

CABINET: DYDD LLUN, 8 IONAWR 2024 am 2.00 PM

Bydd Cyfarfod Cabinet yn ae lei gynnal yn YB 4, Neuadd y Sir, Cyfarfod Aml-Leoliad ar am 2.00 pm

A G E N D A

Cyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad

- 1 Diweddariad Modelu Cyllideb 2024/25 a Gofynion Ymgynghori (*Tudalennau 3 - 50*)

PAUL ORDERS

Prif Weithredwr

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****CABINET MEETING: 8 JANUARY 2024**

**2024/25 BUDGET MODELLING UPDATE AND CONSULTATION
REQUIREMENTS****FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE
(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)****AGENDA ITEM: 1**

Reason for this Report

1. To provide an update on budget preparation for 2024/25, including the impact of the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement (Provisional Settlement).
2. To provide details of the consultation that will take place to inform Cabinet's final Budget Proposal for 2024/25.

Background

3. In July 2023, Cabinet received an Update Report on the 2024/25 Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Plan which indicated an estimated 2024/25 budget gap of £36.760 million. The Report highlighted the volatility of the position and noted the absence of agreed pay awards, inflation forecasts and demand pressures as among factors requiring ongoing review. This report provides a further update on the budget gap for 2024/25 and incorporates the impact of the Provisional Settlement, which was received on 20th December 2023, alongside the ongoing updates to the modelled position undertaken over the last six months.
4. Budget consultation commenced earlier in the year as part of the Ask Cardiff Survey. This requested citizens to prioritise areas in which they would like to see resources directed, both in the short and longer term. This report provides an update on Ask Cardiff findings and sets out the arrangements for a more detailed consultation in relation to 2024/25 Budget Proposals.

Issues

5. Cabinet is required, prior to the 11th March each year, to place before the Council proposals, which if approved, would result in the adoption of a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year. The public consultation

proposed by this report will inform the preparation of Cabinet's final draft budget for consideration by Council in early March 2024.

Timescales

6. Due to the timing of the UK Autumn Statement, which took place in late November, the Provisional Settlement was not received until the 20th December 2023. The Provisional Settlement is a critical factor in drafting the Budget Strategy and can significantly affect the overall position.
7. The timing of the proposed consultation means that the draft budget that underpins it, fully reflects the Provisional Settlement, so that the position being consulted upon is as accurate as possible. Subject to Cabinet approval, consultation on the 2024/25 Budget will commence on 8th January 2024 and run until 4th February 2024.

Provisional Local Government Settlement

8. On the 20th December 2023, the Minister for Finance and Local Government announced the Provisional Settlement for 2024/25. The Minister's statement and key data table is attached at **Appendix 1**.
9. The headlines of the Settlement are:
 - On average, Welsh Local Authorities will receive a 3.1% increase in general revenue funding next financial year.
 - Individual Authority Settlements range from +2.0% to +4.7%.
 - Floor protection is in place, with additional funding of £1.3 million provided to ensure that no Local Authority received a settlement increase of less than 2%.
10. Cardiff will receive a 4.1% increase in Aggregate External Finance (AEF) in 2024/25. In cash terms this equates to £25.353 million after taking into account taxbase adjustments. The above average settlement for Cardiff is linked to data underpinning the settlement, notably distributional increases linked to population and pupil number data. These are partially offset by decreases in Cardiff's distribution for free school meals, tourism, and transport. Whilst the increase is above average for Cardiff, the pressures faced currently are unprecedented and the increase covers less than half the total gross pressures faced (referenced later in this report).
11. There is currently no indicative date for receipt of the Final Settlement, although it is anticipated that this would be no sooner than the publication date of the Welsh Government (WG) final budget which is due on 27th February 2024. This will mean a limited amount of time between the announcement of Final Settlement and the Council's budget-setting meeting (provisionally 7th March 2024). Whilst this has also been the case in recent years, timing may prove more problematic than usual for

2024/25, due to uncertainties regarding specific grants and other funding as outlined below.

12. Several specific grants are expected to transfer into the Revenue Support Grant in 2024/25. This is linked to WG's recent review in this area aimed at reducing administrative burdens on Local Authorities and offering greater funding flexibility. No specific grant transfers have been made at Provisional Settlement. It is understood that this may be to give greater visibility of changes to the level of grant streams before transfers take place. It is assumed that all transfers will now be announced as part of Final Settlement. As there is currently little visibility on the streams that will transfer, this timing is challenging and effectively curtails any funding flexibility for 2024/25.
13. The Provisional Settlement provides some details on specific revenue grants. However, information is at an All-Wales level and incomplete at this stage, with grants totalling more than £25 million yet to be confirmed, including the Sustainable Waste Management Grant (£16 million). Available information indicates significant reductions that will be difficult to manage in several key areas.
14. At an All-Wales level, specific grants (excluding those that are yet to be confirmed) will **decrease by £92.619 million** next financial year. Contributory factors include:

Grants totalling £51.677 million indicated to cease after the current year, including:

- **Teachers Pay (£21.267 million)** – Local Authorities were made aware that WG would not be continuing with this funding in recent months, and the associated pressure is reflected in Cardiff's budget gap for 2024/25.
- **FSM Holiday Provision (£8.958 million)** – this reflects cessation of the scheme that commenced during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Childcare Offer (£20 million)** – no longer being administered by Local Authorities.

Significant reductions to grants include:

- **Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Grant (£50.780 million)**, reflecting the decision to reduce the level of relief from 75% to 40% - whilst classed as a Local Government grant stream, this should not have an impact on Council funding. It would be offset by increased NDR from the affected businesses, payable to the All Wales Pool.
- **Social Service Workforce Grant (£10 million / 22%)** from £45 million to £35 million – this will have a significant impact for Cardiff as this is a key funding stream for Social Services. Extrapolating the All-Wales percentage decrease to Cardiff's current allocation suggests an estimated reduction of £1.1 million. This grant reduction will be in addition to the expected tapering of the

Regional Integration Fund, which is another key funding stream for Social Services and therefore a further significant challenge for this area to manage in 2024/25.

- **Homelessness – No One Left Approach (£5 million / 33.33%)** from £15.0 million to £10.0 million. This implies that additional sums allocated for 2023/24 will not be continued next financial year. The £0.850 million estimated impact for Cardiff will be extremely difficult to manage given material demand increases in this area over the past year, in particular.
- **Homelessness – Discretionary Homelessness Prevention (£6.5 million / 52%).** Sums at an All-Wales level, and additional in-year allocations funding 2023/24, make it difficult to discern the impact on this stream, but it is currently envisaged that Cardiff will receive £0.930 million less cash support in this area in 2024/25 compared with the current financial year.
- **Communities for Work+ (£10.454 million / 38%)** – from £27.268 million to £16.834 million. This grant was previously part of Children and Communities Grant before becoming a standalone grant in 2023/24, at which point Cardiff's allocation increased from £1.031 million to £3.129 million. Whilst a level of reduction was anticipated for 2024/25, this was expected to be in the region of 11% (£0.330 million), rather than the potential 38% implied by indicative grant listings.

Increases to Grants

- There are no materially significant *increases* to grants for 2024/25
15. As set out above, the picture in relation to specific grants is challenging, uncertain, complex, and compounded by timing. Additional clarity will be sought in coming weeks, to clarify the Cardiff-specific impact of All Wales reductions and whether affected streams will transfer into the Revenue Support Grant. There will also be a need to determine the scope for affected directorates to manage reductions, and the need for any transitional support as part of the Council's budget-setting for 2024/25 including any costs arising from a reduction in grant funded posts.
 16. General Capital Funding (GCF) at an All-Wales level will be £180m for 2024/25, of which Cardiff's allocation is £18.134m, or just over 10%. GCF can be spent on capital expenditure of a Local Authority's own choosing and is not specific to a project or scheme. The allocation is made up of two elements - £9.188m of Cash Grant and £8.946m of Supported Borrowing approval. The capital financing costs of the latter being re-imbursed as part of future years Revenue Support Grant.
 17. There is no indication of Cardiff's GCF for 2025/26 or beyond. However, the current expectation is that it will fall to circa £15 million, as advised in previous indicative settlements - i.e. the current levels of GCF are assumed to be temporary.
 18. There remains reference to a £20m Local Government De-Carbonisation allocation for 2023/24 and 2024/25. However, details of the allocation and approach for both years remains unclear. A list of specific capital

grants for 2024/25 is identified on an all-Wales basis but as many of these will be on a bid basis, Cardiff allocations are not yet known.

Other Areas of Funding Uncertainty – Teachers’ Pensions

19. The other key area of funding uncertainty for 2024/25 relates to Teachers Pensions. The impact of the latest actuarial review of the Teacher’s Pension Scheme (TPS) will take effect from 1st April 2024, with Employer’s contributions due to increase by 5 percentage points of pensionable pay. This is a 21.1% increase to the level of pension contributions currently paid with a new contribution rate of 28.68% of pensionable pay from 1st April 2024.
20. The estimated impact for Cardiff in respect of Teachers Pensions Costs is approximately £7 million. This is **not** currently reflected in the Council’s budget gap because indications are that UK Government will fund the increase to TPS; it is therefore assumed that there will be consequential funding for Wales. However, the timing of this funding confirmation is currently unknown and the WG minister in her letter indicated she would continue to press UK Treasury for assurances in this matter. Recent announcements on the timing of the Spring Budget could suggest that this may not be confirmed until the date of that announcement i.e. 7th March 2024. Increases to unfunded pension schemes will also affect the level of the Council’s contribution to the South Wales Fire Service – with an estimated impact of £0.3 million purely in relation to this issue. It is assumed that this too, will be funded.

Comparison of Provisional Settlement to Planning Assumptions

21. As part of the 2023/24 Local Government Settlement, an indicative All Wales funding allocation of +3.1% was issued in respect of 2024/25. To date, this indicative allocation has been the basis of the Council’s planning assumptions for 2024/25 funding. As noted at each budget update, there is always a risk that indicative allocations may change.
22. The difference between the indicative allocation of 3.1% and the Provisional Settlement of 4.1% equates to just under £7 million in cash terms, including tax base changes in the formula. The impact of this on budget modelling, along with other updates is set out in paragraphs 25-30. It should be emphasised however, that whilst Cardiff’s non-hypothecated funding stream is higher than anticipated, as outlined above, this is accompanied by material reductions in hypothecated grant streams which support services to vulnerable people. The impact of managing these in the short term, may erode the benefit of the higher-than-average Revenue Support Grant increase.

Council Tax Base

23. On 14th December 2023, Cabinet approved the tax base for 2024/25. Future tax base increases are not reflected in financial planning assumptions until the Provisional Settlement is received. This is because there is the potential for it to have a negative distributional impact through

the Aggregate External Finance (AEF) funding formula. This is not possible to pre-empt as changes are relative to updated tax-base levels of all other Authorities in Wales. For 2024/25, for Cardiff, this was a £1.100m favourable impact which is reflected in the AEF figures outlined above.

24. Setting aside the impact on AEF, which has now been captured, the net increase in Council Tax linked to the new 2024/25 tax base is £1.235 million. This is the additional amount that will be generated before any increase in the rate of council tax. The increase is attributable to changes in the number of chargeable properties, discounts and exemptions. It also reflects the estimated impact of changes applicable in Council Tax Premia from 1st April 2024 in relation to long term empty properties and Second Homes.

Budget Modelling Update

25. The Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan undergoes regular review to ensure it reflects the most up to date and robust information. Updates since the last budget update report in July include the impact of:
- The Provisional Settlement, announced on 20th December 2023.
 - The Council Tax Base for 2024/25 approved by Cabinet on 14th December 2023.
 - Announcements and updates associated with the Autumn Statement, including updated inflation forecasts.
 - The Real Living Wage announcement in October 2023.
 - Review of pay award assumptions in light of most recent inflation forecasts and agreement of the 2023/24 NJC pay award.
 - Most recent pricing information.
 - The need to address base pressures, evident through in year monitoring in some areas.
26. Taking account of the above updates, the current resource requirements modelled for 2024/25 are set out in the table below. They show an estimated cost increase of £56.078 million for 2024/25.

Resources Required	£000	Includes
Base Budget B/F	803,894	
Employee Costs	22,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfall in funding for previous pay awards including due to grant fall out • Assumed pay award for 2024/25
Price Inflation	11,587	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned Care Costs (inc RLW impact) • Home to School Transport • Levy increase to South Wales Fire Service
Commitments & Realignments	15,278	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk based realignments linked to Month 6 • Capital Financing
Demographic Pressures	7,213	• Includes Social Services, ALN routes, Pupil numbers
Resources Required	859,972	

27. At Provisional Settlement, resources available are set out below:

	£000	Reflects
Aggregate External Finance	618,958	• Per Provisional Settlement
Council Tax	210,024	• 2024/25 tax base at 2023/24 prices
Earmarked Reserves	500	• This reflects the baseline assumption per the MTFP
Resources Available	829,482	

28. The difference between resources available and resources required is £30.490 million. This is the updated budget gap for 2024/25 which must be addressed in finalising the draft budget for 2024/25. Current modelling is predicated on the following:

	£000	Reflects
Budget Gap	30,490	
Council Tax increase	(5,209)	• Modelled at 3% - subject to further review
Efficiency Proposals & Corporate Savings	(10,354)	• No impact on service delivery
Shortfall still to be addressed	14,927	

29. The shortfall still to be addressed will need to be bridged through a combination of factors. Subject to consultation, these will include:

- Service change proposals to be included post budget consultation, if agreed.
- Finalisation of the position on schools' budgets for 2024/25 – outlined further at paragraph 37.
- Further scope to extend efficiency proposals.
- Further consideration of funding sources that are within the Council's control – including Earmarked Reserves and Council Tax.

30. The position outlined above is a draft position. All assumptions will be kept under close review in finalising the budget for 2024/25 and Cabinet will continue to carefully consider all aspects of the Budget Strategy in finalising their draft budget proposal for Council consideration. As part of this, careful regard will be given to the feedback from consultation.

Aspects of Financial Strategy for Ongoing Review

Use of Reserves

31. Over-reliance on reserves as budget funding should be avoided because they are a finite resource. This means that using reserves to fund ongoing cost pressures immediately creates a gap in the finances of the following year. When determining an appropriate contribution from reserves to the Budget Strategy, there is careful balance to strike between financial resilience and protection of front-line services.

32. Draft modelling currently reflects total reserve use of £0.5 million in support of the 2024/25 Budget. This is in line with assumptions previously included in the Council's MTFP, and the sum can be met from Strategic Budget Reserve. Further use of reserves will be considered as part of finalising the Council's Budget for 2024.25 keeping in mind the following factors:
- The need to conserve an appropriate level of financial resilience - both in terms of mitigating impact on future funding gaps (as referenced above), but also in terms of the risk of eroding cash balances that could otherwise help to manage unexpected financial events.
 - The planned use of reserves over the medium term in line with the purpose for which they were set aside.
 - Additional calls on reserves resulting from the challenging financial situation, including the need to fund redundancy costs and support operational change.
 - The need to be mindful of the collective position on reserves and the Council's Balance Sheet, including for example, the number of schools operating with a deficit balance.

Council Tax

33. The Council will have due regard to the level of the increase in council tax in 2024/25 but must balance this against the need to fund key services. The increase currently modelled as part of the MTFP is 3%. The final level of Council Tax will only be decided following the consultation process, as part of the final budget proposal.
34. A 3% increase would generate net additional income of £5.209 million after associated increases in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS).
35. The CTRS will continue to be funded on all Wales basis at the same level provided within the Revenue Support Grant in 2014/15 (£244 million nationally). This means that costs associated with Council Tax uplifts and changing caseloads must be funded by the Council. Whilst a 1% council tax increase generates additional income of £2.100 million for the Council, it also costs £0.364 million in additional CTRS requirements, thus reducing net additional income to £1.736 million. In other words, over 17% of any Council Tax increase is required to support costs associated with the CTRS.

Budget Savings

36. The current position reflects efficiency and corporate saving proposals of £10.354 million. Efficiency savings are defined as achieving the same output (or more) for less resource, with no significant impact on the resident / customer. In line with the Council's July 2023 Budget Strategy Report, in order to improve the deliverability of savings and maximise the chances of securing full year savings in 2024/25, efficiency proposals that do not require a policy decision will be implemented in the current

year wherever possible. The draft position reflects corporate savings proposals of £0.575 million (included within the £10.354 million). This includes £0.375 million savings across supplies and services budgets, and a £0.200 million budget reduction linked to the early repayment (from Earmarked Reserve) of outstanding capital repayments in relation to Invest to Save Schemes.

Schools Budgets

37. Investment in schools remains a high priority for the Council. The Council will need to consider carefully the allocation to schools, mindful of the pressures faced and the volatility of individual school budgets through factors such as pupil numbers and increasing numbers of pupils with additional learning needs.

Allocation of Resources

38. It is important to allocate scarce resources in line with the Council's priorities and with regard to their impact on future generations. Any proposals for savings or opportunities for investment will continue to be framed by the priorities and objectives set out in Stronger, Fairer, Greener and the Council's Corporate Plan, which is being updated alongside the budget.

Medium Term Financial Planning Implications

39. Whilst the focus of this report is the annual budget proposals that are subject to consultation for 2024/25, work is ongoing to revisit the assumptions within the MTFP and the detail of this will be reported along with the Council's other financial strategy documents, as part of the final 2024/25 Budget Report.

Consultation and Engagement

40. Budget consultation is an opportunity to understand what is important to our stakeholders. Consultation on the 2024/25 budget commenced with the 'Ask Cardiff' survey which asked citizens to indicate their budgetary priorities both in the short and long term. 'Ask Cardiff' generated 3,187 responses across the city. Findings from the budget questions that focussed on short term priorities are set out below. Long term priorities were consistent with these apart from the reversal of priorities 9 and 10.

1. Schools and Education including Youth Services.
2. Supporting vulnerable children and families.
3. Supporting vulnerable adults and older people.
4. Recycling and Waste Services including collections, disposal and Recycling Centres
5. Housing and homelessness services
6. Highways and Transport
7. Neighbourhood Services such as street cleansing

8. Major projects including infrastructure to support businesses, local economy, city centre and local community centres
 9. Libraries and Community Hubs
 10. Parks and Sport
 11. Delivery of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy
 12. Culture, Venues and Events
41. Building on the findings from Ask Cardiff, consultation in respect of the 2024/25 Budget, subject to Cabinet approval will begin on the 8th January 2024 and run until 4th February 2024. The results of the consultation will be a key consideration for Cabinet in preparing their final 2024/25 Budget Proposal for consideration by Council in March 2024.
42. The Budget consultation details are attached at **Appendix 2**, and the proposals being consulted upon will form part of the approach to addressing the residual budget gap outlined in paragraph 28. Key points to note in relation to this year's consultation are:
- The consultation document will be available for online completion on the Council's website, and hard copies will be available in community venues including Hubs and Libraries.
 - Multi-lingual posters will be placed in community buildings, with a QR code linking to the Budget page of the Council website.
 - A co-ordinated social media and press campaign, and partner involvement will seek to ensure citywide engagement.
 - Links to the consultation will be made available on the Council's corporate social media accounts, with posts targeting localised community groups across the city, and targeted advertising aimed at groups with typically lower response rates.
 - Links to the survey will also be shared with community groups, such as faith groups and community councils, and partners, including members of the Public Service Board to be shared with their contacts.
 - As well as being available in English and Welsh, the survey will be translated into Arabic, Polish and Bengali, the largest minority languages in Cardiff. A version of the survey designed to work with screen readers will be available for people who are visually impaired.
 - The consultation will be promoted to Council staff via the intranet and Staff Information alerts via email and the Working for Cardiff App. It will also be shared with partner organisations for distribution.
 - The improved engagement practices set out in the draft Participation Strategy will be adopted, with a focus on engaging with organisations who work with seldom heard voices.
 - A dedicated team will undertake face-to-face engagement with seldom heard groups to encourage participation with the consultation process, either by completing the survey, or taking part in qualitative face-to-face interviews.

43. Further opportunities for engagement, including with the Schools Budget Forum and Scrutiny Committees will also take place during the coming months. The need to engage effectively with the Council's own staff, both directly and through their trade unions will remain a high priority throughout the budget setting process. Stakeholder engagement opportunities are a valuable way of informing the budget process and Cabinet's final budget proposal.
44. In addition to public consultation where there are ongoing requirements for internal staff and trade union consultation, specifically in relation to ongoing delivery of efficiency savings, these will continue to be included as part of the ongoing employee engagement process.

Employee Engagement

45. Through the Council's Trade Union Partnership forum, trade unions have been consulted in advance, on the budget projections for 2024/25. In addition, they have been consulted on the savings proposals that form part of public consultation, and their likely impact on employees, particularly where posts are at risk of redundancy. Under the law relating to unfair dismissal, all proposals to make redundancies must involve reasonable consultation with the affected employees and their trade unions. In light of the budget gap outlined, it remains likely that there will be redundancies within the Council's workforce during the financial year commencing 1st April 2024.
46. During the period of the consultation, trade unions and employees will have the opportunity to comment on proposals that may affect them. Once the final budget is approved by Council, any employees affected will be supported. At that point, eligible employees will be given the opportunity to take voluntary redundancy or to access the redeployment process, which provides employees with a period of twelve weeks to look for alternative employment.
47. Whilst the exact number of proposed redundancies is not known at this stage, some as indicated above are likely to occur. In light of this, a Section 188 Notice will be formally issued to the trade unions, related to the budget and potential redundancies.
48. Formal consultation with employees and trade unions will take place as part of the budget preparation work and views and comments about ways of avoiding, reducing and mitigating the consequences of the numbers of staff being made redundant e.g. by redeployment, will be considered.

Reason for Recommendations

49. To issue the 2024/25 Budget Consultation and to provide stakeholders with the opportunity, through a range of mechanisms, to provide feedback to Cabinet. In addition, to note that the consultation will commence on the 8th January 2024 and run until the 4th February 2024.

Financial Implications

50. The financial implications are as described in the detail of the Report.

Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate)

51. Specific legal obligations relating to the setting of the budget and consultation are set out within the body of this report.
52. The obligation to consult can arise in some cases from express statutory provisions and in other cases from common law. In all cases, the consultation must be undertaken in such a way as to be meaningful and genuine. The general principles applicable to consultation are outlined in [R v London Borough of Brent, ex p Gunning \[1985\] LGR 168](#) and frequently referred to as "the **Gunning principles**": the consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage; the proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit of intelligent consideration and response; those consulted should be aware of the criteria that will be applied when considering proposals and which factors will be considered decisive or of substantial importance at the end of the process; adequate time must be given for consideration and response; the product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising any statutory proposals. The carrying out of consultation gives rise to a legitimate expectation that the outcome of the consultation will be considered as part of the decision-making process. The results of the consultation must feed into the process for consideration and finalisation of budget decisions.
53. The Council has public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010 which require it, in exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations between persons with and without protected characteristics. For example, protected characteristics include race, sex, gender, age, religion.
54. The Council also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage ('the Socio-Economic Duty' imposed under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010). In considering this, the Council must take into account the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers ([WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 \(gov.wales\)](#)) and must be able to demonstrate how it has discharged its duty.
55. In order to be sure that the Council complies with its public sector equality duties, it is essential that Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken where appropriate in relation to specific budget proposals, that these are informed by the results of the consultation, and that any impact is taken into account in the decision-making on the budget.
56. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Council to consider how the proposals will contribute towards meeting its

well-being objectives (set out in the Corporate Plan). Members must also be satisfied that the proposals comply with the sustainable development principle, which requires that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible using the link below: <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

57. The decision maker should also have regard to, when making its decision, to the Council's wider obligations under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.
58. In respect of any proposals referred to as part of the consultation, further legal advice should be sought if and when any proposal is being developed.

HR Implications

59. The Human Resource implications are as described in paragraphs 45 to 48 inclusive of the Report.

Property Implications

60. There are no direct property implications arising from this report. Full implications will need to form part of any decisions taken following consultation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (1) Note the updated Budget Position for 2024/25 at Provisional Settlement Stage.
- (2) Agree the proposed approach to Budget Consultation for 2024/25, and subject to that agreement:
 - Note that the formal budget consultation will commence on the 8 January 2024 and run until 4 February 2024. The results of the consultation process will then be considered by Cabinet in preparing their final 2024/25 budget proposal.
- (3) Note that the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service will be issuing all necessary statutory and non-statutory employment consultation in respect of the staffing implications of budget preparation.

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Chris Lee Corporate Director Resources
	2 January 2024

The following appendices are attached:

**Appendix 1 – Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement 2024/25
– Statement and Key Data Table**

Appendix 2 – Budget Consultation 2024/25 Details

The following background papers have been taken into account

- Budget Update Report 2024/25 and the Medium Term
- Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) of Cardiff Councils 2024/25 Budget Savings Proposals
- WG Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement 2024/25

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/RE/3147/23

To:
Leaders of County and County Borough Councils in Wales

Copied to:
Chief Executives and Directors of Finance, County and County Borough Councils in Wales
Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Welsh Local Government Association

20 December 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Today I am announcing details of the Provisional Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlement for 2024-25 (the Settlement) for county and county borough councils (authorities) in Wales through a Cabinet Written Statement. This is attached for your information.

As you know, following the UK Government Autumn Statement, the Welsh Government's resource settlement will reduce by 0.1% in 2024-25 in real terms. As I have set out in our Welsh budget, our overall funding settlement is not sufficient to meet all pressures and allow us to do all the things we want to do. We have re-shaped the indicative spending allocations within our budget to provide extra funding and protection for the services which matter most to people and communities across Wales. We have done so in line with our priorities to:

- Protect core, frontline public services as far as possible.
- Deliver the greatest benefit to households which are hardest hit.
- Prioritise jobs, wherever possible.
- Work in partnership with other public sector bodies to face this financial storm together.
- Re-focus funding away from non-devolved areas, which the UK Government should be funding.

We have taken this approach to ensure we continue to focus funding where it can have the most positive impacts in the circumstances and taking action to ensure we mitigate direct impacts to people and places, as far as possible.

In 2024-25, Welsh local authorities will receive £5.7bn from the Welsh Government Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and non-domestic rates (NDR) to spend on delivering key services. This means the core revenue funding for local government in 2024-25 will increase by 3.1% on a like-for-like basis compared to the current year. I am providing additional funding of £1.3m to ensure no authority will receive less than a 2% increase.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We have made the protection of the indicative rise of 3.1% in the local government Settlement announced in the Budget in March a priority in setting our draft budget. In line with our focus on supporting households, this maintenance of our investment in your services protects households and the critical services you deliver to your communities.

In addition to the core Settlement, I am publishing indicative information on specific revenue and capital grants planned for 2024-25, which amount to over £1.3bn for revenue and over £960m for capital at this provisional stage.

As we have discussed, as part of our Programme of Government we are committed to ensuring that your authorities are not hampered by unnecessary bureaucracy. Our programme of work to reduce the number of separate grants paid to local authorities from 2024-25 and to move grants into the de-hypothecated settlement is progressing, working with your officers. Some areas have already been identified for change and the draft budget sets out how we are rationalising and refocusing education specific grants. This work continues and I expect more changes to be presented at part of the final settlement. We are due to consider packages of proposals in the Finance sub-group in January. I am committed to transparency about the movements so you and other partners can clearly see any changes in funding in the round.

Social services continue to be a priority for councils and for Welsh Government. Our joint commitment to the real living wage for care workers reflects this. The costs of enabling authorities to continue to meet the additional costs of introducing the Real Living Wage for care workers were included in the indicative budget increase announced last year.

I have again taken the decision to provide all the available funding up front and not hold back funding for in-year recognition of the 2024/25 teachers' pay deal. Authorities' budget planning must therefore accommodate these costs.

As announced on 19 December, I am providing a package of non-domestic rates support that will benefit every ratepayer in Wales. We will cap the increase to the non-domestic rates multiplier for 2024-25 to 5%, at a recurring annual cost of £18m. This is lower than the 6.7% increase that would otherwise apply.

We also continue to support ratepayers with increased liabilities following the 2023 non-domestic rates revaluation. Our transitional relief scheme continues to phase in changes for eligible ratepayers at a cost of £38m in 2024-25.

Outside of the Settlement, alongside the multiplier cap, we will be investing an additional £78m to provide a fifth successive year of support for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with their non-domestic rates bills. This builds on the almost £1bn of support provided through our retail, leisure and hospitality rates relief schemes since 2020-21. Eligible ratepayers will receive 40% non-domestic rates relief for the duration of 2024-25. As in previous years, the relief will be capped at £110,000 per business across Wales.

I recognise that while the recent very high rates of inflation are now decreasing, they are still high by the standards of the last 15 years. Baseline costs for staff and services have increased and are not reducing. Demand for services, alongside cost pressures mean that your Authorities will need to make difficult decisions on services, efficiencies, and council tax in setting your budgets. I know you will seek to engage meaningfully with your local communities as you consider priorities for the forthcoming year.

I do not consider that it is appropriate for the Welsh Government to set an arbitrary level of council tax increase irrespective of local circumstances or choices. Your Authorities will need to take account of the full range of funding sources available to them, as well as the pressures they face. I encourage you to continue to carefully balance the impact of increases on household finances with the loss of support and services. I know that across Wales you as Leaders, elected members and officers alike will strive to find ways to make the best use of resources to make the most difference for your communities.

In line with our joint focus on supporting households, we will continue to maintain full entitlements under our Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for 2024-25 and are again providing £244m for CTRS in the Settlement in recognition of this.

The Chancellor's Autumn Statement referred to the changes to the SCAPE rate, which has implications for the costs of employers' contributions to teachers and fire-fighter pensions. This in turn has implications for Local Authority budgets. Funding for this is expected to be provided by UK Government but not until 2024-2025. I will be writing to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to press for assurances on the level and timing of this funding. My officials will keep your officers informed.

I set out the position on capital funding for the Welsh Government as part of my budget statement on Tuesday. With next to no increase in overall capital funding and the Welsh Government capital budget 6% lower in real terms than the current year, I have maintained the general capital funding for local authorities at £180m, the indicative level that was set last year. With soaring inflationary costs in the construction sector, I know this will mean that your authorities will have to look carefully at and prioritise your capital programmes to continue to invest to best effect in the provision of public services. I have also continued to provide £20 million capital in each year to enable authorities to respond to our joint priority of decarbonisation, to continue the focus on contributing to the Net Zero Wales plan. As for this year, I have not considered hypothecating revenue funding to support authorities' response to climate change recognising that all our decisions must consider how to reduce our ongoing emissions and to allow authorities maximum flexibility to do so and to manage their budgets.

The draft *Local Government Finance Report* and additional tables containing details of the Settlement by individual authority are also being published on the [Welsh Government website](#). These tables include the individual authority allocations of Aggregate External Finance (AEF), comprising RSG and redistributed NDR. We are also providing information on revenue and capital grants which are planned for 2024-25. This information will be further updated for the final settlement.

The publication of the Settlement in mid-December has enabled us to draw on the latest tax-base figures for 2024-25, meaning that there should be no change between provisional and final settlements as a result of updates to the tax base. While I cannot guarantee that there will be no other changes between the provisional and final settlements, due to the financial uncertainty that we currently face, I do not intend making any significant changes to the methodology or the data underpinning the distribution of this Settlement.

My announcement today launches a 6-week period of formal consultation on the Settlement for 2024-25. I would be grateful if you could ensure your response arrives no later than **Wednesday, 31 January 2024**. All responses to this consultation should be sent to:

Andrea Melvin: LGFPSettlement@gov.wales

Comments are invited about the effects (whether positive or adverse) the proposed Settlement would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. In addition, we invite comments on whether the proposed Settlement could be formulated or revised to have positive effects, or decrease adverse effects, on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of each respondent are published along with the response. If you do not wish to be identified as the author of your response, please ensure you state this explicitly in your response.

Copies of responses may be placed in the Welsh Government's library. If you wish your comments to remain confidential, please make this clear in your reply. This will be considered in light of our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. The Welsh Government will consider all responses received by the due date before the final determination is made and published.

Authorities are reminded of the requirement to comply with the general equality duties set out in the Equality Act 2010, and also the specific equality duties where applicable. The equality impacts of budgetary options should be assessed and inform any final decisions. In addition, we would also expect you to consider the impacts of budgetary options on children and young people.

Authorities also need to take account of their duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh language standards in preparing plans for 2024-25.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government

Table 1a: Change in Aggregate External Finance (AEF), adjusted for transfers, by Unitary Authority (£000)

This worksheet contains one table. Some cells refer to notes which can be found on the notes worksheet.

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Unitary Authority	2023-24 Final Aggregate External Finance [Note 1]	2024-25 Provisional Aggregate External Finance	Percentage difference	Rank
Isle of Anglesey	123,866	126,973	2.5%	17
Gwynedd	227,541	232,092	2.0%	21
Conwy	198,736	202,710	2.0%	21
Denbighshire	187,785	194,743	3.7%	4
Flintshire	251,959	257,555	2.2%	20
Wrexham	224,722	231,963	3.2%	8
Powys	228,558	234,940	2.8%	11
Ceredigion	129,341	132,715	2.6%	14
Pembrokeshire	212,626	217,999	2.5%	16
Carmarthenshire	338,439	349,441	3.3%	7
Swansea	417,588	433,590	3.8%	3
Neath Port Talbot	276,915	284,624	2.8%	12
Bridgend	250,557	257,978	3.0%	10
The Vale of Glamorgan	202,631	208,901	3.1%	9
Rhondda Cynon Taf	471,049	484,111	2.8%	13
Merthyr Tydfil	118,886	122,923	3.4%	5
Caerphilly	340,037	347,726	2.3%	19
Blaenau Gwent	139,809	143,433	2.6%	15
Torfaen	172,265	177,988	3.3%	6
Monmouthshire	122,561	125,355	2.3%	18
Newport	289,306	302,972	4.7%	1
Cardiff	594,712	618,958	4.1%	2
Total unitary authorities	5,519,889	5,689,689	3.1%	

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

Tell us your views on the **Council's Budget proposals**

Consultation on
Cardiff Council's
2024/25
Budget Proposals



@CardiffCouncil
#cdfbudget



www.cardiff.gov.uk/budget
consultation@cardiff.gov.uk

CARDIFF
ENGAGEMENT
& RESEARCH CENTRE
CANOLFAN YMCHWIL AC
YMGYSYLLTU
CAERDYDD



**CRYFACH
TECACH
GWYRDDACH**

**STRONGER
FAIRER
GREENER**



CARDIFF
CAERDYDD

Tudalen 23

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

Introduction

There's little doubt that councils across Wales and the UK are now facing financial challenges unlike any experienced before.

These challenges have been a long time in the making. A result of a decade of austerity, of Covid-19, of the cost-of-living crisis and now of a return to austerity once more.

Despite this we are committed to making Cardiff a stronger, fairer and greener city, and we are making great strides forward. Education results are now amongst the highest in Wales. We are building more new Council homes than ever before. More people are being paid the real living wage in Cardiff, and a record number of people are being helped into work and to access benefits.

However, like local authorities up and down the country, we have had to deliver services after more than a decade of austerity. This has meant that Cardiff Council has had to close a budget gap of over £350 million since 2010. Over recent years we have also had to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, a cost-of-living and energy crisis and rising costs and inflation which have hit our communities, our most vulnerable people and families, and our public services hard. More and more the people of Cardiff are looking to the Council and to our public service partners for support, be it for housing, for employment, for care for older relatives or for family support. And yet because of the economic conditions and UK government spending decisions we do not have the funding we need to respond.

We estimate that, because of a combination of rising costs and demand on services, just maintaining the services the city currently benefits from will cost an extra £56 million next year. Welsh Government is facing its own budget pressure, and so, whilst it has provided an extra £25 million to Cardiff Council this falls a long way short of what is required to meet the additional costs the Council is now facing. And so, despite an increase in funding from Welsh Government, that still leaves us with a £30.5m gap which we must close through further efficiency savings, increasing Council Tax or charges for services, or, in some cases by reducing or cutting services altogether. This budget consultation sets out the changes to our services that we are having to consider in order to balance the budget in 2024/25.

We want to know what you think of these proposals. So please, get involved, and respond to the questions contained in this consultation by midnight on the 4 February 2024. Your views matter. Together we can help shape a budget which protects our most vulnerable while striving to build a better future and a better Cardiff for everyone who lives here.



Huw Thomas

Cllr Huw Thomas
Leader, Cardiff Council

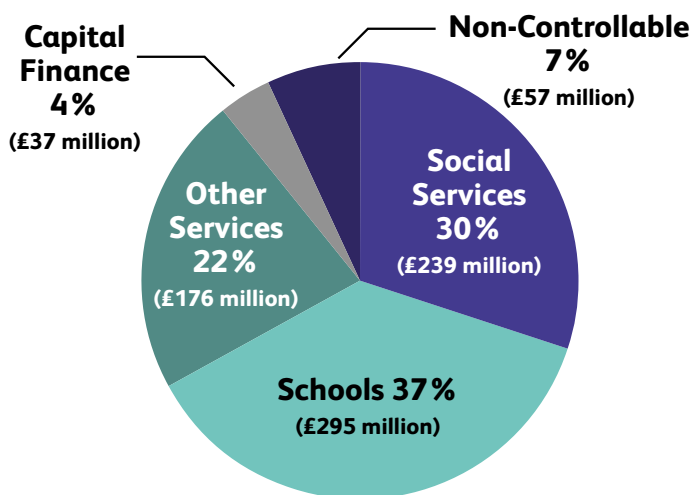
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The Council’s Budget Challenge

The Council has an overall net budget of £804 million that it uses to fund local services. How the budget is allocated is set out below.

Council Net Expenditure



In setting the budget for 2024/25 the Council is dealing with one of the hardest budget challenges it has ever faced. We estimate that the cost of delivering the same services next year has increased by around £56 million.

- **The demand for social care, and the cost of delivery, is the biggest driver of the budget gap we are facing.** Services supporting the most vulnerable - such as children needing protection or older people needing care - were already facing huge pressures. These pressures have continued to increase with the cost of delivery having risen sharply across the country. This is at a time when demand is going up and the level of support needed is becoming more complicated.
- **As the cost-of-living crisis deepens, more and more people are turning to the Council for support.** These wider demand pressures facing all Council services are taking their toll.
 - The number of people accessing the Council’s advice services has doubled since before the pandemic.
 - Waiting lists for temporary accommodation are at historically high levels, having increased by 150% over the last two years.
 - The number of rough sleepers has more than tripled since 2022/23.
 - The work done by the Council’s into-work advice team has increased by 75% over the last three years.
 - There has been a significant increase in the number of people seeking support to access Universal Credit.

With more people seeking to access Council services, the cost of delivery is going up.

- **Inflationary Pressures:** High inflation has meant that the cost of all goods and services are more expensive, meaning that everything we need to buy to deliver our services is costing us more.
- **Pay:** We believe public sector employees - who deliver vital services across the city - should be paid fairly. Higher pay awards are being agreed nationally, reflecting the rate of inflation, but this is putting pressure on our budgets.

Even though Cardiff Council is due to receive an increase in Welsh Government support of 4.1 % for next year – roughly £25 million - it is not enough to meet the additional costs the Council is now facing.

This gap between the cost of delivering services and the amount of money available is known as the 'budget gap.' For next year the Council is facing a 'budget gap' of £30.5 million, which we have to close.



How we propose to close the Budget Gap

The budget gap will need to be closed through a combination of:

- **Efficiency Savings:** The Council is committed to protecting frontline services and is therefore looking to generate as much savings as possible through back-office efficiencies. This means driving down the running cost of our buildings, reducing the amount of office space we need, and using new technology where it can save us money. Closing the budget gap will also require the Council to look at a managed reduction in the number of staff employed, through voluntary severance. This can generate savings whilst keeping compulsory redundancies to a minimum.
- **Council Tax:** Council Tax accounts for only 26 % of the Council's budget, with the remainder coming from the Welsh Government. Each increase of 1 % in Council tax only generates around £1.7 million, therefore any increase in Council Tax will not be enough to close the budget gap.
- **Use of Reserves:** The Council has to be very careful when using its financial reserves: there is only a limited amount available and once they're gone, they're gone. The majority of the Council's reserves are earmarked for specific purposes and are therefore already committed in support of delivering services, for example funding one-off community initiatives and supporting Homelessness Prevention Services. The Council does maintain a level of General Balance totalling £14.2 million to cover unforeseen costs and this equates to less than 2 % of the Council's overall net budget.
- **Changes or Reductions to Services:** Taken together, our efficiency savings will make the biggest component of our savings. Unfortunately, they will not be enough to balance the books, and some changes or reductions to services may be necessary, alongside increased charges. That is why we want to know what the people of Cardiff think about some of the potential changes that we could make to save money.

Consultation on Cardiff Council's 2024/25 Budget

Given the size of the budget shortfall for 2024/25, this consultation covers a wide range of proposals to fill this gap. We recognise that the survey is long, and will take about 35 minutes to complete in full.

It has, therefore, been divided into themes, and you can choose to complete the whole survey, or pick the themes of most interest to you.

The themes are:

- **Hubs & Libraries**
- **Parks**
- **Waste & Street Cleansing**
- **Parking**
- **Leisure & Sports**
- **Culture & Events**
- **Bereavement Services**
- **Fees & Charges and Other Comments**

The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget. We are proposing to bridge the budget gap through a mixture of internal efficiencies, use of reserves, reducing or changing the services we provide, increasing fees & charges, and raising Council Tax.

These are difficult choices we will have to make. We want to know what the people of Cardiff think about these proposals to help inform our budget for 2024-25, which will be considered by the Council in February.

The information that you provide in completing this form will be treated as confidential, in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Principles.

Any data supplied by you on this form will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Act requirements. In supplying it you consent to the Council processing the data for the purpose for which it is supplied. All personal information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used by the Council or disclosed to others for a purpose permitted in law.

If you wish to withdraw consent at any time, please email consultation@cardiff.gov.uk

*For further information on how we process your personal data please refer to our Privacy Policy - or contact the **Data Protection Officer, Room 357, County Hall, CF10 4UW**, email: dataprotection@cardiff.gov.uk.*

The first section covers **Hubs & Libraries**, and will take around 4 minutes to complete.

1. A number of Council venues, including Hubs and the Llanover Hall Arts Centre, have spaces that could be made available for community and local business use. The Council is proposing to review the spaces available to create opportunities for room and space hire. This will help to create additional income.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

2. Hubs and Libraries in Cardiff currently provide copies of newspapers, magazines and journals. The library service offers a press reader, which allows people to access these newspapers and magazines electronically, using their tablet, mobile or the PCs in the Hubs and Libraries. Stopping the provision of the hard copies would save £35,000 per year, whilst still allowing access electronically.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

3. The Council is considering changes to Hubs and Libraries to help save money. Over 60 volunteers already support our Hubs and Libraries, and we are considering using more volunteers to assist in the Hubs and Libraries. Savings of £84,000 could be made by using more volunteers.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

4. Cardiff Council offers a range of library services. In addition to the 21 branches across the city, there is an online service with e-books and magazines readily available. There is also a mobile library service which visits 9 locations across the city on a timetabled basis and provides a home delivery service for our housebound residents.

Due to the increase in Community Hubs across all the city, the demand for the mobile library service has significantly reduced, and now costs an average of £27 per user to provide this service.

It is therefore proposed that the mobile library service would be streamlined to focus on the housebound service only, continuing to provide books to the city's most vulnerable residents, saving £52,000 per year.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

5. The Council is considering changes to Hubs and Libraries to help save money, with a number of options being considered. **Which of the following options do you prefer? Please tick one box only**

Option 1: Close Central Library Hub, Whitchurch Hub, Penylan Library, Rhiwbina Hub, Rhydypennau Hub, Canton Library, Cathays Heritage Library and Radyr Hub for one additional day each week, saving £308,000

Option 2 – Change the opening hours for Central Library Hub, Canton Library, Cathays Heritage and Branch Library, Radyr, Rhiwbina, Rhydypennau and Whitchurch Hubs to 9am to 5pm, with all branches staying open throughout lunch times. To allow for late accessibility, Central Library Hub would stay open until 6pm for one evening a week. This proposal would save £120,000.

Option 3 – Close Radyr Hub, Rhiwbina Hub, Whitchurch Hub, Penylan Library and Rhydypennau Hub on Saturdays, saving £33,600

Option 4 – Close Rhiwbina Hub, Whitchurch Hub, Penylan Library and Rhydypennau Hub on a Saturday afternoon, saving £14,000

Option 5 – Keep the Hub & Library service as it is, and find the saving elsewhere.

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Hubs & Libraries?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Parks**, and will take around 4 minutes to complete.

6. The Park Ranger Service works to ensure that our parks and green spaces in the city are a safe and enjoyable experience for both residents and visitors to the city. Park Rangers are a visible presence in our parks, and are responsible for the enforcement of park bye-laws and work with partner organisations such as the police to address issues of anti-social behaviour. Our Park Rangers are also responsible for co-ordinating our network of 'Friends of' groups and volunteers.

Over the last 3 years, the Council has increased the number of staff working within the service, with an additional 6 Urban Park Rangers. The Council could run the service with fewer Park Rangers, reduce the number by 4, and save around £168,000 per year. The service would still have more Rangers than it did 3 years ago.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

7. The Council is responsible for managing over 520 individually named parks and green spaces in the city, spending £1.3 million on grounds maintenance which includes mowing, the maintenance of sports pitches, rose gardens, herbaceous borders, wild flower areas, trees, hedges, spring and summer bedding displays and bulb planting. Eighteen of the Council's parks and green spaces hold Green Flag status, an industry award which recognises well-maintained, welcoming and safe spaces.

The Council could save money by making small reductions to the maintenance of parks and green spaces, saving the Council £80,000.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

8. The Council currently offers Apprenticeship / Traineeship Schemes and could save money by making small reductions in the number being offered, saving the Council £87,000.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

9. Bute Park Nursery and the Visitor Centre in Roath Park are currently run by the Council. The Council could transfer this service to another organisation who would be responsible for running them on the Council's behalf, potentially removing or reducing the subsidy of £40,000 currently provided.

We would need to find out if there is another organisation who could take them over, and both would remain open as this process is conducted. We are asking for your views on whether you'd support finding an alternative operator for these buildings, which could remove the Council subsidy.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

10. The Council is responsible for the repair and maintenance of playground equipment, safety surfacing and general playground infrastructure. The Council could spend less money on these activities - returning to the levels we spent in 2020/21. Playgrounds would still be maintained by the Council, with playground equipment continuing to be repaired and replaced as necessary.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

11. The Council currently employs two Playground Inspectors to manage safety inspections across 226 playgrounds and associated sites. Under this proposal this would be reduced to one Playground Inspector, returning to the number we had in 2020/21. The Council would continue to manage safety inspections at playgrounds across the city.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

12. The Council currently employs three Tree Inspectors to manage more than 400,000 trees across the city, carrying out health and safety inspections and engaging with the public. Under this proposal the number of Inspectors would reduce from three to two. This proposal may lead to a reduction in inspection regimes and increased wait times for responses to requests for this service.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree



13. The Council sets aside money to carry out work on ‘hard infrastructure’ such as footpaths, steps and handrails, gates, fences, signage, bollards, seats, lighting, bridges, drains, culverts, walls and embankments. The Council is proposing to reduce this budget by half, saving £60,000, which will reduce the Council’s ability to respond to requests to fix problems and carry out maintenance.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
- Tend to agree Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Parks?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Waste & Street Cleansing**, and will take around 6 minutes to complete.

14. **Do you use the garden waste service?** *Please tick one box only*

- Yes No, I dispose of garden waste myself No, I don't have a garden

The collection of garden waste costs the Council around £1.5 million a year. Unlike the collections of black bins and bags, food waste and recycling, a Local Authority can charge for the collection of garden waste. Given growing financial pressures and the need to maintain the essential waste services we are required to provide by law, the Council is considering recovering costs by charging for the collection of garden waste, in line with most other Local Authorities in Wales. If this were to be introduced, the charge would be similar to what other local authorities are charging (in the region of £35 - £45 per year) which is less than £1 per week.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

15. Cardiff Council offers a Bulky Waste collection service for items that are not collected as part of general waste collections, and that are too big to take to a recycling centre. The collection of Bulky Waste costs the Council around £300,000 per year. A Local Authority can charge for items that weigh over 25kg or cannot fit into bins. Whilst some items already attract a charge, others are currently collected for free, including large electrical appliances, white goods, or items made of metal, wood, MDF or laminate.

Given growing financial pressures and the need to maintain the services we are required to provide by law, the Council is considering charging for all bulky waste collections, in line with most other Local Authorities in Wales. The charge would be £17.50 for up to 2 items, £30 for up to 4 items, £42.50 for up to 6 items and £55 for up to 8 items, including a £5 booking fee. This is similar to what other Local Authorities are charging, and would save the Council £71,000 per year.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree



16. The Welsh Government is increasing its target to recycle, re-use or compost waste collected by Local Authorities from 64% to 70% in 2024/25. Authorities that do not meet this target will be fined by the Welsh Government.

Whilst Cardiff currently performs well, we need to do more to encourage households to recycle and compost more waste, and dispose of less using their black bins or bags. We know that more than 40% of the waste currently put into black bins or bags could be easily recycled at home.

In order to boost recycling rates and meet the higher target, the Council is proposing to reduce the frequency of black bin/bag collections from 2 weeks to 3 weeks, whilst continuing to collect recycling and food waste weekly. This would help to improve Cardiff's carbon footprint, minimise the risk of fines and reduce the cost of collecting and disposing of this waste, saving £244,000 per year on disposal costs.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

17. The Council currently spends £6.25 million on street cleansing. The Council could save up to £880,000 if it were to reduce the amount of work done cleaning streets and parks, emptying litter bins and doing targeted cleansing in some inner city areas. Street cleansing and the targeted work would continue to take place, but the frequency would reduce.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

18. There are approximately 3,000 public bins across the city. A significant number of these in residential streets are not used widely by local residents, but these public bins do attract fly-tipping. The Council could remove public bins from residential streets and focus instead on placing bins in city and district centres, parks, bus stops and dog walking routes. This would save £139,000 per year.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

19. The Local Action Teams were introduced in 2020, and enhanced in 2022, and work to improve the neighbourhoods in and around 17 of the city's housing estates where there are a high number of council homes. This service is partly funded by the Council's Housing Team, which is responsible for supporting council homes. They work to create cleaner and safer places for residents by proactively removing rubbish and waste from gardens, removing fly tipping, carrying out clearance of open land, cut back trees and hedges and clear overgrown areas. They also carry out street action days, encouraging residents to get involved in improving their environment.

To save money the Council could stop the provision of this service or reduce the capacity of the teams.

Which of the following options do you prefer? Please tick one box only

- Option 1** – Remove the service, saving £854,000
- Option 2** – Reduce the service, prioritising areas by need, saving at least £312,000
- Option 3** – Keep the service as it is and find savings elsewhere

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Waste & Street Cleansing?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Parking**, and will take around 2 minutes to complete.

20. Currently the Council has 12 different on-street Pay and Stay tariff bands across the city, operating at different times and on different days. We propose to simplify this by reducing the number of tariffs from 12 to 4. To help manage demand, we propose higher charges for parking locations closer to the city centre, with an average increase of £1 per hour in the city centre, and 50p in districts outside the city centre. The amount of “long-stay” parking available to commuters will also be reduced, to support residents and local businesses, and encourage the use of public transport or active travel.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

21. Some Pay and Stay locations managed by the Council currently provide up to 2 hours of free parking in car parks and on-street, as long as a free ticket is obtained. This subsidises parking and doesn't reflect the costs of maintaining and managing the parking areas. It is proposed that this window of free parking be removed in car parks, with a charge introduced of £1 for the first hour (or £1.50 for the first two hours) in locations within the central parking area and 50p for the first hour (or £1 for the first two hours) for other locations outside the city centre.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

22. **Do you currently have a residential parking permit?**

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

The Council offers parking permits as a service to residents in specific areas across the city. There are four levels of permits, which limit parking in particular streets to holders of residential or visitor permits. This service includes administering the relevant type and number of permits to applicants, and monitoring vehicles parking in restricted areas to ensure these areas are only used by permit holders. The cost of parking permits in Cardiff is well below the average amount charged by similar Local Authorities across the UK, who charge an average of £48 for a first permit and £82 for additional permits. It is proposed that the cost of a first permit should increase from £24 to £30, and a second permit increase from £54 to £80.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree
 Tend to disagree
 Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree
 Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Parking?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Leisure & Sports**, and will take around 3 minutes to complete.

23. The Council provides a subsidy of £11,000 each for 4 bowling greens across the city to support the maintenance of the greens, and two of these clubs are not charged for the use of park pavilions. The Council is proposing to increase charges to the clubs to cover the cost of this maintenance, and introduce a charge for the use of each park pavilion to cover the cost of providing this facility.

Do you support increasing the charge to the bowling clubs for the maintenance of the greens by:

- Up to £1,000 £1,001 – £2,000 More than £2,000
 No increase in the charge to bowling clubs

Do you support charging for the use of park pavilions?

- Up to £1,000 £1,001 – £2,000 More than £2,000
 No charge to bowling clubs for the use of park pavilions

24. The Cardiff Riding School, based in Pontcanna Fields, is run and subsidised by the Council. The Council could transfer this service to another organisation who would be responsible for running the Riding School on the Council's behalf, potentially removing or reducing the subsidy needed.

We would need to find out if there is another organisation who could take it over. It would continue to operate whilst this takes place. We are asking for your views on whether you'd support finding an alternative operator which could remove the Council subsidy.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

25. The Council currently spends £240,000 subsidising the cost for adults hiring sports pitches and changing facilities across the city. Fees vary by sport and whether changing rooms are included. The Council is proposing to reduce subsidies for the provision of football, rugby, cricket and baseball pitches. Currently, hire fees range from £50.92 to £76.12, however the Council is considering increasing the fees to help cover costs.

Which of the following levels of increase do you support?

- 10% increase in fees 20% increase in fees 30% increase in fees
 No increase in fees, find the savings elsewhere



26. The Council is currently responsible for running a number of pitches and changing facilities used for community sports across the city, and has arrangements in place with a number of clubs who have taken over responsibility for managing the pitches and facilities they use. The Council is proposing to repeat these arrangements with more clubs, which could save a further £25,000.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Leisure & Sports?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Culture & Events**, and will take around 3 minutes to complete.

27. The Council currently spends around £36,000 per year subsidising events including Artes Mundi and The Big Gig. The Council proposes removing this funding.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

28. The Mansion House is the former residence of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, which is now used to host civic and corporate events. The Grade II listed building is in a worsening state of repair, and needs investment over the medium to long term, which cannot be funded by the income it currently generates. The Council is proposing to lease the building to a third party, who would take on the responsibility for repairs and maintenance of the building, saving the Council £31,000 per year.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

29. The Old Library building in the Hayes is in the process of being leased to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for use as a campus. This will deliver new performance spaces, opportunities to promote and protect the Welsh Language, and provide a 'city living room' for public access. The Old Library is also currently home to the Museum of Cardiff (not to be confused with the National Museum of Wales in the Civic Centre).

The Museum of Cardiff is currently costing the Council £525,000 a year to run. The Council is considering finding an alternative location for the Museum of Cardiff to reduce its running costs in the longer term. Whilst this work is on-going, the Council is proposing to reduce the cost of running the Museum by closing it one day a week, probably on Sundays, which would save £24,000 per year.

Do you agree with this proposal? *Please tick one box only*

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Culture & Events?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.



The next section covers **Bereavement Services**, and will take around 2 minutes to complete.

30. Thornhill & Western cemetery offices would not be open at weekends. General enquiries will not be available face to face on the weekends, however, a digital portal for all enquiries will be available online. The out of hours service for cultural funerals will continue.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

31. The Council's Bereavement Service is responsible for undertaking over 4,000 funerals per year, as well as the upkeep and maintenance of 9 sites across the city, including Thornhill Cemetery and Crematorium, Western Cemetery and Cathays Cemetery. Cardiff Council charges less than most other UK cities for its cremation and burial services, however inflationary pressures have increased the cost of running this service. The Council is proposing to increase burial and cremation fees in line with the average charge in other UK core cities, with cremation fees to increase by £50 to £870 and burial fees to increase by £100 to £1,040.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

32. There is an additional cost to the Council for providing burial services on bank holidays and weekends. Burial services on weekends and bank holidays are currently subsidised, with the fees charged not reflecting the full cost of providing this service. The Council is proposing to increase the additional fees for the weekend and bank holidays service, but thinks that increasing the fees to reflect the actual cost of delivery - which includes additional staff cost - would be too great a rise.

As a result, it is proposed that the extra fees for weekend and bank holiday burial services would increase from £310, so that they are closer to the true cost of delivery, which is £735.

Do you agree with this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Increasing the fees by 10% to £341 Increasing the fees by 20% to £372
 Increasing the fees by 30% to £403 Increase the fees to £735 and remove all subsidy
 No increase in the cost of Burial Services on weekends and bank holidays

Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to Bereavement Services?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

The next section covers **Fees & Charges and Other Comments**, and will take around 5 minutes to complete.

33. **Does your family use the school meals service?** *Please tick one box only*

- Yes, I pay for my child's school meals No, I provide my child with a packed lunch
 Yes, my child is entitled to free school meals Not applicable

The Council currently subsidises the cost of school meals for secondary school pupils. The cost of providing school meals continues to rise with inflation. This means that, without an increase in the costs of meals, the Council would face additional costs to deliver this service.

The Council is therefore considering increasing the cost of secondary school meals to meet the rising cost, but thinks that passing on the increased cost in full would be too great a rise.

The charge for Secondary School Meals is currently £3.20, and the Council is proposing to increase the cost of the meals in secondary schools whilst continuing to provide a subsidy to meet any additional cost for delivering the service. Children eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) will continue to receive school meals for free.

Which of the following options do you support? *Please tick one box only*

- Increasing the cost by 10p, to £3.30 Increasing the cost by 20p, to £3.40
 Increasing the cost by 30p, to £3.50 No increase in the cost of secondary school meals

34. **With funding support from Welsh Government, the Council is in the process of rolling out universal free school meals to all primary age school children in Cardiff.**

However, some children in years 5 and 6 are still having to pay until all primary age children in all primary and special schools receive their meals for free, which will be from the next school year (starting in September 2024).

The cost of providing school meals continues to rise with inflation. This means that, without an increase in the costs of meals, the Council would face additional costs to deliver this service. The Council is therefore considering increasing the cost of primary school meals for children in year 5 and 6 who are not yet receiving the universal free school meal offer for the rest of this school year.

The charge for Primary School Meals is currently £2.75, and the Council is proposing to increase the price for children in years 5 and 6 who currently pay for school meals. The amount charged still does not reflect the cost of preparing the meals and the Council will continue to subsidise school meals. Children eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) will continue to receive meals for free.

Which of the following options do you support? *Please tick one box only*

- Increasing the cost by 10p, to £2.85 Increasing the cost by 20p, to £2.95
 Increasing the cost by 30p, to £3.05 No increase in the cost of primary school meals



35. The Council provides home care services (personal care and support) for older and vulnerable people in Cardiff. It is estimated that next year the Council faces an increase of over £15 million in meeting the cost of care for vulnerable people. Cardiff Council currently charges for home care services, however the amount of the hourly charge is much lower than that made by other Welsh councils and meets less than half of the hourly cost of the service.

The Council is considering increasing the charge for home care services to more accurately reflect the cost of the services provided. It is also proposed that the increase in charge is phased in, with half of the increase made in 2024/5 and the remainder in 2025/6.

Each individual's ability to pay the charge will be assessed and they will not be charged more than they can afford to pay, or more than the Welsh Government cap on the amount that an individual has to pay each week (currently £100). Ensuring that the charge better reflects the cost of these services will help the Council to fund sustainable social care services into the future, supporting the needs of the growing older population in the city.

Do you agree the Council should increase the hourly amount charged for home care services, to better reflect the cost of the service? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

If the increase in the hourly amount charged for home care services goes ahead, do you agree with the proposal to phase in the increase? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

36. The Welsh Government sets a maximum amount (a 'cap') that an individual has to pay each week. Currently this is £100 per week but the level of this cap may be increased by the Welsh Government in 2024/25. The Council can choose whether it increases its charge to the level of the Welsh Government cap.

Again, each individual's ability to pay the charge will be assessed and they will not be charged more than they can afford to pay. Ensuring that the charge better reflects the cost of these services will help the Council to fund sustainable social care services into the future, supporting the needs of the growing older population in the city.

If the Welsh Government were to increase the maximum weekly amount that an individual has to contribute towards their home care, do you agree that the Council should apply this new cap to better reflect the cost of the service? Please tick one box only

- Strongly agree Tend to disagree Don't know / No opinion
 Tend to agree Strongly disagree

37. The Council is facing a budget shortfall of £30.5 million next year because of rising prices and greater demand for our services. The proposals outlined in this consultation document will help to meet the budget gap by changing how services are delivered, by cutting some services completely, or by removing subsidies and increasing income. Another source of funding is Council Tax, which accounts for around 26 % of the Council's budget. Increasing Council Tax by 1 % would generate an additional £1.7 million, which would be used to protect some of the services identified as a way of saving the Council money. The Council is proposing an increase of 3 %. We are aware that there is a cost-of-living crisis, and everyone has been impacted by rising prices, so we want to understand how residents feel about increasing Council Tax to protect services.

Which of the following options would you prefer? Please tick one box only

- Increasing Council Tax a greater amount than currently planned to help protect some services.
- Keeping any Council Tax increase as low as possible, even though this will mean more services will be reduced or stopped.
- Don't know.

38. The Administration continues to consider Education its top priority, alongside Social Services, and we know from the Ask Cardiff survey that these are the public's priorities, too. The Council proposes to continue to prioritise schools.

Do you support this proposal? Please tick one box only

- Yes, continue to prioritise school budgets
- No, schools should make a bigger contribution to bridging the funding gap
- Don't know

Do you have any further comments or suggestions on how the Council can reduce the budget gap?

Please continue on a separate page if necessary.

39. If you access any Council services in Welsh, we want to know if you think the proposed changes will have any impact on how you access these services.

Do you currently access any Council services in Welsh? Tick all that apply

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hubs & Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure & Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Domiciliary Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Culture & Events | <input type="checkbox"/> School meals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Bereavement Services | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these, go to Q41. |

40. **Do you feel any of these proposals will impact your ability to access Council services in Welsh?**

- Yes No **Please specify which proposal(s), and outline the impact you think these proposals will have (positive or negative) Please continue on a separate page if necessary.**

About You

The following questions help us to make sure that we hear the views of people from all backgrounds, and from all parts of the city, so that everyone's voice is heard. We'd be really grateful if you could answer the questions in the following section, but it's OK if there's a question you'd rather not answer - just leave it blank and move on to the next. All of the answers you give us will be treated in the strictest confidence, and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - if you give us your contact details, we'll only use it to contact you if you join our Citizen's Panel.

41. Please provide your full postcode below (e.g. CF10 4UW).
This allows us to more accurately understand respondents' views and needs by area, and to make sure we've heard from people in all parts of the city:-

42. What was your age on your last birthday? Please tick one box only

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 16 | <input type="radio"/> 16-24 | <input type="radio"/> 25-34 |
| <input type="radio"/> 35-44 | <input type="radio"/> 45-54 | <input type="radio"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="radio"/> 65-74 | <input type="radio"/> 75+ | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |

43. Are you...? Please tick one box only

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Female | <input type="radio"/> Non-binary | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> Male | <input type="radio"/> Other | |

Other - Please specify

44. Do you identify as Trans? Please tick one box only

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> Prefer to self-describe | | |

If you prefer to self-describe, please specify

45. Do any children live in your household? Please select all that apply

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> No children | <input type="radio"/> Yes, aged 11 - 16 (secondary school) |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes, under 5 years old (pre-school) | <input type="radio"/> Yes, aged 16 - 18 in full-time education, or working |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes, aged 5 - 11 (primary school) | <input type="radio"/> Yes, aged 16 - 18 but not in full time education or working |

46. Are you pregnant, or have you given birth within the last 26 weeks? Please tick one box only

- Yes, I'm pregnant
 Yes, I've given birth
 No
 Prefer not to say

47. Do you care unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without your support? Please tick one box only

- Yes
 No
 Prefer not to say

48. Which of the following best describes what you are doing at present? Please tick one box only

- Working full time (30+ hours per week)
 On a zero hour contract
 Working part time (less than 30 hours per week)
 Permanently sick or disabled person
 In full time education
 Wholly retired from work
 On a government training scheme
 Looking after home
 Unemployed - Registered Job Seeker
 Caring for a child or adult
 Unemployed - Unregistered but seeking work
 Other

Other - Please specify

49. Which of the following best describes your housing tenure? Please tick one box only

- Owned outright
 Rented from a Housing Association
 Owned with a mortgage
 Private rented
 Rented from the Local Authority
 Other

Other - Please specify

50. Are you, or a member of your household: Please tick all that apply.

- | | <i>Currently serving (regular or reserve) in the UK Armed Forces</i> | <i>An armed forces service leaver (veteran), regular or reserve</i> | <i>Not applicable</i> |
|----------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| You | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A member of your household | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

51. Do you identify as a disabled person? Please tick one box only

- Yes
 No
 Prefer not to say



52. Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

- Deaf/ Deafened/ Hard of hearing
- Mental health difficulties
- Learning impairment/ difficulties
- Visual impairment
- Wheelchair user
- Mobility impairment
- Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes, or asthma)
Neurodivergent (e.g. Attention Deficit Disorders, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Dysgraphia)
- Prefer not to say
- Other
- None of these

Other - Please specify

53. Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion? Please tick one box only

- No, no religion
- Buddhist
- Christian (Including Church in Wales, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

Other - Please specify

54. How would you describe your sexual orientation? Please tick one box only

- Bisexual
- Gay Man
- Other
- Gay Woman/ Lesbian
- Heterosexual/ Straight
- Prefer not to answer

Other - Please specify

55. Are you: Please tick one box only

- Single
- In a same-sex Civil Partnership
- Married
- Living together/Co-habiting
- Separated/divorced or legally separated if formerly in a same-sex Civil Partnership
- Widowed
- Other

Other - Please specify

56. How would you describe your Welsh language skills? Please tick one box only

- Fluent
 Moderate
 Basic
 Learner
 None

57. Do you consider yourself to be Welsh? Please tick one box only

- Yes
 No

58. What is your ethnic group? Please tick one box only

Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/
British | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Chinese |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Irish | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Indian |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Pakistani |
| <input type="radio"/> White - Any other white background | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Any other |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Asian
Welsh / British / Other | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British -
African |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and
Black Caribbean Welsh / British / Other | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British
- Caribbean |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and
Black African Welsh / British / Other | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British
- Any other |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - Any other | <input type="radio"/> Arab |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Bangladeshi | <input type="radio"/> Any other ethnic group (please specify) |
| | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |

Other - Please specify



59. How did you hear about this survey?

- Cardiff Council social media account (X/Facebook/Instagram)
- Other social media account
- From a local councillor
- I'm a member of the Citizen's Panel
- A paper copy in my local library/Hub
- Staff email where I work
- Other
- Don't know

Other - Please tell us

60. Are you are interested in taking part in further consultations from Cardiff Council?

- Yes, I would like to Join the Citizens' Panel and be contacted about other Cardiff Council consultations
- No

Please leave your contact details below if you would like to join the Citizens Panel:

Name:

Email:

Phone number:

Thank you for taking the time to give us your views.

You can return completed questionnaires by post using the address
FREEPOST CRC (you don't need a stamp for this),
or by posting it in the blue collection box in your local Library or Hub.

The survey closes on Sunday 4th February 2024, and the results will be published on
www.cardiff.gov.uk/askcardiff in due course.