



DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD
CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF

COUNCIL SUMMONS

THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2024

GWYS Y CYNGOR

DYDD IAU, 25 IONAWR 2024,

SUPPLEMENTAL PAPERS

Item	Description and Page Number(s)
9	Motion 1 and Amendment (<i>Pages 3 – 8</i>)
10	Motion 2 and Amendment (<i>Pages 9 -18</i>)
11	Motion 3 and Amendment (<i>Pages 19 - 26</i>)

D Marles
Interim Monitoring Officer

County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Friday, 19 January 2024

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ITEM 9

MOTION AND AMENDMENT INFORMATION

MOTION 1

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Lancaster

SECONDED BY: Councillor Siân-Elin Melbourne

AMENDMENT TO MOTION 1

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rodney Berman

SECONDED BY: Councillor Joe Carter

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COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2024

NOTICE OF MOTION 1

Proposed by: Councillor John Lancaster

Seconded by: Councillor Siân-Elin Melbourne

This Council notes:

- Local Government funding is devolved to the Welsh Government.
- Cardiff has had the second highest increase in settlement from the Welsh Government of 4.1%, above the Welsh average.
- The increase in settlement by Welsh Government is partially offset by their withdrawal of some grant support.
- A projected funding gap of £30.5M for the forthcoming financial year.

This Council further notes:

- Council Tax rises place financial pressure on all households, particularly lower income ones.
- Non-Domestic Rates collected in Cardiff are pooled centrally by the Welsh Government and redistributed around Wales. Cardiff receives back less than it contributes.
- Proposals in the budget consultation include reduction in frontline services.

This Council resolves:

- To listen to residents' needs & focus on protecting and improving core services, with the need to keep Council Tax as low as possible and deliver value for money.
- To oppose three-weekly black bin collections, charging a separate fee for the collection of garden waste, removal of litter bins and reduction of street cleaning.
- To eliminate our funding gap and improve core services by negotiating with Welsh Government to retain 100% of the Non-Domestic Rates collected by Cardiff Council.

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COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2024

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION 1

Proposed by: Councillor Rodney Berman
Seconded by: Councillor Joseph Carter

Add the following new bullet point at the end of the section headed “This Council further notes”:

- As the authority presses ahead with significantly increasing the level of borrowing it undertakes, the revenue costs of servicing that borrowing rise and this can have a knock-on effect by reducing the amount of revenue funding that is then available for the provision of frontline services.

The amended motion would read as follows:

This Council notes:

- Local Government funding is devolved to the Welsh Government.
- Cardiff has had the second highest increase in settlement from the Welsh Government of 4.1% above the Welsh average.
- The increase in settlement by Welsh Government is partially offset by their withdrawal of some grant support.
- A projected funding gap of £30.5M for the forthcoming financial year.

This Council further notes:

- Council Tax rises place financial pressures on all households, particularly lower income ones.
- Non-Domestic Rates collected in Cardiff are pooled centrally by the Welsh Government and redistributed around Wales. Cardiff receives back less than it contributes.
- Proposals in the budget consultation include reduction in front line services
- As the authority presses ahead with significantly increasing the level of borrowing it undertakes, the revenue costs of servicing that borrowing rise and this can have a knock-on effect by reducing the amount of revenue funding that is then available for the provision of frontline services.

This Council resolves:

- To listen to residents need & focus on protecting and improving core services with the need to keep Council Tax as low as possible and deliver value for money.
- To oppose three-weekly black bin collections, charging a separate fee for the collection of garden waste, removal of litter bins and reduction of street cleaning.
- To eliminate our funding gap and improve core services by negotiating with Welsh Government to retain 100% of the on-Domestic Rates collected by Cardiff Council.

ITEM 10

MOTION AND AMENDMENT INFORMATION

MOTION 2

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rodney Berman

SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Hopkins

AMENDMENT TO MOTION 2

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sarah Merry

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lee Bridgeman

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COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2024

NOTICE OF MOTION 2

Proposed by: Councillor Rodney Berman

Seconded by: Councillor Robert Hopkins

Proposed by Councillor Rodney Berman

Seconded by Councillor Robert Hopkins

This council notes that:

- 1) In financial year 2023-2024, one special school, 35 primary schools and two secondary schools set deficit budgets at the outset.
- 2) Many other schools were able to set a balanced budget only through the one-off use of their reserves.
- 3) The proportion of schools having to set a deficit budget is unprecedented.
- 4) Given the concerns expressed about the significant budget gap for the council as a whole in 2024-2025 and warnings given to the council's school budget forum, there are widespread fears that the situation will only worsen with even more schools falling into deficit.
- 5) Employee costs account for between 80% and 90% of schools' budgets.
- 6) Schools are still continuing to work hard to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and are dealing with multiple demands and pressures as a result. These demands include the need to: improve attendance which at the end of the 2023 academic year was 6% below pre-pandemic levels in secondary schools and 5% in primary schools; engage with families to increase support for vulnerable pupils; improve help for the mental health and well-being of children and young people.
- 7) Schools' leaders and teachers are heavily involved in the implementation of curriculum reform and reform to the provision for pupils with additional learning needs.
- 8) The current Medium Term Financial Plan places the council on a continuing trajectory of significantly increasing its level of borrowing together with associated revenue costs, whilst the Cabinet has also recently committed to

fund around half of its agreed £27.3 million capital contribution towards the planned new Indoor Arena through undertaking additional borrowing, and this is having a significant knock-on effect on the availability of revenue funding for key council services including for schools' delegated budgets. £1.5 million of annual revenue funding is already contained within the council's base revenue budget to cover borrowing costs associated with the Indoor Arena project and the Cabinet has now agreed that the revenue provision for this borrowing in the budget should increase to £2.9 million a year during the construction phase and early years of the project.

This council believes that:

- 1) All schools must have the resources necessary to maintain a high quality of education.
- 2) This requires a level of delegated funding that will avoid damaging job losses and safeguard the capacity of schools to meet the needs of all their pupils.
- 3) The Welsh Government should develop a longer-term Covid-19 recovery plan that recognises the impact that the pandemic has had, and continues to have, on each and every school.
- 4) Action is needed if Cardiff is to protect its status as the UK's first city to be awarded Child Friendly City Status.
- 5) A situation where schools increasingly need to rely on setting deficit budgets to operate is simply not sustainable.

This council calls on the Cabinet to bring forward a funding strategy as part of the council's future budget consideration that ensures Cardiff's schools can be more adequately funded in order that the proportion of the city's schools that need to set deficit budgets can be substantially reduced.

COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2024

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION 2

Proposed by: Councillor Sarah Merry
Seconded by: Councillor Lee Bridgeman

After 'This Council notes'

Add the following:

1. *Education has been a key priority of the current administration.*
2. *Education in Cardiff made strides in education over the last ten years going from below the Welsh average on many of the key performance indicators to above – progress that was recognised during the latest Estyn inspection. Cardiff has also recently been recognised as the first UNICEF Child Friendly City in the UK for prioritising the voices of children and young people*
3. *Cardiff has the highest delegation rate to schools in Wales and education and social services accounted for 66% of the council's budget in 2023/24 with the council has seeking to protect funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children.*
4. *Funding of our schools not only comes from the local authority but a significant component comes from grants from Welsh Government which have reduced in value over the last few years. We are waiting to hear the outcome of the reorganisations of grants being undertaken to simplify the process for schools but this must protect funding for our most vulnerable pupils.*

Combine bullet points 1-5 and delete and amend as below

5. In financial year 2023-2024, one special school, 35 primary schools and two secondary schools set deficit budgets at the outset **Insert** *this is a situation repeated across the UK. With many other schools* **Delete** *were able to set a balanced budget only through the one-off use of their reserves. Delete* *The proportion of schools having to set a deficit budget is unprecedented. Given the concerns expressed about the significant budget gap for the council as a whole in 2024-2025 and warnings given to the council's school budget forum,*

*there are widespread **Insert** with widespread fears that the situation will only worsen with even more schools falling into deficit. The teacher's pay increase should be fully funded by the Welsh Government*

6. Employee costs account for between 80% and 90% of schools' budgets.
7. Schools are still continuing to work hard to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic **Insert** and the cost of living crisis and are dealing with multiple demands and pressures as a result. These demands include the need to: improve attendance which at the end of the 2023 academic year was 6% below pre-pandemic levels in secondary schools and 5% in primary schools; engage with families to increase support for vulnerable pupils; improve help for the mental health and well-being of children and young people. **Insert** We note the importance of the partnership working between education youth and children's services at a time when budgets are under pressure.
8. Schools' leaders and teachers are heavily involved in the implementation of curriculum reform and reform to the provision for pupils with additional learning needs **Insert** The Welsh Government should ensure it adequately funds curriculum and ALN reform
9. **Insert** We thank school leaders for their work on the budget forum and working parties given the concerns about addressing the current financial situation. It is absolutely essential that while calling for more funding for education we continue to work together with our schools to protect children and young people and to continue to deliver improvements in education through innovative practice such as that shown by Cardiff Commitment
10. **Delete** The current Medium Term Financial Plan places the council on a continuing trajectory of significantly increasing its level of borrowing together with associated revenue costs, whilst the Cabinet has also recently committed to fund around half of its agreed £27.3 million capital contribution towards the planned new Indoor Arena through undertaking additional borrowing, and this is having a significant knock-on effect on the availability of revenue funding for key council services including for schools' delegated budgets. £1.5 million of annual revenue funding is already contained within the council's base revenue budget to cover borrowing costs associated with the Indoor Arena project and the Cabinet has now agreed that the revenue provision for this borrowing in the budget should increase to £2.9 million a year during the construction phase and early years of the
11. **Insert** This council notes the recent letter to the UK Government by 40 MP's asking for further funding for local authorities and calls on the council to continue to lobby Welsh Government and the UK Government over the importance of funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children

This Council believes that:

- 1) All schools must have the resources necessary to maintain a high quality of education.

- 2) This requires a level of delegated funding that will avoid damaging job losses and safeguard the capacity of schools to meet the needs of all their pupils.
- 3) The Welsh Government should develop a longer-term Covid-19 recovery plan that recognises the impact that the pandemic has had, and continues to have, on each and every school ***Insert and work collaboratively with local Government to address the impact of Covid 19 and the cost of living crisis on our children and young people***
- 4) ***Delete Action is needed if Cardiff is to protect its status as the UK's first city to be awarded Child Friendly City Status. Insert Cardiff will continue to ensure that in line with our Child Friendly City Status the voices of young people are heard when deciding funding priorities.***
- 5) A situation where schools increasingly need to rely on setting deficit budgets to operate is simply not sustainable. ***Insert Cardiff Council will continue to prioritise Education funding, and will work with and engage with our school leaders and Governors to support them in setting balanced budgets whilst maintaining and improving standards and protecting the best interests of our children.***

Delete

This Council calls on the Cabinet to bring forward a funding strategy as part of the Council's future budget consideration that ensures Cardiff's schools can be more adequately funded in order that the proportion of the city's schools that need to set deficit budgets can be substantially reduced

Insert

This Council calls on the Council to write to both the UK and Welsh Government in line with the recent letter by 40 Conservative MP's to Rishi Sunak for further funding for councils to avoid cuts in services.

This Council calls on the Council to sign up to the NAHT's 'In this Together' pledge – committing to work with the education workforce to lobby for more funding to better education for all.

The amended motion would read as follows:

This Council notes:

1. Education has been a key priority of the current administration.
2. Education in Cardiff made strides in education over the last ten years going from below the Welsh average on many of the key performance indicators to above – progress that was recognised during the latest Estyn inspection. Cardiff has also recently been recognised as the first UNICEF Child Friendly City in the UK for prioritising the voices of children and young people
3. Cardiff has the highest delegation rate to schools in Wales and education and social services accounted for 66% of the council's budget in 2023/24 with the council has seeking to protect funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children.
4. Funding of our schools not only comes from the local authority but a significant component comes from grants from Welsh Government which have reduced in value over the last few years. We are waiting to hear the

outcome of the reorganisations of grants being undertaken to simplify the process for schools but this must protect funding for our most vulnerable pupils.

5. In financial year 2023-2024, one special school, 35 primary schools and two secondary schools set deficit budgets at the outset this is a situation repeated across the UK. With many other schools able to set a balanced budget only through the one-off use of their reserves. with widespread fears that the situation will only worsen with even more schools falling into deficit. The teacher's pay increase should be fully funded by the Welsh Government
6. Employee costs account for between 80% and 90% of schools' budgets.
7. Schools are still continuing to work hard to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis and are dealing with multiple demands and pressures as a result. These demands include the need to: improve attendance which at the end of the 2023 academic year was 6% below pre-pandemic levels in secondary schools and 5% in primary schools; engage with families to increase support for vulnerable pupils; improve help for the mental health and well-being of children and young people. We note the importance of the partnership working between education youth and children's services at a time when budgets are under pressure.
8. Schools' leaders and teachers are heavily involved in the implementation of curriculum reform and reform to the provision for pupils with additional learning needs The Welsh Government should ensure it adequately funds curriculum and ALN reform
9. We thank school leaders for their work on the budget forum and working parties given the concerns about addressing the current financial situation. It is absolutely essential that while calling for more funding for education we continue to work together with our schools to protect children and young people and to continue to deliver improvements in education through innovative practice such as that shown by Cardiff Commitment
10. This council notes the recent letter to the UK Government by 40 MP's asking for further funding for local authorities and calls on the council to continue to lobby Welsh Government and the UK Government over the importance of funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children

This Council believes that:

1. All schools must have the resources necessary to maintain a high quality of education.
2. This requires a level of delegated funding that will avoid damaging job losses and safeguard the capacity of schools to meet the needs of all their pupils.
3. The Welsh Government should develop a longer-term Covid-19 recovery plan that recognises the impact that the pandemic has had, and continues to have, on each and every school and work collaboratively with local Government to address the impact of Covid 19 and the cost of living crisis on our children and young people
4. Cardiff will continue to ensure that in line with our Child Friendly City Status the voices of young people are heard when deciding funding priorities.
5. A situation where schools increasingly need to rely on setting deficit budgets to operate is simply not sustainable. Cardiff Council will continue to prioritise Education funding, and will work with and engage with our school leaders and

Governors to support them in setting balanced budgets whilst maintaining and improving standards and protecting the best interests of our children.

This Council calls on the Council to write to both the UK and Welsh Government in line with the recent letter by 40 Conservative MP's to Rishi Sunak for further funding for councils to avoid cuts in services.

This Council calls on the Council to sign up to the NAHT's 'In this Together' pledge – committing to work with the education workforce to lobby for more funding to better education for all.

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ITEM 11

MOTION AND AMENDMENT INFORMATION

MOTION 3

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Jess Moultrie

SECONDED BY: Councillor Jamie Green

AMENDMENT TO MOTION 3

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rhys Taylor

SECONDED BY: Councillor Rodney Berman

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COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2024

NOTICE OF MOTION 2

Proposed by: Councillor Moultrie

Seconded by: Councillor Green

Local Authorities across the country such as Cardiff are currently preparing their annual budgets for 2024/25.

After 13 years of public sector austerity by the Conservative-led UK Government, exacerbated in recent years by the continued impact of Brexit, the long tail of the Pandemic, rampant inflation, and stagnant growth, Councils now face unprecedented levels of demand but wholly insufficient funding. Such is the severity of the situation, that several councils in England have issued Section 114 notices to severely curtail day-to-day spending.

Cardiff Council has faced a cumulative budget gap of over £300 million since 2010, and prudent, decisive action has been needed to protect the Council's financial resilience, whilst still delivering an ambitious Stronger, Fairer, Greener vision.

In particular, the Council notes:

- The continued improvements delivered within our schools, which has seen a dramatic reduction in the number of schools in Estyn Monitoring, NEET figures held at near historically low levels, exam results now comfortably above the Welsh average, and the sustained investment over 11 years into both our schools and the Education estate.
- The progress made in support of children who are looked after, in particular the careful expansion of kinship care, and the delivery of the accommodation strategy. This work is improving the Council's ability to home and care for our most vulnerable young people closer to home.
- The rebuilding of our Youth Service capacity, with budget growth across multiple years, and proposed protection to the service in the forthcoming financial year, enabling the service to build on the success of initiatives like the Cardiff Commitment and the UNICEF Child-Friendly City award to ensure all our young people, regardless of background, can benefit from the opportunities our city offers.
- The pioneering partnership work between our Social Services teams and the NHS which enables timely discharges from hospital to mitigate against Winter

Pressures. This partnership ensures our older people - particularly those with conditions such as dementia - get the specialised care they need, and which is supporting people to live independently at home, with a better quality of life, for longer.

- The success of our award winning Council House building programme, which is transforming lives and communities in every part of Cardiff, and which is also supporting the delivery – at scale – of innovative and rapid housing solutions to help address the latest homelessness crisis affecting all cities.
- All of this is and more is delivered with the Council setting amongst the lowest Council Tax levels in Wales.

Nevertheless, despite the relative protection afforded by the Welsh Government to local authorities, the latest budget round leaves the Council facing significant challenges , and difficult decisions, the results of which residents will feel keenly.

Therefore this Council resolves to

1. Condemn the continued attack on local government finances by the Conservative UK Government, and the detrimental impact this has on the provision of public services;
2. Call on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to announce additional resources targeted at local authorities in his March budget.
3. Endorse the proposed prioritisation of Education and Social Services, as set out within the 2024/25 Budget Update report to Cabinet, but notes any further cuts to local authority funding will leave many non-statutory areas of Council spending essentially “on life-support” until a change of direction is secured at UK Government level.
4. Welcome efforts by Welsh Government to protect Welsh local authorities as far as possible, and calls on the future First Minister to continue this approach, with a particular focus on supporting preventative services.

COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2024

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION 3

Proposed by: Councillor Rhys Taylor
Seconded by: Councillor Rodney Berman

The amendment makes revisions to the final two bullet points of the motion under "Therefore this Council resolves to:". The revised wording is provided below.

- Bring forward a funding strategy to ensure adequate funding for the city's schools with the proportion of schools needing to set deficit budgets significantly reduced, ensure that the 2024-2025 budget provides protection for Social Services, but notes any further cuts to local authority funding will leave many non-statutory areas of Council spending essentially "on life-support" until a change of direction is secured at UK Government level.
- Call on the future First Minister to do more to protect local government funding, with a particular focus on supporting preventative services, noting that, as highlighted by the Welsh Local Government Association, real terms funding for Welsh local government was 12% lower in 2023-24 than in 2009-10 against a backdrop of a 5% real terms increase in the overall Welsh Government budget during the same period.

The amended motion would read as follows:

Local Authorities across the country such as Cardiff are currently preparing their annual budgets for 2024/25.

After 13 years of public sector austerity by the Conservative-led UK Government, exacerbated in recent years by the continued impact of Brexit, the long tail of the Pandemic, rampant inflation, and stagnant growth, Councils now face unprecedented levels of demand but wholly insufficient funding. Such is the severity of the situation, that several councils in England have issued Section 114 notices to severely curtail day-to-day spending.

Cardiff Council has faced a cumulative budget gap of over £300 million since 2010, and prudent, decisive action has been needed to protect the Council's financial resilience, whilst still delivering an ambitious Stronger, Fairer, Greener vision.

In particular, the Council notes:

- The continued improvements delivered within our schools, which has seen a dramatic reduction in the number of schools in Estyn Monitoring, NEET figures held at near historically low levels, exam results now comfortably above the Welsh average, and the sustained investment over 11 years into both our schools and the Education estate.
- The progress made in support of children who are looked after, in particular the careful expansion of kinship care, and the delivery of the accommodation strategy. This work is improving the Council's ability to home and care for our most vulnerable young people closer to home.
- The rebuilding of our Youth Service capacity, with budget growth across multiple years, and proposed protection to the service in the forthcoming financial year, enabling the service to build on the success of initiatives like the Cardiff Commitment and the UNICEF Child-Friendly City award to ensure all our young people, regardless of background, can benefit from the opportunities our city offers.
- The pioneering partnership work between our Social Services teams and the NHS which enables timely discharges from hospital to mitigate against Winter Pressures. This partnership ensures our older people - particularly those with conditions such as dementia - get the specialised care they need, and which is supporting people to live independently at home, with a better quality of life, for longer.
- The success of our award winning Council House building programme, which is transforming lives and communities in every part of Cardiff, and which is also supporting the delivery – at scale – of innovative and rapid housing solutions to help address the latest homelessness crisis affecting all cities.
- All of this is and more is delivered with the Council setting amongst the lowest Council Tax levels in Wales.

Nevertheless, despite the relative protection afforded by the Welsh Government to local authorities, the latest budget round leaves the Council facing significant challenges , and difficult decisions, the results of which residents will feel keenly.

Therefore this Council resolves to

- Condemn the continued attack on local government finances by the Conservative UK Government, and the detrimental impact this has on the provision of public services;
- Call on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to announce additional resources targeted at local authorities in his March budget.
- Bring forward a funding strategy to ensure adequate funding for the city's schools with the proportion of schools needing to set deficit budgets significantly reduced, ensure that the 2024-2025 budget provides protection for Social Services, but notes any further cuts to local authority funding will leave many non-statutory areas of Council spending essentially "on life-support" until a change of direction is secured at UK Government level.

- Call on the future First Minister to do more to protect local government funding, with a particular focus on supporting preventative services, noting that, as highlighted by the Welsh Local Government Association, real terms funding for Welsh local government was 12% lower in 2023-24 than in 2009-10 against a backdrop of a 5% real terms increase in the overall Welsh Government budget during the same period.

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