

## WRITTEN COUNCIL QUESTIONS: COUNCIL, 30 JANUARY 2014

### COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL – WRITTEN QUESTIONS: COUNCIL, 30 JANUARY 2014

W1	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></b></p> <p>For many months now, Cardiff residents have been unable to buy/renew parking permits at County Hall. There is also – still – no online application process available. Cllr. Lynda Thorne has previously indicated issuing/renewal of parking permits will be a facility of a Central Advice Hub. Please can she say when this will happen, and how it will be advertised?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>I am advised that the Council's ICT team is currently working to deliver an online solution by a target date of April 2014. Public access to an online facility via the Council's website is expected to see a large transfer of future applications to this new method. Once operational, the new online facility will also be advertised widely, including in the Capital Times newspaper, which is delivered to all households in Cardiff.</p> <p>For those applicants who have no computer access or who are not confident in using such online facilities, general assistance to use the online parking permit service will be available through the Hubs. Visitors to County Hall can also deposit their applications in the secure post box located there and such applications are processed daily.</p>
W2	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH</u></b></p> <p>The definition of a 'local connection' used by Cardiff Council includes people who work in the city but reside elsewhere. What efforts are being made to work with other local authorities on a reciprocal basis to tackle issues that arise from this?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The definition of a 'local connection' is set in the Housing Act 1996, which states that:</p> <p><i>"A person has a local connection with the district of a local housing authority if he has a connection with it</i></p> <p><i>(a) because he is, or in the past was, normally resident there, and that residence is or was of his own choice,</i></p> <p><i>(b) because he is employed there,</i></p>

*(c) because of family associations, or  
(d) because of special circumstances.”*

Local authorities are bound by this legislation and, if they choose to offer additional preference for housing to applicants with a local connection to their area, must include not only people who live there, but also those who work in the area.

In terms of applying this definition, local connection is of relevance to the Authority's consideration of homelessness cases and also for general applications to join the housing waiting list.

If an applicant is eligible for assistance under homelessness legislation, is unintentionally homeless (or threatened with homelessness) and in priority need of accommodation, the local authority can, and generally will, consider whether or not they have a local connection with their area. Where the applicant has a local connection with Cardiff, we would normally have the housing duty. If it is decided that an applicant has no local connection with Cardiff, but has a connection in another local authority, then a local connection referral would be made to that area. The Authority's duties with regard to such referrals are mainly covered in s198 of the Housing Act 1996.

There is no specific Council policy (or reciprocal arrangements) in place regarding local connection referrals. The Council is governed by legislation and case law when referring an applicant to another area or accepting an applicant referred from another area.

All local authorities are required under legislation to consider applications for housing from anyone, whether or not they live or work in the area.

The Council's properties are currently allocated under the Allocations Policy that was approved in November 2010. Under this policy, 200 points are awarded to applicants with a local connection to the city to ensure that they are given a higher priority for rehousing than those in similar circumstances who have no local connection.

There are no formal arrangements in place with other local authorities to address any issues arising from local connection arrangements relating to general applications. However, a new Allocation Scheme was approved by the Cabinet in December 2013, which aims to ensure that housing need and local connection are recognised, but that all applicants are given realistic and constructive advice about the likelihood of being rehoused in the city within a reasonable timeframe.

Applicants with no local connection to the city would now be advised that they could only join one of the lower waiting list bands and would therefore only be made an offer of accommodation if there were no applicants in a higher band for whom the property was suitable.

Applicants who are working in the city but who are adequately housed elsewhere would fall within the lowest band and would be advised that their chances of being rehoused would be limited. They would be offered advice about renting privately or approaching the local authority where they live in order to enquire about social housing in that area.

W3

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH**

What was the percentage breakdown of respondents by ward following the public consultation on the future of Splott/STAR leisure provision?

**Reply**

The percentage of respondents to the Splott Community Hub consultation by ward is set out in the table below:

	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Adamsdown	112	12.0
Butetown	8	0.9
Canton	7	0.7
Cathays	7	0.7
Cyncoed	8	0.9
Grangetown	8	0.9
Heath	9	1.0
Llandaff	6	0.6
Llanishen	12	1.3
Llanrumney	10	1.1
Pentwyn	16	1.7
Penylan	32	3.4
Plasnewydd	33	3.5
Pontprennau / Old St Mellons	5	0.5
Radyr & Morganstown	5	0.5
Rhiwbina	12	1.3
Riverside	7	0.7
Rumney	16	1.7
Splott	445	47.5
Trowbridge	21	2.2
Whitchurch & Tongwynlais	14	1.5
Other*	15	1.6

Not stated	129	13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*\*Wards with less than 5 respondents are grouped under the 'Other' category (these are from Caerau, Creigiau/St Fagans, Ely, Fairwater, Gabalfa, Llandaff North and Pentyrch).*

W4

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH**

What percentage of respondents from Plasnewydd agreed that 'the new hub should be built on the site currently occupied by Splott Pool and adjoining facilities in Splott Park, and that services transfer from the STAR center to the new site' in the hub consultation?

**Reply**

In the Splott Community Hub consultation survey, 33 respondents were identified as living in Plasnewydd, of whom 11 agreed with the proposal to locate the new hub at the Splott Park site. These account for one third (33.3%) of the respondents from Plasnewydd, as set out in the table below:

Agree		Disagree		No opinion		Total	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
11	33.3	15	45.5	7	21.2	<b>33</b>	<b>100.0</b>

W5

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH**

What evaluation has been undertaken regarding travel time to any hub facilities that could serve the STAR (Splott, Tremorfa, Adamsdown and Roath) area from each of its component wards?

**Reply**

As part of the options appraisal for the Splott Community Hub, an evaluation of travel times from different parts of the STAR Centre area was undertaken. The maximum extra travel distance to the proposed Hub location at Splott Park, compared with the existing STAR Centre, is 675 metres. This equates to a 10 minutes walk or 5 minutes drive time. The proposed Hub location is also on the main bus route through Splott.

W6	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>When was funding approved for the upgrade of Canton library?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Capital allocations of £750,000 were approved for library investment improvements to Canton and Radyr as part of the 2011/12 Capital Programme, which was approved by Council on 24 February 2011.</p> <p>Additional grant monies for furniture and fit out for Canton library were sought from CyMAL in 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14, with the library service being successful finally in securing this grant funding in 2013/14. A grant of £120,000 was awarded by CyMAL on 27 March 2013.</p>
W7	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>When will Pentrebane Resident's Association be allowed to join the Tenant's Federation?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Pentrebane Residents Association is able to become a member of the Cardiff Tenants and Residents Federation by completing an application form and meeting the Council's recognition criteria, as set out below:</p> <p><b><u>Tenants and Residents Associations – Recognition Criteria</u></b></p> <p>In order to be recognised by the Council and Cardiff Tenants and Residents Federation, Tenants and Residents Associations need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt a constitution (Items 1 – 8) additions to meet the individual needs of Associations are acceptable) which has been approved by the Council and Cardiff Tenants and Residents Federation</li> <li>2. Hold an Annual General Meeting within a maximum of each 13 month period to elect Officers (and maintain an original signed AGM Attendance List)</li> <li>3. Hold Committee and open General Meetings regularly</li> <li>4. Keep open minutes or records of all meetings (AGM minutes/records must be supplied to the Council and Cardiff Tenants and Residents Federation on a yearly basis to</li> </ol>

	<p>continue with their recognised status)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Keep a record of accounts showing income and expenditure (copy and breakdown of annual accounts to be supplied to the Council and Cardiff Tenants and Residents Federation)</li> <li>6. Act in accordance with Equal Opportunities and Practice guidelines</li> <li>7. Act in accordance with an agreed Code of Conduct</li> <li>8. Operate in accordance with the constitution</li> <li>9. Act in a responsible, open, accountable and democratic manner</li> <li>10. Operate within a geographical area that must include Local Authority Housing</li> <li>11. Excluding the Annual General Meeting, the TRA must be represented on at least one occasion, in a six month period, at the monthly Federation Meeting of all Associations, unless reasonable reason for non-attendance is supplied in advance.</li> </ol> <p>Once these criteria have been met, the Association's details can then be passed on to the Federation, who will contact the Association direct.</p> <p>To date, the Council has not received an application form or other information from Pentrebanne Residents Association. Officers from the Council's Communities, Housing &amp; Customer Services directorate are available to meet with the Association to provide advice and assistance with this process, if required.</p>
W8	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>How many people have been rehoused in Fairwater since May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>From 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 to 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014, a total of 80 properties of all types have been let in the Fairwater area. These are broken down by year and property size in the following table:</p>

Property Size	Number of Lets			TOTAL
	2012	2013	2014 (to 23/01/14)	
Bedsit	1	2	0	3
One Bed	18	29	3	50
Two Bed	3	7	2	12
Three Bed	6	8	1	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>80</b>

W9

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY**

What is the status of PACT meetings?

**Reply**

Partnerships and Communities Together (PACT) meetings are organised and managed by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams of South Wales Police as one of their engagement mechanisms for interacting with communities to identify issues which matter most. They are usually held in each ward on a monthly basis.

One of the recommendations in the 'Building Communities' White Paper, which were agreed by the Cabinet in October last year, was to "*undertake a South Wales Police review of the effectiveness of PACT meetings*" by March 2014. I can confirm that discussions with the Police & Crime Commissioner are ongoing in relation to this proposed review and how it relates to the neighbourhood partnership arrangements.

W10

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY**

On the data held on the ASBIT database up to 30 November 2013:

- a. How many individual victims are recorded?
- b. How many individual offenders are recorded?
- c. How many incidents are recorded?
- d. Of those incidents:
  - i. How many have resulted in a person being charged by the police?
  - ii. Of those, how many of those cases have concluded?
  - iii. Of those, how many have resulted in an entry on the National Police Computer (i.e. caution, conviction, reprimand, or formal warning?)
- e. How many victims have had their data disclosed to third parties?

	<p>f. Of those, how many gave their informed consent?</p> <p>g. Of those, how many gave their informed consent for each transfer?</p> <p>h. How many non-victims have had their data disclosed to third parties?</p> <p>i. Of those, how many gave their informed consent?</p> <p>j. Of those, how many gave their informed consent for each transfer?</p> <p>k. What money or other services have been provided directly or indirectly in exchange for data transfers or disclosures to third parties?</p> <p>l. How do people find out whether or not their details are recorded on the database?</p> <p>m. What is the procedure for removing personal data from the database?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>I am unable to provide this information as the database is not used by the Council due to the strict vetting procedures that are required by South Wales Police, who are also responsible for the administration of the database and the information held on it. I would therefore suggest that you direct your enquiries to them.</p>
W11	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>Please list all the persons who can access the information in the ASB database, whether directly or communicated to them by those who already have access.</p> <p>Where these persons are legal persons (public, or private such as including charities and unincorporated associations and businesses and the ACPO group of companies and other constabularies not holding the data in the course of their duties), list all of the directors agents or employees of that body who can access the information.</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>I would refer you to the answer provided above to your earlier Written Question on this subject.</p>
W12	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOODMAN</u></b></p> <p>Could the Cabinet member advise how many council housing tenants in Cardiff have been wrongly advised that the under occupancy rule applies to them, when in fact they are exempt due to living in the property continuously since January 1996 and have been in</p>



continuous receipt of housing benefit?

How much money has had to be refunded to tenants because of this, please and how many residents were placed in arrears due to this error?

**Reply**

The loophole in the Housing Benefit regulations which allows this exemption is very complex and several different criteria need to apply for the tenant to be exempt from the rules.

Currently, 162 council housing tenants have been identified where the exemption applies. This is a very time-intensive exercise and officers are still working through records to identify further cases.

To date, £104,777.63 in additional Housing Benefit has been awarded to council tenants as a result of this exemption and, if Housing Association tenants are included, the total amount which has been awarded overall is £161,324.06.

55 of the 162 council tenants were in receipt of discretionary housing payments to cover the under occupancy costs. Therefore, the remaining 107 would potentially have been placed in arrears if they did not pay the shortfall.

The UK Government has made clear that it will be introducing legislation to close the loophole as soon as possible. This is expected to take place in early March 2014 and all the claims will then need to be amended again in order to re-apply the deduction.

W13	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH</u></b></p> <p>The assessment by the Department for Work and Pensions of its own mandatory work activity programme found it has no impact on the likelihood of participants gaining employment and showed them as likely to claim benefits over the long term as those not on the scheme. The study was peer-reviewed by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research who called the scheme “a complete policy disaster”. Does Cardiff Council provide unpaid mandatory work placements as part of the UK Government’s Work Programme?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Previously, the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) project provided a mandatory work placement element of the previous Labour Government’s Future Jobs Fund Scheme This involved Cardiff Council co-ordinating the placing of over 600 participants on 6-month placements. The last placements under this scheme were received and placed in March 2011 and left in September 2011. Cardiff Council is not involved in centrally co-ordinating mandatory unpaid work placements as part of the UK Government’s Work Programme.</p> <p>Unconnected to the Government’s Work Programme, the Council does however provide a range of unpaid work placement opportunities for citizens through a variety of mechanisms including: dedicated Careers Wales Work Experience Placements; practical work placements for Further and Higher Education students. Cardiff Council also provides a range of paid work placement experience including opportunities for Trade Apprenticeships, Job Growth Wales placements, and Go Wales placements for graduate and post graduates.</p> <p>As you will be aware, on 7 November 2013, the Cabinet approved proposals for all placement opportunities to be provided through a new structured corporate framework with central coordination, monitoring and support for all work placements programmes.</p>
W14	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH</u></b></p> <p>How many jobseekers have taken part in mandatory work activity at Cardiff Council since 2011?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>From April 2010 to March 2011, 436 placements relating to the former Future Jobs Fund scheme were supported by Cardiff Council.</p>

	<p>The last placements under this scheme were received and placed in March 2011 and left after completing their mandatory work experience element in September 2011.</p> <p>However, since the end of the Future Jobs Fund in 2011, the information you are seeking is not held by the Council. Where job seekers are accessing work activity, the expectation is that partners such as Job Centre Plus would hold this information.</p>
W15	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH</u></b></p> <p>Is the authority aware of any jobseekers having their benefits sanctioned for issues connected with a mandatory work placement at this authority?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Council would not have access to information that would identify whether jobseekers have had any benefits sanctioned for any issues connected with a mandatory unpaid work placement.</p>
W16	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH</u></b></p> <p>How many jobseekers have been offered permanent employment after completing unpaid work activity placements at Cardiff Council?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>This information is not currently recorded on the Council's systems.</p>
W17	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>How many staff who receive the living wage have seen cuts in hours or worked less hours since the living wage was introduced?</p> <p>What is the average cut in gross pay per person if less hours worked?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>You will be aware that Cardiff was the first Council in Wales to make a commitment to introduce the Living Wage for its lowest paid employees who do some of the most important and challenging jobs in the Council and so should be paid a decent salary for the work they do.</p> <p>We signalled our intention to implement the Living Wage in a report</p>

to Cabinet in July 2012 and implemented it from September 2012. Approximately 2,000 council staff are currently in receipt of the Living Wage.

As advised when you asked a Written Question back in October last year about reductions in working hours, it is important to have some context. A reduction in hours can be at the request of an individual for personal reasons or as part of a request for Flexible Retirement, but also for service delivery needs (e.g. as part of a reconfiguration of services to support budget savings).

Since September 2012, 75 Living Wage staff have seen a reduction in their working hours (a total of minus 348 hours); however, 51 Living Wage staff have seen an increase in their hours (a total increase of 309 hours). Therefore, there has been an overall reduction of 39 hours, split between 2,000 staff, which equates to an average reduction of £7.50 per person per annum.

**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING – WRITTEN QUESTIONS:**  
**COUNCIL, 30 JANUARY 2014**

W18

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY**

Can you please list the number of Year 7 pupils in Cantonian and Fitzalan and list the primary schools they came from?

**Reply**

There are currently 279 pupils in the Year 7 age group at Fitzalan High School who attended the following primary schools:

<b>Primary School</b>	<b>No. of Pupils</b>
Adamsdown	3
Allensbank	2
Grangetown	34
Herbert Thompson	3
Kitchener	38
Lansdowne	41
Moorland	1
Mount Stuart	35
Ninian Park	36
Pencaerau	1
Radnor	5
St Alban's	1
St Mary's	14
St Paul's	7
Severn	31
Springwood	1
Stacey	1
Primary school not within Cardiff	20
Educated Abroad	5
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>279</b>

There are currently 64 pupils in the Year 7 age group at Cantonian High School who attended the following primary schools:

<b>Primary School</b>	<b>No. of Pupils</b>
Fairwater	24
Herbert Thompson	3
Hywel Dda	1
Kitchener	1
Lansdowne	1
Ninian Park	1
Pentrebane	12
Peter Lea	14

Radnor	1
St Francis	1
St Paul's	1
Severn	2
Trelai	1
Primary school not within Cardiff	1
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>64</b>

W19

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR FORD**

How many reports of flooding have been reported in Cardiff since 01-09-13 until the 16-01-14? Please include drains.

**Reply**

The term 'flooding' is now commonly used to describe localised standing water along the highway and surface water run off from overlying land. Although the Council will endeavour to attend and investigate all reported flooding incidents, it is only considered to be an actual flooding event if properties are flooded internally or in imminent danger of being flooded.

During the period from 1 September 2013 to 16 January 2014, the Council received 740 requests regarding 'flooding' incidents across the city. No properties were reported to have been flooded internally during this period, with the majority of requests relating to localised ponding issues caused by a number of circumstances.

Localised ponding issues are commonly caused by either blocked highway gullies, highway gullies becoming covered over with debris/leaf fall or hydraulic overload of the public sewers. Whilst blocked gullies and drainage systems can be addressed through planned maintenance and engineering improvements, leaf fall and debris is a natural phenomenon and is therefore unpredictable and cannot be influenced by the maintenance teams.

When a flooding request is received by the Council it is added to a list of other reported incidents for the operational crews to inspect and cleanse accordingly. Dependant on the number of requests received and resources available, the requests will predominantly be dealt with on the same day or earlier if the report of flooding is likely to cause internal flooding to properties or major disruption across the city. This process will also apply during out of hours and over the weekend period where there is a 24-hour call out response team.

It is worth noting that, over the last few months, Cardiff has experienced unprecedented levels of rainfall along with many other parts of the country and the Council, together with our partner agencies, have managed to prevent any significant flooding events where properties have been flooded internally.

W20	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR FORD</u></b></p> <p>How many complaints has the Council received regarding parking at the Central train and bus station since 01-01-13 and what has been done to alleviate it?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Following a check of records held, I am advised that only one recorded letter on this matter was entered into the system in 2013. This was received from a Cardiff Councillor. Additionally, there have been two complaints relating to taxis, which were received on 18 March 2013 and 21 October 2013.</p> <p>I can confirm that Civil Enforcement Officers do currently enforce contraventions in this area when they are identified and they will continue regular patrols as is normal practice.</p> <p>Civil Enforcement Officers may only issue Penalty Charge Notices where there is clear evidence of a contravention of yellow line restrictions. However, in many cases, taxi drivers are with their vehicles and either move forward or leave the area when Civil Enforcement Officers arrive in the area, which does make enforcement difficult. Contravention of yellow line restrictions can be considered as obstruction of the highway, which is also an offence, but this is a matter that may only be dealt with by the Police.</p> <p>In order to assist in addressing parking concerns, a formal taxi rank has been introduced in the vicinity of the front of Cardiff Central railway station. This has provided more space for other vehicles wishing to gain access to the front of the station in order to pick up or drop off rail passengers and appears to have reduced problems in this location. The situation will continue to be monitored.</p>
W21	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR FORD</u></b></p> <p>What has been the estimate for extra car/van journeys caused by the closure of Waungron Road recycling centre?</p> <p>How many miles will this be?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>This is dependant on the customers' home address and their choice of alternative site. It may be a shorter distance for some and longer for others. It is envisaged that 90% of current site users at Waungron</p>



will transfer to Bessemer Close, but ultimately this is customer choice, and will be influenced by the success of our marketing.

It is worth noting the proposals also include:

1. reduction in site vehicle movements and skip changes due to improved material management and crushing on site.
2. improved customer throughput due to larger site and more staff facilitating the process.
3. reduced idling and waiting time during busier periods on site due to better throughput
4. reduction on impact on main road outside of Waungron site which has led to customer dissatisfaction previously
5. promotion of use of kerbside as much as possible to reduce need to use HRC sites

### Considerations

- Only the residents directly surrounding the current Waungron site would need to travel further.
- Residents more than mile away would use an alternative site as the route and journey time would be a more viable option.
- Having the 2 sites will enable less heavy vehicles operating on the highway and reducing the carbon foot print. ( less sites to manage the waste) We are reducing our fleet of lorries for skip lifts from 4 to 2.
- WRAP HWRC Guidance October 2012 page 97 – refers to distance and time travelled to sites and states that an authority should consider these factors. It references authorities where 20 minutes and 10 miles are deemed to be reasonable.
- The planning application will consider any impacts on traffic.

### Data from Google Maps re journey times and mileage.

CF52JL (Waungron HWRC) to CF118XH (Bessemer HWRC) = 8 mins – 2.8 Miles

CF52JL (Waungron HWRC) to CF143QX (Wedal Rd HWRC) = 8 mins – 2.7 Miles

CF52JL (Waungron HWRC) to CF32HP (Lamby Way HWRC) = 11 mins -6.2 Miles

W22	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR FORD</u></b></p> <p>How much has it cost for the removal of fly tipping in the city since 01-06-13 to 01-01-14?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>It has cost £164,140 to remove and dispose of fly tipping across the city between June 2013 and December 2013. This figure is comprised of £85,504 to fund the removal of fly tipped materials by teams, which includes the cost of a vehicle, fuel and maintenance, driver and an operative. The remainder of the cost (£78,636) covered the disposal of 763 tonnes of waste.</p>
W23	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR FORD</u></b></p> <p>When will the toilets be reopened on the Hayes in the town centre?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>You will recall that, in order to meet budget savings targets for the 2013/14 financial year, the Council took the difficult decision in February last year to close the Hayes Public Conveniences. The facilities were subsequently closed on 30 June 2013, thereby saving the Council approximately £120,000 per annum. The Public Convenience Attendants have since been redeployed or left the Council through voluntary severance.</p> <p>However, in implementing the Council's decision to close the facilities, the Cabinet recognised the historical value of the Grade 2 listed structure and undertook to investigate the feasibility of re-opening the public conveniences at no or minimum cost to the Council.</p> <p>To this end, officers have been investigating the feasibility of securing the operation and maintenance of the toilets through an alternative delivery model. I am therefore very pleased to confirm that an agreement has recently been reached with the Hayes Café tenant to operate and maintain these facilities without the Council incurring any net additional cost. It is intended that the facilities will be re-opened within the next few months.</p> <p>Further details regarding this alternative service delivery model will be outlined in a report which is scheduled for consideration by Cabinet in March 2014.</p>

W24 **WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR FORD**

How many complaints have you received since it has been closed?

**Reply**  
 I am aware of two complaints which have been received by the Council following the Council's decision to close the toilets in February 2013.

W25 **WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR FORD**

Have signs on the Hayes been put up to advise residents of Cardiff and visitors where else to go to use a toilet?

**Reply**  
 Yes, appropriate signs were put up when the toilets were closed. However, these do 'disappear' from time-to-time and, therefore, new signs are put up as and when required.

W26 **WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY**

How many cleansing hours were worked in Fairwater, Canton, Creigiau and Riverside for the weeks of:

- 08-01-14 until 15-01-14;
- 07-01-13 until 14-01-13;
- 09-01-12 until 16-01-12?

**Reply**  
 I am advised that the hours actually worked by teams in individual wards are not recorded. As a result, the information provided below includes the hours of work scheduled for the requested periods, but do not account for absences because of leave, training, etc.

Ward	Approximate Working Hours Scheduled		
	09-01-12 until 16-01-12	07-01-13 until 14-01-13	08-01-14 until 15-01-14
Fairwater	133	133	177
Canton	281	266	236
Creigiau / St Fagans	33	33	29
Riverside	362	347	364

	<p>The ‘Cardiff Outdoors Project – Street Cleansing’ report, which was considered by the Cabinet in December 2013, identified proposed changes to the street cleansing operations and a move to a more ‘needs based’ focus. These changes were implemented in mid-January 2014. It can be seen from the information provided that Fairwater is currently benefiting from the ongoing ‘Cardiff Outdoors’ trial in the ward, where a team based in the area is cleansing the adopted highway, parks and housing land.</p> <p>In respect of Canton and Riverside, the main reason for the reduction in hours relates to the change in role of the Community Sweepers. As stated in the aforementioned report to Cabinet in December 2013, an important step in achieving the ‘needs based’ focus is the provision of a more flexible and responsive resource deployment. To achieve this, the Community Sweepers, whose hard work has been restricted to relatively small areas, have been re-integrated within the rest of the workforce and now work as part of Transit vehicle-based operative teams that are able to cover significantly larger areas to the wider benefits of communities. Hence, the changes have resulted in a more efficient approach to cleansing across the city.</p>
W27	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>What is the value of Waungron Road Recycling Depot?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The value will depend on potential future uses (and planning status), whether the site might have special value for a particular buyer and also the timing of any sale. The proposed closure of the site is still being considered and, if approved, may take some time to reach a sale position designed to maximise the value received by the Authority. It would be likely that it would then be market tested for sale. It is therefore too early to fix a value for the site.</p>
W28	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>How much has been spent on the Waungron Road recycling depot in the last 10 years, please indicate the amount per year?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The revenue costs for operating this site over the last 10 years are set out below:</p>

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Gross Expenditure (£)</b>	<b>Grant Income (£)</b>	<b>Net Expenditure (£)</b>
2012/13	172,026	-61,127	110,899
2011/12	153,420	-48,809	104,611
2010/11	184,670	-60,942	123,728
2009/10	224,649	-70,834	153,815
2008/09	160,321	-50,707	109,614
2007/08	212,016	-76,810	135,206
2006/07	271,346	-75,979	195,367
2005/06	181,396	-57,093	124,303
2004/05	141,917	-49,735	92,182
2003/04	311,788		311,788
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>2,013,549</b>	<b>-552,036</b>	<b>1,461,513</b>

W29

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY**

What is the status of increased residents parking in Gloucester Street, Riverside?

**Reply**

On 16 September 2013, the Traffic Regulation Order team wrote to the local ward members for Riverside about increased residents parking and to update them on 75% Resident Only Parking Scheme surveys, which would be undertaken in Gloucester Street.

Surveys were carried out to establish whether the existing reserved space was heavily used during the working day from Monday to Friday. If an occupancy level of 75% or more of legal parking is observed in the existing bays, then an upgrade to a 75% scheme would therefore be justified.

The results of the surveys indicated that the overall percentage parked in Gloucester Street was found to be 47%, which is below the Council's criteria for the introduction of a 75% Residents Only Parking Scheme. This means that the request for an extension of the existing Residents Only Parking provision could not be supported at this time.

It should be noted that the new Residents Parking Policy limits the number of permits per dwelling to two plus a visitor permit. It is anticipated that, as residents renew their permits, there may be a reduction in the perceived parking pressure within the existing bays as less permits will be issued.

**FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – WRITTEN QUESTIONS:**  
**COUNCIL, 30 JANUARY 2014**

W30	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></b></p> <p>What is the cost to the council of printing and mailing out payslips to employees?</p> <p>What consideration has been given to issuing payslips over e-mail every month to employees with a secure council e-mail address?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The projected postage costs for mailing payslips to employees for the 2013/14 financial year is £30,231. The cost of payslip stationery and envelopes is £7,230 per annum.</p> <p>The use of electronic payslips has been investigated with our Technology Partner, but the upfront cost of implementation and associated support costs has meant that there is not a viable business case at the present time unless all employees agree to use this method.</p>
W31	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>How much did the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leaders, Cabinet (Executive members) earn in allowances from 01-07-12 to 01-07-13 and 01-07-10 to 01-07-11?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>From 1 July 2012 to 1 July 2013, the total amount of Senior Salaries (inclusive of Basic Salary) earned by the Leader, Deputy Leader and seven other Cabinet Members was £313,100. Payments were made in accordance with the levels of Senior Salary prescribed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in its Annual Reports.</p> <p>From 1 July 2010 to 1 July 2011, the total amount of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances paid to the former Leader, two Deputy Leaders and six Executive Members was £310,257.</p>
W32	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>How many letters were received from Cardiff MPs and AMs regarding the new bus station from:</p> <p>a) May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 – May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 b) from May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 – 16-01-14?</p>

Could you list the sender of number of letters per month please?

**Reply**

Please see below list of correspondence received during the following periods:

a) May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 – May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

Date	Sender	No
September 2009	MP	2
February 2010	AM	1
August 2011	MP	1
February 2012	AM	1

b) from May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 – January 16<sup>th</sup> 2014

None.

W33

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY**

How much has been spent on taxis by cabinet councillors since May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012?

**Reply**

Figures available up to the end of September 2013 show that Cabinet Members have claimed expenses or incurred costs to the Council on taxi fares totalling £118.60 since 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012.

W34

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY**

What was the cost of the Riverside and Splott by elections?

**Reply**

The costs of the Council by-elections in Riverside and Splott, which were held on 5 December 2013, were as follows:

Riverside = £16,536.67  
Splott = £16,139.36

**LEADER – WRITTEN QUESTIONS: COUNCIL, 30 JANUARY 2014**

W35	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>To which Secretary of State is the Cardiff Partnership accountable?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Cardiff Partnership is accountable to the local statutory partners and the Welsh Government. The Partnership does not report to any Secretary of State.</p>
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W36

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOWDEN**

Has the Council undertaken a survey of the great crested newt population in Heath Park during the past 12 months?

If so, could you tell me:

- What were the results and what did the survey reveal in terms of the extent of the great-crested newts' spread of habitat?;
- Are you satisfied that the great crested newt population is not reducing in Heath Park but maintaining a healthy level?;
- Does the Council need to take further measures to protect this protected species in Heath Park e.g. fencing off the pond area to prevent access by dogs and children which could disturb the habitat?;
- Are there any other parts of Cardiff which support a significant great-crested newt population?

**Reply**

1. A survey of the Great Crested Newt breeding pond in Heath Park was undertaken in spring 2013 by East Ecology. This survey used a variety of methods to estimate the numbers of this species within the pond and the resulting assessment was that the population was at the lower end of the 'medium population' category - i.e. between 10 and 100 adult newts. A survey of the terrestrial habitat of this species was not undertaken as it is difficult to survey for this species on land in a systematic way and terrestrial surveys do not normally give useful results.
2. Annual surveys of this pond by Parks Services staff do not indicate that the population is declining. Small numbers are detected every year and the breeding habitat remains broadly suitable for them.
3. Preventing dog access to the pond may reduce turbidity and therefore allow more submerged vegetation to grow, providing better habitat for the newts. However, there is no evidence that the Great Crested Newt population is constrained by the lack of submerged vegetation at this site. The increase in the opportunity for submerged plant species to grow could also increase the problems with the non-native plant species 'Parrots Feather', which is hand-pulled annually in order to control its spread.

4. There are significant Great Crested Newt populations to the west of Cardiff, in particular around the St Fagans, Goitre-Fawr and Pentrebane areas. In total, we believe that there are 14 ponds which support this species in Cardiff.

W37

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE**

What is the rate of occupancy in each of the city's allotments?

**Reply**

The current occupancy rates for each allotment site are as follows:

<b>Allotment Site Name</b>	<b>Occupancy Rate</b>
Allensbank	78%
Birchgrove	86%
Colchester Avenue	92%
College Farm	72%
Cowbridge Road	85%
Elgar Crescent	95%
Ely Farm	75%
Fairwater	68%
Flaxland Avenue	56%
Forest Farm	82%
Greenway Road	68%
Heol Chappell	94%
Highfields	92%
Lady Mary	78%
Leckwith	65%
Llandaff Fields	96%
Llandaff North	79%
Llanishen	83%
Lon y Deri	100%
Lynton Terrace	77%
Pengam Pavilion	72%
Pengam Permanent	17%
Pontcanna A	86%
Pontcanna Chalet	100%
Pontcanna Permanent	91%
Porthamal Road	100%
Rhydypenau	89%
South Rise	82%
<b>Overall Total Occupancy Rate =</b>	<b>78%</b>

W38	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></b></p> <p>Is the council able to produce a demographic breakdown of allotment users, by age, gender and ethnicity?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>From information held by the Council and on the basis of gender, I can confirm that 66% of the tenant population are male and 34% are female.</p> <p>In terms of age, 53% of the tenant population are aged 60 years or over and 47% are under 60 years of age.</p> <p>The Council does not hold information relating to the ethnicity of tenants; however, arrangements are in hand to develop systems for collecting and monitoring equalities data.</p>
W39	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></b></p> <p>What has been the percentage year-by-year rise in plot rental fees since 2008?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The percentage increases year-by-year since 2008 are as follows:</p> <p>2008 = 2.8%  2009 = 15.1%  2010 = 5.2%  2011 = 12.9%  2012 = 11.1%  2013 = 37%  2014 = 36.9%</p> <p>The increases for the 2014 allotment year will result in charges for individual allotment plots ranging from £24.75p per year for a small plot at a concessionary rate, through to £105.40p for a large plot without a concession</p>
W40	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></b></p> <p>What is the total cost to the Council of running the allotment service?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Taking the current financial year and using outturn projections at the</p>

	<p>Month 8 monitoring period, I anticipate that the net expenditure for the allotment service to be £69,860. This figure is based on a projected expenditure total of £165,460, minus a projected income total of £95,600.</p>
W41	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></b></p> <p>How many eviction notices are outstanding on non-payers?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>194 non-renewal notices due to non-payment were issued on 16 December 2013, with payment due by 13 January 2014.</p> <p>85 payments have been received following the issue of these notices and 109 payments remain outstanding.</p>
W42	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></b></p> <p>What plans does the administration have to create a playground in or near the city centre for families with young children?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>There are no current plans or, indeed, budget allocations to create a playground in or near the city centre for families with young children. I can however confirm that new play features designed for families with young children have been introduced in Bute Park during the current financial year, which comprise of a series of play sculptures, balance beams, stepping logs, stepping posts, play stilts and a rope walk. These features have installed through the use of Heritage Lottery Fund monies.</p> <p>Refurbishment/enhancement works are planned for the play area at Dispenser Gardens within the Riverside ward and I anticipate that the works will be completed by the end of the financial year. These works are being funded through Section 106 monies and the capital programme.</p>
W43	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>Can you list the major events in Cardiff and their cost since May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Since May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, Cardiff has hosted the following Major Events:</p>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Cost</b>
25 May 2012	Olympic Torch Relay	see Note 1
8-10 June 2012	ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup	see Note 2
23 June 2012	BIM British Speedway	£17K
25 July 2012	Olympic Football Match and first event of the London 2012 Games	see Note 1
26 July 2012	Olympic Football Match	
28 July 2012	Olympic Football Match	
31 July 2012	Olympic Football Match	
1 August 2012	Olympic Football Match	
3 August 2012	Olympic Football Match	
4 August	Olympic Football Match	
10 August	Olympic Football Bronze Medal Match	
31 Aug-2 Sept 2012	Extreme Sailing Series	
19-21 April 2013	RHS Show Cardiff	£48K
1 June 2013	BIM British Speedway	£17K
6 June 2013	ICC Champions Trophy	see Note 3
9 June 2013	ICC Champions Trophy	
14 June 2013	ICC Champions Trophy	
16 June 2013	ICC Champions Trophy	
20 June 2013	ICC Champions Trophy – Semi Final	
21-23 June 2013	ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup	see Note 2
23-26 August 2013	Extreme Sailing Series	

23-27 Oct 2013	Womex 2013	£35K
26 Oct 2013	Opening Ceremony Rugby League World Cup 2013	£100K

**Notes:**

1. The London 2012 Olympics was a UK Bid. The support captured in the Guarantee Letters signed by all host authorities and provided to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as part of the bid commitments formed part of the Host City Contract and captured the UK's collective commitment to deliver the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. Cardiff contributed £350K to the costs of staging Olympic Football Games, the Olympic Torch Relay and the Paralympic Flame Festival in the City.
2. These events are funded by Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA). There is no cost directly to CHA for the ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup and the contribution towards the Extreme Sailing Series is £10K.
3. No direct funding – facilitation and officer support only.

W44

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY**

When did the Ely Rec not form part of Cardiff's proposed fields to be put into Trust?

**Reply**

On 20 September 2012, the Cabinet took the decision to put forward seven candidate sites for dedication under the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge initiative. I believe that your question is referring to the Wilson Road Recreation Ground in Ely – this site was not included as one of the seven sites.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT – WRITTEN QUESTIONS:  
COUNCIL, 30 JANUARY 2014**

W45	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></b></p> <p>In July, officers met with South Wales Police and Gabalfa ward councillors to discuss problem parking at Africa Gardens. It was requested by both ward members at the meeting that consideration be given to installing bollards to prevent dangerous parking on the ends of the islands. As well as improving driver visibility and pedestrian safety, this would also give a clear indication to residents of where it is safe to park and where it is not. What update can you give me on the specific suggestion of installing bollards at this location?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>This issue has been investigated and, although parking in the area is considered to be unsafe, an analysis of the police road casualty database has revealed that there have been no injury related incidents within Africa Gardens over a five year period.</p> <p>In view of the accident history, we cannot justify the implementation of significant works using the limited road safety funds available. It is therefore proposed that parking is restricted using double yellow lines and dropped kerbs are provided for pedestrian access.</p> <p>If funding becomes available from other sources, bollards will be installed to further enforce the restrictions. However, it is understood that there is a high demand for parking in the area and, although parking provision will be kept to a maximum, there is likely to be strong objections to these proposals.</p>
W46	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></b></p> <p>What plans does the administration have to secure the development of a Mynachdy/Talybont train station as part of its Local Development Plan?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Cardiff Local Development Plan 2006-2026 (Deposit) makes provision for the development of rail stations. Policy T3 (i) (TRANSPORT INTERCHANGES) provides support for:</p> <p><i>“New rail stations which can be easily accessed by walking, cycling and local bus services, facilitate rail park and ride, where appropriate, and meet the access needs of all users...”</i></p>

The Deposit LDP does not include proposals for a Mynachdy/Talybont train station and there are no proposals for these stations within the SEWTA South East Wales Regional Rail Strategy (2013). However, the recently published impact study for the Cardiff Capital Region Metro proposals does identify potential new rail stations at Gabalfa, Maindy, Wedal Road and Crwys Road.

These proposals are concepts and would require detailed investigation to establish their technical and financial feasibility in the context of the planned electrification of the Valley Lines rail network and the wider Metro proposals.

A report which will provide further information on the Metro project is currently being prepared and is expected to be considered by the Cabinet in February 2014. The report will seek the Cabinet's formal endorsement of the Metro proposals and approval for officers to engage with Welsh Government, and key transport and other stakeholders, on the delivery of the Metro plan, in conjunction with the implementation proposals relating to the Cardiff LDP and the Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone.



**CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE – WRITTEN QUESTIONS:**  
**COUNCIL, 30 JANUARY 2014**

W47

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOWDEN**

Given that the great crested newt species has European protected status, and that there is a large population known to be in existence in Heath Park and in gardens surrounding the Park, do you have any plans to ask residents in the localised area who wish to undertake developments on their properties which involve minor excavation such as replacement of driveways and paving slabs, to submit a planning application for such work? In addition, will the Council require evidence that the resident has undertaken a great crested newt survey and considered the adverse effect on Priority Habitat or Species within its proposals?

**Reply**

If an activity which might affect great crested newts requires planning consent, then the Authority has a duty to ensure the protection of those species in granting that consent. However, given the distance of private properties from the newts' breeding pond in Heath Park and the type of works described, the impact of those works on the newts would be minor, if any at all.

This is because research has shown that the vast majority of great crested newts live within 250 metres of their breeding pond and there is plenty of suitable terrestrial habitat in the form of woodland and grassland in the vicinity that the newts can use and which is much closer to the breeding pond.

Given that any impact would be minor at worst, it is not practical to invoke protected species legislation and ask for a terrestrial great crested newt survey to be undertaken every time a householder planning application is made in the vicinity of Heath Park.

Where an activity falls outside the planning system or does not otherwise require consent or authorisation from the Authority, then the Council has no remit with respect to protected species. If a protected species or its habitat is harmed or damaged by those activities, then that is a police matter.

The Park Rangers, the Parks Conservation Officer and the County Ecologist will continue to work proactively to ensure that the pond in Heath Park and the surrounding habitat continues to support great crested newts and other wildlife, as well as raising awareness of these species through events such as pond-dipping and wildlife walks.

**CHAIR OF STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE – WRITTEN QUESTIONS:  
COUNCIL, 30 JANUARY 2014**

W48

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY**

How many Ombudsman's complaints have been made about Cardiff councillors since May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 till the present day?

Please anonymously list the number of complaints per councillor or former councillor?

How many complaints have been made by fellow councillors about each councillor?

**Reply**

Complaints made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales may be made directly to the Ombudsman's office without involving the Council. Although the Monitoring Officer is often copied into correspondence, the Council is not in a position to confirm definitively the exact number of complaints made. For the same reason, we are not able to confirm the number of complaints per Councillor or the number of complaints made by Councillors against fellow Councillors.

The following statistics are taken from the Ombudsman's recent Annual Reports and indicate the total number of formal complaints made to the Ombudsman alleging breaches of the Code of Conduct:

**Code of Conduct Complaints against Members of Cardiff Council**

2012/2013 Annual Report = 3

2011/2012 Annual Report = 6

Members will be aware of the recently adopted Local Resolution Protocol that has been adopted to deal with "Member on Member" allegations of minor breaches of the Code of Conduct. As a result of such complaints being handled at a local level, it is hoped that the number of complaints being made to the Ombudsman will reduce.

Following the adoption of this protocol, the Monitoring Officer is reviewing how such complaints are handled and recorded and will be working with the Committee to apply any changes that are identified as being necessary.