

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 September 2021 to transact the business set out in the Council summons dated Friday, 24 September 2021.

Present: County Councillor McKerlich (Lord Mayor)

County Councillors Ahmed, Asghar Ali, Dilwar Ali, Berman, 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, McEvoy, McGarry, Melbourne, Merry, Michael, Molik, Morgan, Naughton, Owen, Parkhill, Jackie Parry, Keith Parry, Patel, Dianne Rees, Mia Rees, Robson, Sandrey, Sattar, Simmons, Singh, Stubbs, Taylor, Graham Thomas, Huw Thomas, Lynda Thorne, Walker, Weaver, Wild, Williams, Wong and Wood

55 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Phillips

56 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor	Item	Nature of Interest
Cllr Rhys Taylor	10	Personal – Family Absence Applicant
Cllr Emma Sandrey	10	Personal – Substitute for Family Absence applicant
Cllr Peter Bradbury	11	Personal – On the Management Committee Caerau Heritage Project.

57 : MINUTES

The minutes of the 22 July 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record.

58 : PETITIONS

The following petitions were submitted.

Councillor	No. of Relevant Signatures	Nature of Petition
Cllr Carter	191	Calling on the Council to tackle the problems with weeds in the Pentwyn and Llanedeyrn.
Cllr Derbyshire	264	Calling on the Council to make the road(s) around Rumney Primary School safer.
Cllr Dilwar Ali	223	Calling on the Council to name Mynachdy Road Coalyard as a candidate for sheltered council/social housing.
Cllr Hudson	60	Calling on the Council to tarmac the pavements in Crystal Wood and St Cenydd Road to prevent any more accidents.
Cllr Mia Rees, on behalf of Cllr Phillips	597	Calling on the Council to install live AQ monitors at Coryton Primary School.

59 : PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question - Miss Danielle Lowe

I would like to understand why some notifications of changes in my local area are sent directly to my address and some are not communicated at all. For example, recently we had a bike lane put in outside our block of flats, to which I received a letter from the council letting me know what was happening and allowing me to share my thoughts and concerns. The same happened for an extension to a probation hostel on our street. I was not informed however, about a multi-disciplinary assessment centre that includes emergency accommodation, a building which I overlook.

My question extends beyond my example, having seen notices stuck to lampposts. Do you not have a responsibility to ensure information is accessible to as many individuals as possible? If a notice is stuck too far up a lamppost, someone in a wheelchair has no hope of accessing the information. In such a multicultural city as Cardiff, where can people who struggle with the English language find more information? What about those with vision impairments? In short my question is, why are some notifications deemed important enough to address to individual homes, whereas others are not made accessible at all?

Reply – Cllr Weaver

Thank you very much for your important question.

Overall, we seek, within the statutory process, to engage as widely as possible, to make these consultations meaningful and actively target those individuals and groups who may not otherwise be engaged in Council business.

The Council has a number of statutory roles in terms of site notifications where we will always seek to utilise as many means as possible to notify residents. In this regard, we often go beyond the minimum legal requirements.

We are increasingly utilising digital media to consult on projects, both through our website and via social media. Furthermore, we are always examining opportunities for innovation in the engagement process.

Where physical site notices are placed in the public domain, we place them in the most accessible locations and on public land where officers are mindful of the need to make these as visible as possible.

I am aware of the legal requirements for our various regulatory functions where officers often seek to go beyond legal minimum requirements by notifying by letter, press and site notices, as well as publicising through our website.

Many other areas of Council business may adopt a more bespoke approach by holding public meetings (restrictions permitting) or officers directly contacting residents in person.

Supplementary Question – Miss Lowe

I'm not entirely sure that does answer my question. My question was why are some notices deemed more important than others, I think you have explained the reasons why they go in different places for example but why are some deemed more important than others?

Reply Cllr Weaver

It will potentially depend on the type of consultation it is, so there are different statutory regulations for Planning and Transport/Highways consultations that must be followed. When it comes to adjoining properties, there comes a point when you do have to make that cut off. I'm very happy, and I'm sure Cllr Wild would be as well, to receive any correspondence about any specific examples you have mentioned, just to discuss where you felt the boundary could have been drawn and would have been more useful or any other innovative ways you feel we could consult residents in a local area. There are a number of Statutory Regulations I could write to you about if you want to contact me afterwards as well, but if you have some suggestions about how we could widen that bearing in mind there does have to be a cut off point with adjoining properties. I believe one of those properties you mentioned may have happened during the Covid crisis as well, if that was the case there certainly were times where some opportunities to have done face to face consultation that we would normally have been doing, were not able to be done at the time. I'm very happy for you to

follow up via email if you wish and we can discuss some of the suggestions you may have, in detail.

Question - Khuram Chowdhry

When will the community of Pentwyn have access to the site that is lying dormant at the moment and why can't the community use some of the community rooms in Pentwyn Leisure Centre?

Reply – Cllr Bradbury

Cardiff & Vale University Health Board is currently reinstating the facility back to the original sports hall specification following its use as an immunisation centre. This requires removing the air handling units and associated plant infrastructure. The Covid secure barriers and screening are also being removed, with health staff welfare facilities being returned to their original use as community space.

Staff have been redeployed into vacancies elsewhere within the GLL portfolio of leisure facilities and, therefore staffing levels are insufficient to operate the full facility safely.

We are planning to move from Health Board occupancy straight into construction of the new facilities to avoid bringing customers back for only a short-term period.

It is likely to be a 12-month construction period from March 2022 to March 2023, with re-opening thereafter, subject to finalisation of the specification, costs, and tendering process.

It's important to note that the community does have access to the outdoor floodlit 3G facility, which remains operational and bookable by local groups, and has been booked and used by local groups.

Supplementary Question – Mr Chowdhry

You said 'We are planning to move from Health Board occupancy straight into construction of the new facilities to avoid bringing customers back for only a short-term period' Why? We need services now, other parts of Cardiff have had venues as they opened up straight after lockdown, it may be short term to yourself but another 6-8 months before construction starts makes all the difference to our neglected community, perhaps not to yourself or other parts of Cardiff, but we have had is lots of warm words over the last several years from GLL and now here. We want action now, today, I am speaking on behalf of the community I was raised in for 40 years. We have been discriminated against because we don't have these services still, it has been slap dash in its delivery by GLL, which is probably why they have failed. In short what will you do to ensure we have access to this site immediately to the community groups? I have hundreds of children in the area ready to utilise the sports hall for Basketball, Football, Gymnastics and I know that there are other people there as well. We need access to it even if it's the sports hall. We can't wait 6-8 months we need access to it today, so in short, what will you do to ensure we have access to this site immediately.

Reply Cllr Bradbury

The whole point of closing it until we reconstruct it is not just because we don't want to disrupt customers, it's so we can get the construction done as quickly as possible. I do not agree with your assertion that we have neglected Pentwyn. Let me just read some of the things that this Labour Administration has done since being elected in 2012 in Pentwyn. £20m for the new Maelfa Shopping Centre, £14m for the Powerhouse Hub and Welfare Centre, £5m proposed on this leisure rebuild. Just to let you know, at Western Leisure Centre when we needed to repair the pool, that pool was out of action for 3 to 4 months and that is in my own ward, we don't preference any other ward over another, we do the works when we are able to do them, in a safe and efficient manner. Once we are able to get this construction underway, we will be in a position in March 2023, a year from the start of construction to have a fantastic community facility which will benefit one of the poorest wards in the City. I hope that reassures you but before this administration the Maelfa and the Powerhouse were in a bad state and Llanedeyrn school was closed so we do not neglect Pentwyn in fact we have invested in it quite substantially.

60 : LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representatives from the Merchant Navy Association (Wales) joined the Lord Mayor for a flag raising on 3rd September at the Mansion House to show support for the UK's merchant seafarers. The flag of the Merchant Navy, The Red Ensign, was raised to mark Merchant Navy Day and to honour the seafarers past and present who have served their country with such distinction over the years.

The Lord Mayor attended an event to commemorate the Anniversary of the Battle of Britain at City Hall on 16th September. The event included the opening of a major historical exhibition on 'Wales and the Battle of Britain', a parade and flypast by the RAF.

The Lord Mayor attended an Ethnic Minority Welsh Women Achievement Association Event at City Hall on 17th September. The EMWWAA event was established to recognise, publicise and applaud deserving ethnic minority women throughout Wales who have made significant contributions to Welsh life and highlight their achievements and successes.

Lord Mayor's Charity

The Lord Mayor attended a fundraising Cricket Match at St Fagan's Cricket Club in aid of the Lord Mayor's Charity on 20th August. £2,360 was raised at the event for Alzheimer's Society Cymru which will be presented by Cllr Michael at Council on 30th September. The Lord Mayor also visited Madina Mosque in Cathays on Friday 24th September where a collection took place in aid of the Lord Mayor's Charity.

COUNCILLOR FENELLA BOWDEN – resigned from the Council on the 29 September 2021. The Lord Mayor thanked Councillor Bowden for her contribution as a Councillor, both to the Council and residents of Heath Ward.

It was with great sadness that we heard that Ian Ephraim, manager of the Council's Hostel and Outreach service, passed away earlier this month after extended treatment for cancer.

Ian worked for the Council for almost 30 years. He was a deeply caring man, completely dedicated to supporting some of the most vulnerable and excluded people in the city, and was instrumental in the great improvements made recently in homeless services.

Ian was a passionate Welshman, who loved his country and the Welsh language. He was a big sports fan and followed the Welsh football team around the globe.

He was a much-valued colleague and will be a huge loss to the service. I'm sure you will join me in sending our deepest sympathies to Ian's family and his colleagues in homeless services at this very sad time.

David Joseph Seligman OBE, age 93 passed away on 20 August 2021. He was a past Chairman of the Planning Committee and had been a Cardiff Councillor for many different wards the last being Caerau.

I would also like to pass on my condolences to the family of former Councillor Martin Holland, who passed away on the 5 August 2021. Martin had been a Councillor for the Splott Ward since 1999 – 2004, then 2008 – 2012.

61 : CARDIFF REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: VISION, ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES & INTEGRATED APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT

The purpose of the report was to report back to Council the findings of the consultation undertaken on the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) draft Vision, Issues and Objectives and draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and to seek Council's approval of the final versions, tabled in Appendix 1 and 2 to this report.

RESOLVED: The recommendation in the report was CARRIED.

Council AGREED to recommend to approve the Replacement Local Development Vision and Objectives and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

62 : ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

The Council was requested to review and determine the allocation of seats, on Committee's to political groups in accordance with Political Balance Rules; and to receive nominations and make appointments of Members in respect of any changes to be made, in accordance with Party Group Wishes.

RESOLVED: Council AGREED to:

- a. approve the revised allocation of seats on Committees as set out in **Appendix A**;

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- b. in accordance with nominations from the groups, make any changes to the appointments of Members to the seats allocated to each group;
- c. appoint Councillor Gibson (Independent Member) to the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee.
- d. request the Monitoring Officer to make appointments in respect of any remaining vacancies in accordance with any further nominations or changes received from the relevant political groups following this meeting, and to report to the next Council meeting the details of all appointments to committees for information.

63 : GOVERNANCE & AUDIT INDEPENDENT MEMBER REPORT

The Council received the recommendation of the Governance and Audit Committee for the Appointment of an Independent Member to the Committee and to appoint the recommended candidate as an Independent Member of the Governance and Audit Committee.

RESOLVED: Council AGREED the following, including the recommendation from the Governance and Audit Committee, outlined on the Amendment Sheet.

1. To receive the recommendation of the Governance and Audit Committee for the appointment of an Independent Member to the committee; and
2. Subject to the receipt of satisfactory references, to appoint the recommended candidate as an Independent Member of the Governance and Audit Committee for an initial 5 year term of office, with the possibility of reappointment for one further 5 year term.
3. At its meeting on 28th September 2021, the Governance and Audit Committee determined to recommend to Council that **Dr JANET WADEMAN BA, PhD, FCMI, FRSA** be appointed as an Independent Member of the Governance and Audit Committee, subject to receipt of satisfactory references, for an initial 5-year term of office, with the possibility of reappointment for one further 5-year term.

64 : SUBSTITUTION TO COVER FAMILY ABSENCE

The Council were asked to agree a substitution for a senior salary holder to cover the family absence of an Elected Member.

RESOLVED: The Council AGREED to:

Approve the substitution of Councillor Emma Sandrey to cover the family absence of Councillor Rhys Taylor, as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and senior salary holder, for a period of 3 months commencing 11 October 2021.

65 : CABINET MEMBER STATEMENTS

[Leaders Statement](#) – Councillor Huw Thomas

The Leader responded to questions in relation to:

- Betty Campbell Monument
- COVID – 19 Update

[Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-being](#) – Councillor Elsmore

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Increased pressures on Services
- New Cardiff and Vale College & Learning Disabilities Day Service Pilot

[Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills](#) – Councillor Merry

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- COVID-19 guidance for Schools (September 2021)
- School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) – Food and Fun 2021

[Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport](#) – Councillor Wild

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- City Travel Trends
- Active Travel Network Map Consultation

[Cabinet Member for Investment & Development](#) – Councillor Goodway

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- International Arena
- City Centre and Economic Recovery

[Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure](#) – Councillor Bradbury

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- City Hall
- Public Space Protection Order for Dog Controls
- Parks

[Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities](#) – Councillor Thorne

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Meeting with the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Homelessness
- Community Hubs

[Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment](#) – Councillor Michael

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Opening of Reuse Shop at Lamby Way
- Garden Waste Collections

[Cabinet Member for Children & Families](#) – Councillor Hinchey

The Cabinet Member responded to questions in relation to:

- Falconwood Assessment Centre
- Cardiff Family Advice and Support (CFAS)

66 : NOTICE OF MOTION

The Lord Mayor noted that a Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Bridgeman and seconded by Councillor Elsmore had been received for consideration. Two Amendments had been received from Liberal Democrat and Conservative Groups

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

This Council wishes to pay tribute to the extraordinary work and dedication during the Covid-19 pandemic of all care workers and unpaid carers delivering Social Care, which serves as such a lifeline to children and adults at risk.

The Council notes with concern the severe staffing pressures now emerging within Social Care exacerbating long-standing demographic pressures, and compounded by long-delayed reform of the social care sector.

The Council welcomes the Welsh Government's recent commitment of immediate additional funding of £40M to support Local Authorities' delivery of Social Care, and further welcomes the Welsh Government's commitment to paying the Real Living Wage to all Social Care workers during this Senedd term.

However, this Council notes with alarm the recent announcement from the UK Government on Social Care which –

- Introduces an unfair increase in National Insurance contributions which will disproportionately impact the poorest in society;
- Provides no immediate new funding for the Social Care sector which has been decimated by over a decade of austerity; and
- Proposes no plans to reform Social Care to address the immediate looming crisis, nor the long term structural issues faced.

The Council further notes that the increase in NI contributions – the biggest tax increase for families in 50 years – will come shortly after a cut to Universal Credit that will impact 31,000 households in Cardiff.

In response, this Council resolves –

- that Cardiff should seek to be a pilot area for introducing the Real Living Wage, and requests that Cabinet bring forward a report detailing the practical implications of how this could be implemented in conjunction with the support and funding of Welsh Government;
- that there can be no further delay in reforming and properly funding social care, and therefore requests that the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Wellbeing writes to the Deputy Minister for Social Care, urging the Welsh Government – in the absence of any plan by the UK Government – to bring forward its own plans for reform, giving parity of esteem between social care

workers and those in health, and putting in place sustainable long-term funding;

- that the UK Government's iniquitous proposals to increase NI contributions and cut Universal Credit will hit the poorest members of society hardest, and devastate thousands of hard-working families in Cardiff, and request that the Leader writes to the Prime Minister urging his Government to rethink their proposals.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Elsmore.

Amendment 1 – Liberal Democrat

The Lord Mayor called Councillor Taylor to move the first amendment as follows:

Amend the word order of the first paragraph so it reads as follows:

This Council wishes to pay tribute to the ongoing extraordinary work and dedication of all care workers and unpaid carers delivering Social Care, which serves as such a lifeline to children and adults at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the first bullet point after In response, this Council resolves add

and Living Hours after Real Living Wage

After the first bullet point referred to above add the following bullet point and paragraph:

- *that a Universal Basic Income would ensure that every individual and family are able to cover their basic living costs and weather economic insecurity, and requests that the Leader write to the First Minister expressing support for a Care Leavers Plus pilot of a UBI and that Cardiff be considered as part of the pilot;*

In the final bullet point, add after the word proposals '*and consider raising revenues through the taxation of wealth rather than income, which penalises those who work for a living*'.

The Amended Motion will read as follows:

This Council wishes to pay tribute to the ongoing extraordinary work and dedication of all care workers and unpaid carers delivering Social Care, which serves as such a lifeline to children and adults at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council notes with concern the severe staffing pressures now emerging within Social Care exacerbating long-standing demographic pressures, and compounded by long-delayed reform of the social care sector.

The Council welcomes the Welsh Government's recent commitment of immediate additional funding of £40M to support Local Authorities' delivery of Social Care, and further welcomes the Welsh Government's commitment to paying the Real Living Wage to all Social Care workers during this Senedd term.

However, this Council notes with alarm the recent announcement from the UK Government on Social Care which –

- Introduces an unfair increase in National Insurance contributions which will disproportionately impact the poorest in society;
- Provides no immediate new funding for the Social Care sector which has been decimated by over a decade of austerity; and
- Proposes no plans to reform Social Care to address the immediate looming crisis, nor the long term structural issues faced.

The Council further notes that the increase in NI contributions – the biggest tax increase for families in 50 years – will come shortly after a cut to Universal Credit that will impact 31,000 households in Cardiff.

In response, this Council resolves –

- that Cardiff should seek to be a pilot area for introducing the Real Living Wage and Living Hours, and requests that Cabinet bring forward a report detailing the practical implications of how this could be implemented in conjunction with the support and funding of Welsh Government;
- that a Universal Basic Income would ensure that every individual and family are able to cover their basic living costs and weather economic insecurity, and requests that the Leader write to the First Minister expressing support for a Care Leavers Plus pilot of a UBI and that Cardiff be considered as part of the pilot;
- that there can be no further delay in reforming and properly funding social care, and therefore requests that the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Wellbeing writes to the Deputy Minister for Social Care, urging the Welsh Government – in the absence of any plan by the UK Government – to bring forward its own plans for reform, giving parity of esteem between social care workers and those in health, and putting in place sustainable long-term funding;
- that the UK Government's iniquitous proposals to increase NI contributions and cut Universal Credit will hit the poorest members of society hardest, and devastate thousands of hard-working families in Cardiff, and request that the Leader writes to the Prime Minister urging his Government to rethink their proposals and consider raising revenues through the taxation of wealth, rather than income, which penalises those who work for a living.

The first amendment was formally seconded by Councillor Sandrey.

Amendment 2 – Conservative

The Lord Mayor called on Councillor Robson to move the Second Amendment as follows:

The first paragraph to remain the same.

The reminder to be deleted and replaced with:

This Council notes:

- That despite near universal acknowledgement that reform is needed, Welsh Government has not significantly changed social care in recently years, leading to severe staffing pressures now emerging within Social Care exacerbating long-standing demographic pressures in Wales.
- The UK Government has supported all workers, including carers, during the pandemic via measures such as furlough, a range of business grant funding and a temporary increase in Universal Credit to help those who needed it most during the worse of the pandemic.
- Wales will receive an additional £700M for social care from Westminster.

This Council resolves:

- That Cardiff should seek to be a pilot area for introducing the Real Living Wage, and requests that Cabinet bring forward a report detailing the practical implications of how this could be implemented in conjunction with the support and funding of Welsh Government.
- That there can be no further delay in reforming and properly funding social care, and therefore requests that the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Wellbeing writes to the Deputy Minister for Social Care, urging the Welsh Government to bring forward its own plans for reform, giving parity of esteem between social care workers and those in health, and putting in place sustainable long-term funding;
- That the Leader writes to seek assurances from Welsh Government that the additional block grant will be allocated in full to the NHS and social care needs, as it is intended.

The second amendment was formally seconded by Councillor Hudson.

The Lord Mayor invited debate on the motion and amendments.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Bridgeman to respond to the issues raised during the debate.

Councillor Bridgeman responded to the issues raised and confirmed that both Amendment One and Amendment Two would not be accepted.

The Lord Mayor called a Vote on Amendment One.

The vote on Amendment One was LOST

The Lord Mayor called a Vote on Amendment Two.

The vote on Amendment Two was LOST.

The Lord Mayor called for a vote on the Notice of Motion.

The Vote on the Notice of Motion was CARRIED.

67 : ORAL QUESTIONS

Question – Cllr Hudson

Have you considered using the lower Wedal Road site currently occupied by council Parks Dept for a new recycling centre; if not, why not?

Reply – Cllr Michael

It is not possible to develop a new recycling centre at this site.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Hudson

Could Councillor Michael confirm that the site I'm talking about on lower level Road is large enough, can provide separate entrance and exit and is not as near to housing as the previous site on Wedal Road.

Reply – Cllr Michael

Councillor Hudson as a member of the Planning Committee I thought you would have the experience to know that when providing sites like these you have to go through a process. I do not believe that this site would get planning permission simply because of the problems we would get with transport. If you remember in the past on a regular basis the police with there stopping the traffic on the road that were holding up ambulances. Not only that, I do not believe that this site would get planning permission, simply because it wouldn't get permission from NRW to do this site so it is completely inappropriate.

Question – Cllr Hopkins

What plans are there to increase bus usage over the medium term especially in those parts of the city such as Cyncoed and Lakeside which remain poorly served?

Reply – Cllr Wild

I refer you to the response to my written question particularly as we have been asked not to repeat answers and questions in this meeting to save time.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Hopkins

Thank you for that reply, unfortunately I didn't see your written reply before putting in the oral question this week as you'll probably understand so can I just follow that up with the supplementary. As you'll know the bus service along Lake Road West and Celyn Avenue were withdrawn in 2019 and to add to this the main 52 service to

Cyncoed has now been reduced from a half hourly service to an hourly service between 9.30 and later in the afternoon and there's no service from the city centre to Cyncoed between 2.45 and 4.15. Residents regularly report that buses are late or do not turn up at all. Do you agree that this creates a vicious circle where the service is developing a reputation for being unreliable and infrequent something that works against increasing bus patronage at a time when we should be doing all we can to encourage it.

Reply – Cllr Wild

Councillor you do keep asking me about commercial decisions of Cardiff Bus which I just can't comment on you know it's a Cardiff Bus service but what I would say is as you will know and will have seen the new bus strategy we have for the City and we've recently approved a technical report that sets out possible future actions to improve the bus service, some big ideas as we've called him to really increase bus usage across the city. A related public consultation will commence shortly, which will set out these actions and ask respondents which they think are the most important to improve bus services in Cardiff.

The responses will be used to prepare a new Bus Strategy for Cardiff, which will set out how the Council, together with bus operators, will seek to improve services and increase bus use in the city because I agree I think we all do it's absolutely vitally important thank you.

Question – Cllr Keith Parry

What representations has the Council made to the Welsh Government to rescue leaseholders and other occupiers of blocks flats with cladding and other safety problems that threaten their lives and financial wellbeing?

Reply – Cllr Thorne

The Leader and I have met regularly with the Minister for Climate Change on this issue, with the most recent meeting between the Leader and the Minister taking place on Tuesday of this week.

Representations to Welsh Government have been made on a range of issues, including the establishment of a Joint Inspection Team, which would bring together representatives from a Local Authority and Fire & Rescue Service to jointly undertake inspections. This could help accelerate inspection and enforcement action.

However, in order to provide the scale of funding that is urgently needed to tackle this issue, the UK Government must make available details of the money that Wales will receive as a result of the £3.5 billion that it allocated for England in February of this year. This funding is urgently needed to help meet the cost of replacing unsafe cladding for all leaseholders in high-rise residential buildings in Wales.

The Council has fully supported the representations that Welsh Government has made – and continues to make – to UK Government on this issue and I would call on every member of this Council to support our efforts to secure an urgent response

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from the newly appointed Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Parry

I'd like to thank Cllr Thorne for her reply, it is 4 years since Grenfell and its time this matter was brought to a close but I thank her for her efforts.

Reply – Cllr Thorne

I totally agree with you and the stress and strain that residents are under is just indescribable.

Question – Cllr Mackie

As we emerged from the pandemic the Council has been investing in marketing and promoting the city as a destination again. How effective has that been compared to other Core Cities and other parts of Wales?

Reply – Cllr Goodway

I am grateful to the Councillor for acknowledging the work undertaken by the Council, in partnership with others, to promote the city as a destination as it recovers from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This has included the 'Same Diff' campaign, but also our active approach in supporting and delivering events such as the Live and Unlocked series in the Castle to attract people back to the city in a safe way.

The Council has also invested in its website and digital platforms, with the new Visit Cardiff platform launched earlier this year to provide more online resources for visitors.

Subsequently, the city has seen footfall return quicker to Cardiff city centre than other UK cities. For the month of August, the city saw that footfall was just 5% lower than the same period in 2019, far outperforming the UK regional city average of 27% lower, the Welsh average of 18% lower and UK figure of 23% lower. Throughout August, the city also saw footfall on Queen Street and High Street exceed that of pre-pandemic levels. Last week saw an encouraging week on week increase of footfall of 5.3%, slightly better than the UK wide increase of 5.1%, this was the first time overall that footfall exceeded that of 2019 during the week with a 0.9% increase on the same week 2 years ago. This is even more positive when looking at the UK which has a 15.1% decrease, Wales an 11.2% decrease and UK regional cities seeing a 20.4% decrease compared with 2019. 4 out of 7 days saw increases compared with 2019, Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the latter two are witnessing double digit increases of 10.8% and 19.4% respectively. With the return of major events later this year, including a number of sold-out events at Principality Stadium, the Council expects to see continued growth in visitor numbers.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Mackie

That's really good to hear, I heard what you said earlier about supporting businesses through the pandemic can you give an assurance that the Council continues to

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support the city centre businesses as the impact of the pandemic is still adversely affecting their businesses.

Reply – Cllr Goodway

The Council has supported businesses across the city and it is felt now that the focus needs to turn to the protection of city centre jobs given the number of jobs that it provides for Cardiff and the wider City region, so the Council will continue to work with those businesses to mitigate the impact of the pandemic as well as support their future growth. We have worked closely with Welsh Government to make sure that available funding to help those most in need and in particular thousands of businesses who have not received any support which include some businesses based in the city centre, the business rates holiday has been extended for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses in Wales to the end of the financial year and this is vital for protecting our city centre businesses. The Council will continue to work with colleagues in Welsh Government to extend support for businesses in the city centre but also across the city and will be investing in the continued marketing and promotion of the city centre and we will work with Welsh Government to provide additional support, so they emerge from the pandemic stronger and more productive. The Council will work with businesses to help them get their workers to the door when it is safe to do so, and we will continue to support the major events that draw so many people into Cardiff and into the city centre in particular.

Question – Cllr Driscoll

With the proposed plans for the introduction of a new sewerage pumping station to accommodate development at Plasdŵr. In the event of any flooding, or hydraulic overload of the system, will this mean there's a potential for the pumping station to fail, resulting in untreated sewerage to overflow into the river system?

Reply – Cllr Michael

The assessment and audit of drainage strategies for foul sewerage is undertaken by the Local Planning Authority, as well as Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales as statutory consultees.

Should there be an exacerbation of flood risk due to potential failure or hydraulic overload, the Council's Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team would assess the proposed strategy as per its statutory duties under The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and Flood Risk Regulations (2009).

The management, maintenance and inspection of any proposed sewerage pumping station would lie with the asset owner, which may be the developers, residents, a private management company or Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water if the asset is adopted by them.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Driscoll

Hopefully residents will be reassured, I'm grateful for the access you and your officers have given meeting with the residents and as you know the reason for my question is the work is related to works by Welsh Water further up the hill in Danescourt where flood mitigation is taken place where you kindly came and visited with me. Are you confident the new attenuation ponds and the drainage system and the work being done will cope with this excess flows and not impact on a proposed new pumping stations further down the line?

Reply – Cllr Michael

The standards we are using are standards of 100years plus 30% that's a really high standard for flood defence. The site has an excellent facility there which as you know are attenuation ponds which will be empty most of the year. I am happy to again revisit the area with yourself and speak to residents to reassure them as we did last time.

Question – Cllr Carter

After a recent poll listed Cardiff as the UK's least safe city, what is the council doing to make city safer?

Reply – Cllr Thorne

I would caution against believing everything you read in the Express. Instead, let me draw members' attention to the facts:

Cardiff has the second lowest crime rate of any UK Core City, second only to Sheffield, and Cardiff has the lowest rate of violent crime of any Core City.

The survey you refer to doesn't reflect the findings of the annual Ask Cardiff survey: a much more representative sample of Cardiff residents, which receives thousands of responses each year from local people.

Cardiff's Community Safety Partnership is delivering outstanding work for our city, including working with FOR Cardiff on the renewal of the Purple Flag accreditation for the city's night time economy.

It has also attracted £432,000 in additional funding from the Safer Streets Fund, which funds crime reduction investments in parts of Cardiff with the highest incidence of recorded crime.

Members should feel reassured that we benefit from a robust, responsive and committed Community Safety Partnership which continues to deliver significant work to make our city safe and ensure that the public feel safe.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Carter

Yes, while it is difficult to relay survey versus survey and obviously they have different sample sizes, the reality is that people in Cardiff are feeling unsafe. In my own ward we have seen a rise in violent crime, knife crime, we have seen more police incidents, people feel unsafe, drug issues are on the rise. Thank you for your assurance about the work going on in the city centre but can I ask what you are doing in the outer wards to make our residents feel safer?

Reply – Cllr Thorne

There are a number but if I could go back to the survey because the survey was actually based on 2000 adults from across 15 UK cities which demonstrates that it is largely misrepresentative of Cardiff's population but in addition the community safety partnership remains focused on the following priorities to make the city safer, the street based lifestyles and complex needs group focuses on complex needs that surround long term substance misuse, the problem solving group considers anti-social behaviour and I must say if you feel there are major issues in your ward you can email me and the community safety partnership and we can send it to the problem solving group, the serious violence group focuses on the night time economy, serious violence, organised crime and violence against women and girls and we've had a number of area based themes where we've had meetings with local members in response from those ward members has been really great feedback so please do contact me.

Question – Cllr K Parry

Will the Council make 'As Built' plans available to leaseholders of blocks of flats caught up in the cladding scandal?

Reply – Cllr Thorne

Information held under a Town & Country Planning Act application is generally deemed to be publicly accessible and, where such information is held, it will be made available on request. Requests for the provision of information are considered on an individual basis.

Information held under a Building Regulation application differs as it is not deemed to be public information. It is subject to the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 and cannot be shared with a third party without the consent of the owner or copyright holder.

The Council will always endeavour to facilitate each relevant request where it is physically possible to do so.

It should also be noted that contractors and developers are required by law to furnish the owners of a building with all relevant design information at the time of completion.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Parry

Councillors were offered sight of these plans earlier on but it wasn't of much help to the leaseholders, but hopefully this matter can be resolved again.

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

Reply – Cllr Thorne

Yes there is another major issue too, there are lots of 'As built' plans held by the building control company who manage sites and some of them are private companies, so they are not all in the Council's possession so there is a big issue and I think it's important that residents groups have access to that information.

Question – Cllr Owen Jones

Can the Cabinet Member give an update on the effect supply issues caused by Brexit are having to Capital Improvements to Playgrounds and Parks Infrastructure?

Reply – Cllr Bradbury

We have experienced – and continue to experience – supply chain issues with the impact of rising costs and availability of materials.

The problem that exists is UK-wide, with all local authorities experiencing delays in project delivery and increased costs.

Contractors are having to delay schemes across the UK and we may well see further delays as they work to catch up with backlogs of delayed schemes and are unable to commit to new work.

We are managing the risks that exist by developing more robust long-term framework agreements for use and, in terms of supply, we are placing orders for equipment well in advance of scheme delivery.

Notwithstanding the issues that exist, we are on schedule to deliver a substantial programme in the current financial year and officers are in liaison with local ward members in respect of the status of schemes within the programme.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Owen Jones

Many of the parks in Adamsdown's limited green spaces are due to have significant improvements but meetings as you said have shown the transport and import issues and spiralling costs of working against the projects. I'm genuinely so angry the decisions taken by the zealots that make up the UK cabinet are having such a negative impact on this Council as you say probably most councils ability to improve public space. Does the Cabinet Member share my frustration that when experts talked about Boris Johnson's deal would mean rising cost and harder to distribute goods they were dismissed and labelled as project fear and does he find it strange that those in charge of Vote leave weren't honest with the British public and didn't put your local park will cost more on the side of a big red bus.

Reply – Cllr Bradbury

I understand your anger because I share your anger. Supply issues weren't on the side of the bus as you stated, rising costs in terms of equipment was wasn't promised in 2016 and as I stated earlier on there are Councillors in this Chamber who have consistently backed the prime Minister and backed his stance on these issues and

are on Facebook and on social media complaining that their local park is delayed because of capital cut rising costs, the irony has not been lost on me Councillor it frustrates me, angers me but we will do everything we can to ensure that we mitigate current supply issues and deliver upon our capital programme in the best way we can. As I stated in my original answer this is a UK wide problem but I think we're getting ahead of the game and I want to thank you and your ward colleague for engaging with my officers and myself in order to deal with the issues that you face in Adamsdown.

Question – Cllr Dianne Rees

Pontprennau and Old St Mellons was included in a pilot trial this year to treat weeds in verges pavements and gutters without using dangerous chemicals. Unfortunately at the time the weed treatment took place, wet weather required a return visit and the results have not been judged a success by residents who complain of the unkempt appearance of roads and streets. Will this experimental system be rolled out across the City or will the Council be using another method of weed control?

Reply – Cllr Michael

The product that the Council has used on streets and pavements within the ward can be applied in periods of wet weather and does not impact on its effectiveness.

The scheduled treatments of weeds within the ward have been applied in accordance with the planned schedule in April, July, and September.

I note the concerns expressed by residents about the quality of weed control, which is considered along with cost and environmental factors. The same analysis will be completed for the second trail area within the Riverside ward where another alternative product is being used.

No decisions have been made on weed control products and methods moving forward.

You may recall that the trial was created following a recommendation contained in a report of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, titled 'Managing Biodiversity and Natural Environment in Cardiff', and the outcomes from the trial are due to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in December.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Dianne Rees

I would just like to have a comparison if I may of the costs of the two systems and I wonder whether Councillor Michael can tell me whether the special carts if you like which were used in the pilot trial were purchased or were hired and the relative costs to the conventional treatment I understand the principle behind it but I do not want to see our streets and roads looking very unkempt.

Reply – Cllr Michael

The trial is still ongoing it's taking place in Riverside when that trial finishes there will be a full comparison on the effectiveness of the weed killers used and then the decision will be taken on where we will use it. I haven't got the costs of the other stuff you want I could certainly ask the Parks department to find them and make them available to you if possible.

Question – Cllr Sandrey

WHO guidelines on safe levels of No2 air pollution have been revised down dramatically, meaning that the current plans for Castle Street could now breach safe limits. Will the plans for the reopening of the street to general traffic be revisited as a result of this?

Reply – Cllr Wild

We are aware of the revised global air quality guidelines from the World Health Organisation, but these are guideline values only and not legally binding standards as the WHO themselves recognise.

In reality, the new guidelines would place almost every road in Cardiff outside of the guidelines from what is known as 'background' pollution (for example, emissions from industry or residential chimneys) meaning even some of the more rural roads in Cardiff have levels of above 10 µg/m³.

The current projections for Castle Street will ensure that we reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations below the current legal limit values, and I should remind members that our recent decision on Castle Street was made after seeing modelling results which showed future relative increases in nearby residential areas if general traffic was not returned to Castle Street. It's our job to ensure clean air across the whole city and not just focus on one street.

It is very encouraging that the levels modelled for nitrogen dioxide on Castle Street are actually forecast to fall within the interim target values that have been set by WHO in areas where elevated pollution is already evident.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Sandrey

That's worrying to know that actually most of the roads would fall outside of those guidelines and I know that previously it's been said that actually we should aim to be better than the guidelines that are actually legally binding so I guess my question would be that do you know at what point would we decide that action would need to be taken acknowledging that there is no safe level of air pollution?

Reply – Cllr Wild

Thanks that is really the question I think that's what our clean air plan did set out, we've always said that there's no safe limit and we want to get air quality as clean as possible I don't think any of us are happy saying that you know limits are numbers around the 30s or even 20 of anything that we want them to be, it's terrible

and we've been very honest with the public about the damage it does to people's health and particularly vulnerable people and particularly children. I would say since our clean air plan we bought in all sorts of changes we've tried to make the electric car charging points and lots of different types of those around, we're monitoring over 100 stations across Cardiff so we got a really good idea of what's going on, we are retrofitting buses and there are electric buses on their way over as we speak to Cardiff Bus, we are putting green walls around schools and then if you look around the city centre as part of our clean air plan the whole place has been changed to make better use for buses, better use for bike lanes, not to mention all the investment were putting into active travel and walking around schools so we just try to do absolutely everything we can as you would appreciate but I agree with you, we all need to have our eye on the air quality, continue to listen to health professionals and if we need to make further changes down the line we've always said that we would be prepared to do that so I hope that answers your question and yes happy to continue to discuss this with members it's really important.

Question – Cllr K Parry

Rather than providing mobile recycling centres, would it not be more to the point to re-open the Waungron Road Recycling Centre that has lain empty for many years? A daily reminder to the residents of West Cardiff of the waste and incompetence of the current administration.

Reply – Cllr Michael

We have exciting plans for the Waungron Road site, which include much-needed social housing and a new transport hub.

The service area is currently reviewing how mobile recycling centres and recycling facilities within Hubs could help improve access to recycling across the city.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Parry

Recycling centres are not the answer, this recycling centre is already there and has lain empty for 6 or 7 years and its quite wrong that it has lain empty.

Reply – Cllr Michael

It can't be a recycling centre if it isn't there, you can't have both. It is not a recycling centre, it is not fit for purpose, and we will not be revisiting it as I have told you on many occasions. We have got a really good and exciting plan to provide some much needed social housing which I believe you are against, I don't understand your stance you are both for and against everything, its bizarre.

Question – Cllr Stubbs

The HGV-driver shortage has deepened over the summer due to the failure of the UK Government to take effective action, with virtually every sector of the economy being impacted and hauliers stating that the easing on Visa restrictions will have little impact. In light of this, could the Cabinet Member update us on the resilience of waste collections, and on progress in recruiting new drivers?

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

Reply – Cllr Michael

Recycling & Neighbourhood Services have undertaken recruitment of external HGV drivers and successfully recruited 18 drivers in the past three months. Unfortunately, 3 drivers have subsequently left for higher paid work as a result of the current high demand for HGV drivers in the UK.

The service has developed its own training team to support the training & development of officers, which has been successful in achieving the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence Trainer qualification. This will allow the team to deliver registered Certificate of Professional Competence training to HGV drivers in-house, saving both time and money.

In addition, the team is fast-tracking the internal development of up to 27 operatives towards obtaining their HGV licences. To facilitate this as promptly as possible, they are organising eye tests, driver medicals, provisional licence applications, driver theory tests and organising individuals to undertake external practical training and testing to achieve their HGV licence. I would like to pay tribute to the trade unions who are supporting this and to the Welsh Union learning fund which is paying for the tests for our drivers.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Stubbs

I certainly echo your comments about the trade unions we are all grateful for the commitment that them and their members have shown. I have read a fair bit in the news about HGV drivers shortages elsewhere maybe not as acute so what assessment has the Council made as to why there is so much more chaos in the UK than anywhere else and also you have to factor in risk and you've got to make predictions about where things are going so with that in mind what assessment has the Council made and you made of the UK Government's attempts to try to solve this crisis and do you think they will work?

Reply – Cllr Michael

Driver shortages are across Europe and its interesting that the country with the most shortages is Poland it seems most of the Polish drivers drive across the borders of Poland and are choosing to do parcel deliveries which is on the up as we know. Most of Europe has got driver shortages it is particularly acute in this country because it just didn't seem there was any plan, the Prime Minister just wanted to Get it Done wherever it means. Unlike Europe we have gas and electricity shortages, food shortages and not even McDonald's can deliver a milkshake. I'm certainly not responsible for Nando's shutting its restaurants, we seem to have chaos because we don't seem to have a plan, we seem to have government by slogan but the Prime Minister said he's going to solve the issue he will have it all sorted by Christmas and personally why would you believe a man who goes to the United Nations and talks about Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog why would you believe a word he says.

Question – Cllr Taylor

What progress has the council made on resolutions included in the council motion in June in relation to cladding and fire safety concerns?

Reply – Cllr Thorne

This Council is committed to supporting residents of privately owned high-rise properties who face desperate challenges through no fault of their own.

As Members recognised in the debate in June, this is a difficult issue that requires a joined-up response involving the various tiers of government, local authorities, housebuilders, and financial institutions working in partnership with leaseholders to deliver a clear strategy that addresses head-on a range of safety and financial issues.

But to a critical degree, it turns on decisions that need to be taken by UK Government, which announced in February £3.5 billion to replace unsafe cladding for all leaseholders in England.

It is very disappointing that we still have no further details about the Barnett Consequential that should be provided to Wales. And without clarity on this point, it will not be possible to alleviate the anxiety currently facing leaseholders.

And this has been underlined in the discussions that the Leader and I have had with Welsh Government Ministers on this issue in recent months.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Taylor

I recognise the significant challenges facing the 3 Council Blocks that were discussed at cabinet last week and you will have seen that no doubt the correspondence from some leaseholders around facing 39k worth of additional fees as a result of the work and I was quite surprised to find out that less than 4% of profits on these large developers are being invested in addressing this problem. I'm wondering whether you can give an update on where discussions are in relation to council tax relief for some of those leaseholders who may be eligible for that support.

Reply – Cllr Thorne

Just to advise as well that we've also offered the expertise of council officers to assist to the development of a national response, we've also agreed with Swansea City Council that we would seek to work together so our shared capacity could be brought to bear to help support the work of the Welsh Government. Discussions with Ministers have included options for immediate financial support including funding's for remedial work, reducing service charges and other costs. In this context I am pleased that the Minister despite the lack of UK government support launched the Welsh Building Safety Plan yesterday and this is now open for expressions of interest. In terms of Council Tax we don't know the numbers but it really would run into millions, to me the issue is we do need to relieve the financial pressure but we also need to relieve the stress that people feel that if there is a fire in the building they would

be unsafe. So I think our efforts really need to be concentrated on remedial issues and to give an example in the high-rise blocks in Butetown we are fitting sprinklers and I think that if we get Welsh government fund grants for sprinklers in buildings that are suitable then that in turn would relieve that stress on residents who feel unsafe and would also relieve the need for higher insurance costs to cover fire safety. We are doing a number of things and as I said we're also working with Swansea because we believe actually the 2 biggest local authorities in Wales have the biggest problems and by working together we can actually pool our resources to work with Welsh government try and find some speedy solutions and that we can actually relieve that pressures and relieve the financial pressures as well for residents.

Question – Cllr Lay

Earlier this month, the Food and Drinks Federation warned that the UK was in for permanent food shortages. Given the UK Government's continued failure to address the country's supply chain issues, what mitigations are you looking at to ensure we will continue to be able to deliver meals to our children in schools?

Reply – Cllr Merry

I think we are all aware of the impact of Brexit and Covid on our supply chains after the events of the last few weeks. The Food and Drink Federation did say that the UK was in for permanent food shortages and estimated that the food and drink industry is short of around half a million workers – or one in eight of the total workforce.

The School Catering Team continues to work closely with their major food suppliers to manage the current situation.

During the pandemic, partly due to the school catering contracts, the main suppliers have continued to put in place their own mitigations to protect and guarantee supplies. Such mitigations include increasing their own storage arrangements and strengthening the resilience of their own supply chains.

The team will continue to monitor and manage the risk to keep meals in our schools.

Question – Cllr Cowan

Will the Leader advise when a road in Cardiff will be named 'Cheers Drive' after the successful suggestion by 'I Loves The Diff' and my petition which was supported by hundreds of people across the City and beyond?

Reply – Cllr Huw Thomas

This was a suggestion that I also expressed my personal support for via social media. I would like to take this opportunity to thank 'I Loves the Diff' for this idea and for all the work they do in promoting Cardiff on social media and more widely.

In terms of naming the road, Cllr Wild, Officers and myself visited the area earlier this month and identified a potential suitable road. You will understand that there is a

process required to go through with street naming process, which includes consultation with Royal Mail.

I will ask relevant officers to ensure that members are updated on the progress of this at an appropriate time.

Question – Cllr Carter

Following the delayed spraying of weeds across Cardiff, when will the council return to communities and remove the dead vegetation from our paths?

Reply – Cllr Michael

The Parks Service made changes to the city-wide weed control contract over 10 years ago to ensure that only a clean label product was specified and hard surfaces are treated using WeediT technology, which reduces herbicide use by 80%.

WeediT uses sensor units to detect the presence of weeds and triggers the appropriate spray nozzles to accurately apply the correct amount of herbicide just to those weeds and their immediate surroundings.

We spray all wards three times and the final treatment of the season is currently being applied, which will help eradicate the weeds.

Small and large mechanical sweepers cleansing footpaths and the edge of roads will remove a significant amount of dead weeds as part of the proactive cleansing operations.

If any members or residents have concerns about weeds in a specific area, then the 'Love Where You Live' Team within Cleansing Services will endeavour to attend and remove the dead weeds within two weeks.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Carter

I appreciate we have had a very wet summer but this year the weed system seems to have been a complete disaster certainly in my ward we've had weeds growing out of control in all parks, we are consistently being told by officers that they will be dealt with and it was pushed back and pushed back due to staffing issues and I find it concerning that actually we've had to report each of these patches where dead weeds are protruding out of our pavements on a street by street basis going forward. Could you commit to at least look at these things on a ward basis and actually proactively go out identifying these areas where normal street cleaning is done.

Reply – Cllr Michael

I'm not sure why you are puzzled I mean there is something like 3000 miles of roads and streets in Cardiff it is impossible to clean every pavement and every gutter so we will rely on councillors reporting weeds and we will then go out and clean them as part of our cleansing regime, that is the simplest way of doing it, it's impossible for the

Council to commit to do 3000 miles on a regular basis because someone doesn't like a weed and frankly you just described the perfect conditions for weeds, very wet warm weather, it's part of climate change.

Question – Cllr Cunnah

In the last weeks, ordinary Cardiffians have sat in massive queues at petrol stations, experienced the cost of heating their homes sky-rocket, seen empty shelves in their supermarkets thanks to supply chain failures, and heard food distributors warn of shortages at Christmas. Whilst it's clear that the UK Government has totally lost control of the situation, could you update us on steps the Council is taking to protect Council services, and in particular those vulnerable residents who depend on our work?

Reply – Cllr Huw Thomas

You describe a litany of issues facing the UK public and once again omni-shambles springs to mind for the UK Government. Whilst the impact of the pandemic on immediate health outcomes looks to be improving, the pressure on services is greater than ever. For example, colleagues will be aware of the national issues facing health and social care and the anticipated end of Covid support, including the furlough scheme.

We are fortunate enough to have very good support services for citizens experiencing financial hardship, including our Adviceline and our Money Advice and Into Work Services. Additional grant funding means that these services are ready to deal with the expected increase in demand when the furlough scheme ends.

The Council constantly monitors its resilience against risk and threat and adapts accordingly as demonstrated clearly throughout the Covid pandemic. Support for the city's most vulnerable residents remains at the core of service delivery and this is recognised as we meet the challenges of winter.

In light of the fuel shortages, with careful planning, I can confirm the Council has fuel supplies for waste services to continue for up to 2 weeks and we have secured supplies, however given the risk of continued chaos, if the UK Government doesn't sort out the HGV driver shortage, I have asked the CEX to explore enhancing this strategic fuel reserve to provide resilience over a longer timescale and to potentially supply petrol as well as diesel vehicles.

We will continue to keep colleagues updated on the issues and our preparations to meet these challenges.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Cunnah

That is good to hear and it's not surprising to me that our Labour Council has a strategic approach to ensuring services continue and are resilient and it's noticeable to me how that contrasts sharply with the Tory omnishambles and the lack of planning in Westminster.

I am a little concerned in what is an ongoing national crisis how some of our most vulnerable residents will cope with rising prices and big food bills for example, is there anything further you can add about what our Council can do to support those residents affected.

Reply – Cllr Huw Thomas

I can advise as I said there is significant support available to residents in financial hardship and just as an example of this really over the period April to August this year, the Money advice team has been assisting nearly 4000 residents of Cardiff and have obtained a one off payment over £130,000 as well as identifying and supporting residents claiming in total over £1.7 million in in-kind benefits. The team has also issued close to 1000 food bank vouchers and we are partnering with ACE who are running a fuel poverty project issuing emergency fuel vouchers to those in fuel poverty and so far the team's referred 61 cases to that scheme and all of those were issued with fuel vouchers.

Question – Cllr Hudson

My written question to Council in June 2021 was “what money used whether grants, direct help or loans have been given to CATs since transfers in the Heath Ward from 2015 to date?” Your reply was that a total of £25,000 has been allocated to CATs in the Heath Ward since 2015. Can you itemise what the £25k has been used for and in future can all ward councillors be consulted in the first instance?

Reply – Cllr Goodway

The Councillor will recall that my answer to her written question in June 2021 confirmed that the Council ceased to operate a scheme established to support Community Asset Transfers in 2017 when the Council decided that Community Asset Transfers were not a suitable disposal option.

The £25,000 referred to in my written answer related to a grant application submitted under that scheme by the Friends of Llwynfedw Gardens Group. I am advised that the grant was used to support the refurbishment of the pavilion building on transfer from the Council, including window replacement and electrical work.

The allocation of funding involved an application process and a professional assessment undertaken by council officers within the Strategic Estates Team. Consultation with local members was not part of the process.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Hudson

Firstly some of the money as you said was used for the community centre but I believe some of the money was used for fencing around the bowling green which it didn't have before and it didn't need. Can you let me know how much of the section 1.6 monies is left for my ward, can I be involved in the discussion and allocation at the very beginning please because I feel that we haven't had any consultations or anything like that. Can I also ask the Cabinet Member to refrain from

blaming the UK government for this issue that sorely effects Cardiff and especially my ward of Heath.

Reply – Cllr Goodway

Your question relates to an allocation from the fund that was established prior to 2017 and which no longer exist so you will appreciate this is difficult for me to commit to consulting local members about the allocation of a funding mechanism that no longer operates. I would have expected local members to work together on issues of this of kind and I'm not aware of the detail of precisely what the allocation was applied to but I know that Councillor Hinchey as one of your Ward colleagues has been closely involved in this process as Chair of the friends group and my recommendation to you would be to contact him go along and see how the money has been spent and whether you think that it has delivered good value for money.

Question – Cllr McGarry

UK consumer inflation jumped a record amount in August, putting real pressure on the household budgets of many. At the same time the UK Government plans to proceed with its cut in Universal Credit by £20 a week. Could you outline what, if anything, the Council can do to help families now facing real anxiety about how to heat their homes and feed their children this winter?

Reply – Cllr Thorne

During these challenging times it is more important than ever that we can support people to access the assistance they need. In relation to the cuts in universal credit the cuts will result in the loss of £32 million to families across Cardiff affecting over 31,000 families and around 18,500 children. More than 13,000 claimants are in work.

Our Money Advice Team carries out a full assessment to ensure that people can claim all the help on offer and they have food and fuel vouchers available to assist those in most urgent need. The team can also help people to find better value energy tariffs to help keep their homes warm, this may prove difficult at the moment.

We have introduced a Rent Arrears Pathway, which provides a joined-up approach for those struggling to pay their rent, with the aim of preventing evictions and homelessness by ensuring that tenants can find the right help for them whatever their circumstances.

The Into Work Advice Team provides help to anyone needing to get back to work, as well as one-to-one mentoring for those who need extra help.

For families struggling with a wider range of issues, the Family Gateway, which forms part of our Early Help Service can also provide support.

Supplementary Question – Cllr McGarry

How many people have we helped in the last few months?

Reply – Cllr Thorne

In terms of money advice between April 2021 and August 2021 the Money advice team have assisted 3880 clients one off payments £130 and over £1.7 million has been identified in previous unclaimed benefits. The team have also issued 902 food bank vouchers and 61 fuel poverty vouchers. The advice line between April and August 21 have answered 25,642 calls and early help since April 2021 the family Gateway has answered 3805 calls with a 133 enquires in relation to support with benefits and grants specifically. The Into Work service from April 2021 until August 2021 the team has supported 28649 clients looking for work or looking to upskill in their current roles, the team have supported at least 596 of these into work.

3163 clients have been supposed with one to one mentoring some with lots of barriers to employment, of these 408 and now in employment. In addition 1207 individuals have been supported to make or maintain their claim of UC. I think you'll agree with me that the team are under huge pressure but still doing an amazing job.

Question – Cllr Jones-Pritchard

The Race Equality Task Force was proposed in August last year and soon after agreeing its membership, the Leader proposed an All Party Group, for the visibility of members of the work of the Task Force and also a conduit of ideas, questions and observations of members to be fed into its work. The All Party Group has still not met and, after reading in Cllr Thomas' statement of the impressive work and list of achievements of the Task Force, it would appear that the ideas, questions and observations of other members are not required! Would the leader please explain why the All Party Group has never met and why the input of other members has not been sought?

Reply – Cllr Huw Thomas

Councillor Jones-Pritchard, you are right to praise the work of Cardiff's Race Equality Taskforce. As Chair, Councillor Ebrahim has provided outstanding leadership for the Taskforce and our publicly appointed membership have already delivered a meaningful and comprehensive programme of work.

I am sorry that the All Party Group has not met and that is in no small due to the volume of work that the Task Group is undertaking with officers supporting 5 separate work streams. There has been significant democratic oversight and indeed offers for all members to participate and input. Last year Cllr Ebrahim and myself both attended a very productive meeting of an expanded PRAP Scrutiny Committee which included the chairs of the other committees and I understand that that committee will reconvene later this year.

Members will recall that Councillor Ebrahim personally invited all elected members to meet right at the inception of this work and emphasised the role of members in delivering the Taskforce.

As far as I'm aware, only 1 member responded to this invitation and that individual has subsequently been contributing through one of the work streams, however, the invitation from the Chair to members to share ideas and contribute to the work of the Taskforce remains open.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Jones-Pritchard

Will the Leader commit to arranging a meeting of the All Party Group that was promised.

Reply – Cllr Huw Thomas

What I would prefer to do in the first instance is meet with you in your capacity as the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee and explore the issue of all party groups in more detail. I remember from the time that we were establishing the cross-party group on the Welsh language how over the lifetime of that group the responsibility for the secretariat has had to transfer to the service area rather than being initially being clerked by Democratic Services and as I mentioned it was workload until now that has prevented the all-party group meeting on the Race Equality task force so I think there is a conversation to be had about how we better resource parts of the Council to support this work so I suggest that as an initial way forward with the aim of the getting members fully engaged on this work.

Question – Cllr Henshaw

Can I thank you Cllr Merry for introducing the Edible Playgrounds project to Cardiff schools and ask you to share with us some of the benefits of an Edible Playground?

Reply – Cllr Merry

I am so excited about our partnership with the environmental charity, Trees for Cities, to deliver 10 new Edible Playgrounds across Cardiff's primary schools. The programme transforms school grounds into vibrant outdoor fruit and vegetable gardens. This gets children excited about growing and eating healthy food, whilst also providing a valuable resource for outdoor learning.

Trees for Cities will work closely with each of the schools to create a bespoke playground design, which typically includes everything needed to grow your own food successfully, such as raised beds, a greenhouse, compost, wormery, a tool shed and outdoor teaching space for an entire class. Materials will also be supplied which will fit within the new Welsh curriculum to which it is perfectly aligned.

Ultimately, this is an initiative that will allow pupils to benefit from greener spaces in their playgrounds, access more outdoor lessons and understand in greater depth about where their food comes from, with the entire school being able to access and experience food grown in their playground. Other schools have reported wider community benefits in terms of inter-generational relationships where parents and grandparents have become involved.

Question – Cllr Robson

What actions is the Leader proposing to counter the recent survey marking the launch of Murdertown, which listed Cardiff as the least safe city on a list of 15 cities?

Reply – Cllr Huw Thomas

I would refer you the answer that was provided earlier by the Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities in reply to a similar question from Councillor Carter. Cardiff is a safe city when you compare us to rates of violent crime in other core cities we perform extremely well, that is not to underplay in any way, the real concern that members of the community feel, in particular women and people with disabilities. I would really caution using what is in effect a PR poll to promote a TV series and which hasn't shared their methodology clearly, from a rough calculation of a sample size of less than 100 people in Cardiff and I really wouldn't want to cloud a very serious issue with what is a PR exercise at best.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Robson

I don't disagree with what you say generally but my question is how you counter it, that survey for all its flaws and methodology, has gone far and wide and people have seen that flash up in their notifications on their phones and elsewhere. What can the Council do to get out the actual picture that Cardiff is reasonably safe although there is always more that can be done and to make sure we don't lose tourists coming to the city, put off by a marketing survey.

Reply – Cllr Huw Thomas

Please don't take this the wrong way but perhaps the first thing I would do is not draw attention to it in a Council question. I do want to recognise and know that we will all be aware of the tragic story in London today and the court case and we will want to recognise that there are people in Cardiff who don't feel safe and working with our partners in public health we want to play a full role in addressing those concerns and Councillor Thorne spoke in her answer as to the work of the community safety partnership is undertaking and I would refer you to the answer given by Councillor Goodway on promoting footfall as to how the Cardiff markets itself as a visitor destination but I want to reiterate the point here that statistically going by all the available crime data and also been corroborated by the Ask Cardiff survey by and large Cardiff is a safe City.

Question – Cllr Dilwar Ali

Can you provide an update on the delayed cladding work for Lydstep Flats?

Reply – Cllr Thorne

As members will be very well aware, following the tragic events at Grenfell Tower, the cladding was removed from the Council's high-rise blocks as it did not meet current fire safety standards.

A commitment was made by the Cabinet to replace the cladding on the 5 high rise blocks, including those at Lydstep Flats in your ward.

There have been considerable difficulties in taking this project forward as the guidance on cladding high-rise buildings has been subject to change due to the Grenfell Inquiry. However, a contractor is on board and stage 1 of the project has been completed.

A fully designed cladding system is now ready to be taken forward, but, unfortunately, the costs of this project have increased significantly due to the combined effects of Covid and Brexit.

However, I am pleased to say that the Cabinet has recently agreed to proceed with the re-cladding of Lydstep Flats, recognising the importance of this project to our tenants. Officers will therefore be seeking to take this forward as soon as possible.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Ali

Thank you for your detailed response and I am really pleased and my colleague and local residents will be pleased but can the Council continue and increase the fuel costs payment over the winter period for my residents of Lydstep flats?

Reply – Cllr Thorne

We will continue the compensation in terms of energy costs, I will ask officers to see if there is an opportunity to uplift in terms of price increases.

Question – Cllr Owen Jones

Could the Cabinet Member give an update on the installation of the “Happy to Chat” benches?

Reply – Cllr Bradbury

I can confirm that a total of five ‘Happy to Chat’ benches are scheduled for installation next month.

In our parks, the proposed installations are in Bute Park, Roath Pleasure Gardens and Hailey Park.

Two will also be located at Western Cemetery – one within the newly opened Dear Mum Garden and the other in the adjacent memorial plaque area.

The benches will have bilingual plaques with the text, ‘*The Happy to Chat Bench - Sit here if you don’t mind someone stopping to say hello*’, which is in keeping with the nationally recognised text used on similar benches throughout the UK.

Supplementary Question – Cllr Owen Jones

That is a lovely idea and it gives a green light for strangers to come up and sit and to talk to someone if they feel lonely. Members who have persevered to the end tonight may remember that I asked about this before the pandemic as my mum had started to put out informal signs on benches across our parks. Really glad to hear that we're finally putting these in Cardiff as amazingly my mum recently attended the revealing of one in Krakow in Poland, she put hers up in the Jewish quarter last week. Following this I was definitely feeling the pressure that her own city where her son was a sitting Councillor still hadn't got theirs out. When they are in place can they please be widely advertised as loneliness is a very serious issue and this is a small thing that could be extremely meaningful.

Reply – Cllr Bradbury

Loneliness is a very serious issue and has become even more apparent throughout this pandemic and the various lock downs that everyone of us has had to endure. Lots of us were lucky enough to endure this with our family but unfortunately there are people who are not in that position, and I think this is a great idea to help such people. On a lighter note, it always makes me happy, being a good son myself, to help someone else please their mother.

68 : URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

69 : LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Council received a report to appoint Local Authority School Governors to fill vacancies.

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with the recommendations of the Local Authority Governor Panel, the Council approves the new appointments and re-appointments of Local Authority governors to the school governing bodies as set out in Appendix 1, each for a term of 4 years from the date of the appointment.

70 : COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

To receive nominations and make appointments to current committee vacancies as set out in the report and in accordance with the approved allocation of seats and political group wishes.

RESOLVED:

The Council is recommended to appoint to the vacancies on Committees in accordance with the approved allocation of seats and Party Group wishes, as set out on the Amendment Sheet

71 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rule 17 (f) [Written Questions](#) received are included as a record of the meeting.