reply:** County Councillor Joyce

As I understand it, the covenant hasn’t yet been signed. The other partners will be signing as you know: - the Health Board, the Police, etc. I am hoping that the communities can be very much involved. I think the communities all across the city will know or have someone within the armed forces of some sort, and I think we will do everything we can to encourage the communities to be involved as much as possible.

**Question:** County Councillor Walker

Has the Leader studied the Royal British Legion guide to Community Covenants?

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, will she commit to implement the best practice contained in the guide which sets out how Councils can support the Armed Forces and their families, ensuring they face no disadvantage in accessing local services?

There are many service men and women who live in Cardiff, including injured personnel who would welcome a clear pledge from the Leader to support and implement the Armed Forces Community Covenant.
Reply: County Councillor Joyce

Work to develop an Armed Forces Community Covenant for Cardiff is at an advanced stage. A key aspect of this is working with partners to support the Armed Forces and their families to access local services.

The draft Covenant was the subject of a recent meeting between Council Officers and the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Welsh, the Deputy Naval Regional Commander and a military civilian integration officer. The purpose of this meeting was to ensure that the Covenant which is being developed in Cardiff is reflective of best practice that is being taken forward across the UK, of which the Royal British Legion Guide to Community Covenants offers an important insight.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Walker

I also welcome the response the Leader has given to this question. Will the approach include looking at the allocation of housing to veterans, and certainly those personnel who have been injured in war?

Reply: County Councillor Joyce

With regard to the housing, as I understand it, they are already a priority, which I think is a change, because some years back I was dealing with a young soldier who had come back from Afghanistan in a dreadful state, and I was told by an officer that if a mother had two sons and one came from the army and one came from prison, the one from prison would take priority on housing. So I am pleased to say that our armed forces do have a priority.

Question: County Councillor Cowan

How many Councillor letters and e-mails are responded to within the 10 day timescale from officers?

Can you provide a month by month figure for service areas for the past 12 months?
Reply: County Councillor Joyce

At this time, we do not collate this data corporately and the cost of officer time in collating this data for you is both prohibitive and an unproductive use of officer time. However, a Corporate Correspondence Management system is currently being developed and this will enable us to log such correspondence and to monitor responses more effectively.

The first phase of this new system will focus on Members Enquires and will be live by the end of this year. A briefing for Members will be provided in due course.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Cowan

Are you concerned that this date is not available at your fingertips?

Reply: County Councillor Joyce

No, I am not concerned by that. I think that to ask somebody to do a month-by-month figure for service areas for the past twelve months would be quite a big task in a couple of days, and it is not collated at this moment in time.

Question: County Councillor Cowan

How many members of the public letters and E-Mails are responded to within the 21 day timescale from officers?

Can you provide a month by month figure for service areas for the past 12 months?

Reply: County Councillor Joyce

I would refer you to the answer provided to your related question about correspondence from Councillors.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Cowan

By this time next year, will you have this information at your fingertips?
Reply: County Councillor Joyce

I will make a note of it, and from today we will try and collate it for you.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Kelloway

I understand that we do have protocols on the timescales for which Councillors should receive replies to emails and correspondence, but if we are not in any way, it seems monitoring it, because it would be consumptive of officer time, what is the point of having the protocols if nobody is looking to see if they are in fact being put into force?

Reply: County Councillor Joyce

All I can tell you is that we don’t have a month-by-month figure at our fingertips for service areas for the past 12 months. I could ask why? I don’t know if it has always been kept, but it certainly hasn’t been kept for the last 12 months.

To be given to you immediately, it would take an Officer time and resources. It would probably take a week or so, I would have thought, and money.

Question: County Councillor Cowan

At the recent Cabinet Meeting, a proposal was offered by the opposition to put in place a regular form in the Capital Times which would allow our citizens the opportunity to complain or compliment the Council and their services. Have you spoken with officials regarding progressing this suggestion which you appeared to welcome?

Reply: County Councillor Joyce

At the Cabinet meeting on 18 October 2012, it was agreed that work would begin on a revised complaints policy and procedure and the suggestion you refer to will be considered as part of this review. I anticipate that a revised procedure will be brought forward to Cabinet in the near future.
Supplementary Question: County Councillor Cowan

What is the timescale please?

Reply: County Councillor Joyce

With regards to the Complaints Policy, we will be moving on that matter, and for your information we will be carrying your suggestion into the Capital Times for the new year.

118 : SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & WELLBEING – ADULTS’ SERVICES QUESTIONS

Question: County Councillor De’Ath

Are there any measures this Council can take to in some way alleviate the hardship, isolation and debt predicted next year when the Westminster Government replaces Disability Living Allowance with personal independence payments?

Reply: County Councillor Holland

I share the Councillors concern about this change which will affect 13,000 vulnerable people in Cardiff.

As you will be aware, from April 2013, Disability Living Allowance for working age claimants will be replaced by Personal Independence Payments. All will be reassessed on a phased basis and it is expected that 20% of claimants will no longer qualify.

Loss of entitlement could have significant affect on claimant incomes as Disability Living Allowance acts as a “passport” benefit for other benefits, increasing the amount of housing and council tax benefit and giving entitlement to motability scheme. There could be a loss of income of more than £200 a week for some claimants.

The Council cannot make up this shortfall, however we can try to ensure that advice is available to those who need it. This is another reason why the review of advice services is so important.
Supplementary Question: County Councillor De’Ath

Under forthcoming Welfare Reform, hundreds and thousands of disabled people will be plunged into poverty and misery when the UK Government replaces Disability Living Allowance with more restrictive Personal Independence Payments. It is estimated that up to 500,000 disabled people will see their benefits cut as a result of these changes. A report produced by the Hardest Hit Campaign – a coalition of ninety charities – found that this change would also force over 50,000 sick or disabled people to give up work, and cause difficulties for those with special adapted vehicles.

Will you join me in condemning this wholly indefensible and unjustifiable decision made by the Tories and their Liberal Democrat accomplices?

Reply: County Councillor Holland

The decisions that have been taken at Westminster level in terms of the way that the Welfare Reform Act will impact on the most vulnerable in our societies. I find quite reprehensible, in terms of the specifics that you reference, and I can assure that there is a huge amount of work currently taking place by the Corporate Chief Officer, Communities, Councillor Thorne, and the Communities team, in terms of looking at the way that this Council as an institution can best protect the most vulnerable against the more stringent excesses of the Welfare Reforms. And I can also assure you that the Adult Services Department, in the coming weeks, will bring forward proposals to remodel social care in the round, to ensure that where we can provide protection for the most vulnerable, we do.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Bowden

In the last paragraph it says “the Council cannot make up this shortfall’ however, we can ensure that advice is available for those that need it”, and I share completely Councillor De’Ath’s concerns and your own about what is going to happen when Disability Living Allowance is replaced by the Personal Independence Payments.

What is this advice going to be? How is it going to be delivered? and how are Councillors going to know how to deliver and where to direct people?
Reply: County Councillor Holland

There is currently a root-and-branch review of Advice Services provided by the Council underway. One of the things informing that in the most urgent sense is the Welfare Reform Act itself. I think that Councillor Thorne would be best placed, either in this chamber or in writing, to outline to you the work currently being done and the outcomes when the work is completed.

Question: County Councillor Kirsty Davies

How many Asylum seekers have been treated under the POVA process so far this financial year?

Reply: County Councillor Holland

I can confirm that the POVA (Protection of Vulnerable Adults) team has had no Asylum Seeker referrals this year.

The POVA team works to protect vulnerable adults from abuse. Vulnerable adults are defined as people who are 18 years of age or over and who may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who are, or may be, unable to take care of themselves or are unable to protect themselves against significant harm or serious exploitation. They can face physical, sexual, emotional, financial, neglect, discrimination or institutional abuse.

The POVA team works in an inter-agency way to ensure that steps are taken to protect the vulnerable person and where there is a person responsible to ensure that appropriate action is taken. The POVA team would, if appropriate, attend any multi-agency meeting convened to discuss any issues concerning the protection of a vulnerable Asylum Seeker.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Kirsty Davies

Does this figure surprise you that no Asylum Seekers have been treated under the POVA process, given that your statement in the last set of Council Questions that all Asylum Seekers are eligible for POVA process?
Reply: County Councillor Holland

I wouldn’t say that I am surprised about the figures, but what I would say is that I, in conversations with colleagues in the Adult Services Department, have been reassured that not only are Asylum Seekers eligible to be treated under the POVA system, but wherever possible, checks and measures are being put in place to ensure that they are. I will certainly, in light of these figures and the discussions that we have held outside of this chamber, be having further conversations with Officers to ask for some more information in that regard.

The other thing I would be quite keen to share with colleagues this evening, as we all know the Council will no longer be discharging obligations in regard with working with the Asylum Seeker community in Cardiff, as there was a decision taken to put that out to public tender, and a private company Clearel will be providing this service. This was on the basis of a contract awarded by the UK Border Agency. As a result of that award, which was committed mainly on cost basis, there has been a significant reduction of staff that Clearel will be deploying to look after this most vulnerable community.

It’s early days, and we are putting in place arrangements to monitor this service in order to ensure the quality, which was very well provided by this Council, is maintained as part of these new arrangements, and I would certainly look extremely dimly if these new arrangements themselves, lead to any increase in the POVA work by the Council.

Question: County Councillor Sanders

You will, I'm sure, be aware of the publication by the Welsh Government this week of the Together for Mental Health Strategy setting out a 10 year delivery plan to improve services for those with mental health issues. It links very closely to the Mental Health (Wales) 2010 Measure that places legal requirements on both health bodies and Local Authorities in individualised care planning. The expectation of the Strategy is that it will deliver amongst other things "well designed fully integrated networks of care".

Could you outline how this will be delivered for those in Cardiff who require these services, that takes account of both the Mental Health Measure requirements and strategic expectations?
Reply: County Councillor Holland

The Welsh Government Strategy, ‘Together for Mental Health’, includes the following key objectives:

- Promoting mental wellbeing and, where possible, preventing mental health problems developing.
- Establishing a new partnership with the public, centred on:
  - Improving information on mental health
  - Increasing service user and carer involvement in decisions around their care
- Changing attitudes to mental health by tackling stigma and discrimination.
- Delivering a well designed, fully integrated network of care. This will be based on the recovery and enablement of service users in order to live as fulfilled and independent a life as possible.
- Addressing the range of factors in people’s lives which can affect mental health and wellbeing through Care and Treatment Planning and joint-working across sectors.

These are also key priorities for the Health Service and the Local Authority and the arrangements for implementation in Cardiff will reflect this. The National Delivery Plan that was published this week also sets out the national context.

The delivery of both the Mental Health Measure and the new Mental Health Strategy will be led in Cardiff by the Mental Health Partnership Program Board, which is chaired by the Director of Public Health from the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board. The Board reports in turn to the Integrated Health and Social Care Board, of which I am a member alongside the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Wellbeing (Children’s Services) and the Chief Operating Officer as representatives from the Council.

Currently, the steering group for the implementation of the Mental Health Measure in Cardiff is accountable to the Mental Health Partnership Program Board and its work is monitored nationally by the Welsh Government. The same will apply to the implementation of the new Mental Health Strategy in order to ensure the effective co-ordination of these interlinked developments, which also includes representation by
service users, carers, voluntary organisations and the Community Health Council.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Sanders

As I am sure you will accept, there are procedural barriers to interpretation for example, information systems and protocols regarding confidentiality and access.

How confident are you that the Local Authority will meet its requirements to integrate information in partnership with health, as outlined in the Mental Health Measure?

Reply: County Councillor Holland

As I referenced earlier, the implementation and development of the Mental Health Services across Cardiff and the Vale is overseen by the Mental Health Partnership Board. But there are some fundamentals here about how, not just how we engage with health on a daily basis, or on the basics of joint appointments, and things of that nature; but how we, with colleagues in the Vale and colleagues in the UHB, work to remake the way we work, both in terms of our daily dialogues in terms of the way we deliver services on the front line, the way that IT systems talk to each other.

You mention the barriers that we have. I think what is heartening is that in the six months since we have been here in the administration in Cardiff Council, there has been re-energising, and a real attempt to remake those relationships in terms of that. There is a new team over in the Vale, there is a new team at the UHB, and there is a real appetite not to pay lip service to closer working. What we really need is to deliver on the ground. Our guiding principle throughout the conversations is what comes out at the end, and how those people who are accessing the services are served by what we are doing.

I am hopeful. I won’t pretend that we have all the answers, but as I said to you earlier, I think the first step is realising where there are problems. That acknowledgement is firmly there. I think the piece of work that the Assembly have done is extremely positive in the direction of travel. I now accept that it is up to us to deliver on that, and I sincerely hope that we will be able to do that.
Question: County Councillor De’Ath

What assistance is the Council able to offer disabled people in Cardiff undergoing Work Capability Assessments?

Reply: County Councillor Holland

Incapacity Benefit is being replaced by Employment Support Allowance on a phased basis. 75% of those being reassessed are being found fit for work.

The Department of Work and Pensions have stated that 32% of claimants who are found fit for work, are winning on appeal. Advice agencies report however that where they are providing support more than 90% are winning their appeal.

It is therefore very important that advice is available to those who need to appeal against these decisions.

The legislation and case law governing Employment Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments is extremely complex. It also changes according to legal decisions. It is vital that anyone providing advice on claims and appeals has the correct, up-to-date expertise in relation to this welfare benefit.

The Communities Directorate is currently undertaking a review of advice services in Cardiff to ensure that best use is made of resources and that help is available to those who need it. Adult Services do not directly provide advice about benefits. However, the service area is involved in the multi-agency task group which is currently looking at the impact of the welfare reform changes in Cardiff and is carefully considering the impact of all these changes on its clients.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor De’Ath

As you have touched on in your answer, the work in Capability Assessment examines incapacity benefit recipients to determine whether they are fit enough to come off benefits and enter the labour market or move on to a form of ESA. These tests must surely be criticised and are deeply flawed, and hundreds and thousands of people will have to appeal decisions for refusal of benefit, and only 40% of these appeals are
successful. Large numbers of patients with terminal cancer, brain tumours, and incurable conditions have been found fit to work after undergoing assessment carried out ostensibly by private health firms like Athos Healthcare. There is well documented evidence that approximately 32 disabled people a week die after they have been through the assessment and their benefits are removed.

Could you do your best to ensure that, where appropriate, that any increase in relevant care need following the trauma of these tests is met?

Reply: County Councillor Holland

I hear your concerns, which I think are well shared by many in terms of the nature of the assessments, and a widely held opinion that any sort of assessment that can see 90% of the judgement being overturned when correct support is there may not be fit for purpose. I can assure you this Council is simply in a position to be able to ameliorate every effect of a decision taken at another level of Government, but certainly in terms of providing advice, in terms of providing support, and in terms of providing best quality of care in the most suitable of ways, we will do everything we can in that regard.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Bowden

Once again I completely agree with Councillor De’Ath about this. I think you are aware that the advice agencies are completely overwhelmed by the number of people who are facing appeal, and that these appeals are taking between 6 and 9 months to be heard at Tribunal. I note what you say about the legislation and case law, although I wasn’t actually aware that we had actually got some case law yet because it has just been so recently introduced, but I wonder, I am already working with residents in my ward who have been refused, helping them to get to tribunals, is it possible for you to offer training in this Council for Councillors to enable them to support their residents to tribunal to get the tools in which to support them better to enable them to approach their tribunals?

Reply: County Councillor Holland

What I will undertake to do is to speak to my colleague Councillor Thorne with regards to any capacity we may have as an authority, but
certainly in terms of identifying external agencies and colleagues in the Third Sector who may be able to provide appropriate support

(The Chair indicated that there was no further time allowed for supplementary questions under this portfolio)

**Question**: County Councillor Kirsty Davies

How many victims of trafficking have been treated under the POVA process so far this financial year?

**Reply**: County Councillor Holland

No people who have been identified as having been ‘trafficked’ have been the subject of the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) process so far this year.

A person who has been allegedly trafficked would have to fit the criteria and threshold as per the definition of a vulnerable adult. In addition, the person’s capacity and consent have to be taken into consideration along with other factors.

We have referred one person to the Police suggesting they were trafficked and are awaiting an outcome.

In accordance with the all Wales policy and procedures, the POVA team does have a responsibility in respect of forced marriages where they receive a referral. This could potentially relate to a human trafficking issue. We have had such involvement in the past and Adult Services have been involved in the legal process of seeking Forced Marriage Orders. However, these cases were not in this financial year and did not involve trafficking.

There have been a number of recent events to raise awareness in respect of human trafficking, which have been organised by the Council which members of the POVA team have attended. Members of the POVA team have also attended events organised by external agencies. In addition, they would attend any multi-agency meeting convened by our partner agencies to discuss any human trafficking issues.
119 : ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

The Cabinet Member was pleased to announce that officers had been asked to urgently draw up plans for a Cardiff Energy Tariff in order to provide options for the people we represent and to remove the inequality in house holder’s ability to access cheaper energy through collective purchasing. We have all witnessed the soaring cost of gas and electricity and the Cabinet Member did not believe these are temporary increases as with any commodity, scarcity equals increased prices. Paying for energy continues to be a major, if not the major concern for many people, especially older people and experience tells me harsh choices are being made by people daily and increasingly across our city between turning on their heating or whether to even buy food. Research has identified that 30% of Cardiff households fall into the income poverty bracket and of that, 22.4% fall into extreme poverty where a link can be made to fuel poverty, which is defined as a household needing to spend 10 per cent or more of household income on fuel, to maintain a heating regime adequate to safeguard comfort and health.

Continuous mixed messages from the Westminster Government are doing little to address these problems and their messages of it is ok, we will sort this out, are not helping. Therefore, in partnership with the residents of Cardiff, this administration will be looking to take action in order to address fuel poverty in the City.

In addition to the above and the Cabinet Member indicated that his Year 1 objectives, as an example of new service delivery models, next month he would be making an announcement on a ground breaking Green Energy Scheme with scope to provide many community benefits for those along the River Taff corridor. In addition the Cabinet Member advised that he would also be producing a paper early in the New Year outlining our Renewable Energy Strategy as a result of current discussions we are having with possible partners. The aim of these will be to maximise benefits for the citizens of Cardiff and reducing our possible Carbon Energy Tax spends.

120 : ENVIRONMENT QUESTION

Question: County Councillor Clark

Please could the amount and percentage of recycling for each ward compared to non-recyclable waste be provided?
Please could the recycling information be split into the proportion of dry recycling, food recycling and garden waste?

Reply: County Councillor Holland

As explained when I joined you and my Labour colleagues for the student door knocking session on Wednesday, in September 2011 under your administration, a decision was taken to change the way in which vehicles operated so that vehicles now cross ward boundaries meaning that ward-by-ward data does not currently exist.

Not having this data available is hugely frustrating as it limits my ability to make much tougher, informed decisions than have been taken in the past in order to ensure the authority is leading the way towards Welsh Government targets. As a result, I have asked Officers to explore options for further data analysis, but I don’t currently have a deliverable timeframe for this.

121 : EDUCATION AND LIFE LONG LEARNING QUESTIONS

Question: County Councillor Hunt

At last month’s Council Meeting, I asked for information related to HMRC’s decision to close the workplace nursery at the Llanishen site. Are you able to give an update on this?

Reply: County Councillor Magill

Further to my response to your previous question at last month’s Council meeting, I am pleased to confirm to all Members that HMRC has put forward proposals to offer a lease to Bright Horizons so that their First Friends nursery can remain open on its Llanishen site until August 2015. This really is great news for all of those involved and will mean that the nursery will not have to close at the end of next month.

Extending the nursery’s lease means that this important and valued childcare arrangement can remain in the community, whilst giving parents and staff a much more reasonable amount of time to explore alternative options for the future.
I am delighted that HMRC has listened to the parents, carers and staff of children at First Friends Nursery, and decided to see sense. Closing the nursery at short notice would have been very disruptive for the 110 children and their families. 35 members of staff were also at risk of losing their jobs.

I want to congratulate all those who have campaigned against HMRC’s previous decision to close the nursery in Cardiff by the end of November 2012 and who have helped persuade them to rethink their decision, including both you and Cllr Bale.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Hunt

Thank you for the excellent news, and the kind words at the end of your reply. I was just wondering if you could give us an assurance that the situation will be monitored, and that when we get to August 2015 that there will hopefully be a mechanism in place whereby we can discuss with HMRC where we go from there.

Reply: County Councillor Magill

Just to reiterate, I think that the parents fought a magnificent campaign to save their nursery at least to give it an extended life over which time they could use to put an alternative provision in place. So yes, we will continue to monitor the situation. Some support was already offered from advice services within the Council as part of the issue behind the nursery potentially closing, and they will stay in the background working with parents and the nursery to see that an alternative provision is available by 2015.

We do have to welcome HMRC’s decision to change their mind about this.

Question: County Councillor Kelloway

In view of the recent discovery of free asbestos fibres at Cwmcarn School in Caerphilly and the subsequent closure of the school, will you please outline the processes that are currently being followed to identify the presence, or otherwise, of free asbestos fibres in Cardiff’s schools and any issues that may have arisen?
Reply: County Councillor Magill

Asbestos management surveys have been carried out on all Cardiff Council properties, including schools, in order to identify and assess the presence, type and condition of any asbestos which maybe present. The surveys are carried out by competent surveyors and are reviewed every three years. The Council has put in place robust procedures to ensure that asbestos is effectively and consistently managed in compliance with legislative requirements.

Each school, where asbestos containing materials have been identified, has been issued with an Asbestos Management Plan and an Asbestos Inspection Programme. The Asbestos Management Plan details the procedures to be followed to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that people are not exposed to asbestos fibres. The Asbestos Inspection Programme details the inspections to be carried out by the school to monitor the condition of any identified asbestos.

Prior to any work being undertaken which disturbs the fabric of any building, the Council’s Asbestos Controlling Officers must be informed and a Refurbishment/Demolition survey is carried out either in-house or by external consultants. This is then issued prior to any work being undertaken.

Question: County Councillor Dianne Rees

It is the statutory duty of the County Council to provide nursery education for all of Cardiff’s 3 to 5 year old children. What actions are you taking to ensure that all children receive their nursery education in quality council provided premises?

Reply: County Councillor Magill

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended by the Education Act 2002) requires local Councils to “Secure sufficient education provision for under-fives from a prescribed age, which from 2006-2007 will be, three-year-olds from the term following their third birthday.” It does not specify how this entitlement must be provided. Different authorities implement this requirement in a variety of ways due to the provision available to them.
With regard to nursery places within council provision, as above there is no statutory requirement for Councils to provide nursery places within council (maintained) nursery units. However the Council’s ‘21st Century Schools”: A Strategic Framework for a school building improvement programme (2006) states that it is the Council’s intention “wherever possible to seek to create all through primary schools catering for the age range 3-11”.

In line with this since 2006, 12 new nursery units have been established, delivering 576 part time equivalent places over the last 6 years. In addition places have been increased at 10 existing nursery units, providing a further 184 places.

Places have been taken out as a result of school closures resulting in a total reduction of 176 places.

The total net increase to date (i.e. between 2006-2012) is 584 part time equivalent places available in council maintained nursery provision.

An additional 144 places will be provided through establishing two new nursery units over the next 2 years, these have already been through statutory consultation with building plans already established and funding identified within the SOP model.

Future development plans as outlined in the 21st Century Schools investment bid to the Welsh Government have set out the intention to seek to provide an additional 8 nursery units providing a further 400 part time nursery places. These have been suggested to respond to those areas experiencing the highest level of demand and where there are limited options to purchase from the non-maintained sector.

Those schools that do not have nursery provision and that are not included as outlined above will also be considered in due course and officers remain in contact with schools and other partners in order to address any emerging sufficiency issues and how these can best be addressed. Proposals to extend the age range by establishing new nursery provision at any of the current 4-11 primary schools may therefore be brought forward as appropriate in line with demand and supply.
Supplementary Question: County Councillor Dianne Rees

I notice you put in your answer that the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 doesn’t specify how this entitlement must be provided. How much publically funded money, financial support is given to private nursery schools in Cardiff to provide education to 3 – 5 year olds, and how many private nursery schools are receiving public funds from the authority and what control do you have over the conditions in nursery schools outside Local Authority provided premised which you assist with public funds?

Reply: County Councillor Magill

Your quite right that the Schools Standards and Framework Act as amended does give Councils a degree of discretion as to how they actually provide nursery places. The ambition of this authority is to move towards associating nursery provision alongside primary schools where that is appropriate and to have a mixed approach, which is relevant to different communities. So we still have some stand alone nurseries that do a very good job. I visited Tremorfa nursery recently and they do some fantastic work there.

As part of the development of the school organisation and so on, there have already been some increased places alongside primary schools over the last few years, and we have got new provision coming on stream at Millbank Primary and Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna shortly, with a number of other proposals including, as I am sure you will be pleased to know at Pontprennau.

In terms of the situation of people accessing private sector nurseries, I don’t have the figures to hand on that, but I am sure I can get them for you. The general pattern is that children tend to be accommodated within the state provision up until Christmas time, and then over the next two terms a number of places in certain parts of the city will be taken up in the private sector, but I will get you the exact figures later. I will provide the answer in writing.

Question: County Councillor Robson

Does the Cabinet have any plans in relation to the future of Greenhill Special School and surrounding land?
Reply: County Councillor Magill

There are currently no plans regarding the future of Greenhill Special School.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Robson

Thank you for the answer and confirming the current position. Can I ask to be notified the very instance that this position changes, be that through the Local Development Plan processes or some other mechanism?

Reply: County Councillor Magill

Certainly, as proposals are developed around schools in the city we obviously will be talking to Councillors about that as any plans emerge.

On the issues around land, I will need to collaborate with Councillor Ralph Cook on aspects around land which will be caught up in issues around the LDP.

Question: County Councillor Evans

What progress is being made on developing the council’s new youth work strategy?

Reply: County Councillor Magill

The Council’s Youth Service is currently engaged in undertaking a self assessment process, which will be completed by the end of December 2012. The improvement findings identified through this process will inform the planning of service provision undertaken in early 2013. This will also need to consider the implications of any financial settlement agreed during this period.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Evans

Whilst it is understood that needs base analysis shape priorities and inform the allocation of resources, can you give an assurance that the principle of universalism in youth provision will be maintained, because firstly this is in line with Welsh Government Youth Policy as reflected in
the extending entitlement philosophy, and also European Youth Policy, and secondly because a Youth Service that is focussed exclusively on those deemed to be at risk of becoming NEETS will itself be a service at risk of being stigmatised as delinquency management service, something that actually could be profoundly unhelpful to those it is seeking to help.

Reply: County Councillor Magill

What we are attempting to do with the Youth Service is to make sure going forward we have a model that is going to provide the best range of services that we can within the resources that are available. Work is ongoing, and we are anticipating that it will be completed around Christmas time. But I think if we are going to meet the needs of young people as best we can, to provide only one strand of service is unlikely to be the model that emerges.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Kelloway

It was always an ambition of the previous administration, although unfulfilled, that we should work towards the Youth Service being 52 weeks of the year provision, and I am just asking if you will use your best endeavours to possibly work towards the fulfilment of that ambition in the fullness of time?

Reply: County Councillor Magill

As it happens I was talking to the Cardiff Youth Council yesterday evening, and the young people there have been looking at youth provision themselves, and are contributing to the exercise that I have just been talking about in terms of their aspirations for the Youth Service, and certainly that is one of the issues that they raised as part of the range of things that they would like to see happening in terms of youth services happening. So certainly it is part of the consideration,

Question: County Councillor Howells

Due to the expansion of Adamsdown Primary School, a temporary demountable classroom was delivered during the summer break for use this new academic year. A number of issues have arisen with this unit in terms of its fitness for purpose. Issues around fire safety, security (both internal and external) and an inadequate outdoor play area have been
raised by the school with the Council and an undertaking has been given that these will be addressed before the children return following half term.

Can you provide me with an assurance that this work will be treated as a priority and completed in time and ensure that procedures are in place to ensure that other schools aren't faced with similar issues should they need to be provided with temporary accommodation in the future?

Reply: County Councillor Magill

The remaining issues regarding the demountable unit will be resolved over the forthcoming half term holiday.

The works relating to the external play area are being looked at as they did not form part of the original scheme. The headteacher has made a request for a larger area of tarmacadam to be laid and steps to be provided leading from the demountable unit to the upper yard. Officers therefore need to discuss the feasibility of these requests.

The headteacher has been kept fully informed of progress on these matters. With regard to future works, officers will put the necessary procedures and checklists in place to ensure that all matters are covered sufficiently and in time.

Question: County Councillor Evans

Could details be provided on Youth Revenue Funding for 2012/2013 and could some indication be given on when the advertisements for Tender in this service area will be published?

Reply: County Councillor Magill

Youth Work Revenue Grant funding is made available by the Welsh Government to the Council on an annual basis. There is no obligation placed on the Council by the Welsh Government to tender out youth work services. Currently, funding made available through the grant is supporting the delivery of the following targeted programmes which, in the main, are delivered through the Council’s Youth Service, although a range of contributors are drawn from other youth support organisations in Cardiff:
NEET focused work:
- Transition support at 16+
- NEET Learning coach – Grangetown/Butetown
- Targeted support for Czech Roma young people
- Programmes addressing radicalisation

Raising achievement:
- Targeted youth mentor support improving motivation and attendance
- Increasing access to accreditation – DoE with five southern arc secondary schools

Supporting the voice of young people:
- Development of a social media as a communication tool with the Youth Service
- Supporting active involvement of young people through Cardiff Youth Council

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Evans

You are of course quite right to state that there is no obligation on the Council by the Welsh Government to tender out Youth Work Services. Should I infer from this reply that there are therefore no plans to tender out any Youth Work Services, implying that you are satisfied we have the capacity to deliver all of the services required?

Reply: County Councillor Magill

What we are doing at the moment is to examine the totality of the Youth provision, so at the moment that is part of our model, and as you say there is an indication, whilst we work with other providers to help deliver that service, there are third sector organisations and so on that support us already, and that sort of partnership is very welcome. There isn’t a process of tendering out these services in train at the moment. We will have to see what comes back at the end of the examination on how the service should go forward, but there are no plans at present to do that.

(The Chair indicated that there was no further time allowed for supplementary questions under this portfolio)
Question: County Councillor Howells

What additional budgetary support is available to schools with high pupil mobility in relation to SEN outside of that delegated to them?

Reply: County Councillor Magill

As a school governor, you will be aware that a significant part of the previously centrally retained budget for providing support to pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) was delegated to schools at the start of this financial year.

The changes to SEN funding were intended to:
- Facilitate early intervention and improve school capacity through the 5 stage model of support.
- Reduce the extent to which provision is dependent on a statement of special educational need.
- Develop more child-centred approaches to identifying and meeting needs, with a reduction in bureaucratic processes.

A formula, agreed with Headteachers, has been used to distribute most of the funding to schools; however, we did agree with schools that the Education Service would retain a contingency amount in order to fund any additional pupils with complex needs entering the school system part way through the year.

I am aware that, during this financial year, the Education Service has been contacted by a small number of schools who have raised concerns about the impact on their school budget of larger than anticipated numbers of statemented pupils being admitted to the school and where they have been affected by a significant throughput of pupils (both in and out of their school). In each of these cases, the Education Service has worked with the school and identified the impact that this had on the whole school, rather than on an individual child-by-child basis.

The Education Service will be using this information to revisit the formula used to distribute SEN resources and the parameters for accessing the SEN contingency during the latter part of this academic term. This exercise will include Headteacher involvement in a Task and Finish group, who will then report back their findings and any proposals to adjust the formula to the wider school community.
122 : SPORTS & LEISURE QUESTIONS

**Question:** County Councillor De’Ath

What efforts does the Council-run Cardiff Story Museum make towards tackling disadvantage and child poverty in the city?

**Reply:** County Councillor Huw Thomas

The Cardiff Story is a fully accessible museum and is free to all. It has dedicated spaces for schools, learning and community groups to use and museum staff support these activities.

The museum actively encourages school visits and community participation with exhibitions, events and the content of the museum, inclusive of all areas of society. Volunteer roles are also integrated into all aspects of the museum, providing further opportunities for lifelong learning, insight into potential career opportunities and career development.

The Cardiff Story has been building links with communities throughout the city since before the museum opened. Many local community groups have been involved in a variety of ways, donating objects, telling their stories and working with the museum team to hold events.

Our Community Curator has been working with a number of groups from minority ethnic communities and underprivileged backgrounds. For example, building links with the Romani, Gypsy and Traveller community in Cardiff and working with them to produce an exhibition in the museum’s City Showcase gallery. This gallery is specially designed to allow community groups to work with our staff and to produce an exhibition about their community. It is so popular that it is booked up until 2015.

In addition, the Cardiff Story was involved throughout the Ely Hospital Project, which was an exhibition put together by Cardiff People First, an organisation run by and for people with learning disabilities. The final exhibition focused on the untold story of patients and staff at the former Ely Hospital.
The Cardiff Story has also begun the process of consulting with local community groups from a wide range of backgrounds. This has included consultation sessions with teenage boys from the Yemeni community, teenagers involved in The Prince’s Trust and a young carers group.

The Cardiff Story’s commitment to reflecting the cultural diversity and heritage of all communities within the city is underlined by the following extract from the Museum’s Access and Diversity Policy:

*The Cardiff Story Museum is committed to ensuring that its activities are accessible to all visitors and sectors of the community by removing or reducing physical, sensory or intellectual barriers to access and ensuring that no employee, user or other stakeholder is discriminated against for any reason.*

*The Cardiff Story adopts the social model of disability - that people are disabled by the built environment, attitudes and lack of access to information, not by impairments.*

*It believes diversity is the complex mix of traditions, values, attitudes and beliefs which influence individuals’, groups’ and therefore society’s identity. These influences can relate to ethnicity, faith and belief, age, gender, sexual orientation, intellectual and physical ability, locality, educational, economic and social background.*

**Supplementary Question:**  County Councillor De’Ath

*(County Councillor De’Ath declared an interest in this item under Article 16 of the Members’ Code of Conduct)*

The National Museum of Wales undertakes a wide range of work engaging with people from marginalised and disadvantaged groups, in particular children. It launched its own Child Poverty Strategy entitled Transforming Children’s Lives, which sets out the ambitious aims of not only helping people out of poverty in Wales, but also mitigating impact through art initiatives and projects to develop community resilience.

As you are aware 1 in 3 children in Wales lives in poverty. Will you ensure that the Cardiff Story Museum makes every possible effort to bring in and reach out to children and young people living in poverty? Will you also consider looking to the National Museum of Wales for
examples of best practice in this area - as we are also after all a co-operative Council, and keen to explore partnership working - looking to explore possible anti-poverty collaborations between these two museums.

Reply: County Councillor Huw Thomas

Yes, absolutely, and given your intimate knowledge of the subject, I would be very willing to work with you on how we take this forward.

Question: County Councillor Boyle

How hard did Cllr Thomas canvass on behalf of Cardiff & Co during the process that resulted in the decision to wind it up?

Reply: County Councillor Huw Thomas

Since taking office I, along with some Cabinet members, met with Cardiff & Co, and I further met with several stakeholders in the tourist industry to discuss how we best promote and market the city. I fed my conclusions on these discussions into the Cabinet deliberations on this subject. It is a matter of record that I petitioned the relevant Cabinet member on the importance of ensuring that successful initiatives undertaken by Cardiff & Co, such as the Cardiff Ambassadors scheme and the Cardiff Commitment, be continued as part of the future working arrangements.

Supplementary Question County Councillor Boyle

What possible risks have you identified for the city’s tourist industry in closing down the activities of Cardiff & Co whilst plans for any replacement are still at an embryonic stage?

Reply: County Councillor Huw Thomas

Like I said in the written answer, I think it is important to acknowledge the good work done by Cardiff & Co, and this development should not be seen as criticism of what has been achieved. I am confident that the existing structure will remain in place long enough until we have a representative body in place to take it forward. But it should be understood that the primary purpose we are trying to achieve here is to create a functioning, effective body, which is properly resources. One of
the concerns I had about Cardiff & Co is that in the past it has not had the resources it deserves to do the very important job of promoting and marketing Cardiff to the world.

**Question:** County Councillor Robson

Will the cabinet member look at the feasibility of having grass clippings collected as the grass is mown?

**Reply:** County Councillor Huw Thomas

The Council currently operates a very limited number of ‘cut and collect’ regimes throughout its public open space provision linked to the maintenance of sports turf (e.g. bowling greens) and ornamental turf (e.g. Roath Park Rose Gardens).

The cost associated with a ‘cut and collect’ regime on a wider scale (i.e. public open space/general amenity grassland) is significant. In order to operate a ‘cut and collect’ regime, the general mode of operation would need to change fundamentally from one whereby ride-on mowers are operated independently from area based depots to one whereby ride-on mowers would need to be transported to/from sites on trailers towed by vehicles.

In order to operate a ‘cut and collect regime’ effectively, the frequency of mowing would need to increase to enable grass cuttings to be collected from the machine cylinders/ blades without ‘clogging’. Grass cuttings from mowing operations would also need to be deposited onto the flat bed of a vehicle prior to being transported to, and disposed of, at an appropriate waste disposal facility, hence the requirement for a trailer/vehicle.

Increased costs would be incurred in terms of vehicles, fuel, labour and tipping. An examination of the current mowing fleet would also need to take place in order to assess whether the equipment would be fit for purpose for conversion to a ‘cut and collect’ regime. There would also be costs linked to the modification of existing and acquisition of new machinery.

In view of the above and given the unprecedented financial position that the Council faces, any proposed changes to the current grass cutting
regime would need to be considered alongside the Council’s other priorities.

**Supplementary Question:** County Councillor Robson

I found the answer very informative, showing all the processes required to collect the grass from grass cutting. Many residents have asked about this and then invariably when they are told that the Council does not do it, they go and cut their own little bit of verge or turf, or whatever it is, and that seems to be frowned upon by the Council. Is that something we could look at to ensure that residents if they wish to cut their own grass outside of their properties? In Rhiwbina Garden Village, a classic example, residents do a far better job than the Council ever does, and it would save the council money in having to cut it themselves maybe?

**Reply:** County Councillor Huw Thomas

I am surprised to hear of that example, because it was news to me. That is exactly the kind of thing that if properly managed, with all the risks and health and safety concerns addressed, something we would definitely wish to encourage. So perhaps you and I could have a conversation in due course and discuss how to take that forward.

**Supplementary Question:** County Councillor Bradbury

This very issue has been brought up at my surgery, and it is worrying quite a few residents in my ward, particularly those who live on Heol Trelai as the grass is being cut more regularly. But the fact of the matter is that the grass is being left in the middle of the grass verge between the two sides of the road in Heol Trelai.

Could you have a look at this as a matter of priority, whilst accepting the economic situation that we are in that you referred to in your answer? Is there any way you can look at a viable solution to this so that when my constituents come to me, I can say the Cabinet Member is doing something about it, and we are trying to sort this out, because it is a worry both on safety grounds, and in grounds of the way it looks when wind blows and such, it goes all over the road, and people are worried about it.
Reply: County Councillor Huw Thomas

What I would say before answering your question directly is that when grass is being cut and it blows onto pavements and pathways after it has been cut, it is standard Council policy to actually blow that back, and indeed I am dealing with a piece of casework with Councillor Murphy at the moment on that very subject. It sounds like what you are describing there is a unique example or a set of unique examples and if that is the case then by all means let us discuss it and take it forward.

We will look at various options, but I have been informed by officers that the cost of cut and collect could be as much as four times the current cost.

Point of Explanation: County Councillor Derbyshire

Just to advise that it is of benefit to leave the grass on the ground because it does actually nourish the ground and makes grass grow better the following year.

Question: County Councillor Evans

Could the council list the opportunities available to young people through the medium of Welsh that take place:

(a) After 17.00 on Mondays-Fridays (inclusive);
(b) Outside school gates;
(c) During weekends;
(d) During school holidays; and
(e) Involving joint school activities?

Reply: County Councillor Huw Thomas

The Council offers a range of services for young people through the medium of Welsh, both on its own and with partner agencies at all of the times listed. We have made a commitment in our manifesto to try to increase the range of services available and, as the budget process for 2013/14 is ongoing, it is difficult to give any firm commitments at this stage, although I can confirm that this remains our aim if at all possible. If you would like a detailed breakdown of the services available, then I will happily provide a written response to you in due course.
Some of the opportunities that are available include:

- work with Plasmawr School being undertaken by Fairwater Leisure Centre delivering “Teen Zumba”;
- classes at Maindy Centre in Trixter and Kettlebell;
- discussions with the Urdd to provide girls rugby and hockey opportunities on Saturday mornings;
- Welsh medium after school youth clubs offered at 5 English medium secondary schools delivered by Cardiff Youth Service;
- the hosting of an after school club at Cardiff International Sports Stadium for Pwll Coch Primary School;
- opportunities to engage in weekend outdoor pursuit expeditions which contribute to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; and,
- holiday activities, such as cookery and surfing, as part of the Summer Learning Festival, which are offered in collaboration with Menter Caerdydd.

As I have mentioned above, we are in continual dialogue with partner agencies such as the office of the Welsh Language Commissioner, the Urdd, RHAG and Menter Caerdydd in order to seek innovative ways to increase the opportunities for young people in Cardiff through the medium of Welsh.

**Supplementary Question: County Councillor Evans**

I of course welcome the commitment to increase the range of services available through the medium of Welsh, particularly as the former Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee did express concern that this Council maybe failing in its statutory obligations in relation to the Welsh Language in this area of service provision.

Please can you and Councillor Magill provide a more detailed breakdown of the leisure and youth work services as requested in this question and the one I asked in the previous full Council meeting, particularly as there appears to be some inaccuracies in the information I received on the last occasion in respect of the level of youth work provision through the medium of Welsh?

I don’t know how best to proceed with this, is it best to do it by letter, and challenge it that way, rather than use this forum? I would be grateful for some advice on that.
Reply: County Councillor Huw Thomas

If you want to illuminate me after this meeting on what exactly the discrepancy is and maybe we can respond fully in writing.

With regards to your point about the comments made at the Scrutiny Committee back in March, I have met quite recently with the Welsh Language Commissioner and discussed our Manifesto aims, and it was a very positive meeting, and I think we are agreed on a way forward.

Question: County Councillor Cowan

Do you support the positioning of dog waste receptacles in parks and open spaces?

Reply: County Councillor Huw Thomas

I fully support having the right waste receptacles in the right locations and this is one of this Cabinet’s priorities.

I should point out that dog waste can be placed in any litter bin or taken home to be put in general waste bins or bags. We want to raise awareness among residents through supportive educational messages. The first step is a programme of new signage on litter bins in parks and on adopted highways across the city which will help to inform residents.

However, it is important to look at the whole picture, not just one waste stream or one type of solution. We need to understand where the priority locations are and what the customer needs.

I know from discussions with my colleague, the Cabinet Member for Environment, that, historically, there has been little direction on litter bin placement and types within the city. This is something that we plan to change. We need to understand if the litter bins are in the right locations and whether we have the right number or types of bins.

That’s why we are developing a litter bin strategy for Cardiff which will explore all the options available in order to ensure that we provide for litter and dog waste across Cardiff, including in our parks and open spaces. A survey will be undertaken over the next couple of months to gain a clearer picture of the current provision of litter bins in the city and
their condition. This will assist us in providing the right types of litter bins in the right locations.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Cowan

Thank you for your comprehensive response, and I am very grateful for this. It has been an issue in Rhiwbina which has been problematic for quite a while. Historically we even offered to buy a dog waste receptacle, but the Council had difficulty with the matter of it being emptied, and staff and things, so I would really welcome the new strategy that you are going to be proposing and I think that it will be beneficial for a lot of areas of the city. Do you agree?

Reply: County Councillor Huw Thomas

Are you seeking me to agree with my own strategy that I am putting forward or are you asking me to agree with what you were saying that you offered to buy a dog waste bin? Perhaps there were good reasons why that was not deemed suitable at the time but I am happy to look in to it.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Woodman

As we are talking about dog waste, are you aware and will you please do something about the fact that the provision of dog waste bags is not very good in this city? Here at County Hall, it took over 3 weeks to get a supply, because I asked here for a resident who has difficulty getting out, and I have had complaints from within my ward from residents, although I refer them to Leisure Centres etc. So can we make a bit more of a concerted effort to get dog waste bag provision improved please?

Reply: County Councillor Huw Thomas

I agree with you, it is an issue, in fact I campaigned on it for the election as residents were telling me in the Star centre for example there had been no supply of dog waste bags for several months. It is an area properly dealt with through Councillor Govier’s portfolio, but I am already making representations to him on the subject.

(The Chair indicated that there was no further time allowed for supplementary questions under this portfolio)
Question: County Councillor Evans

Could a progress report be given on the dialogue currently taking place between this council and partner agencies on the subject of improving delivery of leisure services through the medium of Welsh?

Reply: County Councillor Huw Thomas

Following the answer which I provided to you at last month’s Council meeting, officers have undertaken a mapping exercise to identify potential available space at various facilities across the city. The outcome was reported to me last week and I have asked for some further work to be undertaken to ensure that this exercise is as comprehensive as possible.

I have updated partner agencies on the current situation this week. Our intention is to work with partner agencies to develop a programme of expanded activities through the medium of Welsh that can be accommodated in the available space. To achieve this, we would look to enter into a formal Service Level Agreement in order to ensure “value for money” and deliverable outcomes.

I have also asked Leisure Services to, wherever possible, continue to develop and increase the programme of activities that they are able to offer through the medium of Welsh in order to expand the current provision.

This Administration remains committed to developing the Council’s provision of opportunities through the medium of Welsh, as stated in our manifesto and the ‘Leading Cardiff – Building Communities’ document.

123 : COMMUNITIES, HOUSING & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Question: County Councillor Evans

What is this council doing to promote credit unions?

Reply: County Councillor Thorne

Members will be aware that the Cardiff & Vale Credit Union is currently based at County Hall. The Credit Union also receives significant financial assistance from the Council to support the employment of their business
development officer, whose role is to assist the Credit Union to increase its profile and the level of its members. In addition, the Credit Union has previously received non-recurrent funding from the Council to assist with its marketing activities.

Indirectly, the Credit Union is provided with free stand space at any relevant events held by the Council’s Enterprise Team in order to promote the city’s economy. Officers within the team also refer potential business clients to the Credit Union on a regular basis and raise awareness of its activities through business meetings and networking.

I met recently with officers from the Cardiff & Vale Credit Union to discuss how the Council could help them to promote their services. In addition, a working group has recently been set up to consider other innovative ways that we can promote the use of Credit Unions.

The Credit Union has a vital role to play in helping those on low incomes and preventing them from resorting to the use of loan sharks. It can also help with budgeting and we are currently piloting the use of the Credit Union’s “jam jar” account. Council housing tenants who need assistance with budgeting will have their benefits paid to their Credit Union account and their rent will then be passed directly to the Council.

We are also planning to use the Hubs and housing offices to further promote the Credit Union and to take the evidence of personal identity that is needed to set up an account with the Credit Union.

**Supplementary Question:** County Councillor Evans

I welcome your answer and, in particular, the initiative to use hubs and housing offices to further promote Credit Unions. The need to provide an alternative to doorstep lenders and illegal loan sharks, particularly as we approach Christmas, I think is imperative. Accordingly, I would ask whether first an article in Capital Times could be drafted in the very near future, preferably before Christmas, and secondly ask all Councillors to follow the example of all Labour Councillors who have made a commitment to join Cardiff Credit Union and to take the message out to our wards.
Reply: *County Councillor Thorne*

Certainly I will make the request for something to go into Capital Times. I think it is really important, but more importantly as well for us is we actually put in our Tenant Times, as well.

**Point of clarification**: *County Councillor Joyce*

Unfortunately, it will not be in before Christmas because I have just seen the November/December edition. That is why I told Councillor Cowan that the other one will not be in, unfortunately.

**Supplementary Question**: *County Councillor Cowan*

Just for your information, Councillor Evans, the Credit Union actually came to our surgery/PACT meeting a number of years ago, and we joined the Credit Union a number of years ago, so I think there is cross-party support for this. Do you agree?

Reply: *County Councillor Thorne*

Yes

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

What actions are you taking to ensure that Cardiff’s council housing is being let to those in need?

Reply: *County Councillor Thorne*

All Council properties are allocated through an Allocation Policy which adheres to legislation and Welsh Government guidance. The Allocations Policy awards priorities to those who are homeless or in ill health, where a move to another property would substantially improve their living conditions, and those in overcrowded or unfit accommodation. The allocation system also allows for those who are under-occupying accommodation and who need to move to smaller accommodation to gain a priority.

The Council is just beginning a new review of the Allocation Policy to explore the issue of housing need and building sustainable communities.
All Members and those with an interest will be consulted in the months ahead.

**Supplementary Question:** County Councillor Dianne Rees

I welcome a review of the allocation policy exploring the issue of housing need, and wonder whether you can assure me that all interested agencies, including a wide range of agencies such as youth services, police, welfare agencies, the private sector, and third-sector providers of social housing, and will you publish the number of Councillors who are occupying Council housing?

**Reply:** County Councillor Thorne

I can tell you we are going to involve as many people as possible: any members of groups and organisation that want to be involved, and we feel should be involved, including housing associations, including people on the waiting list, people on the transfer unit, as many as possible.

**Supplementary Question:** County Councillor Patel

Would you agree with me that the question is quite patronising towards the hard-working and poorest members of our community when you consider that it was a Tory Government and Lib Dems who introduced the Welfare Reform Act, and I am sure my colleagues in the opposition are aware that at least 2300 council-housing tenants and approximately 2000 housing-association tenants will not have the full cost of their rent met by housing benefit because of the reform act?

**Reply:** County Councillor Thorne

I totally agree.

**Question:** County Councillor McEvoy

How many empty properties are there in Cardiff and what is the average time they are empty?

How many unoccupied council houses are there in Cardiff and what is the average time they are empty?
How many empty properties are there in Fairwater and what is the average time they are empty?

Reply: County Councillor Thorne

1. Cardiff has 1,476 privately owned dwellings that have been empty for 6 months or more and the Council’s Private Sector Housing team is actively dealing with 10% of these in order to secure their re-occupation. Priority is given to those properties of a problematic nature. Tools used range from advice and assistance about selling and renting property, to more draconian interventions such as enforced sale and compulsory purchase.

We are also accessing funding through a recently launched Welsh Government initiative “Houses into Homes”, which will offer owners of empty property the opportunity to access an interest free loan to allow re-occupation of property. An Empty Property Caseworker will soon be employed to promote the scheme and also to provide impartial advice and assistance.

We have written to over 550 owners to determine their interest in the scheme and, to date, 70 enquiries for the loan have been received. We are optimistic that this will have a significant positive impact in Cardiff.

2. As of 24 October 2012, there were 148 vacant Council properties throughout the city. This is approximately 1% of the Council’s total stock of 13,964 properties. The average time these properties have been vacant is 8.52 weeks.

3. In the Fairwater ward (which includes Pentrebane), there are currently 19 vacant Council properties. The average time these properties have been vacant is 13.43 weeks.

Of the 19 vacant properties in the Fairwater ward, 9 properties are long term vacant properties being held for demolition and redevelopment. The average time properties in the Fairwater Ward have been vacant, excluding these 9 properties, is 6.2 weeks.
Supplementary Question: County Councillor Bale

Could I ask whether the Council actually responded to the recent Welsh Government consultation on Homes for Wales, a white paper for better homes and communities that seeks views in clarifying legislation and to charge more Council Tax on empty long-term properties in Wales?

Reply: County Councillor Thorne

Yes we did. And I have seen it, but I can’t update you. I can provide it for you, if you like.

Question: County Councillor Dianne Rees

What inspection procedures are in place to ensure that tenants are not subletting accommodation whilst living elsewhere?

Reply: County Councillor Thorne

With nearly 10,000 people in Cardiff waiting for housing, it is more important for ever that our scarce housing resources are used for those who need them. That is why, in November 2012, we will be launching our Tenancy Fraud initiative. This will involve publicity to encourage other tenants to report sub-let or abandoned properties via a dedicated phone line and email address for reporting this abuse.

New intelligence gathering processes are also being introduced using a wide range of data sources to investigate whether tenants are living in the property.

New Council tenants are visited 6 months after they start their tenancy to check they are occupying the property and maintaining it properly. We will also be introducing targeted tenancy audits, focused on areas of concern, to ensure that properties are being used appropriately.

I hope all Members will support this work and encourage reporting of tenancy cheats.
Question: County Councillor Dianne Rees

Should council tenancies be given to those who own property or are landlords themselves?

Reply: County Councillor Thorne

Landlords who have accommodation that they would be reasonably expected to live in are not offered accommodation under the Council’s Allocation Policy. However, as the Council’s Allocation Policy adheres to both legalisation and Welsh Government guidance, there are occasions where the Authority will have a duty to give a reasonable preference for accommodation to owner/occupiers. These include circumstances where they cannot live safely in their existing home or can no longer afford to live in their home, which is being re-possessed.

The Council has a duty to consider applicants who are unable to manage in their current accommodation, either because of dilapidation and financial hardship or failing health.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Dianne Rees

Just wanted to know if you hold the figures for landlords who are currently occupying Council accommodation for what I mention in the question?

Reply: County Councillor Thorne

I am not sure of the figures. I will write and advise

124 : STRATEGIC PLANNING, HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS

Question: County Councillor Gordon

What are the findings of your review into residents parking permits and the issues raised in May about the high number of residents with parking permits being fined in their local area?

One of the agreed actions was that drivers with residents parking permits that had expired would be given a reminder letter before being fined.
Another was that the Civil Enforcement Officers would check if a car parked in a resident parking bay had a parking permit before starting to fill in the fine. Another was that parking briefly outside a shop on double yellow lines to pick up or drop off goods would be allowed.

Reply: County Councillor Ralph Cook

I have considered the report that was approved by the former Executive on 15 September 2011, which included details of the results of a city-wide survey of all the residents of Cardiff. The resounding conclusion was that parking permits should be ‘street specific’ (i.e. applying only to the street for which they are granted).

A decision has been taken that two options will be provided for resident parking permits to be renewed.

The first – and this will be our preferred method of renewal – is for permits to be applied for online. An online application and payment system is being developed for this to be achieved.

The second option is a postal application.

One of the benefits of an online system is that we will be provided with email addresses, which will enable the Council to send reminders to people at little or no cost. We also ask residents who are submitting postal applications to include an email address to enable such reminders to be sent to them.

Such reminders will be sent before a permit expires so that a renewal application can be made and not after a vehicle has been seen parked on the road with an expired permit when a Penalty Charge Notice can be issued.

In order for the Civil Enforcement Officers to be able to establish on site whether or not a vehicle has been registered to park in a Resident Permit holder’s parking bay, there is a need for them to have on street access to the relevant database. Officers have investigated this matter with the software supplier and it has been established that it is possible, but that all the portable handheld computer devices would need to be replaced with the next generation of devices in order for it to be achieved. The Council is currently investigating “Real Time Remote Working” as part of a wider
corporate project and this matter will be considered by the relevant Project Manager.

As far as parking on double yellow lines outside shops in order to pick up or drop off goods is concerned, there is provision for this to be done without a Penalty Charge Notice being issued. There are two exceptions to this – the first is where there is a Loading/No Loading restriction in place in addition to the double yellow line restriction and the second is when parking there would cause a dangerous obstruction for other road users.

**Question: County Councillor Clark**

Please could you provide an update on the transfer of moving offences and bus lane enforcement powers from the Welsh Government to Cardiff Council?

Has the Welsh Government actually requested the powers from the UK Government?

When will the powers be transferred to Cardiff Council and when can the Council start enforcing these additional responsibilities?

**Reply: County Councillor Ralph Cook**

Council officers have been informed by Welsh Government officials that the regulations that are required for the introduction of civil enforcement of certain moving offences and bus lane infringements have been drafted. As yet, the Welsh Government has not given any official timetable as to when the regulations will be introduced.

The Traffic Management Act 2004 is the legislation that provides for the introduction of these regulations and therefore there is no need for Welsh Government to apply to the UK Government for the transfer of these powers. However, as you have indicated in your question, the UK Government is also involved as the Ministry of Justice has to be consulted on the introduction of Penalty Charge Notices for these offences. I am not aware of the timescales or whether this is progressing as this is a matter between Welsh Government and the UK Government over which we have no control. Until the Regulations are introduced Cardiff Council cannot commence Civil Enforcement of any of the
offences you describe. However, I can confirm that I have written recently to the Assembly Member for Cardiff South & Penarth on this matter urging him to encourage the Welsh Government to do so as soon as practicable.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Clark

I understand that the Council asked for these powers quite some time ago, and I am wondering if you could let me know the explanation given by the Welsh Government for the delay in drafting the regulations.

Reply: County Councillor Ralph Cook

Yes, the first request that I can locate on this was back in 2011, plus I asked for the follow up in August so two separate requests were sent in August, and the answer is that they are working on it, and I can’t add anything to that.

Question: County Councillor Dianne Rees

Parking problems constitute a large percentage of my constituency workload. What plans do you have to reduce parking pressures for residents living in close proximity streets to busy sports pitches, Heath Hospital, business parks, schools and colleges?

Reply: County Councillor Ralph Cook

As you are aware, officers have spent a considerable amount of time in your ward and in other Members’ wards investigating alleged parking pressures caused by commuters to workplaces, schools and colleges within the city. In addition to this, surveys have been undertaken of parking that occurs near to sporting facilities in order to establish if any additional restrictions need to be introduced. This work has been undertaken in partnership with South Wales Police who until July 2010 had responsibility for parking enforcement.

One observation that has been made by the Police is that all motorists have an equal right and opportunity to park on the public highway subject to their vehicle be taxed and insured, irrespective of whether they are a resident, commuter or visitor to the city.
Restrictions are introduced where dangerous parking takes place, but are not introduced to remove what has been described as ‘anti social parking’.

I have asked officers to investigate all complaints made about parking as they are reported and, following that, to introduce restrictions where they are considered to be appropriate.

Question: County Councillor Robson

Residents have noticed that in previous budgets the 22 bus service subsidy has been offered up as a potential saving – although thankfully never accepted. This bus service is, amongst other things, a key link between Pantmawr residents and the Heath Hospital. Will you avoid any cuts to this important service in the 2013/14 budget?

Reply: County Councillor Ralph Cook

In the light of the 25% cut in the 2013/14 equivalent of Local Transport Services Grant, together with the significant budget savings that the Council itself is required to make over the next few years, I regret that I can give no such undertaking at this stage of the budget process for 2013/14. All Council supported bus services are currently under review and it is possible that reductions in supported bus services will be unavoidable. At this stage though, no decision has been taken by the Cabinet.

Question: County Councillor Bowden

Could you tell me whether you or officers are considering or drafting a Comprehensive Parking Plan for all or any of the Wards within the city?

If so, could you please provide the details of such a plan, its intended objective, the expected consultation period, and when local Members will be involved in the discussions?

Reply: County Councillor Ralph Cook

There is currently no plan in place to undertaking a complete review of all parking in every ward in Cardiff. This would be necessary before any Council-wide Parking Plan could be introduced. In many areas of Cardiff,
parking is not an issue as commuters and shoppers, for example, do not
park on street and many properties have the luxury of off street parking.

Reviews are currently being undertaken of parking around the city’s
district shopping centres and, in other areas, resident only parking and
unsafe parking (e.g. in the vicinity of schools) is reviewed on a day-to-
day basis as necessary.

I suspect that your question is being asked to identify the timescales as to
when a review is planned for your own ward. I have agreed with officers
that, following the completion of the review of the district shopping
centres, parking throughout the Heath Ward will be reviewed. However, I
have no definite timescale for this at present.

As soon as a draft scheme has been identified, Members will have the
opportunity to comment and influence what is proposed as is the policy
when any new parking proposals are made.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Bowden

I just want clarification on which you seem to have given that there is no
comprehensive parking plan for any or all of the wards within the City at
the moment, and yet I am looking at a leaflet from one of your colleagues
that tells me that Councillor Hinchey has already requested the Highways
Department to draft a comprehensive parking plan for the area, looking at
residential areas that need better protection or improved facilities. So
which one of you is right?

Reply: County Councillor Ralph Cook

Well I am slightly hard of hearing, but I think I heard you say that
Councillor Hinchey had said he’d asked, well he has.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Holden

The residents of my ward Gabalfa set as a PACT priority this week, that I
ask you Councillor Cook as the relevant Member, that Resident Only
Parking Orders in the Heath be brought in line with the rest of the City.
As you will be aware I am sure, large parts of the Heath have 100%
Resident Only parking on streets with driveways, whilst in my ward just
over the A48 we only have 50% Resident Only provision and we have no driveways. Will you please look at this Matter as a matter of urgency?

Reply: County Councillor Ralph Cook

Well I guess if it was set as a PACT priority within the last week you are rather fortunate that Councillor Bowden put his question in, because otherwise you wouldn’t have been able to ask me, which suggests you wouldn’t have been able to fulfil your request from PACT.

To be frank, I haven’t even looked at the Heath situation. I know what the situation is there, because you will recall that in our promise for Year One we have promised to review the parking arrangements in all the District Shopping Centres, and in addition there was a Notice of Motion at the last meeting, where I got lumbered with another job which is to look at parking outside small local shopping areas, which were rather ill defined, but I have interpreted as every shop that has a parking problem. That work is going to take a considerable amount of time.

In addition, we are doing a review of parking and traffic situations outside schools because that is a concern of the Labour Group particularly and the Labour Party more widely. We are beginning to get to the point where actually we do not have enough capacity in this Council to carry out all the work I am being asked to do on parking.

Nevertheless we are in power for the next 4½ years. I will put that on my agenda, initially just to appraise myself on precisely what options might be available in the Heath, possibly then talk to the Councillors involved in which there are three and then have a good think about whether I can bring it forward before the next election.

Question: County Councillor Chaundy

Firstly let me make this quite clear that this is absolutely no criticism whatsoever of the recent half marathon – an event which I totally support, a huge commitment and huge achievement by so many people and long may it continue. But there were very real and serious concerns that day about travel in and out of the city centre.
Can the member for Highways or Leisure please assure me that prior to the next event of this kind much greater publicity of road closures and ideally some ‘good road signage’ be put in place well before the event?

Reply: County Councillor Ralph Cook

Cardiff Half Marathon is a high profile and extremely popular fixture in the city’s event programme, which this year attracted more than 13,000 runners. It attracts significant visitor numbers to the city and provides an excellent opportunity to showcase Cardiff. Inevitably, a major event which takes place on the city’s streets brings with it a degree of disruption and inconvenience which various teams across the Council work hard to minimise.

In terms of the information that was provided regarding the road closures for the Cardiff Half Marathon, I can confirm that letters were sent to approximately 20,000 people who live in close proximity to the race route advising them of road closures that would operate on Sunday 14 October 2012.

Static signs along the race route were also in place for two weeks before the event in order to inform people of the road closures. These were supported by electronic signs displayed on key routes into the city. Road closure information was also sent to the local media, with details being published by Cardiff Half Marathon event partner, the South Wales Echo, on Saturday 13 October 2012.

Over 200 members of staff assisted with the road closures and gave advice on the day.

I am in no way complacent about the impact which this major event has and officers will be reviewing the arrangements for this particular event, as well as feedback received, so that year-on-year improvements can be made.

Question: County Councillor Dianne Rees

Shops and businesses at out of town district shopping centres such as at Albany Road and Wellfield Road consider the lack of shoppers’ parking spaces to be a major cause of businesses closing down. One hour parking is insufficient to allow leisurely shopping for clothes, books and art works
for sale in the shopping district. Two hour parking would be a sensible first step to assisting thriving businesses in such areas as would more frequent patrolling of restricted parking areas by civil parking enforcement officers. Will you agree to implement such changes?

Reply: County Councillor Ralph Cook

One of the Administration’s objectives in ‘Leading Cardiff – Building Communities’ is for parking provision within all the district shopping centres in Cardiff to be reviewed. This will include consideration of parking times that are permitted at on street locations across the city and the need to ensure some degree of consistency.

Officers have commenced this review and I will make their findings known to local Members as soon as the data has been analysed. I am assured by the officers that this will be before the end of December 2012.

125 : FINANCE, BUSINESS & LOCAL ECONOMY STATEMENT ON THE PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT 2013/14

The statement summarised Cardiff’s position based on the revised figures from Welsh Government. The statement is split into two sections, namely the Revenue Settlement and the Capital Allocation.

Revenue

1.0 Settlement Overview

1.1 The provisional settlement for Cardiff will provide a cash increase in Aggregate External Finance (AEF) of £8.021m next financial year. After adjusting for transfers, this equates to an increase in percentage terms of 1.94%.

1.2 The average increase in AEF for 2013/14 is a 1.22% increase, with a distribution range of 1.79% across Wales. At 1.94%, Cardiff is the authority in receipt of second highest percentage increase, behind Wrexham at 2.07%. Powys has the lowest increase at 0.28%.
1.3 It should be noted that the figures quoted above exclude the additional All Wales funding of £214m in respect of Council Tax Support Scheme (£24.3m for Cardiff.)

1.4 For 2013/14, Cardiff’s Outcome Agreement Grant is set at £3.300m, an increase of £51,000 on the 2012/13 figure of £3.249m.

1.5 Cardiff’s per capita AEF of £1,259 is less than 90% of the Welsh average AEF of £1,422 and the Authority ranks 21st out of the 22 Authorities in this respect.

2.0 Floor Funding Mechanism

2.1 During September, the Distribution Sub Group (WG, WLGA, representative Councils) prepared a paper to consider potential damping mechanisms in relation to the 2013/14 settlement (i.e. the introduction of a floor funding mechanism.) If agreed Cardiff would have been a net contributor to the floor.

2.2 The provisional settlement does not contain a floor funding mechanism, nor is any mention made in this respect. At the present time, it seems unlikely that any floor would be introduced between provisional and final settlement as the Minister is said to be unconvinced of the Welsh Local Government Association’s (WLGA’s) arguments for the use of damping mechanisms. However, given the significant impact that a floor could have for Cardiff, there is a need to remain vigilant in this respect.

3.0 Future Years

3.1 The settlement includes an indicative all Wales revenue increase of 0.9% for 2014/15. Cardiff is due to receive an above average increase of 1.26% which equates to £5.618m in cash terms.

3.2 Although settlement figures usually provide three year indicative figures, the 2013/14 provisional settlement covers two years only. As indicated in the Welsh Government’s own budget earlier this month, this is due to the uncertainties inherent in a new Comprehensive Spending Review period.
4.0 Transfers

4.1 Over the next three years, Cardiff is anticipating a £3.9m reduction in its Learning Disabilities Resettlement Grant due to a change in distribution basis that takes effect upon transfer into RSG.

4.2 Phasing of the transfer over a three year period means a shortfall for Cardiff of £1.3m in each of the next three financial years.

4.3 As anticipated, there are also a number of other transfers into the settlement for 2013/14. This is in line with Welsh Government’s commitment to increase the flexibility associated with non-hypothecated funding and to reduce the administrative burdens that specific grants place on Local Authorities.

4.4 The specific grants that have transferred into Revenue Support Grant (RSG) were all anticipated transfers and are accounted for within current planning assumptions and amount to a total transfer in of resources amounting to circa £12 million.

5.0 New Responsibilities

5.1 There is only one, albeit very large new responsibility within the settlement this year, the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS). Original HM Treasury figures have been included within the settlement, allocating £214m on an All Wales basis, with £24.3m for Cardiff. These figures are reported by HM Treasury to represent a 10% reduction on current levels of support with a move from demand-led to fixed-limit budgets however, feeling amongst Local Authorities is that this reduction is understated. Welsh Government has made clear that it will not be providing the funding necessary to make up the shortfall.

5.2 Given the volatility and demand led nature of this expenditure, there is a view that it should be kept outside the settlement as a specific grant and WLGA state that they will continue to lobby in this respect.
5.3 Key areas in connection with CTS which are under review at Cardiff and will require further work over the next few weeks are listed below.

- work on updating the council tax base
- consideration of the impact of the CTS on the council tax collection rate which may have implications for the level of council tax budgeted next year
- review of the Council Tax Bad Debt provision
- review of level of support available under the new scheme compared with demand
- review the level of support required to administer the new arrangements

5.4 The position in relation to a number of aspects of the CTS is still unclear and legal advice is being sought in these areas.

6.0 Comparison to planning assumptions

6.1 Budget preparation at Cardiff has been based on the 2012/13 final settlement’s indicative allocation in respect of 2013/14. This set out a cash increase of £7.144m in cash terms for 2013/14. The provisional settlement figure of £8.021m therefore provides £877,000 more cash than indicative settlement figures.

6.2 This increase is predominantly due to above average increases in general population, pupil numbers and benefit claimants. These positive changes more than offset adverse changes to Cardiff’s Free School Meals dataset.

7.0 Protection for Schools and Social Care

7.1 The settlement is quite clear that it affords protection to schools and social care budgets which Local Authorities are expected to honour. Following on from previous practice, the level of protection is set at 1% above Wales’ budget allocation from UK Government. This means that the Authority will need to increase these budgets by a minimum of 2.08% in 2013/14 to achieve the requisite protection.
8.0 **Regional Collaboration Fund**

8.1 The settlement has been top-sliced by £10.174m to form a new specific grant in support of regional collaboration. This is equivalent to 0.25% of the 2013/14 AEF. This is a late development which has only come to light in recent days. Council leaders will have an opportunity to fully discuss this at WLGA Co-ordinating Committee on 26 October.

8.2 No details have been supplied as to how this fund can be accessed although settlement tables suggest an indicative regional distribution for Cardiff and the Vale of £1.485m. The written documents that accompany the settlement suggest that eligible projects may be between some or all of the local authorities in a region and may also include the local health boards, police, fire service or third sector organisations in that region. It is stated that projects should be significant, transformative and deliverable quickly to help authorities ‘weather the coming financial storm.’

8.3 The Minister’s written statement contains some strong wording in this respect including ‘I am looking to local government to develop proposals which meet my expectations. If they do not, I will regard this as a strong indication of a failure to take seriously the need to improve services through collaboration.’

9.0 **Council Tax**

9.1 The settlement states that the whole RSG will be distributed which will allow councils to freeze their council tax if they so choose. In setting council tax levels, it is stated that councils should sustain services and implement the protection provided for schools and social care funding.

10.0 **Changes likely at Final Settlement**

10.1 The provisional settlement is based on the 2012/13 council tax base. This will be updated with the 2013/14 base in time for the final settlement which can sometimes have a significant effect on figures. It is difficult to pre-judge what this impact may be; it does not necessarily follow that an increase in council tax base would result in a reduction in AEF as within this calculation, individual
tax base changes are considered relative to the changes of all other welsh councils.

11.2 There may be some distributional changes in respect of post -16 SEN figures at final settlement and other changes may come about as a result of comments received by WG as part of the formal consultation process. The final settlement is expected on 6 December.

12.0 Summary

12.1 At present, the overall revenue position in respect of next year’s settlement is largely as anticipated in respect of new responsibilities and transfers. There is a positive £877,000 difference in cash compared with planning assumptions, which appears to be predominantly due to population data changes.

12.2 It would however, be unwise to take too assured a position at this time, as there are several factors which could adversely affect Cardiff at final settlement stage, notably the update of council tax base figures and the potential for damping mechanisms to be resurrected.

12.3 The period for formal consultation on the provisional settlement has commenced and responses are required to be returned to WG by 13 November 2012.

CAPITAL

13.0 Total Wales

13.1 The Provisional settlement shows a 11.5% decrease in General Capital Funding compared to the Final 2012/13 settlement and an increase of 4.1% for Specific Capital Grants on an all Wales basis.

14.0 General Capital Funding (Unhypothecated) - Cardiff

14.1 General Capital Funding allows the Council to incur capital expenditure in the areas of its choice. It should be noted that in 2012/13 Cardiff’s decrease in General Capital Funding was 6.7%.
14.2 The General Capital Funding allocated to Cardiff in 2013/14 is £13.681m, compared with £15.648m in 2012/13, a decrease of 12.5%. The £13.681m in the provisional settlement is £144,000 less than the figure of £13.825m assumed when setting the indicative Capital Programme for 2013/14 in the budget of February 2012. As a percentage of the Welsh total, Cardiff’s share is 9.58% compared with 9.69% in 2012/13. The £13.681m is made up of £5.176m of Cash grant and £8.505m of borrowing, which will be supported by the Assembly.

14.3 As anticipated, General Capital Funding has reduced by 34% from 2010/11 to 2013/14, as shown in the table below, with 12.5% of this reduction in 2013/14. Consequently the need to undertake additional capital schemes using unsupported borrowing will therefore add to revenue budget pressures in the form of increased capital financing budgets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>£'000</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>20,739</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>16,773</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>15,648</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>13,681</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total % change</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>34.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14.4 General Capital Funding has been reduced generally across all areas, including Roads (10.8%), Housing (20.6%), Environment (4.3%), and Education & Skills (10.9%).

14.5 On the assumption that the Council’s Annual Sums budgets are funded from General Capital Fund, areas likely to be affected by the reduced allocation include: Disabled Facilities grants; Targeted Elderly grants; Neighbourhood Renewal schemes, Highway Infrastructure, Transportation and Property Asset renewal. This is likely to put more pressure on the need to undertake borrowing
which is not supported by WG, if investment is to continue to be made to maintain essential services.

15.0 Specific Grant Highlights - All Wales

15.1 The amount of specific capital grants has increased by 4.1% from 2012/13 (£10.527m) with this net increase largely due to the introduction of the 21st Century Schools programme. This settlement is on an All Wales basis, with Cardiff’s allocation of any specific grant unconfirmed or subject to the outcome of bids.

15.2 Key changes between 2012/13 and 2013/14 include:

- Transport grants £42.362m (£44.770m in 2012/13)
- Renewal Areas capital grant is reduced to £11.537m (£14.258m in 2012/13, £16.597m in 2011/12). This planned decrease is reflected in assumptions of less grant receivable in the Councils Capital Programme.
- Estates & IT Provision grant covering all education sectors has increased to £134.113m (£112.965m in 2012/13) mainly due to the new 21st Century Schools initiative mentioned in the WG paper ‘A Budget for Growth and Jobs’ and also increased allocations of Flying Start grant.
- Waste Strategy grant has dropped to £7.146m (£8.220m in 2012/13)
- Flood Risk Management and Water £6.0m (£9.3m in 2012/13)

15.3 The Major Repairs Allowance for Public Housing remains at previous levels (now shown at £60.4m), albeit now excluding the element paid to Registered Social Landlords. (Cardiff’s 2012/13 allocation was £9.6m).

16.0 Other

16.1 The reduction in Capital resources is likely to affect service areas reliant on fee income generated by capital schemes, and this will need to be taken into account as part of revenue budget considerations.

16.2 General Capital Funding per head shows Cardiff remains last of the 22 authorities with the population increase failing to result in a
corresponding increase in capital allocation, and with a reduced overall share of the general capital allocation.

In conclusion the Cabinet Member advised that he was particularly concerned about the change to the distribution of the Learning Disability Resettlement Grant and he had written to the Minister to request that the original funding distribution is reinstated and to express my concern that the proposed redistribution of funding undermines the spirit in which the original agreement was entered into. Ultimately Welsh Government decisions impact on some of the most vulnerable adults into our community and the Council will now need to make difficult choices as to whether their existing care packages can be maintained. This is particularly disappointing in a climate where collaboration is key and long term funding agreements may be needed to ensure optimum outcomes across the public sector.

The Corporate Chief Services and Section 151 Officer will schedule Members Budget Forum meetings to brief the Leaders of all parties on the details within this statement and will repeat this exercise when the final settlement is announced.

126 : FINANCE BUSINESS AND LOCAL ECONOMY VERBAL STATEMENT TO COUNCIL

The Cabinet Member, Finance, Business and Local Economy made the following statement at Council.

He referred to the formal statement tabled on the 2013/14 Provisional Finance Settlement, which deals with both revenue and capital aspects of the settlement. He indicated that he wished to share as much information as possible, as early as possible, regarding the settlement, in order to inform discussions, which take place in all party groups involving all members, in the period now going forward.

The statement contains all of the information that has been provided to me by officials since the settlement was announced by Welsh Government Ministers last week. As expected, the settlement presents the Council with some serious challenges and some difficult choices for all of the reasons rehearsed when presenting the 2013/14 Budget Strategy earlier this year. Despite the slight improvement in the settlement from
that anticipated at that time, there remains a need to make some £21 million of spending cuts in the coming budget round.

Next to the LDP, the budget is the most important decision the Council itself will take. The Cabinet Member was keen for Elected Members to note the implications surrounding a number of changes in this year’s settlement.

With regard to new responsibilities, the Council Tax Support Scheme poses a major challenge for the Council and for council-tax payers. The £24.3 million allocated to Cardiff to fund the scheme is unlikely to provide adequate funding to cover the shortfall that the Westminster Government has built into the scheme on the basis of an anticipated reduction of 10% of the number in receipt of support. Initial projections suggest that the Cardiff will be significantly worse, giving an added burden in terms of council-tax collection rates, and a further report would come forward when the position becomes clearer.

Over the next three years, Cardiff is anticipating a £3.9 million reduction in its Learning Disabilities Resettlement grant due to a change in distribution basis that takes effect upon transfer into RSG. Phasing of the transfer over a three-year period means a shortfall for Cardiff of £1.3 million in each of the next three financial years.

The Cabinet Member was particularly concerned about this change, and had written to the Minister to request that the original funding distribution is reinstated, and to express concern that the proposed redistribution of funding undermines the spirit in which the original agreement was entered into. Ultimately, these Welsh Government decisions impact on some of the most vulnerable adults in our community, and the Council will now need to make difficult choices as to whether their existing care packages can be maintained. This is particularly disappointing in a climate where collaboration is key, and long-term funding agreements may be needed to ensure optimum outcomes across the public sector.

As anticipated, there are also a number of other transfers into the settlement for 2013/14. This is in line with the Welsh Government’s commitment to increase the flexibility associated with non-hypothecated funding, and to reduce the administrative burdens that specific grants place on Local Authorities, but with it will add to the pressures in terms of choices around priority areas.
The settlement provides an opportunity for the whole Council to reflect on the challenges facing us at the present time. In challenging times and with difficult choices to make, it is even more important that we have in place properly funded arrangements to provide all elected members with the support they need to carry out their important roles as Councillors, while having a proper opportunity to scrutinise the validity of those choices. For that reason, the Cabinet Member wished to announce a number of changes that the administration intended to make in the areas of Members Support and Scrutiny Services.

As previously indicated the Leader of the County Council has made clear that she is eager to restore the balance between the executive and non-executive functions of the County Council. She is also eager to enhance the profile and importance of members generally across the organisation. She has recently indicated that Members Services will be relocated to a more central location within the building, but at the same time has asked that additional resources be identified to support elected members in the discharge of their duties as Councillors. The Cabinet Member advised that as part of the budget proposals he was looking for opportunities to transfer existing resources to achieve that outcome, and would of course, wish to consult with the Democratic Services Committee and with relevant staff and their representatives on the precise nature of these changes, before final decisions are made.

The Cabinet Member indicated that he was aware that the funding allocated to the Council’s scrutiny function had reduced from approximately £1 million in 2004/05, the last budget set by the last Labour Administration, to only £680,000 in the current year, but the Cabinet Member indicated that he would not be in a position to restore the budget to its previously high mark during the life of this Administration. However, as a result of representations made by the Scrutiny Committee Chairs in recent weeks, the Leader of the Council has indicated that she is eager to make available additional resources to allow Scrutiny Committees to make an even more valuable contribution to the development of Council Policy, and to holding the Cabinet to account.

The Cabinet Member therefore intended to include in the budget proposals an increase allocation of some £120,000, which will take the total allocation to Scrutiny Services to some £700,000 in the full year,
and in addition, in order for Scrutiny Services to have in place the resources they need as soon as is practicably possible, the Cabinet Member advised that he would make available in the current year a pro-rata allocation to allow them to get on with the exercise, and he would be seeking a meeting with Scrutiny Committee Chairs as soon as possible, to discuss how best to take this forward. The Cabinet indicated that he would be arranging to meet with party groups and financial spokespersons, and for them to be briefed by officials in the coming weeks.

127 : FINANCE BUSINESS & LOCAL ECONOMY QUESTIONS

Question: County Councillor Corria

On Saturday 20th October in London, Glasgow and Belfast, over 150,000 people marched against the Coalition's austerity measures that reinforce Tory ideology and break up the public sector. During this unprecedented period of reduced local authority budgets, do you agree that the Welsh Assembly is re-enforcing traditional Labour Party values and principles by encouraging local authorities to form collaborative relationships, therefore keeping jobs in the public sector?

Reply: County Councillor Goodway

I refer the Councillor to the answer I provided earlier to the Public Questioner.

Question: County Councillor Robson

With the decision to wind up Cardiff and Co, do you think that there is a role for an arms-length marketing organisation in Cardiff?

Reply: County Councillor Goodway

Believe it or not, I was Chair of Finance at the former South Glamorgan County Council when the original Cardiff Marketing company was first established. At that time, the public sector contribution amounted to more than £1 million excluding the contributions made by the city’s universities and other quasi-public bodies. As Leader of South Glamorgan and as Leader of the new Cardiff County Council in 1995, I
worked hard to persuade colleagues to allow Cardiff Marketing Ltd to survive the transition to unitary local government.

The organisation has been through a number of guises since local government reorganisation during which time the public sector contribution has, for understandable reasons, been steadily reduced. In my opinion, the organisation has been hampered by the need to support peripheral activities which we operated by the former District Council as part of its agreement to participate. In whatever guise, the organisation has never been free to focus purely on marketing the city and has never been funded to the extent that marketing campaigns and activities with any prospect of success would reasonably require.

Between 2005 and 2007, the operation was run by the Council in-house. Cardiff & Co was established in 2007 with a public sector contribution of some £750,000 but that has since been reduced to £500,000, most of which is spent on staff salaries rather than on effective cutting-edge marketing campaigns.

None of this is a criticism of the organisation or of the people who work for it. They have done their best from a poor deal, in my opinion being the victims of unrealistic expectations.

I am convinced that there is no merit in prolonging the current arrangement especially if expectations remain unchanged. It is for that reason that I put forward the proposal recently considered by the Council’s Cabinet. I want to consult widely before bringing forward any alternative proposals but, at this point in time, I am not persuaded that an arms-length vehicle is necessarily the best solution.

**Supplementary Question:** County Councillor Dianne Rees

Do you agree that in the past Chambers of Commerce had a proud record of supporting and growing business in towns and cities. Now that Cardiff & Co is also likely to be wound up has there been any mechanism for subsuming the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce in any other arms length vehicle, and have you in anyway had a hand in winding up both Cardiff & Co and Cardiff Chamber of Commerce?

**Reply:** County Councillor Goodway

No
Question: County Councillor Corria

In January 2012 the four Children's Commissioners issued a statement expressing deep concern about the impact of the Welfare Reform Bill on children in the UK. The Commissioners stated that the Department for Work and Pensions' equality impact assessment highlighted the bill's shortcomings with regards to children. The Welfare Reform Bill will without doubt, affect those already living in poverty.

Has the Council completed an impact assessment to identify the children who are likely to be adversely affected by the Bill and if so, what work has been undertaken with the education service to minimise disruption to the children's education?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

I am fully aware of the disproportionate impact that the UK Government’s Welfare Reform agenda will have on families with children. It is widely recognised that the group most affected by the changes will be families with children under five years of age or with more than two children.

A multi-agency task group has been set up to look at the possible impact of welfare reform. A wide range of issues are being considered including the impact that the changes will have on health and education and also the potential for increased crime and anti social behaviour. The group has developed a draft multi-agency action plan, which includes a specific action to undertake an equality impact assessment of the welfare reforms against protected characteristics.

Many families will need to move as a result of the new under occupation rules for social housing. We are working with housing associations to ensure that all those affected by the changes are offered appropriate help and advice, including help to move where necessary. Wherever possible, alternative housing in their area of choice will be offered; however, due to the limited availability of social housing, some families will be faced with moving to a different area of the city and the children may need to change
school. This has been recognised as a likely impact of the changes although, at present, it is not possible to identify the numbers affected.

I know that all Council service areas are mindful of the potential impacts of Welfare Reform on Cardiff residents who receive a wide range of Council services, including children’s education. This Administration has education as its top priority and is mindful of the impact that poverty and deprivation has on the educational chances for young people. I know that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has recently commenced a Task and Finish inquiry into deprivation and the impact on educational attainment and I’m sure that all Members will be interested in the findings of that inquiry.

Furthermore, you will also be aware, as a school governor, of the work that is already going on in schools, as it is one of the three national priorities around reducing the attainment gap for children and young people from more deprived backgrounds. The additional resources that all schools have received this year through the Pupil Deprivation Grant, which in Cardiff brings in an additional £4m, will also go some way in helping schools to start to address some of these issues.

**Question: County Councillor Boyle**

How does Cllr Cook think he could have handled the case of the Ty Gwyn Play Scheme better and what lessons has he learnt that will ensure Families First is not beset by similar problems in the future?

**Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook**

The Ty Gwyn Play Scheme (TGPS) is funded through Cymorth via the Play Small Grant Scheme distributed by the Council’s Play Services.

I met with representatives of TGPS on 9th October 2012 and explained the Welsh Government requirements of the new Families First Programme and the changes from the previous Cymorth arrangements. I apologise to the representatives of TGPS who felt that I was abrupt at the meeting. My intention was to try to move forward from the situation, as it then was, and to focus on how the Council could best assist TGPS in securing funding after April 2013. At that meeting, officers also acknowledged that there had been a breakdown in communications in that they had not informed TGPS about how the new services will be
commissioned and for this they apologised. Since that meeting, an officer from Council Play Services has met with representatives from TGPS to support them in contacting the identified lead bidders for the new services in order to explore whether they can be included within the final bids which are currently being prepared for submission by 14th November 2012.

In terms of the future, officers have supplied a significant amount of information to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to demonstrate the extent of the engagement undertaken which has always been done with the best intention to involve as many people as possible in a genuine partnership approach to developing the new programme. However, in a very small number of cases, it is clear that information has not been passed on by the Lead Provider. In these cases, as part of the new programme management arrangements, we will ensure that all new Lead Providers fulfil this responsibility and liaise with all of their consortia organisations.

**Supplementary Question:** *County Councillor Boyle*

Thank you for the honest appraisal in your answer Councillor Cook, clearly as you state there have been problems partly I suspect because organising things along the lines of strategically commissioned services may sound good to the suits in the Senedd Committee but is very far removed from the lived reality of many micro charities, so I wonder how we reach out to the many small micro charities that provide flexible targeted services, but risk being crowded out by bureaucratic systems by which they are uncomfortable and often ill equipped to engage with?

**Reply:** *County Councillor Richard Cook*

Well I hope you will understand that we came into power halfway through this process and it started at the end of 2011, so to some extent we are picking up the pieces from this process whether it be flawed or not. Yes I agree that there are some small groups, some very passionate groups that do appear to have fallen out of the process. I am keen, as I said in my answer to look at the reality that we face ourselves now to work with those groups and officers are very clear as to what I have asked them to do. We have been looking at the gaps after the process has concluded with the lead providers to see what we can do to plug those gaps should there be any gaps.
Question: County Councillor Sanders

You will, I'm sure, be aware of the publication by the Welsh Government this week of the Together for Mental Health Strategy, setting out a 10 year delivery plan to improve services for all who require it including those who fall within CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) services. The expectation of the Strategy is that it will deliver, amongst other things, "well designed fully integrated networks of care".

Could you outline how this will be delivered within Children's Services and particularly how the effective transition to Adult Services, for those who need that continuum, will be guaranteed?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

Agencies across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, including the Council’s Children’s Services, have already established the Cardiff & Vale Emotional and Mental Health Improvement Group which is chaired by a representative from the Local Health Board. We anticipate that this group will take forward work to ensure the effective local implementation of the “Together for Mental Health” Delivery Plan 2012-16.

Delivery of family focused interventions such as Flying Start, Families First and Integrated Family Support Services already provide a joined-up approach when responding to the needs of families and workforce development in these areas ensures that approaches to addressing identified need are consistent across the three initiatives. These initiatives will continue to contribute to improving public mental health and wellbeing with Children’s Services leading this work via the inter-agency Early Intervention & Prevention Steering Group.

Anticipated developments include the production of guidance about the range of local services available from specialist CAMHS and how they can be accessed by children and young people and their families, as well as strengthening the CAMHS expertise in the Youth Offending Team in line with the requirements of the delivery plan. Another key aspect of the work will be ensuring that robust pathways are in place to provide appropriate specialist inpatient and community CAMHS for children and young people with mental health problems, including access to adult mental health services as young people move into adulthood.
Supplementary Question: County Councillor Sanders

Thank you for your reply, together with some examples of good practice that are currently in place with regard to Children’s Services, but could you outline what mechanisms you would put in place across the authorities services to ensure that the high level outcome as outlined in the Mental Health Strategy, the new one that came out this week, are delivered?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

The Integrated Health and Social Care Board is where the new Health Improvement Group reports to, so they will be accountable to the Board. Both Councillor Holland and I sit on that Board, we will be monitoring progress and making sure that services are joined up across the Health Services and the Council, because as you will appreciate mental health is a big issue in Social Care which I appreciated when I visited Suffolk House yesterday and talked to the leading care team.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Groves.

Do you accept that the impact of the Welfare Reform Bill implications when aggregated together with the changes to the Disability Living Allowance to providing independent payment collectively, equate to 43,600 negative impacts on people in Cardiff alone, given that that will have an enormous impact on Mental Health Services and other services, what can we do to mitigate against this dreadful tyranny which is sweeping upon us from the East?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

I dread to think what the effect the Welfare Reforms are going to have on the mental state of the poorest and most vulnerable in our society, and as I said we want to make sure we use all of our resources in the best way possible, and as far as my thinking and Councillor Holland’s thinking, we need to join up with the Health Board and use all of the available money and resources to tackle this issue and that is what we will be attempting to do.
Question: County Councillor Evans

Is the council satisfied that a comprehensive impact assessment was undertaken in relation to the move from Cymorth-funded projects to Families First Services?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

As I have outlined to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, the Council undertook an Equality Impact Assessment at the outset of the programme changes based on the information known at that time.

Members will be aware that Families First commissioning process commenced under the previous Administration at the end of 2011 and the procurement process is still ongoing. As we will not know the make-up of the successful bids until December 2012, it is very difficult to know the full impact at this moment in time. However, as I outlined in my response to the Scrutiny Committee on 15 October 2012, the Families First project team has been conducting visits with all existing Cymorth providers in order to get an accurate picture of transition arrangements and also to provide support to third sector organisations with regard to exploring other funding opportunities which may be available.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Evans

At the outset I want to acknowledge that this Families First process started before we came into power, nevertheless I would ask that you would reflect more deeply on whether a truly comprehensive impact assessment has been conducted, particularly in light of the fact that firstly on the basis of answers to questions asked at Scrutiny Committee, and contrary to the Families First guidance, a comprehensive communities based assessment does not appear to have been completed and secondly the impact assessment mapping of the 88 and Cymorth funded projects were not carried out prior to the procurement process, despite Lord Justice Moses’ comments in the Southall Black Sister –v- the Ealing Council’s case where he reiterated the importance of carrying out impact assessments before policy formulation. I would therefore ask if you would review this as we do need to ensure that we are not vulnerable to questions in judicial review?
Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

Very pertinent question, and as you know in conversations with yourself, I do think we need to further investigate this and I will be asking officers the question and I will have a conversation with you to ask what answers we find, but I would add that it is totally still open to scrutiny. If Scrutiny feels that any aspect of the process are not as they think they should be, you are quite welcome to further scrutinise any aspect of the Families First process and I would urge you to do so.

Question: County Councillor Robson

Do you agree that the senior management plans to create separate director posts for Children’s Services and for Health and Social Care risks these 2 important areas become individual silos?

Do you share my concern that vulnerable people could be “lost in the system” during transition from Children’s Services to Health and Social Care Services and that this risk could be avoid by having an overarching Director to cover both areas?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

I don’t agree.

The creation of two posts will provide increased leadership capacity for social care services to work together to ensure effective service delivery for vulnerable people in Cardiff.

In addition to their own professional commitment to working together and with other partners to deliver services, both Directors will be accountable to the Corporate Director (Operations).

Question: County Councillor Corria

Why was there no specific provision made for Black and Minority Ethnic families in any of the lots for Families First?
Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

As part of the Families First generic specification, which applies to all six lots of Families First services, there is a requirement that providers need to demonstrate both through their proposals and through actual service delivery that they have identified and are meeting the varying demands and needs of each area within the city. This includes considering the cultural and language needs and other access requirements, including the use of accessible locations, for specific groups such as minority ethnic groups.

Within the detailed specifications for each of the six lots of services, target groups have been identified and specifically include families who do not speak English or Welsh as a first language in five lots and Black and Minority Ethnic families, including gypsy and Roma travellers, in three lots.

Question: County Councillor Cowan

Since taking over as Cabinet Member, what measures have you put in place to ensure that we achieve 100% of all child protection reviews undertaken within the statutory timescales?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

Performance in respect of the timeliness of Child Protection reviews has been relatively high and is the focus of management attention. In the first two quarters of 2012/13, performance was close to the 100% target.

The recorded annual performance in respect of the timelines of Child Protection reviews has been close to the target in recent years and for 2011/12 was 98.4%. The All Wales average for the year was 96.6%.

There are occasions when reviews do not take place within the timescale for specific reasons, such as the impact of operational factors within Children’s Services and/or partner agencies and the inability of family members to attend, which can lead to reviews having to be re-scheduled outside of the timescale. When necessary, for example in response to a shortfall in staffing capacity, Children’s Services will purchase additional capacity in order to chair reviews.
The number of reviews varies greatly depending on the number of children included on the Child Protection Register. For example:

- 250 reviews were due to take place in Quarter 2 of 2012/13 (1 July – 30 September 2012);
- 142 reviews were due in Quarter 3 of 2008/09;
- 289 reviews were due in Quarter 2 of 2007/08.

**Question:** County Councillor Evans

Why was there was no supported event for organisations (particularly from the Third Sector) to assist in forming consortia or sub-contracting arrangements?

**Reply:** County Councillor Richard Cook

Since July 2011, there have been 14 engagement events involving stakeholders, partners and potential providers in the development of the new programme, agreement of the required outcomes and to comment on the draft specifications before they were finalised.

As part of this engagement, there were also specific events run by the Welsh Government’s Supplier Development Service on 25 April 2012 and 28 May 2012, which were targeted at the third sector and which provided guidance to potential providers on establishing collaborative arrangements, including legal advice and structures; developing strong proposals; and encouraging networking amongst potential providers to assist with developing collaborative arrangements.

**Supplementary Question:** County Councillor Evans

It would appear that the question doesn’t appear to have been answered directly because the operative word there is actually supported events for organisations. My understanding is that, such a supported event was promised for third sector organisations, in particular the smaller organisations that Councillor Boyle was referring to, and it was planned but it did not take place, so the emphasis of that question was on the supported events and that question doesn’t appear to have been answered directly.
Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

There was certainly a large number of events held, I have a folder this thick with a large number of events. The view on supported events I will have to investigate and get back to you as I can’t answer that directly.

Supplementary Question: County Councillor Dianne Rees

What plans have you made to provide suitable Local Authority accommodation for all young people between the ages 14 - 18 who will be remanded into Local Authority custody as a result of the new requirements on local authorities as a result of the 2012 Legal Aid and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

I am not sure Councillor how your questions fits in to the question that Councillor Evans asked, but if you write to me with that question I will provide you with a response.

(The Chair indicated that there was no further time allowed for supplementary questions under this portfolio)

Question: County Councillor Cowan

Between 1999-2004, Councillors accompanied officers on visits to Children’s Homes, and engaged with the young people and staff. This was a valuable experience. Do you have any plans to re-introduce this system?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

Regulation 32 of the Children’s Homes (Wales) Regulations 2002 requires local authorities, as the registered provider of a children’s home, to nominate a visiting officer who is not involved with the running or the management of the home, but who is judged to have suitable knowledge and experience of running a children’s home, to carry out regular visits to the home and to provide reports on those visits. Responsibility for ensuring compliance with the regulation is delegated to Children’s Services.
The visits are currently undertaken for Children’s Services by a third sector agency that has a long history of providing children’s homes and is acknowledged to have considerable expertise in the delivery of these services. This arrangement was introduced in January 2012 and provides an element of independence that strengthens the process. The monthly visits are thorough and the reports received are detailed and informative. The system will, of course, be subject of appropriate evaluation and review by managers who will report on its effectiveness to the Council’s Corporate Parenting Panel.

I am keen to promote opportunities for Members to visit our children’s homes in their role as the corporate parents of the children. I have recently visited both of the Council’s children’s homes and on one visit was accompanied by members of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. If other Members wish to visit please let me know.

**Question: County Councillor Evans**

Why was the Tender for bidding open for such a short time, particularly given the additional time required for the compulsory sub-contracting and consortium forming arrangements?

**Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook**

The OJEU notice for Families First was issued on 18 May 2012 and outline submissions were required by 28 June 2012.

However, as the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee were advised, the commissioning approach and draft specifications were available for a significant period before this with a view to providers being in a position of being able to commence work on developing consortia and bid ideas ahead of the formal procurement process.

It should also be highlighted that all bids submitted were outline submissions and bidders were not expected to have specified all of the details at this stage of the process, including all consortia partners.

A dialogue phase took place with all bidders over the summer which allowed further discussion between the commissioning team and all
potential providers to enable further refinement of the outline bids. Subsequently the invitation to submit the final tenders was published on 4 October 2012 and final bids are required by 14 November 2012 – some 6 months after the OJEU notice was first published.

Question: County Councillor Evans

Why did the circulated lists of ‘interested parties’ have organisations missing until a week before the Tender closed?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

In February 2012, potential providers were requested to provide up-to-date ‘pen pictures’ of their service to help facilitate the development of consortia arrangements for the new services.

The information received was subsequently made available via the Cardiff Partnership website from March 2012 and continuing requests were made for any additional/updated information to be included at a number of events which took place between March and May 2012 and via newsletters which were widely circulated.

In addition, specific events took place for potential providers on 25 April 2012 and 28 May 2012 and organisations were asked to indicate their interest in service packages and this was also made available via the Cardiff Partnership website. Following further circulation of the updated list, other organisations indicated that they wished to be included in the list of interested parties and the final list was circulated via the Alito Procurement Website on 15 June 2012, ahead of the deadline of 28 June 2012.

However, if you provide details of any ‘interested parties’ who you believe may have been missed, please let me know and I will investigate further.

Question: County Councillor Evans

Why was the seventh package removed between the final draft and the Tender in May 2012 (thus removing the key strategic anti-poverty and infrastructure package)?
The seventh package – which relates to Team around the Family and supporting infrastructure – has not been removed from the Tender. It was always intended that this would be commissioned separately to the other services as it needed to be published later so that the service specification could reflect the learning from the Team around the Family Pathfinders operating in the East and the West of the city.

The OJEU notice for the Team around the Family was published on 28 September 2012 and final bids are required by 10 December 2012.

Question: County Councillor Evans

Was the 75% turnover criterion ever miscalculated and, if so, what were the consequences for the organisation/s concerned?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

Officers have confirmed that the 75% turnover threshold test was miscalculated at the first evaluation stage of the procurement exercise, the Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). This adversely affected one bidding organisation, Riverside Advice. The consequence for the organisation was it failed the PQQ evaluation and was informed via email and in writing that its bid would not be progressed any further.

This decision was immediately queried by the organisation and therefore the calculations were checked and an error was discovered. Subsequently, the PQQ evaluation was re-run for every bidding organisation and it was established that Riverside Advice had passed the PQQ evaluation when the correct formula was applied. It was also established that no other bidding organisation had been affected by the error.

The previous communication to Riverside Advice was retracted and they were informed via email and in writing that their bid had passed the PQQ stage and would now be progressed to the next stage of the exercise. The organisation was therefore not subsequently disadvantaged and its bid was evaluated alongside all other bids within the same lot.
Question: County Councillor Evans

In view of the fact that the bidding process allowed organisations to submit multiple competing bids for the same package, what safeguards were put in place to ensure that confidentiality could be maintained between discrete bids?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

The potential providers are all aware of the confidential nature of the procurement process and have been responsible for securing their own assurances from any consortia organisations involved in their bids.

However, it should also be highlighted that the six lots are separate packages of services and so will not be in competition with each other given their different focus.

Question: County Councillor Evans

Given that the Families First process was designed to be fair to all organisations, including those funded by Cymorth, why has the process resulted in so many small organisations being excluded in so many ways?

Reply: County Councillor Richard Cook

The Welsh Government requirements for Families First specified the need for a coherent set of strategically commissioned services and which included a “smaller number of large scale projects, rather than large numbers of small-scale bespoke projects”.

The Cardiff Partnership agreed an approach which includes a Lead Provider and consortia arrangements which enables smaller organisations to be involved as part of a bid.

In information already published, we have outlined that, across the 12 outline bids submitted, there are currently 5 public sector and 40 third sector organisations included as partners, many of these partners are small organisations. This demonstrates the successful collaboration that has
taken place in indentifying the package of services required to best meet the outcomes of the programme.

**Question:** County Councillor Evans

What is the explanation for a Youth Offending Service contract being awarded, without going out to tender, to a member of the C3SC Board?

**Reply:** County Councillor Richard Cook

A contract for the provision of a youth offending service, “Triage”, was awarded following a tendering exercise. Four external organisations plus the Council’s internal service were invited to tender for this opportunity. Two organisations chose to submit tenders – these tenders were evaluated according to the published criteria and the winning bidder was awarded the contract.

129 : QUESTIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY

In the absence of both representatives of the South Wales Police Authority Written response had been provided to the meeting.

**Question:** County Councillor Carter

Could the member update council on the processes for asking questions of the police and holding them to account following the imminent abolition of the Police Authority?

**Written Reply**

Currently, each of the Police Authority’s seven constituent local authorities (i.e. Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea and Vale of Glamorgan) nominate a Police Authority member to answer questions on policing matters before their own Council. That arrangement will cease when the new Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) takes up office on 22 November 2012.

The process by which the PCC interacts with local authorities will be discussed during early meetings with Leaders and Chief Executives. Subject to confirmation, it is likely that any questions received from
Cardiff Council in relation to policing matters will continue to receive a response. Those that are relevant to the PCC will be responded to by his/her office. Those matters which fall under the responsibility of the Chief Constable will be responded to by the Police Force. Clearly, the PCC will wish to discuss these arrangements in more detail with the Chief Constable as soon as possible in order to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements.

It is important to reiterate that it is the role of the new Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to scrutinise the PCC and to hold him/her to account, as opposed to any of the constituent local authorities. As you will be aware, the PCP is a freestanding body in Wales and is not classified as a Joint Committee.

It is the responsibility of the PCC to hold the Chief Constable to account.

**Question: County Councillor McEvoy**

Where is the South Wales Police ranked in primary arrests in the UK?

Where is the South Wales Police ranked in secondary arrests in the UK?

**Written Reply**

A primary arrest is the initial offence for which a person is arrested (e.g. shoplifting) and the secondary arrest is any subsequent arrest (e.g. the shoplifter is brought into custody, found to have drugs concealed on him and is arrested for that secondary offence).

The Home Office only asks for primary arrest data from the Police and that is the only data which it publishes.

Based on the Home Office Police Powers and Procedures publication for 2010/11, which was published in April 2012, South Wales Police ranked 14\textsuperscript{th} in England and Wales for primary arrests per 1,000 population.

*(Meeting Closed at 21.50pm)*

Chairperson: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________