



DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD
CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF

COUNCIL SUMMONS

THURSDAY, 21 JULY 2022

GWYS Y CYNGOR

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SUPPLEMENTAL PAPERS

Item **Description and Page Number(s)**

11. **Cabinet Statements**
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To receive statements from the Leader and Cabinet Members

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Director of Governance & Legal Services

County Hall
Cardiff
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Friday, 15 July 2022

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

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COUNCIL:

21 July 2022

LEADER & CABINET STATEMENTS

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COUNCIL: 21 JULY 2022

LEADER STATEMENT

'Stronger, Fairer, Greener' Policy Statement

My administration's policy statement, entitled 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener', was approved by Cabinet on 14 July 2022. These are the themes that have defined the work of the Council over the past decade, and they will be at the heart of everything that we do over the next five years. The document sets out an ambitious programme for government, with deliverable policy commitments across all Cabinet portfolios, that will now need to be translated into the Council's policy, partnership and budgetary framework over the year ahead. In a change from my Council Statement last month, I will be speaking about our new policy statement at an event that is being held at the Parkgate Hotel in Cardiff on Tuesday 19 July (4.30pm-6.00pm).

Levelling Up Fund

The next round of Levelling Up Fund applications is due to open this month and, following previous reports to Cabinet in June 2021 and March 2022, the Council intends to submit two major projects – Cardiff Crossrail Phase One and a further bid to support infrastructure and public realm improvements around the regeneration of Atlantic Wharf. These two projects will deliver for Cardiff and deliver for our communities, creating jobs, but also crucially investing in the transport infrastructure and the places and spaces that our residents will use for decades to come.

If successful, these projects should leverage over £100m of investment for Cardiff and leave a lasting legacy for our communities. The Cardiff Crossrail project is the starting point for further investment in our transport infrastructure, with the aim of ultimately bringing forward new stations in the east of the city. The public realm improvements linked with the regeneration of Atlantic Wharf will make sure that the new Arena, as well as the wider investment taking place, links in with our communities, and provides both better active travel and public spaces to create a city destination in its own right.

Linked to the UK Government's 'levelling up' agenda, I have also recently contributed an article to a future publication by the High Speed Rail Group, which aims to focus on the 'levelling up' benefits of a truly national high speed rail network within the UK. This could include spreading the benefits of HS2 and improving connectivity by developing a new high speed rail route running from Birmingham to Bristol and Cardiff. Of course, none of this will happen without strategic investment in the rail network serving South Wales and the West of England, as well as a transformation in the current attitudes of policy makers in Whitehall. Cardiff Council will continue to lobby the UK Government for future investment in high speed rail infrastructure in the rest of the UK through our membership of the Western Gateway partnership.

Shared Prosperity Fund

The Council has begun planning for the new Shared Prosperity Fund and is working closely with colleagues within the Cardiff Capital Region on this. The first stage requires the submission of a regional investment plan, being led by colleagues in Rhondda Cynon Taf Council. We have indicated the areas where we would like to see interventions take place at a broad strategic level based on our recovery strategy. However, we do expect to include a significant allocation to support local businesses in Cardiff. The aim is to make them more productive – and therefore pay more – as well as more sustainable. We will also invest in city and district centres to make them more attractive places to visit and do business. Over the summer, we will engage with key stakeholders to develop a more detailed delivery plan, with a specific element focussed on ensuring that we provide the appropriate support for business.

Cardiff Public Services Board

I was pleased to be re-appointed as the Chair of the Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB) on 12 July 2022 at the first meeting of the PSB since the council elections in May 2022. The Chair of Cardiff & Vale University Health Board was also re-appointed as the Vice Chair of the PSB. We discussed a number of agenda items at the meeting, including the city's partnership response to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in Cardiff as part of the Homes for Ukraine, Family Visa and Welsh Government Super Sponsor schemes, as well as receiving updates on the Cardiff Youth Justice Service, the 'Move More Eat Well' Plan and community safety issues.

Following a review of partnership priorities and structures, the Cardiff PSB is currently seeking to identify new partnership priorities for the city, based on the Local Well-being Assessment, which will inform the new Local Well-being Plan that needs to be agreed by PSB partners by May 2023. Partnership working and public service collaboration, which takes forward the momentum and lessons from the city's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, will be fundamental to tackling the major challenges facing the city over the next five years.

Wales National Srebrenica Commemoration

The 2022 Wales National Srebrenica Commemoration event, which marked the 27th anniversary of Srebrenica Memorial Day, was held on 6th July 2022 at Cardiff and Vale College. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend and perform my role in reading out the 11 pledges of remembrance at the event due to me testing positive for Covid-19; however, I am grateful to my group colleague, Councillor Ash-Edwards, for attending the event in my place, alongside the Lord Mayor, particularly following his role in proposing the motion about the Srebrenica genocide that was agreed by Council last month.

Councillor Huw Thomas
Leader of the Council
15 July 2022

TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

Highways Resurfacing

The first carbon-neutral road resurfacing work in Wales has been carried out by Cardiff Council. The scheme entailed the resurfacing of 13,000m², approximately 1.2 kilometres, of existing aged and deteriorating carriageway on the A470 Northern Avenue between the Coryton roundabout overbridge and Curlew Close.

The overall carbon footprint of the scheme will reduce carbon emissions by up to 40% compared to traditional surfacing. The asphalt was sourced from a local plant that uses a recycled slag by-product from Celsa steel production instead of virgin aggregate in the manufacture of the material, which will further reduce carbon emissions. Specialist lining products and installation methods were utilised to further reduce the carbon footprint.

The remaining carbon created in the resurfacing work will be offset using a Verified Carbon Scheme – preventing further deforestation in Brazil – and by planting 100 saplings in the city in recognition of the scheme.

The scheme was funded through One Planet Cardiff and Highways capital investment.

Speed Limits

The 20mph trial area in Central North Cardiff is now fully implemented and live. The project is one of eight being implemented across Wales to trial 20mph speed limits on restricted roads (roads that currently have a 30mph restriction and have street lighting). The trials are being used to test technical processes, develop an enforcement and communications strategy, and help overcome any unforeseen issues before 20mph limits are rolled out nationally in Wales in autumn 2023.

Active Travel Schools

Active Travel School Gold Award

Radnor Primary School in Canton has become only the second school in Wales to achieve Sustrans Cymru's Active Travel School Gold Award. I was pleased to attend the school on 13 July 2022, alongside the Director of Sustrans Cymru and the Chair of Wales's Active Travel Board, to celebrate this tremendous achievement.

The school's journey towards achieving the Gold Award has been based on promoting active travel by walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling to school, and putting it at the forefront of the school's ethos and culture. I am pleased that the Council has been

able to assist Radnor Primary School with its active travel planning and the provision of a bike fleet and cycle storage. In addition, a number of improvements have been made to the streets outside the school to improve safety and further support active travel to school, including the widening of pavements, increased parking restrictions, improvements to road junctions, as well as providing a new zebra crossing.

The Council's Active Travel Schools Team has also been working with pupils at the school on an art project, which is due to be installed in September 2022, that will support the school's 'Two-street-stride' campaign for pupils to walk and scoot at least the last two streets to school.

Cycle Training

The Council's Road Safety Team exceeded its target for pupils receiving National Standards Cycle Training, with over 700 trained to Level 1 and 520 achieving Level 2 since April this year. There has been a huge response by children wishing to take up cycle training during the school summer holiday period, with over 500 people enquiring about the Learn to Ride (beginners) and on-road cycle training courses. The daily sessions are being run on weekdays during July and August and are being funded through the Welsh Government's Summer of Fun initiative.

Bike Shelters

The Council has recently completed a third phase of bike shelter installation in Cardiff schools. 58 schools have received new bike shelters, bike racks and scooter racks over the last three financial years, representing an investment of around £500,000.

Living Streets WOW Tracker

Living Streets' WOW Tracker is an active travel to school engagement tool, which also gathers daily travel to school data throughout the year. Pupils log their daily journeys to school on the system. The WOW Travel Tracker records this data and confirms which pupils have walked enough to earn a badge each month. Thanks to a grant from Welsh Government's Active Travel Fund, 52 Cardiff schools are now taking part in WOW. Figures for March and April 2022 indicated that 82% of pupil journeys to and from participating schools were made by active modes. This compares to the baseline of 59% before the WoW Tracker was implemented.

Engagement on the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP)

As part of the work to prepare the Preferred Strategy for consideration by Cabinet and Council later this year, Planning Officers have been engaging with children and young people to inform the preparation of the LDP. This has included school visits where children were given the role of 'Planning Pioneers' and led planners on walks around their local areas to give their views on what worked and what could be improved. This exercise concluded with an engagement session at the first ever virtual 'Schools Grand Council' meeting on 28 June 2022, which was attended over 1,000 Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from 35 Cardiff schools. Participants were also the first children in Wales to use a new and innovative online platform called 'Maptionnaire', which enabled them to feed their views into the LDP process and submit over 300 questions to the Council's Head of Planning.

Planning Officers also attended the Urban Room consultation event organised by Cardiff University's Community Gateway project that was held at the Grange Pavilion in Grangetown in May 2022, which enabled engagement with local residents and groups. The Council has prepared a user-friendly guide to Planning and the Replacement LDP, which was used as part of the engagement work with schools and the Urban Room consultation.

Councillor Dan De'Ath
Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning
15 July 2022

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COUNCIL: 21 JULY 2022

DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION STATEMENT

Summer of Fun Festival

The Summer of Fun festival begins on Saturday 23 July and runs until Monday 5 September. The Welsh Government-funded festival will include two weeks of activities on City Hall lawn, as well as city-wide activities and an arts & cultural programme curated by Arts Active that will take place throughout the summer holiday period.

Young people who attend the site on City Hall lawn from 23 July to 7 August will have the opportunity to join in various workshops, watch fantastic theatre and spectacular performances, contribute to the communal art installation, play games, or simply enjoy the sunshine. Although the entire festival will be inclusive and neurodiverse friendly, the first session of each Thursday on City Hall lawn will be a 'quiet session' tailored specifically to neurodiverse children, young people and their families.

Tickets for the festival went live earlier this month for priority groups to book activities initially, before tickets were then made available to the wider public. The priority groups included care-experienced children, young carers, those families being supported by Family Services and those families seeking asylum. All families now have access to opportunities across the city and further information, including a programme and map of the city-wide activities, is available on the Child Friendly Cardiff website at: <https://www.childfriendlycardiff.co.uk/>

Energy Efficiency in Schools

Over £1.3 million has been invested by the Council in energy-saving upgrades across 11 Primary, Secondary and Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools in the city as part of the work to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Work on the school retrofit project started in July 2021 and has just been completed. The initiatives are set to drastically reduce the Council's operational carbon emissions by up to 20% across the 11 school sites – Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Eder, Bryn Celyn Primary School, Glyncoed Primary School, Hywel Dda Primary School, Llandaff City C.I.W. Primary School, Llanishen High School, Mary Immaculate High School, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr, St Illtyd's High School, The Bishop of Llandaff C.I.W. High School, and Ty Gwyn Special School – as well as saving an estimated £185,000 a year.

As part of the project, a range of new energy-efficient technologies have been installed across the schools, including LED lighting upgrades, solar panels, fridge and freezer controls, valve and pipework insulation, as well as new Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS), which optimise building controls and energy usage.

Engagement sessions with the schools' Eco Teams are also planned, where pupils will learn about the benefits of the works, including the enhanced lighting levels and health benefits from the removal of existing fluorescent lighting.

Passport to the City

On 13 July 2022, the new Cardiff Children's University partnership and Passport to the City programme were launched at the Centre for Student Life at Cardiff University. The Passport to the City programme is a key commitment in our 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener' policy statement and aims to ensure that children and young people from all backgrounds can enjoy the world-class amenities that Cardiff has to offer. This initiative also supports the Council's Child Friendly City ambitions and our aim to become the first UNICEF Child Friendly City in the UK.

This exciting new partnership between the Council, schools, the Children's University charitable organisation and Cardiff University will help children and young people to be inspired and motivated whilst developing a wide range of talents, skills and abilities – all whilst fostering a sense of inquisitiveness and a love of lifelong learning.

The launch event celebrated the success of those children that have taken part in our early pilots over the last year, which has seen more than 400 children at St Mary the Virgin CiW Primary School in Butetown, St Fagan's Primary School, Peter Lea Primary School in Fairwater and Windsor Clive Primary School in Ely take part. Pupils have accessed more than 90 different activities, such as fitness classes, art & music activities, graphic design and STEM activities (science, technology, engineering and maths). Those children recording the highest number of hours of activity attended the event at Cardiff University and received certificates to acknowledge their achievements, with some pupils having already achieved the Children's University Bronze Award.

Following the launch of the Passport to the City, we will work to extend the range of activities that children and young people will be able to access in the city, utilising our growing network of partners via the Cardiff Commitment. We will also increase the numbers of schools that can get involved.

Universal Free School Meals

In Cardiff, the majority of Reception year children will be offered Free School Meals from the new autumn term onwards and work is being carried out in many of the city's primary schools so that kitchens are able to cater for a significantly greater number of pupils. In response to the current rising cost of living, we are committed to implementing the scheme as efficiently as possible. Our teams are working to build on catering capacity in schools across the city so that, through a phased approach and with Welsh Government agreement, we can work towards rolling the scheme out to all primary school aged children over the next three years. This is an important step in reaching the shared ambition of ensuring that no child goes hungry whilst in school.

National Plan for Music Education

The Council has recently appointed to the post of Achievement Officer – Music for Schools. The new postholder is due to start work next month and will lead the development of our response to the aspirations included in the recently published National Plan for Music Education in Wales. These include greater opportunities for engagement with music for all young people, opportunities for participation in groups and a national music instrument and resources library. The Welsh Government has recently distributed additional grant funding to assist with this work and Cardiff will receive an additional £439,000 in this financial year. As our music service covers both Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, we will be working closely with the Vale of Glamorgan Council in developing our plans.

Estyn Inspection Reports

Two inspection reports were published by Estyn on 13 July 2022, which related to [Cathays High School](#) and [Bryn Y Deryn Pupil Referral Unit \(PRU\)](#). The new inspection framework does not use summative judgements, but provides fuller, contextual detail that reflects each school.

I am pleased to say that the inspection report for Cathays High School is an excellent report that underlines the quality of education provided at the school. The only recommendation related to the strengthening of provision for personal and social education in Year 11. Commenting on the leadership and culture of the school in the report, Estyn said: *“Through inspirational leadership and a culture of high ambition underpinned by the mission of ‘opportunities for all’, Cathays High School is a highly inclusive and aspirational learning community where pupils and staff thrive...There is a firmly established culture of safeguarding that pervades the school. All staff, through all aspects of their work, take personal ownership for ensuring that all pupils’ needs are catered for in a sensitive and safe way. As a result, pupils thrive in this happy, safe, and caring environment and are exceptionally proud to belong to their school community”*

Estyn noted that pupils at Cathays High School *“place great value on and actively celebrate the school’s cultural diversity”*, with the *“school’s location at the heart of Cardiff and the diverse nature of the local community”* being important influences on the curriculum. Estyn also commented on the Specialist Resource Base where pupils *“receive outstanding care, support and guidance that helps them develop their confidence and self-esteem and make considerable progress from their starting points”*.

The report for Bryn Y Deryn PRU is also very positive and recognises the valuable work that is undertaken with young people. The Estyn inspection report found that the PRU *“effectively provides a wide range of worthwhile learning opportunities for pupils as they plan for their pathways to further education, training or employment”* with many pupils making *“strong progress from when they join the PRU”*.

Estyn also noted that the PRU is *“a calm and nurturing learning environment where pupils feel highly valued”* and where there is an exemplary culture and ethos of supporting well-being that has been *“particularly important in addressing the increased mental health and emotional needs of pupils as a result of the pandemic”*.

The inspection report made three recommendations in relation to monitoring and improving attendance, and improving both Welsh language provision & skills and the use of ICT across the curriculum.

Both schools have been asked by Estyn to produce excellent case studies.

Thank You Day

As the 2021/22 academic year draws to a close and, following on from 'Thank You Day' on 4 July, I would like to place on record my own thanks to all our learners, parents, carers, guardians, teachers, governors, employers and everyone else in the education sector in Cardiff. I should also give a special mention for the remarkable achievement of three female teachers at Oakfield Primary School who will all be retiring on the same day at the end of the current term after having clocked up 100 years of experience between them. It has been another challenging year, so thank you to everyone for all their hard work.

Councillor Sarah Merry
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education
15 July 2022

CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

Cleansing in the City Centre

The months of June and July have been a busy period for the Cleansing Services Team in the city centre. The team has worked hard to support, as well as clean up after, the recent events that have taken place at a number of city centre venues, including the Principality Stadium (Ed Sheeran, Stereophonics & Tom Jones and Rammstein), Bute Park (Inside Out Festival, Jubilee Picnic in the Park) and Cardiff Castle (Depot in the Castle).

Love When You Leave

The Cleansing Services Team, along with other supporting teams, has been managing the end of the academic year when thousands of students leave their accommodation within the Cathays and Plasnewydd areas of the city over a period of a few weeks around the end of June and start of July. The Education & Enforcement Team knocked on the doors of 2,177 properties and spoke face-to-face with 773 people, as well as posting information to other households. A joint letter was also sent by the Council and the city's universities, including a 'move out' booklet, to over 3,000 properties.

These efforts have been supported by additional recycling services, which have also taken place this year with the aim of increasing and promoting recycling. These have included the pop-up recycling centre at the Cardiff University campus on Maindy Road, which had 180 visitors, as well as our '#justrecycle big student takeaway' van clearance of bulky waste items, which collected 578kg of items. To date, the teams have removed 26 tonnes of waste and recycling showing the scale of the short-term demand on our services.

One Planet Schools Launch Event

The Council's One Planet Cardiff strategy recognises the need for the city's children and young people, as well as future generations, to have a very clear voice in how we tackle the climate emergency. In recognition of this, a launch event for our One Planet Schools initiative took place last month to raise awareness and stimulate discussion around the One Planet Cardiff strategy and our carbon neutral targets. The event was the first in a series of school engagement activities that will encourage each school in Cardiff to develop its own One Planet School plan, helping to influence good climate-responsive pupil behaviour at school and at home, and capturing the imagination of children and young people so that they can be the ambassadors of change that we need to respond to the climate emergency. In addition, the work will help schools to understand and reduce the carbon emissions from their heating, power and travel activities, and will also provide strong areas of focus for the new curriculum in Wales, which is looking to integrate real world problems and solutions into the everyday learning experience.

Sustainable Production and Supply of Food Challenge

A £2.6 million challenge fund to encourage innovation in the production and supply of locally grown food has been launched within the city-region. The project, which is a partnership between Cardiff Council, Monmouthshire Council, Cardiff Capital Region, Welsh Government and the SBRI Centre of Excellence, aims to identify and support projects that can harness the potential of land, technology and people to increase the sustainable production and supply of locally grown food in the Cardiff Capital Region. The partners recognise that the way we produce, supply and consume food in the future will play a major part in determining how successful we are in responding to the unprecedented challenges that we face in terms of the climate emergency, nature emergency and biodiversity loss, as well as diet-related illness. Shifting our food and farming system to capitalise on our local assets presents enormous opportunities for the health of our economy, people and the planet.

The Sustainable Production & Supply of Food Challenge requires applicants to clearly demonstrate how their innovative solutions will:

- increase the sustainable production of food in the region and generate positive economic, social and environmental impacts; and
- supply nutritious locally grown food, whilst ensuring a fair price for producers and the wellbeing of future generations.

The competition, which is funded by the CCR Challenge Fund and Welsh Government, and hosted by Cardiff Council, will run in three phases and is due to commence in October 2022, with success to be evaluated by 2025. Organisations interested in applying for the challenge funding can register their interest at: <https://sdi.click/spsf>

Cardiff Coastal Protection Scheme

I can confirm that the Marine Licence has now been granted by Natural Resources Wales for the proposed flood defences on the River Rhymney and coastal areas within the city's Rumney and Splott wards. The scheme involves the provision of rock armour revetments, concrete erosion protection mats, earth bunds, a flood gate and sheet piling in order to reduce the risk of failing coastal flood defences and the release of contaminated landfill material into the Severn Estuary from the former Lamby Way Tip and the Rover Way Frag Tip, both in the immediate future and over the next 100 years. The scheme will also reduce and manage the flood risk to approximately 2,326 residential and approximately 204 commercial properties over the same period.

The scheme is currently awaiting planning approval and work is continuing to finalise the additional governing body related permissions to allow commencement of the scheme. Detailed assessment is also ongoing in relation to future tender, budgetary, contractual and organisational requirements to enable agreement and, ultimately, commencement of scheme delivery.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Climate Change
15 July 2022

COUNCIL: 21 JULY 2022

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT

Summer Events Programme

I was delighted to see the Cardiff Food & Drink Festival return to Cardiff Bay on 1-3 July 2022. Thousands of visitors took the opportunity to enjoy the array of food, drink and live music on offer. I would like to thank all those involved in organising and participating in the event. It is encouraging to see one of the city's anchor events return so strongly following the challenges of the last two years.

Cardiff Castle is hosting a further eight concerts throughout the month of July. From Michael Bublé to Primal Scream, there will be something for every musical taste throughout the month. The city will also welcome the return of yet another of our annual events this summer when Pride Cymru return to the Civic Centre to host their Pride Big Weekend on 27 & 28 August 2022. Full details of the city's busy summer programme can be found at www.visitcardiff.com

The Council's Events Team is also collaborating with colleagues in the Child Friendly City Team to support the delivery of the Summer of Fun for the city's young people. This will include a range of arts events and activities for children, young people and families curated by Arts Active from 23 July to 5 September 2022. Arts Active is a charity which supports people to enjoy the arts through education, community and audience engagement projects. Full details of the Summer of Fun programme, including a map, can be found on the Child Friendly Cardiff website at: <https://www.childfriendlycardiff.co.uk/>

Museum of Cardiff

Last month saw the relaunch of Dinky Dragons, the monthly toddler day at the Museum of Cardiff, with participants taking part in rhyme & story time, soft play and messy painting. June also heralded the welcome return of the Front of House volunteers, who have generously donated 118 hours of their time to show people around the tiled corridor, reminisce about all things Cardiff, and help to make sure that visitors have the very best experience at the Museum, resulting in some excellent feedback on Tripadvisor and in the Museum's visitor book. I would like to thank all our volunteers for their commitment, time and enthusiasm.

Parks Capital Programme

The capital programme for parks and playground improvements is progressing well and a number of schemes across the city are either complete or nearing completion. These include schemes at Sovereign Chase open space in the Cyncoed ward; Brewery Park, Cemetery Park and Howard Gardens in the Adamsdown ward;

Gelligaer Gardens in the Cathays Ward; Llanishen Park in the Llanishen ward; Maltings Park in the Splott ward; and Grange Gardens in the Grangetown ward. I am delighted with the quality of the schemes being delivered and, in particular, the innovative approaches to design and the use of natural resources, which are providing inviting, safe and challenging environments for play.

Victoria Park Splashpad

A trial 'relaxed session' at the Victoria Park Splashpad has taken place for children with disabilities and additional needs. The Council has listened to parents who found the open sessions at the Splashpad too busy and noisy for their children. The trial session was very well attended, with children, their families and carers enjoying some exclusive time together. As a result of the success of the trial, the Council will continue to provide these sessions on a weekly basis throughout the summer holiday period.

Partnership with the National Botanic Gardens of Wales

This month sees the commencement of the work experience exchange programme with the National Botanic Gardens of Wales in Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, which is a key feature of the Council's Parks & Gardens Apprenticeship Scheme. Two trainees from the Botanic Gardens will be undertaking a placement in Cardiff for one week, working with our apprentices and other staff from the Parks Service and, next month, four of the Council's apprentices will then undertake a placement for the same period in Carmarthenshire. The placements provide beneficial opportunities for apprentices to gain horticultural experience and an awareness of how other organisations operate.

Skateboard Facility Strategy

Officers are progressing the development of a Skateboard Facility Strategy, considering the needs and demands of young people across our city and a consultation exercise with stakeholders, user groups and young people has been completed. The strategy will seek to secure investment for areas of greatest need and demand, creating destination facilities to both suit beginners and challenge experienced skateboarders. The first destination site will be located in the Llanrumney ward and, as skateboarding is now an Olympic sport, the development of the strategy and implementation of capital investment is timely. I hope to see Cardiff produce future Olympians performing on the world stage.

Step Into Sport Initiative

I have been following the work of the joint venture between the Council and Cardiff Metropolitan University on Sports Development with great interest. One of the schemes that I want to highlight is a ground-breaking initiative aimed at transforming the lives of young people in Cardiff who are being drawn into youth crime and gang membership called 'Step Into Sport'. Launched in May 2021 in partnership with the South Wales Police Youth Trust, this initiative uses sport as a vehicle for social change by referring young offenders aged between 12 and 19 to a range of sports clubs throughout the city. The aim is to build an individual's confidence, provide motivation and enable more positive life choices to be made, whilst also providing early intervention in youth-related crime.

By May 2022, a total of 59 young people had been referred by a range of partners, such as social workers, support workers and youth justice practitioners supporting some of Cardiff's most at-risk youngsters.

£20,000 was made available for this initiative by the South Wales Police Youth Trust, a charity which offers grants to organisations and projects offering young people an alternative path to being drawn into crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. This sum was matched by Cardiff Metropolitan University and the success of the initiative has resulted in a commitment for funding for a second year spanning 2022/23, with stakeholders due to meet next month to discuss their shared aim of making the initiative permanent.

Councillor Jennifer Burke-Davies
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
15 July 2022

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FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award

Cardiff Council has received the Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award, the highest honour available for organisations that employ and support serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families. Only 140 organisations were awarded the prestigious Gold Award last year in recognition of their outstanding support as employers for the Armed Forces Community, with only 11 of those being in Wales. Currently, only 85 Local Authorities in the UK hold the award and only 493 organisations in total hold the award as of 2021. The Veterans Advice Team within Housing & Communities has helped to identify staff who are from an Armed Forces background, and have worked with HR People Services to implement internal HR policies, such as special leave policies for Reservists.

Fair Work (Long Term Agency Worker) Policy

Decent work can help achieve a stronger, modernised, more inclusive economy. It contributes to national growth and prosperity and assists in addressing inequality, reducing poverty and promoting well-being. In March 2019, The Fair Work Commission published 'Fair Work Wales', which defines fair work, identifies levers for promoting it, and includes recommendations to help deliver it in Wales. Fair work is defined in Wales as being where workers are fairly rewarded, heard and represented, secure and able to progress in a healthy, inclusive environment where rights are respected.

The Council has made the commitment in the Corporate Plan 2022-25 to be a 'Fair Work' employer by reviewing long-term agency placements and taking appropriate actions to reduce the use of agency workers on long-term assignments. As a result, the Council has now developed a policy that all services will be required to follow. The Fair Work (Long Term Agency Worker) Policy sets out new commitments with regard to agency workers with continuous assignments in service areas of more than four years and more than two years. Agency workers with more than four years continuous assignments (with breaks equivalent to annual leave) in the same service area, will be offered a permanent contract, subject to relevant pre-employment checks. Agency workers with more than two years continuous assignments (with breaks equivalent to annual leave), but less than four years, a temporary contract will be offered, subject to relevant pre-employment checks. Officers and Cabinet Members have worked closely with the Trade Unions on this policy, which is fully supported by the Trade Unions.

Website

www.cardiff.gov.uk had 200,000 visitors in June 2022 who viewed 679,000 pages of information. Last month, 67% of website visitors used a mobile device and 21,000 online payments were made via the website totalling £2.8million. Visits to the Benefits and Grants pages of the website have risen 273% in Quarter 1 of 2022/23 compared to the same period last year, with 52% of the visits being made to our Cost of Living Support pages. In addition, 90% of graffiti reports were completed online using the new web and app service that was launched in June, and 96.8% of appointment bookings for our recycling centres were completed online, which is the highest online percentage achieved to date.

BOBi Chatbot

The Council's chatbot, BOBi, had 6,289 conversations last month, bringing the total amount of conversations since its launch to nearly 130,000. We continue to receive good feedback scores on use of the chatbot, with 90% of those customers who provided feedback rating their experience as positive. The main topics of conversation continue to focus on Council Tax and benefits, customers looking to discuss fines, appointment bookings for our recycling centres and the ordering of waste bags. An update to enable the ability to report graffiti via the chatbot is due to be released shortly following the completion of the final round of testing.

Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2022

As I confirmed in my Council Statement last month, Cardiff Council's entry, on behalf of the Cardiff Living Wage City Partnership, is one of nine entries that have been shortlisted in the Public/Private Partnership category of this year's LGC Awards, with the winner due to be announced on Wednesday 20 July 2022. Members will be aware that the Council has worked successfully with partners such as Cynnal Cymru, Citizens Cymru, Cardiff Third Sector Council, Cardiff University and Cardiff Business School to promote the Real Living Wage in Cardiff and I believe that we have entered a very strong submission to this year's awards, backed up by what I felt was a very positive presentation to the award category's judges, which took place last month.

Wales Pension Partnership – Joint Governance Committee

In my role as Chair of the Cardiff and Vale Pensions Committee, I am part of the Joint Governance Committee (JGC) of the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP). The JGC is the governing body of the pooled investment arrangements of the eight Welsh Local Government Pension Funds, and made up of the eight Chairs of each fund, with a Scheme Member Representative in attendance in a non-voting capacity. Our first meeting since the elections was held on 8 July, and I was elected as Chair of the JGC, having been Vice-Chair over the last year. Including the Blackrock Low Carbon Tracker Fund investment, 86% of the Cardiff and Vale Pension Fund investments (approximately £2.3 billion) are now held in WPP sub-funds.

Councillor Chris Weaver
Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance
15 July 2022

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES STATEMENT

Summer of Fun & Summer Reading Challenge

The Hubs & Libraries Team has an activity-filled summer planned for children during the summer holidays as part of Cardiff's Summer of Fun programme. Funding has been provided to deliver Project Gadgeteer through working with the Reading Agency. This project aims to provide all children aged 4-11 in Wales with the opportunity to access free activities aimed at supporting their development and wellbeing at their local library. The many free events held in Cardiff will include robot wrestling, motion animation workshops and dance sessions amongst many others.

In addition, the Summer Reading Challenge will be taking place over the summer period, doubling the amount of activities that children in Cardiff can experience at Hubs and libraries across the city. The Challenge is free to join and plays an important role in helping to address the literacy dip that can occur during the long summer holiday period. The children read six books and get rewarded with stickers and prizes throughout their reading journey. Children aged 4-11 can visit their local Hub to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge based on the theme of science and innovation.

New Family Supported Accommodation

The new family supported accommodation at the Gasworks site in Grangetown is now fully operational. So far, 29 families have moved into this brand-new, high-quality accommodation and are receiving support, including access to Flying Start, Early Help services, Into Work services and Money Advice. Clients are supported holistically around promoting personal and community safety, promoting independence and control, including financial and promoting health and wellbeing through a range of signposting and one-to-one support from the Council and partners from other sectors.

Estate Regeneration Schemes – Lincoln Court and Pennsylvania

Estate regeneration schemes, which enhance the environment around houses across the city, have commenced at both Pennsylvania and Lincoln Court in Llanedeyrn. The work aims to make the environment safer, easier to walk around and more pleasant for people who live there. Improvements include upgrading the rear courtyards of flats to make them private and secure for residents with new drying facilities, new bin stores and new pedestrian pathways throughout the area. It is anticipated that the works will be completed in late autumn 2022.

Tudor Lane Property Enhancement Scheme

Regeneration funding from the Welsh Government has been used to deliver a number of environmental improvements to Tudor Lane in Riverside. A building improvement grant scheme for commercial premises in Tudor Lane has enabled internal and external improvements to be carried out to properties with the aim of improving the streetscape and bringing vacant or unsuitable commercial floorspace back into use. A total of 20 properties have benefitted from the scheme.

Alongside property improvements, murals, artwork and bespoke signage have been added to properties in Tudor Lane to help bring the street to life. These include a mural on the side and rear walls of the former Cardiff Bus Transport Club, artwork on the rear wall of Litchfield Court, lighting column banners advertising local businesses and new bespoke signage at the three entrances to the lane. The artwork and signage were produced by local artists and businesses within the lane and feedback has been really positive.

Community Safety Update

Problem Solving Group

Building on the success of the multi-agency Problem Solving Group pilot, which has seen over 30 partners come together to address issues including anti-social behaviour, vandalism, and criminal behaviour, the Council has invested in a team of officers to build upon this model, strengthening the approach to tackling community issues and making a real difference. Over the coming months, the team will further develop the model, which will be evidence-led and consider proactive approaches to tackling emerging community issues.

Further to this, I am pleased to note that Neighbourhood Policing Teams have now become a protected resource. The role of the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) is being strengthened with a focus on communication, problem solving, and empowering our communities. Every local Neighbourhood Policing Team and PCSO should also have made contact with their local Councillor.

As the Community Safety Team develops the refreshed Problem Solving Group model, the team will work with South Wales Police to ensure a joined-up approach that makes the best use of resources and works in the most efficient and effective way.

Safer Streets Fund – Round 4

Cardiff has submitted a bid for approximately £750,000 in Round 4 of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. The bid has a primary focus on women's safety, but also includes initiatives to reduce neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour and covers the following three areas:

- **Operational** – improved multi-agency working and unification of existing Cardiff women's safety initiatives, supported by new CCTV infrastructure and smart technology.

- **Community Guardianship** – community-focused safety initiatives, including safeguarding training for licensed premises staff, enhancing volunteer space in Cardiff Central Station, and promoting an existing South Wales initiative aimed at challenging sexual harassment.
- **Physical Environment** – reclamation of some areas of the city that are hotspots for graffiti or drug litter.

The bid area is limited to a maximum of 9,000 residents and the area chosen for the bid consists primarily of Cardiff City Centre and some residential areas within Cathays. Confirmation from the Home Office is still awaited as to whether or not the bid has been successful, which will potentially have a significant impact on community safety issues in this area of the city.

Violence Prevention Group

In response to the forthcoming introduction of the Serious Violence Duty, the Violence Prevention Group is moving forward with plans to undertake a Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment. This is being drafted with the assistance of Public Health Wales. The three subgroups – Night-Time Economy (NTE), Serious Violence and Organised Crime (SVSOC), and Violence Against Women and Girls – continue to work towards meeting their objectives. The NTE subgroup has renewed its focus on vulnerabilities that exist in this space, and the SVSOC subgroup is focused on specific wards (Llanishen and Llanedeyrn) over the summer period to tackle youth violence.

Councillor Lynda Thorne
Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities
15 July 2022

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INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT

City Centre Recovery

The Council will be pleased that city centre footfall remains healthy, buoyed by recent events taking place at the stadium and the castle. Recent surveys appear to confirm that Cardiff is performing well against competitor cities in the UK, although different surveys show varying results. The Administration remains committed to supporting the recovery of the city centre and the need to protect the jobs that city centre businesses provide. For that reason, I have asked officials to interrogate the results of the recent surveys to ensure that we have an accurate picture of the current position. This is particularly important given the headwinds facing the retail sector caused by the cost-of-living crisis and such that the Council is working with partners to explore ways of supporting the sector as the continued impact of inflation is felt by our communities.

The Council has also continued to support investment in the city centre, including a new boutique hotel, Parador 44, which we supported through the Transforming Towns Town Centre Loan scheme. In addition, the Council will continue to invest in its City Centre Management Team to make Cardiff city centre a more welcome place for visitors, and to support those returning to office-based working.

Investment Enquiries

Again, councillors will be pleased to learn that levels of business enquiries remain high, with continued interest from businesses looking to relocate posts from London to Cardiff. Members will recall that our recovery strategy outlined the potential for business to move from the bigger cities such as London, where cost and congestion remain significant pressures even in the post pandemic world, to smaller cities like Cardiff with a better quality of life. Currently, we have several active leads with businesses in the financial services and media sectors worth potentially thousands of high-quality jobs over coming years.

The Economic Development Team has also progressed a number of enquiries generated at MIPIM in March 2022, and subsequently hosted a number of visits from international developers interested in investing in Cardiff Bay and the Sports Village, supporting our ambition to boost the regeneration of Cardiff Bay. The results of attending MIPIM are not instant and it is something that the city-region needs to continue to build on. It is worth noting that the deal, which delivered the largest and most successful urban regeneration project in Wales – Central Square in Cardiff – was finalised at MIPIM.

The Council continues to work collaboratively with local government colleagues, Welsh Government and the private sector within the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) to develop a greater annual presence at MIPIM to promote the £10 billion worth of opportunities that we have across the city-region. The Leader of the Council spoke recently at an event, hosted by the CCR, on 28 June to thank business partners and sponsors for their contribution at this year's MIPIM, which resulted in the highest ever footfall at the CCR exhibition stand and over 100 enquiries from the UK and throughout the globe.

Councillor Russell Goodway
Cabinet Member for Investment & Development
15 July 2022

SOCIAL SERVICES STATEMENT

ADULT SERVICES

Age Friendly City and Independent Living Services

The Council's Independent Living Services (ILS) work towards improving the health and wellbeing of older people in Cardiff, no matter how high level their needs might be. The overarching aim is to support older people so that they remain in their own homes and are able to live well within the community. The service also delivers a wide range of events and festivals (both virtually and in person) that bring together partner organisations to help support older people to stay healthy and live independently.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, services were transformed and delivered online to provide support to older people and enable them to stay connected to their communities. This can be a lifeline to those who may otherwise feel socially isolated and lonely. Loneliness can also have a huge impact on the mental and physical health of older people.

Age Friendly Cardiff is committed to ensuring that older people are able to access and enjoy all aspects of city life, as well as being provided with opportunities to participate in activities and events that help to improve their wellbeing and enrich their lives. It was fantastic to see what is being delivered at the Powerhouse Hub on a recent visit. I was so impressed and even more so when I discovered that the Tai Chi instructor was one of the older people who had previously been isolated and lonely with health conditions. As a result of the support provided by ILS, she now runs not only Tai Chi sessions, but also leads book groups and a lunch club in her local pub.

Technology Enabled Care

This year, Independent Living Services has begun its journey to improving the use and implementation of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) and assistive technologies. This will enable alternative or complementary solutions to be provided to enhance the quality of a person's life and support them to remain at home longer. To support this, a working group has been established consisting of both local authority and health colleagues to remove barriers and improve confidence in the benefits TEC can bring. The Council is now in the process of commissioning products to support citizens. By utilising some of the Regional Integration Fund to recruit a specialist, who will work alongside Occupational Therapy staff in the Joint Equipment Service, the aim is to embed the TEC approach into the assessment process for both social care and health colleagues.

Dementia Friendly City

A Dementia Friendly Volunteer Coordinator has been in post since mid-June 2022 and is currently in the process of setting up a volunteer scheme to recruit, train and manage Dementia Friendly Ambassador volunteers. The Volunteer Coordinator is also able to run Dementia Friends sessions, having recently undertaken Dementia Friends Champion training.

It is so important that local businesses and organisations across the city are supported to become Dementia Friendly, because it is those cafés, hairdressers, local supermarkets and shops where people living with dementia go to enjoy social activity and retail therapy just like everybody else.

Volunteers will highlight the benefits and the importance of being Dementia Friendly to businesses. They will support businesses to work through Dementia Friendly environment checklists and will help them identify actions to become more welcoming, accessible and able to better support their customers who are living with dementia and their carers. Volunteers will signpost businesses and organisations across the city to the Dementia Friends sessions and will provide information, resources and advice to businesses on how to receive official recognition as Dementia Friendly from the Alzheimer's Society by engaging with their newly launched pledge scheme.

Locality Working

Working in partnership with the Integrated Health and Social Care Team, the Council continues to develop the @home programme with the consolidation and redesign of access points into care and support in Cardiff. Work is ongoing towards an Occupational Therapy-led triage at the First Point of Contact in partnership with social care colleagues who will take on the most complex cases. This will provide the foundation for delivering services within the community, with staff working in a geographical setting aligned to the clusters. In developing this, the GP clusters of Multi-Disciplinary Teams have been expanded to include the Southwest, Northwest, and Southeast areas of the city. The trial of the first integrated working hub on the site of the former St Isan care home in Llanishen is also being finalised, with health colleagues and local providers working together to meet the holistic needs of individuals within the locality setting.

Supported Living

The Supported Living Team has worked very hard to enhance the move-on experience for people with learning disabilities and their families this year. A huge amount of work is carried out to support people to identify the right type of accommodation and ensure good compatibility with co-tenants. The team has supported a wide range of people to move this year, including supporting two friends to move in together, enabling a person to move from a long-stay hospital admission into her own flat, and supporting a person to find the right home after their carer sadly passed away. The team has also enabled two residential homes to be transferred into supported living when a provider gave notice, which enabled the people living there to remain local and together. The team is working with colleagues from Housing to develop more accommodation to meet the growing local need and there are a number of schemes in development.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Ministerial Visit to Cardiff Children's Services

The Council was pleased to welcome the First Minister of Wales, Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS, the Deputy Minister for Social Services, Julie Morgan MS, and the Chief Social Care Officer for Wales, Albert Heaney, to County Hall on 29 June. The visit provided an opportunity for the Council to showcase the work being undertaken to shift the balance of care, and to hear directly from Welsh Government Ministers about their proposals to transform children's social services in Wales. This includes the safe reduction in the number of children looked after, the growth of in-house provision, and a proposal to reduce the use of "for profit" providers of placements for children looked after.

Promotion of Fostering in Cardiff

Foster Wales Cardiff was represented at the Food & Drink Festival in Cardiff Bay earlier this month, with many visitors coming to talk with members of the team. It was encouraging to hear that some visitors had seen our recent campaigns on social media and had visited the festival with the purpose of speaking to the Fostering and Supported Lodgings Teams. Foster Wales Cardiff and Supported Lodgings representatives will also be represented at Pride Cymru 2022 in Cardiff next month where they will be available to answer any queries about pursuing a fostering journey.

Positive Parenting

As part of Welsh Government's "*Parenting. Give it time*" campaign, a series of parenting information roadshows are being held across Wales between June and September 2022. The first roadshow was on 30 June at Asda in Cardiff Bay and the Cardiff Parenting Team participated, sharing information with over 60 families. The Deputy Minister for Social Services, Julie Morgan MS, was also in attendance and spoke with families and the Cardiff Parenting Team. The roadshows offer informal public drop-in sessions at supermarkets and public events, providing practical advice on positive parenting techniques. They also coincide with a new national advertising campaign, 'Not here', which raises awareness of the fact that the physical punishment of children, like smacking, is now illegal in Wales.

Summer of Fun

Children's Services staff have been working with the Child Friendly City Team to hold an exclusive one-day summer festival specifically for young people known to Children's Services. Members of the Bright Sparks group have helped to develop and plan the event, which will include a range of activities, food, and games to help create precious memories for our young people.

Crosslands Residential Home

Crosslands, one of the Council's in-house residential homes, recently received an unannounced, but very welcome, visit from a member of the public who had been looked after there 30 years ago. One of the members of staff that they remembered is now the manager of the home and, as luck would have it, was on shift at the time of

the visit. The visitor shared his fond memories of his time growing up there and it was lovely for the manager to hear that he has moved abroad and has a successful career in Australia.

Holidays for Children Looked After

An opportunity has been created for 10 children looked after to attend a five-day residential trip to Jamie's Farm in Monmouth during the school summer holidays. The farm uniquely combines farming, family and therapy, with a focus on giving children time and space to not only reflect and renew, but also to determine a new path for themselves. It is hoped that this trip will be the first of many that Cardiff children looked after can attend. Children's Services are also working with colleagues from Education to offer similar opportunities for children looked after at Storey Arms.

Youth Justice Service and Peer Mentors

The Youth Justice Service has been approached by St. Giles Trust via their Aspire Hub to potentially host some of their trainee Peer Advisors. The peers linked to the Aspire Hub are those who have previously been supported by St Giles and want to use their lived experience to support and help people who may be going through similar experiences. The Peer Advisor project is a programme of training, placement, professional development and support around the Level 3 Advice & Guidance qualification and gives peers the confidence, skills, and qualifications required to move onto paid employment. St Giles will provide full oversight of the placement which will last 6-8 months. The Peer Advisors will be used to assist with delivery of one-to-one work, group work, constructive activities, travel training, and some restorative panels with young people.

Councillors Norma Mackie & Ash Lister
Cabinet Members for Social Services (Job Share)
15 July 2022

TACKLING POVERTY, EQUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH & EQUALITY

Welcoming and Supporting Ukrainian Refugees

As I set out in my statement to Council in June, the Council is working to welcome refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine who are arriving through the Family Visa, Homes for Ukraine and Welsh Government Super Sponsor schemes.

As of 13 July 2022, under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, 175 sponsors have applied to take part in the scheme in Cardiff, with 413 visas applied for. Of these applications, 299 visas have been issued, with 232 confirmed arrivals to date. The Council is providing wraparound support for all arrivals, ensuring that they are safe and are supported in terms of language, subsistence payments and access to services. The Council is also in contact with all local sponsors, ensuring that appropriate property checks and DBS applications are completed.

For those arriving via the Family Scheme, I would like to remind members that the Council has put in place a drop-in 'one-stop-shop' service at Cardiff Central Library for any Ukrainian arrivals – irrespective of visa route – that can provide advice on any questions that refugees may have or assistance with accessing public services and other support services. The Council's Hubs and libraries are also working to provide advice and information.

The Council is continuing to work closely with the Welsh Government to support those arriving via the Super Sponsor Scheme, including managing the Cardiff Welcome Centre and supporting arrivals located in other accommodation throughout the city.

Childhood Vaccinations and Screening

Alongside the Covid-19 and winter flu vaccination programmes, routine childhood vaccinations continue to be high priority from a public health perspective due to a decline in uptake for some vaccines, particularly during and as a result of the pandemic. Similarly, the uptake of other preventative programmes, such as screenings, were impacted to varying degrees by the pandemic. In response, as part of the 'Amplifying Prevention' approach to partnership working between Cardiff Council, Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (UHB), we are currently working to develop and implement actions, which will promote the uptake of immunisation and screening among both service users and staff and will look to address barriers identified by groups and communities where take-up is lower. For example, surveillance data shows that children from some ethnic minority groups have lower uptake for some vaccinations compared to the rest of the population. The

intention of this joint approach is to improve accessibility for families to vaccination, promote positive messages and dispel any myths and concerns that circulate within communities, with the aim of ensuring that as many children as possible are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Move More, Eat Well Plan Update

Moving more and eating well provides us all with great benefits in terms of health and wellbeing and also helps our planet. Since the launch of the Move More, Eat Well Plan in July 2020, in collaboration with Cardiff & Vale UHB, Vale of Glamorgan Council and the third sector, much has been achieved for the population in Cardiff despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Cardiff Good Food Strategy 2021-24 was launched in October 2021 and Welsh Government funding from the EU transition Food Poverty Fund was secured to support its delivery. There are also some fantastic examples of delivery on the ground, including the development of a community food retail project toolkit, Community Food Retail Network, piloting Good Food Neighbourhood projects, as well as the development of 'Plot to Pantry', which aims to increase the amount of produce grown in Cardiff being supplied into community food retail projects. Through our 'Amplifying Prevention' agenda, a partnership approach will be important in driving forward some of the key priorities from the Move More, Eat Well Plan; continuing to improve the food and physical activity offer in our schools and workplaces, as well as taking action to restrict junk food advertising across Cardiff.

TACKLING POVERTY & SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Armed Forces Advice Service

I am delighted that Cardiff Council has been successful in attaining the Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award. This is something that the Veterans Advice Team, which is part of the Advice Service within Housing & Communities, has been working steadily towards for a number of years as part of the Armed Forces Covenant, which is the voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces community.

In August 2017, Cardiff Council became the first Local Authority in Wales to set up an Armed Forces Advice Service, a dedicated service for the Armed Forces community, which provides specialist employment, housing, money, and other advice for veterans and serving personnel. The service supports ex-military, cadets, reservist staff as well as staff within Cardiff Council. Between April 2021 and March 2022, the Armed Forces Advice Service claimed over £18,000 in one-off payments and assisted the Armed Forces community to claim £656,469 in previously unclaimed benefits. Cardiff Council has since supported other local authorities (Rhondda Cynon Taf, Vale of Glamorgan, and Swansea) to set up their own Armed Forces Advice Service.

Cost of Living Discretionary Scheme

The Advice and Benefits Teams are currently working hard to distribute £2.2m worth of grants to ease the burden on households in the city during the cost-of-living crisis. The money has been allocated as part of the Welsh Government's Cost of Living Support Scheme. The Council has already written to over 1,600 households inviting them to apply to the scheme. So far, 109 people have been supported with further applications being processed by the team.

However, the Council does not know about everyone who is really struggling right now. Anyone can apply whether they are in or out of work and whether they are claiming benefits or not. Residents will also be provided with bespoke advice, ensuring they are receiving all the benefits, grants and discounts to which they are entitled. For more information or to make a claim, residents can visit their local Hub or call the Advice Line on 029 2087 1071.

New Food and Fuel Champions

New food and fuel 'champions' are providing practical advice in Community Hubs across the city. They will also be attending community events throughout the coming months to provide initial help and support and to refer more complex cases into the Money Advice Team. The Money Advisors will support these customers with income maximisation, benefit checks and budgeting support, providing advice for long-term solutions rather than quick fixes to help address both food and fuel poverty.

Into Work Advice Service

Support for Refugees and Ukrainian Nationals

The Into Work Advice Service has recently launched a new job club at the Oasis Centre in Splott, assisting refugees and asylum seekers with accessing opportunities via mentoring projects, updating/creating CVs and providing referrals for Adult Learning on short courses.

In partnership with Homes for Ukraine, the Into Work Advice Service has also been attending the Welcome Centre to offer training and employment support to Ukrainian nationals. The team has so far supported 30 people with a wide range of employment backgrounds, including solicitors, teachers, computer programmers, barbers, shipping and manual workers. The team is currently in talks with Cardiff and Vale College to provide additional ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) support.

Youth Employment Support

In addition to mainstream employability support, the Into Work Advice Service provides dedicated support for young people with additional or more complex barriers to employment, education or training. This specialist support is provided by our wraparound projects – Bright Futures and MILES – and our community-based Butetown Youth Development Project.

Bright Futures receives referrals from Children's Services and Youth Services to help care-experienced young people aged 16-24 to access employment, education and training opportunities and receive general wellbeing support as they transition into adulthood.

The MILES project works with vulnerable young people who are either homeless or in non-secure accommodation. They offer wraparound support for the young person, providing guidance on employability access, whilst also assisting with housing issues and preparing them for independent living.

The Butetown Youth Development Project was created to meet the specific needs of the Butetown, Riverside and Grangetown areas of Cardiff which have historically had high unemployment rates and low engagement with services such as Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The project's Youth Mentors work one-to-one with local young people to help them enter sustainable employment. They also work to increase community participation, promote utilisation of local services, and liaise with organisations offering support to young people, creating a central knowledge pool of opportunities available to 16 to 24-year-olds in Butetown. Since the launch of the project in December 2020, over 400 young people have engaged with the team, resulting in 112 young people securing employment, 127 completing training and 29 going back into full-time education. Due to the success of the project, the DWP has extended funding for a further 12 months.

The Council's in-house recruitment service, Cardiff Works, has set up the Cardiff Works Ready project. This project specifically helps young people with little or no work experience, to become work ready and assisted into a Cardiff Works placement. The Into Work Youth Team worked closely with the project, supporting many of the young people to start their careers within Cardiff Council. Since the beginning of the year, over 80 people have been supported through the project, with seven people gaining employment.

Support for Young People Post-16

Cardiff Youth Services have developed a wide range of innovative approaches to improve outcomes for young people post-16 by engaging and motivating them to sign up to "A Taste of..." experiences in identified popular education, employment and training fields. Programmes on offer focus on construction, sport, music, beauty, entrepreneurship, arts/theatre, hospitality, digital opportunities (gaming) and animal care. The days will not only be interactive and fun, but most importantly informative. The team will work with the providers to look at identified pathways into education, training and employment opportunities around each theme, which will be given out to the young people who attend. The 3-week offer will culminate on 22 August 2022 with a Post-16 Provider Day in conjunction with the Into Work Advice Service to be held at Cardiff Central Library, where young people can get further advice and sign on to training and employment pathways. More information can be found on Cardiff Youth Service events page at: <https://www.cardiffyouthservices.wales/index.php/en/events>

Emotional Health and Wellbeing Project

[Stronger Me CF23](#) is a tailor-made project for young people aged 13-18 in Llanedeyrn and Pentwyn. The Powerhouse Youth Centre team is part of Cardiff Youth Services and staff are fully qualified to deliver the Platform "State of Mind" programme, which has developed and evolved into the Stronger Me CF23 project. The programme focuses on building resilience, coping strategies and life skills. The project aims to provide a safe space for young people to talk, help young people make new friends and increase their education around mental health and teach them how they can support themselves and others who may be struggling with their mental health.

Councillors Julie Sangani & Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Members for Tackling Poverty, Equality & Public Health (Job Share)
15 July 2022