

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 27 March, 2014 to transact the business set out in the Council Summons dated 21 March 2014.

Present: County Councillor Derrick Morgan (Lord Mayor).

County Councillors Ali Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed, Ali, Aubrey, Bale, Bradbury, Bridges, Burfoot, Carter, Chaundy, Clark, Ralph Cook, Richard Cook, Corria, Cowan, Kirsty Davies, Davis, De' Ath, Derbyshire, Elsmore, Evans, Ford, Goodway, Gordon, Govier, Graham, Groves, Hinchey, Holden, Howells, Hudson, Hunt, Hyde, Javed, Keith Jones, Margaret Jones, Joyce, Kelloway, Knight, Lent, Lloyd, Lomax, Love, Magill, Marshall, McEvoy, McGarry, McKerlich, Merry, Michael, Mitchell, Murphy, Parry, Patel, Phillips, David Rees, Dianne Rees, Robson, Sanders, Simmons, Stubbs, Benjamin Thomas, Graham Thomas, Huw Thomas, Thorne, Walker, Walsh, Weaver, Craig Williams, Darren Williams and Woodman

Apologies: County Councillors Bowden & Goddard.

166 : 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.

167 : MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on 27 February 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

168 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Lord Mayor reminded Members of their responsibility under Article 10 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:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Councillor Bale	Item 14 Notices of Motion	Personal interest as a former Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus.
Councillor Thomas	Item 14 Notices of Motion	Personal interest as a Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus.
Councillor Craig Williams	Item 14 Notices of Motion	Personal interest as a Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus.
Councillor Aubrey	Item 14 Notices of Motion	Personal interest as a Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus.

169: ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 Tribute to Councillor Joyce

I would like to pay tribute to our outgoing Leader, and my ward colleague, Councillor Heather Joyce. Councillor Joyce, as many of you will be aware, is standing down as Leader of Cardiff Council so that she can concentrate on supporting her husband and supporting her local community. Originally from Hirwaun, Councillor Joyce moved to Llanrumney in 1994 where she became actively involved in community work and local politics. Inspired by her work as an unpaid volunteer at Llanrumney Community Forum she was convinced by members of the local community to stand for election, and subsequently she was elected in 2008 to serve the Llanrumney ward. Her tireless work and dedication to supporting communities in Cardiff were soon recognised as she was made Deputy Leader soon after being elected, after which she became leader of the Labour Group in Cardiff. Following the local elections in 2012 Councillor Joyce took on the role of Leader of Cardiff Council.

As Leader Councillor Joyce was always warm, welcoming and courteous, and I am sure we can all agree, whatever our allegiances, she has been an honourable Leader of our city.

Following two years as Leader, Councillor Joyce has decided to stand down and to concentrate on her work as a local councillor. I have no doubt that she will continue to serve her community dutifully, and I know that she remains an asset for the people of Llanrumney.

I would like to ask the Political Group Leaders to join me in thanking Councillor Joyce for her time as Leader of our City.

Councillor Woodman paid tribute to Councillor Joyce as Leader of the Opposition.

Councillor Walker paid tribute to Councillor Joyce as Leader of the Conservative Group.

Councillor Cowan paid tribute to Councillor Joyce as Leader of the Independent Group.

Councillor McEvoy paid tribute to Councillor Joyce as Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group.

In response Councillor Joyce thanked everyone for their kind messages and paid tribute to her Cabinet colleagues.

## 2. Cardiff celebrates being a bilingual city

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March we hosted an event at City Hall to explore ways of promoting and protecting the Welsh language in the city. The event was deemed a great success, with guest speakers including the First Minister Carwyn Jones and the Welsh Language Commissioner Meri Huws. The aim of the event was to engage and consult with the Council's partners, stakeholders and external bodies to produce an action plan with the aim of protecting and nurturing the Welsh language in Cardiff. Group sessions and workshops took place during the day based on the six themes of the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy: language in the family, children and young people, community, workplace services, Welsh and technology, entertainment and resources.

The event also featured performances and contributions from the Ely and Caerau Children's Centre, Berllan Deg Primary school in Llanedeyrn and Dawnsyr Bro Taf.

Well done to everyone who helped organise such a great event.

### 3 Womex 13 wins best event

A successful partnership between Cardiff Council and the Arts Council for Wales, Wales Arts International, Welsh Music Foundation, Wales Millennium Centre and the Motorpoint Arena has been recognised at the very first Cardiff Life Awards. The Womex 13 event was awarded first prize in the best event category.

WOMEX is the most important international professional market of world music. The international fair brings together professionals from the worlds of folk, roots, ethnic and traditional music and also includes concerts, conferences, a DJ summit and documentary films. In 2013 Womex was successfully hosted in Cardiff. The event was managed and delivered by Cerdd Cymru: Music Wales. Womex 13 brought over 2,000 delegates and more than 300 artists from just under 100 countries to the Welsh Capital. The largest international cultural event Wales has ever hosted was acclaimed an outstanding success in terms of economic impact and raising the cultural profile of Wales. The event was 3 years in the planning, cost £1m to stage delivering just over £3m into the local economy and an additional £1m value in respect of world-wide media profile.

Well done to everyone who contributed to this special event.

### 170 : PETITIONS

The following petitions were submitted:

Councillor Cowan – petition from Whitchurch Townswomen voicing their concern about the loss of local bus service for the Pantmawr and Coryton residents.

Councillor Parry – petition from several residents at Farmleigh, Rumney requesting the reduction of the size of the roundabout and not the removal of the roundabout as is proposed.

Councillor Hudson – petition from several residents opposing the cuts to the 21/23 bus service and other services caused by Labour funding cuts to Cardiff Bus & other bus operators in the City.

Councillor Merry – petition signed by 247 residents supporting the Labour County Council steps to control the spread of ‘To Let’ boards.

Councillor Robson – petition containing 1202 signatures opposing the changes to the 21 and 23 bus services.

Councillor Ford – petition containing 542 signatures opposing the closure of Waungron Road Refuse Recycling Centre.

Councillor Craig Williams – petition containing several signatures opposing the introduction of monthly bin collections for black bags.

#### 170: TO ELECT THE LEADER AND APPOINT MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.

The Lord Mayor invited the nomination for Leader. It was proposed by Councillor Joyce and seconded by Councillor Ralph Cook that Councillor Bale be elected as Leader of the Council.

There were no other nominations.

In accordance with Article 7.4 of the Constitution of the Council The Leader confirmed the appointments to the Cabinet of Councillors Bradbury, De’Ath, Elsmore and Derbyshire to the Cabinet to replace Councillors Goodway, Govier, Huw Thomas and Thorne.

#### 171: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor welcomed Councillor Phil Bale as the new Leader of the Council and invited him to address the meeting.

My Lord Mayor and Members of the County Council.

Could I begin by offering my own thanks to Cllr Joyce.

Heather is a woman of huge integrity – someone who has worked tirelessly to improve the capital city of Wales. Her commitment to improving the lives of our most disadvantaged communities has been exemplary. And for someone who recently described herself as a ‘reluctant leader’, she clearly embraced her role. Heather has done this City a great service through her contribution over recent years. And as the new Leader, I wish to build on the solid platform she has laid. Quite frankly, I am proud and humbled to be elected to lead my home city. Cardiff has defined my beliefs and values as a politician. After spending periods away from home, it has always been to this city that I have returned. For me, growing up during the 1990s, Cardiff represented a source of opportunity and potential. This County Council – and its predecessor local authority – did much to fashion a European Capital City out of the wreckage of deindustrialisation. Major steps have been taken. But much, much more needs to be done. The challenges facing the city and its communities are real.

As Councillors, we know them all too well:

We know that the financial challenge we face is unprecedented; We know that as a result of the economic downturn and Westminster austerity measures, immediate and additional pressures are being placed on our social and community-based services; We know that Cardiff is changing fast, and that these demographic trends will place long term strain on public services such as schools, transport and social care; We know that as our nation’s capital, Cardiff needs to be able to attract inward investment, jobs, tourists, students and high profile events to Wales.

So this is a time of great challenges. But it can also be a time of long lasting achievement. The Administration has set itself three key priorities: Delivering education and skills for people of all ages; Supporting vulnerable people in times of austerity; and Supporting economic development as the engine of growth and jobs. These three priorities go to the heart of what we need to achieve to support our city. But I would add a fourth: The Council and its partners will need to change the way it designs and delivers services.

It is clear to me that the status quo is not an option. A reliance purely on salami-slicing budgets and continuing to operate broadly as we have done

in the past will lead to organisational decline; poorly resourced services; poor staff morale; and disgruntled service users. That is not a future that I wish to be a part of. There needs to be a recognition that many tried and tested ways of working will no longer suffice. My view is that the Council's role will increasingly be to lead, to shape and to enable - it will not necessarily be to always deliver and control. Let me talk about this for a few seconds. We often make the case that Welsh Government or Westminster must learn to devolve power, budgets and responsibility to local government. But in my view decentralisation shouldn't stop at County Hall. We need to work in close partnership with local communities and citizens, designing services with them and around their needs. There are already excellent examples in Cardiff of service users being involved in the procuring of services:

One such example is the involvement of parent representatives and children and young people in the evaluation of Families First tenders. There are also plans to involve young people in the commissioning of youth service provision in the city. I want to see much, much more of this kind of approach. In short, we will need to design and deliver services with - not for or to - our communities. Fundamentally I believe in public services, underpinned by co-operative values and the principles of joint endeavour and in partnership with our staff and trade union partners. At the same time, we must explore alternative service delivery mechanisms. It is after all the quality of the service received that is most important, not how or by whom that service is delivered. Imagination and innovation will be at a premium. I believe that the Co-operative Council approach adopted by many Councils in England also points a way forward: And I will be welcoming representatives from this network of other councils to Cardiff on 14 April to begin a dialogue on how we can work and learn together. In addition, the Cabinet will be bringing forward proposals at an early stage on the Council's approach. This will ensure that we can begin discussing, designing and starting the transition that needs to take place. This will be supported by a major public debate – our own Cardiff debate - on the options for delivering public services in the capital city of Wales. We need a genuine and open discussion with our citizens around the choices that we face and what these choices will mean for our services and communities. But of course the development of public services is only one side of the equation. As we change the nature of the local authority and the services it delivers, it will be more important than ever that the Council maintains its ability to drive the development of the city. If Cardiff is to succeed then it must act as a

magnet for talented people; smart businesses and investment; major sporting and cultural events and international visitors. To do so its performance needs to rank among the best of UK – and indeed European - core cities.

As my colleague Councillor Goodway recognised previously, that has not always been the case in the recent past. And yet I believe our city is well placed. I believe that in the age of the mega city, Cardiff's strength is that it is a capital city on a human scale. As the shift towards living in cities continues, and the mega-cities like London continue to overheat, Cardiff can be a city where 'liveability' is making a crucial difference to attracting the most talented people and businesses. But this won't 'just happen.' It will require strategic leadership from the city in partnership with the private sector, Welsh Government, our universities and our citizens and communities. I will therefore be establishing a "Cardiff Convention" involving some Europe's foremost thinkers on cities to consider the steps that need to be taken for Cardiff to become one of Europe's most liveable capital cities. This will build on the work that has already undertaken by this administration through the Rebuilding Momentum Green Paper. I will also seek to address the broad range of factors that make a city a great place to live, work and do business.

Cardiff needs to stand comparison with the best performing cities in the UK and Europe. We must benchmark ourselves against comparator cities and work closely with them to share best practice. And I want to see Cardiff play a much more active role as a leading UK core city. Liveable cities have great public services. We must ensure that we work with partners to improve the services we deliver to the citizens of Cardiff.

Tomorrow I will receive the Estyn report in to the local authority education services following on from their recent monitoring meeting. We will also soon receive the Wales Audit Office report into corporate governance. I believe that we should embrace the findings of these reports, using them to continue the radical improvements we have embarked on over the last 2 years, not as an excuse to criticise, lay blame and point fingers. The Chief Executive has begun to shape a senior management team with a strong focus on performance management. I have made absolutely clear to my Cabinet – and to the Chief Executive – that excellent performance management will be central to the work of this administration. This chimes with the conclusions of the recent Williams report which outlines a vision of world-class public services in Wales.

Cardiff needs to be in the vanguard of this development.

Local government re-organisation is also now coming in to view. Given the immediate challenges we face there may be a temptation to ignore this issue as something for the future. I do not agree. I believe we should begin exploring the potential costs and benefits of this change immediately.

It is, as I said, a time of great challenge and great change for local government. Change can be difficult - we know this. But we have a responsibility as Councillors to make it happen. Moreover, I am mindful of the important role that EVERY Councillor needs to play in shaping the direction of travel. I am committed to leading the city in an open way. And I cannot underestimate the importance of a strong scrutiny function. I speak as someone who has served on the Policy Review and Performance committee and so I know first-hand the talent, insight and commitment that exists across this chamber. It's a resource that I will look to exploit rather than side-line. Similarly, in making changes we will need to rely on the talent and commitment of all Council staff. I believe that our staff are our greatest resource. I know that the Chief Executive is strongly committed to better engagement with staff and placing staff development at the centre of how we will plan and implement any changes. So am I. Openness will therefore be at the heart of my approach. Recognising that the buck will stop here, in return for openness I will ask for collective ownership of the tough decisions that we will have to take in this Chamber. As leader I will strive to achieve a unity of purpose to help the city meet the challenges it faces. Finally, we must not forget that whilst we won't be able to do everything in the future, we will still be doing a tremendous amount – we'll still be providing schools for the city's children; care for our elderly people; support for our most vulnerable; housing; parks and green spaces the list goes on...while playing the role of the capital city, hosting major events and attracting jobs and investment in to Wales. It's true that we may need to do some of them differently - but we can still do them brilliantly. Our city deserves no less. We must also work to take the city forward. We must challenge ourselves. Can we deliver a new central transport hub and a new gateway to Wales at Central Square? We will learn from the London Challenge and Manchester Challenge, to achieve a step change in the performance of our schools. Can we overtake Bristol as a leading Green City? Can we solve the city's housing crisis in an affordable and sustainable way? Can we support the next stage of Cardiff's economic

development; as a centre for financial, creative and scientific industries? For me, it is not a question of can. We must, and will, do all of these things. We will work with our partners in the private and public sector; with our citizens and our communities; with comparator cities and experts from the UK and beyond; to make Cardiff one of the most liveable capital cities in Europe!

#### 172: LORD MAYORALTY AND DEPUTY LORD MAYOR ELECT

To consider nominations for the positions of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor for the 2014/15 civic year.

Councillor Bale proposed the nomination of Councillor Margaret Jones as Lord Mayor elect. Councillor Jayne Cowan seconded the proposal.

Councillor Weaver proposed the nomination of Councillor Ali Ahmed as Deputy Lord Mayor elect. Councillor Woodman seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED – That the nominations of Councillor Margaret Jones and Councillor Ali Ahmed for the positions of Lord Mayor elect and Deputy Lord Mayor elect respectively for the 2014/5 civic year, be approved.

#### 173: PAY POLICY

The Council was asked to agree a Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Ralph Cook introduced the report and moved the recommendations.

Councillor Weaver seconded the report.

RESERVED: The Council AGREED the Pay Policy Statement 2014/15.

174: ORAL QUESTIONS

EDUCATION AND SKILLS QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Howells*

When do you expect Cardiff to become a NEET-free City?

Reply: *County Councillor Magill*

In the last year of the previous administration 8% of young people leaving Year 11 were not engaged in employment, education or training and under our administration the current figure is 4.9%. Whilst this is much better we still have much to do to ensure all young people fulfil their potential. We aim to see this figure reduced to around 2.5% by 2015. There will always be some youngsters not engaged so 2.5% is probably about as low as it can get but we will, as part of our Youth Guarantee, ensure that all youngsters have an offer of employment, education or training.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Howells*

At a recent meeting of the Cardiff Partnership Board Scrutiny meeting we had a presentation on this and we heard how progress has been painfully slow and there was even some people even doubting whether we can actually achieve this. This was one of this administrations number one priorities in its manifesto so can I ask what additional resources you will giving to this very important issue and how will Cardiff Council lead by example and show other bodies, within this authorities boundaries, how we can really engage with young people and provide them with a career path, hopefully a career path that will deliver for them in the future as well as delivering for society

Reply: *County Councillor Magill*

This administration to deal with the issue of young people who are not engaged in education, employment and training I do think it is important not to label them by their situation incidentally which is why I think a change of language is important. There is a group that is working across Officers of the council, across different portfolio areas to bring together expertise as I think was reported to the Partnership Board but also key

partners outside of the council also have a role to play in making sure that this offer is real so that we identify young people early in their school career who might be at risk of disengaging, using mentoring and so on to try and keep them engaged and to make sure that we have an offer whether its employment, training or education at the time they leave. It is also important at that point we don't lose touch with them and that our key partners not only make offers but also keep track and change the offer as the needs of young people change.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Huw Thomas*

In your opinion what effect have the policies of the coalition government in Westminster had on this administration's ambitions to tackle child poverty?

Reply: *County Councillor Magill*

I think it is right to say that there has been a disproportionate impact in terms of austerity on women compared with men in the community. After the first budget there was some work with austerity only 5 of that 80 million was directed towards men in the community and the rest was impacting adversely on women and therefore by definition on children so I think that that is actually a non-party political piece of research which demonstrates that austerity does have a huge impact on women and children in poverty and one of the factors that it is clearly at play in Cardiff is that there is a discrepancy in life chances and experience between the north and the south and we need to take that into account in policy development.

QUESTION TO THE LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS)

Question: *County Councillor Walker*

What priority do you intend to give to the reform of Waste Management (including waste collection) which has long been assessed as being well below the Local Government benchmark standard?

Do you agree that its reform is integral to the achievement of the 2014/15 budget and will you bring forward and implement the recently prepared waste management strategy?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

In these difficult financial times, all council services should be robustly reviewed and methods of delivery challenged strongly. Clearly, efficiency improvements are integral to the achievement of the nearly £2 million in budget savings in Waste management in 2014/15, which were approved by council last month.

I am happy to have a dialogue with you regarding any concerns that you have and would also like to see your actual evidence to back up your statement about standards.

Analysis and business planning for a new Municipal Waste Strategy is currently ongoing and the appraised options will be subject to future report, scrutiny and public consultation in the normal matter.

The Welsh Government has a preferred collection method which we will benchmark against, but also recognises the importance of local solutions, simplicity and affordability.

We must get the balance right for Cardiff and the administration will therefore bring forward the new strategy at the appropriate time.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Walker*

I would like to welcome a number of the comments the Leader made in his introductory speech. Two of them I can quote, firstly he said what is important is the quality of the service received by residents not who delivers it, which we totally endorse. Another one that he mentioned was about benching marking against quality service to learn from best practice both of which apply to my question. The one that was missing actually was to stop the blame game Phil, Councillor Thomas needs to just have a little reminder about that if you wouldn't mind? My question really is there is a strategy in preparation - will you bring that forward and publish it so that we can see what the recommendations of Waste Managers are and the Chief Executive so that we can debate it and discuss it and yes we have got ideas and things we would like to contribute but there is actually a strategy in the system at the minute which I think would be interesting for us to examine

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

As I said in my response it is our intention for that strategy when it's out of draft form to go through the scrutiny process.

QUESTION TO THE LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS)

Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

Do you support the concept of a Presiding Member for Cardiff Council at this juncture of time?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Members will be aware that this matter has been discussed by the Constitution Committee. I understand that the Monitoring Officer is currently reviewing how this role would be expected to operate and we will report back to the Committee in due course.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

From a personal point of view would you support the splitting of the role into the Lord Mayor and the Presiding Member because I firmly feel that any diminishing of the role would be disrespectful to the office of the Lord Mayor, we only have 5 Right Honourable Lord Mayors across the country. Do you agree?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

It would be inappropriate to comment until we get the final report from the Monitoring Officer.

TRANSPORT, PLANING AND SUSTAINABILITY QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

What did Councillor Hinchey mean recently in his public comments that the route of any proposed rail track through Fairwater had not been decided?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

There are a wide range of options for both the location of potential lines and the type of transport that could be employed.

This requires a very significant amount of study and feasibility work in terms of costs, routes and practicality before proposals could be presented to the Council and the public, and consultation undertaken.

We will publish a full programme of community engagement around this project at an appropriate point.

As you have previously been advised by Councillor Hinchey and the Chief Executive, I would confirm that there is currently no definitive alignment for the rapid transit corridor route in the North West of the city and no decisions have been made at this stage.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

First of all I would like to thank my esteemed colleague for confirming in public that these things could happen because you said they are options, that's the first thing. In terms of geography I would like you to come to Fairwater to look at the site because if you open up the rail link as has been mooted, mentioned as a possible option, not a decision but an option how can you connect to the main line without going through the housing estate?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

The word could is a big word isn't it. Lots of things in life could be as well. I do really need to advise you that you need to stop scaremongering as well as the response I have given you are comprehensive and very clear.

TRANSPORT, PLANING AND SUSTAINABILITY QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Richard Cook*

Why is the Canton Cross junction (Cowbridge Road East/Llandaff Road/Leckwith Road) not included in the cycle route 6 improvements?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

I can confirm that this junction has been included in the recent works to develop Cycle Route 6, which have included:

- 1 the renewal of the Advanced Stop Lines for cyclists on the eastern and western arms of the Cowbridge Road East and the Leckwith Road/Llandaff Road junction;
- 2 a new Advanced Stop Line on the southern arm; and
- 3 lead-in lanes on the renewed Advanced Stop Lines on the eastbound and westbound approaches to the junction.

These facilities have been provided in conjunction with the extensive resurfacing works on the main carriageway and other measures included in the scheme. Together, they represent a significant enhancement for cyclists in Canton.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Cook*

I appreciate that a lot of work has been done on Cowbridge Road East on the Cycle Route 6 and to some extent, would you agree, that it's experimental they have taken away the central line and they have removed some cycle lanes - that is supposed to reduce the speed of traffic so what monitoring will take place once the scheme is completed to make sure that that has been successful and the safety of cyclists has been improved on Cowbridge Road East?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

Local cycling groups and other stakeholders were consulted extensively on these proposals at various stages prior to their implementation and the feedback received was mainly very positive. However, should the Council receive feedback in the future indicating that cyclists are

experiencing particular problems at this junction or identifying the need for specific changes, we would of course consider the merits of any suggestions based on the evidence available and what options may be feasible to address any issue highlighted. I would like to add if you do get any concerns I would be more than happy to sit down with the officers and we could look at it as well.

### ENVIRONMENT QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Chaundy*

The Ward Based Cleansing Trial for Pentwyn ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Both local councillors and residents have reported increased amounts of litter along our many footpaths, often with bins not being emptied and overflowing. In addition there is also a significant increase in the level of fly tipping on our grass verges and in our woodlands since this trial began. Can we please have our regular litter 'teams' re-instated to keep our area clean?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

As part of the new Cabinet portfolio arrangements, parks and green spaces fall within my portfolio and, going forward, I believe that this will allow a much greater degree of coordination and focus on issues such as litter and fly-tipping. You will be aware that the 'Cardiff Outdoors Project – Street Cleansing' report, which was considered by Cabinet in December last year, set out changes to be implemented from January to the street cleansing operations across the city. With any large scale changes, a bedding-in process is inevitably required whilst staff get to know and understand their new rounds. This, together with an increase in the number of reported fly-tipping incidents, has had an impact upon the Pentwyn ward based trial. However, I am assured that these issues have now been addressed.

Whilst the intention initially was that the three ward based trials would be completed at the end of March, given the significant city-wide changes underway, it is likely that the trials will now continue into the new financial year. Any revised arrangements will be communicated to the relevant Ward Councillors within the next week or so.

The Environmental Scrutiny Committee is also scheduled to review the ward based cleansing trials at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Chaundy*

If you cannot reinstate the litter teams that we used to have coming, based locally could you ensure that there is more regular enforcement, also installing new bins around the new high school. Is that possible please?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

As I said earlier I think what we need to do is really get the results of these trials in, see how they have gone, because it may be that we make changes to them once we know what the answer is to those trials. Obviously, literally I have just started into the post so I will need to take advice and look at how things go and as I have said in my earlier message to you we will be letting all the ward people know who are interested.

#### TRANSPORT, PLANING AND SUSTAINABILITY QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Robson*

What discussions have you had with Cardiff Bus regarding their plans for future bus services?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

I have been informed that regular discussions take place with Cardiff bus concerning the future shape of the bus network.

The future network will need to be integrated with the Metro proposals which are beginning to emerge, and the Council and Cardiff Bus will be undertaking a review of routes operations and the highway network in order to take this forward.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Robson*

I appreciate Councillor Patel it is perhaps a bit mean to ask you what discussions you have had when you have had a day and a half in post. Will you meet yourself with Cardiff Bus urgently? You will have seen the petition already and you will hear the debate later and concerns

throughout the city regarding the current round of changes. It is disadvantaging the elderly particularly those who use their bus passes and I would urge that you meet with them and put pressure on them as the Cabinet Member now for them to start looking seriously at actually providing a bus service which is fit for a European capital city.

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

Meeting will be taking place with Cardiff Bus to discuss bus routes throughout the whole city.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Craig Williams*

I have actually declared an interest as a Non-executive Director of Cardiff Bus. Could you allay my fears that with two working days to the new financial year that, have you now received an indication of what money we have got under the Local Transport Operators Grant from the Welsh Government, my understanding is that we still don't know how much money we have next year.

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

The answer is that I will need to check with the officers and I will certainly write to you regarding that.

QUESTION TO THE LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS)

Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

What consideration will the new Leader of the Council give to the wishes of the community in my Ward in relation to the LDP?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Issues raised from all wards in the city through the consultation processes on the Deposit LDP and Alternative Sites will be carefully considered.

This will help inform the consideration of all relevant issues ahead of a report to Council in June this year, which will report back on recent LDP

consultations and, if considered necessary, include any suggested changes to the Deposit LDP.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

Will the new Leader try and ensure that maybe his Cabinet Member, Councillor Patel could give answers in future because I have asked about the railway line which is said to be an aspiration of this council to be reopened and it stops smack into a housing estate so we reiterate the question?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I take those comments on board and I am more than happy to meet with you to discuss your concerns as you have just outlined.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

Councillor Bale, I was delighted in your opening remarks that you paid due regard to the need to attract talented people to do important jobs in our community and you stressed that liveability was going to be a key feature of the package which Cardiff would give to these people to encourage them to come. I would like point out that if in the North West of Cardiff we go ahead with the unbridled development would you speak to your new colleague who is in charge of the LDP and ensure that the phasing or building within the North West area of Cardiff is phased to match the delivery of the necessary transport and public highways infrastructure?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I would say that this is a statutory process and the master planning work, detailed master planning work is already starting to take place but I am more than happy to meet with you as well if you want to raise those concerns with me.

ENVIROMENT QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Knight*

What is the current Council policy for delivering bulk orders of green bags to blocks of flats?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

All flats are different, but we continue to deliver bulky supplies to large blocks of flats that have appropriate storage areas. There has been no policy change in this area.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Knight*

It has been brought to my attention by both residents and management committees of various flats in the city centre who have these bin stores that they no longer receive these bulk green bags and will only be delivered to individual flats per request which actually is more expensive and threatens the really good recycling rates that we get from these blocks of flats by having the bin stores so will you revisit this policy and ensure that if that is the current policy that that happens.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

If that is the question it would be helpful if you give us some information as to where these flats are and I will look into it and get back to you.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Hudson*

Can the Cabinet confirm that they no longer supply them because of outside influence, other people can pick up outside the area, but I maintain that that is the prime location to pick up the recycling bags.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I am not quite sure what the situation is at the moment but I will look into it.

QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES  
COMMITTEE

Question: *County Councillor Clark*

How do you feel the Democratic Services Committee can support the improved performance of the Council?

Reply: *County Councillor Cowan*

I am sure you will be aware that The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 required the Council to appoint a Democratic Services Committee, by law.

The committee has responsibility for keeping under review the provision of staff, accommodation and other resources made available to support the scrutiny function and all non-executive members with their various roles and responsibilities.

The Democratic Services Committee are also working hard, ably supported by the Monitoring Officer and Clerk and her team, to ensure that all members have the information, advice, support and technology needed to be effective in their work and to engage closely with their constituents.

The Council's five Scrutiny committees provide a platform for members to challenge the organisation and question Cabinet Members and Officers on policy and direction of the Council. Scrutiny is an integral part of the Wales Programme for Improvement and its challenge is designed to support the improved performance of the Council.

The Democratic Services Committee are also working hard, ably supported by the Monitoring Officer and Clerk and her team, to ensure that all members have the information, advice, support and technology needed to be effective in their work and to engage closely with their constituents. This will also ensure that Members can play their part in securing improved performance of public services.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Clark*

Last Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March you said in the Echo that Cardiff Council under a Labour Administration was at risk of being put on special measures, the worst rating of performance. Obviously being on special

measures would be extremely embarrassing for the city. With your knowledge of special measures what particular elements of a special measures judgement do you think would be so detrimental to the Council and its Members?

Reply: *County Councillor Cowan*

Obviously the Council is very concerned in relation to the very difficult fin situation and there are obviously there are concerns about a number of serious areas we have seen over the months and years previously. Obviously I do not have specific knowledge about the ratings or the performances but I am more than happy to speak to you outside the chamber about my concerns.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Robson*

One of the way in which the councils performance can be improved is to improve Councillors and improve technology and can I ask Councillor Cowan when we are going to get our new council devices because certainly some of us are fed up of having to read budgets and write emails on, granted a council iPhone, but I have large thumbs and it's a nightmare to type so please can you and your officers and department get on with this process.

Reply: *County Councillor Cowan*

In relation to the IT and I am sure that you will be aware that we have arranged a social media session and I know that a lot of work has been done via the Monitoring Officer and staff as well we are looking to roll out a number of devices in the very near future, I am looking at the Monitoring Officer who is nodding at me, so I am saying it is imminent Councillor Robson but I will make sure that officers contact you to give you a more specific time frame.

#### TRANSPORT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Graham Thomas*

Cardiff Council is taking the right steps in pursuing the South Wales Metro Scheme with the Welsh Assembly, which could be instrumental in

turning the region into an attractive European City in which to live and work. But with the LDP taking shape in advance of the Metro, can the Council confirm they are considering the merits of phasing, as called for by man including the Cardiff West AM and MP?

We need to make sure that no development takes places before infrastructure is in place with the North West Corridor Metro Scheme to prevent local road turning to gridlock.

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

A master planning approach is being used in the LDP to ehlp provide a framework to ensure the orderly development of sites and supporting infrastructure.

Phasing will clearly form an important element of this work to ensure that phases of development deliver necessary infrastructure in a timely manner.

Work continues on both master planning and infrastructure requirements. This work will feed directly into the consideration of all relevant issues ahead of a report to Council in June this year which will report back on recent LDP consultations and, if considered nec4essary, to include any suggested changes to the Deposit LDP.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Graham Thomas*

Last night I had another meeting with representative communities in North West of Cardiff which includes Danescourt, Llandaff, St Fagans, Radyr, Gwaelod y Garth, Pentrych and Creigau and the concerns are always the same, that the infrastructure will be in place before these, less face it, huge developments occur otherwise as I said in the question we are going to face grid lock through the north west of Cardiff. I appreciate your answer that it will be in place but it doesn't really give us confidence in terms of what will take place and in light of the ongoing talks with the Assembly with the new metro scheme can you confirm that the phasing you are talking about will include how the metro is developed over the coming years to shape the city.

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

There are ongoing conversations with the Assembly with the metro cos obviously we need the support of the Welsh Assembly government on this as well, very clearly and obviously the phasing is going to be crucial for all the LDP sites and I am more than happy if yourself and your colleagues want to come and see us and the officers and we will be more than happy to discuss it with you.

### EDUCATION AND SKILLS QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

In the last published Estyn Report into Education Services in Cardiff council, the overall judgement was adequate and the capacity to improve was adequate. Can we expect to see an improvement following the recent inspection?

Reply: *County Councillor Magill*

Results in 2009/2010 - performance indicators for Key Stage 4, the level 2 inclusive school, there were two secondaries that were achieving less than 15% then, 3 at less than 20%, 6 below 30% and half of all secondary schools under 40%. Attendance figures were the worst in Wales and young people not engaged in education, employment and training was at 8%. Results for 2013 in Cardiff show clear improvement against this previous picture of very low attainment.

Estyn will be publishing their letter following the recent monitoring visit on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March and I am arranging for a full briefing to be sent to all Members tomorrow and for meetings to be held for all Members during the course of next week.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

Obviously my question mentioned the progress being made and are you confident this will happen?

Reply: *County councillor*

You will have to wait until Estyn publish their letter tomorrow.

QUESTION TO THE LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS)

Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

Will the new Leader of the Council guarantee the future of every play centre until the end of this Council term?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Officers are meeting with representatives of the communities served by the play centres on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, along with other interested parties such as Menter Caerdydd, Play Wales and the Third Sector Council.

The intention is to explore the opportunities for the creation of a new model for Children's Play that would be operational in 2015/16. The proposals will be presented to Cabinet later in 2014.

It is envisaged that there will be discussions with local communities regarding the future operation of the play centres as part of the process.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

I attended Riverside Play Centre and the staffs were talking about selling hot dogs to raise funds, it was just excruciating to listen to staff talk about that. Asking very very simply, you talk about models which every way you want to explore things, will you give an undertaking that no Play Centre in Cardiff will close before 2017, and that their futures will be guarded, regardless of model that their futures will be guaranteed.

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I am not sure that Councillor McEvoy was listening to my speech, but I was making it very clear that we need to be have conversations with the people in Cardiff about the type of services we offer in the council going forward in these are difficult times.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Aubrey*

In the last two years, and indeed years before in fairness is that, when places do have these sort of issues, it was true of the riding school last year, and it is true of other service providers these sort of issues, they do need a lot more time that then budget process allows to actually go through these options. Will you consider bringing forward ways in the budge strategy which will come forward later in the year to actually give those organisations that sort of extra time to come up with some proposals before the budget is thrown at them next January?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

It is actually something that I have raised with the Chief Executive pretty much as soon as I was made Leader Elect, I think it is very important that we do give organisations in the city as much time as possible. We have been operating very much under a model where we work on an annual budget; I think we need to plan much longer ahead to give communities as much time as possible, so I am very much supportive of what you have just said.

QUESTION TO THE LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS)

Question: *County Councillor Corria*

The Islington Fairness Commission was set up in 2010 to look into how to make the borough a fairer place. The commission is a group of senior academics councillors and council partners that will look at ways of making Islington fairer for everyone. Will the Leader consider setting up a Fairness Commission for Cardiff to ensure Cardiff becomes a fairer place by cutting the number of people living in poverty, narrowing the gap between rich and poor and making a difference to the lives of those who most need our help?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I am committed to ensuring that Cardiff becomes a fairer place; to cutting the number of people living in poverty; to narrowing the gap between rich

and poor and to making a difference to lives of those who most need our help. This will be central to everything that we do.

I am away of the good work that has been undertaken in local authorities like Islington through their Fairness Commission, as well as closer to home in Newport and in Bristol.

I am therefore very open to examining good practice from across the country on how this, or other similar initiatives, can promote fairness and could work here in Cardiff. You may wish to discuss this proposal in more detail with the Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives and Social Enterprise.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Corria*

You have answered my supplementary in your speech and in your answer but I will ask you again if you could give a yes or no answer? Can you assure this Council that this administration under your leadership will ensure the delivery of new and innovative solutions to ensure a fairer Cardiff?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Yes

QUESTION TO THE LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS)

Question: *County Councillor Woodman*

Is the Leader concerned about the allegations in the Echo on Monday this week that some of the senior management team and Directors appointed last year are looking for other jobs?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I wouldn't wish to comment on media speculation, but I can confirm that Head of Paid Service has assured me that he has no such concerns.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Woodman*

I am very pleased to hear that and I would hope that you would do your best to ensure there is stability and unity so that the agenda for this council is not derailed and that fragile service areas won't suffer because of negative press for example social worker recruitment and retention and if there are allegations like this in the future would you give a commitment to set the record straight as soon as possible?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

The Head of Paid Service has also assured me that both him and the senior management team are very much excited about the new agenda building on previous work of the administration going forward so I don't have similar concerns.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

In relation to Deputy Directors, are there any plans to advertise for Deputy Directors in Social Services, Education or any other portfolios within the next 12 months or so?

Reply: *County Councillor Cowan*

I am happy to get an answer for you for that and get back to you.

ENVIROMENT QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Graham Thomas*

We are now in the last week of the re-arranged bin collections which saw green bins reduced to one collection a month from November – March. Whilst some residents accepted this during the worst winter months, more have complained about timings. We heard last autumn how many Councillors felt it came too early and was poorly communicated. Now as we emerge into spring, many already filling their green bins with garden waste, the monthly collections are not enough.

Does the Cabinet Member feel that the changes have worked, will there be a review, and are we likely to see a repeat next winter?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

The seasonal collection changes have yielded over £120,000 savings, they are important in the budget strategy so yes it has worked in that sense.

We cannot predict the weather. It varies every year as we know but we will consider and present the green waste collections approach for the next financial year.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Graham Thomas*

We welcome the review, whatever the outcome of the review that we make sure that the changes, or if we do go back to the old method that this is communicated properly to residents because there was a lot of confusion last autumn, people putting out their green bins out when they weren't supposed to be, so can we please make sure that, whatever the outcome of the review, we make sure that residents are fully informed.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I was under a great deal of pressure because my wife was one of the people complaining about the problem so I can assure you I will be endeavouring to get it right otherwise I might be in trouble at home as well as here.

QUESTION TO THE LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS)

Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

Should all Councillors have the opportunity to table as many oral questions as they deem fit to allow them to hold the Cabinet to account?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I am happy to support the findings of the Constitution Committee which has considered this matter in some detail over the last year or so as part of its review of the Council Meeting Procedure Rules. This work has also included the views of all Members on this matter.

The Pilot Procedure Rules, which are currently in operation, have been found to work effectively in terms of Council business and I would support the recommendations of the Constitution Committee which are before Council today and will be considered later in the meeting.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Cowan*

I am slightly disappointed with that response Councillor Bale because I knew that you were a Champion, particularly on Scrutiny, to ask questions and to hold the Cabinet to account and I think that reducing the number of questions to this level, particularly for back bench members I think it's just a backwards step in democracy. In order for people to hold people to account, not everybody sits on Scrutiny Committee, not everyone has a chance to attend Cabinet as one of the group leaders and I think it sends out a particular poor signal particularly to the back benchers, they do not always have the opportunity to raise something in such a public forum on behalf of their wards, like my ward of Rhiwbina, or the City as a whole, so I am disappointed but obviously I respect what you have said.

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

If you are minded to ask any more questions Councillor Cowan, you can of course put them in writing to full council and they are published on the Website.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Walker*

Is the leader aware that Councillor Cowan is a Member of the Constitution Committee which decided on this and does he realise, will he reinforce the point perhaps that we are in the middle of a pilot of the whole scheme so we will review it, see how it works out and then the Constitution Committee will meet again with Councillor Cowan where she can express her views and make that point. Could you make that clear to everybody please Leader?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I concur with everything said.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Dilwar Ali*

What are the plans for Ysgol Glan Ceubal and Gabalfa Primary School for September 2014?

Reply: *County Councillor Magill*

Officers have discussed pupil number projections and accommodation needs at a meeting with the Headteacher of Gabalfa and the Executive Headteacher of Ysgol Glan Ceubal at which it was established that there was no need for additional classrooms for September 2014.

At this meeting it was recognised that the requirements for September 2015 would need to be resolved within the context of a strategic review of plans both for Welsh-medium and English-medium provision in Cardiff.

QUESTION TO THE LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS)

Question: *County Councillor Boyle*

The Leader of the Council has just appointed the fourth person in less than two years to hold cabinet responsibility for the Children & Young People portfolio. What are the risks inherent in such fragility?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I very much welcome the opportunity this question presents to confirm my commitment and that of the whole Cabinet to build on the work that has been taken forward to date.

I also want to underline the importance of continuity of focus and support for Children's Services in addressing the key challenges that are being tackled. That continuity is clearly fundamental to stability. I, together with the Cabinet Member, will continue to work with the Scrutiny Chair to ensure that this area remains a key priority.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Boyle*

You have not really answered the question about what risks are inherent in such fragility. I think that it is important that we understand our service, that you understand the service and understand the risks inherent in this upheaval. Let me remind you from the Peer Reviews Findings regarding its risk assessment of strategic leadership, three elements, maintaining the coherence of the administration amber, developing strategic policy direction red and ensuring task accomplishment red. Can you explain how the constant upheaval, especially in Children and Young People at that top political level helps deliver coherence, improves strategic direction or increases the likelihood of task accomplishment?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I take on board the comments you have made about stability of management and stability of elected Members but I have every confidence in the new Cabinet Member to take forward the agenda that we have and I am happy to meet with you and the Cabinet Member to discuss any specific concerns you have around particular risks in that service area.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Evans*

Would you envisage that our priorities should be firstly to build resilience in Children's Services systems and structures, secondly, to continue to work at improving staff recruitment and critically retention and finally do you agree that we need to spread collective responsibility for Corporate Parenting?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I absolutely agree with the comments of the Member in terms of service, of Children's Services and I would also echo those points about the Corporate Parenting Panel, I think you have done some great work as Chair of that Panel and we do need to raise the profile of Corporate Parenting Panel.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

Why does Cardiff Council insist on including children from Rhondda Cynon Taff in the catchment area for the Welsh Unit at Ysgol Gwaelod y Garth when these children are also in the catchment for the Welsh unit at Heol y Celyn in Rhondda Cynon Taff, especially when local children in my constituency are being denied places at the school?

I have regularly asked that Radyr and Morganstown be included in the catchment area of this school and along with many local residents I repeated this in the recent consultation process on this subject.

Reply: *County Councillor Magill*

The existing catchment areas relating to the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Gwaelod y Garth were put in place at the last local government reorganisation.

As part of its continual review of the supply of, and demand for, school places, the Council consulted on revising the Welsh-medium catchment area arrangements for Ysgol Coed y Gof and Ysgol Gwaelod y Garth.

The proposed changes to catchment areas seek to remove the inconsistency in admission arrangements whereby children resident outside of Cardiff remain within catchment area for a Cardiff school. They also aim to achieve a balance between the revised Ysgol Coed y Gof and Ysgol Gwaelod y Garth catchment areas.

Feedback from a number of consultees suggested that the proposal would create difficulty. As such, careful consideration needs to be given to all potential impacts of any changes.

The recommendations are expected to be considered by the Cabinet on 10<sup>th</sup> April and we will decide what action to take from there.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McKerlich*

For a very long time I have had the concern that the pupils in my area have not been able to access Gwaelod y Garth, in some cases within a

half a mile of their homes they have been asked to go to Coed y Gof, which is a long way away and which is also now full. This is – given that children from Taffs Well are responsible for filling the school, and this September I am told that and probably 9 children from Radyr and Morganstown have been unable to find a place in Gwaelod y Garth and indeed some of them don't have a place in any Welsh Medium School. Now what made it particularly concerning was that during the consultation which was due to end on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, before the consultation period ended Nick AM was appearing in the press and writing on his Facebook column that he had spoken to you and that the consultation exercise would be parked and there would be no question of moving the children from Taffs Well out of that catchment area, clearly he had misrepresented what he was told at the meeting you had but as an officer was present and no doubt minutes or notes were taken, can you release the minutes and can you report AM to the Ombudsman for defaming you because what he suggested you did would be a gross breach of your responsibilities.

Reply: *County Councillor Magill*

Certainly the outcome of that discussion has caused concern and I have had a number of representations made to directly as well. Just to be absolutely clear - in the course of that discussion we explained that during the consultation process, which was not due to end until the following day, we had had a number of representations that meant that we felt that we were likely to have to look into the arrangements in more depth so that that meant we would have to take into account all of the responses to the consultation and make changes or not accordingly. Of particular concern was the viability of Meithrin, we needed to make sure that we don't take decisions that might cause problems there amongst other things. That was the nature of the consultation, responses will be taken into account and Cabinet will make a judgement on 10<sup>th</sup> April. I think that is all I can say on that at the moment, we will proceed with what needs to happen next once we have actually had a formal Cabinet decision on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CO-OPERATIVES AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Lomax*

What date is Grangetown Library closing for refurbishment and the extension for the Hub to be built, and what provision is being made for staff and other organisations who use the library during this development?

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Bradbury*

Preparation for the Grangetown Hub is still at the planning stage; however, according to the indicative timetable the Grangetown Library service is scheduled to close at the end of September 2014.

The project team are currently scoping all potential community buildings in the area for suitable alternative accommodation for the library and the organisations that use the library, in order to ensure that we facilitate continuation of all existing services.

The library staff will be consulted and their recommendations will be considered during this process.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Lomax*

I am also concerned that once the refurbishment is completed will the hub be open in the evenings for use by the youth and the other community users in the Grangetown area?

Reply: *County Councillor Bradbury*

Would like to thank Councillor Thorne for all the great work she has done in this portfolio on community hubs. To answer your question, Councillor Thorne is nodding at me, I am assume the answer is yes but I would like to meet with you, along with officers and your work colleagues so that we can discuss this further so we can make sure your views are taken on board.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CO-OPERATIVES AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Bridges*

Following the change in council leadership, will you make a commitment to ensure that Cardiff Council submits an application for the next Stonewall Workplace Equality Index?

Reply: *County Councillor Bradbury*

The Council remains committed to the promotion of workplace equality and I understand the value of being recognised on the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, both for staff and for the Council as an employer.

I am happy to review the likely level of resource required to undertake the application process as this was a particular concern last year. I will take a view once I have discussed this matter in more detail with officers and considered all the relevant information.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Bridges*

Thank you for that answer, committing to review the situation isn't the same as committing to ensure that we do submit an application, but I hope you will look into it bearing in mind that the National Assembly for Wales, South Wales Police and Cardiff University already feature within the University Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, I hope you will have discussions with them so that we can learn from good practice as part of your investigations into the feasibility of this. I think it would be disappointing if the new Cabinet Member in charge of equalities didn't take a lead on that so rest assured we will come back to this in the future.

Reply: *County Councillor Bradbury*

Just to reconfirm my belief in equalities and my stance on equalities. I stood in this Council Chamber on a Members Debate on homophobia in sport and contributed in that debate talking about how we have got to eliminate this sort of prejudice from our society and particularly, at that time, terraces in football. I am aware that all the all of the organisations you have mentioned who are closely linked to us are in the Stonewall

Index but I would happily meet with any Councillor from any party or any group on this subject. Yes, as is says that I am taking the lead in my portfolio but this is something that we, as a Council, should all be proud of.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Love*

Given that we have heard from Councillor Magill of the disproportionate impact of central government policies on women. I would like to ask the Cab Member will you be able to commit to continuing the excellent work on the Equalities Agenda carried out by the previous leader and will you strengthen partnerships with the third sector organisations such as Show Racism the Red Card that work in schools, and the third sector women's networks that also work, that could provide valuable support to us to ensure that we achieve and implement a strong Equality Agenda.

Reply: *County Councillor Bradbury*

Yes, I can, because it is one part of my portfolio I am most excited about as well. I will say that quietly I won't give them too much credit over there but in this area they certainly have. This is an agenda that everybody can sign up for no matter which party you are in, which political persuasion we are, we are of and I will certainly be happy to meet with all the organisations you have named to discuss the Equality Agenda and Cardiff Councils Agenda going forward.

#### ENVIRONMENT QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Gordon*

Last month I submitted a petition from restaurants, hotels and residents in Cathedral Road requesting a refusal to allow the English company 'Best Parties Ever' back next Christmas season. Has this company submitted an application to hold events in Sophia Gardens again this year?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

Yes, the company has submitted an application to return in 2014 and this is currently being considered by officers from the Parks Service.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Gordon*

The Best Parties Ever held 19 party events for 900 guests in a massive marquee in Sophia Gardens leading up to Christmas last year. It is estimated by the Hoteliers Association of Cardiff that Cardiff's hotels and restaurants lost between ½ - ¾ million pounds through reduced bookings and loss of trade to the Welsh food and drink suppliers. I sincerely hope Councillor Derbyshire that you will consider and refuse for Best Parties Ever to come back to Cardiff for the sake of £22,000 that the Parks Service got for the booking of this event in Sophia Gardens.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

The officers did seek references from the Open Space Venues that had hosted the company and satisfied themselves to the quality of this event and the operators. In addition to the money that was generated by the 9000 odd people who actually attended the event, there was a separate payment made for the use of the car park at the event so there was rather more than the £20,000 you referred to.

From the Parks perspective it was presented to the Events Liaison Panel in September as they were the regulatory authorities who scrutinised the event organisers to ensure that statutory obligations. I suppose the issue for us now is to, for the office to look at this and make a decision as to whether or not the thing was properly constituted, done properly and did not cause too much disruption but obviously the impact on the surrounding area in terms of the revenue will also be taken into account when a decision is made.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

On the Equalities issue I suppose, it could go to Councillor Bradbury, but Councillor Derbyshire is going to answer this. Is it strictly necessary to say that it an English company, does it really matter.

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

It is nice that I have only been in a place an hour and I can already answer that question. No.

TRANSPORT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Richard Cook*

Does cycling get a ring-fenced amount from the Civil Parking Enforcement income?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

The Council is committed to increasing the use of sustainable transport and the Deposit LDP contains a commitment to achieve a 50/50 modal split.

Our vision is for “an integrated transport system that offers safe, efficient and sustainable travel for all, and where public transport, walking and cycling provide real and desirable alternatives to car travel”.

Any surplus or deficit generated by the Civil Parking Enforcement Account is transferred to the Parking Reserve and can only be used for specific purposes such as supporting public transport services, off street parking and highway improvements in accordance with section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.

This reserve account is allocated to specific projects, but there is no ring-fenced amount for cycling.

There is currently an annual allocation for cycling in the Council’s Capital Programme.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Richard Cook*

As you say, the Council is committed to a 50/50 modal split between vehicle use and other use and you say you cannot do because the ring-fenced fund does not allow you to do it under the rules but you have a certain amount of money to spend on transport in your portfolio, so if you cannot spend money on cycling, walking, and public transport within the ring-fenced fund will you balance that with the other money so that overall in the budget you are spending, half is spend on vehicles and half is spend on cycling, walking and public transport. Because I don’t think that we can reach that LDP vision without doing that so Will you commit to 50/50 split in the budget?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

I certainly cannot make a commitment that we are going to do that in the budget, because as you can appreciate the budget is decided by the Council.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor McEvoy*

I am just wondering Councillor Patel how the cycling aspiration fits in with the option, I say the option of the Rapid Transport Corridor through Cowbridge Road East, it will have two bus lanes, if it goes ahead and a single lane of car traffic only and because of the nature of the development, if it goes ahead because as I said it is an option, as you said earlier you wouldn't be allowed to cycle will you because along Rapid Transport Corridors there is no cycling?

Reply: *County Councillor Patel*

Let me make it absolutely clear, you are speculating again, you are very good at speculating and it's almost like you are scaremongering once again so you are going to have just look at all the paperwork properly, if you would like to come into the office and discuss it with the officers and myself, I am more than happy to sit down with you rather than you must making it up and speculating these things.

QUESTION TO THE LEADER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS)

Question: *County Councillor Corria*

How does the Leader intend to ensure that the residents of Cardiff are able to participate in service planning, delivery and review?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

As I said in my address to Council earlier, openness will be at the heart of my approach as Leader.

I also believe that the new Cabinet portfolios, in particular the importance given to ‘Citizen & Community Engagement and Democracy’ as part of the Deputy Leader’s portfolio and also to ‘Community Development, Co-operatives and Social Enterprise, demonstrate my commitment to public engagement and participation in the design and delivery of our services.

We will need to design and deliver services with – and not for or to - our communities. There are already excellent examples already taking place in the Council – like the evaluation of Families First tenders I described earlier.

I want to see much, much more of this kind of approach and also to learn from what others are doing in this area as well.

We also need an open discussion with our citizens around the choices that we face and what these choices will mean for our services and communities, and so I intend to put in place a major public consultation exercise on these issues over the year ahead.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Corria*

Obviously as important as the residents of Cardiff, are the workforce here in the Council, we talked a little bit earlier about Children’s Services, will you commit, as the new Leader of the Council, to visiting front line Social Work Services at the earliest opportunity to listen to what Social Workers are saying about the risks and challenges that they face in that area.

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

I have already spoken to the Chief Executive about going around the organisation and visiting service areas and I will ensure that Children’s Services is at the top of the list.

Supplementary Question: *County Councillor Bale*

You must have a free diary considering how many meetings you have offered today.

On a more serious note can I emphasize the importance of Scrutiny and the engagement and can I qualify that by pointing up the road, to the M4

to how Monmouthshire dealt with the budget, party politics aside, I think they engaged incredibly well and had a number of successful public meetings and that fed as usefully into Scrutiny as well as into the Cabinet?

Reply: *County Councillor Bale*

Obviously, you will appreciate I am literally several hours into this role, it is something that I believe in, I think we do need to look at budget consultations processes elsewhere and I know we have had the questions about giving organisations time to adapt to the change that are coming and I think the budget process plays a big part in that and I will be working closed with the new Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance to make sure that happens as well as with my other Cabinet.

#### ENVIRONMENT QUESTION

Question: *County Councillor Dilwar Ali*

I have received a number of complaints regarding litter on Station Road and surrounding streets in Llandaff North. How can you guarantee the Council ensure the streets are clean?

Reply: *County Councillor Derbyshire*

I will try and ensure this happens and get back to you.

#### 175: CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 19 MARCH 2014

The report was to enable Council to consider and approve the recommendations of the Constitution Committee.

The Lord Mayor indicated that two following amendments had been had was being proposed by Councillor Cowan and seconded by Councillor Robson.

Page 2 of the report amended to read:

- Petitions - in response to concerns about practicability, the thresholds have been amended and the ability for a petition to automatically trigger a debate has been removed.

*Any petition over 1000 names (on the electoral register – an online petition wouldn't suffice unless there were full details present) would allow a member of the public to present a 3 minute speech to the Council, with the Cabinet Member providing a response and a follow up letter to confirm any action as a result of the petition.*

- Appendix 1, Page 10 of the report amended to read:

*A Councillor's democratic right is the ability to question Cabinet Members and Chairman of Committees, and to restrict the number of questions is against the spirit of openness and transparency. Oral questions allow Councillors the opportunity to raise ward issues and Cardiff wide issues in public, and captured on the webcast. Oral questions allow for supplementary questions, which written questions do not allow for.*

*We call for the dramatic reduction on oral question to be relaxed with the previous arrangements reintroduced.*

Following a debate the proposed amendments were withdrawn as a result of Councillor Ralph Cook agreeing that the Constitution Committee reconsider the proposals put forward in the amendment.

#### 176: APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES.

The Council was recommended to approve the appointment of Local Authority School Governors as listed on the amendment sheet.

RESOLVED: That the following appointments of School Governors be approved:

<u>School</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Start of Vacancy</u>	<u>Applications</u>
St Teilo's Church in Wales High	Pentwyn	08/02/2013	Mr P W Smith
Willows High	Splott	14/08/2013	Mr K J Harris

Allensbank Primary	Gabalfa	10/07/2012	Mr D A Coughlin
Bryn Celyn Primary	Pentwyn	20/11/2013	Prof M E Ludgate
Bryn Deri Primary	Radyr	01/02/2014	Mrs J A Evans
Llanishen Fach Primary	Rhiwbina	08/01/2014	Mrs L Jenkins
Radnor Primary	Canton	28/01/2014	Councillor S A Elsmore
Ysgol y Berllan Deg	Pentwyn	04/03/2014	Mrs S W Dafydd
The Court	Llanishen	19/01/2014	Councillor G Hunt (Renomination)
Moorland Primary	Splott	12/4/2014	Mrs M Hedley-Clarke (Renomination)
		18/06/2014	Mrs R Barnett (Renomination)
Radnor Primary	Canton	23/04/2014	Mrs D Hooper (Renomination)
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Eirwig	Llanrumney	23/04/2014	Mr H Phillips (Renomination)

#### 177: NOTICE OF MOTION

The Lord Mayor advised there was one Notice of Motion and one amendment to the Notice of Motion.

The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Cowan and seconded by Councillor Robson.

The Council notes that Cardiff Bus propose a number of changes to bus services and fares in April 2014 and that routes throughout the city, including the 21, 23 and 86 services.

This Council further notes that Rhiwbina ward is on average the oldest population in the city. This Council also notes that:

- Pantmawr constituents will now be serviced by 1 bus per hour (reduced from 3 per hour) in each direction and that the 22 service was withdrawn.
- A reduction in the 86 service is counter – productive to efforts to encourage hospital workers to use the bus, rather than parking nearby.

The Council is advised by Cardiff Bus that:-

“The reduction in the level of this service stems from the cuts in the Welsh Government funding for bus services which affected us from 1 April last year and again from this year plus the reduction in the funding for carrying passengers travelling free under the all Wales concessionary travel scheme from 1 April this year.

During the discussions on these reductions the Welsh Government have been informed a number of times of the impact they will have on bus services in Wales.

This reduction in funding means that for some services, such as 21/23, the revenue coming in does not cover the cost of operating certain journeys. In particular the gradual alteration to the night-time economy of the city centre means there is no longer enough passengers travelling late at night to retain the traditional 2300/2320 journeys. On many services these have been combined to enable us to (just) continue to operate them”

The Independent Group calls upon the Council to:

1. Write to the Welsh Government asking them for additional funds to allow the current services to be retained.

2. Enter into early discussions with Welsh Government and Cardiff Bus about the potential budgetary issues for 2015/16 so early and meaningful discussions can be held with constituents.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Joseph Boyle and seconded by Councillor Nigel Howells.

Delete the wording following April 2014 and replace with:

‘and that these changes affect routes in every ward’

‘The Council notes the advice from Cardiff Bus that’:

‘The reduction in the level of service stems from the cuts in the Welsh Government funding for bus services which affected us from 1 April last year and again from this year plus the reduction in the funding for carrying passengers travelling free under the all Wales concessionary travel scheme from 1 April this year’

‘The Council also notes that, during the discussions on these reductions, the Welsh Government have been informed a number of times about the impact they will have on bus services in Wales.

The Council therefore agrees to:

1. write to the Welsh Government asking them for additional funds to allow more current services to be retained.
2. send a unified message to the Welsh Government from Councillors in all wards and from all parties that the reduction in funding undermines the aim, in the administration’s draft Local Development Plan, to develop a sustainable transport infrastructure’
3. enter into early discussions with Welsh Government and Cardiff Bus about the potential budgetary issues for 2015/16 so early and meaningful discussions can be held with constituent.

Following a debate a recorded vote was taken on the amendment as proposed.

For: (25)

County Councillors Aubrey, Bridges, Boyle, Burfoot, Carter, Chaundy, Clark, Cowan, Kirsty Davies, Graham, Holden, Howells, Hudson, Hyde, Lloyd, Kelloway, Margaret Jones, McKerlich, Dianne Rees, David Rees, Robson, Graham Thomas, Walker, Craig Williams, Woodman

Against (41)

County Councillors Ali Ahmed, Ali, Bale, Bradbury, Ralph Cook, Richard Cook, Corria, Davis, De'Ath Derbyshire, Elsmore, Goodway, Gordon, Govier, Groves, Hinchey, Hunt, Javed, Keith Jones, Joyce, Knight, Lomax, Love, Magill, McGarry, Merry, Michael, Mitchell, Murphy, Parry, Patel, Phillips, Simmons, Stubbs, Benjamin Thomas, Huw Thomas, Thorne, Walsh and Weaver, Darren Williams

Abstain (1)

County Councillors Ford

The Vote was lost.

A recorded vote was then taken on the original Notice of Motion:

For: (23)

County Councillors Aubrey, Bridges, Boyle, Burfoot, Carter, Chaundy, Clark, Kirsty Davies, Graham, Howells, Hudson, Hyde, Lloyd, Kelloway, Margaret Jones, McKerlich, Dianne Rees, David Rees, Graham Thomas, Walker, Craig Williams, Woodman

Against (41)

County Councillors Ali Ahmed, Ali, Bale, Bradbury, Ralph Cook, Richard Cook, Corria, Davis, De'Ath Derbyshire, Elsmore, Goodway, Gordon, Govier, Groves, Hinchey, Hunt, Javed, Keith Jones, Joyce, Knight, Lomax, Love, Magill, McGarry, Merry, Michael, Mitchell, Murphy, Parry, Patel, Phillips, Simmons, Stubbs, Benjamin Thomas, Huw Thomas, Thorne, Walsh and Weaver, Darren Williams

Abstain (3)

County Councillors Cowan, Holden, Robson

The Notice of Motion was lost.

**178: URGENT BUSINESS**

In accordance with the pilot Council Procedure Rule 3(xv) the Lord Mayor advised that he had not been notified of any urgent matters for this meeting.

**179: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND NOMINATIONS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND PANEL**

The Council at its Annual Meeting on 23 May 2013 elected the Chairs and Deputy Chairs (where appropriate) of Committees established by the Council; and received and approved nominations from political groups to the seats allocated on each Committee.

**RESOLVED:** The Council **AGREED** the following nominations to vacancies on Committees.

Councillor Mary McGarry - Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee

**180: NOMINATIONS OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Constitution provides that the Council will, from time to time, receive nominations and make Member appointments as necessary to serve as representatives of the Council on outside bodies.

**RESOLVED:** The Council **AGREED** the following nominations to serve on Outside Bodies:

WLGA Co-ordinating Committee  
South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority  
Cardiff Bus

Councillor Phil Bale  
Councillor Dilawr Ali  
Councillor Chris Lomax

*(Formal Meeting closed at 20.23pm)*

In accordance with pilot Council Procedure Rule 17 (f) the following Written Questions were received for considerations and response ahead of this meeting. A full copy of all written questions together with the answers were circulated to Members by email and published on the website in advance of the Council meeting and are included as a record in the minutes of the meeting.

#### 181: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

### **WRITTEN COUNCIL QUESTIONS: COUNCIL, 27 MARCH 2014**

#### **EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

W1	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOODMAN</u></b></p> <p>Could you please explain why our education department do not check the grouping and ISR (Individual School Range) of schools annually?</p> <p>There is a set formula to be used to determine grouping, and I know of a school in my ward that had not had its grouping reviewed for several years being in group 2, when in fact according to the formula it should be in group 5. This has an adverse effect on teaching staff. Will the Cabinet member take steps to ensure all schools are reviewed annually?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The responsibility for assigning a school to an Individual School Range (ISR) or “group” rests with the individual governing body. This is set out in the School Teachers’ Pay &amp; Conditions Document which is issued to schools on an annual basis. There is no requirement for the group to be reviewed annually – the Document states that a school must be assigned to an ISR whenever the governing body</p>
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	<p>sees fit.</p> <p>There are 8 school groups contained in the Document and each group has a range of spinal points the governing body can use to determine the ISR for the Headteacher post (the salary range). The group is calculated by using a formula which takes account of pupil numbers.</p> <p>At the very least, the school grouping must be reviewed and the ISR confirmed prior to the advertisement of a vacant Headteacher post. Governing bodies can also undertake a review of the school grouping at other times that they consider appropriate – for example, where there has been an increase or decrease in pupil numbers and this can inform any necessary change to the ISR for the Headteacher post. Further advice on this can be provided by HR – People Services.</p>
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**LEADER**

W2	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></b></p> <p>Since the Council signed the Armed Forces Covenant in March 2013, what bids have been submitted to Community Covenant Grant Scheme?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Since the Armed Forces Community Covenant was signed in March 2013, there have been a total of five bids submitted to the grant scheme; of which, four have been successful in securing funding.</p> <p>The grant scheme has three submission deadlines throughout the year and the Cardiff Community Covenant received applications in September 2013 and January 2014. To date, the total amount of funding that has been granted to the Cardiff projects is £423,478.</p> <p>The successful projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>‘On Target’</b> – a programme designed by a youth charity to train veterans to become youth workers and engage with young</li> </ul>
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people who are classed as 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET). The project was granted full funding of £57,698.

- **'Firing Line'** – a project submitted by Cardiff Castle's Museum of the Welsh Soldier to run a series of events, particularly with disengaged young people, to educate them on the sacrifices that have been made by the Welsh Military in past and recent conflicts. The project received partial funding of £46,500.
- **St Fagan's National History Museum** – a regional bid to develop an educational programme with local communities and also to display comprehensive interactive gallery of Armed Forces collections. The project was awarded full funding of £249,280.
- **'Wales at War'** – a project by the University of Wales to develop a platform that will digitalise the names and histories on local war memorials and make them available to a new generation through smartphone apps. Although it is looking potentially at a national audience, the pilot is being launched in Cardiff as this is home to the National War Memorial in Cathays Park. The project received full funding of £70,000.

A bid submission from Alabaré Christian Care has also requested funding to run a befriending service via its Homes for Veterans scheme. However, the organisation had not yet found premises in which to operate from and, therefore, without having a base within Cardiff, the bid has not been successful to date.

The Community Covenant grant scheme was awarded total UK funding of £35million to run over four years until 2015. As we move into the new financial year, the new submission deadlines have been confirmed as May & September 2014 and January 2015. Projects that can demonstrate innovative schemes that promote military and civilian integration are invited to apply.

The allocation of funding for 2014/15 across the UK will be slightly less than last year at £8million. Therefore, it is anticipated that approximately £600,000 in grant funding will be made available for Welsh projects.

W3	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></b></p> <p>On the council website, most councillors are happy to have their home address listed in order that Cardiff citizens can contact them; some members, however, shy away from this and only list a “c/o County Hall” address. The breakdown of the numbers by party group makes for interesting reading:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="293 636 1422 954"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Home address</th> <th>“c/o County Hall” address</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Labour – cabinet members</td> <td>60%</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labour – whole group</td> <td>89%</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lib Dem</td> <td>100%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservative</td> <td>100%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>75%</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Why is it that such a high proportion of cabinet members feel the need to hide behind “c/o County Hall” addresses?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>I think that these figures simply illustrate the amount of time that Cabinet Members spend at County Hall as part of their role and responsibilities. It therefore seems entirely sensible for them to make use of the facilities and support services provided to them and to direct any postal correspondence to County Hall so that it can be processed in a timely manner.</p>	Group	Home address	“c/o County Hall” address	Labour – cabinet members	60%	40%	Labour – whole group	89%	11%	Lib Dem	100%	0%	Conservative	100%	0%	Other	75%	25%
Group	Home address	“c/o County Hall” address																	
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Lib Dem	100%	0%																	
Conservative	100%	0%																	
Other	75%	25%																	

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**

W4	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></b></p> <p>When works were carried out on North Road last year to create a new bus lane between St. Mark’s Church and Australia Road, the footway and cycle path on the other side of the road (between Mynachdy Road and the Gabalfa Clinic) was adjusted to make room. Since the end of the works, what used to be a segregated footway and cycle path has now changed – the white line down the middle has gone, and it has been designated a ‘shared use’ space.</p>
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Residents feel this is unfair and wrong. Unfair because they have already lost green amenity space and trees from in front of their properties, as well as now having a busy road six feet closer to their properties, all for little tangible gain to them. But they also feel it is wrong because of the conflict being caused between cyclists, pedestrians and the residents trying to access driveways with vehicles. There is real concern about safety at this location, yet I have been told the new path will not be segregated because of a change of council policy.

So concerned are residents (and cyclists), they asked for the matter to be made a PACT priority for this month, and I have been asked to raise it as a matter of public record and ask you to explain to residents, pedestrians and cyclists why you will not let common sense prevail and allow the path to be segregated once again.

### **Reply**

The Traffic Regulation Order which applies to the path permits shared use by pedestrians and cyclists. It does not require the pedestrian and cycling space to be segregated.

The path width varies from 3.3 metres to 3.6 metres along its length. However, existing hedges in gardens adjacent to the path reduce the actual passable path width in places to an approximate 3.0 metres to 3.3 metres.

This means that the path does not strictly meet the minimum width standards for segregated paths contained in the Council's Cycle Design Guide, which specifies 5.0 metres as the preferred minimum and 3.5 metres as an absolute minimum.

By comparison, the path exceeds the preferred minimum width for unsegregated paths recommended in the Cycle Design Guide, which is 3.0 metres.

In these situations, the Council generally prefers to provide shared paths rather than segregated paths. One reason for this is because pedestrians and cyclists do not naturally stay within their designated side of a segregated path when they are moving along and the

transgression of cyclists into the pedestrian section of a path and vice versa can potentially lead to conflict.

The recent works included the installation of bollards at intervals along the centre of the path to restrict vehicular access. The presence of the bollards requires cyclists to check their speed.

Whilst the bollards are centrally located, the hedges along some of the adjacent residential properties actually protrude into the path, thus reducing the amount of space for cyclists on the inside half nearest the driveways. On waste collection days, wheelie bins reduce this space further. Consequently, the preferred line for cyclists to take appears to be on the outside half of the path nearest to the new parking bays/road.

Whilst we are unable to segregate this path because of the conflict with the Council's Cycle Design Guide, I can advise that, in order to allay residents' concerns about cyclists, it would be possible to paint 'SLOW / ARAF' markings at the northern and southern entry points to this section path. Roundel signs indicating the status of the path as an unsegregated, shared path will also be installed.

The situation would be helped further if residents could ensure that they park their vehicles within the designated parking bays and avoid any encroachment on the shared pathway.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_