

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF CARDIFF

The County Council of the City & County of Cardiff met at County Hall, Cardiff on 26 November 2020 to transact the business set out in the Council summons dated Friday, 20 November 2020.

Present: County Councillor (Lord Mayor)

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

113 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received, Councillors Morgan and Phillips will be a little late in attending.

114 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct were received as follows:

COUNCILLOR	ITEM	NATURE OF INTEREST
Councillor Mackie	9 – Motion 2	Personal Interest – owns property on Westgate Street, Cardiff
Councillor Carter	9 – Motion 2	Prejudicial Interest – employer very involved in the closure of Castle Street
Councillor Williams	9 – Motion 2	Personal Interest – owns property on Westgate Street, Cardiff.

115 : PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions were received.

116 : PETITIONS

The following petitions were received:

Councillor	No of relevant signatures	Request
Councillor Berman	332	Calling on the Council to implement plans to reduce algal blooms in Roath Park Lake.
Councillor Berman	323	Requesting the Council to accelerate the planned expansion of Cardiff High School
Councillor Berman	195	Petitioning the Council to keep Britannia Quay as open space (Planning)
Councillor Berman	266	Petitioning the Council to save the Roath Court Pub (Planning)
Councillor Carter	220	Requesting the Council to reopen Pentwyn Leisure Centre
Councillor Gordon	170	Objecting to the Road Traffic Order proposal for Penhill Road / Cathedral Road
Councillor Molik	60	Calling on the Council to implement speed control measures on Dan y Coed Road
Councillor Robson	54	Calling on the Council to continue Garden Waste Collections through the winter.
Councillor Taylor	181	Calling on the Council to increase Welsh Medium School places

117 : CARDIFF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FULL REVIEW

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport, Councillor Wild proposed the report.

The purpose of this report is to respond to legislation which requires Local Authorities to undertake a full review of their Local Development Plan (LDP) within 4 years of adoption.

Specifically, approval is sought to:

- Undertake consultation on the draft Cardiff LDP Review Report (Appendix 1) which proposes that a full revision of the LDP is undertaken through the preparation of a Replacement LDP for the period 2021-2036;
- Undertake consultation on the Cardiff Replacement LDP draft Delivery Agreement (Appendix 2); and

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

- Report back to Council on the findings of the consultation processes and the final Review Report in March 2021.

The Chairperson of the Planning Committee Councillor Keith Jones seconded the report.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the report.

Councillor McEvoy moved to refer the item back to Cabinet

Councillor Keith Parry seconded the reference back to Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport responded to matters raised in the debate.

The Lord Mayor moved to vote on the reference back as proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Keith Parry.

The reference back was LOST.

The Lord Mayor moved to vote on the recommendations outlined in the report.

The report was CARRIED.

118 : TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT 2020-2021

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance, Councillor Weaver proposed the report.

To inform members of the Council's treasury management activities since 1 April 2020 and the position as at 30 September 2020.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Huw Thomas seconded the report.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the report.

The Cabinet Member for Finance Modernisation and Performance Councillor Weaver responded to matters raised in the debate.

The Lord Mayor moved to the vote.

The report was CARRIED.

119 : STATEMENTS

Leader Statement

The Leader responded to questions in relation to:

- Vaccination Centres
- Living Wage

Cabinet Member, Investment & Development

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Merchant Place, Quarry Building
- Proposed new Arena in Cardiff Bay
- Future of the Motorpoint Arena

Cabinet Member, Culture & Leisure

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Costs of Cardiff Castle Ice Walk

Cabinet Member, Finance Modernisation & Performance

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Small business grants

Cabinet Member, Housing & Communities

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Re-cladding of Lynstep flats
- Homelessness
- Outreach Team
- Free School Meals
- Rough Sleepers

Cabinet Member, Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Garden Waste/Big Sweep
- Cardiff Dogs Home
- Access/Assisted lifts

Cabinet Member, Children & Families

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Child Development Fund
- Social Care Workforce, recruitment and retention

Cabinet Member, Social Care, Health & Well-being

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Active Minds Work

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

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- COVID-19 procedures in Schools
- Visits to Danes Court School
- Health and Safety in classrooms
- Postponement of exams

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

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Llandaff Fields
- Llanrumney Development Plan – Active Travel
- Cycle Routes
- 24 hour bus services

120 : MOTION 1

The Lord Mayor advised that the notice of motion proposed by Councillor Mike Jones-Pritchard and seconded by Councillor Oliver Owen had been received for consideration and was included on the Summons for the meeting. One amendment had been received to the motion.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Jones-Pritchard to propose the motion as follows:

This Council notes:

- 1) The impact of Coronavirus will be with us for some time to come. It has affected key aspects of people's lives, including their social lives. It has isolated many people from their peer groups and friends.
- 2) That groups, including clubs, societies, religious groups and community organisations which offer activities and a chance to meet socially, have had to stop meeting physically and that some are at a real risk of permanently closing down as a result.
- 3) That an increase in social isolation amongst individual residents potentially leads to illness, especially mental health issues.
- 4) That a number of groups across the city are run by people who may not have a computer or know how to use one.
- 5) That if groups are using virtual meeting technology, there may be a cost to the group.

This Council calls on the Cabinet:

- 1) To continue tackling the problems of loneliness caused by Coronavirus in all age groups but especially the elderly and vulnerable.
- 2) To introduce a package of measures to assist local groups across Cardiff which could include the following measures:
 - Small grants ring-fenced to allow local groups to afford subscriptions to use virtual meeting facilities.

- Training for those who are not experienced in how to use virtual meetings to use it to maximum benefit.
 - To consider what other small scale targeted and effective support can be offered to local groups across Cardiff.
- 3) To provide advice and support to groups returning to meeting in person when it is safe to do so.
 - 4) To ensure the Council will offer online sessions to groups on key messaging to help residents such as council tax reductions, community alarm services, how to learn online and how to access services to support people living with dementia.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Oliver Owen

The Lord Mayor invited the proposer of the amendment Councillor Lynda Thorne to table the amendment:

This Council:

- 1) *Congratulates the Council on speedily setting up the 'Together for Cardiff' volunteering scheme bringing all mutual aid groups and other local organisations, such as C3SC, together in one place to help promote their services at this time. The scheme supported individuals who were required to self-isolating and or with no support or struggling financially.*

The Council, however, does note:

- 2) The impact of Coronavirus will be with us for some time to come. It has affected key aspects of people's lives, including their social lives. It has isolated many people from their peer groups and friends.
- 3) That groups, including clubs, societies, religious groups and community organisations which offer activities and a chance to meet socially, have had to stop meeting physically and that some are at a real risk of permanently closing down as a result.
- 4) That an increase in social isolation amongst individual residents potentially leads to illness, especially mental health issues.
- 5) That a number of groups across the city are run by people who may not have a computer or know how to use one.
- 6) That if groups are using virtual meeting technology, there may be a cost to the group.

This Council calls on the Cabinet:

- 1) To continue to use its best endeavours to tackle the problems of loneliness caused by Coronavirus in all age groups but especially ~~the elderly~~ *vulnerable and older people.*
- 2) To ~~introduce a package of measures~~ *utilise the Council's community support officers to continue to assist local groups across Cardiff. which could include the following measures*

- 3) *Investigate the provision of small grants fund to support local community led voluntary groups to fund administration and training.*
 - ~~ring-fenced to allow local groups to afford subscriptions to use virtual meeting facilities.~~
 - ~~Training for those who are not experienced in how to use virtual meetings to use it to maximum benefit.~~
 - ~~To consider hat other small scale targeted and effective support can be offered to local groups across Cardiff.~~
- 3) ~~To provide advice and support to groups returning to meeting in person when it is safe to do so.~~
- 4) ~~To~~ Ensure the Council ~~will~~ *continues to* offer on line sessions to groups on key messaging to help residents *on issues* such as council tax reductions, community alarm services, how to learn online and how to access services to support people living with dementia.

The Motion would read as follows:

This Council:

- 1) Congratulates the Council on speedily setting up the 'Together for Cardiff' volunteering scheme bringing all mutual aid groups and other local organisations, such as C3SC, together in one place to help promote their services at this time. The scheme supported individuals who were required to self-isolating and or with no support or struggling financially.

The Council, however, does note:

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- 4) That an increase in social isolation amongst individual residents potentially leads to illness, especially mental health issues.
- 5) That a number of groups across the city are run by people who may not have a computer or know how to use one.
- 6) That if groups are using virtual meeting technology, there may be a cost to the group.

This Council calls on the Cabinet:

- 1) To continue to use its best endeavours to tackle the problems of loneliness caused by Coronavirus in all age groups but especially vulnerable and older people.

- 2) To utilise the Council's community support officers to continue to assist local groups across Cardiff.
- 3) Investigate the provision of small grants fund to support local community led voluntary groups to fund administration and training.
- 5) Ensure the Council continues to offer on line sessions to groups on key messaging to help residents on issues such as council tax reductions, community alarm services, how to learn online and how to access services to support people living with dementia.

Councillors Elsmore seconded the amendment.

The Lord Mayor invited debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Jones-Pritchard to respond to items raised during the debate. Councillor Robson accepted the Amendment.

The Lord Mayor moved to vote on the Motion as amended proposed by Councillor Jones-Pritchard.

The Motion was unanimously CARRIED.

121 : MOTION 2

(Councillor Carter having declared a personal and prejudicial interest left the meeting during discussion of this item)

(Councillors Mackie and Williams reaffirmed their personal interests in respect of this item)

The Lord Mayor advised that the notice of motion proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Keith Parry had been received for consideration and was included on the Summons for the meeting. One amendment had been received

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor McEvoy to propose the motion as follows:

1. This council regrets the ill-advised closure of Castle Street.
2. We note the disruption caused by the closure.
3. We furthermore express concern about the extra car miles now being driven and the negative effect on the environment.
4. The Council resolves to open Castle Street as soon as can be done in practical terms in January 2021, whilst preservice safe cycling lanes.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Keith Parry

The Lord Mayor invited the proposer of the amendment Councillor Jayne Cowan to table the amendment:

1. This council regrets the ill-advised closure of Castle Street *to all traffic and the lack of consultation in advance of the closure.*
2. We note the disruption caused by the closure.
3. We furthermore express concern about the extra car miles now being driven and the negative effect on the environment.
4. The Council resolves to open Castle Street as soon as can be done in practical terms in January 2021, whilst preservice safe cycling lanes.

We call on the Cabinet to ensure that all proposed major future road closures undertake a consultation with affected businesses and residents. If COVID is still present, meetings can take place electronically and the Council must make full use of social media to ensure that all views are taken into consideration.

The Motion would read as follows:

1. This council regrets the ill-advised closure of Castle Street to all traffic and the lack of consultation in advance of the closure.
2. We note the disruption caused by the closure.
3. We furthermore express concern about the extra car miles now being driven and the negative effect on the environment.
4. The Council resolves to open Castle Street as soon as can be done in practical terms in January 2021, whilst preservice safe cycling lanes.

We call on the Cabinet to ensure that all proposed major future road closures undertake a consultation with affected businesses and residents. If COVID is still present, meetings can take place electronically and the Council must make full use of social media to ensure that all views are taken into consideration.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Williams

The Lord Mayor invited debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor McEvoy to respond to items raised during the debate. Councillor McEvoy accepted the Amendment.

The Lord Mayor moved to vote on the Motion as amended proposed by Councillor McEvoy.

The Motion as amended was LOST.

122 : ORAL QUESTIONS

Question – Councillor Hudson

With Castle Street set to be reopened to taxis and buses but not cars, what provisions are going to be in place for the disabled to access the city centre, and in particular this area, and would there be designated disabled parking in close proximity?

Reply – Councillor Wild

All provision that existed before is still in place, there was no dedicated disabled parking facilities on Duke Street and Castle Street prior to their closure. The temporary changes made for the reopening of Duke Street and Castle Street to allow taxis and buses will therefore not result in any loss of disabled parking spaces.

There has been extensive consultation with representatives from disability groups and a full Equality Impact Assessment has been developed in the course of the design and implementation of the temporary scheme.

There will be full access to all car parks within the City Centre, the City Centre is open for business and people can still park, if they need to, as they did before.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Hudson

Why have the disabled parking spaces disappeared from Westgate Street please?

Reply – Councillor Wild

It is my understanding that they are being replaced, they may in the design stages but I will certainly check that for you.

Question – Councillor Carter

The latest update we had was that the Cardiff Blues would be using Pentwyn Leisure Centre through November. Can the cabinet member give an indication as to when the centre will be open again to the community?

Reply – Councillor Bradbury

I can confirm that the centre will be open to the public as a mass vaccination facility in partnership with Cardiff & Vale University Health Board for 12 months.

Looking to the future, Pentwyn Leisure Centre operates at a significant financial deficit, which hasn't been helped by the initial lockdown earlier this year and reduced occupancy levels due to Covid-19 safe operating protocols.

Positive discussions between all parties are also taking place to consider investment and improvement opportunities to benefit the community. Hopefully, these improvements, which are subject to approval of Capital Funding, can be made during the period that the Centre is used by UHB in the fight against Covid-19.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Carter

Could you confirm to us this evening, whether Cardiff Blue's will continue to have access to the leisure centre during the vaccination period and can you also assure us that a proposal will be put forward in the capital budget to invest in the leisure centre next year.

Reply – Councillor Bradbury

I cannot pre-empt any decisions on the budget but I am optimistic. Yes, Cardiff Blue's will be using the upstairs and UHW and team will be using the downstairs, the reasons for that I cannot reveal publicly but I have told you privately. I am very happy to have specific meetings during this whole period to discuss any point you or your ward colleagues have and I want to thank the people of Pentwyn for supporting us in using their leisure centre in leading the fight out of Covid-19 and hopefully into some sense of normality.

Question – Councillor Dilwar Ali

Pleased to see the roll-over of 20mph speed limit signs in Llandaff North at Station Road and nearby schools. Can you confirm when this roll over will be in Gabalfa Avenue, Aberporth Road and College Road?

Reply – Councillor Wild

We have been introducing temporary 20mph speed limits in district centres across the city as part of our Covid-19 recovery work. This work is focused around local and district shopping centres where the speed limits were previously 30mph. We have been trying hard to get the speed of vehicles down.

Station Road in Llandaff North was delivered as part of Phase 1 of these works and we are currently delivering Phase 2, which includes the local shops on Gabalfa Avenue in Llandaff North. This new temporary 20mph speed limit will tie-in with the existing 20mph speed limit on Colwill Road outside Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal.

Question – Councillor Robson

Residents across Cardiff are still contacting me to complain that there is no scheduled garden waste collection until March. Will you listen to the concerns expressed and reinstate a monthly garden waste collection?

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

Reply – Councillor Michael

The decision to suspend garden waste collections was made to ensure that we had resilience within our workforce to maintain and deliver statutory frontline services during the current pandemic.

Frontline staff availability was reduced by 33% at the height of the pandemic, resulting in us having to suspend garden waste, mixed recycling and food waste collections.

To ensure that we mitigate against a repeat of this scenario, we have taken the decision to suspend garden waste collections as this will have the least impact for the residents of Cardiff during the winter months. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to reinstate garden waste collections prior to March next year.

Our HWRC sites at Lamby Way and Bessemer Road are open throughout the winter and will accept garden waste and there will be a one-off garden waste collection in January.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Robson

People are trying to enjoy their gardens in the day light hours that they have, especially as they can't go out, and are having to store tree and leaf fall, some of which comes in from the street. Surely a monthly collection is a minimum service this Council can provide even in the current situation?

Reply – Councillor Michael

33% of our staff were impacted, this is not an essential service, and the actual tonnage would not justify our lorry's going out to collect. We have to take into account that the pandemic is still ongoing and getting worse, we have to make sure we can provide a waste service for this City, on balance it's the right thing to do not only for the City but for our staff.

Question – Councillor Sandrey

What is the council's policy in regard to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs), and will it be seeking to implement any, particularly off the back of a study which found there are no clear social equity problems relating to LTNs?

Reply – Councillor Wild

I am aware of the study you refer to and the growing level of interest in Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. I have asked officers to investigate the scope for implementing LTNs in a Cardiff context. As a first step, it would make sense to undertake some investigative work to determine the feasibility of LTNs in different areas of the city.

We will speak to the Welsh Government about how a Cardiff initiative, and any feasibility work that is required, might be funded within the current criteria of their grant funding.

Question – Councillor Cunnah

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update for those businesses accessing the Covid related grants administered by the local authority? I know many small businesses in Canton applied. I would just like to thank the Cabinet Member and officers too. On those occasions when any problem has occurred, officers have pulled out all the stops to make sure all eligible businesses receive the money quickly.

Reply – Councillor Weaver

I refer to the answer set out in my written statement, the Council's Finance team has worked closely with colleagues in Economic Development to administer over 7,500 business grants totalling over £70m to support businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, officers have worked to promote the uptake of wider funding by local businesses, including the Economic Resilience Fund administered by the Welsh Government.

This has all taken some considerable effort to put in place, especially in terms of implementing the recent Firebreak-related grants which required a very short turnaround. Over 3,000 applications have been received to date for Firebreak-related grants and this number is continuing to rise.

I would also like to thank Welsh Government officials who have worked with council officers to identify further funding for grants in Cardiff due to the high levels of demand.

It is clear, however, that local businesses are still suffering, and we must continue to look at how we can support them both through the ongoing pandemic and during the recovery period.

Question – Councillor Robson

What additional enforcement will be undertaken to ensure that the current Coronavirus restrictions are maintained at the Cardiff Christmas Market and also the wider city centre following some of the scenes pictured since the Firebreak ended?

Reply – Councillor Michael

In terms of the Christmas Market, steps have been taken by the operator to ensure compliance with the COVID-19 regulations. The operator has issued guidance to all stallholders and has also employed four stewards to monitor implementation of the guidance by stallholders and to enforce compliance. The Council also has introduced

a dedicated Christmas Market steward who is charged with ensuring the guidelines are followed.

In addition, the Council has also introduced four safety marshals into the city centre to assist with ensuring social distancing is maintained and to support retail operators with any hot spots or queuing issues that may arise. The Council is also seeking to boost this number further in the coming days and is considering the implementation of other interventions such as relaying messages to the public to stay safe and observe the rules over a speaker system.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Robson

I am concerned from pictures I have seen from the City Centre last weekend and previous weeks, where people clearly were not social distancing. What more can be done to ensure people do social distance to stop the spread of this virus?

Reply – Councillor Michael

That is precisely why we have taken the steps we have with Castle Street, which you vehemently disagree with and to make sure we have market stewards, the speaker system and to take every step we can to encourage people to follow the regulations. It would help if other parties got that message across also, instead of using the pandemic when it suits them for their own political purposes.

Question – Councillor Boyle

What plans are there to reduce the risk of injury to school children walking to Howardian Primary along Hammond Way?

Reply – Councillor Wild

Officers are aware of the problems associated with cars travelling to Howardian Primary School via Hammond Way during the morning and afternoon peak periods.

The most effective way of dealing with these problems would be the introduction of a School Street scheme on Hammond Way and connecting streets.

We intend to seek funding from the Welsh Government to support the implementation of such a scheme during the 2021/22 financial year.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Boyle

The Liberal Democrats have warned about the risks of car carrying out three point turns in the roads around Howardian Primary and we have warned that the developments in the area would worsen those risks. Those warnings are formally captured in our public objections to a number of related planning applications. As predicted, a number of near misses have occurred as cars execute three point turns in the roads around the school. We and your officers have received emails telling us

that what we warned would happen, is happening. Will you therefore commit to making Hammond Way the top priority for the school streets programme and accelerate the process by which that money is diverted to a scheme that you know is essential and the streets are posing a very serious risk to the safety of children.

Reply – Councillor Wild

I am concerned to hear that, and to hear of other issues across the City and that is why we have brought the programme at a pace that no other local authority in Wales or the rest of the UK have done. There are 20 in place and we are urgently trying to do more. We recognise the work going on at the school with active travel plans and we commit to fix the issue as fast as we can.

Question – Councillor Henshaw

Can the Cabinet Member give an update on progress to develop a segregated cycleway to connect Splott with the city centre?

Reply- Councillor Wild

Plans to install a pop-up cycleway, providing an off-road route linking Splott to the city centre via Tyndall Street, will be implemented in the New Year. Thanks to everyone for their help with this, which is great news for the people of Splott.

Question – Councillor Dianne Rees

Many of us will have received multiple complaints about the use of noisy fireworks and their impact on animals and young children. Fireworks used to be permitted on the 5th November for one night. Nowadays, there seems to be a season of fireworks nightly from September to January. Modern fireworks are ever more powerful and dangerous with very loud bangs. Does the council understand the level of concern about unlicensed firework use and what does it plan to do about this growing nuisance?

Reply – Councillor Michael

Yes we do, Shared Regulatory Services carries out checks annually to ensure that suppliers are complying with the relevant firework safety legislation, including age controls. We also understand the distress that can be caused to pets and other animals by fireworks, and SRS has been working closely with the RSPCA on the matter.

At a meeting of the SRS Joint Committee in December last year, it was agreed that an approach would be made to the UK Government requesting action in response to the concerns voiced by the RSPCA and the Senedd's Petitions Committee on this issue, with a view to changes being put into place before the 2020 fireworks season. Unfortunately, the response that was hoped for from the UK Government was not received and it is disappointing that, without a change in the law around the use of fireworks, there is little that can be done on a local level to minimise their use. That

said, SRS continues to promote advice to animal owners on keeping them safe and calm. I attended a clean air conference a few years ago and I remember them saying that there is more pollution on Bonfire night than any incinerator facility produces for a whole year. It is devastating for climate change; I would urge all of you to do what you can to stop the unnecessary use of fireworks.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Dianne Rees

Is there anything that can be done on a local by-law level, to restrict the sale of fireworks and also to restrict the number of days and times that fireworks can be let off, unlicensed by individuals.

Reply – Councillor Michael

This is something for Central Government and they do not seem to want to play ball. I would urge you to use your contacts in Central Government to enable us to do it locally.

Question – Councillor Molik

How many children are not attending our schools and how many are being home schooled?

How have these numbers changes over the last 4 years?

Reply – Councillor Merry

There are 299 pupils who have not returned to school and a further 322 with under 20% attendance.

Within these figures, there will be a small number of pupils who have not yet been able to return from overseas due to the Covid-19 pandemic and those who have been advised not to return on medical grounds due to their own or a family member's health condition.

Four years ago, there were 32 pupils with under 20% attendance at this point in the year, so anxiety about Covid-19 would appear to account for the majority of cases.

There has been an increase in the numbers of families who have elected to home educate, with 119 new Elective Home Education (EHE) learners since 1st September 2020, bringing the total to 328.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Molik

Have we looked at why more parents are home educating? Is it because they are not getting the provision in the local schools or is it more about the curriculum? How is children's wellbeing and safety at home being supported as we have a duty of care towards them?

Reply – Councillor Merry

It is a UK wide phenomenon and it has been going on for some years, but it has escalated over the last twelve months. A recent survey in England found a 38% increase from comparative school census days since 2019. The reasons given are lifestyle, ideological and philosophical then anxiety and phobia, bullying and a very small number awaiting a place in school. This is not a Cardiff specific issue and I share your concerns because although some parents may have found home schooling in the pandemic enjoyable and made the choice, that's a positive but if it's for negative reasons such as bullying then it is concerning. I share your interest in finding out more detail. There are wider concerns regarding safeguarding and when children are not registered with a Doctor and we may not even have them in the system.

Question – Councillor Lister

Can the Cabinet Member update us with how many families across the City are benefitting from the Welsh Government's Childcare Offer, and commit to updating Members on the figures for their ward if requested?

Reply – Councillor Hinchey

The Childcare Offer aims to assist parents to return to work, to increase the disposable income of low income working families and to support child development and school readiness.

Since Cardiff began administrating the Childcare Offer for Wales in October 2018, a total of 3,744 children have received funded childcare under the scheme (this relates to 3,491 different families).

The total value of cost saving to families in Cardiff between October 2018 and October 2020 was £9,159,894.40.

Up-to-date ward level information on the number of children benefiting from the scheme is readily available to members on request.

I have looked at Grangetown, numbers range between 35 and 46.

Question – Councillor Hudson

How many electric vehicle charging points have been installed in Cardiff in the last couple of years to date?

Reply – Councillor Michael

We have used UK Government funding from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles to install 18 charging points at 10 locations in the city and we will shortly be installing a further 10 charging points at 5 more locations. In addition, we have installed 1 rapid charging point, with more of these being installed at a further 5 locations in the coming weeks.

Work to provide more electric vehicle charging points, including discussions with electricity suppliers, is ongoing in order to expand provision within the city to support our One Planet Cardiff strategy.

Question – Councillor Taylor

A recent report from the Wales Centre for Public Policy shows that Cardiff has seen the highest increase in the number of children who are looked after, alongside a national decrease in the number of children placed in adoption. What steps is Cardiff Council and Vale, Valleys and Cardiff (VVC) Adoption taking to increase the number of children placed for adoption?

Reply – Councillor Hinchey

The national decrease in the number of children being placed for adoption must be considered in the context of an overall reduction in children being referred for adoption, the number of referrals which are withdrawn due to alternative permanency plans being made and the reduction in the number of Placement Orders. For example, 71 Placement Orders were made in the VVC region in 2019-20, compared to 101 Placement Orders being made in 2018-19.

Despite this, VVC has continued to place the highest number of children for adoption in Wales and, in 2019-20, just over half of these were Cardiff placements.

VVC continues to be proactive in family finding by utilising a range of mechanisms and engaging with external agencies if no appropriate placement can be found within the region. They also have a Marketing Strategy and Marketing Officer to recruit more adopters, with significant improvement being made in this area through increasing numbers of both enquiries from prospective adopters and approved adopters.

With additional Welsh Government investment in adoption support services, VVC are also able to offer a high quality service with early support, transitions work and other expertise to improve the experience of families adopting our children and making placements more likely to succeed.

It would be helpful if Councillor Taylor alerted me to the particular policy document he refers to, but to give some confidence, across all local authorities in Wales, the range of looked after children coming in to be looked after does differ significantly across Wales but I have pulled out some research from today just to show the numbers. Figures range from 22 per 1000 in Torfaen to 4.5 per 1000 in Carmarthen; Cardiff is mid-range at 1.5 above All Wales average.

Question – Councillor Gordon

Is Kitchener Primary School being included in the School Streets scheme by having CCTV cameras installed, as at other primary schools, in Riverside and across Cardiff? Railway Terrace is congested with cars each morning and afternoon at the beginning and end of the school day. The build-up of cars, running their engines and

turning in this narrow cul-de-sac is upsetting residents who live in Railway Terrace and is endangering our Riverside children who walk to school.

Reply – Councillor Wild

Kitchener Primary School is one of a number of schools where we are seeking to implement new School Street schemes. Officers are preparing to submit bids to the Welsh Government for funding to implement School Street schemes during the next financial year. Once funding is secured, we would seek to implement the Kitchener Primary School scheme at the earliest opportunity.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Gordon

The school is in a cul-de-sac so would be a really easy one to do. When is the 'earliest opportunity'? It is urgent, there is road rage between parents as they drop their children off each morning.

Reply – Councillor Wild

I am aware of issues across the City and I am really keen to progress as many as possible. Hopefully this academic year but I wouldn't like to promise but I will try to get an update on when it may be.

Question – Councillor Dianne Rees

The dark afternoons and worsening weather has highlighted the danger to City Centre / Cathays Park workers of closing Castle Street to private motor cars. Many professionals have their offices in Cathedral Road Business district. The shortest route on foot to Cathays Park, University and Law Courts is through the Castle Grounds and Bute Park. Many of these essential workers are having to carry heavy boxes and files to their daily place of work and hence cannot cycle. They have to be at their place of work in person and are by the nature of their work unable to work from home or office for much of the time. Castle Street being closed to private motor cars is unnecessarily exposing women and men to danger and ill health in dark Autumn and Winter evenings, especially dangerous during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Will you please consider re-opening Castle Street to traffic, including private cars, and permit parking in City Hall Car Park, which for months has been underused as Councillors and many council staff are able to work from home?

Reply – Councillor Wild

It is Council Policy to discourage short car journeys across the City and the legal professionals are not exempt from that. We are concerned about any safety issues. In terms of heavy boxes, it is clear that minimal paperwork is now more normalised and I understand the legal profession are using digitalised case systems to help with this. It will soon be possible to get a taxi from the Courts to Cathedral Road via Castle Street and the fare would be competitive if not cheaper than a few hours parking on Edward VII Avenue.

It's good to know that many professionals working in my ward are committed to active travel by walking to work in the Civic Centre and they can just as easily do so by using Castle Street, Duke Street and Kingsway.

The temporary scheme will remove general traffic from these streets and assist in making the area safer for all road users and pedestrians, whilst also helping to address the well-documented issues with poor air quality on Castle Street. It will also remove congestion and support more efficient public transport movements. I do not understand why City Hall car park should be used when there is plenty of parking in the streets around it.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Dianne Rees

The car park is empty, it is underused. We have the privileged position as Council workers and Councillors to be able to work from home, reducing the amount of car use and public transport. Other people have to go to work, in difficult circumstances during short hours of day light, travelling across the City with paperwork or machinery, in formal clothes, so it is not practical. We must understand as Councillors that other people have more difficult places of work. The business district in Cathedral Road was thriving, they were unable to work for 6 months as Courts were closed, and they now have to work during the winter months. What will you do to provide safe routes, particularly for younger women and men who are having to travel through the park as it's the shortest route, are you going to light the park to ensure they are safe?

Reply – Councillor Wild

The route I would take is Castle Street and Kingsway which now is safer than before due to the closure, more pedestrians around there make it feel safer. I don't understand if you are suggesting we allow City Hall car park to be used by one certain profession but there are plenty of spaces around there that are being underused and as of this Sunday they will be able to use a taxi or bus which will get them possibly quicker and cheaper.

Question – Councillor Gordon

When is the Blackweir Suspension Bridge going to reopen? The continued closure of this bridge prevents cycle commuters getting to work on a main off-road route, and it prevents people making a circular walk round Bute Park, Coopers Fields and Pontcanna Fields. For reasons of promoting health and wellbeing, residents of Riverside Ward urge the Council to reopen this bridge.

Reply- Councillor Bradbury

Further to my reply to your Written Question last month, a recent structural survey, commissioned by Cardiff University, has found that part of the bridge decking requires replacement, as do a small number of metal mesh panels.

I fully understand the consequences of the continued closure of the bridge, but I'm sure you will appreciate that securing the safety of users of the bridge is of paramount importance. Officers are currently awaiting confirmation of the timescales for completion of these works from the University, but I will keep you updated on this. It is important to note that Cardiff University are responsible for repair and maintenance of this bridge.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Gordon

When are you expecting a reply from the University saying when it will be prepared as the survey shows it needs to be?

Reply – Councillor Bradbury

I have asked Officers to chase this week to try and move it along a bit as I understand it has been an issue for a number of Ward Councillors. I am meeting with Officers next week and will try and get a timeline.

Question – Councillor Lister

I've been contacted by a number of families who are currently on the housing waiting list as they are living in overcrowded properties. Many of them have been waiting for a long time. Is there anything the Cabinet Member can do to help address this issue?

Reply – Councillor Thorne

I recognise the problem of overcrowded housing in the city and the additional pressures that this puts on families at this time.

There are 265 households on the social housing waiting list who are recognised as having a high housing need and who are overcrowded. Of these, 57 are existing council tenants. Unfortunately, due to the short supply of social housing, particularly of larger properties, it can take some time for these families to be rehoused.

I have asked officers to focus on this issue given the additional impact of the pandemic. A plan has been developed, which includes a range of options for overcrowded households such as prioritising, where we can, a move into a larger social housing property and increasing the incentives to encourage tenants to downsize, freeing up larger properties for those that need them.

In some cases, it may be more appropriate to extend the existing council home and we are exploring new and innovative ways to do this with minimum disruption. We will also help older children to move on to separate accommodation where this is the most appropriate solution.

Supplementary Question – Councillor Lister

Would there be an opportunity to meet some of that demand with the new ambitious council house building programme that we have underway?

Reply – Councillor Thorne

There is but sometimes there is an issue in that the areas we are building in are not places where larger families want to move. I am pleased to say that we have recently acquired 20 additional 4 bedroom properties from Waites through the Cardiff Living partnership; these properties are in St Mellons, Willowbrook and overcrowded families will be given priority for these new homes and some will be in before Christmas. From the 20 new homes, 9 are targeted for people on the waiting list, we will also be talking to overcrowded households over the coming months, starting with our own tenants, to see what solutions would be best for them to address their situation.

123 : URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was received.

124 : APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Council was requested to approve the recommendations of the Local Authority Governor Panel 24 November 2020.

RESOLVED: that

In accordance with the recommendations of the Local Authority Governor Panel, the Council approves the appointments of Local Authority Governors to the school governing bodies as set out in Appendix 1 on the Amendment Sheet, each for a term of 4 years from the date of the appointment.

125 : OFFICER DECISION - SMT

The Officer Decision was noted.

126 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17 (f) [Written Questions](#) received for consideration and the response will be included as a record in the minutes of the meeting.