

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF CARDIFF

The County Council of the City & County of Cardiff met at County Hall, Cardiff on 30 November 2017 to transact the business set out in the Council summons dated Friday, 24 November 2017.

Present: County Councillor Derbyshire (Lord Mayor)

County Councillors Ahmed, Dilwar Ali, Bale, Berman, Bowden, Bowen-Thomson, Boyle, Bradbury, Bridgeman, Burke-Davies, Carter, Congreve, Cowan, Cunnah, Davies, De'Ath, Driscoll, Ebrahim, Elsmore, Ford, Goddard, Goodway, Gordon, Henshaw, Gavin Hill-John, Philippa Hill-John, Hinchey, Howells, Hudson, Jacobsen, Jenkins, Jones-Pritchard, Keith Jones, Owen Jones, Joyce, Kelloway, Lancaster, Lay, Lent, Lister, Mackie, McEvoy, McGarry, McKerlich, Merry, Michael, Molik, Morgan, Naughton, Owen, Jackie Parry, Patel, Phillips, Dianne Rees, Robson, Sandrey, Sattar, Simmons, Stubbs, Taylor, Graham Thomas, Huw Thomas, Lynda Thorne, Walker, Weaver, Wild, Williams, Wong and Wood

82 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ashgar Ali, Murphy, McGarry, Parkhill, Keith Parry and Singh. The Lord Mayor on behalf of all Members wished Councillor Murphy all best as he recovers at home following major surgery.

83 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received in accordance with the Member Code of Conduct

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Councillor Molik	Item 12 Leader and Cabinet Statements – Statement from Cabinet Member, Social Care, Health & Well-being	Personal interest as employed in the sight loss sector
Councillor Bradbury	Item 18 – Local Authority Governor Appointments	Personal interest as nomination for School Governor position
Councillor Williams	Item 18 – Local Authority Governor Appointments	Personal interest having applied to be a School Governor for one of the vacancies listed

Councillor Boyle	Item 12 Leader and Cabinet Statements – Statement from Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member, Education Skills and employment	Personal Interest as wife is academic lead for Modern Foreign Languages Scheme at Cardiff University
Councillor Taylor	Item 15 – Motion 3	Personal interest as an employee of a charity that campaigns on Air Pollution.
Councillor Carter	Item 15 – Motion 3	Personal interest as an employee of a charity that campaigns on Air Pollution
Councillor Gavin Hill – John	Item 15 – Motion 3	As Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus appointed by Council
Councillor Lay	Item 15 – Motion 3	As Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus appointed by Council
Councillor Patel	Item 15 – Motion 3	As Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus appointed by Council
Councillor Robson	Item 15 – Motion 3	As Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus appointed by Council
Councillor Sandrey	Item 15 – Motion 3	As Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus appointed by Council
Councillor Simmons	Item 15 – Motion 3	As Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus appointed by Council
Councillor Stubbs	Item 15 – Motion 3	As Non-Executive Director of Cardiff Bus appointed by Council

84 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting 26 October 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

85 : PETITIONS

The following petitions were submitted: -

1. Councillor Lent – 21 residents of Treharris Street requesting more residents parking.

2. Councillor Burke-Davies – 220 residents opposed to the planning application for Mynachdy Institute on the ward boundary of Gabalfa and Llandaff North wards.
3. Councillor McKerlich – 287 residents of Radyr supporting the a disabled residents request for an additional disabled parking bay on Station Road, Radyr to allow her to be able to park near her place of work.
4. Councillor Naughton – 358 residents against any cuts to the offer and services at Pentwyn Leisure Centre
5. Councillor Molik – 52 residents of Caer Cady Close requesting double yellow lines to be extended and a no through road sign to be placed at the entrance to the Close.
6. Councillor Molik – 34 requesting a 2 hour parking zone on Clearwater Way around the shopping area.
7. Councillor Lay – 248 residents calling on the Council to increase traffic calming measures around Willowbrook Primary School.
8. Councillor Ford – 68 residents calling on the Council to consider traffic safety measures to reduce dangerous driving and speeding on the Ely Road and St Fagans Road in Fairwater.
9. Councillor Ford – 62 residents calling on the Council to consider a one-way system at Fairwater Green due to the number of accidents and dangerous parking resulting in damage to vehicles.

86 : PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Public Question: *from Miss Helen Edwards*

I would be grateful to understand what plans the Council have in place to alleviate the traffic congestion in the city of which there has been a marked increase over the past twelve months to the point that it is now taking me approximately 50 minutes to travel 5 miles from my home in Old St Mellons to my place of work in the city centre?

Reply: *Councillor Caro Wild*

Thank you for your question, and I am sorry to hear it is taking you longer to commute. We are very aware of the frustrations felt by many people living in Cardiff that it is becoming less easy to drive around the city, especially at peak times.

It should be noted that we believe some of the additional congestion around that area and the 'Blooms roundabout' has been caused by the temporary closure of Mardy Bridge, which causes people to head that way to pick up the A48 into the city.

In terms of what plans we have place, I would like to outline the following three areas of work:

- As has been discussed in this chamber at previous meetings and later on the agenda today, I have committed to bringing forward a Green Paper by the end of the financial year on Transport and Clean Air. This will allow a full conversation with residents and stakeholders in Cardiff about the options and possibilities we could consider.

- The Adopted Local Development Plan 2006-2026 includes policies and master planning principles to secure road safety and sustainable travel improvements through the development control process. This will enable walking, cycling and public transport to be increasingly accessible and will support attractive travel choices in order to mitigate the impact of development and to reduce the number of trips being made on the network by private cars. Alongside our LDP, the Council's Local Transport Plan 2015-2020 sets out our priorities for transport investment, including the significant investment that we have made in bus priority measures on Newport Road.
- The Shadow Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority has also been working on a strategy, alongside the Metro, that identifies priorities to make public transport more accessible for people getting into Cardiff, including a focus on more park & ride sites on the periphery of Cardiff.

It is worth noting that, whilst not always an option for everyone, bus travel from Old St Mellons compares favourably with private car travel in terms of cost and time, and whilst the active travel routes from that area have room for improvement; a growing number of people are enjoying the many benefits of cycling from that area and even farther afield.

Supplementary Question: *from Miss Helen Edwards*

Thank you for allowing me time here today to ask the question and I appreciate the response.

I accept what you say about the bus route but if I could just say in my job I need my car as a requirement for my job so unfortunately cannot take the option of the bus away from me.

I am a Chartered Surveyor by profession, therefore I completely understand the needs of the City to expand and develop, and I would go hand in hand with that and support it.

My concern is and what I would ask is how much is given to the infrastructure before the planning is given and the development takes place, if I could just give an example,

I live in Old St Mellons, we have the Llanedeyrn Village development that's coming on, now I know that there are thoughts that Bridge Road would shut as part of that, fine shut Bridge Road but give us an alternative because at the moment I have one option to get out of my house and its nightmare, to the point that my husband and I are thinking is Cardiff the place we want to be anymore.

What are the infrastructure requirements put in place before the planning for this residential development, which I understand is needed for Cardiff, is given?

Reply: *Councillor Caro Wild*

Thank you I think that is an excellent question, I would reiterate it is not something we are hiding behind, we do recognise the genuine concerns and that it is causing hassle for people. I also reiterate that we recognise that public transport and cycling is not acceptable for everybody.

In terms of your question on the LDP and the infrastructure, it's very difficult for us to get all the money before development is taking place, it's just not how it works in this country as much as we would like to, however there are now all sorts of different trigger points and mitigations that come in on our larger developments that allow us to put in place infrastructure based on the size of the developments.

On that one in particular, when the first 50 houses are built, which I understand is the first trigger point, that will trigger every person that lives there will be given access to a free bus pass, that's just an example, those kind of things are happening now, so it's not that the whole development gets done before we get it, there are trigger points as we go along. There are things in place to mitigate against that.

#### 87 : LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ronald (Ron) Page - sadly, the Lord Mayor advised that former Councillor Ron Page, Local Councillor for the Heath Ward had passed away on 17 November 2017. On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor had written a letter of condolence on behalf of the Council to his daughter and family.

Rohingya Crisis Appeal – Councillor Ali Ahmed had advised that the Bangladesh Association had raised £30,000 to support the crisis appeal. Their target was to raise £40,000 to support the refugees with shelter, clothing and fresh water.

Lord Mayors Charity - The Lord Mayor advised that RSPB Memberships are selling well in the lead up to Christmas and that the RSPB had a stall located at the Christmas Market in the City Centre provided free of charge this year by Cardiff Council.

A Christmas Charity Coffee morning was to be held at the Mansion House on 1 December at 10:00am.

The Annual Councillor and Staff Carol Concert is on Wednesday 20 December at 10.30am in County Hall. All Councillors are welcome to join staff for this festive event that will have a retiring collection for the Lord Mayor's Charities.

In the new year, the Lord Mayor advised that he would be attempting a 2-mile swim at his local pool on the 8<sup>th</sup> January. To help raise money for his chosen charities RSPB and Bug Life. Many animals and insects find this time of year very challenging and rely more and more on people putting out food and shelter in their gardens, even so many of our favourites like the butterflies, hedgehogs and many garden birds are declining at an alarming rate. The Lord Mayor hoped that Councillors would give generously to reward his efforts.

Foodbank - the Lord Mayor thanked Councillors on behalf of Councillors Thorne and Bowden for their generous contributions to the Christmas Foodbank collection.

#### Lord Mayor Events.

During November 2017, the Lord Mayor attended a number of Remembrance Commemorations e.g. The RBL Opening Service for the Field of Remembrance at Cardiff Castle where the Lord Mayor planted a Remembrance Cross. The Lord Mayor also attended the RBL Annual Garden of Remembrance event at St. Johns Church and the RBL Wales Festival of Remembrance Service at St. David's Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> November. The Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal was launched at Cardiff Castle and the Lord Mayor laid a wreath at the Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Remembrance Service commemorating the brave seamen who have died in the service of their country.

The Lord Mayor laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Cardiff at the Wales National Service of Remembrance held at the Wales National War Memorial (cenotaph) on 12<sup>th</sup> November organised by Cardiff Council and Welsh Government.

The Lord Mayor opened the intelligent Millionaires Network meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at the Principality Stadium. Around 50 guests attended the launch of the new entrepreneurship and business networking club.

The Lord Mayor presented neckerchiefs to 8 members of the Lord Mayors Own Guides who have recently joined the unit at the Mansion House on 6<sup>th</sup> November. The Lord Mayors Own Scouts & Guides support the Lord Mayor at ceremonial occasions and wear the distinctive neckerchief with the County Coat of Arms embroidered on the back.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress attended a commemorative reception on 9<sup>th</sup> November at the Senedd to mark the Flanders – Wales Hedd Wyn Centenary Commemoration.

The Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress also attended the Royal College of Nursing Wales, Nurse of the Year Awards at City Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> November. This prestigious annual event promotes and celebrates the very best of nursing practise in Wales.

The Lord Mayor chaired a session at County Hall for Parliament Week on 17<sup>th</sup> November. The Question and Answer session was attended by local school pupils who quizzed the Lord Mayor and Members of Parliament Anna McMorrin MP and Jo Stevens MP on democracy issues and their roles in Parliament.

The Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress attended the Wales Care Awards Annual Gala Dinner on 17<sup>th</sup> November at City Hall. The awards (in their 15<sup>th</sup> year) are held to celebrate the remarkable contribution made by the social care workforce in Wales.

The Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress attended the Tree Charter Poles Event on 25<sup>th</sup> November in Bute Park. The event celebrated the permanent installation of a large Totem Pole in Bute Park representing one of the 10 principles of a new Tree Charter for the UK. Bute Park is the only site in Wales selected to host one of the carved poles.

88 : SENIOR MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

The Cabinet Member, Finance, Modernisation and Performance propose the report which sought approval of Council for the creation, public advertisement and remuneration of the new post of Corporate Director People & Communities, which forms part of the new senior management structure that was agreed by the Cabinet on 16 November 2017. The Cabinet Member set out the importance of this role in meeting the Council's ambition to co-ordinating more effective inter-related services within the Council and wider public services and continue on excellent work undertaken in recent years around social care practices delivery complex services to citizens at risk, improving the preventative agenda and breaking down their silo approach for the best interest of citizen of Cardiff.

The Leader of the Council seconded the proposal supporting the need for integration, greater joint working and challenges.

During the debate Councillor Walker proposed that the report be reference back to the Cabinet as it felt that this proposal senior management role and reporting arrangements were of concern and the down grading of the role of Director of Social Services. Councillor Robson seconded the reference back.

During the debate concerns around the integration proposals; the costs of the post; need for accountability based on performance.

The Cabinet Member did not accept the reference back as the proposed role was complementary and in addition to the existing post of Director of Social Services, which would still have statutory responsibilities with a sharp focus on social work practice and performance that will not be compromised. The new role would be a positive development allowing the Council and ambitions of the administration of integrated service improvements to be realised.

The Lord Mayor called for a vote on the reference back to Cabinet.

The reference back was LOST

The recommendations were agreed.

RESOLVED – That

1. the creation and public advertisement of the new post of Corporate Director People & Communities on the basis of the duties, role profile and terms & conditions that were agreed by the Employment Conditions Committee on 22 November 2017 was approved;
2. the remuneration of the new post of Corporate Director People & Communities based on a spot salary of £132,613 per annum in accordance with the recommendation of the Employment Conditions Committee on 22 November 2017 was approved; and

3. responsibility for the appointment of a suitable candidate to the new post of Corporate Director People & Communities is delegated to the Appointments Committee was noted.

#### 89 : TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR 2017-18

The Council's Treasury Management activities are governed by legislation and the revised Code of Practice 2011 developed by Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Cabinet Member Finance, Modernisation and Performance presented the mid-year monitoring report of Treasury Management activities since 1 April 2017 and the position as at 30 September 2017. Councillor Bowen -Thomson seconded the report.

As part of the budget report February 2010, Council adopted CIPFA's revised Treasury Management Code by formal acceptance of the Four Clauses of Treasury Management and Treasury Management Policy Statement as Council policy. The Council's Audit Committee undertakes the scrutiny of the accounting, audit and commercial issues of the Treasury Management Strategy and Practices.

There were no questions to the Cabinet Member on the report.

RESOLVED – That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2017-18 was noted.

#### 90 : SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

The Cabinet Member, Strategic Planning and Transport proposed the report and the following Supplementary Planning Guidance that had been the subject of consultation, for adoption by Full Council: -

- Green Infrastructure including Technical Guidance Notes relating to:
  - Ecology and Biodiversity
  - Trees and Development
  - Public Rights of Way and Development
  - River Corridors
  - Protection and Provision of Open Space in New Developments
  - Soils and Development
- Infill Sites
- Planning for Health and Well-being
- Residential Extensions and Alterations
- Food Drink and Leisure Uses
- Safeguarding Business and Industrial Land and Premises
- Childcare Facilities

The Cabinet Member emphasised the importance of SPGs in supplementing adopted Cardiff Local Development Plan (LDP) policies and strengthening the Council's



approach to development and change. These SPG's were the third tranche of this programme and further tranches will be brought before Cabinet and Council in next 12 months.

Councillor Michael as former Chair of Planning seconded the proposal emphasising the need for robust planning guidance to support the work of the Committee and Council.

As part of the debate Members raised points around the provision of electric charging in new developments to encourage sustainable transport; the importance of the SPG's to all Members and all wards in Cardiff; concerns raised by the Civic Society and protection of sustainable environment; consideration of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act – risk of pollution; traffic congestion and flooding; using of green field sites. The strength of SPG's in supporting the approved LDP. The Cabinet Member responded to these issues and advised that the SPG provide the right balance for the planning and sustainability of the Cardiff environment.

RESOLVED – That the Council Supplementary Planning Guidance on Green Infrastructure, Infill Sites, Planning for Health and Well-being, Residential Extensions and Alterations, Food Drink and Leisure Uses, Safeguarding Business and Industrial Land and Premises and Childcare Facilities as appended to the report were approved.

#### 91 : LOCAL RESOLUTION PROTOCOL

The Leader of the Council presented the report on the amendments to the Local Resolution Protocol recommended by the Standards and Ethics Committee.

The Leader referred to the previous process and proposed extension of the Protocol to low-level complaints made by officers about the conduct of a Member these changes being recommended by the Standards and Ethics Committee and the Senior Management team. Such complaints are generally dealt with informally by the Monitoring Officer. However, the extension of the Local Resolution Protocol would make Hearing Panel proceedings available where necessary, and may similarly help to avoid unnecessary escalation of a difficult situation and damage to personal relationships within the Council and the Council's reputation. The advised that some other local authorities extend their local resolution process to officers.

Councillor Cunnah in seconding the proposal to amend and hoped that the protocol be used sparingly if at all. At the last Standard and Ethics Committee, it was reported that only one complaint had been received against a Member. He commented the low level resolution protocol,

As part of the debate, a Member asked for definition of low-level complaint and alleged breach of the Code of Conduct and the Monitoring Officer clarified what the Ombudsman considered low-level complaint; the process and informal resolution procedures she adopts; and explained that the payment of Independent Members for any additional hearing meetings would be met from existing budgets.

RESOLVED –That

1. the recommended amendments to the Local Resolution Protocol shown at Appendix A were approved; and
2. the Monitoring Officer was authorised, in consultation with the Standards and Ethics Committee Chairperson, to make any minor amendments to the Protocol as may be required from time to time.

92 : CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT  
2016/17

Councillor Lent former Deputy Leader and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee present the Committee's Annual Report 2016/17 to Council. The report reflected on a much more productive year than 2015-16 and the fact that a settled committee was much better placed to focus on the Corporate Parenting Strategy and on ensuring that it has impact for looked after children and young people and care leavers.

The report provides a strong basis for reassuring all stakeholders of the priority that Cardiff Council and its partners give to the needs of looked after children and care leavers and demonstrates that the Committee's corporate parenting priorities for disabled children had translated into substantive change on the ground.

The report however was the foundations for a longer-term journey, as there is much to be achieved in terms of improving outcomes and Councillor Lent was pleased to still be a member of the committee and was able to continue with the of prioritise its work this year and ensure better outcomes.

The Cabinet Member, Children and Families thanked the Committee for its hard work and welcomed the opportunity of working with the Committee, partners and stakeholders to drive the programme forward with the Deputy Leader and other Committee Members. The Cabinet Member in welcomed the session that had been run by UNICEF for Councillor on the UN Rights of the Child and encourage these Members who had not had the opportunity to undertake these sessions to take them up in February 2018 when UNICEF would host them again for Elected Members.

The Committee and officers were thanked for their work and commitment in supporting of looked after children, young people and care leavers.

The Lord Mayor invited contributions and questions and the following issues were raised in relation to safeguarding matters and parental rights; the need to work with families; the importance of intervention services; and the need for greater emphasis on preventative strategy and partnership working with the Third Sector and Charities The initiatives such as the Bright Sparks Awards; Traineeship and apprenticeship scheme were applauded, as well as the Cardiff Child Friendly City Status.

RESOLVED – That the report be revived and noted and the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee be commended on its work in 2016/17.

93 : LEADER AND CABINET STATEMENTS

The following statements were received:

1. [Leader Statement](#)

The Leader responded to questions on his statement relating to the WLGA Autumn Seminar and the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services statement on local government reform; planning for Just Cities and Wellbeing objectives that will be drawn out in the Council's Wellbeing Plan which will be reported to Council in March.

2. [Cabinet Member, Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment](#)

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on his statement relating to the Skip Service and the work to identify a reuse centre in Cardiff North.

3. [Cabinet Member, Social Care, Health & Well-being](#)

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on her statement relating to Dementia Friendly Status and Pledge and training in other service areas; White Ribbon Day and the need also to raise awareness of violence against men and boys and signposting to support services.

The Cabinet Member was also pleased to have attended a recognition Award event for Carers on 29 November and some of the amazing stories and achievements of so many carers in the community.

4. [Cabinet Member, Strategic Planning & Transport](#)

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on his statement relating to Electric Vehicles and Charging points; Road Safety Crossing patrols; Winter maintenance of the Taff Trail Road Safety Cycle training.

The Cabinet Member advised of the ongoing work on the Clean Air Green Paper related to transport, air quality and related health improvements. The Green Paper would be brought to Full Council as part of the consultation process.

5. [Cabinet Member, Investment & Development](#)

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on his statement in relation to the Asset Management Plan and the closure and disposal of the Wedal Road site; Cardiff Capital Fund and equity investments; and the launch of the Green Paper "*Building More and Better Jobs*" which was being launched for a three month consultation on 1 December 2017 and would be brought for debate to Full Council on 25 January, 2018 as part of the consultation process.

6. [Cabinet Member, Culture & Leisure](#)

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on his statement relating to trees in parks and issues around National Resources Wales and the flood prevention scheme in Roath Gardens; trees on land other than parks; the shortlisting of Roath Park for Best Park Award 2017 and the sponsored Cardiff Christmas tree sited at Cardiff Castle replacing the previous decorated tree of last year.

7. [Deputy Leader, Education, Employment & Skills Statement](#)

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on her statement relating to the hosting of Parliament Week event at County Hal; Estyn performance reports for Eastern High School and Ysgol Berllan Deg; Anti- Bullying Week and training of teachers and staff.

8. [Cabinet Member, Finance Modernisation & Performance](#)

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on his statement relating to the Welsh Government Budget Settlement; the Wales Interpretation and Translation Services and services provided to the Deaf community; Wales CIPD People Management Awards; Sickness Absence; transparency of Safeguarding Board recommendations and decisions and how issues can be raise internally.

9. [Cabinet Member, Housing & Communities](#)

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on her statement relating to the launch of 'Give DIFFerently' initiative to support rough sleepers; Rent Smart Wales; whilst recognising the success of Hubs and opening of the new Powerhouse Hub in Llanedeyrn those housebound and disabled residents who cannot access services should not be further isolated.

94 : MOTION 1

The Lord Mayor advised that a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Burke-Davies and seconded by Councillor Lister had been received for consideration and was included on the Summons for the meeting.

The Notice of Motion was as follows:

This Council notes that Universal Credit, the single monthly payment which replaces the six current working age benefits, is to be rolled out in Cardiff from the end of February 2018.

Despite the outstanding work being undertaken in Cardiff to support, advise and assist those impacted by welfare reform, it is inevitable that Universal Credit will impact negatively on the lives of the most vulnerable people in our city through the operation of a process that seems designed to push people into poverty and debt. This Council also notes that, within our area, the number of people who will be affected by these changes is likely to be in the tens of thousands.

Cardiff Council notes with concern that the move to a Full Service Universal Credit in other parts of the country has caused considerable financial hardship for many of those people moving onto this new system of benefit payments. Before a full roll out of Universal credit the following problems need to be addressed:

- The six week wait for claimants to receive their benefits. The idea that all workers are in jobs where they are paid a month in arrears ignores the reality for the 1.5m workers who struggle on zero hours, insecure jobs or forced self-employment. Claimants need to be paid from day one.

- Payments going to one named member of a household. Many claimants struggle to budget and payments should be paid to the separate claimants within a household and on a fortnightly rather than monthly basis. With the present policy there is a real danger that if the whole benefit goes to one named individual there is no guarantee that the money will be distributed fairly within the household
- Claimants need to have their rent paid directly to landlords to avoid the unacceptably high levels of arrears and homelessness that have occurred in the areas where UC already exists. Pushing claimants into debt adds to the stress and insecurity for claimants.
- An end to benefit sanctions as there is no evidence that sanctioning helps people into work. In fact taking away claimant's ability to feed themselves and their families prevents them from focusing on finding employment as they are too busy trying to survive. The evidence of the harm that sanctions cause is growing – they are an unnecessary cruelty in our benefits system.
- Allow all new claimants to apply for Universal credit in jobs centres or alternative funding should be provided for the Council to take on this role. Forcing new claimant to apply on-line causes real problems for many people who don't have either access or the IT skills to cope with the complex online application. The use of a paid helpline also needs to be abandoned as claimants cannot afford the expensive rates charged. The planned job centre closures also needs to be reversed as claimants need face to face support to help them back into work and to deal with the complexity of Universal Credit.
- Abandon the in-work conditionality for part-time or low paid workers – the idea that there are extra hours or higher paid work for the large numbers of these affected workers is simply not the case. This clause of UC places the emphasis on individuals who often want greater number of hours of work – and not on the employers who benefit from short hours and insecurity.
- The overall level that UC is funded needs to be urgently increased. The rate at which some claimants will lose benefit is set at 63p in the pound which when compared with the top rate of income tax of 45% on incomes over £150,000 a year, demonstrates just how unfair UC is for the lowest income households.

This Council notes with concern, therefore, that the implementation of a Full Service Universal Credit in the city is likely to prove seriously detrimental to the health and wellbeing of thousands of its local residents.

Cardiff Council therefore resolves to:

Request all its political group leaders to jointly write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions asking that the system of Universal Credit is redesigned in such a way that it removes the inherent risks that this council has expressed its concerns over.

The Lord Mayor advised that one amendment to the motion had been received: -

Amendment: Proposed by: Councillor Dianne Rees

Seconded by: Councillor Joel Williams

Second paragraph starting "*Despite.....*" delete all

Third paragraph delete all after "*Cardiff Council notes....*" and insert

*"that the Government has recognised the need to simplify the system of benefit payments and that there have been elements of the rollout which need to be refined. We note."*

Bullet Point 1. Delete all after "*The Six week*" and replace with

*"1. The Government has listened to concerns raised and have reduced the wait for claimants to receive benefits from 6 weeks to 5 weeks. It is hoped that the wait can be further reduced where possible".*

Delete all remaining bullet points and replace with

*2. That Universal Credit is designed to be graduated so that as income increases, some benefits are still received. The idea is to avoid the poverty trap – where there is a disincentive to work longer hours because the person loses all benefits, pays higher taxes and ends up without any increase in discretionary income.*

*3. Previous benefits like income support had a 100% withdrawal rate. However with Universal Credit, financial support will be reduced at a steady rate offering a transition period where benefits are still paid in a new job.*

*4. Universal Credit presents opportunities to those in receipt of benefits by asking claimants to accept a 'claimant commitment'. This includes a willingness to take a job offered, a willingness to provide a CV and attend any relevant training or job interviews. It is important that the job offered is relevant to the skill set and abilities of the claimant.*

*5. It is important to encourage and empower independence therefore support for housing costs goes direct into the monthly universal credit payment. This system encourages financial management and we accept a few may need education and help in managing budgets.*

*6. There will be a benefit cap. This aim to prevent people receiving more benefits than the average weekly wage after tax and National Insurance. For couples and single parent households the cap will be £500 a week. For single adults the cap will be £350 a week. This ensures that those in work are not worse off than those in receipt of benefits.*

*7. It is acknowledged that there may be difficulty in applying solely online for Universal Credit. The Government acted when it was made known that a charge was levied for claimants applying by phone and acted to remove the charge. We also support the outstanding work being undertaken in Cardiff to support, advise and assist those who are and will be claiming Universal Credit.*

8. *Universal Credit will not replace the following benefits:*

- *Carer's allowance*
- *Child benefit*
- *Council tax relief*
- *Personal Independence Payments*
- *Maternity allowance*
- *Parts of the social fund*
- *Contributory employment and support allowance*
- *Contributory jobseeker's allowance*
- *Industrial injuries disablement benefit*
- *Pension credit*
- *Statutory maternity pay*
- *Statutory sick pay*
- *War pensions*

9. *Under Universal Credit, there are loans available to those who require assistance. The loan is called a 'budgeting advance' – and is paid back by getting lower Universal Credit payments until it's paid off. Claimants will be told how much payments will be reduced by whilst the loan is being repaid.*

Under the Resolution:

First line of the resolution removed the word “jointly”.

Second line of the resolution delete all after asking... and replace with “*him to continue to recognise and act where legitimate concerns are raised in the rollout process.*”

Add an additional paragraph to read

*“In conclusion, it is welcomed that in his most recent budget, The Chancellor, Philip Hammond announced a £1.5billion overhaul that would reduce the time it took for families to receive money. This Government is listening to the legitimate observations regarding Universal Credit and acting promptly”.*

The amended motion would then read:

This Council notes that Universal Credit, the single monthly payment which replaces the six current working age benefits, is to be rolled out in Cardiff from the end of February 2018.

Cardiff Council notes that the Government has recognised the need to simplify the system of benefit payments and that there have been elements of the rollout which need to be refined. We note:

1. The Government has listened to concerns raised and have reduced the wait for claimants to receive benefits from 6 weeks to 5 weeks. It is hoped that the wait can be further reduced where possible.

2. That Universal Credit is designed to be graduated so that as income increases, some benefits are still received. The idea is to avoid the poverty trap – where there is a disincentive to work longer hours because the person loses all benefits, pays higher taxes and ends up without any increase in discretionary income.
3. Previous benefits like income support had a 100% withdrawal rate. However with Universal Credit, financial support will be reduced at a steady rate offering a transition period where benefits are still paid in a new job.
4. Universal Credit presents opportunities to those in receipt of benefits by asking claimants to accept a 'claimant commitment'. This includes a willingness to take a job offered, a willingness to provide a CV and attend any relevant training or job interviews. It is important that the job offered is relevant to the skill set and abilities of the claimant.
5. It is important to encourage and empower independence therefore support for housing costs goes direct into the monthly universal credit payment. This system encourages financial management and we accept a few may need education and help in managing budgets.
6. There will be a benefit cap. This aim to prevent people receiving more benefits than the average weekly wage after tax and National Insurance. For couples and single parent households the cap will be £500 a week. For single adults the cap will be £350 a week. This ensures that those in work are not worse off than those in receipt of benefits.
7. It is acknowledged that there may be difficulty in applying solely online for Universal Credit. The Government acted when it was made known that a charge was levied for claimants applying by phone and acted to remove the charge. We also support the outstanding work being undertaken in Cardiff to support, advise and assist those who are and will be claiming Universal Credit.
8. Universal Credit will not replace the following benefits:
  - Carer's allowance
  - Child benefit
  - Council tax relief
  - Personal Independence Payments
  - Maternity allowance
  - Parts of the social fund
  - Contributory employment and support allowance
  - Contributory jobseeker's allowance
  - Industrial injuries disablement benefit
  - Pension credit
  - Statutory maternity pay
  - Statutory sick pay
  - War pensions



9. Under Universal Credit, there are loans available to those who require assistance. The loan is called a 'budgeting advance' – and is paid back by getting lower Universal Credit payments until it's paid off. Claimants will be told how much payments will be reduced by whilst the loan is being repaid.

Cardiff Council therefore resolves to:

1. Request all its political group leaders to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions asking him to continue to recognise and act where legitimate concerns are raised in the rollout process.

In conclusion, it is welcomed that in his most recent budget, The Chancellor, Philip Hammond announced a £1.5billion overhaul that would reduce the time it took for families to receive money. This Government is listening to the legitimate observations regarding Universal Credit and acting promptly.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the motion. At the conclusion of the debate the Lord Mayor invited Councillor Burke – Davies to sum up. In summing up Councillor Burke – Davies advised that she did not accept the amendment.

The Lord Mayor moved to the votes

The Vote on the Amendment as proposed by Councillor Rees was LOST

The vote on the original motion as proposed by Councillor Buke Davies was CARRIED.

## 95 : MOTION 2

The Lord Mayor advised that a notice of motion proposed by Councillor De'Ath and seconded by Councillor Goddard had been received for consideration and was included on the Summons for the meeting.

The Notice of Motion was as follows:

This Council notes that:

1. 130 young people (aged 16 or over) left the care of City of Cardiff Council and began the difficult transition out of care and into adulthood during the 16/17 financial year.
2. A 2016 report by The Children's Society found that when care leavers move into independent accommodation they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. The report showed that care leavers can find this extremely challenging and with no family to support them and insufficient financial education, are falling into debt and financial difficulty.

3. Research from The Centre for Social Justice found that over half (57%) of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt when leaving care.
4. The local authority has statutory corporate parenting responsibilities towards young people who have left care up until the age of 25.

This Council believes that:

1. To ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt as they begin to manage their own finances, they should be exempt from paying council tax.
2. Care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt.

This Council, therefore, resolves:

To take a report to the next Cabinet meeting exploring measures to use the City Council's convening powers and expertise in corporate parenting to work with all council tax collecting authorities to exempt all care leavers in the county from council tax, sharing any arising costs proportionately.

There were no amendments to the motion.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the motion. At the end of the debate Councillor De'Ath was provide an opportunity to Sum Up before the Motion was put to the Vote.

The Motion as proposed by Councillor De'Ath was CARRIED

96 : MOTION 3

The Lord Mayor advised that a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Driscoll and seconded by Councillor Philippa Hill-John had been received for consideration and was included on the Summons for the meeting.

The Notice of Motion was as follows:

This Council notes that:

1. Cardiff's population is projected to grow by 26%, which is the highest projected growth and expansion of any UK city during the period of our Local Development Plan. This expansion will increase traffic pollution throughout the city.
2. That poor air quality damages people' health and damages buildings – especially in our conservation areas.
3. That traffic congestion outside schools will increase levels of pollution during the school run.

4. That at present Cardiff constantly fails to meet air quality standards with regard to NO<sub>2</sub> levels in areas of the city, and that present levels of particulates have a negative impact on health.

This Council calls on the Cabinet:

1. To instigate the live monitoring of Cardiff's Air quality with monitoring stations at different locations across the city.
2. To undertake a comprehensive feasibility study of overhauling Cardiff Council's vehicle fleet in order to bring those vehicles in line with the very latest environmental friendly technology, and to consider the possibility of grants for green technology on the bus fleets operating in Cardiff.
3. To ensure that Cardiff Council works in close partnership with key stakeholders including neighbouring local authorities and business, to ensure that best practice in delivering clean air strategies can be learnt from and implemented in Cardiff.
4. To assess Cardiff's current level of readiness to take advantage of electric vehicle technology, including charging points and ensure that Cardiff works towards becoming an electric vehicle friendly city.
5. To further develop the walk to school scheme and workplace travel plans for Cardiff businesses.

The lord Mayor advised that two amendments had been received as follows:

Amendment 1

Proposed by           Councillor Emma Sandrey

Seconded by         Councillor Nigel Howells

Insert in resolution 1, after city, *'particularly outside schools, and commit to investment in public health alerts.'*

Insert in resolution 4, after city, *'Whilst recognising this strategy must run alongside efforts to help residents switch to using more sustainable modes of transport (including public transport, cycling and walking) it should also include investigating the feasibility of installing electric vehicle charging points within existing street lights, particularly in those areas of the city where there is a lack of off-street parking.'*

Insert a new resolution 6, after number 5, *'To urge the Welsh Government to bring forward guidance on Clean Air Zones in major Welsh cities, and to provide the accompanying funds for implementation, where appropriate.'*

The motion, as amended will read:

This Council notes that:

1. Cardiff's population is projected to grow by 26%, which is the highest projected growth and expansion of any UK city during the period of our Local Development Plan. This expansion will increase traffic pollution throughout the city.
2. That poor air quality damages people's health and damages buildings – especially in our conservation areas.
3. That traffic congestion outside schools will increase levels of pollution during the school run.
4. That at present Cardiff constantly fails to meet air quality standards with regard to NO<sub>2</sub> levels in areas of the city, and that present levels of particulates have a negative impact on health.

This Council calls on the Cabinet:

1. To enhance the live monitoring of Cardiff's air quality with monitoring stations at different locations across the city, particularly outside schools, and commit to investment in public health alerts.
2. To undertake a comprehensive feasibility study of overhauling Cardiff Council's vehicle fleet in order to bring those vehicles in line with the very latest environmental friendly technology, and to consider the possibility of grants for green technology on the bus fleets operating in Cardiff.
3. To ensure that Cardiff Council works in close partnership with key stakeholders including neighbouring local authorities and business, to ensure that best practice in delivering clean air strategies can be learnt from and implemented in Cardiff.
4. To assess Cardiff's current level of readiness to take advantage of electric vehicle technology, including charging points and ensure that Cardiff works towards becoming an electric vehicle friendly city. Whilst recognising this strategy must run alongside efforts to help residents switch to using more sustainable modes of transport (including public transport, cycling and walking) it should also include investigating the feasibility of installing electric vehicle charging points within existing street lights, particularly in those areas of the city where there is a lack of off-street parking.
5. To further develop the walk to school scheme and workplace travel plans for Cardiff businesses.
6. To urge the Welsh Government to bring forward guidance on Clean Air Zones in major Welsh cities, and to provide the accompanying funds for implementation, where appropriate.

Amendment 2

Proposed by Councillor Caro Wild

Seconded by Councillor Michael Michael

Point 2 delete all after *2people's health*" and insert "*as outlined in the recent report of the Director of Public Health for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.*"

Point 4 first line delete "*constantly fails to meet*" and insert "*Council has concerns about*"

Point 4 second line after "*standards*" insert "*in certain areas of the city*" and delete after "*NO2 levels*", "*in areas of the city*" and that present levels of particulates have a negative impact on health.

The Resolution after This Council delete the words "*calls on the Cabinet*" and replace with "*endorses:*"

Point 1 delete "*To instigate the*" and replace with "*The ongoing*"

Pont 2 delete "*To undertake a comprehensive feasibility study of overhauling*" and replace with "*The work currently underway on improving*"

Point 2 delete all after "*technology*".

Point 3 delete "*To ensure that Cardiff Council works*" and replace with "*The commitment given, in Capital Ambition and elsewhere, to work*"

Point 3 Line 3 after the word "*business*" add the following "*as well as partner Core Cities,*"

Add a new point 4 to read "*The work of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee which is in the process of a rigorous task and finish exercise looking on 'Improving Cardiff's Air Quality'.*"

Addition of another resolution

*This Council further welcomes the commitment given by the Cabinet to bring forward a Green Paper on Transport and Air Quality which will include (but not be limited to)*

Old Point 4 delete "*To Assess*" and replace with "*An assessment of*"

Old Point 4, line 3 delete "*and*" and replace with "*to*"

Old Point 5 delete "*To further develop the*" and replace with "*Further development of*"

Old Point, first line after "school" add "*schemes, new cycling programmes*"

The motion, as amended will read:

This Council notes that:

1. Cardiff's population is projected to grow by 26%, which is the highest projected growth and expansion of any UK city during the period of our Local Development Plan. This expansion will increase traffic pollution throughout the city.
2. That poor air quality damages people's health, as outlined in the recent report of the Director of Public Health for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.
3. That traffic congestion outside schools will increase levels of pollution during the school run.
4. That at present Cardiff Council has concerns about air quality standards in certain areas of the city with regard to NO<sub>2</sub> levels, and that present levels of particulates have a negative impact on health.

This Council endorses:

1. The ongoing live monitoring of Cardiff's Air quality with monitoring stations at different locations across the city.
2. The work currently underway on improving Cardiff Council's vehicle fleet in order to bring those vehicles in line with the very latest environmental friendly technology.
3. The commitment given, in Capital Ambition and elsewhere, to work in close partnership with key stakeholders including neighbouring local authorities and business, as well as partner Core Cities, to ensure that best practice in delivering clean air strategies can be learnt from and implemented in Cardiff.
4. The work of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee which is in the process of a rigorous task and finish exercise looking on 'Improving Cardiff's Air Quality'.

This Council further welcomes the commitment given by the Cabinet to bring forward a Green Paper on Transport and Air Quality which will include (but not be limited to)

5. An assessment of Cardiff's current level of readiness to take advantage of electric vehicle technology, including charging points, to ensure that Cardiff works towards becoming an electric vehicle friendly city.
6. Further development of walk to school schemes, new cycling programmes, and workplace travel plans for Cardiff businesses.

At this point Councillor Driscoll indicated that he accepted both of the Amendments to the notice of motion.

A copy of the composite motion encompassing the original motion and the two amendments was circulated electronically and hard copy to Members and the Lord Mayor provided Members with an opportunity to read the Composite motion before inviting debate.

At this point Councillor Bowen –Thomson proposed that under Council Procedure Rule 25 (a) Motions during Meetings (ix) that the motion be put to the vote. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Mackie.

The Lord Mayor ruled that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26(c) that as there was unanimity across the chamber and due to time pressures on the agenda that he would put the Composite motion to the Vote.

The Composite motion as proposed by Councillor Driscoll was CARRIED

#### 97 : ORAL QUESTIONS

Question: *Councillor Kelloway*

I have been approached by a number of residents in Cyncoed who are strongly of the opinion that there exist addresses of convenience within the catchments of the popular schools in the area, and that these 'revolving door' addresses are rented on a short term basis to meet the criteria for admission. Whilst technically these families are residents in the area at the appropriate time, many bona fide residents consider this to be an abuse of the spirit of the admissions policy. Do you recognise that such practices cause children whose families do live in the area to miss out on school places that would be more appropriate for them, given their location?

Reply: *Councillor Merry*

By law, all admissions authorities must give equal priority to families that live in rented properties and those who own a property. I hope that all Members in this chamber would agree in any case that that is appropriate and fair.

The Council is vigilant in ensuring that all applications made for a school place on the basis of residence are genuine and any applicants found to not to be resident at the address supplied, from the time of application until they enter school, would have their places removed.

Three pupils allocated places at the local secondary school for Cyncoed had their places withdrawn in 2017.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Kelloway*

Thank you Councillor Merry you actually answered my supplementary question in your statement.

I would ask that during the consultation period, you will consider what measures the Council can take to ensure that families who are long term residents of the

catchment area are given priority and that there are investigations into the issue of revolving door addresses.

Reply: *Councillor Merry*

I can assure you that I have total support for the withdrawal of school places where people are not found to be resident. Thank you for the opportunity to highlight the admissions policy consultation, I would encourage very single Member in the Chamber to give very serious attention to that this year, there are changes in that document, there is no pre-determined view and as the accompanying research shows every option has pros and cons because what you are essentially doing is choosing between 2 pupils living within a catchment area who have applied for the same high school and its very important that we get the input of all Members into the best way of addressing that.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Molik*

As Councillor Kelloway suggested, the demand in Cyncoed and Lakeside for school places is always reaching crisis point, we seem to get double the number of applications than places. Whilst I understand the secondary school situation is more complex, can I seek guaranteed places for primary school places for the children in our ward in the local schools.

Reply: *Councillor Merry*

I just refer to the importance of all Members' responding to the consultation on the admissions policy, it is that policy that dictates how we allocate places where there is over demand within a catchment area. As is clear, any of those options is putting the interest of one child against another and there are pros and cons for example, included in that policy would be the consideration of a designated feeder school option but there will be disadvantages to that too, particularly for residents in Cyncoed and I really would encourage all local Members to give serious thought because it will not be the case that all groups will have the same view on this.

Question: *Councillor Carter*

What extra winter homelessness support will the council and voluntary sector partners be funding this year?

Reply: *Councillor Thorne*

At the end of October, 39 Cold Weather Provision accommodation spaces were opened at Huggard, Ty Tresillian, Cardiff YMCA and Salvation Army. This week, a further 4 spaces will be opened with Gwalia.

The Night Shelter organised by Cardiff Churches will also start on 18<sup>th</sup> December providing an extra 15 beds.

We have contingency plans in place to immediately add 13 spaces at Huggard and Salvation Army, if needed.



Finally, as an emergency planning measure during any period of extreme weather, arrangements have been made to be able to open a 'Rest Centre' for up to 15 people.

This gives an overall capacity of 86 Cold Weather spaces, which is more than ever before.

It should also be noted that we are currently developing an extra 24 year-round emergency Nightshelter and Pod spaces with the Wallich and Huggard, using Council and Welsh Government funding to meet the increased need. We do have vacant hostel spaces at the moment.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Carter*

Thank you for your very detailed answer and the statement as well, I think we have all noticed in the last few days the sudden dip in temperature, which we feel ourselves in our homes but we are obviously very lucky to have those homes to be in in the first place.

These numbers are reassuring, whilst we have the capacity at the moment, I'm conscious there are some people on our streets who at the moment are still worrying and are reluctant to go into those hostels for various reasons, some very personal to themselves; what specific efforts are being made at this time of year with it being so cold, by council staff to try and reassure or help and enable those people to go into the additional beds that you have made available.

Reply: *Councillor Thorne*

The outreach workers are doing everything they possibly can, they are out there seven days a week until midnight and beyond trying to find suitable bed spaces. I think that's the issue as well about asking people not to give as its helping people stay on the streets rather than engaging with us. We have set up a partnership with Police and the Health Service and although this activity 'Operation Purple Ash' is by the Police as a result of the many complaints they have received about begging, part of our action will be to serve notices on people so that eventually hopefully we will get conditions and they can be taken to court, they have to engage, I hate the word but trying to force people to engage with us but it is not in their interest to stay on the streets, we really do need to get them off the streets and I do recognise that need to provide a lot of support.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Lay*

What can we do as Councillors to help homelessness throughout the City, supporting yourself and officials?

Reply: *Councillor Thorne*

To get the message out there about how much provision there is and how much help and support and the fact that there is all sorts of tweeting and Facebook posts

and I think that people believe that there isn't enough help out there and people believe there isn't enough accommodation and there is. I do understand the complications and complicated issues that many of them face. We are also looking at how we help them to move on because part of the problem as well is that many of those who are street homeless keep going around in circles, they get housed, they get evicted and are back out on the streets again, what we need to look at is intense support and I'm talking to lots of organisations about establishing a mentoring system because when things go wrong people need to know that there is somebody they can make a personal connection to that can help them through. Really spreading the word about how much help there is out there and that people shouldn't really be giving.

Question: *Councillor Dilwar Ali*

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the importance of political education in schools?

Reply: *Councillor Merry*

Many schools are active in term of political education. Some of our schools also have connections with the European Youth Parliament, have a very active debating society and run mock elections.

The Council has also supported events held as part of Local Democracy Week and Parliament Week, giving school pupils the opportunity to question representatives.

Together with the Child Rights programme, we want to build on the good work that is currently carried out in our schools – and by youth services and other organisations – to provide further opportunities to inform and equip young people to engage in our democratic processes in the future.

Going back to the silly remarks about North Korea, the point of political education is not to indoctrinate young people, it's about making them engaged, questioning, responsible citizens who actually understand the institutions that operate and how they can influence them.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor McKerlich*

Given the popular support you gave for one party democracy as set out in your earlier effort, can I suggest that your statement of political education should include a study of political system in Venezuela, the country so beloved of your Leader Mr Corbyn because your research might point out to him that despite having vast oil reserves there is no money to pay for generous systems of universal credit not only that fortunately they are so short of food that the fact there is no toilet paper goes unnoticed.

Reply: *Councillor Merry*

I am so sorry that the Conservative oppositions seem to be struggling with the fact that with the representation we have got in Cardiff, that it was inevitable that of we

were having MP's to be questioned by our pupils, they would be Labour and for the local election event, myself and Huw Thomas were questioned by school pupils, it wasn't a question of a party political debate, they had an opportunity to ask questions about the things that they thought were important in their local area and actually I think it's quite offensive to make references to various regimes around the world.

Question: *Councillor Graham Thomas*

Last week we learned that some of Cardiff's primary schools were oversubscribed by over 50% for 2017-2018. How is the Council addressing the issue of ensuring that sufficient local places are available in future?

Reply: *Councillor Merry*

Parents are advised to state three preferences for admission to primary school and it is therefore an inevitable consequence that many schools would have more preferences submitted than places available.

For admissions in 2017/18, sufficient places were available for all pupils who wanted a place in English-medium or Welsh-medium primary schools.

Only 1% of the 4,100 pupils admitted to primary education city-wide were refused a place at their catchment area primary school and to put into context how impressive that is, the most recent reception intake was 28% higher than it was in 2006.

In the past three years alone, the Council has brought forward additional school places at:

- Radyr Primary;
- Howardian Primary;
- Pontprennau Primary;
- Ysgol Glan Ceubal;
- Ysgol Hamadryad; and
- Ysgol Glan Morfa

This has ensured that there are sufficient local places in each area and in each language medium.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Graham Thomas*

In relation to the LDP and the new large strategic developments coming online in the East and the West of the City, what short and medium term measures are in place to support these primary schools like Creigiau and Pontprennau that you have mentioned, as they will see a large influx of extra pupils before the new primary schools come online from those new developments.

Reply: *Councillor Merry*

We will be bringing forward proposals for additional primary school places in both Welsh and English medium under Band B. Obviously consideration is separate for the local development sites and we will be bringing forward plans in the near future.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Berman*

In relation to these figures that this question is referring which were covered in Wales Online recently, and outlined how many pupils were refused places in each primary school across Cardiff, I'm wondering if you can provide us with a breakdown of those figures specifying how many of the pupils refused places in each primary school were from pupils living in the catchment area and how were from pupils living outside of the catchment area.

Reply: *Councillor Merry*

I believe, and I'm slightly hesitant in case I have this wrong, only 6 schools refused pupils from within their own catchment area, one of which was Marlborough which is obviously heavily oversubscribed, equally we have put in a new school within the area so there were enough places within the primary schools within Penylan to cover the total demand.

Question: *Councillor Naughton*

With so many hundreds of families being hit by additional charges from Better following the replacement of the All Active Junior Card, what is the cabinet member doing to hold the company to account and make sure our leisure centres actually get better?

Reply: *Councillor Bradbury*

Firstly, thanks to the GLL/Council Partnership our Leisure Centres are contracted to remain open for 15 years unless the Council say otherwise. He should be aware that Pentwyn Leisure Centre in his ward is the most subsidised centre in Cardiff and we would have struggled to sustain it without the help of GLL/Better.

Secondly, he is wrong in saying that charges are going up on memberships above and beyond the contract. I assume he is referring to the change in scope of membership of the Junior Active Card, which is a different matter entirely. This card was taken out of commission prior to the handover to GLL with only existing members remaining on the deal.

As part of the contract, GLL/Better kept this card in circulation until 31<sup>st</sup> December of this year. As this card was not part of the service specification, GLL can make this change without the permission of the Council's Project Liaison Board. I have been in constant touch with GLL to try and ask them to reconsider their position and outline what actually is being offered as part of the new card.

Finally one the benefits of the partnership is £3.4 Million of capital going into our leisure centres, including an anticipated £280k at Pentwyn Leisure Centre, which I'm sure he welcomes.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Naughton.*

Could you commit to if any further changes happen to Pentwyn Leisure Centre or any Leisure Centres, that the local ward Members are consulted before the changes are made and you consult with the communities as well.

Reply: *Councillor Bradbury*

When I know of changes, when it's within the specification I will of course will do that. I have a strong tradition, and your ward colleague will nod his head in agreement with this, I have a strong reputation of working with Pentwyn Councillors on improving the Leisure Centre, for example the 3g facility in front of your Leisure Centre which I helped and worked with officers in terms of section 106. I worked that out with a much missed Councillor Woodman. The issue for me is, when the contract was agreed, I sat down with all the Leaders at the time and the Councillor for Pentwyn at the time was Councillor Woodman and she said her group were broadly supportive of the plans. I will commit to speaking to you but I also don't expect to see social media pictures of you putting your thumbs down outside Pentwyn Leisure Centre without even asking me what the problem is.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Williams*

From Councillor Bradbury's response to Councillor Naughton it would appear he is not on top of his Cabinet Brief. The Cabinet Member should know what is going on in our Leisure Centres and Members in Pontprennau & Old St Mellons and in fact the Pentwyn wards, were really upset to learn that the café in Pentwyn Leisure centre was shut down. Did you hold talks with GLL, your nodding your head saying you did so I'm assuming you agreed to the cafés in every leisure centre being shut down. Would you like to comment on that because Members in my ward and neighbouring wards are really upset.

Reply: *Councillor Bradbury*

Yes I did I was at the project liaison board last month and I raised this, let me tell you those cafes as part of the in house bid were also going to be closed, the modified in house bid put forward by officers of this council. On this issue we have been hammered in the past by all Members and all groups in this Chamber for serving unhealthy food in cafes in Leisure Centres, including in documentaries on BBC. The fact of the matter is, I did approve that one, I will put my hand up, I am on top of my brief Joel, I will say this, I haven't had one bit of correspondence from the Conservative group spokesman on leisure and not one piece of correspondence from a Conservative group Member on leisure since I got elected, apart from Councillor Walker.

Question: *Councillor Dilwar Ali*

It's not acceptable that so many people are missing from the electoral register at the moment due to the complexity of having to register whenever you move, even if it's within the same area. Will you make a statement; citizens of Cardiff, Wales want to see an automatic registration system that enfranchises everyone who's entitled to vote, and make sure that everyone can have their say?

Reply: *Councillor Weaver*

Cardiff has to comply with the detailed national legislation and guidance on voter registration. Our staff do a lot of fantastic and hard work in trying to register people across the City and chasing those up who haven't registered yet. We would certainly support any proposals which made it easier for residents to register to vote including automatic registration.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Dilwar Ali*

I will be urging you to write to the Welsh and the UK Government to get more support on that and voting at 16 as well.

Reply: *Councillor Weaver*

I think that's an excellent suggestion and I will be happy to do so.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Williams*

Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that tackling voter fraud is very important and something that we do not want to see; we don't want to see another Tower Hamlets like in 2015 where people were forced into polling stations and in fact people voting multiple times in the names of people they weren't.

So would the Cabinet Member agree that we need to explore ways in making voting safer and that could include presenting identification at the polling station?

Reply: *Councillor Weaver*

Yes I'm entirely against voter fraud unsurprisingly. I think we have very strong actions to prevent that. I'm not in favour of making voting hard in ways that will exclude some of the most vulnerable in society which I think the requirement to carry identification to go and vote will do. I'm actually in favour of making voting more simple for people, that's a personal view.

Question: *Councillor Howells*

How often is a review undertaken of the supply of cycle stands within the city centre to ensure that it meets demand?

Reply: *Councillor Wild*

We undertake an annual review, I don't think that's coping with the speed of change for the amount of cyclists looking to use the stands. It doesn't actually currently meet demand so we are putting in some new ones, they are also pretty badly placed, there are some shocking spots around the City, we have stands where no cyclists would leave bikes. I'm also pleased that BID for Cardiff, it's one of the initial things they are taking on as a project and they are working with us on implementing some new stands early in the new year.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Howells.*

I'm my experience demand has already been met, and there is need for significantly more cycle stands within the City centre, at the moment stands are full and people are securing bikes up to more inappropriate street furniture. The situation isn't helped that on event days certain cycle stands are taken out of action so can I ask that you ensure that when events are held in the city centre that everything is done and consideration is given to maintaining existing cycle stands that we have.

Reply: *Councillor Wild.*

Yes.

Question: *Councillor Gordon*

Up to now citizens of Cardiff have only seen computerised images of the proposed bus station in Central Square. Are there any maps showing the road plans with space for vehicular, taxi, bus, tram, bike and pedestrian flows?

Reply: *Councillor Wild*

You will be aware that the Planning Committee resolved to grant planning permission subject to the signing of a legal agreement for the new transport interchange on the site of Marland House and the NCP car park in March of this year.

The approved plans, which show the access & parking arrangements and the pedestrian & vehicular flows, are available to view on the Council's website, I will warn you there are 189 documents and I have seen them.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Gordon*

I think they are very difficult to see, will there be any further consultation about these plans if there are any changes in view of the developing scenario with implementing it.

Reply: *Councillor Wild*

It is important to note in terms of the planning for the bus station, that is in place and at the moment we don't know of any reason to change that, what is important to note

is that as new plans come forward for the city centre when we are looking at things through City Deal and hopefully we can improve cycling and pedestrian bus gates and bus permeability into the centre there are likely to be other changes and we will consult at that stage.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Sandrey.*

We are almost three years since the local transport plan, has there been any assessment as to how it is been implemented and or working and do you think commuters and residents are feeling the impact of this.

Reply: *Councillor Wild*

All sorts of surveys are going on around transport, it is tied into the discussions we have been having this evening about the Green Paper and the vision we want to see for it. We have put in some provision into budget requests to look at how we can do some additional monitoring of the LDP, traffic flows etc. to make sure we are up to speed with LDP requirements to Welsh Government. I do think we are looking at these things on a daily basis to try and make sure that things are working for people.

Question: *Councillor Gavin Hill-John*

Following questions from residents across the City, what consultation was carried out with residents living close to the flood alleviation scheme currently underway in Cardiff Central and are there any plans to replant trees which are being removed?

Reply: *Councillor Michael*

The Roath Brook Flood Protection Scheme is led and managed by Natural Resources Wales, who have powers to enter land and undertake drainage improvement works, including the erection of flood defences, under the Water Resources Act 1991.

Any previous consultation or ongoing provision of public information in relation to the scheme and associated works is really a matter for NRW.

I understand that 105 replacement trees will be planted in the affected areas, together with approximately 200 saplings being planted within a location at Roath Recreation Ground.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Gavin Hill-John*

Roath Brook Gardens and Roath Mill Gardens have been included in the Waterloo Gardens flood scheme, despite having a much lower flood risk, because the necessary flood defence work at Waterloo Gardens is providing an opportunity for NRW to kill more birds with one stone, the problem is that NRW has not modelled the impact of the work that has already been done alone in Waterloo Gardens and thus may be proceeding with much more severe work than is necessary upstream. I'm sure you are all aware this a potential for the character of some of the most beautiful parks in our City to be lost forever through mass tree felling and



landscaping associated with this scheme. As we have our pens ready this evening, will you write to NRW and ask them to pause, remodel and reflect before proceeding.

Reply: *Councillor Michael*

This is an Natural Resources Wales Scheme not a Council scheme, the councils part was only the planning permission element of it, I believe next week there is a Scrutiny looking at this, looking at NRW Wales, I would say that the best thing to do is to allow that to happen and any of the residents that have got concerns to address the scrutiny committee and lets listen to what they say.

Supplementary: *Councillor Patel*

It's more of a point of clarification. The Environment Scrutiny Committee is looking at this item on Tuesday and Councillor Gavin Hill-John's wife, Councillor Philippa Hill-John is on this Committee so will be scrutinising this issue with us so I just wanted clarification on we stand with those two members.

Question: *Councillor Taylor*

Following the publication of Professor Chris Taylor's report as part of the process of consulting on school admissions arrangements, Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg have expressed concerns about the options presented and the English-medium focus of the report. Will you make a statement responding to those concerns in full?

Reply: *Councillor Merry*

The research undertaken by Professor Taylor considered the appropriateness of Cardiff's existing admissions arrangements and benchmarked these with the arrangements in other urban local authorities that have similarities to Cardiff, such as population growth.

Clearly, the challenges we face as one of the most rapidly growing cities in the UK are very different to the rest of Wales. It is therefore entirely appropriate, when considering our oversubscription criteria, to look at admission arrangements for English Local Authorities, as well as those in Wales.

The Cabinet considered the outcome of the research and has agreed to consult on many of the suggestions arising from this.

The Council will, of course, seek the views of the Welsh Education Forum as part of the consultation; however, I do think their concerns have been based on a misunderstanding of the purpose of Professor Taylor's report.

We will also extend the consultation to seek the views of parents and other stakeholders to help gain a comprehensive understanding of those that may be affected.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Taylor*

I'd like to echo your comments about ensuring there is a broad range of views involved in the consultation to make sure we move forward in an appropriate way and whilst recognising that there will be a full consultation on the proposals and considering the concerns of Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg and of the Welsh speaking families has any consideration been given to conducting an assessment specifically into Welsh medium education and the impacts of the proposal.

Reply: *Councillor Merry*

I think there was a real confusion between the actual purpose of the report and proposals to change catchment areas, which of course would have to be a separate consultation. This is the process we normally go through, it's a fairly routine process each year and on the back of concerns last year we decided to commission some research. The difficulty that we have actually got is that if you are looking at oversubscription criteria, the reason why there are references to specific English medium secondary schools and why he ran some data passed those is because those are the ones that are the most oversubscribed currently. At the moment we have around 16% surplus places in Welsh medium secondary education but obviously that will change as demand moves through the system. I made a point of going to the Welsh Education Forum today, to give them a chance to ask me questions.

Question: *County Councillor Henshaw*

Could the Cabinet member update us on the number of allotments available to rent across the city as well as the number of vacant plots and the numbers on the waiting list?

Reply: *Councillor Bradbury*

The Parks Service manages 28 allotment sites in the city, ranging in size from 329 plots on the largest site to 7 plots on the smallest. In total, there are currently 3,360 lettable plots that are 82% let.

The number of people on the waiting list changes from day-to-day as plots are let or given up. There are currently 552 requests for plots (from 432 individuals) on the waiting list.

There are currently 608 vacant plots across the city, but supply may not always match demand in certain areas of the city.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Henshaw*

Does the Cabinet Member have any plans to use commonly held allotment land to base renewable energy sources, particularly wind and solar.

Reply: *Councillor Bradbury*

There are no current plans to do this but myself and Councillor Michael are very interested to hear how you could see that working, I can't make any promises but I'm certainly willing to look at it.

Question: *Councillor Robson*

Has the bubble burst for new student accommodation in Cardiff?

Reply: *Councillor Goodway*

I am certain that the irony will not be lost on County Councillors this evening that it is member of the party of market forces that's asking me this question. I think that I need to remind him that it is his party that advocates the reliance on the market to drive solutions which will meet the needs of citizens and, in some instances I consider that could be appropriate, in others I most certainly would not.

The development of new, modern student accommodation can provide much needed higher quality accommodation for students who want to live and study here in Cardiff than has been available in the recent past. If managed and maintained effectively, then it can make a valuable contribution to the city's development and the student accommodation offer.

I am aware that private sector schemes across the city are experiencing differing levels of demand. However, in this instance, I think this is a question that would be better directed to the players in the market place who are actually in the bubble to which the councillor refers.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Davies*

It does concern me and I think it's a concern for most Members of the Council that there presently are 2 possibilities of planning applications being made for change of use, if it's at this stage where there does appear to be difficulty and considering the many many units which are still in the process of coming on stream, which will be in the very near future, and also proposed developments, surely he would agree with me that it is concern to the Council that what is going to happen to some of these units if they are not going to be fully filled in the near future.

Reply: *Councillor Goodway*

I think I need to explain that we are not anticipating receiving planning applications for permanent change of use. The ones we are aware of at the moment are for a temporary change of use because of timing difficulties in terms of the start of the University term. Some of the developments that were anticipated to be completed before June or July which would have been in time for them to receive applications from students, they weren't ready in time they weren't ready until September so therefore missed that opportunity. They are seeking a temporary change of use until the start of the next academic year when they expect and anticipate to fully fill those

units. I'm not aware of any potential application for a permanent change of use at this moment in time.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Howells*

In certain parts of the city, like my ward of Adamsdown, the number of new developments has significantly increased in recent years, we currently have one out at consultation planning stage at the moment and that is the seventh application in probably as many years. Of the ones that have been built, one of them has already applied for temporary change of use to service accommodation because it indicates to me that the demand is not there. What can we as a Council do to ensure that where there is clear evidence that demand is already met in a particular area of the city that we are able to resist such future developments.

Reply: *Councillor Goodway*

That is a matter that should be directed to the Chair of the Planning Committee, I don't interfere in the planning process, it would be wholly inappropriate for me to interfere in the planning process. This issue is if there is a proper application before the planning committee, then it will be considered in accordance with planning procedures and the decision will be taken. I am not persuaded that at this moment in time, your analysis of the situation even in your own ward is correct, there are a couple of developments for the reasons that I've outlined that are seeking a temporary change of use, if an application for a permanent change of use came forward then clearly there would be separate planning application, and the obligations in terms of affordable housing would have to be met, currently that isn't the case, let's not jump the gun. What I'm really hoping will happen is that family homes in parts of Cathays and Roath will be vacated by students and returned to family homes because then will release the pressure on developments on green belts on the margins of the city which everybody seems to want to achieve.

Question: *Councillor Congreve*

The recent stormy weather has highlighted the vulnerability of trees across the city, as a few have fallen causing serious damage to property and disrupting transport. What inspection process has been conducted to ensure the future safety of trees, especially in heavily wooded areas such as Roath Park as well as street trees?

Is there a routine inspection process to ensure their viability, including the pruning of precarious branches?

Reply: *Councillor Bradbury*

Can I on behalf of all of us in this Chamber put on record our tribute to the swift response from officers to the recent storms and tree damage that it caused.

The Council takes the responsibility for the management of its tree stock very seriously and has a robust set of arrangements in place that follow the Health and Safety Executive's guidance on such matters. These serve to manage risk to an

acceptable level; however, it must be recognised that storms are natural occurrences and will, inevitably, bring about a level of disruption and damage.

The inspection regimes that we have in place are risk based and location targeted, with key factors including the level of footfall and proximity to the public highway. The inspections provide an opportunity to assess the health of the tree and to identify any pruning requirements.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Congreve*

That was a very fulsome answer as I expected it would be, I would like to add another additional concern, it's regarding residents in my ward, their health and safety concerns for themselves and their properties. They would like to know why when they request inspections from officers that response is just not forthcoming, I'm seeking your assurance that if residents do raise concerns about particular trees that it will be responded to from officers.

Reply: *Councillor Bradbury*

Officers always try to respond I know from my own ward experience and the level of case work I get from Councillors since I've taken trees into my portfolio. There is in excess of 12500 trees in Cardiff 1000 of which are in Roath Park, they do inspect them every three years and you will be reassured to know that the trees close to the children's play area in Roath Park are inspected annually. It's very difficult with the resources we have to get around all 12500 trees as promptly as Members would like but I will take on board what you have said, take it back and if you have any specific issues I'm happy to raise that with officers.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Burke-Davies*

Prior to the storms there was a bit of ongoing work to prune some trees particularly in my ward in Llandaff North, we had half the trees done in Hayley Park and alongside the houses, they are literally half done because half way through the work, the storms hit. Is there any proposed planning dates for when the work might be completed so I can take that to the residents?

Reply: *Councillor Bradbury*

I'm very happy to take the specific details of the case and speak to officers.

Question from: *County Councillor McGarry*

In the light of recent speed surveys undertaken in the city which indicated excessive speeds, what strategy does the council have to reduce the speed?

Reply: *Councillor Wild*

The Council has a responsibility to make every reasonable effort to ensure that the highway network is as safe as is reasonably possible. We have a team of engineers who investigate all road safety concerns and, where appropriate, arrange remedial

safety measures. These measures vary considerably, but one of the main ways that this can be achieved is by reducing speeds so that they are appropriate for a location.

As you are aware, Cardiff is in the process of delivering a 20 mph programme across the city starting with inner city wards, I know that as ward member there, there is a paradox to that whereby people are driving slower on average but more people are breaking the speed limit, it does come with some risks to local Councillors when it comes to complaints.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor McGarry*

As you mentioned, in our ward we have had a pilot 20mph zone for a number of years and there are particular roads that run out of the city, out to the North, that are very long straight roads that have always suffered from high speeds and those are the roads that have had recent speed surveys and it's been found that on a daily basis cars are driving at over 50mph and the highest speed recorded is 80mph, we have asked the police why they haven't enforced this 20mph zone speed limit and they have said that the signage is not good enough for them to enforce it. Firstly why isn't the signage good enough to enforce the 20 mph and there is no point putting the 20mph speed limits in if you are not going to enforce it, and secondly, are there any other speed measures that we can put in on the long straight roads where people speed that will make people keep to this 20 mph zone.

Reply: *Councillor Wild*

I don't agree entirely that there is no point putting in place 20mph signs if we don't enforce it because behaviour isn't just based on enforcement. I need to find out why the police are saying the signage isn't good enough and see if there is anything we can do about that. In terms of the areas you are talking about, mackintosh place and other places, the overall area has gone down in speed averages, there are a couple of streets where it hasn't and we are now at the stage of having those surveys done and having some road schemes put in place, we will consult the ward members before they go forward.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Jenkins*

As you will be aware it is often a minority of drivers who drive at excessive speeds as such do you accept that a common sense approach that works for motorists and others is needed when it comes to traffic management.

Reply: *Councillor Wild*

Yes I do accept that a common sense approach is needed.

Question from: *Councillor Rees*

Will you outline what has been done in the last two months to address the problem of traffic congestion in the City?

Reply: *Councillor Wild*

We have just had quite a lot of discussion about the various things we are doing to address traffic congestion, a couple of things I did want to bring to your attention that have happened in the last couple of months that I am particularly excited about, one is the new cycling advisory group that came together bringing together different stakeholders of cycling groups across the city and will be bringing some exciting things happening with cycling soon. Some new bus priority measures have been going forward for consultation, also the Cardiff city Regional Transport Authority now has a strategy in place that will look at bringing forward a number of new park and ride schemes such as the City Deal Board and also you will have seen we announced about an arrangement with HSBC, we haven't quite got the finer details on it but we will be looking to bring forward our plans for Car Free Day 2018n shortly which I'm sure you will be keen to get behind.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Rees*

To be fair you were only elected in May 2017 so therefore you can't be held responsible for the paucity of vision in our transport plan with its constant reliance on cycling and cycling lanes which is not sufficient as you've heard from the public questioner today. You can't be responsible for the reliance solely on the cycling strategy and more walking. I'm afraid we need more definite to deal with our congestion than just cycle lanes and more cycle stands and more walking, a lot of people can't cycle, a lot of elderly people, people with dementia. What are you doing to resolve congestion other than cycle lanes and bus priority.

*Reply Councillor Wild*

We have just had a discussion and a debate on a motion to do with exactly that, we are bringing this forward, the Green paper is coming forward, we are going to be getting behind that, I don't want to go on and give you all sorts of endless answers about that.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Carter*

Please don't lose faith in cycling lanes and bus lanes, I wouldn't want to lose the spirit of the debate we had earlier on quite so soon after that question. My supplementary is on the issue of bus lanes specifically, we are conscious that a labour AM in west wales said that bus patriation is going down across Wales with congestion being a key factor in that. I'm grateful that you have plans in the pipeline for more bus priority measures but are there ways we can speed it up, as much as people don't like losing road space for private vehicles, unless our buses get to town quicker no one is going to use them, so what efforts can you use to try and speed that process up.

*Reply: Councillor Wild*

We do agree with you, we drive to Plas Dwr this week and followed some of the routes back to look at where bus lanes are going, there are just some pinch points, the east of Cardiff particularly Newport road where I can't currently work out where we are going to go. Also we do need to take into consideration what the metro brings forward, Transport for Wales is a new organisation looking at a lot of improvements

on bus travel as well. That's all happening in the new year along with our Green Paper discussions so we are frustrated and we want to get going as well.

Question from: *Councillor De'Ath*

Earlier this year The Guardian launched an investigation into pseudo-public spaces (also known as privately owned public spaces or "pops") which are squares, parks, thoroughfares etc. that have the look and feel of public land but are actually owned and controlled by the private sector. Such areas are not subject to ordinary bylaws but rather governed by restrictions drawn up by the landowner and usually enforced by private security companies.

Under existing laws, public access to pseudo-public spaces remains at the discretion of landowners who are allowed to draw up their own rules for "acceptable behavior" (which can prohibit taking photos, holding a political protest, rough sleeping and so forth) on their sites and alter them at will. They are not obliged to make these rules public. Several cities maintain publicly accessible maps to help citizens identify pseudo-public spaces and the boundaries that divide them from genuinely public land. Would it be possible for Cardiff Council to produce and publish similar maps?

Reply: *Councillor Wild*

The Council has no plans to produce such maps for Cardiff as it is not considered necessary. Unlike many other large cities in the UK we have very few examples of pseudo public spaces.

It is important to differentiate between the term '*privately owned public space*' and publically owned land that is managed privately through a management company.

In responding to the investigation by The Guardian, we identified public realm areas around certain buildings (for example, at Mermaid Quay, the Wales Millennium Centre and the walkways around Principality Stadium) where the land is not owned by the Council but, importantly, where public access is retained.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor De'Ath*

As part of the Guardians investigations they sent FOI requests to a number of major British cities but very very few replied, Cardiff council did, it is very open and transparent and I applaud you for it. Going forward what powers do we have to ensure that new parts of the public realm, whether public or privately owned have to adhere to the normal laws of the UK and not special private laws dreamed up by their owners and enforced often by private security guards.

Reply: *Councillor Wild*

I'm really pleased you brought the question, I am going to find out because I think it is important that as these places come forward we make sure the right measures are in place so we can make sure they are enjoyed by the public.

Supplementary Question: *Councillor Howells*



Following on from the Guardian investigation, the Mayor of London announced last week that they are going to be drawing up a charter for the managements of pops. Can I ask that you look at the work that they are doing there and see whether there is anything we can learn for Cardiff to do, perhaps we could consider a charter which defines the rights of users of those pops and also what the management should be doing in terms of good management of those pops.

*Reply Councillor Wild*

I don't want to just say Yes again but I will take those things forward.

98 : URGENT BUSINESS -

There was no urgent business

99 : LA GOVERNORS APPOINTMENTS

The Council was requested to approve the recommendations of the Local Authority Governor Panel 21 November 2017.

RESOLVED – That

1. the following appointments be approved to existing vacancies: -

<b>School</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Start of Vacancy</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Birchgrove Primary School	Heath	30/09/2017	Muriel Fisher
Pencaerau Primary School	Caerau	01/09/2010	Richard Breeze
Pentrebane Primary School	Fairwater	27/06/2016	Matthew Noyes
Pentyrch Primary School	Pentyrch	03/10/2017	Owen Wood
Peter Lea Primary School	Fairwater	27/06/2016	Alexander Bevan
St Cuthbert's RC Primary School	Butetown	15/02/2017	Gaynor Legall
St David's C.W Primary School	Pentwyn	15/09/2017	Cllr Daniel Naughton
St Illtyd's RC High School	Rumney	11/05/2017	Lisa Gerson
St Philip Evans R.C Primary	Llanedeyrn	05/09/2017	Cllr Joseph Carter
Tremorfa Nursery School	Splott	21/06/2017	Tony Venn
Willowbrook Primary School	St Mellons	25/10/2017	John Noakes

School	Ward	Start of Vacancy	Applications Approved
Windsor Clive Primary School	Ely	23/03/2016	Cllr Jim Murphy

2. the following appointments be approved to future Local Authority vacancies

School	Ward	Start of Vacancy	Applications received
Coed Glas Primary School	Llanishen	31/01/2018	David Newland
Pentrebane Primary School	Fairwater	31/01/2018	Paul Murphy
Western Learning Campus	Caerau	08/01/2018	Cllr Peter Bradbury David Saunders David French Bianca Rees

#### 100 : COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Council was requested to approve changes to Committee Membership.

RESOLVED – That the following appointments to Committee vacancies be approved in accordance with Party Group wishes:

Committee	Nomination
Planning Committee	Councillor Goddard as a temporary replacement for Councillor Murphy
Licensing Committee	Councillor Ford

#### 101 : URGENT DECISION: EUROS 2020 FAST TRACK BID

This report was received by Full Council for information only in relation to an urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member, Local Ward Members and Chair of Scrutiny to in relation to the UEFA Fast Track Bidding process for the Euros 2020 to with the Football Association for Wales ahead of the 3 November 2017 deadline.

#### 102 : END OF MEETING

The Lord Mayor before closing the meeting thanked Youth Food for the provision of refreshments to Members during the break and wished them all the best for their future ventures.

The Lord Mayor wished Members Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Dda a Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.

*(Meeting Closed at 21.36pm)*

103 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - (COUNCILLOR GRAHAM HINCHEY)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

During the summer, we came across an article stating the concerning figures regarding missing children who are under local authority care – vulnerable children who could be at risk of paedophiles, drug gangs or otherwise. From my Freedom of Information request, I am informed that 35 children went missing from Cardiff Local Authority care between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2017, whilst the majority were in teen-years, children as young as 3 years old have gone missing from our care. As stated by Mr Royston (from Children's Society), children run away and it can be seen as a 'call for help'.

What I would like to know is:

- How long do they go missing?
- How long before the council knows they've gone missing?
- Where do they go?
- Why do they go missing?
- What systems go wrong that results in them going missing?
- Do they go missing because they are placed with families who don't have sufficient expertise or support?

Reply

Children and young people may go 'missing' for anything from 10 minutes to 10 days and sometimes longer, but that is rare.

All Looked After Children are living in regulated placements with foster carers or in a registered children's home. The carers will usually know immediately if a child has left the premises and will take appropriate action, which will include looking for the child, reporting the matter to the Police, informing the child's social worker and/or the Emergency Duty Team if out of hours. This will happen without delay.

Children and young people leave their placements for a variety of reasons. Sometimes, they run away 'from' the placement because they are unhappy and, sometimes, they 'run to' their family or friends or undesirable people because they are unhappy. Sometimes, teenagers push the boundaries and simply want to stay out late! Each child or young person is very different and will have different reasons for going missing. It is the role of the carers and social workers to find out what those reasons are so they can be addressed.

It is rarely a case that systems 'go wrong'. It needs to be understood that the children and young people in our care have all experienced abuse, neglect, trauma and loss and will have complex needs. Sometimes, this manifests itself in behaviours that can be difficult to predict, understand or control and can sometimes include running away

as a means of a 'cry for help' for bringing attention to their distress or a desire to exhibit a level of control where they feel they have lost it.

There is an All Wales Missing Person's Protocol, which Children's Services, along with other agencies, follow in order to safeguard the children in our care. Every child and young person has a risk assessment and we have very robust processes in place to ensure that we address any behaviours, which include running away. We work very closely with our partner providers and with the Police Missing Person's Team, to ensure high levels of communication and information sharing.

Any child going missing from placement will be seen by their social worker and/or an independent person to firstly ensure their safety and to try to ascertain the reasons for the child going missing. Follow up plans are then put in place to support that child or young person. We will also ensure that carers have as much support and guidance as possible in order to stabilise the placement and assist the child to settle.

In very extreme circumstances, and where risks are considered to be very high, we will look to legislation to assist and consider the Criteria of Section 25 of the Children Act (1989) and/or Section 119 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014), which permits the Local Authority to make an application to the Court for a Secure Accommodation Order to place a child/young person in a Secure Unit.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What plans does the council have to increase the number of Welsh-medium Flying Start settings in the Authority?

#### Reply

There are currently no plans to increase the number of Welsh-medium Flying Start childcare settings across the Authority.

All families eligible for Flying Start are offered a free part-time childcare place as required by the Welsh Government grant. Families are asked for their language preference and, wherever possible, their wishes are met.

Currently, Flying Start offers Welsh-medium childcare places through a contractual arrangement with five providers. These are all locally based and are linked to the targeted Flying Start Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)/Primary School Catchments. Collectively, they provide 108 Welsh medium childcare places for 2-3 year olds.

The Welsh Government requires the Authority to regularly review the number of childcare places that it purchases to ensure that it closely matches demand.

Whilst sometimes the programme carries a waiting list, this is because families elect to take up a place with a particular provider and would rather wait for a place to become available rather than take up another available place elsewhere. Across the programme, there are sufficient Welsh-medium places to meet current demand.

In response to the lack of Welsh-medium pre-school childcare provision in the two Flying Start LSOAs serving Pentwyn, the Authority created 16 new Flying Start Welsh medium places in 2015. Since opening, the setting has regularly been under occupied, despite efforts to encourage more families to choose Welsh language childcare as an option for their children.

Should we identify any unmet demand in the future, we would review suitable registered Welsh-medium providers in those areas in conjunction with the Council's Procurement Team, with a view to discussing the potential to contract with them.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What plans does the council have to increase the number of Welsh-medium Flying Start places in the Authority?

Reply

There are currently no plans to increase the number of Welsh-medium Flying Start childcare places across the Authority for the reasons outlined in response to your previous question.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH

Will Cardiff social workers be using the Child Case Context model developed from the nationwide 'Talking and Listening to Children' study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and, if so, how will this fit in with them adopting 'Signs of Safety' working practices and methodologies?

Reply

The Child Case Context model is a research project that explores how social workers communicate with children in their everyday practice and how social workers and children involved in these encounters experience and understand them.

The Signs of Safety framework is a strengths based approach, which is predicated on effective communication and good relationships between social workers and the children and families they work with. I would therefore expect our approach to reflect and take into account the research findings and any best practice linked to the Child Case Context model.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH

A recent employment tribunal has meant that official guidance has changed over whether sleep-in care workers should be entitled to the 'national living wage' for hours they are not awake, with employers warned they could face a substantial bill for back pay. Children's homes and similar provision have staff available to provide care throughout the night. Historically, workers often received an allowance or payment for this work that was not related to the 'waking' rate of pay. Now, 'sleeping in' is taken as 'worked time' and must be paid at or above national minimum wage

levels. Could the Cabinet Member please make a statement on the potential impact, directly and indirectly, this will have on the local authority?

Reply

This decision is expected to have minimal impact on staff working at Crosslands, the only children's home operated by the Council. Staff pay grades currently range from Grade 5 upwards (minimum hourly rate of £10.44), which is above the current National Living Wage of £7.50 per hour.

A flat rate sleep-in allowance of £35.42 has previously been paid by the Council, with any time spent working during the sleep-in period being paid as overtime (either time and a half or time and a third if under 37 hours for part-time workers). Council staff would therefore have, in any event, been paid more than the National Minimum Wage.

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT - (COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MICHAEL)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BALE

Has the City Council formally objected to proposals to dump contaminated waste related to the construction of the new Hinkley Point Power Station in the Severn Estuary?

Will the Council supply copies of all representations to the UK & Welsh Governments, as well as any other bodies, to the Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee?

Reply

I would refer you to the responses provided to previous questions on this matter that were asked at Council in September and October, in which it was made clear that this material is neither being dumped nor is it classified as contaminated waste. It is dredged mud or sediment from the Severn Estuary, which is being disposed of under a Marine Licence granted by Natural Resources Wales in July 2014, which expires in March 2019.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

On a ward-by-ward basis, how many Section 215 notices has the council issued in the past year for waste accumulating in private forecourts and what is the rate of compliance with those notices?

Reply

The Education and Enforcement Team engages with residents to encourage a clean and safe environment. Where education fails, there are two key processes which the team uses to tackle an accumulation of waste in frontages.

Firstly, section 215 of the Town and County Planning Act 1990, whereby a number of notices must be issued advising that, if the waste is not removed within 28 days, the Council will undertake the works in default – i.e. the Council will remove the waste and charge the landowner.

Secondly, where pests are present, officers can use section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, which is a slightly quicker process, but, again, this would result in the Council removing the waste and charging the landowner if they do not comply within the specified timescale.

The data set out in the table below provides a breakdown of the frontage actions undertaken on a ward-by-ward basis by the Education and Enforcement Team. In terms of compliance, we have conducted ‘works in default’ on just two occasions with legal proceedings.

Ward	Front / Rear Garden Investigations	Street Letter (Frontage Advisory)	Prevention & damage by Pest Act 1949 – formal notice to remove (7 days)	Section 215 Notice – formal notice to remove (28 days)	Statutory Nuisance – Accumulations formal notice to remove (28 days)
Adamsdown	58	0	2		
Butetown	0	0	0		
Caerau	15	0	0	2	
Canton	25	0	0	3	
Cathays	209	0	9	6	14
Creigiau & St Fagans	0	0	0		
Cyncoed	1	0	0	1	
Ely	43	1	3	2	
Fairwater	17	0	3	1	
Gabalfa	9	0	0	3	1
Grangetown	45	0	5	4	
Heath	12	0	1		
Lisvane	0	0	1		
Llandaff	2	0	0	2	
Llandaff North	9	0	0		
Llanishen	2	0	0	1	
Llanrumney	6	0	1		
Pentwyn	5	0	0	4	2
Pentyrch	0	0	0		
Penylan	0	0	0	4	
Plasnewydd	135	0	0	5	103
Pontprennau & Old St Mellons	1	0	0	1	

Radyr & Morganstown	0	0	0		
Rhiwbina	0	0	0	1	
Riverside	50	0	0	1	
Rumney	6	0	0	2	4
Splott	5	0	0	3	1
Trowbridge	2	0	0	1	
Whitchurch & Tongwynlais	4	0	2	1	1
TOTAL	661	1	27	48	126

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

On a street-by-street basis, where in Penylan have Section 215 notices been issued in the past year?

Reply

At present, it is not possible to provide the data on a street-by-street basis. Officers are in the process of reviewing the existing database with a view to enabling a wider range of reporting functions.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

What is the council doing to increase the take up of food waste collections services for businesses and offices in Cardiff?

I have had feedback from some who are based on St Mary Street who are unaware that these types of collections are available, and as a result are not separating out their food waste from the general waste. On streets like this in the city centre, this can contribute quite considerably to the area becoming messy due to pests ripping open refuse bags. Could the council remind businesses and offices in Cardiff of these services, particularly in high footfall areas?

Reply

The Council's Commercial Waste Services offer and promote a comprehensive food waste collection service that is suitable for any size of business. Officers proactively target businesses that generate food waste and offer competitive collection rates. This includes a mini-campaign which is undertaken every year in the city centre and shopping districts to target such businesses. The next campaign is due to take place in the New Year. They also price match and offer discounts for new customers and, as a result, a high number of businesses in the city centre have taken up the service. If you provide me with details of the businesses that you refer to in your question, our team will be happy to contact them.

CULTURE AND LEISURE (COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)



WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BALE

Cardiff Rivers Group do excellent work with volunteers to improve the cleanliness of our local rivers and waterways and recently secured funding from Viridor to acquire a boat to support their invaluable work. Would the Council, which also runs the Harbour Authority, please confirm what further support it could provide to assist the Rivers Group with operating this important new acquisition?

Reply

I fully recognise and indeed value the work that the Cardiff Rivers Group undertakes on a city-wide basis. The group has strong and longstanding relationships and working arrangements with the Council and Cardiff Harbour Authority.

I can confirm that the Harbour Authority has agreed to support the group by providing dry storage for the boat and slipway access.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER

When did the council become aware of the plans by Better to close 4 leisure centre cafes?

Reply

During the first six months of the arrangements, GLL committed to undertake a review of all aspects of the service, including the catering offer.

As part of the business review that analysed service, operation, customer demand and financial performance, it emerged that the cafes were predicting unsustainable year-end losses. Continuation of the catering model would negatively affect the ability to achieve the challenging overarching partnership objective of reaching a zero subsidy by year 3 of the arrangements and the ability to sustain overall service provision.

These decisions were confirmed by GLL at a Project Liaison Board meeting in September 2017.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOWELLS

How does Cardiff Council monitor the effectiveness of the systems which GLL have in place to ensure that the quality of the water within the swimming pools they manage on behalf of the council is to an acceptable standard?

Have there been any issues or complaints regarding water quality since the award of the contract to GLL and, if so, please quantify the number and nature of the complaints?

Reply

Service provision is managed through robust governance arrangements as set out in the service specification. This includes regular meetings, service updates and monitoring visits.

Health and safety is paramount and GLL have a range of stringent policies and procedures in place for all related matters. GLL implement a Water Management Plan at each facility that is available for inspection by the Council. With specific reference to swimming pools and water quality, GLL operate facilities in line with the recommendations included within the HSE publication 'Management of Health and Safety in Swimming Pools'. This is a requirement of the contract.

There have not been any reported issues or complaints regarding water quality since the commencement of the arrangements with GLL.

#### EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

##### WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER

What would be the estimated additional cost be to change school transport rules to provide free transport to high school pupils further than 2.5 miles from their school?

##### Reply

Based on current pupil numbers, the estimated additional cost to the Council for providing free transport to all pupils living over 2.5 miles from their appropriate allocated secondary school would amount to £336,114 per annum.

##### WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

The council says the number of primary school children moving to high school in September 2019 will 'exceed the numbers of places available across the city at entry to Year 7'. Band B money only becomes available in April 2019. What specific plans is the council putting in place to meet the excess demand anticipated for September 2019?

##### Reply

The Council has confirmed the feasibility of ensuring that every child requiring a Year 7 place in an English-medium or Welsh-medium community can be accommodated.

Specific measures to provide additional places for this cohort will be agreed with schools in early 2018, in good time for secondary schools to plan for the September 2019 intake and for primary schools to make suitable transition arrangements. These measures will take into account the location and timing of any schemes proposed within the Council's Band B programme.

##### WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

How does the Council meet the needs of pupils requiring Additional Learning Needs (ALN) support through the medium of Welsh?

Reply

The majority of ALN pupils, whether in English or Welsh medium schools, are supported by their schools, using delegated resources.

Every school has an ALN Coordinator (ALNCO) who identifies pupils with additional learning needs and ensures support is in place for them.

The Council provides a range of services to support schools, all of which include Welsh speaking staff, assigned to work with the Welsh medium schools. This includes Educational Psychology, ALN Casework Team and Partnership and Inclusion Officers. Specialist teaching services for sensory impairments, early years, healthcare and medical needs, learning, speech and language, autism and emotional health and wellbeing all have capacity to deliver support in the medium of Welsh.

There are also specialist resource bases at Ysgol Coed y Gof and Ysgol Glantaf, and a primary Wellbeing Class is currently located at Ysgol Pen y Groes. Last year, in partnership with the three secondary schools, the local authority undertook an audit of emotional health and wellbeing needs in secondary phase. As an outcome of this audit, it was agreed with the schools, that funding should be provided for a team of specialists working across the three secondary schools, in partnership with the ALNCOs, to provide specialist packages of support to pupils with the most complex needs.

Specialist provision is kept under review, and needs are audited annually, to inform planning. As part of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), there are also plans to extend specialist places over the next three years.

The Inclusion Service is engaged in a regional audit of ALN in Welsh medium education and will explore options for developing regional provision in partnership where appropriate.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What plans does the council have to introduce a catchment area for Ysgol Hamadryad, and how soon will this be completed?

Reply

Consideration of the revision of catchment areas and establishment of new catchment areas would be informed by any changes to the school admission policy, and by any changes to primary and/or secondary school provision brought forward through the 21st Century Schools Band B programme. It is therefore anticipated that consultation, in accordance with statutory timescales, on the establishment of a catchment area for Ysgol Hamadryad would be undertaken no sooner than 1 September 2018 and completed by 1 March 2019, for implementation in September 2020.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What are the current numbers of Year 4 pupils in Welsh Medium Primary Schools, and what are the projected numbers of pupils entering Welsh Medium secondary education in 2019?

Reply

The September 2017 Number on Roll census confirms that there were 643 pupils enrolled in Welsh-medium primary schools or in Welsh-medium streams in dual stream schools.

All the evidence available suggests that there continues to be a reduction in the number of children that access their education through the medium of Welsh between Year 4 and entering secondary education.

The Council and its partners are seeking to understand the causes of this and are investigating measures to reduce this outflow. However, projections consistent with recent trends within the Welsh-medium sector indicate that 588 of the current Year 4 cohort would enter Welsh Medium secondary education in September 2020.

FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE - (COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

A survey by Axa revealed this week that Cardiff is the most 'stressed out' city in the UK. What is the council doing to address this?

Reply

The main reasons stated in the AXA survey for those suffering stress in Cardiff were: Personal Health (40%), Personal Finance (40%) and Work (37%).

In order to understand difference in well-being between communities in Cardiff, the 2017 Ask Cardiff survey asked respondents a series of questions about their mental health, satisfaction with life, levels of happiness and anxiety, and the extent to which they felt the things they did in their life are worthwhile.

The initial findings show that satisfaction across these dimensions of well-being was higher amongst the 55+ age group and those in the north of the city, but noticeably lower amongst under 35s, those from a minority ethnicity, people living in the most deprived areas of the city, particularly in Cardiff East, and respondents who identify as disabled.

The sense of well-being was lowest amongst respondents who identified as disabled (45.0%) and those living in the most deprived areas of the city (62.4%). Furthermore, almost half (46.7%) of those who identify as disabled and 30.1% of those living in the most deprived areas of the city reported their sense of well-being had declined over the last 12 months.

These more granular results suggest that the city's most deprived and vulnerable communities are, perhaps unsurprisingly, suffering greater levels of stress and lower levels of well-being. We know that poverty is damaging for our economy and our society. It also places major pressures on public services and casts a long shadow over too many lives. That's why, in Capital Ambition, the administration is committed to improving people's lives through, for example, a continued focus on education; targeted approaches to tackling poverty; supporting people into work; delivering affordable housing and being a Living Wage City.

In addition, as a major employer, the Council has implemented a number of measures to improve the health and well-being of its staff, in line with our Health and Wellbeing Strategy that was introduced in January 2016. This has included the formation of a Health and Wellbeing Group, whose objective is to change the culture and mind-set of health and well-being within the organisation.

The Health and Wellbeing Group has worked closely with the Council's Occupational Health Unit to introduce a number of innovative health promotion initiatives, such as the increase in physiotherapy appointments and interactive self-help methodology to improve mental and physical health. Newly devised training and advice will help managers to be astute to the signs of ill health and the appropriate interventions.

The Health and Wellbeing Group has led the Council's efforts to gain the Corporate Health Standard, which is a national quality framework for employers who are committed to employee health and well-being. The Council successfully attained the Bronze Award in 2016 and is now actively working towards the Silver Award, with an assessment due to take place in the New Year.

The Council also signed an organisational pledge in May 2016 to support the Time to Change Wales campaign, which is a national campaign that aims to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination in the workplace. In addition to this, the Council has introduced a number of policies & guidance documents (e.g. Mental Health Policy; Menopause Guidance), which will inform and support employees.

#### HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES (COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE)

#### WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER

What is the rationale for increasing police action against homeless people in the city centre?

#### Reply

The Police operation "Purple Ash", to which I believe you refer, relates to proactive police enforcement action against those who are begging aggressively, street drinking and causing anti-social behaviour in the city centre.

The activity being targeted by the Police is criminal behaviour which is causing distress to residents, visitors and businesses alike and it is important to be clear that such criminal behaviour will not be tolerated. However, it is also important that we are

careful in our use of language so as not to label those individuals – who, for a wide range of reasons, may find themselves to be street homeless – as criminals.

The Police work closely with Council and partner services, and support the excellent work done by our front-line teams to help those who are street homeless to successfully move off the streets and into accommodation with support. Since April 2017, we have assisted 119 people off the streets and our work in this regard continues.

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

South Wales Police are currently carrying out a series of interventions targeting begging, street drinking and anti-social behaviour in Cardiff city centre, dubbed Operation Purple Ash. As a result, a number of Section 35 notices have been served, arrests made and Dispersal Orders issued. Does the Council feel assured that only individuals engaged in anti-social activities have been targeted by Operation Purple Ash and that innocent, and possibly vulnerable homeless people, have not been?

Is the Council aware as to whether, as a result of this operation, individuals who have been engaged in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) are being dispersed out of the city centre into peripheral areas like Canton, Plasnewydd and the outer parts of Cathays?

#### Reply

As part of Operation “Purple Ash”, the Police have undertaken proactive enforcement action against those who are begging aggressively, street drinking and causing anti-social behaviour in the city centre. The action is targeted at criminal behaviour and not at homeless people.

According to the latest Police figures released today, only 3 of the 19 people who have been arrested specifically for begging were actually homeless and they were signposted to alternative provision.

The Council is aware that this activity may have deflected some of those sleeping rough out of the city centre. Whilst we cannot state that it was as a direct consequence, the Council’s Outreach Team did note that 9 people changed their usual rough sleeping site to an area further out of the city centre. All of these individuals are known to be involved in differing levels of street begging activity. Additionally, 4 people were seen to have changed their begging location as a result of the operation and others were seen to be begging at a later time in the day.

The Council is currently working with South Wales Police to set up a task group to develop a more co-ordinated approach to the enforcement process, ensuring that there is a clear diversionary pathway in place.

In a clear sign that such a strategy can work, two service users took an immediate decision to switch from begging to signing up as vendors to sell the Big Issue and another individual began to explore accommodation options with outreach staff, having previously had very limited engagement.

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WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH

A number of London Councils have been confiscating tents, bedding and similar possessions from homeless individuals in their boroughs using anti-social behaviour laws. These confiscations leave people even more vulnerable than they already are, exposing them to the elements and driving them away from visible, brightly-lit locations. A 2017 study by Crisis reveals a sharp increase in 'informal' harassment of UK rough sleepers – while only 10 percent have been hit with a formal sanction, 70 percent of rough sleepers report experiencing 'informal' enforcement measures in the

past year. 'Informal measures' taken against rough sleepers include a practice known as 'wetting down' – hosing down areas where people sleep rough with cold water, making them uninhabitable. What is Cardiff Council's position regarding tent and bedding confiscation, and also the practice of 'wetting down'?

Reply

As Members will be aware from previous answers on this question, Cardiff has a positive and proactive approach to assisting rough sleepers into accommodation. The Council's Outreach Team works with charities, such as the Wallich, Salvation Army and the Huggard, to bring people in from the streets and, where this is not possible, to help them to remain safe on the streets.

There is no policy in Cardiff of confiscating goods or deliberately wetting down areas; however, there does need to be a balance between the needs of those sleeping rough and of those who use the city centre to shop or do business.

With the increasing provision of new sleeping bags and bedding, we have also seen an increase in the number of people abandoning their bedding in the street and we do need to remove such material from shop doorways. There is also an increasing trend of defecating and leaving needles and other drug taking paraphernalia on the streets and this is clearly not acceptable and needs to be cleared and cleaned.

The tents, which have been given out by people with the best of intentions, are often used for illegal activities relating to prostitution or substance misuse. They make it harder to engage with the occupants and to bring them into accommodation services.

The Council is working with partners to achieve a balanced approach, which is sympathetic and supportive to those sleeping rough, while addressing any associated antisocial behaviour.

INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)  
WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOWELLS

In relation to the decision to renew the existing sub lease of the Cardiff International Pool by the existing tenant, could you provide details of the 'improved operational arrangements' that are expected and how these will affect users of the pool and its facilities?

Reply

During discussions with the operator relating to the lease renewal, they indicated that there were minded to take advantage of the opportunity the lease renewal provided to improve their offer to local residents. I understand that they are minded to improve the gym facilities within the development and make them more attractive. The operator has indicated that they wish to undertake a public consultation exercise before finalising their proposals. I will make the Councillor aware of those proposals once they are available.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN



Given that the council is planning to draw up a business case for delivering a new County Hall, can you advise Members what you currently perceive as the benefits of such a proposal, what cost-benefit analysis you have undertaken to date to back this up, and what funding models you have so far considered to deliver such a scheme?

Reply

The County Councillor will be aware that discussions have been on-going for a period of years regarding the need to rationalise the council's office estate, an exercise which began during his term as Leader of the County Council. This was in response to the impact that cuts to the council's budgets have had on staff numbers and the effect new ways of working have had on the requirement for office space.

In addition, the council is conscious of the age and state of the current building which, along with the remainder of the estate, has a serious maintenance backlog and is fuelled by outdated and seriously inefficient energy systems. Taken together, I am persuaded that there is a prima facie case to undertake a more detailed business case to inform potential solutions. That business case could explore all eventualities and all possible funding mechanisms, and also take account of the opportunity cost of remaining on the present site.

I will report to Cabinet at an appropriate time.

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

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

Given that Wales has the largest and fastest growing proportion of older people in UK, and Cardiff is housing a large share of that population, what are we doing:

- 1) to ensure prevention mechanisms are put in place to promote healthier lifestyle;
- 2) to intervene earlier to ensure senior citizens are supported in self managing their health and safety and in decision making;
- 3) to ensure care is provided in the community and at home rather than hospital; and
- 4) to ensure we are making best use of and supporting third sector service provision in supporting us on these agendas?

Reply

Working jointly with Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (UHB), together with third sector organisations, Cardiff Council works to provide community resources and activities to support and promote healthier lifestyles.

The UHB is the lead organisation in supporting individuals with lifestyle choices through primary care (i.e. GPs and community services). There are strategies in places to assist with, for example, exercise through a GP referral, or clinical support to give up smoking.

The Council's Hubs in different areas of the city provide a 'one stop shop' for all enquiries, but can also refer individuals to the Independent Living Service (ILS), which links in with First Point of Contact (FPOC) officers and co-located social workers. With an individual's consent, GP practices and UHB staff can also refer people to the ILS.

In accordance with the Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, the Council's FPOC team and the ILS provide information, advice and assistance to keep people as independent as possible.

This approach is underpinned by the use of DEWIS (the system of third sector provider information). This enables individuals to receive information and advice tailored both to their locality and interests and needs.

A wide range of services are commissioned to enable people to remain at home for as long as possible, but, ultimately, any decision to admit a person to hospital, or to decide at what point they are fit to be discharged, is a clinical one made by health colleagues.

We work closely with a range of third sector partners in relation to older people, including Age Connects, Care & Repair and Cardiff Institute for the Blind. These organisations support older people to remain living safely in their own homes and, where possible, engaged within their own communities by addressing social isolation and loneliness. An organisation involving a volunteer runner base, GoodGym, is now operating in Cardiff with the benefit of financial support from the Integrated Care Fund.

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

An employment appeal tribunal has decided that care workers required to sleep in at a service user's home are [entitled to be paid the 'national minimum wage'](#) for all hours worked, including the hours spent asleep. This decision will have significant consequences for adult social care. Wage costs may increase for many providers and there could be claims for back pay dating back up to six years. Failure to pay carries criminal penalties and fines, including the potential for doubling back pay arrears. Could the Cabinet Member please make a statement on the potential impact, directly and indirectly, this will have on the local authority?

#### Reply

There are a number of potential impacts for the Council and since learning of this ruling, officers have undertaken significant work to establish the impact this will have in Cardiff. However, during discussions with Care Providers, it has become apparent that it will not be possible to predict the exact impact, partly because of the complexity of this issue and the related legislation, guidance and requirements. In

summary, we expect the impact for each part of the adult care sector in the city to be as follows:

#### Council-run Adult Residential Care Homes

This ruling has no impact on the Council. The Council has run its own homes for older people in the 6 years but staff would have been on a rota, which covered night duties. Sleep-in arrangements were used very rarely and where this did happen, it was in an emergency situation and staff would have been paid the above the minimum wage level.

#### Council-run Supported Living Service

Initial work to review the Council's Supported Living Service strongly indicates this ruling will have no impact, as Council staff are paid above the minimum wage level. However, further work is required and ongoing to confirm this.

#### Direct Payment Provision

There are a small number of people who in the last 6 years have managed their own care provision through the Direct Payment Scheme and have used sleep-in arrangements as part of this. It is assumed that these people funded this provision using the method that is no longer lawful. Whilst we expect the number of people that did this to be low, this is the area that gives the Council most cause for concern and we are currently looking through the cases to assess the specific impact on each individual. We are also looking into the question of who is liable for any enforcement action or payment of arrears.

#### Independent Sector Supported Living Providers

This is the sector most affected by this ruling. Many of these Providers are struggling to meet the combined demands of the National Minimum Wage, the National Living Wage and the additional payments for sleep-ins. Some of these providers have already approached the Council seeking additional funding to help them cover these costs. At this point in time, the exact impact is not clear and the Council has not set aside additional funds to meet these requests. Council officers are working with these Providers to understand the scale of the financial pressures they are facing and to help them overcome these challenges.

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT (COUNCILLOR CARO WILD) WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

I first submitted a petition regarding the dangerous parking around the Cardiff Met University Cyncoed Campus on Circle Way West back in July. After waiting months, I received a response in October which said the vicinity would be included in the Area Investigation Report for 2017, which will be made available in early 2018. This response is identical to ones received regarding other traffic related issues in Pentwyn. Given that 500 people signed this petition, which is based on an ongoing issue which has caused problems for residents for a long time, I and they expected a more specific response, particularly given the time it took to get back to us. I have asked for this to be looked at again, but would like to know how long should residents be expected to wait before they see some action?

And would the cabinet member consider attending a meeting in the community to address the issue with residents directly?

Residents are getting quite understandably impatient and are cynical about whether the council consider the dangerous parking to be a priority.

Reply

I understand that waiting until the Annual Area Investigation (AAI) has been carried out will seem like an unreasonable delay. However, even if a decision is made to implement parking restrictions, this year's budgets are already fully committed and over stretched. Therefore, we would not be able to start work until the new financial year at the earliest.

The advantage of the AAI approach is that we can take a more strategic and joined up approach to these issues, which we believe is a more effective and efficient way of allocating limited funding to this type of work.

Nevertheless, I do understand your concerns and, if you wish, I could arrange a meeting with officers who will be able to discuss your concerns and explain the AAI and other processes that they work to. I'm sure that they would be happy to consider any suggestions that you may have.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

As part of the proposed partnership between Cardiff Council and HSBC, to improve cycling, would it be possible for money to be invested in cycling infrastructure at schools, such as bike stands/shelters?

Having somewhere safe to secure bikes during the school day would be a good way to encourage children to cycle to and from school.

Reply

The HSBC partnership project provides funding to support a range of initiatives that are designed to increase participation in cycling for daily travel, leisure and sport in Cardiff. The activities will include engagement with schools to provide basic cycle skills training, which will be integrated with the cycling and school travel-related activities currently delivered by the Council's Road Safety Team.

Whilst the HSBC funding cannot be used for physical infrastructure such as bike stands, the activities it will support will feed into the delivery of our Capital Ambition commitment to develop Active Travel Action Plans for all schools in Cardiff.

The Active Travel Action Plans will be developed through engagement with school pupils and staff and will identify measures required to give pupils the opportunity travel to school on foot or by bicycle. Such measures are likely to include the provision of secure and covered cycle parking located on the school premises, as well as physical measures to provide safer walking and routes within the immediate vicinity of the school site. They will also provide the basis for future bids to Welsh

Government for grant funding to enable the physical improvements identified in the Active Travel Plan to be implemented.

The Council is due to embark on a major programme of investment in the city's schools through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Programme. Through working closely with my Cabinet colleague, Councillor Merry, I intend to ensure that the new educational facilities developed as part of this programme will incorporate all the on-site and off-site infrastructure that is necessary to enable every pupil to enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of walking and cycling to school each day. This will be achieved through a co-ordinated, cross-departmental effort, bringing together the skills, expertise and resources of the Council's Schools Reorganisation, Planning and Transport teams.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

Following the email circulated to all councillors on 6 November regarding the London Borough of Hounslow scheme for installing charging points for electric vehicles by fitting them to existing street lights, will you look into the possibility of introducing a similar scheme here in Cardiff?

Reply

The Council has recently commissioned a feasibility study to look at options for a potential Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the city. It is anticipated that this will provide a comprehensive resource on which we can base decisions on the way forward in providing EV charging facilities across the city.

The study will review the EV market and best practice from around the UK, including infrastructure technology, energy requirements and costs of various systems and funding options. The study will undertake an options appraisal and make recommendations on the best way forward for the city.

Officers are currently investigating options for a pilot of various types of charge points over the next months. It is anticipated that the technology type that was recently launched in Hounslow could be one of these, subject to technical feasibility, including access to appropriate power sources.

Members will be briefed in due course following the review of options and the outcomes of the feasibility study.