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CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF

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SUPPLEMENTAL PAPERS

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Item 22 **Written Questions**
(Pages 3 - 26)

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County Hall
Cardiff
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**CYNGOR CAERDYDD
CARDIFF COUNCIL**

COUNCIL

31 JANUARY 2019

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT
(COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MICHAEL)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>Compost collections were suspended over the festive period in many parts of Cardiff and communications were put out accordingly; however, Pentwyn was not on the list. Despite this, our compost collections were suspended, with no information about this on the app or website, and no email sent to councillors. Why did the last minute suspension occur and why weren't councillors or residents told about it?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Garden waste collections were suspended from Thursday 27th December 2018 to Sunday 6th January 2019 and resumed on 7th January 2019.</p> <p>The decision was taken to suspend garden waste collections over the Christmas period as demand for the compost collections typically drops back over the Christmas period, whilst recycling, food and general waste increases in demand. Whilst recognising that this was not ideal, the suspension of the compost service enabled us to divert resources and ensure that the recycling, food waste and general waste collections could continue and be collected successfully during this very busy period.</p> <p>Any garden waste that was not collected during the Christmas period was collected on the next scheduled garden waste collection day for that area.</p> <p>In terms of communications, due to an unfortunate error, Pentwyn Councillors did not receive a personal notification via email. Information was published on the Council's website, which listed the wards affected, including Pentwyn. However, there was also a technical issue which meant that the search facility and app did not adjust to the revised collection timetable. Officers are looking into this</p>
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	<p>issue to ensure that, in future, the system updates accordingly.</p>
W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>I have reported several incidents of flytipping where items weren't able to be removed as they were on private land, despite them being in residential areas. Residents living in these estates are unlikely to be happy with the idea that they have to tolerate flytipping on their doorstep because the council cannot take action. Is there anything that the council can do to encourage private land owners not to flytip and/or dispose of items flytipped on their land?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>If the Council receives a report of flytipping on private land, we can take action.</p> <p>If the Council receives a report from someone where waste has been flytipped on their land, we can investigate and prosecute. The Council can also remove the waste, but we do charge for removal of the waste.</p> <p>If the Council receives a report of waste on private land that is considered to be detrimental to the area, an officer will visit and can issue a notice under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. If the waste is not removed by the landowner, the Council would issue a 'Works in Default' notice and remove the waste before putting a charge on the property owner and seeking prosecution in court, as necessary.</p> <p>The Council can also issue a notice under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. Again, if the waste is not cleared by the landowner, we would issue a 'Works in Default' notice and remove the waste before putting a charge on the property owner and seeking prosecution in court, as necessary.</p>
W3	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Members are consistently reporting the same stretches of lanes for fly tipping. When will we see a proactive approach through regular cleansing, especially as these lanes were not gated as they are foot and cycle routes, especially those running to the rear of 300-306 Whitchurch Road and to the rear of Flaxland Avenue?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council's flytipping team works proactively to monitor lanes across the city for flytipping incidents. The team will search and remove the waste and, if any evidence is found, will seek to prosecute for the offence of flytipping.</p> <p>We are currently redesigning cleansing rounds to incorporate a proactive team to cleanse lanes across the city and it is anticipated that this will be in place at the start of the new financial year.</p>
W4	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Could the council provide an update on what it is doing to promote and encourage re-use as a more environmentally friendly alternative to recycling?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We are continuing to expand our network of re-use facilities and have secured new and exciting partnerships to deliver our reuse agenda.</p> <p>As I have set out in my statement to Council this month, Wastesavers, an environmental charity, will be providing reuse shops at Lamby Way and Bessemer Road recycling centres in early spring 2019. At these reuse shops, people will be able to buy quality second hand goods, as well as donate items for the charity to sell.</p> <p>NuLife will also be joining the British Heart Foundation as one of our reuse collection charities and outlets. They collect many items free from households and sell them back to citizens at low prices from their shop on Dumballs Road.</p> <p>To coincide with the launch of these new partnerships, a series of promotional information will be issued explaining the benefits of reuse, including the social benefits.</p>
W5	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Council figures indicate that incidents of fly-tipping reported to the council has significantly increased in this financial year, already far exceeding the total for 2017-18. What does the council believe to be responsible for this increase?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Since the launch of the Report It app, members of the public have been reporting all types of waste offences as flytipping through the app. For example, an umbrella left in a lane; three beer bottles left by the side of a bin, or litter surrounding a bin, which are not classed as flytipping offences.</p> <p>These reports are filtered accordingly by the enforcement team within Neighbourhood Services. If any pictures are provided which shows the waste and it is not flytipping, but a cleansing issue, then this is passed on to cleansing teams to deal with. If no photograph is provided, an officer will visit the location and, if any incidence of flytipping is found, then it is recorded as such.</p> <p>The figures below for the first three quarters of 2018/19, when compared to the same period for last year, show that the actual number of recorded incidents of flytipping in Cardiff has, in fact, decreased:</p> <p>2017/18 (Q1-Q3) = 4540</p> <p>2018/19 (Q1-Q3) = 3911</p>
W6	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>How many incidents of fly-tipping reported in Gabalfa ward over the previous 12 months have not been cleared within 5 working days?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We do not record the data in the way that you have requested it, but we do record the number of flytipping incidents across the city that are cleared within 5 working days. The result for Quarter 3 2018/19 was 98.77% of flytipping incidents cleared within 5 working days.</p>
W7	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>What powers does the council have to secure the removal of unsightly growth of weeds and shrubbery on privately-owned land such as the former Peugeot garage on Colchester Avenue?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Waste education and enforcement officers can issue notices to landowners where the state of their property is adversely affecting</p>

	<p>the local area, using legislation under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. However, we have no powers to ask property owners to remove weeds from their land. The only time when we are able to request any action is with the issuing of a Section 154 notice under the Highways Act 1980 if there is overgrowth obstructing a highway that is restricting free movement of traffic or pedestrians.</p>
W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>How many incidents of fly-tipping have been reported in Penylan since the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Wedal Road, and how many were reported in the ward in the equivalent period immediately prior to the HWRC's closure?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As I confirmed earlier in my response to Written Question (W5) from Councillor Wood, whilst the number of reported incidents may have increased since the launch of the Report It app, the actual number of recorded incidents of flytipping in Cardiff has, in fact, decreased.</p> <p>We did not record data by area prior to August 2017. Similarly, we only have data on reported fly-tipping incidents since June 2018 as this is taken from the Report It App, which was launched on 31st May 2018.</p> <p>From 1st August 2017 to 31st March 2018, there were 33 flytipping incidents recorded in Penylan.</p> <p>From 1st April 2018 to 31st December 2018, 101 incidents of flytipping were recorded from 107 incidents that were reported.</p>

CULTURE AND LEISURE
(COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

W9

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

Since Better took over our leisure, the female swimming sessions have been a little challenging due to a number of reasons:

- 1) Over 16s only: some leisure centres operate “over 16 only” female sessions and so making it difficult for carers of young children to access the facility and service, making it impossible for some young girls to swim.
- 2) Often showers are out of order during the sessions.
- 3) Sessions cancelled without prior notice due to failure in securing female lifeguard(s) for the session.

However, I went to a session recently where an emergency case occurred of possible secondary drowning. Due to language barrier, the staff found it impossible to converse regarding the urgent need to attend hospital for a check-up. This did frustrate the staff and also left the service user feeling confused and unwelcomed. What training and access to support is there for staff in such emergency situations at our leisure and service centres?

Reply

GLL offer a range of activity sessions for women only, which includes under 16s and pre-school children. Under 16s can access sessions during the evening/after school; pre-school children during morning sessions.

Works to the showers at the STAR Centre were required that have now been completed and, where any repair and maintenance works are required across centres, every effort is made to minimise impacts on the programme/customer.

GLL are committed to ensuring that female staff are available for women only sessions and have recently recruited additional female lifeguards to ensure that adequate cover is available for such.

GLL employees attend compulsory monthly staff pool training sessions and re-new their National Pool Lifeguard Qualification every two years. GLL currently have female lifeguards from the BAME community at Maindy, who can assist where language may be a barrier.

W10	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Will the council consider supporting the creation of a BID, or other measures, for Cardiff Bay to better facilitate discussions between property and land owners and organisations delivering large events, such as the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol and Eisteddfod yr Urdd?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council's events team works closely with all event promoters and operators seeking to host events in our city. Each event is unique and, as such, bespoke solutions are often required to ensure the requirements of the event operator are met, but also balanced with the wider 'business as usual' considerations of the city.</p> <p>Support and introductions to partner organisations are facilitated, as appropriate, with ongoing support provided where needed. Depending on the scale of the event, a Local Organising Committee or Executive Steering Group will be developed, including key stakeholders, to facilitate the delivery of the event.</p> <p>The Council has not received an approach to date from any businesses within the area regarding the proposed establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) for Cardiff Bay. However, Key Priority 2 of the draft Economic Strategy, which is before Council today, includes the ambition to consider the development of Business Improvement Districts across the city and officers would be happy to discuss any such proposals with relevant parties.</p>
W11	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>What discussions have the council had with Better concerning reducing opening hours at the pool and removing soft play at Pentwyn Leisure Centre?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>No such discussions have taken place between GLL and the Council. Governance arrangements for the partnership with GLL are well established, which include monthly and quarterly forums to discuss matters such as programming.</p>

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS
(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W12

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What steps are being taken to ensure that there is a clear Welsh medium offer in our Youth Services?

Reply

The contribution of the Education & Lifelong Learning directorate to the delivery of youth services needs to be set in the context of a number of key Council priorities.

The ambition within the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and Bilingual Cardiff strategy is to promote the wider use of Welsh outside the classroom. The Council contributes to this through providing an annual contribution of £30,000 to support Menter Caerdydd to facilitate the promotion and expansion of the use of the Welsh language outside the school gates. In addition, a Youth Innovation Grant of £30,000 is provided to Urdd Gobaith. This Youth Service grant increases the capacity of the Urdd to build on existing provision and provide open access youth work through the medium of Welsh across the city.

Youth Service resources are also allocated as part of the Cardiff Commitment, addressing the Council's corporate priority to reduce the numbers of young people not engaged in education, training or employment, to this agenda.

The Youth Service is currently providing Youth Mentor support for all Cardiff schools and recognises that young people in the city's three Welsh-medium secondary schools require equal access to such support through the medium of Welsh. We are currently providing £110,000 of funding to manage and provide Youth Mentor support in these Welsh-medium schools.

FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE
(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)

W13	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK</u></p> <p>In response to a question in Council in July 2018 I was assured that the equality team has put in place a budget equality impact assessment; could I ask if this assessment will be associated with the budget and be made available to council and public?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As indicated in my response to your previous Written Question in July 2018, the Equality Team has developed both general and specific Equality Impact Assessment guidance on the development of budget proposals as part of the annual budget setting process. This guidance is available to officers via the Cardiff Improvement System (CIS) on the Council's intranet site. The Equality Team also provides Equality Impact Assessment budget training sessions for Members.</p> <p>As part of the annual budget setting process for 2019/20, saving proposals have undergone an Equality Impact Assessment screening exercise and, where required, have had Equality Impact Assessments undertaken, which are published on the Council's website: https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Your-Council/Council-finance/Council-Budget/2019-20/EIAS-2019/Pages/default.aspx</p>
W14	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>The report on the Statement of Accounts 2017/18 considered by the council at its meeting in September 2018 referred to potentially significant liabilities arising from a purportedly undeclared landfill tax assessment and noted that the council was in discussion with the HMRC about this issue supported by an environmental tax specialist. How much has the council paid to date for such external support, and can you please update the council on what progress has been made to date in resolving this concerning matter?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As of 27th January 2019, the cost to the Council in respect of sums to be paid to date for external professional advice in relation to the HMRC landfill tax issue is £323,533. Council officers are continuing to work with HMRC in order to progress this matter to a conclusion.</p>

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES
(COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE)

W15

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

A resident recently raised concerns regarding Cardiff City becoming a “tent city”. The number of rough sleepers on our streets is rising and it has become an obvious sight within our city centre. We are assured that there is sufficient housing within the city to house all, that no-one has to sleep rough. Do we have sufficient supported, safe and appropriate housing to house everyone and have those been offered to those sleeping rough on our streets?

Reply

I share your concern about the growing number of tents that have been appearing on our streets. As Members will be aware, the issue of rough sleeping is a complex one and, whilst each rough sleeper has their own reasons for sleeping out, many have complex issues, including substance misuse and mental health issues.

Unfortunately, the solution is not as simple as providing a bed for the night, as many of those sleeping rough in the city struggle to maintain any sort of accommodation and are caught in a cycle of rough sleeping, hostel accommodation, prison and hospital.

Our Outreach staff are on the streets, 7 days a week and late into the evening, trying to engage with individuals and bring them into accommodation. The team has a good record of helping people off the streets – last year, we helped 204 people into accommodation and support services, where they are obviously far safer and can begin rebuilding their lives. Unfortunately, the provision of tents by well-meaning organisations has only complicated this issue and made it harder to engage with this group of individuals.

The Outreach team is noticing a marked shift on the streets with less people willing to accept support, and even individuals who previously agreed to a place are declining offers of assistance once they have obtained a tent. In December 2018, we helped only 4 people off the streets when the average is 15 people a month.

Officers are also aware of cases where people, who were previously accessing drug & alcohol services and maintaining contact with their probation officer, are now missing appointments and facing the prospect of being sent back to prison. Others are exacerbating already serious health conditions by missing treatment.

It is understandable that people might feel safer inside a tent, but the reality is that, without other adequate protection, they are still exposed to the harsh conditions of sleeping rough. Two of the last four rough sleeper deaths in the city happened in tents and there have also been two fires in tents in Cardiff, and many more across the country, including cases of arson. There is increased risk that incidents requiring an emergency response will not be seen. One person was recently resuscitated only because a passing police officer checked a tent after becoming concerned about the noise coming from it, despite being told by others that the occupant was just sleeping.

Our emergency cold weather provision has had availability all throughout the winter period and we are making even more space available for anyone who wants to come in. The Wallich night shelter has recently been extended and a new council-run night shelter has also opened. Staff are on hand all night in all of our emergency provision and front line hostels. For those who say they don't want to go to the hostels in the city, for whatever reason, there are smaller sites available in various locations, some of which are alcohol and drug free.

I understand the concerns of the business community and others using the city centre, and there have been a number of complaints about anti-social behaviour and aggressive behaviour by some of those living in tents. Whilst we are determined to offer ongoing, effective and reliable support, for however long it is required, to those sleeping rough to help them into appropriate accommodation and services, it is also important that we, together with our Police partners, work to ensure the safety of all those who use the centre of our city.

W16

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

Rhydypennau Library is planned to be converted to a Hub; where are we with those plans and when will local councillors, library staff and residents be consulted regarding those plans?

Reply

During 2017, we set out plans to build on our successful Hub programme and good practice from libraries by developing Community Wellbeing hubs across the north and west of the city. Since then, much work has been undertaken, reviewing existing library buildings, seeking grant opportunities and reviewing the

	<p>staffing structure to ensure that we have the right skills in place to take the new service forward.</p> <p>Rhydypennau Library already provides an excellent service to the local community of Cyncoed. With its wide range of events and social activities and impressive community involvement, we hope to build on and enhance this service. The library building is well placed to become a Community Wellbeing Hub, sited as it is in a community with a large population of older people and their carers. It is anticipated that the upgraded facilities will allow for the development of additional wellbeing services and independent living advice from both Council and health partners as well as a library service that meets the needs of all ages.</p> <p>I am pleased to confirm that public consultation will commence next month on plans to improve the building, and to ask local people what services and activities they would like to see in their Hub. The proposed plans will be made available shortly and will include a small extension, an improved entrance, internal refurbishment, accessible parking and improved landscaping.</p> <p>Ward councillors will be fully briefed and public consultation will start the week commencing Monday 4th February 2019. All feedback will be welcomed and will feed into the planning process. It should be noted that, while initial funding has been secured to carry out the scoping and planning and further funding bids have been submitted to complete these works, the building improvements are subject to the success of these bids.</p>
W17	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>How many households in Cardiff have benefited from the Rent To Own pilot?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Four households in Cardiff have benefited from the Rent to Own scheme. Four two bedroom houses have been delivered by Hafod Housing Association.</p>
W18	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>How many people presented as homeless to the council in December 2018?</p>

Reply

172 households that were actually homeless presented to the Council in December 2018 and a duty to help them to secure accommodation was accepted. The Housing Options Service also worked with 119 households that were newly threatened with homelessness and where a duty to help prevent homelessness was accepted.

W19

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER

How many rough sleepers were recorded in Cardiff in December 2018 and how does this compare to December 2017?

Reply

The number of people sleeping rough at the end of December 2018 was 87. The number recorded at the end of December 2017 was 79. The average over the 12-month period was 74. This shows that, whilst there is a significant fluctuation, the figure has remained broadly consistent over this time.

In the year from December 2017, Outreach Services assisted 15 people to access accommodation each month. Despite this, the number sleeping rough has not decreased, demonstrating the continuing pressure on services and the difficulty that the Council and its partners face in keeping the problem from escalating further. As an example, on Wednesday 16th January, 5 people who had been sleeping rough over a long-term period were finally brought into accommodation. Unfortunately, 4 completely new people started to sleep out in the days before and after this.

There is vacant space in accommodation and additional provision has been identified and will continue to be opened as it is required. This accommodation is in a range of hostel and supported housing projects, which can cater for individuals with different intensities of need, including accommodation for those who wish to remain abstinent. Unfortunately, the often, very complex needs of the individuals sleeping rough, which frequently include substance misuse and mental health issues, means that the process of deciding to accept assistance into accommodation is not straightforward for some.

For a wide variety of reasons, many people are currently not coming into services, but it is hoped that with the launch of a new multi-disciplinary team in March 2019, which will bring together specialists

in drug & alcohol and mental health services to work alongside homelessness staff, we will be able to encourage more individuals to access accommodation and support services.

LEADER
(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

W20

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

In October, Cabinet agreed to 'write to the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union requesting any and all information and analysis, even if deemed confidential, about the impact of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union under a "No Deal" scenario. When was that letter written and what response did the Council receive?

Reply

I wrote to the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union on 30 October 2018, regarding our concerns about the UK's withdrawal from the EU. A response dated 20 December 2018 was then received from Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, after Christmas. The letter stated that the UK Government had agreed the terms for the UK's exit from the EU in the Withdrawal Agreement and had agreed the terms of the UK's future relationship in the Political Declaration.

It also asserted that the UK would "leave the EU in a smooth and organised way on 29 March 2019" with a framework for future relationship that "delivers in the national interest". The Parliamentary Under Secretary also stated that the UK Government "is aware of the concerns of local councils and local authorities, including those of Cardiff Council", but provided none of the information and analysis requested.

You will note that this letter was drafted nine days after the Prime Minister postponed the meaningful vote, which had originally been scheduled for 11 December 2018. Because the UK Government lost the vote on the Withdrawal Agreement by a significant margin when it was eventually held on 15 January 2019, the assurances on the UK's terms of exit and future relationship with the EU are, at best, irrelevant.

Regretfully, the response received provided none of the information and analysis requested. Moreover, the assurances offered through reference to the negotiated Withdrawal Agreement were absent any appreciation of the scale of the opposition to it. As you will know, the Withdrawal Agreement was, ultimately and comprehensively, rejected by Parliament.

W21

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

The next Census will be in 2021. What does the council expect to be the growth in the number of Welsh speakers, what is the council's target for 2021 in relation to the Cymraeg 2050 Strategy, and what steps are being taken to achieve this?

Reply

Cardiff Council is committed to developing a bilingual Cardiff – a Cardiff where everyone can live, work and play, as well as access services and support in Welsh or English equally.

In March 2017, the Council approved the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy 2017-22. It sets out our priorities for promoting the Welsh language, with our partners, with the aim of doubling the number of Welsh speakers in Cardiff by 2050.

Public consultation on the strategy prior to publication revealed that over 70% of respondents either strongly agreed or tended to agree with the vision of a truly bilingual Cardiff and over 53% agreeing with our set target of increasing the number of Welsh speakers in the city.

In support of the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy and vision for one million Welsh speakers by 2050, the Council has set a target for increasing the number of Welsh speakers (aged 3+) in Cardiff by 15.9% from 36,735 (2011 Census) to 42,584 (2021 Census). This is based on applying the 1.5% per annum growth rate that is required nationally in the number of Welsh speakers to reach one million by 2050.

Cardiff has grown significantly over the past 10 years and is projected to grow far faster than any other Welsh local authority. This gives us an unprecedented opportunity to contribute and play our part in achieving the Welsh Government's vision of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020 represents a crucial component in our approach. More children are entering Welsh medium education than ever before. Over the last 10 years, there has been a 45% increase in the number of children receiving Welsh medium education, and the numbers are projected to rise annually.

Furthermore, a number of new schools will be established on strategic LDP sites in Cardiff, including those serving the new communities in the North West and North East of Cardiff. This will provide an opportunity for the Council to greatly increase the number of Welsh-medium places available through the establishment of new schools within these areas, and potential reorganisation of existing provision in established communities nearby.

Cardiff is therefore well placed to not only meet any increased demand for Welsh-medium school places, but also to drive growth and meet the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 targets.

W22

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

Has the council received any commitment or undertaking from the UK government that all funding currently derived from the EU will be maintained at the current level and not subject to cuts in the event of a 'no deal' brexit? If so, what is the duration of this commitment?

Reply

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has previously announced that the UK Government would guarantee EU projects agreed before we leave the European Union. In July 2018, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in a Written Ministerial Statement, extended this guarantee to cover a 'no-deal' scenario.

WEFO (Wales European Funding Office), as the Managing Authority for the Welsh Programmes, has also written to all lead beneficiaries of operations and projects confirming this.

Notwithstanding this, there is little or no information on what any future successor to the EU Structural Funds will look like in the UK post-Brexit.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

Given recent worrying reports that the UK government is placing troops on standby to deal with the consequences of Brexit. Can this council confirm they would oppose the deployment of troops or any other military personnel in our city during peacetime?

Reply

As a result of the UK Government losing the recent vote on its deal to leave the European Union (EU), we now face a scenario whereby Britain could leave the EU on 29th March 2019 with no deal.

That is why I called an extraordinary meeting of the Cardiff Public Services Leadership Board to ensure that we are working together across the city to make sure we are prepared for the possibility of the UK tumbling out of Europe without a deal.

Civil contingencies were discussed and Cardiff has well established mechanisms in place to ensure business continuity in our public services. Our local response will be delivered in the context of the national response structures, which have been established by Welsh Government and which will involve coordinated action through Local Resilience Forums.

While the terms of Brexit will be determined at a national level, the impact of Brexit will be felt locally, by our communities and public services. Our priority therefore is to ensure that any transition period, however damaging, is managed as effectively as possible so that essential public services can continue to be delivered.

The reports of potential troop deployments are extremely worrying, although I understand that these are merely contingency plans at this stage. If the UK Government's assessment is that, in the event of a No Deal Brexit, soldiers need to be deployed on the city's streets in order to keep the residents and businesses of Cardiff safe, then I would not oppose such a move. I would however consider it a tragic and humiliating failure on the part of the UK Government to have created the situation where such a deployment was necessary.

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
(COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELSMORE)

W24

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

I recently learnt that Cardiff Council supported living and safeguarding teams don't have a central recording system for incidents that occur in care homes involving vulnerable people who are in the care of the authority. With this being the case, how can problems or trends be identified by the council to ensure it has the right policies and procedures in place?

Reply

In accordance with legislative requirements under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (SSWBA), all members of the Council's workforce have a duty to report safeguarding concerns. Internal supported living teams will report such concerns to the safeguarding team, and follow safeguarding procedures. Incidents that occur, which do not meet safeguarding thresholds, will be managed by individual service providers as part of their internal processes.

Providers are registered and inspected by Care Inspectorate Wales and must comply with the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act, as well as the SSWBA. This requires the 'Responsible Individual' for the service to undertake quarterly quality assurance reviews. Internal supported living services are also subject to quality assurance reviews by contract monitoring officers.

All safeguarding concerns that are reported under the 'duty to report' will be logged and managed internally. Trends or repeated safeguarding concerns, including concerns either in relation to internal or external providers, can trigger the escalated management of provider performance.

The Learning Disability Supported Living service is responsible for ensuring that there is a reporting system in place for those incidents which do not meet safeguarding thresholds. Systems at a service level are being strengthened within the Learning Disability Supported Living team to ensure that a formal recording mechanism is in place, which will be subject to continuous monitoring. There are quality assurance systems within supported living schemes that review both safeguarding referrals and incident reporting to ensure that the right safeguards are in place for vulnerable residents.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W25	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK</u></p> <p>A petition (CM39050) was submitted in December 2017 by residents of Caer Cady Close. The petition was calling for “No through road sign and parking restrictions” on the road. A response was given in March 2018 stating “nameplates at the start of the road will be replaced with the no through road symbol included in the nameplate, the same as the adjoining roads”. However, there has been no movement since. I have been asking for some update for months and yet not response received. Please could the residents on Caer Cady Close be informed when their concerns will be addressed?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I can confirm that the street nameplates that incorporate the “No Through Road” symbol have been ordered and we are currently awaiting delivery from our suppliers. However, due to the significant backlog of nameplate renewals, I am unable to provide you with exact timescale, but anticipate that they will be delivered and installed by the end of this financial year.</p> <p>No Waiting At Any Time restrictions are already in place at a distance of 10 metres, which is the recommended length in accordance with advice given in the Highway Code.</p> <p>As I have advised previously in correspondence between us, this issue has been investigated. The investigation concluded that the issue is of concern, but is not of a high enough priority to warrant being submitted for specific Council or Welsh Government capital funding. This location has been included on our database as an ‘area of concern’ and the issues will be addressed if alternative funding opportunities arise.</p>
W26	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>What incentive is there for disabled residents to go through the lengthy process of acquiring a disabled parking bay outside their home if any blue badge holder is permitted to park in the space?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Road space, particularly in terraced streets within Cardiff, is at a premium, so the incentive for a qualifying disabled resident would be a place reserved for their use (albeit not their sole use) and more of an opportunity to park outside their own house. Bays are currently provided free of charge to a successful applicant and the Council is not under a statutory obligation to provide such a parking space.</p> <p>The 'Blue Badge Scheme: Guidance to Local Authorities 2017' confirms that the Welsh Government is responsible for the policy and legislative framework for the scheme. It also states that:</p> <p><i>"Anyone who parks in a designated disabled parking space without displaying a valid Blue Badge and/or clock if appropriate will be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice/ Penalty Charge Notice/Excess Charge Ticket, dependent on the parking enforcement arrangements in that County."</i></p> <p>By implication, this indicates that Blue Badge holders can park in any disabled bay as long as a valid Blue Badge is displayed.</p>
W27	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>In early December 2018 I was told that the annual road investigation report for 2017 was being finalised and it was hoped it would be released soon. Given that it is now 2019, does the council know for definite when it will be published?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The report has been completed and is currently being translated into Welsh in advance of publication on the Council's website.</p>
W28	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>Air B'n'B provides a valuable service. However, it is largely unregulated and anti-social behaviour associated with some properties used as Air B'n'B accommodation can have a negative impact on the lives of neighbouring residents. I have had correspondence with officers on this matter and, while London, for example, appears to have a '90 day limit', such powers do not currently exist within Cardiff. Could you tell us what powers are available to local authorities to regulate Air B'n'B and whether the administration believes the time is right to start considering their use here?</p>

Reply

The powers that are available to the Council in relation to the regulation and licensing of private rented accommodation under existing housing legislation, as well as the application of Rent Smart Wales enforcement powers, do not apply in the case of Airbnb properties.

In addition, current planning legislation and regulations in Wales do not define the use of a property for temporary sleeping accommodation as a material change of use and, therefore, the Council has no planning powers to control the use of such accommodation.

The Council does however retain the ability to deal with issues regarding statutory nuisance and has previously taken action where evidence has been provided that a property is being consistently used in a way that gives rise to amenity issues for residents.

The Council has met previously with representatives of Airbnb and, as a result, we have been provided with a contact number that can be used to report any concerns of this nature directly to the company.

W29

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOWELLS

What consideration has been given to reinstating the school crossing patrol on Broadway?

Reply

With reference to the former school crossing on Broadway, which is located by Richards Terrace, officers have carried out the necessary surveys at the site and, although the road is busy, have confirmed that few pupils cross at this location.

I can confirm that this crossing location is no longer an approved site as there are adequate crossing facilities located nearby. For example, a pelican crossing is located only one minute away and there is also a zebra crossing available only three minutes way at Cyril Crescent.

W30

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOWELLS

What powers does the council have to encourage bilingual advertising on hoardings around development sites?

Reply

The planning process does not regulate the content of any advertisement, but only considers its impact in terms of amenity on an area and public safety. Therefore, under the planning framework, there are no powers to compel the use of the Welsh language on hoardings or any other advertisement.

As part of the Council's Bilingual Cardiff vision, the Council is looking to introduce a new process to strengthen the role that planning can play in promoting use of the Welsh language. Going forward, Planning Decision Notices will refer to the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and recommend that bilingual signs and notices are used on commercial developments or other developments requiring public signage.

In terms of 21st Century Schools developments, the condition of Welsh Government funding for these projects is that all signage is bilingual and, therefore, the Council stipulates that contractors do this for site hoardings that are in the public eye also. In addition, all site signage for the Council's new housing developments is bilingual.

W31

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

For some time the council has moved away from using road narrowing schemes as a means of traffic calming as it can at times lead to motorists racing to get through a road narrowing ahead of traffic coming in the opposite direction. A couple of years ago, residents of Ty Draw Road in Penylan were led to believe that the scheme in their road was soon to be replaced with one that would instead involve a system of raised crossings that would also serve to improve pedestrian access to the adjacent sections of Roath Park and the Rec. What hope can you give to the street's residents that the new scheme might be implemented in the not too distant future?

Reply

The Council is working to remove priority narrowings on the city's bus routes to help minimise delays to bus services and improve passenger experience. Due to funding constraints, it is necessary to

	<p>prioritise the removal of priority narrowings on bus routes before priority narrowings on other roads. The Council has submitted a bid to the Welsh Government for funding to remove priority narrowings on bus routes in 2019/20 financial year.</p> <p>Ty Draw Road in Penylan features on the Council's approved Active Travel Integrated Network Map as a future cycle route to be developed in the longer term. Priority narrowings could be removed as part of any cycling scheme implemented on Ty Draw Road.</p> <p>Options for developing cycling facilities along this section of route are currently being investigated as part of a study to develop solutions for cycling improvements within the Roath Park Corridor, including Ty Draw Road. Further work needs to be done to test the feasibility of different options, which could potentially include the provision of segregated cycle lanes.</p> <p>Funding is being sought from the Welsh Government to progress further study work in 2019/20. Ward members and stakeholders will be fully consulted on any draft proposals which emerge from this work.</p>
W32	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>I am struck by just how often I see people cycling in Cardiff during the hours of darkness without any lights on their bike, something that is clearly a significant safety risk. What is the council doing to raise awareness of the need to for cyclists to use lights in such circumstances?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council's Road Safety team offers free adult training and advises trainees of the importance of wearing both appropriate fitted and light/fluorescent clothing plus reflective accessories, as well as having lights on their bikes during the hours of darkness in accordance with the Highway Code. The team currently trains over 2,000 children and 200 adults per annum.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the enforcement of cyclists riding without lights is a Police matter as it is illegal to cycle on a public road after dark without lights and reflectors.</p>

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